



Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311
(818) 882-5614 www.historicalsocieties.net



APRIL 2005

Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

Editor: Keith Watts

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

As we get ready for The Garden Festival it seems that the rains have stopped. Hopefully we will have a beautiful Chatsworth day for the Festival.

We are very fortunate to have members that really care about The Acre. Dan Huffman and his family are members who really care and have built us a new beautiful bridge after the other bridge was damaged in the rains. Dan, his brother and a couple of his crew worked on the bridge and now we have one that we are sure will not float away. They also put handrails on the back bridge for safety. We have pictures of the old bridge showing the rain water just inches from the bottom of the bridge after that the bridge let loose. Thank you, Dan for all your donated time and materials for our bridge. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

We hope that everyone comes out to The Garden Festival. We will be having our Duchess Tea, White Elephant, Bake Sale and vendors. We will again be entertained by The Polynesian Dancers from The Chatsworth Dance Centre. Susan Rios will again be signing paintings at The Chatsworth Florist booth as well as Larry Fraga who will be signing his Christmas Ornaments. *Continued page 2*

APRIL IS THE BIRTHDAY OF THE SOCIETY

By Virginia Watson

Forty-two years ago on April 27, 1963 the very first meeting of a group of people interested in saving the Pioneer Church took place at the home of Katharine and Kelly Johnson. That was the very beginning of our Chatsworth Historical Society and we have come a long way!

We sat around the Johnson's living room and talked about saving the church building and other artifacts and pictures. We decided that night to write to the newly formed Cultural Heritage board and ask that the building be saved. Within a week or two the Cultural Heritage Board acted and named the church building Los Angeles Cultural Historic Monument Number 14. The Times came out and took a picture of Sheila Watts and me (Virginia) and we were on our way.

We were all so thrilled and feeling powerful but unaware of the problems we still had to face. At the next meeting in a schoolroom we voted Charles Janess in as president and Lila Schepler as vice president. Within a couple of months Mr. Janess had a heart attack and Lila finished out his term. In spite of a lot of problems, including finding out that the church had to be moved and finding a place to put it, we have survived.

Not only did we complete the project of moving the church we refurbished it and it is now a well-known historic site, used every Sunday as a house of worship. And, in addition, we have saved and refurbished the Hill-Palmer Bungalow and gardens and established a museum complete with exhibits, tours and a collection and maintained it for more than 26 years. And thanks to our executive board members and our hard-working presidential team of Linda and Andre van der valk plus our busy Bea Berman as fund raiser, we have money in the bank and a loyal treasurer to pay our bills.

I would say that we are a pretty good group of historical buffs. Thanks to everyone who has helped us over the years.

Chatsworth Historical Society Board of Directors 2004-2005

Co-Presidents	Linda & Andre van der Valk	882-3661
Programs, Ways & Means.....	Bea Berman	341-5449
Membership.....	Keith Watts	341-4489
Treasurer.....	Lillian Schepler	341-2697
Recording Secretary.....	Elaine Campbell	341-4954
Smoke Signal.....	Keith Watts	341-4489
Museum Curator.....	Virginia Watson	341-3053
Cottage Curator.....	Betty Summers	341-2714
Hospitality.....	Committee	
Garden Director.....	Jim & Betty Summers	341-2714
Director-at-Large.....	Barbara Pampalone	882-2395
Director-at-Large.....	Dianne Kartiala	886-5210 (Bus.)
Permanent Member.....	Lila Schepler	341-3447

Presidents Message *Continued from page 1*

For those of you who have never met Larry Fraga stop by and say hi you will be in for a treat. Thank you to Rick and Jerry of Chatsworth Florist for arranging for these two well known artists to be at our Festival. It should be a great day and Bea Berman has been working very hard to make sure everything comes together.

Thank you to Ann Vincent for putting this Smoke Signal together for us this month. Keith Watts was unable to do it because of recent surgery. We wish you well Keith.

Linda and Andre

Garden Festival –Sun, May 1st

By Bea Berman, Ways & Means

It's almost here – join us at our wonderful Garden Festival on Sunday, May 1st at the Homestead Acre, from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. Don't miss our fabulous Duchess Tea from 11:30 - 2:00 pm. For only \$6.00, it can't be beat. Entertainment by the Chatsworth Dance Centre, Floral Demonstrations, a variety of vendors, White Elephant Sale, Garden Clubs and Susan Rios Paintings available with a special signing opportunity by Susan. Our gardens will be in full bloom, so tell your friends.

We could also use donated Bake Goods and new or almost new White Elephant goods.

Program Meeting– Tues, April 19th

By Bea Berman, Program Chair

Slide Show Presentation Our general meeting coming up on April 19th will feature Beth and Howard Shirley showing us slides from the Canoga Owensmouth Historical Society. Let's give them a nice welcome. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm.

