

January 1981

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE TO CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From: Sheelagh Watts, President

First of all, a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to all.

While the holiday season had us all rushing around, members of the Historical Society kept up the good work so that our Pioneer Acre could be presented on January 4 to the public looking clean and tidy.

My personal thanks to the following people:

For help in decorating the cottage for the holidays to Marian Hyland whose grandchildren made the chains and to Iolene Cleveland's class who made the Santa Clauses; to Marian and Iolene who helped decorate along with Lillian Schepler and Virginia Watson. To Fern Jack who singlehandedly put on the Christmas party at the museum; to Betty Summers who showed up to help decorate and ended up weeding - something really needed. Jim Summers meanwhile trimmed trees and bushes.

More thanks - to Bill Schepler who planned the Frank Schepler Memorial Library and is supervising and helping with the building of the library. Bill and Lila moved half the stuff sitting in the area where the library is being built - Bob Swartz is also working on the library. To Henry Watson who moved our display cases around in order for the library to be built.

My thanks to all who have made the past year such a success.

DON'T FORGET THE BOOK SALE - We Need Books - We'll pick up.
Call 341-4489

BOOK SALE - January 23, 24 and 25.

Have a prosperous, healthy and
Happy New Year -

Sheelagh.

Sheelagh and Virginia Watson were the Docents for the Pioneer Acre tour on Sunday, Jan. 4th. They were delighted to have many young people there. One of their young people was Melody Henion Stevenson. Melody was in Virginia Watson's Brownie Troop and was also a friend of Sheelagh's famous dancing daughter, Heather. Melody and Heather took dancing lessons from the same dance school in Chatsworth.

From: Fred M. Thomas, President, Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce

The tremendous industrial growth of Chatsworth during the past decade adds more and more emphasis on the retention of traditions and the historical significance of the Chatsworth area. Chatsworth's rich and exciting past and its natural beauty, with the majestic mountains and beautiful rock formations make it ideal for the contemporary living enjoyed by thousands of San Fernando Valley residents.

We at the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce are proud of the work being done by the Chatsworth Historical Society to preserve the rich tradition and pledge our support during 1981 to the Society and to the Business Community and residents of Chatsworth.

From: Chatsworth Coordinating Council

The purpose of the Community Council is to help produce a better community in which to live. We coordinate all the organizations of Chatsworth, we know what they do and when they do it and we are aware of the community betterment the Chatsworth Historical Society provides. Your museum will be a wonderful asset to the community.

(349-9308)

Sincerely,
General Council Pres.

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE TO CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From: Chas. W. Janess, Founding President of Chatsworth Historical Society.

The Chatsworth Community Church, built in 1903 located at 10051 Topanga Canyon Blvd. and was a landmark identifying the community for sixty years before it was moved to its present site atop a rocky knoll in the far northern corner of Oakwood Memorial Park.


It was built by volunteer labor and was truly a community church, serving all Protestant denominations as the only northwest Valley church for over fifty years. It was used as a high school soon after construction & was the center of Community life until the 1950's when other churches were built. Social events & youth group meetings, as well as church services, were held in the White frame building. It was saved from destruction on Feb. 12, 1963 when the Cultural Board of the Los Angeles Municipal Arts Dept. declared it Cultural Historical Monument # 14. The Chatsworth Historical Society was formally organized April 17, 1963. Saving the building became the first major project of the new organization. The Management (Mr. Ernest Hunt & Frank C. Enderly) of Oakwood Memorial Park Association allowed the building to be moved to its present site at the request of the Society. The Church is an outstanding example of the Victorian architecture once commonly used in churches throughout the United States and is one of the few remaining buildings of this type in the state. Through the efforts of the people of the Community, it was moved and is being restored, with the Chatsworth Historical Society spearheading the drive. When the restoration is completed it will be used as a Wedding and Funeral Chapel and the Historical Society will maintain a small museum in the monument. The progress has been one of deep faith and it won't be long and we shall see the completion.

We have another Monument # 133 the Minnie Hill Palmer Homestead Cottage also next to and on same grounds is a Museum with artifacts of Chatsworth area. also, 1890 Olive Trees on Lassen St, # 19 Historical Monument. Also, Stoney Point Monument # 132, where the climbers go for outings. We have a wonderful community and it has been a world of excitement to this growth.

From: Senator Ed Davis:

TO OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS - THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP, ENCOURAGEMENT AND FRIENDSHIP. BEST WISHES FOR A TERRIFIC --- AND HISTORIC --- 1981.

