



C H A T S W O R T H H I S T O R I C A L
S O C I E T Y
S M O K E S I G N A L

December

1975

Lila Schepler, President

Virginia Watson, Editor

Merry Christmas Merry Christmas Merry

HOLIDAY GREETINGS to all
our members and friends.
May your CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS be
BEAUTIFUL ones.

May the NEW YEAR which dawns
our BICENTENNIAL be one of GREAT
HAPPINESS and meaning for all.

We are convinced that our His-
toric Monument will be re-dedicated
during this Bicentennial Year--
Hopefully APRIL 25th.

Let us all join together to make
this occasion and this year a
memorable one.

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DALE EVANS has tentatively set
APRIL 25th as the date for the dedi-
cation of our church! We have to
wait until after the first of the
year to set the date exactly--she
has contracts to sign and we need
to work around her dates.

Incidentally DALE EVANS has a new
book out "LET FREEDOM RING" and
they have it at the bookstore next
to Sears (upstairs) at Northridge
Plaza.

OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY will
be held on SUNDAY AFTERNOON
this year.

We will meet at the home of
the Doctors Pampalone, 10510
Fullbright Ave. (Colony West--
it borders the Mason Park) at
3 p.m. SUNDAY, DEC. 7th.

There will be a program of
Christmas music and singing by
our own coloratura soprano,
Jane Matthews.

We will sing Christmas
carols accompanied by the pump
organ at the Pampalones. (Some-
one is going to play the organ)

We will have an exchange of
gifts and it has been requested
that the gift be "SOMETHING
CHRISTMASSY" under \$2.50.

For REFRESHMENTS--those
whose last name begins from
A to J please bring a plate
of tea sandwiches. Those
whose last name starts with the
letters K thru Z please bring a
plate of cookies.

The society will furnish
tea, coffee and punch.

BOARD MEETING for the Chatsworth Historical Society will be Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Glendale Federal Savings & Loan Association.

Perhaps some of you will get your Smoke Signal in time to be reminded of the meeting.

FINISHING TOUCHES....Mr. Cook starts Monday, Dec. 1 on the carpentry work on our Pioneer Church.

THANKS.....THANKS.....THANKS...
THANKS TO EVERYONE who came to clean up the monument Nov. 27. Several different organizations were represented.....The Chatsworth Women's Club, the Rotary Club, Marina and Tanya Pampalone represented the 4-H Club and Nancy Race and her sone Burke came from Councilman Wilkinson's office.

Bill & Lila Schepler represented the Chatsworth Historical Society.

The Oakwood Memorial Park Association had the building blown-out professionally before the clean-up event which speeded up the cleaning process.

RECUPERATING..... Frank Schepler, Jr. was up and dressed for the first time for Thanksgiving following surgery performed several weeks ago at Kaiser Hospital here in the Valley. We are glad Frank is improving.

He and his brother Bill were the ones who did so much of the physical work when we moved our church in 1965 (January, remember?)

Also reported
ay is Frank
d Memorial

MINNIE HILL PALMER is back in Chatsworth following a four-day trip to her daughter, Edith Butler's house in San Fernando.

Minnie celebrated her 89th BIRTHDAY (her birthday was Sun. Nov. 30th) with a birthday dinner at a restaurant and where all the people sang "Happy Birthday."

Minnie's son and her grandchildren also were present as well as other relatives.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The padres who first explored Alta California were of the Franciscan Order which was named after St. Francis of Assisi. We get many customs from St. Francis such as the blessing of the animals.

Our custom of caroling at Christmas time is said to have been started by him also.

Supposedly St. Francis set up a miniature manger scene in Greccio, Italy in 1224 and led people in songs of praise.

Caroling from house to house dates from the Middle Ages. A big revival of caroling began in 1813, when "Silent Night" was written by Germans Franz Gruber and Joseph Mohr.

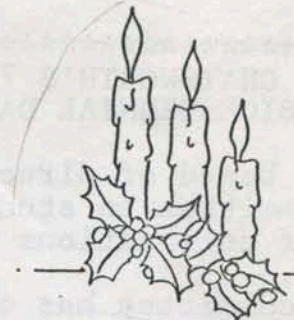
HOLLY

"Holly" came from the word "holy." The druids believed that because of its evergreen leaves the sun never deserted it and therefore it was sacred. Placed over the doorways it kept out evil spirits. Branches of holly were given to signify friendship.

Our JANUARY meeting will be held the third Tuesday of the month as usual at the Glendale Federal Savings & Loan.

NANCY MOURE, assistant curator or American Art at the LA County Museum of Art will be the speaker.

Ms. Moure will show slides and talk about art at the museum.



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A BIG HELPING OF THANK YOUs to all the people who participated in our MARVELOUS November program meeting. It was well-attended, well-planned, the speaker was extra good, displays terrific, and the food was delicious. What more could we ask for?

We hope to again have another program with the Bibliographic Society and the Phi Kappa Phi.

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ORAL HISTORY MEETING will be held on Thursday of this week, Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. at the home of the chairman or perhaps I should say chairpersons--Mr. and Mrs. Milton Parsons, 10801 Farralone Ave. (at the end of Tulsa at Farralone)

Everyone is to bring their completed tape and tape recorder and we will play the results.

LAS POSADAS

The traditional Mexican Christmas story will be enacted again this year by the San Fernando Historical Society at the Andres Pico Adobe on Dec. 20th.

At the time this paper is being prepared we are not sure of the time. If you are interested watch the papers or call the chairwoman, Marie Harrington at 361-4083.

It is always a beautiful pageant and authentically done by the society.

We planned our Christmas party early this year so that our members could attend this re-enactment of an Early California Christmas Celebration.



CHATSWORTH'S 76
BICENTENNIAL DAYS

Your board of directors approved of a committee to study the possibilities of celebrations for our Bicentennial.

The committee has come up with some ideas that need your approval. They would like to see the whole community involved. They hope that the Chatsworth Historical Society can coordinate the activities of the community Bicentennial celebration and finish our church with other groups helping.

Also the committee proposes that the 76 days (counting backwards from July 4) leading up to the actual birthdate, July 4, 1976, be designated Chatsworth's 76 BICENTENNIAL DAYS. AND that events be staged within those dates by different organizations or groups in our area and that each group support the other. Not an event every day or even every week but spaced so that the community could enjoy and participate in most of them.

FROM YOUR EDITOR.....

Greetings to all of you and I hope you all have a Happy Holiday season.

It will be the Bicentennial Year before you receive another Smoke Signal. We are all looking forward to the rededication of our monument and the culmination of our dream of moving and rehabilitating it. We do have a lot to look forward to in the coming year.

But it is the hope of your editor and historiographer that when the bells ring in the New Year--that you will pause to reflect a few minutes about those patriots who came before us and lighted the way to the freedoms we take for granted today.

" GIVE YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY A CHRISTMAS GIFT."

Do you have any item from Chatsworth's past that you would like to have preserved in our historical society collection?

We are looking for items from the 1880's (or before that if you have anything such as Indian relics, etc.) until the present.

We need chairs, music racks, books, bookcases, desks and other furniture that we will be using in the church and in our museum room.

Please call Lila Schepler at 341-3447 or speak to any of our members at the meetings.



"That's all Folks"