Museum News

By Virginia Watson, Curator

The Red Hat Society of Northridge came to The Acre for a tour on March 30, 2005 at 1:30 pm. There were 22 women and one 10 year old girl. They all were wearing red hats with purple dresses or tee shirts and they seemed to enjoy themselves. They were very appreciative of our house, museum and gardens. Shirley Lerner was their leader and they gave us a check for \$66 (\$3 per person). I hadn't charged them for the young girl and so her mother gave Elaine \$3 for her entry. She was a very nice little girl and enjoyed the tour.

Other Red Hat groups have called us and may plan tours later.

Docents who gave the tour: Betty Summers, Beverly King, Elaine Campbell and Virginia Watson.

Gone But Not Forgotten in the Valley

(From www.americassuburb.com)

Continued from previous month

GRACE HAYES LODGE

This Studio City restaurant in the 1940's at 11345 Ventura Blvd., was known for its informality and the possibility that Hollywood celebrities would put on impromptu acts.

GRAND CENTRAL AIR TERMINAL

Located near the Los Angeles River in Glendale, Grand Central was the region's most glamorous passenger airport in the 1930s. Charles Lindbergh flew the first transcontinental airline flight from there on July 8, 1929, and pre-flight parties for departing Hollywood celebrities were a common sight. In World War II, Grand Central became a training base. After the field closed in 1959 the acreage was developed as an industrial park. Still standing, however, is the Spanish Colonial Revival terminal building and control tower designed by Henry L. Gogerty. Now owned by Disney, it can be seen at 1310 Airway Drive.

HANSEN DAM SWIMMING BEACH

After World War II, the reservoir behind Hansen Dam was allowed to fill and a sand beach was installed. Boating was also welcome at the small lake. It gradually filled with silt from Tujunga Wash and the lake and beach were discontinued.

With Deepest Sympathy

The Chatsworth Historical Society offers our sincere condolences to Gretchen Martin, whose son Peter Martin, age 41, died in an accident on April 2, 2005



Chatsworth Historical Society Presents

A GARDEN FESTIVAL

Featuring Roses and Crafts!

- ◆ The Duchess Tea Room
Afternoon Tea \$6
(11:30 – 2)
- ◆ Polynesian Dance Revue
(Chatsworth Dance
Center)
- ◆ Blooming Rose Gardens
- ◆ Museum Exhibits
- ◆ Floral Demonstrations
- ◆ Tours of Minnie's Cottage
- ◆ Arts and Crafts
- ◆ Garden Clubs
- ◆ White Elephant Sale
- ◆ Bake Sale
- ◆ Susan Rios Paintings
With a Special Signing
By Susan
- ◆ Live Plant Sale

Sunday, May 1, 2005
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

\$3 Donation – Children Under 12 Free

The Homestead Acre

At the First Stop Sign in

Chatsworth Park South

(West End of Devonshire Street)

Information: 818-882-5614



Gone but not Forgotten...continued

HANSEN HEIGHTS

Dr. Homer Hansen founded this community in the Verdugo Mountains. What remains is Shadow Hills. Some of the settlement, including Hansen's estate, was claimed by the construction of the Hansen Dam.

HELIPORT

Commercial copter flights to LAX ran for a time in 1959 to help commuters get around traffic snarls. Flights on Los Angeles Airway left from a terminal at Sepulveda Blvd. and Otsego St. In 1965, flights resumed briefly from Van Nuys Airport.

HELMS BAKERY TRUCKS

Helms trucks roamed the neighborhoods of suburbia in the 1950s and 1960s tooting a distinctive whistle and dispensing fresh bread and pastries out of drawers in the back. Many a valley native remembers the just-baked aroma of the Helms truck and the sight of the doughnut drawer sliding open to reveal neat rows of crullers and glaze twists.

HEWITT'S HATCHERY

Large chicken breeding farm --advertised as "A Valley Hatchery for Valley Folks" was at 13833 Oxnard St. in Van Nuys.

HOLLY HEIGHTS POLO AND HUNT CLUB

Private country club with two polo fields and stables for 200 horses was at Ventura Blvd. and Fulton Ave. in the 1920s and 30s.

HOLLYWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

Large club with stables was on the mountains side of Ventura Blvd. straddling where Coldwater Canyon now heads south.

HOLLYWOOD STUDIO ZOO

This small attraction where visitors could gawk at animals from the movies was at 15445 Ventura Blvd. during the 1920s and 30s.

HUNTSINGER TURKEY RANCH

From 1945 until moving to Bouquet Canyon in 1952, under pressure from the growing suburbs, the large turkey ranch was off of Lassen St. west of Reseda Blvd. in Northridge.

Neighboring Society News

By Elaine Campbell

Canoga – Owensmouth

The Van Nuys municipal building (City Hall) will be re-dedicated on Monday, April 25th at 11:00 AM. There will be a display of 30's vintage cars and historic pictures of the valley at that time. There will be food and drinks for sale.

Little Landers

The historic society of the Sunland-Tujunga and the foothill area known as Rancho Tujungay, will have an exhibit of artifacts, photos, maps etc. of their area on display at Bolton Hall Museum through August 2005.

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