

Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Co-Presidents: Linda & André van der Valk

November 2014, Issue #5

Editor: Ann Vincent

Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & André van der Valk

I wanted to start this article by thanking Ann Vincent and her team for a successful Pioneer Day. This time it was not the wind that caused us problems but the heat. It was extremely hot that day which caused attendance to be a bit down. The people who did come had a great time. Ann Vincent, Linda Dunham and Donna Nachtrab worked on a Pioneer Challenge which introduced the kids to the chores of yore and more. The kids were having a great time experiencing the Pioneer life.

We are still waiting to hear when work will begin in Chatsworth Park South for the remediation of the park. We understand that the bidding process is still on going. Our understanding also is that the Homestead Acre will be able to remain open but at one point our parking lot will be closed. Hopefully we can coordinate this around our events.

Andre and I were able to participate in what was called a demolition tour of the NASA portion of the Santa Susana Field Lab today. We saw the test stands and they were quite a sight to see. There are three test stands remaining and they only plan on keeping one. There is the Alfa, Bravo and the Coca stand. The Coca stand will be demolished because it is the largest of the remaining three. They are not sure if they will keep the Alfa or the Bravo but the Alfa was the first one and also the last one to be used. All test stands ceased operating by 2006. I remember growing up in Northridge and

seeing the orange glow in the sky when they were testing,

We were told that they have cameras on site and they are seeing deer, coyotes, a mountain lion, bobcats and other wildlife up there. The oak trees, shrubs and weeds are also thriving up there. If you ever have a chance to take any of the tours that are offered try to go because it is a fascinating part of our nation's history.

Linda and André



Chatsworth Historical Society
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Upcoming Events

General Meeting

November 18, 2014 – Tuesday 7:00 pm

In recognition of Veteran's Day in November we have a special program by Paul Dentzel, whose topic is: **War Time Emergency Preparation in the San Fernando Valley after the Bombing of Pearl Harbor**, Relating to Government Documents and Personal Correspondence. Please join us.

Chatsworth Historical Society

Christmas Party - Members Only

December 16th, 7:00 PM – Tuesday

Please join us as we celebrate the holidays at the home of André and Linda van der Valk.

10524 Eton Avenue, Chatsworth

The Christmas Party is limited to MEMBERS ONLY.

Open House

The Homestead Acre is open to the public the first

Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 pm.

The next two will be Sunday, December 7th and Sunday, January 4th.

PIONEER DAY 2014

Our annual Pioneer Day held on October 5th broke several records that day.

We wish to thank Councilman Mitch Englander for providing our shuttle bus which made it possible for so many to attend to make our day a success.

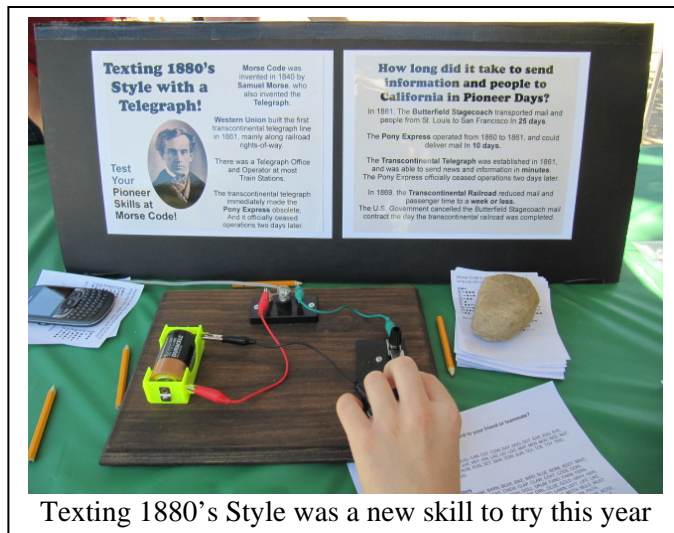
We broke a record for the heat...by far this was the hottest temperatures we have had for Pioneer day. Another record was for the number of kids and young adults that attended to participate in our Pioneer Challenge. There were lines to participate in the Gold Panning, Blacksmith booth and Leather Craft all keeping busy all day long. Our other pioneer activities and new learning areas included our local Bee Keeper "The Valley Hive" with an amazing display of the interior of a bee hive in action along with honey samples and more. Dr. Christensen, an expert in Indian artifacts displayed handmade cordage and a variety of items authentic and recreated with expert skills. Nita Standke baked cornbread in a dutch oven over an open fire, the pioneer way!



