

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE


Dear Members and Friends:

It has been a tremendously busy summer at Homestead Acre, and you will be surprised at the progress made. As stated in the Society's Purpose, we are to preserve historic sites and establish a museum. This has been accomplished. There are two buildings on the Minnie Hill Palmer acre--the house and a museum. The exterior and interior of the house will be almost completed by September 16, the date of the first meeting of the year. I hope you can all attend this preview since there is no indication, at this date, when we will be open to the public on a regular basis. The museum will be operable soon. This will include a library and a gift shop as well as display areas. The limited budget has not extended to furnishings for the house, and it is our hope that many of you will wish to contribute either money or furniture and period pieces of the early 1900s. The initial support has been encouraging, and continued support will mean that this very ambitious project will be ready in the near future.

I attended the Conference of Historical Societies in Sonoma in June. Congressman Don H. Clausen of the Redwood District was the keynote speaker. He has sent a copy of his address, which was entered in the Congressional Record on June 29. In it he stated, "I'd like to take this opportunity to commend all of you historians for taking such an active interest in the history of our area, but more importantly for your personal commitment to the preservation of history. By thorough and painstaking research, and by establishing facts while debunking myths you lend credibility to our history and make our heritage and culture more meaningful to our residents. This research makes people proud of their area and instills in them a desire to become more involved in their community."

Jane Matthews

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 SEPTEMBER 16 MEETING - HOMESTEAD ACRE, CHATSWORTH PARK SOUTH

4 p.m. at the Museum. Informal talks by Helen Beiner of Los Encinos and Carl Dentzel, Cultural Heritage Board. 5 p.m. - Tour of the property and punch. 6 p.m. Cold Buffet. Members with names A-I Cold Meats - Cheese; H-S - Salad or Vegetable; T-Z Dessert. Please call Fern Jack, 998-0589, if you are coming so that we can plan for the seating. DISREGARD THE "NO PARKING" SIGNS AT THE ENTRANCE AND COME INTO THE ACRE AT THE CARETAKER'S TRAILER TO PARK. CARS MAY BE TICKETED OUTSIDE THE GATE.

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As many of you know, Frank Hanson Schepler, Jr., was buried near the Pioneer Church in Oakwood Memorial Cemetery on June 2. He is greatly missed by the Society and the community. A Memorial Library, to be housed in the museum building, has been established in his name. You may wish to contribute to this fund.

NEW MEMBERS - Loretta Ditlow, Dorothy Hall, Lewis & Edwina Holliday, Peter & Yvonne Kefalianos, Eunice Kent, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Leiner, Nancy Lovelady, Connie Martin and Lawrence Weitzman. WELCOME! Also, Harold and Myrtle Johnson.

Los Angeles City Cultural Historical Monument #133 located in Chatsworth Park South is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Recreation and Parks. The Society acts as conservator. Application for listing has been made to the National Register of Historic Places and State Commission approval has been given at the local level. The land belonged to Minnie Hill Palmer, who was born there on November 30, 1886. Her mother, Rhoda Jane Enlow Hill, came from Los Angeles to the West Valley in the spring of 1886 as a guest of a Mr. Carleton. Rhoda and her husband, James David Hill, had come to Los Angeles in 1870 from Visalia to find work. They took squatter's rights on 110 acres which they later homesteaded. Later, Minnie's brother, Lovell, and her husband, Alfred Palmer, bought another 120, making 230 acres. Her sister, Mrs. Ackerman, had an adjoining ranch referred to as Rimrock Ranch. Minnie was married in 1909. She moved to Hawthorne and, for a time, lived in Montana. She returned in 1920 to care for her mother, and lived there in pioneer style. She kept up the 1.3 acre alone until the age of 90. In December, 1976, she moved to a retirement center to be near her family, and at that time gave the rights to her home to the Chatsworth Historical Society for restoration as a monument to the pioneers who homesteaded the Valley.

