

# Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California

## Smoke Signal

President: Virginia Watson  
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Vice-President: Jane Matthews

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FEBRUARY  
1979

### HAPPENINGS OF THE MONTH

Afro-American History Month	Feb. 19 Washington's Birthday
American Heart Month	Feb. 20 Chatsworth Historical Soc. meeting 7:30
Feb. 1 Freedom Day	Feb. 18-24 Brotherhood Week
Feb. 2 Ground Hog Day	Feb. 28 Ash Wednesday
Feb. 4-10 Boy Scout Week	
Feb. 12 Lincoln's Birthday	
Feb. 14 St. Valentine's Birthday--Feb. 26 Solar eclipse	
Feb. 18-24 National Engineers' Week	

Tues, Feb. 20, 1979 at Glendale Federal Savings and Loan.....

Two films depicting the history of So. Calif. will be shown at the meeting. The films were produced by Dr. Carl Dentzel and should be very interesting and informative.

March is our birthday month and we are going to invite the presidents of the community organizations to attend. We will invite Minnie to cut our birthday cake and are planning to invite Chief Davis, honorary mayor of Chatsworth.

### St. Valentine's Day

Some of the practices connected with this popular holiday go back to ancient Rome, when the Lupercalia, a festival dedicated to lovers, was celebrated on February 15. One custom was for the girls attending the festivities to place their names in a box. Each youth then put in his hand, and the name he drew was that of his partner for the coming year. With the coming of Christianity both the name and the date of the festival were changed.

A child was born near a Kentucky town.

A lad grew up in Illinois.

And before he was grown,

He split rails as a boy.

He shirked no task how'er great,

And grew to be the favorite son

Of the Illinois state.

And then he moved to Washington,

An advocate of liberty,

Opposed to slavery of any men;

His was the task to set them free

From bondage where they had been.

There was a Union to maintain

With his mission as president.

A Civil War became the bane

A threat to the mission he had sent

To unite the states as one,

With liberty and justice for all.

When the cause for right was won,

He sat relaxed within a hall;

Unaware that death lurked near.

By an assassin's gun he died.

The Union was drenched by human tear  
His mark on history was not decried.

The goal which he attained,

One people, united and free,

One nation and free remained,

And thus may it forever be.

One nation under God and free,

A people who bear malice towards none,

But love for all and charity—

The dream, the hope, the message of Lincoln.

Several picturesque Roman symbols have survived. One picture that appears on many modern valentines is that of Cupid, the mischievous little Roman god of love. He carries a bow and a quiver of arrows, and any couple feeling the pleasant sting of those arrows is supposed to fall in love. The roses and birds often pictured are a carry-over from other beliefs of long ago. The rose was the Roman symbol of love, and there

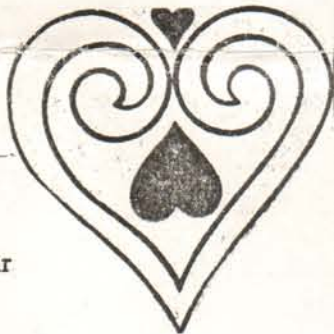
was an old tradition that wild birds chose their mates on February 14.



