

CHATSWORTH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SMOKE-SIGNAL

December -- 1977

President: Lillian Schepler
Editor: Celia Woodman

Mailing Editor: Tricia Plucknett
Membership Chairman: William Schepler

CHRISTMAS PARTY ** DECEMBER 18th ** 4:00 to 6:00 P.M.
(Instead of December meeting)

At the home of Joe and Barbara Pampalone * 10510 Fullbright

Please come to enjoy our fellowship in music and traditional refreshments and JOY for the Christmas Season. Each one coming please bring an exchange gift and mark "man" or "woman". The gift should be in the range of \$2.00 (if you can). Each couple, or single, should bring Foods with a Foreign Flair -- Bits from Scandinavia's sumptuous smörgåsbord -- Christmas Treats from Down Mexico way -- Breads from Abroad from the Stout-Hearted Germans -- -- -- --
Vive la cuisine française! But don't go home with a stomach-ache!

(If you have any questions, please call Lillian - 341-0603)

NEWS: Welcome, Delia Enderle to our newest Life Membership. All other new members will be welcomed in the January issue. Bill has not completed the list at this date and besides YOU may be bringing in a new member before that time. Just think! We have over 100 members right now. If each one of us would bring in just one new member, we would have over 200 - JUST LIKE THAT! OK? Wouldn't that be a good New Year's Resolution? Don't forget to send me your news!!

GOOD NEWS! Four happy grandparents welcome a new grandson - Richard Louis Bersinger (7# 4oz) was born December 2nd to Martha and Rick Bersinger. Rick, Martha and "Ricky" live in Sepulveda. The maternal grandparents are, Joe and Rose Schurter, our members; Paternal grandparents are, Mr. and Mrs. Everitte Bersinger - also residents of Chatsworth.

Send Minnie Palmer a Belated Birthday card, if you forgot, as I did. She is our oldest member age 91. Her address is: Astoria Terrace Retirement Center - 14040 Astoria, Sylmar - 91345.

TRAVELING:

Bill and Lila and Bill's mother, Mrs. Eleanor Schepler had a lovely 6-day vacation on the Ship "Santa Maria" that goes from Wilmington to San Francisco. They stayed two nights on the ship - three nights at the "Palace" in San Francisco. They rode the Bart, visited some historical places, had some of San Francisco's famous exotic foods and returned home by Amtrak.

The Frank Schepler's, also, "a traveling they would go! (or did)". Frank and Lillian just returned for our Board meeting on Tuesday. They had visited Guymas, Mexico (I hope I spelled it right - I couldn't read Lillian's writing and I had already called her five times today, so for those who have never been there, it won't make any difference anyway. For those who have and for those of Mexican descent, please forgive me! They met Ray and Rosie Johnston, also from Chatsworth, who are staying at San Carlos Bay for several months. Frank caught seven fish (but he didn't say what kind - perhaps he will share some of it in some special dish at our party.) Lillian had a woman's most happy time -- shopping for Christmas gifts. On the way home they stopped to visit their friends in Parker, Arizona.

Barbara Pampalone shared with us a beautiful letter - Happy Labor Day, because she didn't get to send birthday, Easter, 4th of July, etc. cards, but wanted to thank everyone for all the convalescent and Goodwill cards and messages that she received and to acknowledge all the nice things that were done for her after her injury from falling off Marina's horse. She is now ready and willing and able to do all your tooth extractions and fillings and root canal work! (This is not a paid or free advertisement, in fact, she doesn't even know I'm writing it.)

The Unitarian Church of Studio City was the setting for the lovely marriage ceremony uniting Olivia Wicks and Douglas Plucknett. This celebration of love was performed on Saturday, the twelfth of November. Douglas' parents are Burrell and Tricia Plucknett and Olivia's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Wicks. The young couple will make their home in Chatsworth.

Virginia and Henry Watson hosted their daughter and family from Bridgeport, California. Many of us remember their daughter. The five "J's" - Judy with husband, Jim and children, Jeff, Jodie and Justine Jeude, spent 10 days visiting and shopping in Chatsworth and in Sepulveda, where Jim's mother, Evelyn Jeude is living. Happy grandparents - everyone!

Historical-Holiday-Happenings

DECEMBER
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THE STORY OF HANUKKAH

Long years ago, the king who ruled
The Syrians and Jews
Allowed his subjects freedom
To worship as they'd choose.

But when he died, the new king said
They must deny their Lord
And worship Syrian idols
Or perish by the sword.

Led by Judah Maccabee,
All Jews throughout the land
Armed themselves for battle
And prepared to take a stand.

Although untrained in warfare,
They were strengthened by the Lord.
Their army was victorious,
And their freedom was restored.

The priests then cleansed the temple
And found, to their dismay,
A single flask of sacred oil--
Enough for just one day.

But at the dedication,
The oil sustained the lights
So that they burned miraculously
For eight full days and nights.

Now every year at Hanukkah,
The bright Menorah rays
Remind us of that miracle
In our forefather's days.