Our local Rotary Club representatives Beverly Manasses, Jill Saltzman, Tamara Chezic and Kris Fuess taught our guests how to churn cream into butter to taste and put on their cornbread. Dr. Gary Standke took his place as Blacksmith and spent the day at a hot forge

creating miniature horseshoes for guests. Wayne Christensen of Standing Bear's Trading Post had his team of leather workers handing out leather keychains to be stamped by the kids. He also displayed the art of leather tooling on a saddle. The Veteran's Quilt project members assisted our young quilt makers in assembling a sample quilt from a selection of precut fabric squares. The Rock Chippers, a local club of rock enthusiasts brought their tumblers and tools to show us how beautiful the unpolished stones could become. At least three spinning wheels were in motion all day while a variety of yarns were prepared.

Our Chores of Yore games were handled by the Lawrence Middle School Leadership Class and their teachers Ms. Pena and Mr. van Dam. They taught the basic skills needed to be a pioneer and assisted with the telegraph station, the clothes washing,



Texting 1880's Style was a new skill to try this year

fishing, paper dolls and sewing. Bill Updegraf had fun by challenging all the kids to try the sack races.

The (FPSSM) Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains along with the (SSMPA) Santa Susana Mountains Park Association provided information on local hikes and educational programs for elementary schools. A variety of hand crafted gifts were available for purchase from our vendors, along with scrapbook supplies and a variety of jewelry. The Andres Pico Adobe, the Pioneer Church and the Oakridge Estate were also represented.

Linda van der Valk organized our Chili Cook off this year with Buck Barker, owner of the Munch Box, sponsoring our trophies. The chili went quickly but not before our judges awarded the following:

Carolyn Schepler Grimm	1 st Place
Peter Espiritu	2 nd Place
John Thorpe	3 rd Place



Caroline Schepler Grimm – 1st Place Winner

Pioneer Day - continued

At the entrance, our gate was manned by Irene Nalbandian and Janis Heiden who as usual did a great job.

Our Bake Sale was available with a variety of goodies prepared by Loretta Sandoval and Bea Berman along with additional members who brought items. Thank you to Pam Perram who volunteered to help sell these goods throughout the day.

The White Elephant Booth was staffed by Connie Ager, Addie Betita and Michele DeGaetano.

The Snack Bar was managed by Andre van der Valk along with his Lemonade stand crew composed of his grandchildren and the barbeque staff headed by Gary Bercow.

We turned our front entry into a mini Auto Show with Gil and Kay Elder bringing us the horse drawn buggy and to Jack and Lorraine Robbins for sharing their 1914 Model T Ford.

Our Plant Sale was managed by our Garden director Annette Campbell with the assistance of Randy and Becky Mineo of Chatsworth Landscape who donated plants and helped with the sale.

Of course our cottage and museum were well staffed with docents to share our history including Bea Berman, Jelena Csanyi, Gloria Bennedetti, Zena Thorpe, Elaine Campbell, Linda Dunham, Jan Gruenwald and Karine Panichi.

Our information booth with Chatsworth History resources included the usual suspects, Dianne Kartiala, Keith Watts, Jim Summers, Lori Lawrence, Donna Nachtrab, Carol Lucas, and Ray Vincent. I always enjoy this location to meet and greet our visitors and learn more history from our guests.

Tom Nachtrab gets extra credit points for hanging out at the depot to welcome and answer history questions with our shuttle bus travelers. What a great idea....Thanks.

Thanks also go to a group of behind the scenes volunteers. You know who you are! They showed up early to help coordinate the set up of all the tables and tents, and worked with El Camino Real High School ROTC volunteers who helped setup Saturday and returned for teardown on Sunday. We also had several new volunteers this year and their help made a huge difference. Thanks!

It takes so many people to run this event that there is no way to list them all. The Historical Society really appreciates all the efforts of everyone who made this happen.

