



Chatsworth Historical Society

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Smoke Signal

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HAPPENINGS OF THE MONTH

March 1978

NATIONAL PEANUT MONTH (Historically speaking, I wonder if they had that before Jimmy Carter was elected President?)

NATIONAL PROCRASTINATION WEEK - I wonder if that means you & me?

LUTHER BURBANK DAY - March 7 - I remember that from school Botany.

AMERIGO VESPUCCI DAY - March 9 - Our America was named for him.

CAMPFIRE GIRLS & BLUEBIRDS BIRTHDAY WEEK- Support their projects.

GIRL SCOUT WEEK - March 12 - Buy their cookies again this year.

(Our Historical Society sponsors the Brownie Troop)

ST. PATRICK'S DAY - March 17 **** PALM SUNDAY - March 19- OUR MEETING 21

Spring Begins - March 20 ** FEAST of PURIM - Jewish Festival - March 23-24

Good Friday - March 24 ** Lunar eclipse - March 24 (March 24th a very busy day)

EASTER SUNDAY! March 26 - Check your papers for Sunrise and other Easter Service

There will be a Sunrise Service in the Orange Grove - 7:00 A.M. at Chatsworth

United Methodist Church - 10824 Topanga Canyon Blvd.- 7:30, following the Service,

there will be an Easter Breakfast - guests are welcomed. 8:00 A.M. Service

March 21 - Meeting - Glendale Federal - 7:30 P.M. Please Come!!!!!!

ERNEST MARQUEZ - from the Pacific Palisades Historical Society --

will present the program: "THE HISTORY OF THE SANTA MONICA WATERFRONT"

This should be a very interesting program: He will show photographs and give a history of the Long Wharf, Port Los Angeles as well as historical facts about Pascual Marquez and the Rancho Boca de Santa Monica. COME SEE!

WE'RE SORRY! Those of you that missed our last meeting "China Theme" - our Chinese guests, the Chinese artifacts and gorgeous pictures, as well as the Chinese cookies and Tea. The sayings on our Chinese Fortune Cookies were very appropro: This was Lillian's -- has always to keep thinking----- Our next project will be trying cottage as an Historical Monument,

It is good to remember that the tea kettle although up to its neck in hot water, continues to sing.

--As President she --"What now-What next?" to save Minnie Palmer's the election of officers,

helping the Chats. United Methodist Church celebrate its 90th Birthday on May 7th, the coming Yard Sale (save, save for it), the coming Card and Antique sale and "What can we do about the Pioneer Church?" NOTHING, because now the road is all washed out and the road had to be completed before the electricity and water could be brought to our first Historical Monument. But we're grateful that nothing happened to the church itself, as it did to many of our friend's homes, even here in Chatsworth-the sewer-people are doing a booming business-then so are the roofers, the tree-removers, etc.--thankful it's not worse.....Do YOU have any news for me?.....

OUR 90th Birthday Celebration was a grand success. Lillian says there were 30 to 40 people came to the Celebration in the Glendale Savings in the afternoon and about 75 for the Birthday Party in the evening. This included the Boy Scouts, who led the Flag Salute and the Brownie Group that sang "Happy Birthday" to Chatsworth. Our oldest member, Minnie Palmer, cut the Birthday Cake - she looked very prim and pretty as she cut the cake and we all wished that we would be as perky as she is at 91 and "proud of it". There were several old friends - not old in age, but "old" from not having been with us for so long a time. Cliff and Margo Ahlstrom and daughter, Karen, with husband, Phillip were there - Bob Wilkenson, our Councilman, exchanged stories of boyhood pranks in Chatsworth. (I hope any of our young people there didn't get any IDEAS! Kathryn Boldt came all the way from Pacific Palisades! We were glad to see Nanci Oliva from Sherman Oaks and Joe & Colleen Wagoner from Simi,

Mrs. Kate Frost Sheridan from North Hollywood, Violet Bell Wilson from Los Angeles and Minnie Palmer's daughter, Edith Butler, from San Fernando and others from Granada Hills, Northridge, Canoga Park and Simi. Several Chats. organizations were represented in addition to the Boy Scouts and Brownies - The Chamber of Commerce, the Chats. Coordinating Council, Chatsworth Women's Club, Glendale Federal, Chatsworth Park Elem. School, Chatsworth United Methodist Church, The Santa Susana Mountain Park Assoc., Chats. Jr. Baseball League, Business and Professional Women's Organization and Bob Wilkerson, our Councilman.

Two more inches to go and we will have broken an all-time record for rain and we still have two more months to go before they stop counting for the season.

Most of us have
never seen our
President
face to face.....
Most of us
will only see our
President
place to place.....
On T.V., Radio or
Press.
But Heather's picture
we did see!
Right beside our
Jimmy C.

Heather Watts, daughter of Keith & Sheelagh, has appeared three times on television in recent months. Two appearances as part of the KCET program on Dance in America and then in the full length "Coppelia" ballet on "Live From Lincoln Center". Now a soloist with the New York City Ballet, Heather has received critical acclaim in a variety of ballets in such magazines as Newsweek and New Yorker plus many in the New York newspapers.

