

# Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California

## Smoke Signal

President: Lillian Schepler

Editor: Celia Woodman

Vice-President and Program Chairman  
Jane Matthews

Mailing Editor:  
Tricia Plucknett

Window of the Past.....  
Membership Chairman.....

Bill Schepler

### HAPPENINGS OF THE MONTH

February 1978

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Feb. 1 - Freedom Day  | Feb. - 12 - Lincoln's Birthday   |
| Feb. 2 - Groundhog Day  | Feb. - 14 - Valentine's Day  |
| National Pay Your Bills Week<br>(Feb. 6 through Feb. Feb. 12) | Feb. - 19 - Brotherhood Week<br>and National Engineer's Week   |
| Feb. 7 - Chinese New Year<br>and Shrove Tues.                 | Feb. - 18 - Smorgasbord at<br>Chatsworth United Meth. Church   |
| Feb. 8 - Ash Wednesday and the<br>beginning of Lent           | Feb. - 20 - Washington's Birthday  |
|   | Feb. - 21 - Chatsworth Historical<br>Society's February Meeting at<br>Glendale Federal Savings - 7:30 PM |

ALL MONTH \* AMERICAN HEART MONTH \*

February 21 - Meeting - "CHINA THEME"

"GUNG HAY FAT CHOY!" - Chinese "Happy New Year"

Speaker: Dr. Kian Kwan, Professor of Sociology, C. S. U. Northridge  
Title: Upheaval in China and Settlement in America

Display: Bring any Chinese artifacts that you may have to display

Refreshments: Chinese Tea and Cookies

Historical: Chinese New Year - The Year of the Horse - year 4676

21

18

The Annual Smorgasbord by those wonderful cooks from the United Methodist Women - the Swedish Meat Balls, the Cod Fish Balls, dozens of delicious salads and the traditional dessert - all those delightful dishes to make you always want to return if you haven't been there before. If you have come before, all you will need is the date and the time - 2/18/'78 - 5:30 to 7:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome. No reservations are necessary, but you may call Beth Ashcraft - 349-7356, or Lila Schepler - 341-3447, or Celia Woodman - 347-8569 for further information. See you there!

COMING!!! Celebration of Chatsworth's 90th Birthday!!!!!! Our Chatsworth Historical Society will hold their celebration on Tuesday, March 7th at Glendale Federal Savings and Loan Assoc., 21821 Devonshire St. - Tues. at 1:00 O'Clock, with Open House. We will serve punch and cookies to all our members and friends. Minnie Hill Palmer, age 91, was born in the area before the community was named. She will cut the cake to celebrate Chatsworth's 90th Birthday. We have invited the Patrons of the Edifice. We will display the plaque with their 75 names engraved in gold. These persons have all donated \$100.00 or more toward the replenishing of our Pioneer Church. Another event is planned for the evening of the same date -- at 7:30 P.M. This will be held in the Hospitality Room of the Glendale Savings and Loan. Ten of our local organizations, those who have contributed so much to our history, will have their own unique contribution. Minnie will cut the cake at the evening event. The public is cordially invited to attend both of these festive events. Please join us and bring a friend. You must put this date on your calendar, because the celebration will occur before our next news-letter.

The Chatsworth United Methodist Church is celebrating Chatsworth's 90th Birthday on May 7th. Why? Because the Bishop is coming! That is the only day that the Bishop of the United Methodist Church could come to dedicate the original bell and the original corner stone from the Pioneer Church. The public is also invited



to that historic event. The true date for our 90th Birthday is March 10th. On March 10, 1888, the first subdivision map of a town called "Chatsworth Park" was filed in the Los Angeles County Recorder's Office. We will have Virginia Watson's "A Child's History of Chatsworth" available for sale at both of these events.....

At this time we would like to congratulate the Santa Susana Mountain Park Assoc. for the years of work that they have done in also attempting to preserve as much land as possible west of Chatsworth Park and north into the Santa Susana Mts. The State has approved a certain amount of money, in addition to what this group and many friends and other interested groups have contributed, to become a future State Park. An interesting write-up and pictures will be found in Feb. Sunset Magazine - page 44. (Our Pioneer Church was written up in this same magazine several years ago - they are interested, as we are, in preserving for the future.)