The Pioneer Challenge We had fun this year with what we called the Pioneer Challenge. We were delighted to have so many kids and adults participate. The younger kids turned in their Activity Card to receive their badge of honor as a Chatsworth Pioneer.

Many of the older students had been challenged by teachers at their schools to attend, try the events and get extra credit, so they marked their cards and took them back to school. Many more students participated this year than in the past, so it was a win-win situation for everyone.



The Early History of Chatsworth Lake Manor

By Ann & Ray Vincent – Chatsworth Historical Society

In 1797 a Chumash Native American, Odón Chihuya, was born at Humaliwo (Malibu), and later lived at the San Fernando Mission. His granddaughter, Francesca Domec, was granted a 148 acre homesteaded in 1901 in what is now Chatsworth Lake Manor.

It's impossible to start the history of Lake Manor without mentioning the early Indian tribes that inhabited our hills, living along the creeks amongst the rock shelters provided by our spectacular Chatsworth rock formations.

In 1812, Odón married Eusabia, and they had four children. Two of their daughters, Maria Dolores and Espiritu, would marry two Frenchmen, Pierre Domec and Miguel Leonis.

In 1836, at the age of 39, Odón moves to the site of the Chumash village known as Huwam, located at the mouth of Bell Canyon. Odón receives his Decree of Emancipation from the San Fernando Mission in 1838, and by 1843, his son-in-law Urbano and Urbano's son Manuel join him on the land to be later known as Rancho El Escorpion. Together they file a claim for two leagues of land (close to 9,000 acres), however they are granted only one half of a square league. Juan Sepulveda, the Second Alcalde (mayor) of Los Angeles, surveys off a parcel that was actually only a quarter of a league (1,110 acres), even though it was ratified as half a square league. Over the next twenty five years Odón and all future partners, including his son-in-laws Domec and Leonis, dispute the boundaries, occupying and using all 9,000 acres of land at various times. Those disputed acres included the Chatsworth Lake area east to Topanga.

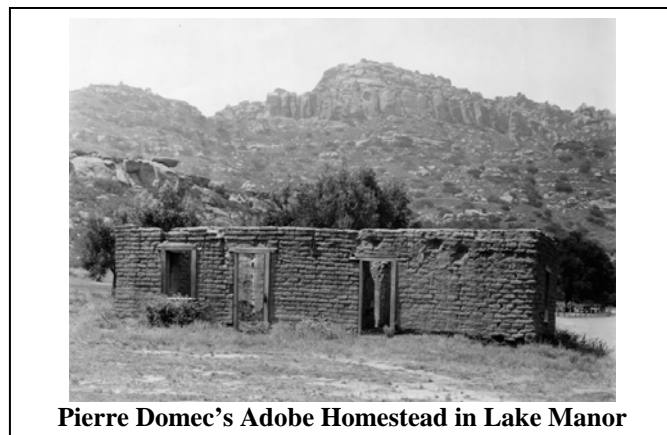


Maria Dolores & Pierre Domec

Courtesy of the Leonis Adobe Association

Odón's son-in-laws were both enterprising men, however the Lake Manor story follows Pierre Domec, while Miguel Leonis ended up in Calabasas. Pierre arrived in Los Angeles from France in 1844 at the age of 24 and worked as a cooper in charge of the wine cellars of his compatriot Jean Louis Vignes. By 1849, 29-year old Pierre is living with Maria Dolores at a lime-burning operation at El Escorpion in the Chatsworth lake area. Lime had a ready

market in Los Angeles for mortar in brick construction, the process of tanning cowhides, and in sanitation. His business was profitable. His first adobe was near the lime kiln off of Woolsey Blvd.; however by 1870, Domec had built a second adobe located just west of the



Pierre Domec's Adobe Homestead in Lake Manor

current Lake Manor Church. That homestead led to the Domec Family being granted 148 acres of government land through the Homestead Act in 1901.

Pierre died in 1883 and his wife Maria Dolores died in 1884. Throughout his life he was a respected businessman and managed property for himself and others.