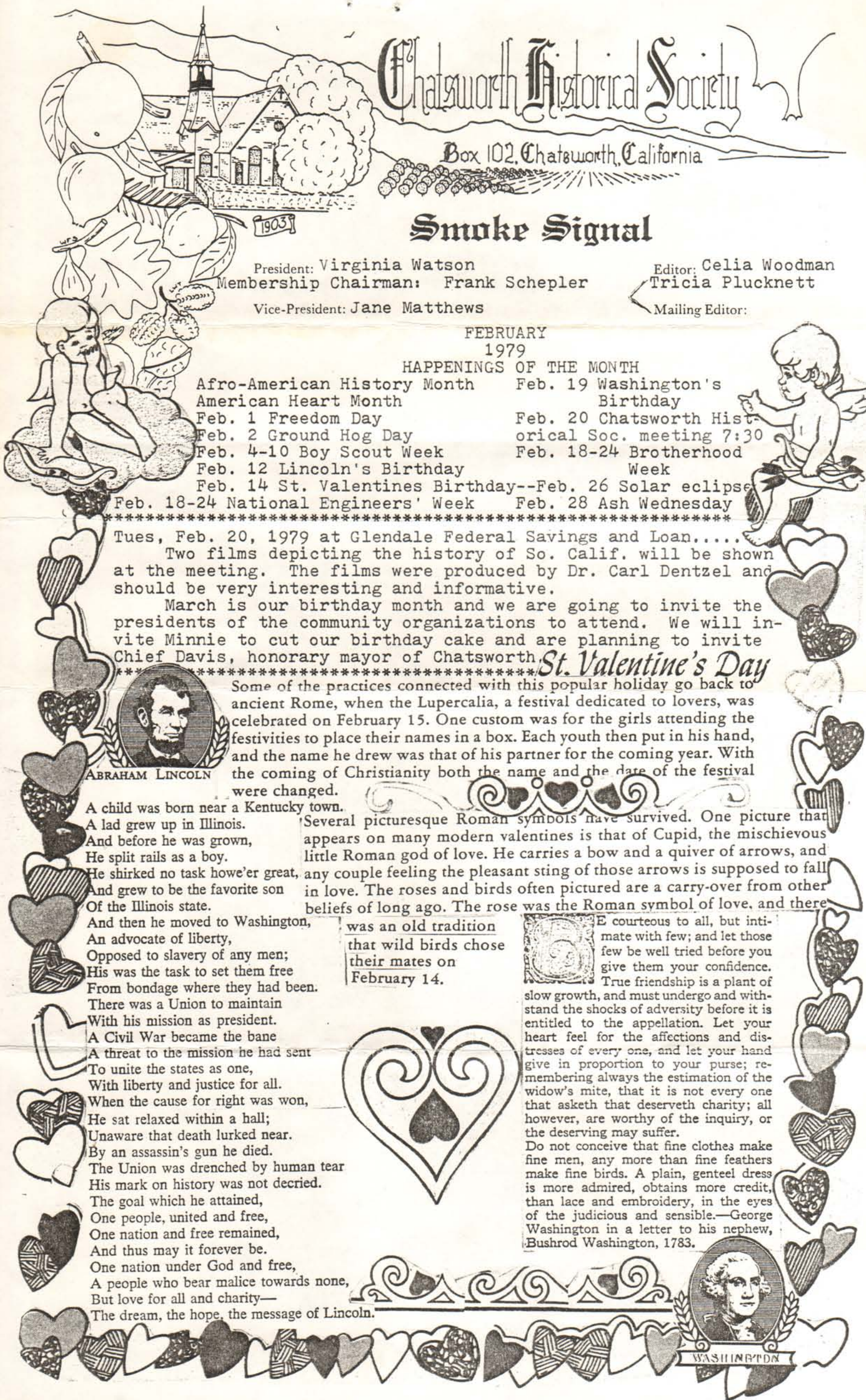
Be courteous to all, but intimate with few; and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence.

True friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation. Let your heart feel for the affections and distresses of every one, and let your hand give in proportion to your purse; remembering always the estimation of the widow's mite, that it is not every one that asketh that deserveth charity; all however, are worthy of the inquiry, or the deserving may suffer.

Do not conceive that fine clothes make fine men, any more than fine feathers make fine birds. A plain, genteel dress is more admired, obtains more credit, than lace and embroidery, in the eyes of the judicious and sensible.—George Washington in a letter to his nephew, Bushrod Washington, 1783.



WASHINGTON





Dear Members & Friends:

"Lights, Camera, Action," was the theme I chose for the year-- it is an old-fashioned term used during the making of old movies, but it has been an up-to-date slogan for us. We got the stage all set and the lights ready, then we went into action and have accomplished our goal. The first of February I signed an agreement for us with the Dept. of Recreation and Parks making us the official group for the Homestead Acre! Our first plan of action is to get the inside cleaned and painted. It has been empty for quite a while and needs cleaning. Then we will start looking for furnishings for Minnie's house.

