

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

S M O K E S I G N A L

April 1973

Theme: "If It's To BE, It Has To Be ME!"

Editor: Colette Humphrey Parsons



Bon Voyage, Lila & Bill!

her. We will think of you all while we are away, and wish we could share in the next exciting meeting.

Dear Members and Friends:

This month begins with a warm and sincere Thank You to every member and Chairman who assisted with the Open House at our little Pioneer Church Monument.

That it was successful is due to these fine people, assisted by the many Community groups who so willingly participated. And it was double work, having to change the date because the road was impassable due to the rain on the date originally planned.

Yes, the 85th Birthday of "Our Town" was indeed a happy occasion.

Bill and I are leaving on a trip through the Southern States which will include a trip on the Mississippi River Boat, "The Delta Queen." This will be the last year of her existence, unless Congress intervenes once again to save

Sincerely,

Lila Schepler, President

Ed. Note: After hearing last week's weather reports re the rampaging Miss. and Mo. Rivers, I've been keeping my fingers so tightly crossed for Lila and Bill and their plans that I can hardly untangle them enough to type. We have heard through the family grapevine of wind, rain, tire trouble en route; St. Louis a mess; "Delta Queen" trip cancelled. WOE! WAIT!! REPRIEVE!!! Weather clearing. Boat trip rescheduled. As we go to press, our friends are, hopefully, wending their way with the Queen from Memphis back to St. Louis, and Ole Man River is once more just rollin' along without the rocking. All's well that ends well.

WHOO-OO, ME?

Hello, everybody. This is your Editor Pro Tem., that's who. Of course you know that Lila and Lillian have done all the work of collecting and delivering the material. I am just juggling it around and putting it all together in the hope that it will end up spelling "Smoke Signal."

Milton and I have not meant to be renegades. We have followed the affairs of the Historical Society with interest and admiration, but have been unable to participate actively because of other time-consuming commitments. How nice that we completed our last assignment in time to attend the 85th Birthday celebration on March 18. To coin a phrase: "To some the rain was a pain; to others a gain." Had the event taken place on the 11th as scheduled, we would have missed it.

What a breathtakingly beautiful setting for the little Church Monument, and how encouraging to see the progress on the restoration that has been made in the face of great odds. The histories of Chatsworth and the church brought back many fond memories as well as evoking echoes of a more distant past. Pictures, clips,

and antique collectors' items give promise of a worthwhile Museum: nostalgia for the oldsters (and the not-quite-so-oldsters); a source of wonder, pleasure, and instruction for the youngsters. Cheers and congratulations.



Age Editor, "thinking"

GETTING DOWN TO DOLLARS AND SENSE.

Treasurer Eileen Janess reports:

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|---------------------|----------|
| General Fund | \$486.16 |
| Monument Fund | \$872.07 |
| Monument Trust Fund | \$743.11 |

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Marion and Lela Mae Luster
Denny and Carol Coughlin

FLASHBACK

Those of you who were unable to attend the March 20 meeting missed a gourmet Irish Stew, the lip-smacking memory of which might have helped you through the current meat crisis. Who needs steak? Many thanks to Chef Lillian Schepler and her able staff for both the main course and the fixings.

29 members were present to enjoy not only the dinner but the entertaining informal program, prefaced by Chuck Janess' tape of the church bell that, through the years, rang from the Belfry of the Monument to call people to church, to summon students to high school, and to announce special meetings and events. Some reminiscences of not too ancient history were shared and taped as an impromptu sample for a projected Oral History of Chatsworth.

Hobby Corner displayed Celia Woodman's collection of dolls of foreign countries, featuring an enchanting Korean dolly duplicating the clothing worn by the Woodmans' adopted Korean War Orphan when she visited them in Seoul on their recent tour of the Orient.

LOOKING AHEAD. APRIL 17. MEETING OF CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

You will want to be at the Glendale Federal Community Room (Vassar & Devonshire Sts., Chatsworth) at 7.30 p.m. to share the fellowship with other members over a tempting dessert served by Hostesses Dr. Ruth Boak and Carol Coughlin, and to enjoy the Hobby Corner arranged by Katharine Johnson and Lillian Schepler.

MAIN EVENT. Our indefatigable Vice President, Lillian, has arranged an excellent program. The speaker is Gerald Gates, Archeological Research Dept. of Anthropology student at Cal State Northridge. Now actively participating in the dig at Van Norman Dam site, Mr. Gates will share with us his enthusiasm and the facts about the history of our area obtained through his research; also the latest information about the dam site which was almost eliminated by the floods of 1913.

ANOTHER APRIL SPECIAL: WALKING TOUR OF EL PUEBLO PARK OF HISTORY.

Saturday, April 28, at 12 noon the Chatsworth Historical Society members will be the guests of the El Pueblo Committee for a Lecture-Walking Tour of the area being restored around Olvera Street and the Old Plaza. This includes the handsome Pico House (L.A.'s first hotel), the original Fire House with its gleaming horse-drawn equipment, the city's oldest church (still serving its Catholic congregation), the little park and bandstand, surrounded by the charming topiary animals. The walking is easy, the exhibits fascinating, the Docents provide an illuminating commentary, and, like other good things in life, it's all FREE.