By 1927, the P.D. Estate Company was formed to manage the Lake Manor property with shares distributed to sisters Francesca and Caledonia and their niece Maria Moore. Cabin sites were sold in the 20's and 30's, giving rise to the Chatsworth Lake Manor that we know today.

The two eldest Domec daughters Francesca and Celedona never married. Their younger sister Maria Antonia Domec Moore had a grandson named Henry Acosta. In the 1940 census Henry Acosta lived in Lake Manor and shortly after that married Florence and had two children John and Yolanda. They lived at 23144 Smith Road. In 1952 John Acosta was in 6th grade at Chatsworth Park Elementary School. Does anyone know where he is now? It would be fun to find him.

Floyd Berry was one of the early developers (1925) of the Lake Manor subdivisions. He set up his surveyor's equipment in a tent on the site now occupied by The Lake Manor Chapel. Working around the clock (at night, with kerosene lanterns), he supervised the plotting and laying out of all of the roads and subdivisions we enjoy today.

In 1927 the LA Times first mentioned **Chatsworth Lake Manor**. "As the result of the discovery of valuable therapeutic water from mineral springs on the Domec Estate, plans are being made for the establishment of a great health resort. The estate has been renamed Chatsworth Lake Manor."

Chatsworth Lake Manor Recent History and Influences –

Lake Manor Church



Perhaps one of the last of its kind, Lake Manor Chapel reflects an era gone by. This neighborhood country church was planted in

the early 1920's. The first years saw the Christian congregation arriving by horse and buggy and holding worship services inside a tent. In 1955, work was completed on the chapel and kitchen building. The church is well known for hosting seasonal dinners and events for the community, where Dale Dawson has been the Pastor since 2008.

Chatsworth Lake Market, 23400 Lake Manor Drive



The market has been owned by Vinod and Kiran Roy since 1990. (24 years)

In the 1940's it was the **Red & White**, owned by Edie Washburn. Joe Eckhoff's memories included that: in 1939-41 there was Keg Day.... One day a year for good show.... Acme Beer Co. would give a free keg of beer to Edie Washburn's store and she'd put it under the big oak tree which is now Lenny's parking lot and the whole town would turn out with their own cups and mugs for this social event. Maude Waite bought the store for \$600 from Edie Washburn.

In the 1950s, it was owned by Katherine (Kay) Slater, whose brothers were Burt & George. We are not sure who owned it next, but the market burned down around 1972.

A few years after the fire, Frank and Joan Cannarella purchased the business, and it operated in the tiny building next to the fire station. They bought the vacant lot where the old store was, and then moved a small store onto the property around 1977. It was called Canyon Trading Post.

Marco Bogash leased the store for a time, followed by Kent Randall in 1986. Then, Vinod Roy purchased the store in 1990, and eventually the land in 1999.

In 2008, there was a Grand Reopening with an expanded market and services. Mr. Roy made sure that the ambience of the expansion continued the feeling of the country store that everyone knew.

Log Cabin Mercantile Co.



The exact date of when the Log Cabin was built is unknown, but it would have been a good selling promotion for Cabin Sites sold in the early 20's. Floyd and Essie Berry owned Chatsworth Lake Properties. They ran their business from the cabin and built their home in back. The stone work on the home and behind the cabin was done by Essie's father and Frank Bell. Later additional stone work was added by stone mason Mike Knapp.

Essie Berry owned the cabin and home until she passed away in 1967.

In 1968 Joe and Margaret Foreman along with their daughter Susie purchased the cabin and started the Log Cabin Mercantile as a family business. The office still contained old real estate ledgers.

Lenny's Smokehouse Location

23360 Lake Manor Dr.

-1966 originally built as the **Renaissance Bar**

-1970's **Hillbilly Haven** Biker Bar, two pool tables, beer and Harleys.

-1980's **The Acorn** owned by Gerry Miller - gourmet restaurant.

-2001 **Eagle Bar and Grill**

-2004 **Le Petite Chic** owner Kathi Bakshi Tea Room.

-2005 **Burgundy Creek**

-2012 **Lenny's Smokehouse** owner Lenny Bent also runs a gourmet production catering company for the film and television industry.