The company has just closed the winter season with * a two week appearance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. where Heather appeared in the leading role in George Ballanchine's "Rubies" ballet. She is one of two dancers in Peter Martins' first ballet, "Calcium Light Night" to music of Charles Ives. This has received high critical acclaim and she and Danny Duell will perform the ballet in Boston in March. The entire Company will appear in the first Festival of Performing Arts at Palm Beach, Florida at the end of March. The New York Spring season will open in April. Sheelagh hopes to visit there then.

Jennifer Watts, youngest daughter of the Watts', has been accepted at the University of her choice, U.C. Santa Barbara as an undeclared major - but will audition in May for the Department of Dance. Mark, the couple's oldest son, will spend five weeks in England in August & September, visiting with his grandmother, Mrs. Ella Woodhead of Yorkshire. Meanwhile, Kevin continues his career as an artist and is now taking engineering courses to enhance his art.

Sheelagh brought the picture of Heather & Pres. Carter, taken together on the night of Feb. '77, when he came backstage to * congratulate her....

TRAVEL, TRAVELING, TRAVELED *****
TRIP TO FLORIDA 1977: "On October 5, 1977, I left Chatsworth, Calif. for Flo. Because there were a lot of places that I wanted to visit, I pulled the Air-stream. My total mileage was 7,503 miles. The first place I visited was the Saguaro National Monument where the densest stand of the Saguaro Cactus is located. They make a forest mostly on the southern slopes of the mountains and grow very dense. They do not get side branches until they are about 50 years old. Next, I saw the Sonora-Arizona Desert Museum, near Tucson, Ariz. This is unlike most museums in that there are displays of living animals and plants of the Sonoran desert region plus an underground display of caverns. Old Tucson is a very interesting place where western movies are made. There are tours around the town by a small train and stagecoach. Carlsbad Caverns was also a very interesting place. The snack bar is 700 feet down and a self guided tour begins there. I took one of the shorter loops which was 1 1/2 miles. When you begin the tour you are given an electric receiver to hear a description of the various formations you pass. The Big Room is 250' high, about 600' wide and maybe a mile long. It is well worth seeing. I toured the Alamo and enjoyed the beautiful grounds and the museums. It is in the center of San Antonio, Texas - the original building is no longer there. The thing that impressed me the most was the Astrodome in Houston, Tex. It is 208' high and seats 66,000 people. The building is 4 1/2 times the diameter of Rome's Pantheon and it is air-conditioned. It is a beautiful piece of engineering for a combined sports stadium and convention center. In Florida, I visited my sister, Ruth, and her husband, Kenneth Henderson. A lot of people from Kent, Ohio spend their winters there, therefore, I had lots of friends to see and things to do. I arrived back home in Chats. 12/12/77 safe & happy!"

by Frank Daugherty

"I took a cruise with friends to the Caribbean on the Sun Viking. We were gone for two weeks in Dec. and had the time of our lives. We visited many interesting and colorful ports, as follows; San Juan, St. Thomas, Guadeloupe, Barbados, Grenada, Caracas, curacao and Haiti. The ship served a lot of ex-

cellent food and the entertainment was great. We also enjoyed the pool and the deck every day. The weather was perfect, and the sea was calm. There was never a dull moment. We met many lovely people who felt the same way that I did about the cruise." by Lucille Clements

Ed and Esther Dietrich are having visitors from the beautiful Bainbridge Island in Washington. Ed's daughter, Carole, and their son-in-law, Bruce Hedderly are here for a conference in Fullerton, but before, after and in-between business, Ed and Esther will be entertaining them for dinners, Disneyland, other sight-seeing tours. Esther doesn't have time for us this week!

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER FOR: Iolene Cleveland, Marlys Stuckenbruck, Jean Peoples (principal of Chatsworth Park Elem. School) and the teachers for presenting to their students a very meaningful and interesting way of celebrating Chatsworth's 90th Birthday. An outline of a beautiful birthday cake was given to each child in school. Every pupil in school had an opportunity to win first prize in a coloring contest. Only one from each classroom was chosen, but this was a very good learning experience and one that would help them all remember that they were a part of the celebration. Some students were there from Germain St.El. School. They, too, told of the memorable day that Bill and Lila took slides of early days in Chatsworth for their history lesson. KEEP REMEMBERING THAT WE NEED AND WANT ANY OLD PICTURES YOU MAY HAVE and take some now of an old building or interesting site to give us for our Historical Memory Book.....