ED AND VIRGINIA DAVIS



WE BELIEVE! that Ed Davis is the first Senator from Chatsworth! 347-
Those wishing to challenge this statement may contact your editor - 8569.

Ed Davis was sworn in December 1, 1980 at a very impressive ceremony in Sacramento. Proud members of his family there to see this memorable occasion were: wife, Virginia; his mother-in-law, Mrs. Osborne; daughter, Christine Hart and her husband, David; and his daughter-helper, Mary Ellen.

Letters of encouragement, congratulations and requests may be sent to P. O. Box 1057 Chatsworth, ca. 91311.

"Ed, we are very proud to have you, as our former Honorary Mayor and Chatsworth Citizen be representing this area in our State Capitol. As a family, we have a very special spot in our heart for you, as our former Police Chief, and the principles that you stand for - To protect and to serve and now to help make the laws that will improve our local and state community....It seems that Police Officers run in our family; our son, Jim was given the Medal of Valor on Sept. 10, 1968 - the award given for conspicuous bravery or the performance of an heroic act. He is now retired on disability for injuries received following a motorcycle/auto accident as a motorcycle officer. Our son-in-law, Greg Marks, is also one of our police officers and a resident of Chatsworth -- He has the highest respect and admiration for his former Chief, Ed Davis.

Sincerely, Jim and Celia Woodman "

From: SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION (SSMPA)

Our best wishes to the members of the Chatsworth Historical Society for a happy and productive New Year.

During 1981 the fate of the 1860s Stagecoach Trail will be determined. SSMPA is dedicated to preserving the Trail intact for our children and our children's children. But the land speculators and developers have different ideas.

Although the 178 acre site is on the city, county and federal historical registers, these designations will not stop history from being destroyed by the bulldozers during the next few months.

Gone will be the integrity of the Stagecoach Trail (the only inland route between Los Angeles and San Francisco during the Civil War), the Indian village sites and pictographs, the foundation sites, the still existing cisterns, the rock quarry used for the original Los Angeles Harbor breakwater and the 1800 mission trail El Camino de Santa Susana y Simi.

Earlier this month, representatives of SSMPA and the Northwestern Los Angeles Resource Conservation District testified before the State Park and Recreation Commission urging them to allocate funds immediately from the Prop. 1 Park Bond Act passed last November. Their decision will be made in about two weeks so it is urgent that supportive letters be sent to:

State Park and Recreation Commission
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

With your continuing support, 1981 will be the year we SAVED THE STAGECOACH TRAIL!!!! For more information, contact SSMPA, P.O. Box 831, Chatsworth, CA 91311 or Jan Hinkston 998-7231.

From: The Chatsworth Woman's Club enjoys supporting the many projects the Historical Society promotes. We have chosen the Chatsworth Historical Society Museum as our Community Improvement Project and we were delighted to donate the \$1000 for the dining room set, for the Homestead Cottage. Continue the good work with our continued support.

Mrs. John Nalbandian, Pres.
341-8845

From: FISH of West Valley, a temporary emergency help organization - started in Chatsworth in 1971. Twelve churches are involved in helping us be a channel of love in Jesus' Name. Our # 882-FISH. We work with other organizations and try not to duplicate. We received 1,637 calls this year. 1/3 are call backs about rides, etc. Calls are mainly for food, transportation, emergency shelter or gas, information. This Christmas with help of many, including Angel Trees we assisted 114 families with food and 80 with toys, too. We plan to continue daily and assist the home for battered wives in Canoga. No dues, few meetings. Just newsletter + phone link busy people who will help. We accept donations, you're welcome to join. Call ~~882-FISH~~ or 341-0398 or write 20440 Lassen St. Chatsworth
Louise Curinga - Coordinator

From:

The Chatsworth Historical Society Bicentennial Committee

Greetings to each of you during this Bicentennial Year.

Many exciting events are planned as this important year in the history of the City of Los Angeles continues toward that date of Sept. 4, 1981.

Watch the "Smoke Signal" for timely reminders of the events that will be taking place: Walking Tours, Bus Tours, etc.

Ioline Cleveland
Lila S. Lepler
Co. Chair., Bicentennial Comm.

The Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County have scheduled another of their fascinating MINI-CONS for January 17, 1981. These half-day conferences are held in historically interesting areas of Los Angeles Co. with this one being held at Griffith Park. Edwin Curl, our Host and Historian will talk on "The History of Griffith Park" with a walking tour of the flora and fauna of the area led by Ranger Eckert; a Tram Ride to Travel Town and exploration of the Transportation Museum - concluding at noon with a box lunch.

