

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

S M O K E S I G N A L

April 1974

Theme: "If anything's to BE,
It's up to YOU and ME.
Let's all make history!"

Editor: Colette Humphrey Parsons

"April prepares her green traffic light
and the world thinks GO."

—Christopher Morley

EASTER GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends: At this happy season of the year when Spring and Easter bring thoughts of renewal, resurrection and promise, it is sad to realize that in these impatient times what is new and modern often signals the destruction, not the renovation, of much that is old and lovely. It is discouraging to see a treasure like the old Grey home, "Los Robles", go down in the path of a new "development". (A silly word; who's developing what?) This house was built in 1890 and is, I believe, the oldest home in Chatsworth.

Only a miracle could save it now, and they are hard to come by. In case you would like to pay your respects, it is living out its last days at 22165 Lassen St., nestled among the huge old trees which, I suppose, are also doomed. Aren't you glad that the old olive trees which line Lassen St. on both sides are Historical Monuments? Altho 49.3 have already been cut down by developers, we hope to save those on the north side from a similar fate. It is hard for me to understand the thinking that a one-gallon tree is an adequate replacement for one that was planted in 1899 unless we plan to stay around for 85 years to watch it mature! But "hang in there", as the expression goes, and we may be able to save several newer sites. For instance, your Board has written the Cultural Heritage Board of Los Angeles requesting that the Minnie Hill Palmer residence be named an Historic Monument. Tho the present home was built in 1913, it stands on the site of the original homestead built at the turn of the century. Minnie, who will be 88 this fall, was born there....Have a lovely Easter!

Sincerely,

Lila Schepler, President

HAPPY EASTER FROM OUR TREASURER

General Fund
Monument Fund
Trust Fund

\$418.71
\$1,099.87
\$782.67

Eileen Janess, Treasurer





FROM ED. IN NEED TO AN ED. FRIEND INDEED, A THANK-YOU

My sincere appreciation to Sheelagh Watts for further crowding her busy schedule by pinch-hitting for me with the March "Signal". Such a sprightly as well as informative issue it was, too. (Incidentally, what has Andora Ave. got that this small stretch of Farralone lacks? WE haven't seen any streakers up this way -- a far more entertaining diversion than having the phone ring with offers of "While we're in your neighborhood tomorrow -- or the next day -- or any old time -- we can clean your furniture, carpet your floors, build an addition etc., etc.) Thanks also for (always) duplicating the paper, stuffing the envelopes and mailing, and

to Jane Matthews for taking care of the addressing, and to Lila for supplying most of the news.....Spouse Milton is almost recovered from his accident. He broke his right shoulder in a nasty fall (beware of those concrete car-stops in parking lots), in addition to cutting his forehead seven stitches worth, and is still in a sort of strait-jacket (politely known as a shoulder-immobilizer) but hopes to make a Houdini escape in another week or so. At first he couldn't work his right hand and was utterly inept with his left which explains why I was too busy functioning for two to "edit." He is now quite ambidextrous, tho limited in activity.

NEXT MEETING OF CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DATE: Tuesday, April 16.

PLACE: Community Room, Glendale Federal Savings, .21821 Devonshire St.

HOSTESSES: Helen Fladwed and Celia Woodman. Celia will have an extensive collection of Bibles, old and new, on display. Helen will exhibit unusual types of musical instruments, some antique. She will be assisted by Stephen and Adina Daum who will sing for us, accompanying themselves on the Auto-Harp.

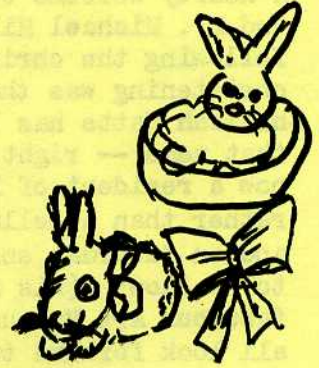
PROGRAM: Milton Parsons (with or without a sling, his gift of gab being unimpaired) will take a light-hearted backward look at some of his more amusing or unusual experiences during 35 years of acting in movies (over 100 in all). He will end his program with a forward look at picture techniques, presenting Rick McCurdy, creative young Chatsworth movie-maker, who will show his amusing tongue-in-cheek film, "The Wrong Expedition", narrated by Milton and shot mainly in and around Chatsworth, starring the inimitable George Schoell, supported by a number of other local personalities.

RESOLUTION

Your Board has approved a resolution requesting that our State Assemblymen and Senators support restoring and keeping the 100-year-old State Capitol Building. It is an outstanding example of the Classic Revival style of architecture. It is not only feasible to restore it, but economically cheaper than abandoning it for new Capitol facilities. It should be retained as the State's most important governmental landmark. We are indebted to Elva Meline for alerting us to the need for the resolution.

TWO BOOSTS FOR OUR SOCIETY

Through the kind and understanding cooperation of Madge Hutchison, Manager, we have been granted permission and space in the main room of Glendale Federal Savings and Loan for a display case enclosing some of our pictures and artifacts. See it, after April 24, and take the opportunity of thanking our friend for letting us share these treasures with the public.



