

Smoke Signal

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

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Co-Presidents: André & Linda van der Valk

September 2013, Issue #4

Editor: Ann Vincent

Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & André van der Valk

It was nice to see everyone at the Membership Round Up. We thought it was going to be miserably hot but under our walnut tree it was nice. We had Andre making the tri tip again and everyone else brought a lot of goodies to share.

We are busy getting the acre ready for Pioneer Day. The museum will have a new display celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Chatsworth Chamber. It has been fun looking at old pictures and the old ads from the Grapevine. The Grapevine was published with all the things going on in Chatsworth. They had ads of the businesses and it is fun to see what was there and what is there now.

As always we can use volunteers, bake goods, plants for the plant sale and help in spreading the word about Pioneer Day.

Hope to see you there.

Linda and André



Jim Summers, known to spend lots of time working in our garden over the years, has made lots of friends.

Photo courtesy of Linda Dunham

Chatsworth Historical Society
Board of Directors 2013-2014

Co-Presidents	Linda & André van der Valk
Programs, Ways & Means.....	Bea Berman
Membership.....	Keith Watts
Treasurer.....	Ray Vincent
Recording Secretary.....	Elaine Campbell
Smoke Signal.....	Ann Vincent
Museum Curator.....	Virginia Watson
Cottage Curator.....	Betty Summers
Hospitality.....	Jelena Csanyi
Garden Director.....	Jim & Betty Summers
Director-at-Large.....	Beverly King
Director-at-Large.....	Connie Ager
Permanent Member.....	Lila Schepler

Upcoming Events

October 6, 2013 – Sunday 11-4 pm

PIONEER DAY

This is our big fundraiser, and we need your support to help our volunteers maintain the Acre and museum for the future! See articles and the Flyer in this issue.

October 15, 7:00 PM - Tuesday Program

Chatsworth Hills Homesteaders

These are the pioneers that lived on government land to “prove up” earning the right to own the land. Come see who owned your neighborhood!

November 19, 7:00 PM - Tuesday Program

Chatsworth Hills Homesteaders II

A continuation of the Homesteader series, hear the stories that shaped Chatsworth.

Monthly - Museum Open House

The Homestead Acre is open to the public the first Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 pm. The next open house will be Sunday, November 3rd.

Wednesday Morning Docent Program

Throughout the year our docents continue to work on the garden and other museum projects. Interested? Let us know at chatsworthhistory@gmail.com.

Pioneer Day

By Bea Berman

Before we know it, October 6th will be here and the fun begins. Our annual Pioneer Day will soon be here with a good time for everyone.

Activities include: Blacksmithing, Gold Panning, Woodcarvers, Rock Chippers, Spinning and Weaving, Veterans Quilt Display, Mini Chili Cook-off, Vendors, Bake Sale, White Elephant Booth, Plant Sale, Chores of Yore, with lots of activities for kids, and so much more.

The fun starts at 11:00 am and lasts until 4:00 p.m. Because additional parking is needed, we will have a shuttle bus from the north side of the train station on Devonshire. The shuttle starts at 11:00 a.m. and will run every 15 minutes throughout the event.

Anyone interested in entering the chili cook-off or baking items for our bake sale, your participation is appreciated. We also look forward to your help with set-up and take down. Tell your friends about the event, and let's have a successful Pioneer Day. For more information, I can be reached at (818) 341-5449.

Bea Berman

Stop by and taste the CHILI!



23rd Annual Pioneer Day

Sunday, Oct. 6, 2013
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Old-time fun for everyone!

- CHILI COOK-OFF
 - Bake sale
- Woodcarvers
- Entertainment
 - Panning for gold
- Spinning and weaving
- Veteran quilt display
- Kids designing quilt squares
- Rock Chippers
- Blacksmith
 - Indian artifacts
- "Chores and Games of yore"
and lots more!

