

George Washington Rock Adventure January 20, 2022

Chatsworth Historical Society

In July of 1901 an article was printed in the San Francisco Call newspaper that highlighted a rock formation they referred to as a sphinx. “The rock is on Chatsworth Park Rancho, the property of Mrs. Johnson.” It all started back in 1874 when the Johnson family homesteaded their 160 acre property in the hills above Chatsworth.

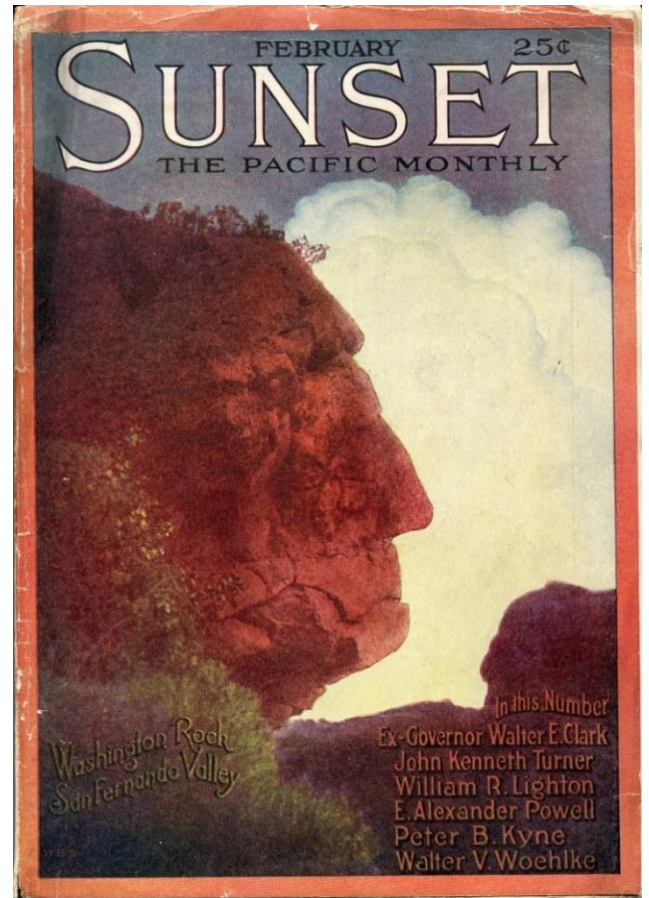


In February of 1914 Sunset magazine featured a color photo of the George Washington Rock on the cover of their magazine.

The Rock has been featured in many newspaper articles and books over the years.

The Johnson family has made many visits to the rock for photo opportunities. Perhaps the best photo is of Lenora Johnson, in the photo below. Lenora wrote the

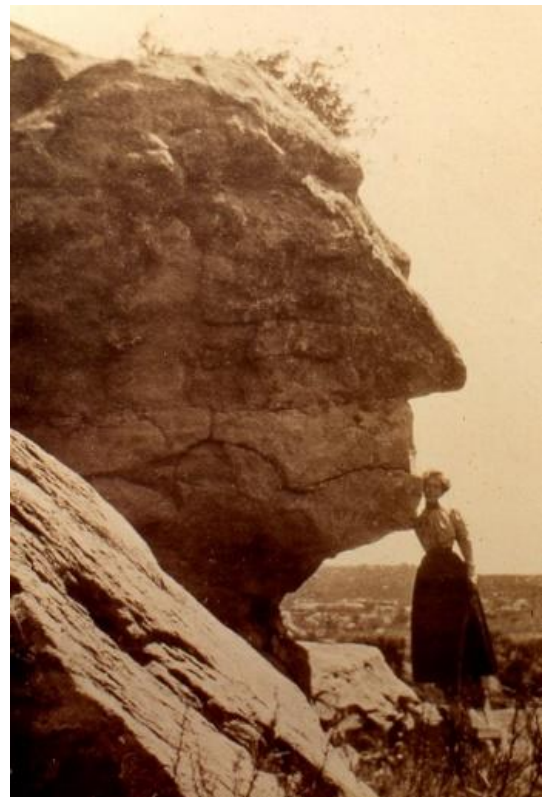
1931 Johnson memoir “Our Pioneer Mother”, where they referred to the rock as “The Old Man of the Mountains”.