*Hope you enjoy the story
of our forefather's
great faith,
and hope you have
a very happy
Hanukkah!*



Forty youngsters from infants to teen-agers were entertained by clown from the Shrine Club at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Hanukkah party. Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, marks the successful battle for religious freedom fought by the Maccabees against the Syrians 2,100 years ago. To commemorate the holiday the Menorah, an eight-branch candlestick, is lighted at sundown each evening for eight days, beginning with one candle on Sunday, Dec. 4 and continuing each day until Dec. 11th.

CHRISTMAS = WHEN GOD SENT HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON TO SEND PEACE UPON THE EARTH!

Isn't this a fitting season that the deeply moving events of the past month in Jerusalem, will, hopefully, be the end of the fighting and bitterness of the nations in the Middle-East? Pledges by the president of Egypt and the prime minister of Israel that their war-weary nations will never again bear arms against each other is another GIANT STEP toward the PEACE that God intended for us.

LAS POSADAS

We are invited to participate in this Celebration to Renact the Search of the Holy Family's Lodging. The place: Pico Andres Adobe - 10940 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills. The time: 7:30 P.M. Traditionally, in Spain and Mexico, the ceremony is nine nights before Christmas in which the Holy Family knocks at each door. Each time, until the last night, they are turned away until they are given lodging at the Inn. Here, they only go to 5 houses. There is a long procession in which everyone is invited to participate. Each one will carry a lighted candle (these are purchased at The Pico - it is their Fund-raising for the event.) The Young Historians will take the main parts and it will all be spoken in Spanish. There will be much singing. There will be a Piñata for the children and Casearones (eggs filled with confetti). There will be refreshments in the Patio -- pan dulce and chocolate'.

To wish you

the special gifts of Christmas

Peace, Good Will

and abiding Happiness.

CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER
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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

"On behalf of the Board of the Chatsworth Historical Society, I wish for each of you Joy and Happiness for Christmas and the New Year. Merry Christmas to One and All!..... Hope to see you at the Christmas Party. Sincerely, Lillian

COMING EVENTS:

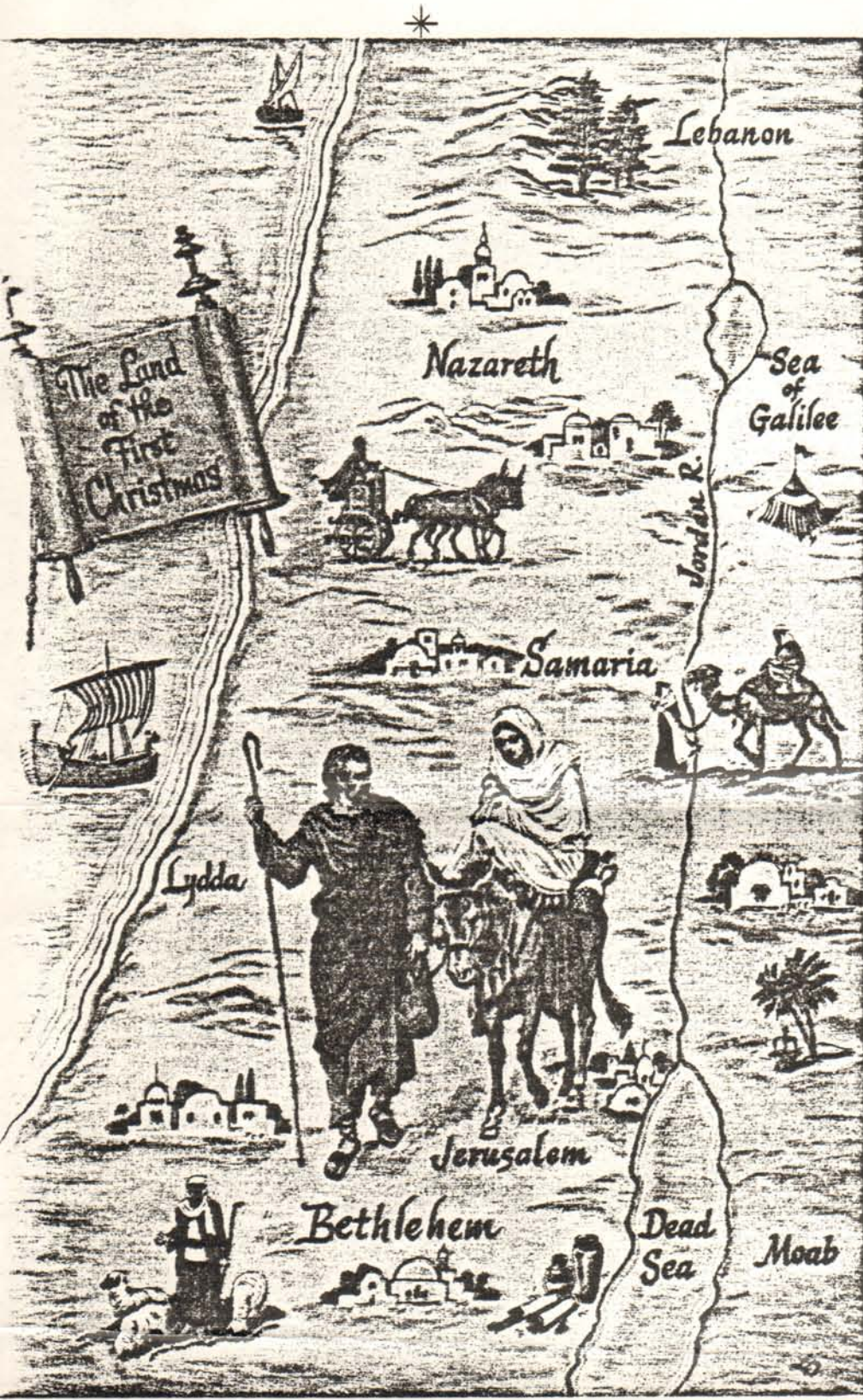
Book Sale at Topanga Plaza-----
Jan. 27th and 28th