It will begin at 9:00 with coffee and donuts - meeting to start at 9:30 at the Ranger Station. Registration is \$3.00 and \$4.00 for the box lunch.

Lila Schepler is Secretary of the Assoc. Hist. Societies (of which our Society is a long time member) and can provide transportation for 3 people who need a ride. Or drive down and enjoy.

Reservations by calling Lila Schepler, 341-3447 or Elva Meline (Treas.), 365-7810.

The Buckmeister-Fuller Dome has been officially opened at Pershing Square (4th and Hill, L.A.). It has fascinating pictures of the 200 year history of Los Angeles, a Time Line, Music, T.V. Shorts that play for 5 minutes about a wide variety of subjects in Los Angeles, pictures of all our Mayors, early maps, and much more. It was designed by the architect whose firm name it bears - and built by volunteer labor of our Unions. Well worth the trip to see and hear.

It is expected that volunteers will be on hand to sell souvenirs of the L.A. 200, T-Shirts, books, etc.

From the Headquarters Building at El Pueblo State Historic Park Walking Tours, starting at 11 a.m., 12 noon, 1:00 and 2:00 each day, of the historic area. Includes Avila Adobe, Olivera St., the Cathedral and -opening soon- the Merced Theatre & Pico Hotel, historic Fire House and more.

From this same site (Reservations are a must for this) on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month a bus Tour of 2 hours goes to the Historic Sites of the Downtown Area, Bradbury Bldg., Carrol Avenue Victorian homes, etc. There is no charge but only those with reservations may attend for the Bus Tour. (10-12 a.m.)

The Rotunda at the City Hall is the present site of a roving Exhibition of historic pictures of the history of Los Angeles. They will move from this site to various shopping malls throughout our City. Presently, may be viewed during working hours at the City Hall.

Stop by and see the Time Capsule in front of the Major's Office. It is for our Bicentennial Year and among many, many items placed within which are descriptive of areas of the City are (1.) A rock from Stoney Point, and (2.) A small model of the 1903 Pioneer Church.

NEWS: Proud grandparents, Everett and Ioline Cleveland, announce the birth of their first grandson - Ethan Evan - 12/16/80. An early Christmas present for sister Megan, now 2½.

Cathe Cleveland visited in her parent's home for a few days during Christmas vacation. She is feeling better after her hospital stay and has gone back to her teaching job in Nebraska.....

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Several members of the Chatsworth Historical Society attended the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner on Saturday, Jan. 10th when we saw OUR Bill Schepler receive the Chatsworth Man-of-the-Year Award. And in the same evening OUR Chuck Janess was given an award as Honorary Director and a perpetual Honorary Member of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce. This had been kept secret and was a wonderful surprise to Chuck and to all of us. More about this great night in the Feb. issue, because we are awaiting the pictures from the photographer.

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Louise Curinga is nursing and giving health care to two of her loved ones - she has the constant care of her own mother and is now caring for her mother-in-law, Concetta Curinga, who was hit by a car as she was crossing the street in front of St. Eudes Church on Dec. 9th. She was severely injured with a compression fracture of the 12th thoracic vertebra. She is recovering well, but slowly under the good care of Louise.

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AN ANNOUNCEMENT AND INVITATION FOR NEXT MONTH - Feb. 5, 1981 -----
Members and friends of the Chatsworth Historical Society will celebrate Chinese New Year on Feb. 5th at one of our local Chinese Restaurants. We will celebrate with them in recognition of the Chinese' contribution to the history of Chatsworth as their help in building the railroad and tunnel at the turn of the century. Please come to join us. Call President, Sheelagh Watts at 341-0480 or 341-4489 by Feb. 1st.. ..

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We extend our sympathy to the family of Laurie Dager in the loss of her mother, Mary Elizabeth Sachs, who passed away Jan. 7th. She was lovingly known as "Nana" to all her friends and loved ones. Her funeral was in Oakwood Memorial Park on Monday, Jan. 12th. She will be sadly missed by her daughter, Laurie and son-in-law, Bob, granddaughter, Melody, her husband, John Stevenson - two great-grandchildren, Shawna and Sarah, also Hunt and his wife, Phyllis; Bill, Mike and Tom and her son, Hal Sachs and his children, Brad, Lisa, Brian and Cole.