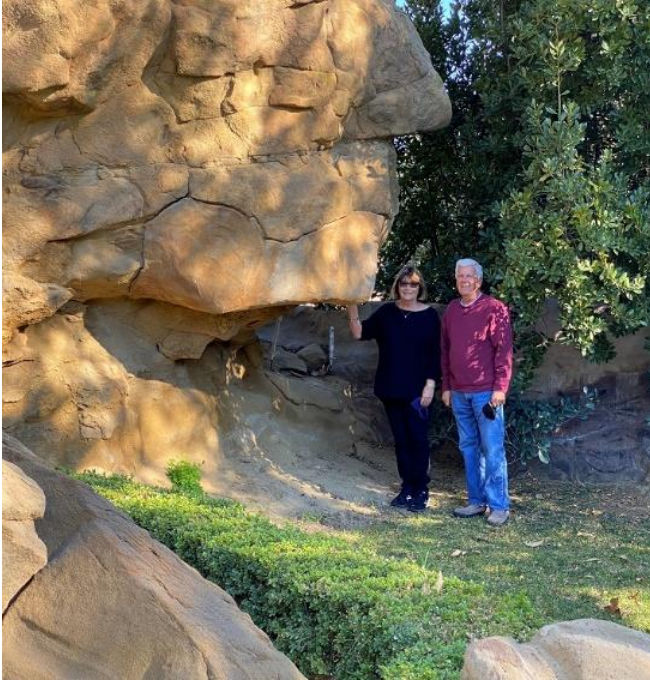


Scott Trimble, a new member of the Chatsworth Historical Society, who is a movie location scout, mentioned that he knew where the George Washington Rock was and offered to set up a photo opportunity for us.

Linda, who has been collecting George Washington Rock memorabilia for many years, considered visiting the rock high on her bucket list, as neither her or Virginia Watson had ever seen it in person.

In January, Linda and Andre van der Valk, Ray and Ann Vincent, movie historian Dennis Liff and Scott Trimble met with Pat Romano on his property in Indian Springs Estates and took some photos. Pat graciously provided a tour of his property and the magnificent way he has incorporated the rock formations into his landscaping. We all decided that he has been a good caretaker of the famous rock.

