

# Chatsworth Historical Society

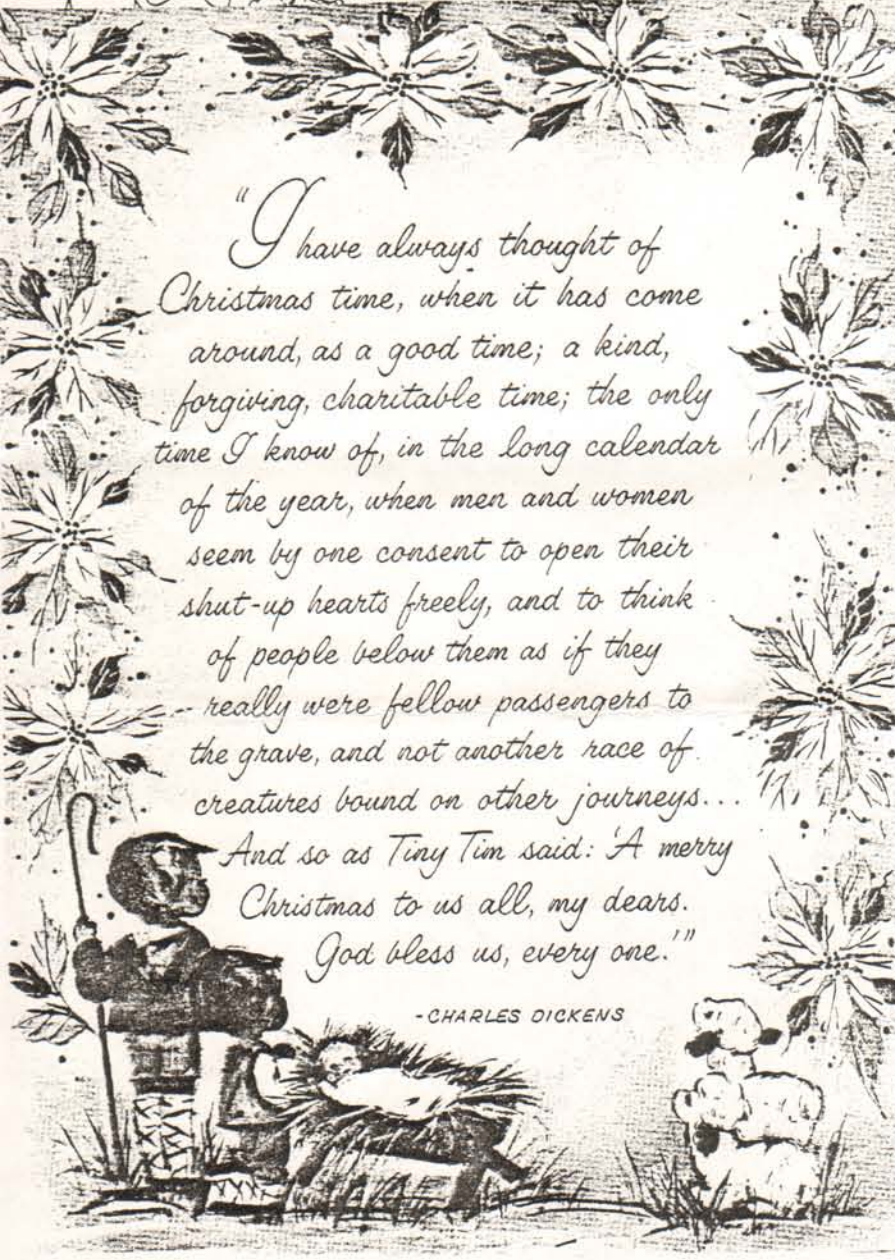
Box 102, Chatsworth, California

## Smoke Signal

President: Virginia Watson  
Vice-President: Jane Matthews

DECEMBER  
1978

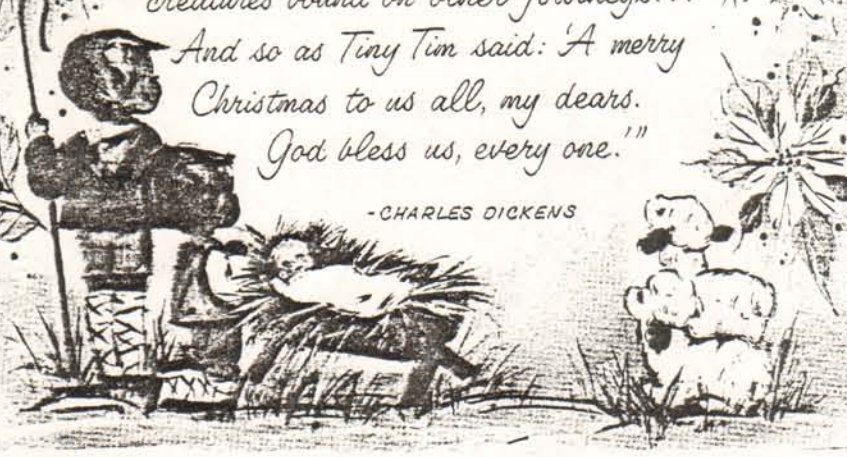
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*"I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come around, as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys..."*

*And so as Tiny Tim said: 'A merry Christmas to us all, my dears. God bless us, every one.'"*

-CHARLES DICKENS



### FROM YOUR EDITOR:

To all our readers, far and near, rich and poor, sick and well, young and historical, we extend the warmest and heartiest Season's Greetings

Looking back over the past year and reflecting on all the things that have been done....those of us on the Board, our members and friends, how heartwarming it has been to know that we have been a part of so many lives and so many happenings, and that in some small measure we have helped to give a deeper and a richer meaning to what we have done.

In addition to the interesting and informative programs that have been arranged and presented by Jane Matthews, our Program Chairman, we

## At Hanukkah

"May You Be Blessed"



have 17 new members, 5 Honorary Life Members, 57 Life Members and 87 Regular Members and Organizations.

Most of our members keep the Smoke Signal as a historical reminder of events and other data for each month, but for the new members and for those who may have missed a meeting, I have recorded the resumé of the important things to remember from 1978.....