PLEASE!!! Take pictures of any old building or landmark and give it to us for our History of Chatsworth. If you or any of your friends have pictures of people or buildings, or events such as parades, ball games, picnics or anything that is interesting or historical, please give to Lillian or any member of the Historical Society. Lila Schepler would also like to have any good books that have a "" significance for our Memorial Library. Do you have any of Dale Evans Rogers books that you could give for this library?

MORE COMING EVENTS: Iolene's Antique Show in April. Iolene's Yard Sale early in June. Iolene Cleveland is our second vice president and fund raising chairman and CAN SHE RAISE THE RUNDS? She made, with all our help, \$300.00 for the Book Sale at Topanga Plaza last month. A special "thank you" to these people who helped make the used-book sale at the Topanga Plaza so successful: Frank and Lillian Schepler, Ralene Rubin, Betty Summers, Virginia and Kelley Watson, Celia Woodman, Fern Jack, Jane Matthews, Bill and Lila Schepler, and Everett and Iolene Cleveland.....

All those who missed seeing Jim Summers and the rest of the San Fernando Valley Chapter in their Barbershop Tribute to George M. Cohan, really did miss a great evening -- you should try hard to make this a "must" on your calendar for 1979.

WELCOME: More new members--Bill Wilkins, Violet Bell Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Clark, Mrs. Cindy Wilder (leader of Brownie Troup 326 - we sponsor this troop), and Chatsworth Women's Club. Apologies for forgetting our dear friend and very good helper, Raylene Rubin, whose name should have appeared before.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Nell Rayder, one of our own members. She died in January after a long illness with cancer. Our sympathies go to her daughter, Mrs. Carol Scott of Hacienda Heights.

We are delighted and grateful for the rapid recovery of Roy Rogers from heart surgery. He had open heart surgery on Jan. 5th. I called Cheryl, his older daughter, today. She said he is doing so well that when she called he was already at the Roy Rogers Museum.

"Phyllise and Oscar Roller, residing at 21101 Lassen St. Chatsworth, wish to take this opportunity to express their heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the many friends and acquaintances who sent flowers and cards and the many religious organizations and individuals, who offered their prayers for Phyllise's recovery. She is now home and gaining her strength a little more each day and so much is attributed to people who care. Thank you from our hearts and God Bless you one and all." Phyllise and Oscar Roller

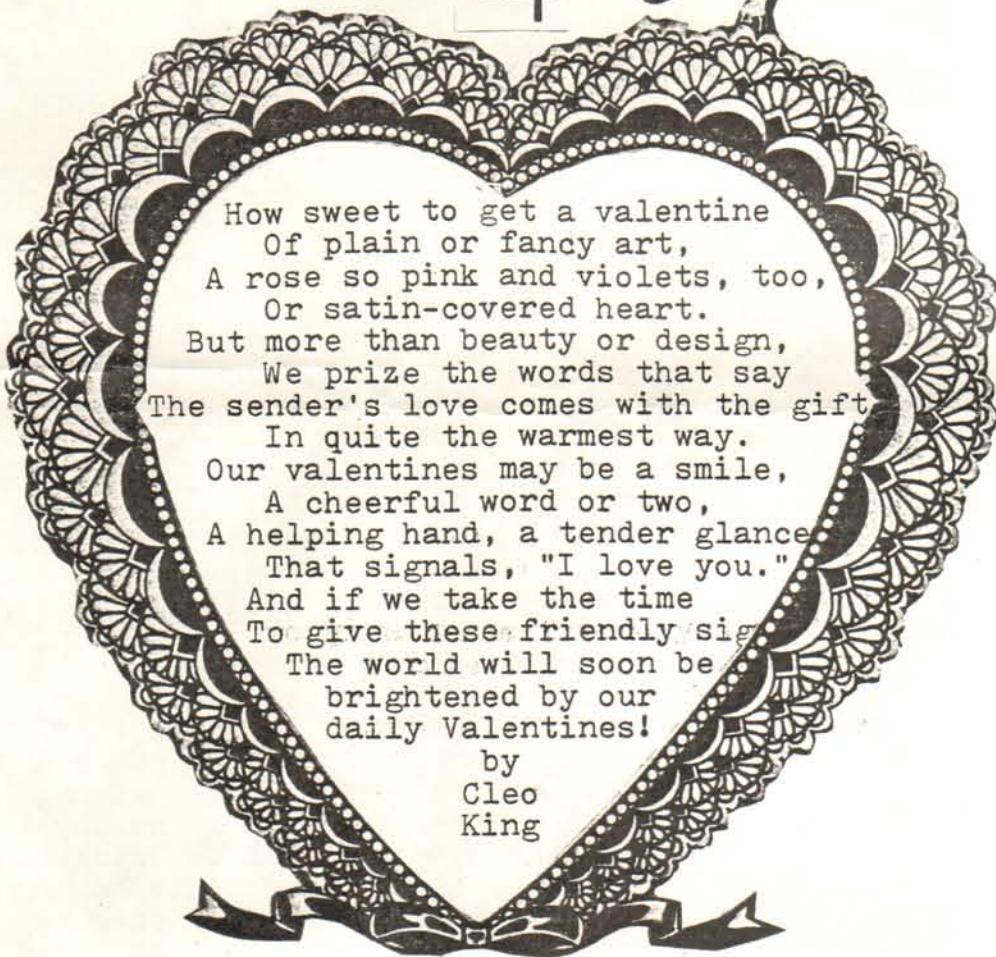
WELCOME HOME! Sarita Goodwin. Sarita has been in Chile, where she thought she might want to spend the rest of her life, BUT Chatsworth and friends are her real home. She is now living in the apartment of Mrs. Virginia Somerville, who is in the Chatsworth Conv. Home on Owensmouth. Get-well cards would be appreciated. Sarita is planning to stay with Virginia when she is well enough to return home.