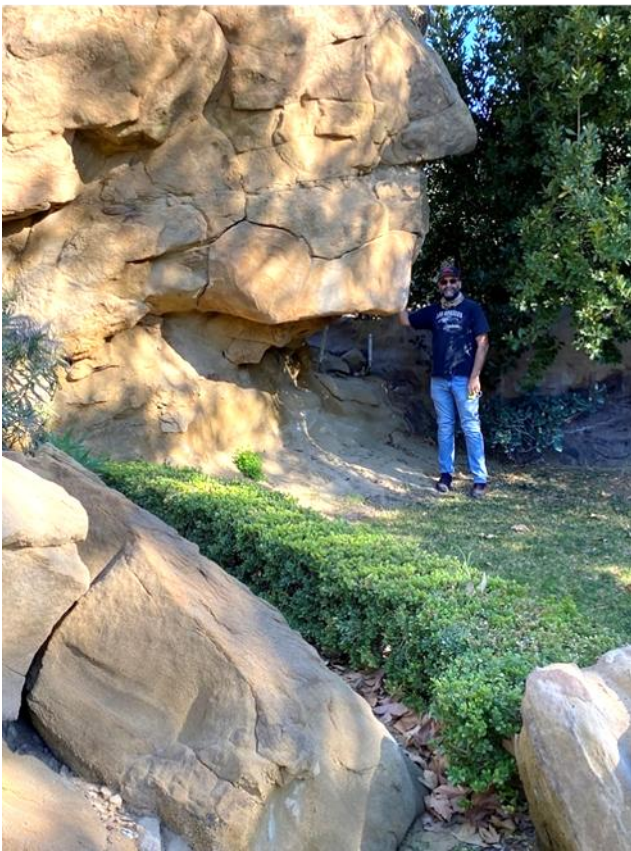




Linda and Andre van der Valk

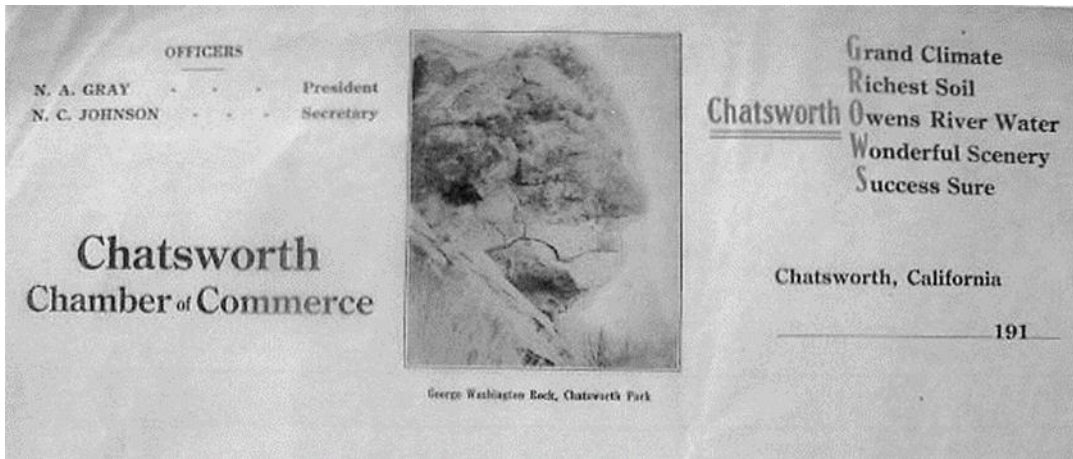


Ann and Ray Vincent



Scott Trimble

In the 1910's The Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce featured the rock on its letterhead. Note that the president of the Chamber of Commerce was N.A Gray and the secretary was Norman C. Johnson the son of Neils and Ann Johnson, the owners of the property where the George Washington Rock was located.



BELIEVE IT OR NOT

By Robert L. Ripley

GEORGE WASHINGTON ROCK
AT TWIN LAKES PARK
-near Chatsworth, Calif.

**A DOLLAR IS
TEN THOUSAND PER CENT
OF ONE CENT.**

A MERCHANT ADVERTISED IN FORBESLU, TILI

Mota-Shira the Shulbreaker
(Give Mirano name & Day Good with)
Guarantee cut this top specially
Hurry Cool
\$2.25

This man has sweating on top both
his ears were hot. This Shul breaker
sweat also dripped on his neck when strong
flame coal reaching heat place of top
he shrankling for shankless, every
time according law covered at least
for here. I who only explain it happens
picture back - make hands cool, also
why sweating. Jesus they had not new
and reasons were not good. Tera
Jahan

**Directed finding - If you directed
finding Mota-Shira - Show picture pass
away in 1000' from any fish market
until 172' North King Street - half man
River - My Shop small colored - reached
place No. 172 No King Street - please
look face sign say to Mota-Shira
the Shulbreaker, 172 172, also my name
on foot stop entrance**

Pass away inside immediately

PARNELLA
THE MONK WHO
COULD PERSPIRE
AT WILL

**VIEW ST
(BLIND ST)**

**VIEW STREET
IS A
BLIND STREET
in Oakland, Calif.**

VIRGINIA HOLLAND
LIVES ON
VIRGINIA AVENUE
AT
VIRGINIA BEACH
IN
VIRGINIA

LEVEL
BALANCE

J. M. EDWARDS and his 3 SONS, JOHN, JOE AND WILL
ARE **ALL 6 FT., 1 IN. TALL**

- Sterling City, Texas

WHEN
ANSWER A
PUZZLE FROM
THE BOX
RECEIVES FREE FIRST!

Can
YOU ASSEMBLE
THE ABOVE 2 CROSS
TO FORM A PERFECT
SQUARE BY
DIVIDING ONE OF THEM INTO
4 LIKE PARTS?
Seldom met Sunday

In a 1933 Ripley's Believe It Or Not article, the rock is shown in the upper left corner.