February is the month that a nominating committee is named so if you have any suggestions as to officers or any choice of a particular job you would like to do next year please speak to one of the committee members.

See you at the meeting.

*Virginia*

History of last month:

Wouldn't you know that a school nurse (me) would forget a very, very important day and week? Jan. 22 through Jan. 28 was School Nurse Recognition Week and Jan. 24 was National School Nurse Day. School nurses have been caring for children in the Los Angeles School District since 1902.

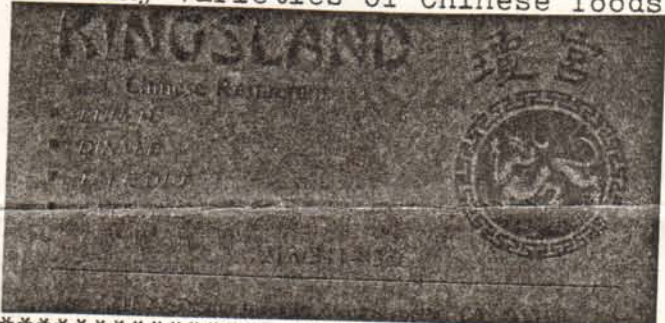
Chatsworth's Three Chinese Restaurants celebrated Chinese New Year with symbols of words saying "Gong Hay Fat Choy" meaning, "Wishing you a prosperous New Year!" This is a happy day with much celebrating and feasting on special delicious Oriental foods. The New Year's Day was Jan. 28

1677, in the Chinese tradition, is the Year of the Ram. The Year of the Ram, which starts January 28, follows the tradition of naming the years after constellations of the Zodiac in 12-year cycles. The Chinese say that if you were born in the Year of the Ram, you will be wise and gentle—and elegant and passionate. According to the Chinese, Ram people tend to be shy and often pessimistic. They are talented in the arts, and they can expect to achieve a comfortable living. Ram years promise political and financial uncertainty, but all can be expected to end well. It will be a good year, the Chinese say, for art, music and theater.



Interview with Tony Lee, manager.....from Kingsland Chinese Restaurant:

This is a dear little Chinese Restaurant that has been redecorated and will seat 44 persons. It was redecorated and made into a sit-down restaurant by the previous owners - Ho Ho. Many of us remember it as "Yeps", Chatsworth's first Chinese Restaurant, which was only a "take-out". The Yep family owned and managed it for many years before Mr. Yep was killed in a freeway accident. It is a happy surprise for those of us that knew it only as the order-at-the-counter-and-wait-for-your-food fast service to enjoy the many varieties of Chinese foods served in the quiet atmosphere of a small yet gracious, informal setting-KINGSLAND. The restaurant is owned by Mr. Chan of Los Angeles. He should be proud to be a part of the "Roots" of Chatsworth's restaurateurs..... There is a secret recipe for the delicious paper-wrapped chicken and Tony's special pan fried shrimp, real Cantonese. The most intriguing, to me, is the Rainbow fried Won Ton Fantasy, try it!!!



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The Mayflower Chinese Restaurant on Topanga Canyon, is also a lovely and beautiful place to bring your family and friends or dine alone. It is like a metamorphosis from a series of unsuccessful eating places to this delightful place, managed by your hosts the Cheung family. This restaurant was opened in August 1978. The Cheungs live in Northridge. Mr. Cheung is a World War II veteran from Hawaii, who served as a U.S. Army Intelligence Officer. He met his lovely wife, Elaine, and was married in Hong Kong. His oldest son, Vincent, is a recent graduate of U.C.L.A. and Warren is a student at C.S.U.N. Elaine's parents were the former owners of the famous Samoa House in Encino.



**Mayflower  
Chinese Restaurant**

- CLOSED MONDAY -

*Opened August 1978*

10220 TOPANGA CANYON BLVD. (213) 882-8686  
CHATSWORTH, CALIF. 91311 882-8687



News items:

We did it again!! Thank you, and you, and you!- for your help, your giving and buying of books. Ioline Cleveland, our fund-raiser, and all of us helped make the book-sale a very successful event. Total amount \$490.00 - start saving and begging your neighbors for next year's sale. Now is the TIME to begin saving for the Yard Sale - June 9th and 10th. Is someone moving?- grab their junk. Is someone cleaning house? Save their collect bles.....