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HOMESTEAD ACRE HONOR ROLL FOR JULY AND AUGUST



Members who worked are: Chuck Janess, Ramon Avila, Bob Swartz, Lila and Bill Schepler, Lillian Schepler, Jim Woodman, Tom and Betty Woodard, Betty and Jim Summers. Tricia and Burrell Plucknett, Betty Selvidge, Virgil Heumann, Fern Jack, and Jane Matthews. Dennis Moran president of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce, assisted.

During July the California Conservation Corps cleared the acre, painted the exteriors of the two buildings, scraped the floor in the house and worked on the foundation. Once a week lunches were served to the CCC: 1. Virginia Watson and Marlys Stuckenbruck; 2. Lillian Schepler for Chatsworth Women's Club; 3. The Jordan Street Irregulars - Tricia Plucknett, Iolene Cleveland, Eileen Janess, Betty Summers, Betty Selvidge; 4. Lila Schepler for Methodist Church Women.

Boy Scout Troops 226 and 522 have painted, hauled, and cleared the grounds. Terry Lumber, Chatsworth, and Sy's Discount Carpets, Van Nuys, have given ample discounts and prompt service, and Chatsworth Glass, Heritage Exterminators and Dee's Draperies have donated their services. MANY THANKS TO ALL THE ABOVE.

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PIONEER DAYS - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13-6 P.M.

Homestead Acre, Chatsworth Park South
PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE. The Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce and the Society are co-sponsoring a Western Barbecue. There will be music, food and much fun. Western Dress. The purpose is to introduce the business community and friends to the Acre. Tickets (a limited number) will be on sale soon. Details in next Smoke Signal. ***

Oct. 20 -- Assoc. Historical Societies of L.A. County Mini-Conference. Hosted by The Encino Historical Society at their Adobe.

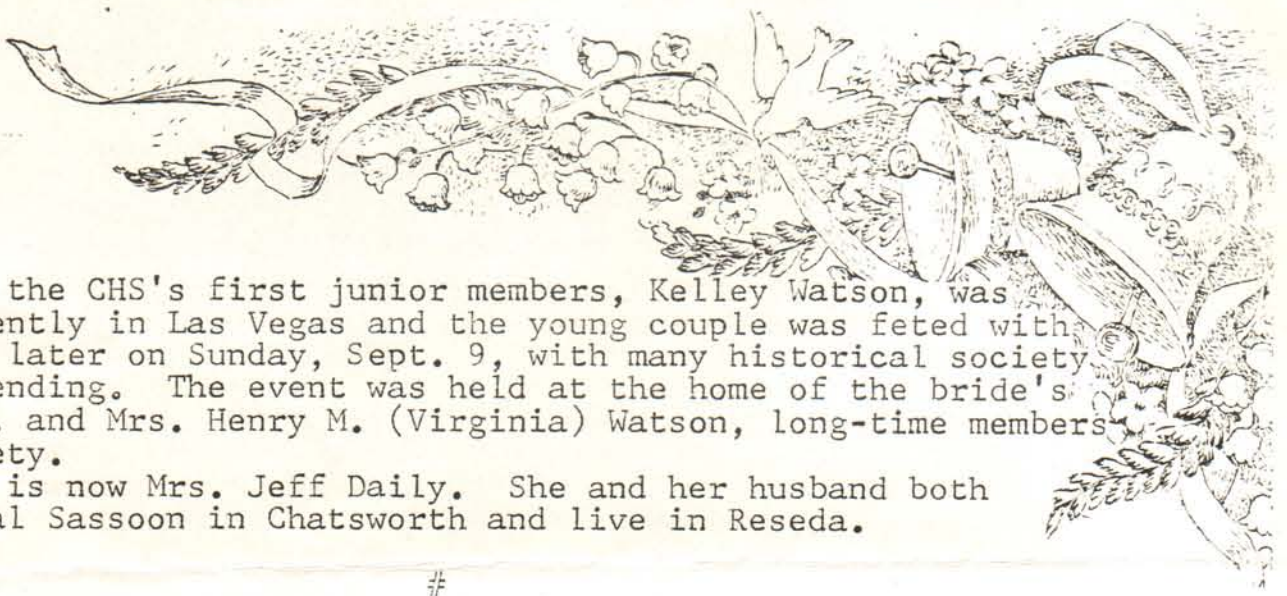
Nov. 2&3 -WORKSHOP - Conf. of Calif. Historical Societies Southern Symposium. Hosted by the Valley Historical Society on "Public Relations".