CHERYL ROGERS ROSE is the eldest daughter of Roy and Dale. Cheryl is Chair-woman for the reunion of the class of Winter and Summer '58 of Canoga Park High School. She asks that anyone in this class (or if you know anyone) please contact -- Ken Wilken. Telephone: 889-3881 Twenty years will be a great reunion for the new Canoga Park High School. Several of our Historical Soc. members were graduates.

Bill and Lila Schepler have been hosting a series of "Supper Parties" to get old friends together - last week, two of the guests were Ralph and Peggy Christensen - the traveling retirees. It is hard to keep up with them, but one of those important trips was to visit daughter, Judy, and family in Denver. Here they learned they will be moving to Hawaii - soooooo soon we will hear of a trip to Hawaii!

Burrell and Tricia Plucknett - traveling to Valencia for the Retirement of Burrell's long-time friend, Tilman Anderson. They have worked together many years. Of all the trips and tours that Dale Evans Rogers has taken, the Tour that she is now leading is probably the most exciting and the most inspirational - The Tour to Israel. This is the same tour that was led by Pat and Shirley Boone last year. We wish she could come to tell all about it, as some of us may never have the opportunity to go. Dale could really make this trip as real as if we were there.





How sweet to get a valentine  
Of plain or fancy art,  
A rose so pink and violets, too,  
Or satin-covered heart.  
But more than beauty or design,  
We prize the words that say  
The sender's love comes with the gift  
In quite the warmest way.  
Our valentines may be a smile,  
A cheerful word or two,  
A helping hand, a tender glance  
That signals, "I love you."  
And if we take the time  
To give these friendly signs,  
The world will soon be  
brightened by our  
daily Valentines!

by  
Cleo  
King

20



George Washington

## INSCRIPTION at MOUNT VERNON

Washington, the brave, the wise, the good,  
Supreme in war, in council, and in peace,  
Valiant without ambition, discreet without fear,  
Confident without presumption.  
In disaster, calm; in success, moderate; in all, himself.  
The hero, the patriot, the Christian,  
The father of nations, the friend of all mankind,  
Who, when he had won all, renounced all,  
And sought in the bosom of his family and of nature,  
Retirement,  
And in the hope of religion, Immortality.

*The name of American which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism more than any appellation derived from local discriminations.*  
George Washington.....From Farewell Address

## LINCOLN, the MAN of the PEOPLE

Up from log cabin to the Capitol,  
One fire was on his spirit, one resolve.....  
To send the keen ax to the root of wrong,  
Clearing a free way for the feet of God,  
The eyes of conscience testing every stroke,  
To make his deed the measure of a man.  
He built the rail-pile as he built the State,  
Pouring his splendid strength through every blow:  
The grip that swung the ax in Illinois  
Was on the pen that set a people free. by Edwin Markham



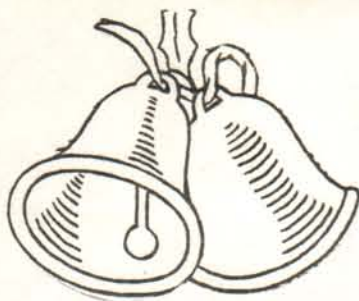
Abraham Lincoln

*Our reliance is in the love of liberty which God has planted in us,  
Our defense is in the spirit which prized liberty  
As the heritage of all men, in all lands everywhere. Abraham Lincoln*

12

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! George Washington, Abraham Lincoln,  
Jim Woodman, Kim Spangler and all those who didn't tell me  
that they had a birthday in February..  
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! To Bob and Marion Swartz, Burrell and Tricia Plucknett  
and Frank and Jeanne Spangler.