We are refurbishing our Homestead Cottage - do you like to paint or clean? We need almost everything about the 1911 era. We need 2 old washtubs, old brooms and utensils, a kitchen cabinet, old bed (I'm sure you must have a feather mattress hiding somewhere in your closet), that's what I slept on when I was born in 1911 - the cottage and I - same age. If you didn't save the chickens feathers, just any old thing will do - braided rugs, linens that are yellowed, pictures for the wall, etc, etc. You don't have to give it free -- we will pay you list price ( Wards or Sears catalogue of the time).....

Chatsworth's First Community Variety Show will not be in March - there will be a later date, but the committee would like to have anyone that is interested in putting an act together - choral or dance group - high school or adult. This is your chance to be another "first" and become a historical remembrance because you were there. Contact Lillian Baker, P.T.A. president of Chatsworth High School - 882-0547. Do it now - remember - all our famous actors were "first" at one time - perhaps the angel in the Sunday School Christmas Play, birds on a float, Indians at their dance, a puppet on a string, or anything.

Betty Summers is our new Display Chairman. Welcome to the "gang"!

Saturday, Jan. 20th was a very special day - once a year the Chatsworth Reservoir is opened to the public for a tour. This year the group was led by Mrs. Helen Treend, President of Save-Orcutt-Community. It was a beautiful sunshiny day following the days of rain and gloom. Many interesting historic spots were visited and after the tour individuals or groups were allowed to "purchase" an oak tree of their choice. For \$10 one can have his own tree for eternity. You will not even have to take care of it - nature will take care of that. Bill, Frank and Lillian Schepler were representing the Chatsworth Historical Society. Frank and Lillian bought a tree for them selves and also our historical society, therefore, we are now the proud owner of an oak. A marker is placed on each tree with an owner - when you go on the tour next year you will see OUR tree.

Carolyn Coughlin leaves for Aspen next week, with her ski club, to enjoy a week of skiing.

Fern Jack gave me the article below. Sam Downing is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Downing, former Chats. residents. Father, Sam, is a Life Mem.

Our Vice President, Jane Matthews, has sold her home and has moved to Tarzana.....

Happy Birthday to Betty Summers, Jim Woodman, Kim Spangler

22 Thurs., Nov. 30, 1978. Monterey Peninsula Herald

# Peninsula Business

Lillian, Frank and Eleanor Schepler motored to Palm Springs. They took the tramway to the top of the mountain (8500') where snow and ice covered everything. Their lunch was much more enjoyable while looking at the panorama of snow scenes. They stopped to visit friends in Palm Desert and stopped for dinner on way home at the famous Griswolds.

It is time for the Annual Smorgasbord, Feb, 24th - 5:30 to 7 at the Chatsworth United Meth. Church - 10824 Topanga Canyon B. Reservations are not necessary, but come early for best selection

All new members are incognito until next month. Have you brought in your new member yet?

..... O me it seems as if when God conceived the world, that was poetry; He formed it, and that was sculpture; He varied and colored it, and that was painting; and then, crowning all, He peopled it with living beings, and that was the grand divine, eternal drama. —Charlotte Cushman.

A Carmel man has been selected to present a paper on hospital safety at the 21st International Hospital Congress in Oslo, Norway, next June.

Samuel W. Downing, associate administrator of Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, will have as his topic "Hospital Design: A Blueprint for Safety."

According to Downing, California has led the world in setting standards for construction or additions to hospitals and other health care facilities designed to survive earthquakes.

Downing has coordinated seminars at the University of California in Santa Cruz and Irvine on the new regulations, which were adopted by the state Legislature after four hospitals were destroyed and 20 others damaged by an earthquake in the San Fernando area in 1971.

At Salinas Valley Memorial, Downing worked with the architect, administrator and board of directors incorporating the new requirements into current building plans.