Chatsworth Museum Exhibits

Featuring the
Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce
100th Anniversary
along with Chatsworth Pioneer Families

Tour Minnie's 1911 Cottage

Location: Homestead Acre,
Chatsworth Park South
(West end of Devonshire St.)
10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA

Information: (818) 882-5614
chatsworthhistory@gmail.com
www.historicalsocieties.net

Donation: Adults: \$5, Children: \$1
(Free for kids under 5)

**Presented by the
Chatsworth Historical Society**

Park your car at the Chatsworth Train Depot (10038 Old Depot Plaza Road) and use our free shuttle service, every 15 minutes from 11 a.m. To 4 p.m.

VISITORS FROM NORWAY

Iverson Family members – August 2013

In August, the Acre hosted the Saele family from Norway to learn about their long lost great-great uncle Carl Johan Iverson, who had left home from Saele, Norway as a teenager stowing away on a ship. He traveled working on ships until he had the opportunity



Ray & Ann Vincent Left,
Svein, Kari & Maren Saele on the right

to arrive in America in 1884. A 1924 letter found in North Dakota from Carl to his cousin Caroline, gave Svein the first clue towards locating the missing family member, since the town of Chatsworth appeared as the return address. Carl Johan

Iverson was Svein's great grandmother's youngest brother.

Since Svein, his wife Kari and daughter Maren were ready for an adventure, they scheduled their next vacation to "Chatsworth, California". True genealogists...almost out of an episode of "Who do you think you are?"...the family enjoyed a week of history hunting here in the Chatsworth hills once known as Iverson Movie Ranch.

Although learning about the connection to the movie industry would be fun enough for most of us, the challenge of trying to understand what it must have been like to be a pioneer here in this rocky terrain was the best adventure for the family.

Yes, we did the "I was here!" photos that included posing by the street signs "Iverson Lane" and "Iverson Road". Photos were taken documenting family history at Oakwood Memorial Park. They had the opportunity to visit with relatives from the Furubotten family and also with Betty & Jim Summers, whose family is also connected, sharing photos and stories about the descendants of Carl Johan and Augusta Iverson. We are fortunate to have on hand copies of the book "Quiet on the Set" written by Bob Sherman, that includes family stories as told by Joe Iverson about



Kari and Maren Saele at Iverson Ranch

the pioneer family along with history of the movie ranch. Our docents had the opportunity to meet our guests on Wednesday morning

while the Saele family shared the story of finding the letter that brought them here, and then donating the letter to the museum.

Genealogy research in the Scandinavian countries is challenging for those of us that are used to the American/English way of keeping the same family name. Svein Saele has the last name that corresponds with the town his father was raised in, that he still lives in. However Carl Johan Iverson took the name of Iverson since his father's name was Iver. Of course what makes it challenging to research is that at the point of Immigration to the US, names were sometimes changed for the convenience of the immigration workers who wrote what they could spell or understand. Carl was recorded as Charles Iverson when he immigrated. He continued to use his "American" name on legal documents and census records for about 20 years...then went back to Carl Johan Iverson. The Saele family was fascinated to learn that all of Carl's children continued to use the name Iverson since it was a name that did not reflect their father or the town they were from.

In addition to the letter provided by the Saele family, they also brought several photos they found in the trunk containing letters that had been sent to relatives in North Dakota. These were of the Iverson children as young adults. Photos like these were printed on postcards at this time period (1920's) to mail to family members. We were able to scan these photos to add to our collection

of information on the Iverson family. Their parting gift was a Norwegian flag presented to the Chatsworth Historical Society, representing their journey and Carl's original journey to Chatsworth.



Gift of the Norwegian Flag

The rest of the week was filled with tours of the area including Garden of the Gods, Joe Iverson's home and also the site of the home that Carl and Augusta lived in most of their life (It burnt in the 2008 Sesnon fire). It really was inspiring...just standing at these locations, imagining what it must have been like in 1888 when Carl Johan Iverson wandered up to the door of Augusta Wagman's cabin and introduced himself. They later married and lived up in those hills surrounded by the rocks that eventually made movie history, here in Chatsworth...our home town.