Right across the street from Lenny's at the corner of Thompson was **The Silver Dollar Saloon**. Built in 1952, it was the Silver Dollar Saloon during the early 70's. Residents remember a pool table there. In 1996 it was Norville Paschal's Saw Sharpening Shack in the back, with his wife Sharon's Lake Manor Gallery in the front.

Our October 2014 presentation on Lake Manor also included a section on the Lake Manor Fire Department Station 75 and its history in our community. We will save that section of this article for future publication.

Chatsworth Historical Society 2014



It's Your Community...Your History

The Chatsworth Historical Society would like to have you join us in preserving Chatsworth's past. If you have any old Chatsworth publications, or have old photos of the area, we would love to have copies of them. We would also like to hear your stories about growing up in Chatsworth or what brought you to Chatsworth and why you stayed here.

Memories Shared: Frank Stricklin 1917-2014

From Kathleen Stricklin

I just want to pass on to you that our dad, Frank Stricklin of Andora Avenue died on Sept. 24th and was interned at Oakwood October 4th. He was 97 years old. He purchased the land on Andora in the early 40's and built our home himself there in the late 40's. Frank Stricklin Sr. and his wife Buehla Taylor Stricklin lived next door. Some of the attendees at the funeral service were Jeff Burkhart from the Chatsworth Burkhart family and one of dad's Boy Scout troop/Eagle Scouts, dad's union friends from IBEW local 11, and family Gerald, Don, and Kathleen children, and Mariko his wife of 13 years. He was preceded in death by Rita Stricklin our mom and his wife of 52 years. Dad loved Chatsworth and the joy he found in his time there. He will be missed for sure but his time on Earth will be cherished by all who knew him.

Take care, Kathleen



Jim Summers shared that he recalls the two acres of Walnut trees that Frank Stricklin had on Andora and lots of great memories of Frank working with the Scouts. He noted that Frank also played the piano.

In a recent facebook conversation - Kathleen Stricklin and I were sharing information about growing up on Andora near Stoney Point. She recalls living close enough to be able to walk to her piano lessons at Katharine Johnson's home on Old Santa Susana Pass Rd. Kathleen tells of playing the piano for as long as she remembers, inspired by her father Frank who played wonderfully, and who was a clarinetist in a big band during the 30's-40's. . (Ann Vincent)

Memories Shared: Kelley Lynne Daily 1954-2014

A private memorial service was held by the family at the Chatsworth ACRE hosted by Virginia Watson and family for her daughter Kelley. Virginia Watson provided these memories of her daughter.

Kelley was born when the family first lived on Chatsworth Street near Canoga Ave. It was June 13, 1954 and we loved Chatsworth. She was two years old when we moved to 10443 De Soto where Kelley spent most of her life. She attended Chatsworth Park Elementary until the new Germain Elementary School opened and she was transferred with other children and became part of the first class to attend the new school. She was also among the first students to attend the new junior high school that became Lawrence Middle School.

She had a happy childhood enjoying the company of two neighborhood children who lived three houses away. They are Brad Goodrow and his sister Donnell Goodrow Nichols and her friends the Peterson twins, Nancy and Sally. When she was in high school she was friends with the Skinner girls and spent time with their group.

Actually Kelley and Brad were the first people to collect money for the CHS. I went to the first informative meeting at the Johnson's house and I told the kids about how we were going to collect money and move the church. While I was out busy shopping they found an old coffee can and went up and down the street collecting money (mostly change) for the project. That was the first money the community collected for the project that was saving and moving the Pioneer Church. Kelley also knew Minnie Hill Palmer and went with me often to visit Minnie and interview her. Minnie enjoyed having Kelley along and when we took Minnie to CHS meetings, which we held in various living rooms and school buildings, Kelley would sit by Minnie and watch out for her while I was busy. That was one of the reasons it was nice to have the memorial here at Minnie's house.

Kelley went to ballet school for quite a while and joined the Northridge-Chatsworth 4H Club where she studied goat husbandry along with her older sister. She loved horses and was named for a racetrack horse that her father bought at an auction. The horse named Kelley had been injured and my husband Henry brought the horse back to health and the races at Caliente where the horse won many races. Kelley loved to tell people that she was named for a horse and enjoyed the races with her Dad. She worked with her parents at the racetrack when they owned their Equine Emporium ---the name of the racetrack gift shop. And she became the "Number 3 Fan" of Burt Bacharach, the composer and always got her picture taken with him when one of his horses won. She was Number 3 Fan because Angie and Nikki were 1 and 2.