January -- At the Jan. Board meeting, we burned the note on the \$3000.00 loan - ahead of time. Program for Regular meeting was: The Guide to Architecture in L.A. and So. Ca by Robert Winter. Two of our members were given a Special award by the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce....Lillian Schepler was chosen as Woman-of-the-Year and Bob Wilkinson for Man-of-the-Year.

February -- "China Theme" - Speaker Dr. Kian Kwan -- Refreshments: Chinese tea and cookies.



March -- 90th Birthday Celebration of Chatsworth at Glendale Federal Savings Open house at the Bank 1:00 to 4:00 PM, Cake cutting and Celebration in the Hospitality Room 7:30 to 9:30 PM. "The History of the Santa Monica Waterfront" was presented by Ernest Marquez at our regular meeting - March 21st.

April -- Election of new officers..... "Archeological Findings in So. Calif." by Dr. Clement Meighan.....

May 16th -- Installation of Officers -- Dinner at Chatsworth United Meth. Church Program - "Lights - Camera - Action" -- directed by our talented Colette Parsons Officers and other members were shown in costumes of movie actors and actresses - Ioline Cleveland was the cutest, as Baby Snooks. Myrtle Bradley was gorgeous as Ethel Barrymore. Your editor came as Mae West - furs and jewels and "whistles" and everyone recognized Bill Symcovits as Groucho Marx! Everyone was just great.

June -- A beautiful sound and color film "Western Living with Sunset" .....from the sands of Acapulco to the snows of Pacific Northwest.....

September: Ship Ahoy! ...after summer vacation.....Pot Luck at the lovely home of Gerald and Fern Jack...making plans for our newest project - Homestead Acre.

