

Chatsworth Historical Society

S M O K E S I G N A L

October 1972

Theme: "If it's to BE, it HAS to be ME."

Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends:

Our September meeting was a great success. It was held at the home of Lillian and Frank Schepler where a group of thirty Society members and their guests gathered to enjoy a delicious ham dinner and to share their summer vacation experiences. It was a pleasure to greet new members Helen Ransom and Louise Curinga-- and to have Mary and Jack Roach with us. Believe this is the first meeting they've been able to attend. Also to see Mary and Arnie Hanson. It was also nice for us to be able to introduce our house guest, Toshiko Tomimatsu of Hiroshima, Japan, to our Chatsworth friends, and to welcome guests Doris Dosser (our Chatsworth librarian), Trudy and Ray Colin (Millie Starkey's sister and brother-in-law), and Rockpointers Audrey and Dick Miller who came with Mary McVey. Our thanks to Lillian and Frank and to Eileen Janess, Carol Coughlin and Eleanor Schepler who helped our hosts with the food and arrangements for this lovely dinner party.

Circle October 17th on your calendar! That's the date of our regular monthly meeting which will be held in the Community Room at Glendale Federal Savings & Loan Ass'n. Dessert and coffee will be served at 7:30 p.m. followed by a slide presentation on "Old Los Angeles" by the docents of the Cultural Heritage Board. A highpoint of the evening will be the drawing for the beautiful Mary Hanson oil painting which she has so generously donated to the Society.

Another important event: November 11 & 12 - YARD & BAKE SALE at Iolene & Everett Cleveland's home, 10347 Jordan Avenue. Call Iolene at 341-1529 and she will send someone to pick up your donations... bric-a-brac to bedsteads, magazines to millinery... we'll sell anything for the enrichment of the Monument Fund! Lillian Schepler will be in charge of the bake sale and will accept orders for home-made pies, cakes and bread (Thanksgiving Day is coming).

Beginning with this issue, the Smoke Signal will carry mini-profiles of Society members whose contributions to the Society and the community at large exemplify what being involved is all about. We hope you will enjoy this new feature, and that it will be a source of inspiration for old and new members alike.

In closing, I am delighted to announce that Mary McVey has volunteered her time and ability to serve as our new editor of the Smoke Signal. HELP her by phoning (882-6153) news of our members-- bdays, illnesses and other items-- or mail news to Box 102, Chatsworth, Ca. 91311-- no later than second week of each month.

Sincerely,
Lila Schepler, President
341-3447



OUR TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balances in

Monument Fund	\$ 296.43
Monument Trust Fund	724.75
General Fund	196.76

NEWS ABOUT THE MONUMENT: Our Monument Rehabilitation Chairmen Frank and Bill Schepler, along with our President Lila Schepler, met with Councilman Robert Wilkinson to discuss his efforts on our behalf in getting a septic tank variance. If successful, this will reduce our cost for this item to one third of the original estimate.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

- SCHOOL NEWS-- Mr. Acosta's history class at Chatsworth High School was an enthusiastic audience for Virginia Watson and Lila Schepler's presentation of the history of the area and what the Historical Society is trying to accomplish.
- INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY-- Volunteers are needed to help with an "enrichment program" for the children of Chatsworth Park Elementary School. The program will run for 4 weeks-- after school on Wednesdays beginning October 23rd. If you're creative, or musically inclined, or can demonstrate how to saddle and ride a horse, we need your talents for this very worthwhile project. Call Lila Schepler, 341-3447.



... A NEW FEATURE ...

SOCIETY PROFILES-- This month: our founding members...

KATHERINE JOHNSON

has been a resident of Chatsworth since 1920 when she came here as a bride. Her pride in the community, and in the preservation of its historical value, is very obvious from her long association with the Chatsworth Women's Club (since 1921), the California History and Landmarks Club (honorary member), and her work with youth and women's groups at Chatsworth United Methodist Church of which she has been a member for 46 years. ? 52
 Katherine is a gifted musician and poet and has been a regular contributor to Valley newspapers for 45 years. She has also served the cause of good government as a member of the elections board for 20 years. In addition to being a founding member of the Historical Society, she has been a devoted and very effective supporter of all of its projects. PTA - HS and Elem.

? Woman of the Year

VIRGINIA WATSON

has been historiographer of the Society since its formation in 1963. She has been involved in voluntary work in the S.F. Valley for many years, and was the originator of the "block mother" concept for the protection of little children on their way to and from school. She has served



SOCIETY PROFILES cont'd

almost every civic organization including the PTA, Girl Scouts, 4H Clubs, BPW club and the Chamber of Commerce as a member and as an officer. She is a self-described "chronic volunteer" for charitable causes, and has been honored by all of these groups at one time or another. She was Chatsworth's "Woman of the Year" in 1967, and is the author of a "Child's History of Chatsworth," which is considered to be a classic work of its kind and is in the collections of the Huntington Library and the Wells Fargo Museum in San Francisco.

CHARLES W.
(CHUCK) JANESS

was born in Marine City, Michigan, and enjoys the distinction of being the grandson of a full-blooded Indian squaw. He came to Chatsworth in 1946 where he and his wife Eileen live in a lovely home which they built themselves. Chuck has been an active supporter of Boy Scouts since the early 1950's, and a member of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce since 1948. In 1956, he received a special citation from the Los Angeles City Council, and he was the recipient of a special greeting from Mayor Yorty in 1968. He has also been honored many times by other civic groups for disaster rescue work-- most recently in connection with the 1970 earthquake. As a founding member of the Historical Society, he has worked long and hard on all of its projects.

... POSTSCRIPTS ...

- Be sure to read the attached PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS and become a regular attendee at Society meetings. It's educational and a whole lot of fun!
- We NEED a Recording Secretary! Whoo oo Me? Yes, you... if you have the time. We would appreciate the help.

