



MAY - 1980

Greetings from the President:

I wish to express sincere congratulations to Jane Matthews and the entire membership of the Society for an outstanding year, 1979-80. A great deal was accomplished and you can all point with pride at a job well done.

I apologize for missing our two most important events, the installation and dedication in May and this month, the yard sale. For years my children and nephews and nieces have said they would never marry. Now, within the space of two months, a nephew and niece will have been married in Virginia.

I attended the first wedding on April 24 and remained an extra week in Virginia in order to attend my sister's annual Kentucky Derby Day party. Joy's husband, Morris, is from Kentucky and an alumnus of the U. of K. We had a great time and I lost \$3 having bet on Jacklin Klugman!

My mother, Ella Woodhead of Pudsey, England, also attended the wedding and came home with me and spent 3 weeks enjoying (?) the California weather. We took her to Santa Barbara to visit Jennifer on her birthday and to Long Beach and on the last night of her visit, with the cooperation of Ioline & Everett, Virginia and Marlys we paid a visit to the cottage and museum over which she raved.

I'm leaving June 12 for a week's visit in New York with Heather and there I'll be accompanied by Keith. We'll see her partnered by Peter Martins in a brand new ballet by George Ballanchine. From there we'll return to Virginia to see Lindsay Broyles marry Mike Feldman and return June 24.

My theme for the year is, "Let's Make History," and I really believe we will. Please support Ioline and the yard sale. After that, relax, enjoy the summer months until we all gather again in the Fall to continue our efforts to help Chatsworth preserve the best of its past.

See you soon -

Sheila

P.S. Sheila forgot to mention that her mother, Ella Woodhead was the first person outside of the Continental United States to become a member of the Chatsworth Historical Society.
editor

Historical Event:

The expected eruption of the volcano Mount St. Helens was consummated on Sunday - May 18, 1980 when it blew its top with a killer explosion that set off huge forest fires, sent two "walls of water" racing down a river valley and sprayed pungent ash clouds over much of eastern Washington.....

May 1 - Law Day & May Day
 May 4 - Dedication of Homestead Acre
 May 5 - Cinco de Mayo
 May 4-10 - National Family Week
 May 11 - Mother's Day

May 11-17 - Police Week
 May 17 - Armed Forces Day
 May 22 - National Maritime Day
 May 25 - Pentecost
 May 26 - Memorial Day

Sunday - May 4, 1980
DEDICATION OF HOMESTEAD ACRE
Installation of New Officers for 1980-1981

.....and it was a beautiful day! Beautiful in so many ways -----
 The weather was gorgeous for the day, whereas the previous days had been cloudy and sullen and the following day was the same. This day was sunny and warm with just a touch of a cool breeze to make it comfortable for the many, many people that came to see the dedication and the installation of new officers.....It was beautiful in that the dedication committee: Ioline Cleveland, Fern Jack, Dennis Moran, Lillian Schepler, Lila Schepler and Virginia Watson had worked out such a fabulous, incredible program for this historic occasion. I have reproduced a copy of the program here for those that were unable to attend:

DEDICATION CEREMONY

May 4, 1980 - 2:30 pm

Instrumental Music	Chatsworth High School Pep Band Bob Lierberman, Conductor	AWARD RECIPIENTS The Native Daughters of the Golden West
Welcome	Jane Matthews Chatsworth Historical Society	Boy Scouts - Sid Blum, Troop 226 Jeff Ziemiaki, Troop 226
Presentation	The Native Daughters of the Golden West	Ray Blanchard, Troop 466 Tom Angeline, Troop 466
Salute to the Flag		Larry Hoffman, Troop 522
National Anthem		Highlander 4-H Club
Introductions		California Conservation Corps
Presentation of Awards	Robert Wilkinson	Agriculture Department Students, Pierce College
Remarks	Councilman Hal Bernson	
Address	James Hadaway, General Manager Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks	
Tours of House and Museum		

HOMESTEAD ACRE
CHATSWORTH PARK SOUTH

The Hill-Palmer House, Los Angeles Historical Monument No. 133, is the only remaining homestead house in the San Fernando Valley, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Minnie Hill was born here on November 30, 1886. Rhoda Jane Enlow Hill and her husband, James David Hill, had come to Los Angeles from Visalia in 1870 to find work. They took squatter's rights on 110 acres in Chatsworth which they later homesteaded. Eventually they acquired 120 more making a total of 230 acres. Minnie was married in 1909 and left for several years. She returned in 1920 to care for her mother. She lived on the 1.30 acre in pioneer style, raising vegetables and canning fruit, until the age of 90. In 1976 she gave the rights to her home to the Chatsworth Historical Society for restoration as a monument to the pioneers who homesteaded the Valley. The restoration was completed in 1979.

