

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS for FEBRUARY * 1981

- Feb. 5 - Celebrating Chinese New Year at Royal Dynasty
- Feb. 6 - Freeway Groundbreaking Ceremony at 10:00 A.M.
- Feb. 12 - Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day
- Feb. 16 - Washington's Birthday (observed)
- Feb. 17 - Chatsworth Historical Soc. Meeting at Glendale Fed.7:30
- Feb. 22 - Washington's Birthday

The President's Message

Thanks to Lillian Schepler and her dedicated crew we had a most successful used book sale - three days and evenings at Topanga Plaza. We appreciated the donated books but next year we'll be even more appreciative of a few more people to help staff the booth. A partial list of those who helped - Fern Jack, Ioline and Everett Cleveland, Rayline Rubin, Celia Woodman, Betty Selvidge Lila and Bill Schepler, Betty Summers, Laurie Dager - thanks again.

For our meeting Tuesday we're going to hear all about how the Santa Clarita Historical Society moved the old Southern Pacific Railroad Depot and saved for all to enjoy. Meeting time and place, Tuesday, February 17 at 7:30 p.m.

We're coming up to our birthday month in March and hope you'll share with us any fitting idea you may have for that event because this is L.A's 200th birthday and we should do something special.

Sincerely,

Sheelagh

FINALLY! FINALLY! IT HAS HAPPENED! GROUNDBREAKING For 118!

Mark Watts of Caltrans saw the completion of his plan for completing this freeway at the Groundbreaking Ceremony on February 6th at 10 a.m. A large crowd was there for this memorable occasion. The completion of this 5 mile gap scheduled for early 1982, had been long awaited by residents of Simi and the San Fernando Valley.

County Supervisor Mike Antonovich and Assemblywoman Cathie Wright and Simi Mayor Elton Gallegly headed the list of dignitaries that were there to greet Adriana Gianturco from the Caltrans Headquarters office in Sacramento. There were representatives from Councilman Hal Bernson and Senator Ed Davis' office. Also present, but not participating in the program, were - the Chamber of Commerce Presidents from Chatsworth, Northridge and Granada Hills and the Chatsworth Historical Society President, Sheelagh Watts.

HAVE YOU BEEN WONDERING?

.....what the Chatsworth Historical Society made on the Book Sale at Topanga Plaza on Jan. 23, 24 and 26?\$543.00. We are so happy and proud and Lillian and Ioline want to give a special thanks to all who helped and all who donated. Start saving again - next year we will need more magazines, paper backs and hard back books and MUCH MORE HELP!

HAVE YOU GIVENall news to your Editor? Call: Celia Woodman 347-8569

celebrating the Chinese New Year



.....ON Thursday, February 5th, were 62 members and friends of the Chatsworth Historical Society. The gracious host and hostess were Joseph and Grace Chen from the Royal Dynasty at 21356 Devonshire St. in Chatsworth. Their specialty, Szchuan style Chinese food, was delicious and beautiful Grace gave a historical overview on this, The Year of the Rooster. Each New Year revolves around a twelve year cycle. This is the Chinese New Year 4679. Grace explained the significance of each year and especially emphasized the Year of the Horse (1978). lucky year for business (it has been - they were Best Chinese Restaurant-1980)

Valentine's Day

What does Valentine's Day mean to you?.....
It means Love and Kindness and Remembrance.....
It means Hearts and Flowers and Valentine Cards....
We think of candy and parties and good things to eat.

YOU must stop to see "Betty Summers' Historical Display" of Antique Valentines currently being shown at Glendale Federal. Betty has a very unique and talented artistic manner of showing what ever the theme might be each month. The entire case is lined with red satin and edged with lace. The Valentines are classified by periods. Come to see!

HOBBY CORNER:

Ioline Cleveland will show her Valentine Collection. (Do you have some to share?) Our Hobby Corner is always one of the most interesting parts of our meeting night.

Do you have a hobby that you could bring to share with us? Call Ralene Rubin - 341-4420

February Birthdays:
Betty Summers, Helen Ransom, Dan Clemmer, Charles Choate, Myrtle Johnson, Laurie Dager, and Jim Woodman.

We are sorry to hear of the illness of our Win Holliday. She has been in West Hills Hospital, but is now recuperating at home. She is not strong enough to receive visitors, but it would be nice if we would send her a shower of cards (23226 Smith Road, Chats. Ca. 91311).....

YOU ARE INVITED to the annual Smorgasbord at the United Methodist Church -- 10824 Topanga Canyon. The dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. For information call Eileen Janess - 341-2828 or Beth Ashcraft 349-7356..

HOW COULD IT HAVE HAPPENED to such a nice guy as our Everett Cleveland? He was just minding his own business coming home from work in his camper, when, crash! bang! over went his camper on its side with all his refinished furniture all ready to sell. You guessed it! Someone without insurance or a driver's license, went through a stop sign and totaled the camper (an illegal alien), but fortunately Everett was not injured.



born Dec. 29, 1980 in Henry Mayo Newhall Mem. Hosp. in Valencia. Proud and happy parents are Steve and Sharon Selvidge. Parents are already planning for another in 2 years. Bob and Betty can hardly be contained having a grandson after 5 lovely granddaughters.....

Traveled: Margaret Ruffalo flew to Chicago to see her daughter and family on Dec. 10. Her vacation lasted only 3 weeks, but she had a wonderful time being dined and entertained by the family and other friends and relatives.



