



Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California

SMOKE SIGNAL

APRIL 1972 ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends:

We have such good news to report this month -- the electric wiring has been completed in our little Chatsworth Community Church. We have asked the electrician who did the work to request inspection and then we can go ahead with some of our other plans. Last week Lila and Bill contacted a tile man who is in the process of putting in the ceramic tile required in the bathrooms. As soon as he is done one of our members (Jim Woodman) is going to put down the linoleum in the two rooms and the entry hall. Then we will be ready for the inside painting. We have put out feelers and we hope that Neiman-Reed will donate the paint with our members and community volunteer doing the painting. We plan to paint the walls a cream color. The pews, the altar, and the wood in the ceiling are a dark color and we plan to leave them the same color. Perhaps they will need only varnish, stain or wax. We need only to have plain glass in the windows for the final inspection that we must have in order to get out from under that \$20,000 completion bond that we have been paying on for so many years. Later we can add the stained glass in the windows. We plan to have a painting party and several work parties next month to get things done. At present there is much to be done to get the plans under way. I won't bore you with the details just give you dates and facts next month but please be prepared to volunteer your services in May.

Oakwood Memorial Park Association, through Mr. Hunt and Mr. Enderle, have been most helpful in these last few months of speeded-up activity. The Association re-did the roof for us. There was wind damage from that last 90-mile an hour storm and some of the former work on the roof had to be re-done. It looks beautiful now--thanks to Oakwood. They have also taken care of many other problems for us. Our society is paying for the wiring that is actually in the church, but Oakwood is paying for and arranging for the power to be put up there and for the plumbing lines, the driveway, parking lot, etc. They have come to the point in their business where the building is going to have to show some sort of profit for them so we must make arrangements for that day in the near future.

Our original agreement with them called for us to move the building, rehabilitate it, and deed it over to the cemetery association. We wanted to have our museum room there, a place for our meetings and to have events in the church. Maintenance of the building was and is a big problem.

At our board meeting the executive board voted to recommend to the general membership that we make arrangements to rent the building back for our events after deeding it over to the OMPA. This would free us from the everyday maintenance of the building and would give the OMPA an income to help defray the cost of maintaining the monument.



Hopefully the church will be rented out for church services and our little church will be useful again. I am sure that this will meet with the approval of our membership but if there are any who disapprove please come to our April meeting and voice your opinions. For myself, I have promised Mr. Hunt that I will get the work done and the church deeded over to the OMPA before I go out of office--that gives us another deadline to meet.

Our next MEETING has been CHANGED from our regular Tuesday to SUNDAY, APRIL 23 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the CHATSWORTH CENTER BUILDING, 10332 Santa Susana Ave. In cooperation with the Chatsworth Women's Club we are presenting a "SUNDAY AFTERNOON OF HISTORY". A group of young people will present a pageant of Chatsworth History and our own Mrs. Iolene Cleveland will give a dramatized narration of the history of our little church accompanied by music. There is no cost and there will be refreshments. The WOMEN'S CLUB ALSO will help us with our next Sept. WEDDING AND FASHION SHOW and I hope the JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB will also HELP.

The committee that has been working on the "Wall of Remembrance" information has completed the first part of the work, that of listing all the people who have donated to our project. Now we must check the pledges against the list and check spelling and information and get addresses for our invitations to the opening of our church. Doesn't that sound great!

We are also invited to attend the SAN FERNANDO VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S APRIL 30 TRIP to see the RAMONA FESTIVAL. It is an all day event, includes lunch and transportation and the tickets are only \$10.00. CALL CAROL PHELPS at 363-0585 for tickets or information and reservations.

Our little church was again in the news. Ileana Welch of the Cultural Heritage Board sent us a copy of the March 1972 Western Mutual Escrow News so that we could see the article and the picture of the church the issue contains. I'll bring it to our meeting and share it with you.

Please bring any person you know who is interested in history to our "SUNDAY AFTERNOON OF HISTORY" so that we may interest them in joining our society. We need many more members. We have increased our membership this year and many new people have shown an interest in us, but we still need new people, new faces and new ideas. It would be nice too, to see some old faces back.

Don't forget we will have ELECTION of officers at the Sunday meeting. Unless there are nominations from the floor the slate we accepted last month includes. Lila Schepler, president; Lillian Schepler, vice president; Pauline Aue, recording secretary; Virginia Watson, corresponding secretary; Eileen Janess, treasurer; and Frank Schepler, parliamentarian.

Our installation plans will be delayed until Lila and Lillian get back from an extended trip to Europe. I will remain in office until they get back and we have a simple installation ceremony.

Before I close this message, I would like to thank another member, Mrs. Marlys Stuckenbruck and the wonderful little group of children who made up our March Birthday Month program. Children are our most precious American Heritage and those bright children, so talented and beautifully trained and enthusiastic about our American ways, were a refreshing beginning to our meeting. Their knowledge of and devotion to our Flag and our Country was plain to see and a compliment to our public schools--especially our Chatsworth Schools and teachers.

SEE YOU SUNDAY APRIL 23.

Virginia Watson
President 1970-72

Our former president, Charles Janess, is back to work after his recent surgery. We are all happy to see him up and around again. He was really missed.

Katharine Johnson is also on the recovery list from her recent bout with the flu. We all wish her a speedy get well.