She has always been very active and was 85 years old on Christmas Day. She was born in Yugoslavia on Dec. 25, 1898. She came with her family, but became separated from them, and was subsequently raised in a convent and later lived with wealthy families, caring for their children. She has always loved children as everyone has loved her. She was a Chatsworth resident for several years before moving to Antelope Valley. When she was here she was very active in the Chatsworth Methodist Church, now our Pioneer Church and continued to be active in civic activities when she moved to the Antelope Valley. She was the charter President of the Quartz Hill Woman's Club and was later made its first Life Member. She loved children, people, and flowers and always made a great impression on everyone. We will miss her.

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CHATSWORTH IS WONDERFUL!

Did you know that in 1881 there were only 5 families in this area (before it was a town) and now there are 50,000 residences?

Did you know that in 1881 there was only one school (Santa Susana School) and now in 1981 there are 3 elem. schools, one Jr. High and three High Schools in addition to many private schools and nursery schools?

Did you know that in 1881 there was only one church, the Community Church and now in 1981 there are 14?

Did you know in 1881 there were 5 businesses and in Jan. 1981, we have 1056? And do you know that Chatsworth is the stereo-electronic Center of the world?

Did you know that on Jan. 4, 1981 - Channel 4, 4 P.M. that we were on TV? "Stoney Point" in Chatsworth was the setting for "Sunday Show" with Kelly Lange and Pat Sajak interviewing Tom Jaeter from the Sierra Club on the importance of saving this site for Bouldering (Boulder Climbing) and other important educational things. Kelly also talked with Arline Bloom, author of "Anna Purna" and her adventures in being one of the two women to reach the summit safely.

Can you believe that there are only two great happenings of the month for this brand new year of 1981? Well, New Year's Day is already past and Pasadena's Rose Parade is history, but the beauty of all the floats and the excitement of all those who participated in the parade in any way will not be forgotten - for all those who were there and the millions of us who viewed it on our T.V. Mothers are glad that the big dinners are over and all the work of the Holidays, while fathers and kids watched the football games.

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY meeting - Tuesday, January 20th at Glendale Fed.

featuring Mr. Miripolsky, consultant for Oriental Art at the museum in Pasadena. He is also an artist in his own right. He will speak on Indonesia and Archipelago. Please come and bring friends, we need to show him.....

"How Great We Art!"

BOOK SALE at TOPANGA PLAZA - Jan. 23, 24, 25.

We need you for selling and gathering books and magazines from your shelves (those you bought last year and have already read) and from your friends and neighbors. (the back seat of my car is already full). This is our second big fund-raiser of the year, IF we have everyone's cooperation. Call Ioline Cleveland - 341-1529 or Lillian Schepler - 341-2010, if you have any questions or can help.....

Another request for your time and service (or you could donate money to have a professional do it for you): Saturday, the day before our Sunday Museum tour, we have a work day to clean our Minnie Palmer House, the museum and the grounds. If you tithe a 10th of your time for that day it would be only 2 hours and 40 min.?

This is a good time to wish Happy Birthday to our January friends: Lila Schepler, Esther Dietrich, Christine Mitchell, Helen Fladwed and to Greg Marks, whose birthday was actually on January 1 - he also holds the honor of being the second baby born in California on January 1st, 1946. We are sorry to have missed a December birthday - Rose Schurter; Congratulations

**My Prayer . . .
... as a New Year Begins .**

Mrs. J. Sulch

O Lord, as on the threshold of another year I stand and turn the pages in my book of golden memories, I thank Thee, Lord, for all the lovely things therein I see, for all the sweet forget-me-nots of yesterday.

The scented woodland paths in memory once again I see where buttercups and primroses and violets smile at me; the lichen and the ivy clinging to the garden wall; and the perfume of the roses - I thank Thee, Lord, for all the wondrous things that life has

for laughter, smiles and gladness, sympathizing tears; for those who share griefs and joys of all the bygone years shadows o'er the sunlit path; for those who stayed awhile; for tender hands of love who made glad that weary mile.

Then when the tale of all my years at last for friends, both new and old, whose is written down, it may be that my neighbor stood the test of years, whose he will be a jewel in my crown; but more than all, I want to hear in gentle tones from Thee, Thy gracious verdict, "Inasmuch - Ye did it unto Me."
And so, when in eternity, on the sea of glass I stand, and I see dear familiar faces round about on every hand, if someone might just come to me and clasp my hand and say, "I'm here because you smiled at me when I faltered by the way."

O with what joy I'll sing that song 'mid music rich and rare: Lord, grant me this I ask of Thee - this is my New Year Prayer.