Fri. Registration and Tea 2-5 ** Dinner at The Odyssey.....

Sat. Workshop in AM at Valley College

1. Media - 2. Promoting memberships 3. Promoting activities: (Programs; Publications; Tours; Traveling Exhibits)

Dinner - El Grito Mexican Restaurant.



One of the CHS's first junior members, Kelley Watson, was married recently in Las Vegas and the young couple was feted with a reception later on Sunday, Sept. 9, with many historical society members attending. The event was held at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. (Virginia) Watson, long-time members of the society.

Kelley is now Mrs. Jeff Daily. She and her husband both work at Vidal Sassoon in Chatsworth and live in Reseda.

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Vacation's Over

The best part of vacation,
Though far and wide we roam,
Is when it's time to travel back
The trail that leads to home.
Strange roads and ways are thrilling
And mighty fine to see,
But when vacation's over
At home we long to be.

Everett and Ioline Cleveland have returned from Nebraska where they visited relatives & moved daughter, Cathe, into an apartment at Alliance, Nebraska, where she is teaching 5th grade.

Marina Pampalone has returned to Portland, Oregon where she has been staying with her Aunt and Uncle - Mr. & Mrs. Don Mala to go to school. Her parents, Joe and Barbara and family enjoyed her 3-week's visit. Barbara and her 3 younger children visited her parents in Wisconsin.

Eddie and Louise Mitchell enjoyed a fun vacation visiting interesting spots in San Diego and returning for a day at Disneyland.....



Chatsworth's Reunion with the "OLD Crowd" will be in lovely Morrow Bay on Sept. 22 & 23. Members of the Chats. Hist. Soc. who will be at this Annual Historic occasion will be: Bill and Lila Schepler and Lillian - Gerald and Fern Jack - Lorna and Ed Ahlstrom - Sam and Betty Downing - Ralph and Peggy Christianson - and Cliff and Margo Ahlstrom.

Bill Schepler will be attending the 50th Anniversary of the Calif. Maritime Academy in Tiburon, Calif. - that, also, on Sept. 23rd.

In addition to attending a conference, Jane Matthews spent her two-week's vacation in "The Gold Country" - Sutter's Creek and historical sites and antique shops around the Sonora country..... That is the best place to find antiques and collectibles, she states.

Sally Ann Parsons is visiting her parents, Milton and Colette. Sally Ann lives in New York - it is a rare treat when she can come for more than a few days because she is a very busy young lady. She is a designer of theatrical costumes. Colette reports that Milton is gaining slightly in weight and strength since being taken off chemotherapy. Colette was delighted to have Sally Ann attend the play "Never Too Late" with her on Sunday night. This humorous play was seen at the Golden Mall Playhouse in Burbank. Her neighbors, Gerry and Virginia Leaper, play the lead and supporting role, respectively.

Tricia Plucknett visited her daughter who has just purchased a new home in Morrow Bay

Harold and Myrtle Johnson had two lovely surprises to celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary - 52 relatives shared this celebration with them at Hodel's Restaurant and the following Sunday they were honored at the Chatsworth United Methodist Church. (Harold is in the hospital at this time recovering from pneumonia).

Heather Watts, daughter of Keith and Sheelagh, was seen in a recent appearance at the Hollywood Bowl by several members of the C.H.S. and a host of friends that knew her before she moved to New York to join the New York City Ballet Co. Heather was partnered by three of the top male dancers in the world: Peter Martins, Mikhail Baryshnikov and Bart Cook. Heather is shown as Liberty Bell and Peter Martins as El Capitan in the photo. Sheelagh is enroute to England where she will visit her mother, Mrs. Ella Woodhead in Pudsey; the two will then travel to see Heather who will be performing at Covent Gardens.