MEMORY LIBRARY

The Board of the Chatsworth Historical Society has authorized the establishment of a Memorial Library for the Society. -- We offer an opportunity for folk to honor the memory of their friends or loved ones who have passed away by donating a book in their memory. Books may also be donated to honor the living as well as donating books that seem useful in research to the Society. The name of the person honored as well as the donor will be placed on the bookplate inside the cover. If you have any of Dale Evan's books that you would like to donate, please contact any member of the Library Committee. We have presently purchased three of her books: "Angel Unaware" and "Trials, Tears and Triumphs". We are hopeful of having the entire collection of her writings. The Committee: Virginia Watson, Ioline Cleveland, Lila Schepler----- (Chairman)-----

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Chatsworth - March 9, 1888
& Mrs. Eleanor Schepler & Frank and Lillian's son, Bill

We're happy to have Bill Symcovits back with us after having had surgery in West Hills hospital - He was surprised and happy to receive a 'get-well' card from his friends from Chatsworth Historical Society. Ruth Miner-Heroine! * she tried to save neighbors' cat from dog, almost lost her thumb-she lives! cat died. Lillian Schepler is ill today with a severe cold -- too many pressures of the past week -- take it easy Lillian.

A ST. Patrick's Wish for You and YOU & all of YOU!!

As sure as there's a Blarney Stone and Irish wear the green --
As sure as there's an Emerald Isle and shamrocks to be seen --
May all your skies be sunny-May your world be bright and gay -
And may you have a happy heart on this and every day -----

"The Legend of the Blarney Stone"

*There once lived in the Castle of Blarney a lord
who longed to win the heart of a certain damsel.*

*But he spoke so poorly that he feared she would
not have him.....*

*An old servant woman, known for her unusual
powers, learned of his problem and approached
Lord Blarney, offering to help him. She led him to
a huge rock and told him to kiss it. Lord Blarney
did as she directed, and from that time on, each thing
he said was expressed most eloquently.*

*After marrying his beloved, Lord Blarney had
the magic stone mounted in his castle. To this day,
Legend has it, anyone who kisses the Blarney Stone
shall never want for words.*

* P.S. I only learned about Ruth Miner's accident after the paper was ready for the press - she still has a draining thumb - if you know her, call her.

'Tis SPRING

Let's see, I hardly know - where to begin, which way to go.
The dishes to wash, the bed to make, a picture to paint, a cake to bake.
There's a poem I'd like to write, - My, this house is a fright!
Oh, well, for today the house can go, there's just no time to mend or sew.
The out-of-doors is calling me, the call of bird and bumblebee.
The wisteria is heavy with perfume, so why stay here and fret and fume.
I'll take time to paint the flowers, - Outside enjoy the golden hours.

by--Helen Wilson Fernandez

PALM SUNDAY

His path led to Jerusalem, upon that sunlit day,
Hosannas ringing in the air, palms strewn along the way.
His path led to the city, where mobs would shout and cry,
And then as quickly turn on Him, and cast Him out to die.
He wore no kingly raiment, no jewel-encrusted crown,
And chose a little borrowed colt, to take Him through the town.

The longest week in history was crowding to be born....
The shadow of a cross was there, and finally, Easter Morn!
by--Alice Kennelly Roberts

March 23-24 The Feast of Purim - a Jewish Festival commemorating the defeat of Haman's plot to massacre the Jews. This is a happy holiday with a special treat of cookies made in a triangular form of hat - Haman's Hat.

'Tis EASTER - REJOICE!

Many hearts were sad that day, when our Lord was laid away;
Many eyes with tears were dim, as the darkness shut Him in.
But what is this at break of day? Lo, the stone is rolled away!
Cease your tears, dispel your gloom, Christ is risen from the tomb!
Lilies, lift your petals white to the golden sun so bright;
Children raise your voices sweet, while we worship at His feet.

Rejoice! The stone is rolled away...Rejoice! For Jesus lives today.
Let men and angels join and sing - Glad praises to the risen King.
by--Lida Shivers Leech

The Crown of Thorns
In the early nineteenth century, a botanist named Bojer saw a plant covered with stout spines resembling thorns and small bright scarlet flowers. Suggestive of Christ's suffering on the way to Calvary, Bojer named the plant the Crown of Thorns. A native of Madagascar, it resembles cacti and is widely cultivated as a house plant.



The butterfly is one of the symbols most often used to signify Easter. Its whole life cycle is symbolic of the meaning of Christianity. First there is the caterpillar, which stands for life. The second stage is the cocoon, which signifies death. And the third stage is the butterfly which emerges from the cocoon, portraying the Resurrection.

The Robin
A lovely legend tells how the robin got his red breast. On the way to Calvary, a little robin noted that a thorn had pierced the forehead of Christ, causing it to bleed. So he flew down and plucked out the thorn. But as he did so, a drop of Christ's blood fell on the little bird's breast, staining it red. From that time forth, all robins have had red breasts as a reminder that one of them was kind to our Lord.



The Passion Flower
Spanish missionaries discovered this beautiful flower in South America during the sixteenth century. Because many of its parts related well to the story of Christ's crucifixion, they named it the Passion Flower. The purple collar, or corona, represents the crown of thorns, the central seed pod the cross, three stigma the nails, five stamens the five wounds, while the five sepals and five petals suggest the ten faithful apostles. The Spanish missionaries often used this flower in their teachings.