Traveling - Traveling - TRAVELING TO COLORADO FOR SHELLY'S WEDDING ++++++

Jim, Celia, Kellie and Ann started from their home in Canoga Park at 5:00 A.M. - in their car, presumably to meet and leave on the plane (Peanut flight) to Albuquerque, New Mexico. There, we were to rent a car to drive to Sanford, Colo. where our granddaughter, Shelly Woodman (now Archuleta) was to be married. Kellie is also our granddaughter - her mother is Jeanne, our daughter. Shelly belonged to Jimmy (our son) and Lanita. Ann Welninski was Shelly's best friend until she moved from Chatsworth to Sanford last March. Kellie, Shelly and Ann have been the inseparable-three since they started to elementary school - so it was understandable why Shelly couldn't get married without the three of them being together. However, the pre-plans did not work out as scheduled. The plane was two hours late, because of the terrible storms in Texas, therefore, we didn't depart until 9:30 AM. Both girls bemoaned this fact, thinking how they could have gone to bed the night before instead of staying up all night, because "grandpa" had told them they had to get up at 4 AM. In spite of the fact, that there were storms all around the states in other areas - we had a beautiful, smooth flight, arriving just on time. The drive from Albuquerque to Sanford was uneventful, with all of us sleeping in the car except Jim, the driver, except for the few times we would stop for coffee for Jim, and cokes and chips for the girls. There were enough snow flurries on the way to cover the bushes and trees, but it would melt on the road. We arrived at noon and then all the excitement began. Shelly trying to get ready for the wedding and trying to talk to the girls about everything that had happened since last spring. They talked of the showers she had had and the boy-friends and how she had met Ernie. The Archuleta family have lived in Colorado for 3 generations, and I was so excited to learn that Shelly and Ernie were to be married in the Social Hall of their Catholic Church by the Mormon Bishop of Jimmy and Lanita's church. What a divine ecumenical arrangement! And one that I had never heard of before, but because of a series of tragedies the wedding was changed to Jimmy and Lanita's lovely 80-year-old country home.

5 weeks before the wedding, Ernie's older brother was killed in an auto acc. while on his way to work in the mines in Leadville. 2 weeks later Ernie's sister, Edith who was Shelly's maid-of-honor learned of the death of her fiance from carbon mon. poisoning, another tragic accident. The plans were still to be carried out until 10 days before the actual date, Jan. 21st, another telephone call came with the message that the two-year-old daughter of the man that was killed earlier had died instantly, when she was thrown from the car. Her aunt, a sister of the child's mother, was driving on icy roads. She lost control of the car and the child and another aunt were killed. At this point, the grandmother, Ernie's mother, went into shock and was unable to carry out her part of the beautiful wedding plans... A week before the wedding, while Shelly was in Leadville making arrangements for their home, she was hit head-on by a drunken driver. She had many multiple wounds and a spastic muscle in her neck, even until the day of her wedding.

