



# Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California

## Smoke Signal

President: Virginia Watson

Editor: Celia Woodman

Vice-President: Jane Matthews

Mailing Editor:

Membership Chairman: Frank Schepler

Tricia Plucknett

### HAPPENINGS OF THE MONTH

October 1978

- October 1 - National 4-H Week
- Oct. 2 - Rosh Hashana
- Oct. 9 - 9 Columbus Day
- Oct. 11 - Yom Kippur
- Oct. 17 - OUR MEETING NIGHT  
GLENDALE FEDERAL 7:30 P.M.
- Oct. 21 - Sweetest Day
- Oct. 24 - United Nations Day
- Oct. 29 - STANDARD TIME RETURNS
- Oct. 31 - Halloween and National UNICEF Day - Watch for Spooks!

ANOTHER IMPORTANT STEPPING STONE = = = Come to the "Sign Dedication"

at the PIONEER CHURCH (northwest corner) OAKWOOD MEMORIAL PARK + + +,  
22601 Lassen St. Chatsworth - October 8, 1978 = = 4 O'Clock

Scouts will be honored for all the cleaning, repairing and  
making the sign: PIONEER CHURCH 1903 ..... PROGRAM:

- Welcome & Introductions: Virginia Watson, President, Chatsworth Historical Society
- "The Eagle Scout-- How Does It Happen?": Bob Hayes, Scoutmaster Troop 226
- "Project Pioneer Church Part I": Brian Hayes, Troop 226
- "Project Pioneer Church Part II": Tom Hodgens, Troop 226

### Placing of Sign

- Presentation: Lillian Schepler, Immediate Past President, Chatsworth Historical Society
- Refreshments



GUEST SPEAKER FOR OUR OCTOBER 17th meeting will be: Robert McGowan from the Father Serra Club. Mr. McGowan is an attorney from Encino and is well versed on the Life and Travels of Father Serra. He will be showing slides and the accompanying commentary is by Bing Crosby. This will be a very interesting travel experience. Bring a friend.....

HOBBY CORNER: "HANDS" by Eileen Janess and "MORE ANTIQUES"; Ioline C....

REFRESHMENTS: Ioline Cleveland and Bea Berman.....

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends:

We had a fine turn-out for our Sept. potluck dinner at the home of Fern and Gerald Jack. They have a lovely home and made us feel very welcome. She and her committee of Lillian Schepler and Esther Dietrich had everything all organized and we had a very good time. As usual our local cooks outdid them selves. We also picked up a few new members.

Especially nice was our surprise program. Classical guitarist, Charles Souvanen of Sunland, entertained us with beautiful music. Thanks, Jane, for arranging for him and thanks to Fern and her helpers for a lovely evening.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Oct. meeting -- we have a splendid program and some interesting announcements.

Sincerely,

*Virginia*

EVENTS:

Rosh Hashana - Oct. 2 -- The Jewish New Year, celebrated on Tishri 1st & 2nd.

Yom Kippur - Oct. 11 -- The Jewish Day of Atonement, the 10th of Tishri, marked by continuous prayer and fasting for 24 hours from sundown on the evening previous.

Columbus Day - Oct. 9 (so we can have a week-end holiday) really October 12, the day that Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492.

Halloween - The evening of Oct. 31, vigil of All Saints' Day - Tricks-Treats.

## Halloween Visitors



A mouse is standing at my door,  
Surely not much over four,  
And a lady of two or so, I'd guess,  
With ridiculous hat and scary dress.  
They both are hoping they will see

Me scared of them as scared can be!  
My eyes get round, I shake, in fact  
I put on such a convincing act  
That two little voices, happy and sweet,  
Bravely quiver, "Twick or tweet!"

George L. Ehrman

### ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

SAVE the evening of OCTOBER 24 and SPEND it with us! The Oral History Committee of the Chatsworth Historical Society will resume formal organization once again on that evening. We will listen to parts of interviews taped in the past; plan objectives for the 78-79 year; begin interviews once again.

IF-IF- you like to hear "old timers" tell interesting stories about the past; or if you like to hear how people lived in the years gone by; if you want to hear about YOUR TOWN and the way it used to be; - and how it is "becoming" now; if you want your Society and the local Library to have these treasures preserved for us and those who follow; if you are curious about any business or enterprise in town and how it has grown to its' present size- (fire department, schools, post office, space industry or any other you may think of); - IF- IF for the above reasons or for a dozen others not mentioned- we are sure you will want to be in on this interesting work. JOIN us Oct. 24th.

Meeting will be at the home of Lila and Bill Schepler- 22438 Lassen St, Chatsworth, 91311. Phone 341 3447. 7:30 P.M.

Bring your Tape Cassette's if you have them, plus a small notebook and a sharp pencil! HOPE to see YOU there!