While completing his graduate training in hospital administration at UCLA, he was involved in building programs at Tri-City Hospital in Oceanside and at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.



SAM DOWNING ... to speak in Norway



Cont.

Mr. Cheung from the Mayflower shares this recipe with us:  
Chinese Pepper Steak

1 T. cornstarch	} mix together and add to 1/2 thinly sliced flank steak	Good served with steamed or fried rice.
1 T. soy sauce		
1 t. sugar		
1/4 t. salt		

1 clove garlic	} crush together	Optional: may add MSG or oyster sauce.
1 1/2 t. black bean sauce		
2 very thin slices ginger root		

Saute the meat mixture in 2 T. peanut oil in wok or heavy skillet - have very hot. Add add garlic mixture, cook about 2 minutes. Have 1/3 cup water ready - add 1 green pepper, thinly sliced and the water. Cook only about 1 min. \*\*\*\*\*

Chatsworth should be very proud to have such a beautiful restaurant in our city. It was opened by Mr. Joseph Chen-Aug. 12,78 His favorite recipe is:

Sea Food Pu Pu Pot  
King crab - shrimp-abalone, bamboo shoots - chinese mushrooms - chinese doo fu, over a living flame.

His lovely wife, Grace is your beautiful hostess. He has 6 cooks. His head chef is Tsai Ge Chung from the most famous "Hunan" Restaurant in L.A.China Town.

CHINA

was officially recognized by the United States January 1, 1979

THE ROYAL DYNASTY is noted for its special Szechuan Style (spicy)..



Joseph Chen came to America from Taiwan in 1974. He and his wife, Grace, have their home in Chats. The well-known "Omay" Restaurant of Taiwan belonged to Joseph's parents His brother, Jack, owns "The China Palace" in Culver City and his sister, Nancy, owns the China Palace in Valencia.

Mr. Chen has invited the Chatsworth Historical Society to come, as a group, for some special occasion.....

CHATSWORTH

welcomes our three Chinese Restaurants and their personnel.

By LARRY LIPSON of Valley Times

My bests of 1978 reflect only personal experiences during this past year. A few of them, repeats of a similar list compiled a year ago, were only considered again if the experience itself was repeated. Thus, my bests and anyone else's bests would only be fair to compare if we both had visited exactly the same restaurants.

BESTS OF '78

CHICKEN - (Bong-Bong Chicken and Minced Chicken in Edible Gold Cup) Royal Dynasty, Chatsworth

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Another Historic First for Chatsworth! The first Community meeting before acquisition of a State Park.....

HISTORIC STAGECOACH TRAIL MAY BE SAVED!?! by Glenn Bailey

The 1860's Stagecoach Trail through the Santa Susana Pass area was the subject of a recent community meeting called by the California State Department of Parks and Recreation.

The meeting, held January 29 in Chatsworth, was attended by a standing room only crowd that was overwhelmingly supportive of saving the historic route, which during the Civil War was the only land route open between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Unfortunately, portions of the road and adjacent historic sites are immediately threatened with a housing development.

Deroy Jensen of the Department's Planning Division held the meeting to unveil their plans for the future Santa Susana Mountain State Park in which they propose to include the stagecoach property and the Garden of the Gods in the acquisition budget several years from now. The one hundred persons at the meeting were supportive of the efforts and signed a petition drafted and agreed upon by the group. It remains to be seen if this acquisition, Phase III in the State's total program, will be in time to preserve the historic site from the pending development.

Letters stressing the historic significance of the trail and urging its acquisition at the earliest possible date need to be sent this week to:

Russell Cahill, Director  
State Dept. of Parks and Rec.

Gov. Brown, Assemblyman Cline,  
Senator Cusanovich at:

P.O. Box 2390-Sacramento, Ca. 95811 State Capitol-Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Baxter Ward, Supervisor - 5th Dist. 500 W. Temple Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

For more information on what you can do, call Glenn Bailey, 344--5366

.....  
Santa Susana Mt. Park. Sierra Club, Chats. Hist. Soc, and many others were represented, and did you see us on T.V. that night on Channel 4 news?.....  
Let us know of any letters that you receive after writing to them.....