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The Museum and House are open to the public the first Sunday of each month from 1-4 pm.

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Chatsworth Historical Society
 P.O. Box 102
 Chatsworth, California 91311

Meetings - Third Tuesday of the Month

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS OF SATURDAY - APRIL 12, 1980:

LILA SCHEPLER: Lila, on this day - the day of our field trip, gave us a very colorful and vivid picture, recreated with historical accuracy, about sites that we visited or passed on that day.

She began with the Homestead Acre, the one closest to our interest at this day. This was followed by our Chatsworth Lake and Reservoir tour which had an added impetus, when we heard Helen Treend talk while on the tour. Many of us, as members and concerned friends, were glad to hear about the current status of our first project, The Pioneer Church. We were glad to learn more about The Miranda Adobe, even though it is still a private residence and other homes of the types of architecture used in the early 20's. We learned of the history and saving of the Olive trees on Lassen and the famous Stoney Point L.A. Historical Monument #133. - then to the old Stage Coach Trail, which holds such a great interest to everyone. She told of the sad history of Chatsworth's first reservoir in the Twin Lakes area, the only remnant remaining of that historic site is the stone dam. The greatest concern of most people at this time is saving the Stage Coach Trail. At this time most of it is on private land. Nancy Razanski represented The Santa Susana Mountain Park Assoc. and gave us a short history and current update on the Stage Coach Trail.

Lila planned and was responsible for the six Saturday Lectures that were concluded with this field trip and we must all agree that it was perfect and no one could have accomplished it as well.

She is proud to be one of the 44 members of the Los Angeles Bicentennial Committee. While hundreds of people serve on various committees, (history, art, music, education, etc.) the Steering Committee of these 44 persons is the most impressive because they are appointed by the Mayor and the Councilmen or Councilwomen.

At the present time she is serving as Secretary of the "Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County", and on the History Committee of the Valley Bicentennial effort of which Elva Meline is Chairperson.

She has served on Local, County and State Boards as a Professional in the field of Recreation and Leisure and was an instructor at Cal. State Northridge on this same subject.

(I have asked Bill to give me an overview of her "This is your Life", so who could do it better than her own husband?) His letter below-----

"The she would be the first to deny it, Lila Schepler in Chatsworth is an old timer. She moved here in 1931 when less people lived in all Chatsworth than now live in Rockpointe today.

She attended U.S.C. and City College on Vermont, where she worked for her room and board all week. On week ends she returned to Chatsworth on the "Big Red Cars".

But, getting a position in her chosen profession of Recreation was even harder than getting an education. She was at last lucky and landed a full time job at part time pay in charge of Women's and Girl's activities at the old Roscoe Playground(at what is now Sun Valley). Ask her to tell you about how that brash young girl persuaded the Rock Crushers to stop operations and the United Airport to re-route their planes- so there would be no disturbance for the out door programs!

Soon-a marriage, a war and a daughter were to interrupt her career several times. But after World War II ended and Los Angeles started to build new playgrounds in the Valley, Lila was to open some of them. Also, at this time she left the Valley to take a Supervisory position in Hollywood with the Dept. of Recreation & Parks. Soon she was back as the District Supervisor (one by one) of each of the three Valley Districts for the Dept. Then she became the Supervisor of the San Fernando Valley-with its 53 Full time Professional Employees and over 500 part time(dance instructors, Sports Officials, etc.etc.) as well as 3 Recreation Supervisors. Title Senior Recreation Supervisor9Area Administrator).

It was while in this position her interest in history was really awakened. There were many historic sites in her Valley Area- McGroarty home; Workman Ranch; Campo de Cahuenga; San Fernando Mission-Brand Park and Memory Gardens; Travel Town; to name a few. One of her proudest achievements was the very successful Valley Folklorico that was allowed to die with her retirement.

Just before her retirement she was given the temporary appointment as Principal Supervisor- in charge of beaches, Pools, Recreation Centers for all the City. Maybe it helped her make up her mind to retire. She and her husband had always planned on retiring as soon as they could so they could travel while they were able; but in that position no one could leave the Department or just walk away. So, they did retire and took up other interests and they did travel. In fact, they were in Europe when they first learned they were to become Grandparents-10 years after their only daughter was married. Now, that would really start a story-"Did I tell you what my granddaughter or grandson said today?"

Cont.