*Lila*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Doris Dosser, Cathe Cleveland, Carol Coughlin, Lucille Clements, Lillian S Schepler and a "sorry to be late" birthday greeting to Kelly Johnson (Sept). Kelly celebrated his 80th Birthday on Sept. 9th (legal birthday Sept. 12th), arranged by his lovely wife, Mary B. The invitation read, "Food and Conversation" and there was plenty of both, as given to me in Oral History by his daughter, Thelma Ewalt. Many relatives and friends came to help him enjoy this special occasion - all his own children were there: Ray and Ingrid and their son, Kurt, from Palo Alto, Chuck and Marcie with sons, Steve and Dave from Chatsworth and Mike and his wife, Erin, from Simi, Thelma with husband, Red, and grandsons, Russell and Scott, and Vi and Ray from Oregon. Dorothy Pogue, Kelly's sister with John and Emmy Ecroyd and Cindy with Patricia and Teri. Mary B's son Rob Bryant and wife, Betty, from Mariposa and son, Vim, from Bend Oregon, Jean Kemp and children from Turloc. Dear friends, Berniece and Ted Olsen and Leland and Ruth Olsen came from Button Willow. Sister-in-law, Hannah and her daughter came, as well as former friends, Ralph and Peggy Christenson, formerly from Chatsworth, now living in Manhattan Beach. Mrs. Turner's granddaughter, Pam was happy to have been there - Mrs. Turner was a former Postmaster and friend and neighbor of Johnson's for many years. Many long distant calls and telegrams were sent by those not able to attend - Rusty from Van Nuys and Linda from Connecticut. A memorable time was enjoyed by everyone that day and continued on into breakfast when 22 met at the local Coffee House for breakfast.

Kelly's wife, Katharine, (called to her Heavenly Home by the Father in 1975) with Chuck Janess and Virginia Watson, our present president, were the three people that planted and conceived the seed and rolled the "Stone" away, to make it possible for us to have our wonderful Chatsworth Historical Society..

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Coming Events - Keep this date: December 9th - 8:30 P.M. Arrangements have been made by our trip chairmen, Tom and Betty Woodard, to go to The Glendale Center (a theater-in-the-round) to see Dickens Christmas Carol. Betty has a block of 40 tickets - no more are available so if you want to go please sign up at our next meeting. Tickets are \$4.00. She will have maps & will plan for car-pooling for those who may not wish to drive.

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Illness: Sorry to hear of the hospitalization of Eleanore Schepler, but we are happy to hear she is home after a check-up.

News about illnesses, accidents, births, marriages and other vital statistics should be given to me by the first meeting, the Board Meeting, for that month.

## Letter from Home

Gladys Taber

October is the drama of New England, the time of fulfillment after the hot summer and before the snow drifts deep in the valleys. The air smells of apples and wild grapes and woodsmoke. The trees in our valley blaze with garnet and gold and cinnamon-browns and the deep wine color of the oaks.

Days are crisp and nights meant for an applewood fire on the hearth, a bowl of shiny apples, and plenty of freshly popped corn dredged with butter and salt. At Stillmeadow the two small girls have moved into their fuzzy pajamas with feet (which are so hard to keep clean!). They have their bedtime snack by the fire. Kittens and dogs like to curl up and doze close to the hearth, and the rest of us just fit in around the edges.

Mankind's feeling for the open fire is basic, for in prehistoric times it was the discovery of fire that began man's climb from the jungles. Did lightning start his first one? Or was he rubbing stones together and a spark caught in some dead grass? Fire meant heat and protection from the great beasts, and meat that was cooked. And later some genius discovered that throwing grains and water in a pit of heated stones made a kind of mash that was edible. The charcoal grills as well as the Cape Cod clambake are the present-day version!

LETTER FROM ME:

Are your dues paid? How could you forget? live on. May we never destroy its wonder.

Next time you won't get this "Greatest" paper!

(Only to be read by those who haven't paid - Give to Frank Schepler today!)

When the geese go over, the long wedge of their flight arrows the sky with mystery. Do they realize how long the flight will be? How do they decide exactly when to start? Their cry is a lonely sound but breathtaking to hear. Perhaps one reason it is so moving is that it is a farewell to summer. I wish them well as I hear them go over, with a safe coming-back when it is time for them to return.

The next thing we know, the chickadees will be tip-tilting around and chatting away. It is time to clean the bird feeders and get the birdseed in and the cracked corn for the grouse and pheasants. Last winter my son-in-law put out a salt lick, and it was enjoyed; although we never saw the deer, we did see tracks that these visitors had left in the snow.

At the moment there are berries and seeds and a few bugs and spiders, and plenty of nuts for the squirrels. There is time to walk to the pond and see the Hunter's Moon rise and hear the small owl in the apple orchard talking to the night. And time to dream of a world at peace, when the beauty of such a night might fill all hearts.

Daylight saving is over at the end of the month, but as I struggle with the clocks I realize man cannot control time. The sun rises when it is ready to rise and sets when it reaches the time to set. The moon keeps its appointed rounds no matter what our clocks say. I find it reassuring that we cannot yet regulate nature. Nature has a steadiness no nation has yet achieved. And as the seasons come and go, we know it is still a good earth we