We are also indebted to Chuck Brooks, Manager of Security Pacific Bank for allowing us to leave our display case which attracted so much favorable comment during the 86th Birthday Pioneer Days Celebration in honor of Chatsworth's 86th birthday. There will be a change of exhibit after April 24. Pay it a visit then, and again leave a word of thanks.

Virginia Watson, our Historiographer, is arranging the displays. It is so much more satisfactory to have our Museum items on view instead of letting them languish in storage. Have YOU any pictures, furniture, books or other mementoes of the "olden days" that you would care to loan or donate to the Society for a future Museum?

RALLY ROUND THE FLAG FOR THE BIGGEST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF THEM ALL!

The Bicentennial Committee of the Chatsworth Historical Society, Sheelagh Watts, Chairman, is inviting representatives of all community organizations to the initial Chatsworth Bicentennial Committee meeting at 7.30 p.m. on April 30, at (where else?) the Glendale Federal Savings Community Room. A welcome is also extended to all our members.

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT

Our next meeting will be on April 18 at 8.00 p.m. at the Bill Scheplers'. If you would like to participate in this project, call 341-3447 -- or just join us at 22438 Lassen St. on that date. This month we have been continuing to familiarize ourselves with the tape recorders, review the handbook on procedures, and do practice interviews -- all in preparation for the real thing this coming May. It's fascinating.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Harbinger of the ending of a good year and foreshadowing the new one. Chuck Janess has accepted the Chairmanship, with Jane Matthews and Bill Schepler also serving. Report in next "Smoke Signal" and nominations from the floor at the May meeting before the election is held. The Executive Board consists of President, 4 Vice-Presidents, 2 Secretaries, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Board Member at Large, Honorary Board Member, Editor of "Smoke Signal." Suggestions welcome. Call Chuck at 341-2828

SAVE THESE DATES

June 20, 21 and 22. 20th Annual Conference of California Historical Societies in San Fernando. Fascinating programs and activities. Details in May "Signal".



ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

A hearty welcome to new members Mrs. Fay Barton, Mr. Ray Hicks (Life Member), and Mr. Michael Miller.....Mary and Ramon Avila hosted a party on Palm Sunday following the christening of their new granddaughter.....Another Palm Sunday christening was that of Lorraine and Orville Mitchell's grandson Jeffrey..... Sheelash Watts has been entertaining two relatives, Roy and Fred Longstaff (love that name -- right out of "Robin Hood"). Roy is from Leeds, England. Fred is now a resident of Hackensack, N. J., but his image is still that of an Englishman rather than a fellow from Joisey.....Keith Watts left Friday morning for Japan, and on Saturday son Kevin took off for New York City to visit sister Heather and to "wallow" (his mother's word, not mine. Tssk, tssk, Sheelagh!) in all those fabulous Art Museums.....And while still on the subject of the Watts family, we all look forward to a return visit this summer of our favorite ballerina, Heather, and the New York City Ballet at the Greek Theatre.....Everybody's friend, George Schoell, who has been very ill for several months but refused to give up, was finally lassoed and carried off to the Veterans Hospital in Sepulveda, where he is undergoing his third week of extensive tests to pinpoint the exact nature of his problems. Many of you have been the recipient of his thoughtful cards, notes, poems, or clippings of interest. Please keep him now in your thoughts and prayers, and send a card. Since, with good luck, he may be released from the hospital soon, address him at Box 135, Chatsworth. In any case, his mail will be brought to him.Toni and Joe Meyser had a grand tour of Mexico last month in their super motor home, joining a caravan of 70 rigs (140 people). That's good. Early in the trip they received word that their laundromat in Oceanside had been badly damaged by fire. That's bad. They philosophically decided to continue and enjoy their journey. That's good. Outside of paying 63¢ a litre for gas, they "loved the country, people, climate, and places to see" and look forward to going back -- some day after they finish rebuilding their laundromat, which they have cheerfully started to do. Good luck, old friends. You always did have a lot of bounce and optimism.

YARD SALE! YARD SALE! YARD SALE! YARD SALE! YARD SALE!

WHEN? May 18 and 19.

WHERE? At the home of Iolene and Everett Cleveland, 10347 Jordan Ave.

CAUSE? For the benefit of the General Fund of our Society and the many projects we promote to serve our community.

GIVE A for Anything: bric-a-brac, clothes (clean, please), furniture, jewelry to Z for Zillions of other items -- even newspapers which bring a good price now. We made \$500. last year; let's top it. If pick-up needed, call 341-3447 or 341-1529.

HELP! We need 5 people to work Friday night (May 17) to price, sort, place clothes on hangers, etc.; 6 men and women to work on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday: 9 a.m. to noon; noon to 3 p.m.; 3 to 5.30 pm. Sunday: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. We also need several extra folk to help put things back at 5 p.m. on Sunday.

On Saturday, food will be available right next door at the Janess's (United Methodist Women's Bake Sale), so you can get a snack to keep body and soul together, or take something home to the family you didn't have time to cook for.

SEE YOU THERE!