Special thanks to Chatsworth Historical Society members who currently own these properties listed above for participating in the adventure!

9/5/2013

Ann Vincent

World War II Chatsworth Servicemen Honored on March 31, 1945

The Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce and our local businesses are now being featured in our Museum at Pioneer Day, recognizing 100 years of service to the community. The Chamber was formed in 1914.

Recently the Chatsworth Historical Society received a copy of the following newspaper clipping along with a copy of a letter of invitation to the event mentioned below in the reprint of the article. The letter acknowledged that the recipient was included on the scroll(s) to be displayed.

Apparently this was quite an impressive program sponsored by the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce on March 31, 1945

Reprint of April 6, 1945 Newspaper Article:

Chatsworth in Lovely Service Roll Dedication

Saturday afternoon at 3 P.M. in front of the Lombardi Hall in Chatsworth occurred impressive dedication ceremonies of the beautiful honor roll to all in the services from Chatsworth.

A good crowd was in attendance to enjoy the opening music of the Birmingham Hospital Band. Judge David E. Fulwider, president of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce presided. On his right on the platform was Harold F. Tebbetts of the U.S. Navy and on his left Frank Strickland of the U.S. Army. Presentation of the Colors was made by the Canoga Park Boy Scout Troop. Many Scout Troops and Cub Scouts were in Attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Major Ralph Slane, followed by the Invocation by Rev. M. K. Stone. The Chatsworth Grammar School Glee Club sang "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Lloyd Fuller, president of the West San Fernando Valley Associated Chambers of Commerce was then introduced and made the dedicatory speech paying tribute to the home efforts and stated that the Honor Roll was but a small visible evidence of the gratitude that all feel toward the men and women who are fighting our enemies. He asked that their efforts be always held in highest esteem by all Americans.

The unveiling of the Roll was then made and the beautiful Honor Scroll containing the names of hundreds of Chatsworth boys and girls won the admiration of all.

Rev. John Hurley of Our Lady of the Valley Church spoke of prayer that was in the hearts of all mankind, longing for a world of peace, a world of liberty, truth, justice and honor as exemplified by our service men and women.

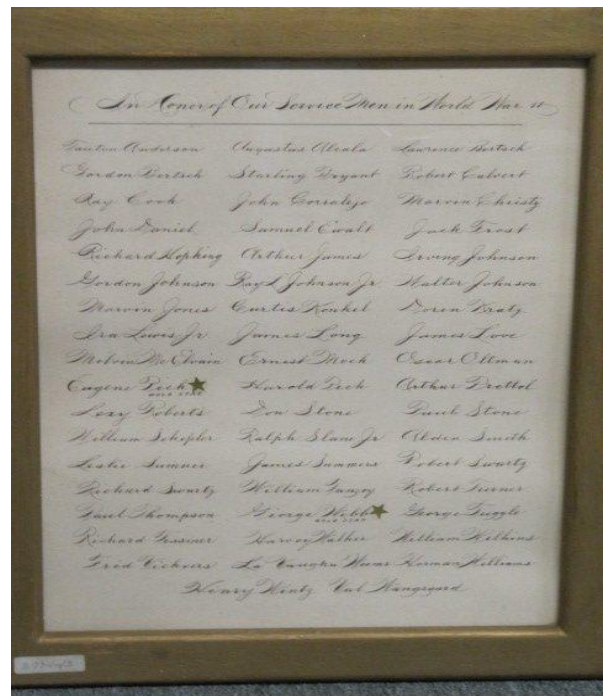
The crowd then joined Ray Orton, of Canoga Park, in singing "The Star Spangled Banner," accompanied by the band. Judge Fulwider then presented the Honor Roll and its care to the people of Chatsworth. He paid a deep tribute to the gold star men, whose spirits carry on in the hearts of men.

Chaplain Friedman of the 20th District American Legion closed the ceremonies with the Legion Dedication prayer.

Chatsworth is to be complimented on the lovely ceremony it prepared and carried through so successfully in this impressive dedicatory ceremony.