Helen Treend: Spoke on, and at the site of, The Chatsworth Lake Conservation Area. Helen, from "The Save Orcutt Community, Inc." is the most learned and probably the best informed person to have given us both the past, present and future data regarding this area. If you were there on the historic occasion when we "Tied a Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree" near Topanga Canyon, south of Lassen. She and many other dedicated persons spent many hours in the community and to get the ordinance passed to preserve the oak trees and other special trees.

She has been given many awards for outstanding leadership to the community: For improving Orcutt Ranch Park, by the S.F.Valley Audubon Soc. - 1972; Received Mayor Bradley Award for the Docent Program at Orcutt Park; and another Mayor's Award for saving a natural stream bed (Dayton Creek); and the San Fernando Valley Beautiful Award for 3 years for beautification projects in our beautiful valley.

She is President of the Oak Tree Coalition and has lead the battle to save the Chatsworth Reservoir for Wildlife and passive recreation. She is an active member of the Mulholland Science Corridor Comm. and the Scenic Parkway Comm. for Valley Circle Blvd. She is Sec. for Chats. H.S. Coordinating Comm and Councilman Bernson's Canoga Park Citizens Advisory Comm. and honored by the L. A. City Human Relations Commission as, Woman-of-the-Year.

We learned about the Ecology Pond, the only portion of the lake where water is maintained for the migrating geese and other wild birds can find a sanctuary. She told of the past, present and future of the reservoir - hopefully, the nearest date that the Water and Power can give for building the new dam would be in 1985 - a very long time from the date that the lake was to have been filled in July of 1971 - all those plans had to be changed because of the earthquake in Feb. of 1971so --- we are still waiting!

Nancy Razanski spoke for the Santa Susana Mt. Park Assoc. in place of Jan Hingston, who was attending a State Parks meeting in Santa Ana. This was a very important meeting in So. Calif. to get this organization on a supplementary list, so more land can be obtained in order to save a greater portion of the Stage Coach Trail and other important historical points of interest in the Santa Susana Mts. and vicinity.

Jane Matthews, our out-going president, was given a standing ovation, both at this April 12th Field Trip of Historical Sites and the May 4th Dedication of the Hill-Palmer House. She has done so much this past year- so many things that no one can ever know -- she has painted and scraped -- she has planted and swept -- she has interviewed and planned, for workers, for speakers, for permits, for follow-ups. She has been seen early in the morning and late at night. No president could have spent more time and physical energy than Jane has this past year, for which she rightly deserved the Woman-of-the-Year Award that she was given by the Chats. Chamber of Commerce.

She will have a well-deserved vacation and business trip to Arizona this summer. Thank you! from all of us again, Jane.

**** Memorial Day**

Blow gently, winds of May,
And softly stir the trees,
Whispering today
The love we bear to these
Who sleep that silent sleep,
At rest forevermore.
Blow gently, winds of May ...
Their warfare now is o'er.

Blow gently, winds of May,
Bearing the perfume rare
Of blossoms o'er the way;
Rose petals scatter there;
The starry flag we place
In glory on each grave,
Catches in a fond embrace
For us and proudly waves.

Blow gently, winds of May,
Shine softly, summer sun;
Our heroes sleep today,
Their duty nobly done.
And with the flag they loved,
And flowers, we come today
To honor those who sleep ...
Blow gently, winds of May.

Cinco de Mayo

The 5th Day of May was celebrated by most of the schools, some of the churches, organizations and the San Fernando Historical Society - a colorful and patriotic Mexican Day.

Travelers:
Jim and Celia Woodman and Arnold and Mary Spotts were invited to the 40th Wedding Anniversary of Raymond and Alice Bernhard, former Chatsworth residents, now living in Palmdale. This was a very festive occasion, hosted by daughter, Lettie Horsky and family and son, Gene and family. Lettie, her husband, Dwaine, and beautiful daughter, Lisa live in Chatsworth. Gene and Jackie with their 3 children, Erick, Dean and Terri live in Quartz Hill. Other former Chats. guests: Bill and Suzie Elder, Burrell and Tricia Plucknett, and Jim Woodman attended Area 4-L1 Lions Club Convention in Catalina Island on May 16, 17 & 18.

Kim Russon and Celia Woodman attended the So. Calif. Area Conference for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on May 18th. This was believed to have been the largest gathering of Mormons in its 150- year history. More than 95,000 people filled the Rose Bowl Stadium to hear their church President, Spencer W. Kimball speak.

This 17th & 18th WAS a very busy week-end - Bob and Marian Swartz, Betty & Jim Summers and Bob and Eileen Niccom went with their Square Dance Group to the Ventura County Fair Grounds to be a part of the celebration - on to El Capitan to camp-out for the end of a perfect week-end.