October - Oct. 8th...Pioneer Church dedication, honoring Scouts who made the sign, and did so much cleaning and repairing in and around the church...October meeting...Robert McGowan from Father Serra Club showing "Life and Travels of Father Serra.....

October 24th - Oral History begins series of meetings at the home of Bill and Lila Schepler.....more will follow.....

November - A number of our members and friends met at UCLA Faculty Center for dinner and Oral History program by Mr. James Mink.....

December - No meeting - no party, because 40 members and friends went to the "Square" Theater-in-the-Round - Glendale Centre Theatre.....to see "Dickens" Christmas Carol. It was delightful and inspiring...even though we may have seen it many times on T.V., seeing it live with the live audience was so very much better - the actors were great, esp. the children.....

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Jim Studnicka and Mel Engle, chairman of the Advisory Board of Chatsworth Park Elementary School were guests at the Dec. meeting. They are worried about what the Bd. of Edu. has in mind for the future of our historic school. Suggestions were made to have an educational--historical display in one of the bungaloes.....

Virginia Watson, our Pres., has finished the proposed development plan for - 1886-Homestead Acre - Historical Monument #133 Lots of work goes into each of our projects. We need many workers to donate time in helping in all of these.....

We learned of many travelers, coming and going, during the Holiday Season: The Woodards visited daughter and son-in-law in Sacramento...then on to beautiful Lake Tahoe.....

Everett and Ioline Cleveland had a very busy week entertaining daughter, Cathe, home for the holidays from college in Nebraska and a very special treat to have Mr. and (sister, Eunice) Mrs. Warren Wulf and their daughter, Mary Ann -- Wendell Townsend (brother) and his daughter, Loretta. The Wulfs came from Ainsworth, Neb. and the Townsends from Hayward, Calif.....

When Chuck and Eileen went to visit the Don Janess family in Thousand Oaks there was an almost unhappy ending to the traditional father-son shopping time they spend together. It seems as if there was the inevitable "no parking space available". Some cars were parking in the red zone. Don said, "you can park here, everyone is doing it". Chuck did, but when he returned to his car - there was a parking ticket on his and every car on the red zone - turned out OK, Don paid the ticket - "it was worth it", he said...

One of the largest and longest family reunions was at the home of Ramon and Mary Avila (people still coming and going - Jan.) The happy occasion--- Philip home on leave from the Navy. He is based in Virginia. Dec. 22 to Jan. 22. Mom says he is so tall, dark and handsome and thin that we would never know him.....

Another service-man, Tom Del Vecchio, was unable to come home to see his mom and grandmother, Gertrude Cook, because he was home for Thanksgiving. Gertrude is one of our newer members..... She did, however, enjoy the presence of her niece's family - Mr. and Mrs. James Vincent - Randy and Renee; from Salinas.

Santa visited the home of Eleanor Schepler and brought presents to 15 adults and 3 children - mostly family plus 5 guests, we had fun, fun, fun. .... Lila, Bill, Frank and Lillian attended a New Years' Eve Party given by the Globetrotter Club that they belong to. We all wore costumes of countries we had visited.....by Lillian Schepler

Traveling the farthest (we believe)... Sally Ann Parsons made one of her rare holiday visits to Chatsworth this year, bringing great joy to parents, Milton and Colette. On Dec. 23 she flew to L.A. arriving by the Flyaway Bus in Van Nuys at 4, just (thankfully) 2 hours ahead of the shut-down of LAX by heavy fog. She was able to stay until Jan. 3-- still too short a time to see ALL of our Chatsworth friends. She left love and kisses to all those she missed. (Sally Ann was in the same graduation class with Jimmy Woodman, Charlene Janess Roesch, Cheryl Rogers Rose, Marion Fleming Swift, and Carl Spotts) whose parents all belong to our Chats. Hist. Soc. She especially enjoyed her reunion with Susan Pettebone Atkinson, (down from Portland, Oregon, with daughter, Alana, and son, Albert),