Chairman Iolene Cleveland will convene the group at the rear parking lot at Glendale Federal at 10,30 a.m. We will share rides, as we did for the Tropic Mine Trip. To expedite arrangements, please sign up for the trip NOW. Phone the Chairman at 341-1529 (eves) or Lillian Schepler at 341-0603 (days).

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

The Committee (Virginia Watson, Chairman, Bill Schepler, Mary Hanson, and Kelley Watson) submits the following (as yet, not quite complete) slate of officers for next term:

President.....Lila Schepler
First Vice President (Program).....Dr. Ruth Boak
Second Vice President (Fund Raising).....Iolene Cleveland
Third Vice President (Membership).....Bill Schepler
Fourth Vice President (Hospitality).....Lillian Schepler
Recording Secretary.....
Corresponding Secretary.....Twila Bryner
Treasurer.....Eileen Janess
Parliamentarian.....Frank Schepler, Jr.
Board Member-at-Large.....Dr. Joseph Pampalone (unconfirmed)
Historiographer and Public Relations.....Virginia Watson
Editor, Smoke Signal.....Colette Parsons
Scrapbook Chairman.....
Hobby Corner Chairman.....Frank Dougherty (unconfirmed)
Honorary Board Member & Sunshine Chairman.....Charles Janess

Additional names will be furnished at the April meeting, at which time other nominations may be made from the floor. Election is at the regular May meeting. Installation will take place in June.

MAY FORECASTS:

YARD SALE! Iolene Cleveland is planning the sale to end all sales. Exact date will be announced later, but there's no time like the present to start saving your rummage. If you haven't used something for a year or so, you obviously don't need it, and maybe somebody else is desperate for it. Also, remember that what is junk to one person may be a priceless treasure to another. If you have stuff that needs picking up, call Lillian. (Who else?) Volunteers are needed to help at the sale.

A BIRTHDAY! The Chatsworth Library celebrates its 10th Birthday at the present location in May. Doris Dossler, Librarian, and Virginia Watson are plotting an exciting exhibit. Details in the next issue of Smoke Signal.

CONDOLENCES.

The Society extends its sincere sympathy for the loss of his mother to good friend and loyal supporter, Dr. Carl Deutzler, Pres. of the Cultural Heritage Board; also to Peggy and Ralph Christenson. Peggy's mother, Mrs. Corrye Estes Dursteller, passed away in March.

GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY:

From the Chatsworth Women's Club, a handsome 48-star flag, used in the early days of the Club which is over 50 years old.

From Mrs. Olga Bay, another fine 48-star flag used by the Topanga Parlor of the Native Daughters of the Golden West before it merged with other Parlors.

From Frank and Eleanor Schepler, two dozen 8x10 photographs of Chatsworth homes and estates of the 40's, including those of such notables as Judge Fulwider, Victor Borge, and Max Schoenfeld.

From Minnie Palmer a butter mold and a plaiter used in her home at the turn of the century. (These items were previewed among the Cleveland antiques at the Open House).

All these gifts, along with the hymnal from the original Methodist Church, which we received from Sam and Betty Downing, will be logged into the archives by Virginia Watson, Historiographer. They will all enrich our Museum exhibits, and the Society is deeply grateful to the donors.

THE STOP-ME-IF-YOU-ALREADY-KNOW-THIS DEPT.

Members Bonnie Jean and Bill Lakey took off last month for a trip to Spain, stopping off en route in Shawnee Mission, Kansas, to visit daughter Julia and son-in-law Jim Gage, who are engaged in a most rewarding project, working with the deaf. Bill's vacation time is limited, but B-J plans to linger for an extended stay in Madrid to carry out an experiment in teaching English. She became interested in presenting English as a second language when working with minority groups locally.

Larry Fulmer has not been feeling well, and we hope that happy days will soon be here again.

The Coughlins, latest new members, are the daughter and son-in-law of the Frank Schepler, Jrs. She is an Art Major at Cal State Northridge.

Eileen and Chuck Janess recently spent a week in Stockton visiting with their son and family. They report that our State has never looked more beautiful at this season, after all the rainfall.

Lorraine and Orville Mitchell have been trailer-vacationing in Yucca Valley, the High Desert, and the San Joaquin Valley.

New member Lela Mae Luster is home from the hospital and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Frank Schepler is also home after not one but two bouts with surgery. We are happy to report that his spirits are high and progress is good.

Unexpected surprise: the receipt at our Open House of a free will offering amounting to \$170.36. What a nice fat piggy bank.

SO -- ON THAT HAPPY NOTE, LET'S BRING THIS TO A CLOSE, SHALL WE? HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL ON TUESDAY, APRIL 17, at 7.30 P.M.