In another published article, this sentence was also included: "There was a hushed quiet as preparations were made for the unveiling and then a sudden burst of applause when the beautiful scrolls, proclaimed by many to be the finest of its kind in the valley, came into view."

The Chatsworth Historical Society has not been able to locate the scrolls mentioned listing hundreds of Chatsworth residents; however Katharine Johnson was responsible for keeping a record of WWII servicemen who were members of the Chatsworth Community Church. That listing, shown below handwritten in calligraphy, displays 54 names. It was donated to our Chatsworth Museum and will be on display. If hearing about the scroll mentioned in the article jogs your memory and you can help us locate the originals, your assistance would be appreciated.



A listing of 54 men and women on this scroll is included on the next page.

Reprint of Chatsworth Community Church Scroll (from page 4)

In honor of Our Service Men in World War II

*GOLD STAR * indicates that they died in service for their country*

Tauton Anderson
Augustus Alcala
Lawrence Bertsch
Gordon Bertsch
Sterling Bryant
Robert Calvert
Ray Cook
John Corralejo
Marvin Christy
John Daniel
Samuel Ewalt
Jack Frost
Richard Hopking

Arthur James
Irving Johnson
Gordon Johnson
Ray L. Johnson Jr.
Walter Johnson
Marvin Jones
Curtis Konkel
Doren Kratz
Ira Lewis Jr.
James Long
James Love
Melvin McElvain
Ernest Mock

Oscar Oltman
* Eugene Peck
Harold Peck
Arthur Prettol
Lexy Roberts
Don Stone
Paul Stone
William Schepler
Ralph Slane, Jr.
Alden Smith
Leslie Sumner
James Summers
Robert Swartz

Richard Swartz
William Tanzey
Robert Turner
Paul Tompson
* George Webb
George Tuggle
Richard Tessmer
Harvey Walker
William Wilkins
Fred Vickvers
La Vaughn Weems
Herman Williams
Henry Wintz
Val Wangsgard

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.

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?

There is a code on your address label (if you are a life member, there is no code).

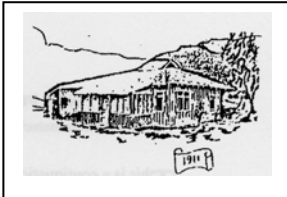
- The first digit represents membership type, 1 – individual and 2 – family/organization.
- The next two digits represent the month that you last paid your dues.
- The last two digits represent the year that you last paid your dues.
- If the month and year on your address label is over one year old,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

For those receiving email only newsletters, we will advise you by email when 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
chatsworthhistory@gmail.com 818-882-5614 www.historicalsocieties.net

New Member **Renewal**
 Individual \$15.00 Family \$20.00 Organization \$20.00
Yearly: \$ 125.00
Life Membership:

NAME _____ Phone: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____ Email: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

Special Interest / Expertise: _____

Chatsworth Historical Society
Virginia Watson Museum & Gift Shop

The following items are available for sale at our Gift Shop for you history buffs that would like to share some Chatsworth History with others.

The Museum will be open for tours on Pioneer Day Oct 6 from 11 am to 4 pm and at Open Houses on Nov. 3rd and Dec. 1st. from 1-4 pm. Items can be purchased at that time. To arrange to purchase items other than the first Sunday of the month, email chatsworthhistory@gmail.com or call the museum at 818-882-5614 to make arrangements for shipping if necessary.

Booklets and Books

CHATSWORTH HISTORY by Virginia Watson \$10.00

CHATSWORTH PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL The First 100 Years
by Ioline Cleveland \$10.00

WINDOW INTO THE PAST by William Schepler \$10.00

QUIET ON THE SET by Robert Sherman \$25.00

OUR PIONEER MOTHER As told to Lenora Johnson MacDonald \$10.00

Chatsworth Historical Society

10385 Shadow Oak Drive
Chatsworth, Ca 91311

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Check the code on your mailing label ...is it time to pay your dues? (See page 5 for details)