1979
HAPPENINGS THIS MONTH

Sept. 3 - Labor Day
Sept. 9 - Grandparent's Day
Sept. 10, School Begins

Sept.16-22 - Constitution Week
Sept. 17 - Citizenship Day
Sept. 22 - Rosh Hashana
Sept. 23 - Autumn begins
Sept. 27 - City Council Meeting
To Save the Oaks!
Sept. 28 - American Indian Day.

Sept. 16 - First meeting of the year - Chatsworth Historical Soc. 4 PM. @ Homestead Acre - far west end of Devonshire.....

Sept. 15-16 - Mexican Independence Day

NEWS ITEMS:

Our President, Jane Matthews, is a very modest person - her name is mentioned amongst the other wonderful people who donated time, labor and money to the cottage, to the museum and to the grounds, but she has worked and supervised and coordinated most of the activities for the entire summer, except for her two-weeks vacation. She was given a standing ovation by all the members at the Board meeting on Sept. 4th. for all the hours she has spent, for all the painting and moving she has done, not to mention the "gillions" of people that she has contacted to help in any way. People have been just 'Super'. None of us know the many hours she has spent. She has been seen early in the morning - all day and some evenings. Even though her name is mentioned once in the Honor Roll for July and August, we thought the ones of you, who have not been able to help, would like to know - we still need many things to be done. Also, there have been additional helpers in Sept. that will be mentioned in next Smoke Signal.....Thank you all!!

Lila Schepler, (341-3447) has a list 3 pages long listing items that we need for the Cottage and for the museum. If you have anything of the early 1900 era, or if you know of anyone who does, please contact her or Virginia Watson (341-3053). A few suggestions would be:
Wood-stove cooking range
Old cooking utensils, silver, etc.
Furniture, wicker chairs, porch swing
Oil lamps, old clock, music box
Old Bible, books and pictures
Costumes from any period.....
They will give me a list for the next Smoke Signal of things that they have not received. Please come to see what we do have. It is such fun to shop wherever you go, whether it be on a vacation, a visit to an Antique Shop or a Yard Sale. If we have duplicate articles, we will be able to trade or sell for something we do need..

for

SMOKE SIGNAL INFORMATION

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Chairman: Lillian Schepler
341-2010
Mailing Editor:
Tricia Plucknett
341-2008

Lillian says if your dues have not been paid, they are now PAST DUE! Please pay.....

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Please note:
Lillian Schepler and Mrs. Eleanor Schepler - new address --
22335 Devonshire, Chatsworth

The Chatsworth Historical Society was honored by having two of their members receive VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS this past week. Primarily, the awards were made for service to the Society. The Ceremony of Presentation was held in Mayor Bradley's Conference Room by the Human Relations Comm. President and others. Our Lila and Lillian Schepler were amongst those honored. Following the Ceremonies, all the honorees were presented to Councilwoman Stevenson at the City Council meeting.

Lila Schepler is Secretary of the Association of Historical Societies of Los Angeles. She invites your attendance and concern at the meetings. Those of interest to us will be found on page two .

Ioline Cleveland and her Fund-Raising Committee have a new project-- "How To Make Your Dollars Grow". This is no 'Wild Scheme'!!! Come to the meeting and you will see. Are you curious????

An urgent message from Friends of Heritage and Native Trees: "Members of C.H.S. and other concerned citizens are urged to go to the City Council Meeting 9/27 to Save Our Oaks!" Melissa Lovelady - 360-6587 and Helen Treend - 703-8056, want as many of us as can be present to show our deep concern. You know the old adage, "One bad apple (the developers) can spoil a whole basket."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Kelly Johnson, Bob Selvidge, Bea Berman, Ed Dietrich, and Ed, Louise and Matthew Mitchell.....