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She joined the National Guard after the racetrack and spent 11 months training as a cook. Later she married Jeff Daily and had two children, Crystal and Alex Daily. After 10 years she was divorced and continued to live in Chatsworth. For the past 15 years she lived on De Soto Avenue with her family.

She died of natural causes on Monday September 8th, 2014. She received religious training at St. Martin in the Fields in Canoga Park and in the Chatsworth Methodist Church when Roy and Dale Rogers went to that church. We are celebrating her life with friends and relatives that knew her and remember the happy years she spent in Chatsworth.



Can we Email our newsletter to you?

In an effort to reduce costs, save paper, and provide you with a color copy, we now email newsletters to those of you that have given us an email address. However, we also continue to send you a snail-mail copy until you advise us not to. Please email us at chatsworthhistory@gmail.com to stop future newsletter mailings and save us some money. And also please email us to provide your email address. Thanks!

Please use the form below to renew your Membership. And if your neighbor is not a member yet, pass this newsletter on to them and invite them to join.

Wondering if your Dues are Due?

For those receiving email only newsletters, we will advise you by email when your dues are due. With a life membership there is no code on your address label. If there is a code on your address label, then this is what it means:

- The first digit represents membership type, 1 – individual and 2 – family/organization.
- The next two digits represent the month that you last paid your dues.
- The last two digits represent the year that you last paid your dues.
- If the month and year on your address label is over one year old, then your dues are due!



CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership Form



Your membership helps support our Homestead Acre and the educational and historical programs we provide for our community. Members receive our quarterly newsletters, and receive invitation reminders regarding our monthly programs and annual events – Rose Pruning, the Garden Festival, Membership Roundup, and Pioneer Day. Please mail this form with your annual membership dues and/or contribution made payable to:

Chatsworth Historical Society, 10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311
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- Yearly: New Member Renewal
- Life Membership: Individual \$15.00 Family \$20.00 Organization \$20.00
- \$ 125.00

NAME _____ Phone: _____

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CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

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OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

SOME QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED NEXT WEEK.

Such a Fine Lot of Letters—The Hand of Hope at Pomona—The Billy Goat—Ferns—A Letter from Iowa—Republican Boys.

You have not forgotten me this week, my dears, for I have a very respectable-looking pile of letters before me from the thoughtful boys and girls of the TIMES-MIRROR. I think if ever you should be excused for neglecting me it is just before the Christmas holidays, when every one is so busy making ready for Santa Claus. Now, come and sit in our corner and let us read the letters that have been written:

Now come a pleasant letter from the country, from the lovely foothill region, where the grasses are growing green and everything at this season is so fair:

CHRISTMAS IN CHATSWORTH 1888

Letter to the Editor written by
Lovell Hill age 12. Lovell was Minnie
Hill Palmer's older brother.

SAN FERNANDO, Dec. 1, 1888.

Dear Mrs. Otis: My little sisters read the letters in the MIRROR, and we like them very much. We live in the Santa Suzana district, in and near the foothills. It is a very nice place. A creek runs past the house, which comes from a spring a little farther up the cañon. The ferns look very pretty at this time of the year. Maybe I'll send you some when I find some fine ones. The chokeberries are ripe, and look lovely. I think they and oranges look nice on Christmas trees. I have three little sisters and two married ones. I am 12 years old. I have a sheep, two dogs and four rabbits. There are lots of acorns here, and Billy, the sheep, likes them when I hull them for him. He and my dog Hunter have fine times playing. Well, I guess my letter is too long now. If I see this in print, I will write again and tell you about our school and what kind of a Christmas I have. Good by.

Your San Fernando friend,

LOVELL HILL.

It was very kind in my young friend to think of sending me some ferns. I should prize them very highly.

This makes me want to hang oranges and choke berries on my tree this year!

Chatsworth Historical Society

10385 Shadow Oak Drive
Chatsworth, Ca 91311

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