Save your books and magazines....
This is one of our best Fund-Raising Events.....therefore...
we need you, as well as your wares.

A Barbershop Tribute to
George M. Cohan - Yankee Doodle Boy
Presented by the San Fernando Valley
Chapter - Fri., Feb. 3 & Sat. Feb. 4
8:02 P.M.

At John Burroughs High School Aud.
1920 Clark Ave., Burbank.....
Tickets may be purchased from:
Jim Summers - Tel. 341-2714

Chatsworth's 90th BIRTHDAY PARTY
in March, 1978 - That's not too
far away. The program planning is
in cooperation with the Chatsworth
United Methodist Church -- We need
you and your ideas. Call Lila
Schepler -- 341-3447



SAVE __ SAVE--SAVE"" Your Historical Treasures and Junk for Iolene Cleveland's
Yard Sale -- Second week end in June. If you have any friends or neighbors who are
moving, have them give you their unmovables - we will "move" them at the yard sale.
Iolene has a way of knowing how to sell a Pig's Ear (or ear ring) or the re-frig from the
refrigerator and we will somehow or someway find a place to store these things until
that Big Day! If you have a storage room or an old tin house, please let us know.
Iolene Cleveland: 341-1529

SANTA CLAUS

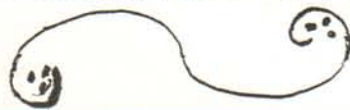
Christmas and children both began to get a little out of hand about a century ago.

Santa Claus, as we visualize him today with bulging fur-trimmed suit and white beard, was created by the artist Thomas Nast in a series of drawings for *Harper's Weekly* beginning in 1863. In 1874 Macy's department store in New York installed its first promotional window displays built around a Christmas theme: dolls. Retailers noticed that people were in the mood to buy, and December sales became increasingly important to their prosperity.

As children became a minority, they received more attention. Practitioners of the new science of psychology suggested that children were different from adults, not just smaller, and that childhood should be a time of joy and inner growth.

The first Christmas greeting cards in color were published in 1875 by Louis Prang, a lithographer who had been specializing in art reproductions called "chromos."

F. W. Woolworth was persuaded to stock \$25 worth of Christmas-tree ornaments in 1880, and soon was ordering \$800,000 worth a year from the same supplier.



Santa Claus bringing gifts at Christmas symbolized the new understanding, humane treatment, and milder discipline. (Harassed parents sometimes muttered that the bad old days offered some advantages.)

In an Eastern city, William Dean Howells could write an amusing story about a somewhat spoiled little girl who persuaded

Meanwhile, childhood was being invented. In earlier times, children wore adult-style clothes, worked at adult jobs, and entered into adult life in other ways as soon as physically able. Six and seven year olds worked full shifts in factories.

One reason children weren't considered special was that they were so numerous. In 1860, more than half the population was under the age of 20. This proportion declined to 43 per cent by 1900 and 38 per cent by 1930.

the Christmas fairy to make it Christmas every day. After a few months of Christmas every day, presents piled up on the sidewalks until the police had to make householders shovel them off. Instead of exchanging gifts, people threw them at each other.

Finally, the little girl went back to the Christmas fairy and said "she would be willing to have it Christmas about once in a thousand years; and then she said a hundred, and then she said ten, and at last she got down to one."

On a farm out on the lonely prairie, Christmas was still old-fashioned. Laura Ingalls Wilder recalled in one of her popular books that not much happened. She and her sister each received a new tin cup of her very own, a stick of peppermint candy, a little heart-shaped cake made with white flour and white sugar, and a penny.

A bachelor neighbor came to dinner, bringing sweet potatoes to go with the wild turkey. He also brought the little girls' presents, explaining that he had been to Independence and run into Santa Claus, who asked him to help. Santa was too old and fat to swim the swollen creek in the December wind as Mr. Edwards had done, with his clothes and parcels in a bundle on his head.

The girls thanked him. "Pa shook Mr. Edward's hand too, and they shook it again. Pa and Ma and Mr. Edwards acted as if they were almost crying, Laura didn't know why. So she gazed again at the beautiful presents."