The day of the wedding arrived -- a beautiful day with little snow on the ground. Lanita and the girls had, like magic, changed her lovely living room into a beautiful sanctuary. Garlands of white were twined on the stairway. The traditional white wedding bell hung from the chandelier. Two tall white baskets of daisies and baby's-breath stood at the bottom of the stair-way. There was a tri-candelabra of crystal and three white candles on the bottom post of the stairway. Jimmy met Shelly as she walked down the stairway. He escorted her to her place beside the groom. Derek Woodman, Shelly's brother, was Ernie's Best Man and Edith Archuleta, Ernie's sister was Shelly's Maid-of-Honor. Shelly was a beautiful bride in her lovely white gown with the tight-fitting bodice of lace and embroidery, the full sleeves with tight-fitting cuffs and the full skirt with an added ruffle. Her veil was of Chantilly lace, edged with lace and tiny seed pearls, topped with a crown of live daisies and baby's-breath. Her hair was styled for the fashion of her gown with tiny wisps of dark curls around her face. The groom wore a formal - the jacket of blue brocade. Edith looked lovely in her sheer gown of yellow with a matching wide-brimmed hat accented by the same living daisies. The wedding was traditional, even for the tiny organ that had been moved in from the organist's home. Everything was the same until we saw Edith whispering to Shelly and then Shelly disappeared. Everyone was waiting to congratulate the newly married couple - guests from out of town, friends and relatives from Sanford - we were waiting to take pictures and waiting for her to cut the cake -- then Ernie's tells us that it is a Spanish tradition to kidnap the bride and before she can be returned a ransom must be paid. In short order double the amount of ransom was paid by all of us and she was returned in time to cut the cake and take all pictures before dark except the "just-married" car. This picture is not too clear. They were off for a 1½ day honeymoon before Ernie had to return to work. Two days after the wedding, the 4 of us started to return home and the closer we came to Albuquerque, the more it began to snow. Jim said if we had waited any longer we wouldn't have gotten through and true to his predictions at 8 PM (before we left the airport at 9:30) the Highway Patrol said the road closed.





# Window Into The Past

Vol. 8  
No. 1

## DUST OR SPRAY

We have all been influenced by the motion picture industry in subtle ways. Ask anyone about the Forty Niners' and how they got to California and they speak of the prairie schooners and even stage coaches. Maybe there will be a couple who will recall that some walked across the disease infected isthmus of Panama. But how many will recall that hundreds arrived in relative comfort after a trip around the Horn by clipper ship.

Here in Chatsworth we are well aware of the old stage coach road but who would ride that for any distance unless they were in very much of a hurry or had to reach some point inland. Almost all of the main cities of the world are sea-ports or river ports- even in California that was true.

In Southern California at the turn of the century, many small ports were in use. We had ships coming into Newport, San Pedro, Redondo Beach and Santa Monica to name the principal ones. It is hard to realize today how busy these ports were. They weren't all cargo boats- most carried a combination of passengers and freight.

Even Playa del Rey at one time had aspirations to become a world port at the mouth of Ballona Creek. Many years ago I talked to a man who recalled a very wet winter when they floated a barge of lumber up Ballona Creek as far as where Mormandy St. is today.

But before the Great War as the railroads became more powerful and made land transportation more comfortable (if not cheaper), coastwise shipping dwindled and the competition for The Port of Southern California narrowed down to just three: Redondo Beach, Santa Monica and San Pedro (each with their own champions!). The Southern Pacific Railroad, with their tremendous wealth and power, gave their backing to Santa Monica. They gave more than their vocal support; they put in rails and built the spectacular Long Wharf- one mile long.

San Pedro and Wilmington had been annexed to the City of Los Angeles and had the backing of the very able and vocal Phineas Banning as well as some very persuasive politicians. Oh, yes, they also had the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, a group of wonder workers if there ever was such a thing.

Redondo Beach was really out of the race even though it held the most promise of all when it was known that it lay at the head of an underground canyon and would probably never have required dredging. But maybe for that reason a breakwater would have been impractical.

To make an interesting story shorter, the Southern Pacific Railroad lost. Its' strangle hold on the State of California at last cracked. San Pedro and later Long Beach were started on their way to becoming the world important ports they are today. Besides, it brought a bit of prosperity to an all but unknown community in the San Fernando Valley- Chatsworth Park. Thousands of tons of rock left our hills to form the core of the early breakwater. Hauled by- the Southern Pacific.

But what I started to say : if you wanted to go to any coastal town such as Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Simeon, Eureka and a couple of others that have been forgotten, the chances are you went by ship. Then maybe by riverboat to Sacramento, Fresno or even Red Bluff. Most of these ships also carried cargo- mainly lumber.

Fortunately, one of these little combination passenger and lumber ships has been preserved. The "Wapoma" is moored in San Francisco. It's worth a trip to see it.

Coastwise passenger service ended just before World War II. The old Yale gave in to her old rival, the railroads, after a quarter century of overnight service to San Francisco. But, as she headed for Alaska to serve as a barracks ship for a contractor, what was that she heard over head?- a DC 3. If ships have minds (and I think they do) don't you suppose she must have wondered if that thing would really ever amount to anything; transportation-wise that is!

William F. Schepler

February 1978