WE BELIEVE that the month of January 1981 was the absolute most Historical Month for Chatsworth and the United States of America:

More than a million people viewed the Rose Bowl Parade and many of them stayed for the very exciting football game that followed. One of those brave enough to fight the battle of finding a place view the parade was our Lillian Schepler and can you imagine, she even went alone?

On January 10th 24 members of the Chatsworth Historical Society were guests at the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner, which was held at the Porter Valley Country Club. They were there to honor OUR Bill Schepler for MAN OF THE YEAR. He had been nominated by the Chatsworth Historical Society for this honor. They had come, also, to congratulate Geneva Coulter as WOMAN OF THE YEAR. She had been nominated by the Chatsworth Coordinating Council and is currently their President. But best of all Geneva is our newest member of the Chatsworth Historical Society - we welcome you, Geneva. And the surprise of the Installation Banquet for OUR Chuck Janess was a presentation of a plaque and beautiful name plate signifying his position as Honorary Director of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce.

Members of the CHS present were Bill's mother, Eleanor, and his wife, Lila, Lillian Schepler, Ed and Louise (his daughter) Mitchell, and Elaine Swartz. Other members were; Chuck and Eileen Janess, Virginia Watson, Keith and Sheelagh Watts, Bob Wilkerson, Joe and Barbara Pampalone, Dennis and Helen Moran, Leonard Chenard, Madge Hutchinson, Madge Hutchinson and Celia Woodman. Other close friends present for this memorable occasion with Bill were his school day (Wilshire Crest Elementary School) friend, Richard Edwards and his wife, Kay, from Brentwood; and Dr. and Mrs. Elwood Smith from Canoga Park.



Charles 'Chuck' Janess
Honorary Director

Geneva Coulter
Woman of the Year

William 'Bill' Schepler
Man of the Year

Past President Don Gudín presents Honorary Director Plaque to Past President Chuck Janess as Senator Ed Davis looks on.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was newly elected State Senator Ed Davis, and his dignified wit and humor set the tone for a delightful evening.



Chatsworth Chamber Plaudits To: CHARLES JANESS

OUR Chuck Janess was the first to be recognized as Man of the Year in 1967. The same year OUR Virginia Watson was named the first Woman of the Year for Chatsworth by the Chamber of Commerce.

Chuck's first involvement in community activities was in 1947 when he became Cub Master. He kept this position for 4 years, while becoming actively involved in the Chatsworth Methodist Church (now preserved as our Pioneer Church in Oakwood Memorial Park). In that role, he was Lay Leader for 12 years. He, with Bill Schepler and others, were instrumental in getting this church preserved as a Historical Monument.

He was the first Pres. of the Chats. Historical Soc. He has served 3 terms as Pres. of the Chats. Chamber of Commerce - 1956, 1968 - 1969. He is an active member of the San Fernando REACT Monitor Channel 9 on C.B. This is a great Public Service and Chuck says they need more Monitors. He is currently a Counselor at Oakwood Memorial Park.

MAN OF THE YEAR



Sheelagh Watts (presenting award)
to Bill Schepler - Senator Ed Davis

Bill has been a resident of Chatsworth since 1932 when his family moved to a ranch in the area. Bill describes himself as an "Anchorism that has been around long enough to see a farming community of less than 500 (people) grow to an industrial area of well over 50,000." Bill has had many and varied interests in the civic, cultural recreational and business life in the community. He has been a part of most of the major projects in the community for the past 40 years beginning with his first volunteer job as a young man in 1939 when he worked on the localelection board where he met his lovely wife, Lila.

He went to the California Maritime Academy where he served as Lt. Commander in the Maritime service, serving with distinction in several theatres of action and taught marine engineering at the Catalina Island Maritime base. He later worked as safety engineer for the LA Airport until he retired.

He has spent countless hours providing volunteer programs on local history for schools, civic clubs church and youth groups. He is one of the 3 persons responsible for the audio visual program of the CHS, a collection of over 300 photographs.

He has been an active supporter of the public library.

He is contributing editor of the CHS's publication and writes vignettes of Chats. history through his "Window into the Past" articles. He has represented our society at numerous meetings for the Recreation & Park Commission, Cultural Heritage Board, zoning meetings and hearings, protest hearings, land use, park proposals, Oak Tree Ordinance hearings & many other civic events.

He is responsible for the naming of the Olive Trees on Lassen as historical monuments. If Stoney Pt. becomes a park it will be largely through his efforts.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR



Lillian Schepler (presenting award)
to Geneva Coulter - Senator Ed Davis

Geneva Coulter, named Woman of the Year at the annual Installation Banquet January 10th, received congratulations from her many friends on receiving recognition for her many contributions to the community of Chatsworth.

In the absence of Father John McEnhill, Vice President and Ron Staley, President of Chaminade College Preparatory School, Marge Rudofsky, Chairman of the Committee read letters from them revealing their pride in her receipt of this award, and the pleasure they have had working with her on many projects.

Geneva is currently the president of the Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council, and has been active in various organizations including Chaminade School, the Chatsworth Woman's Club, Chatsworth Junior Baseball League Auxiliary, and Friends of the Library. Geneva is a tireless worker, always seeking to improve her community. Thanks Geneva from the Chamber and the entire community.

cont. Bill Schepler --

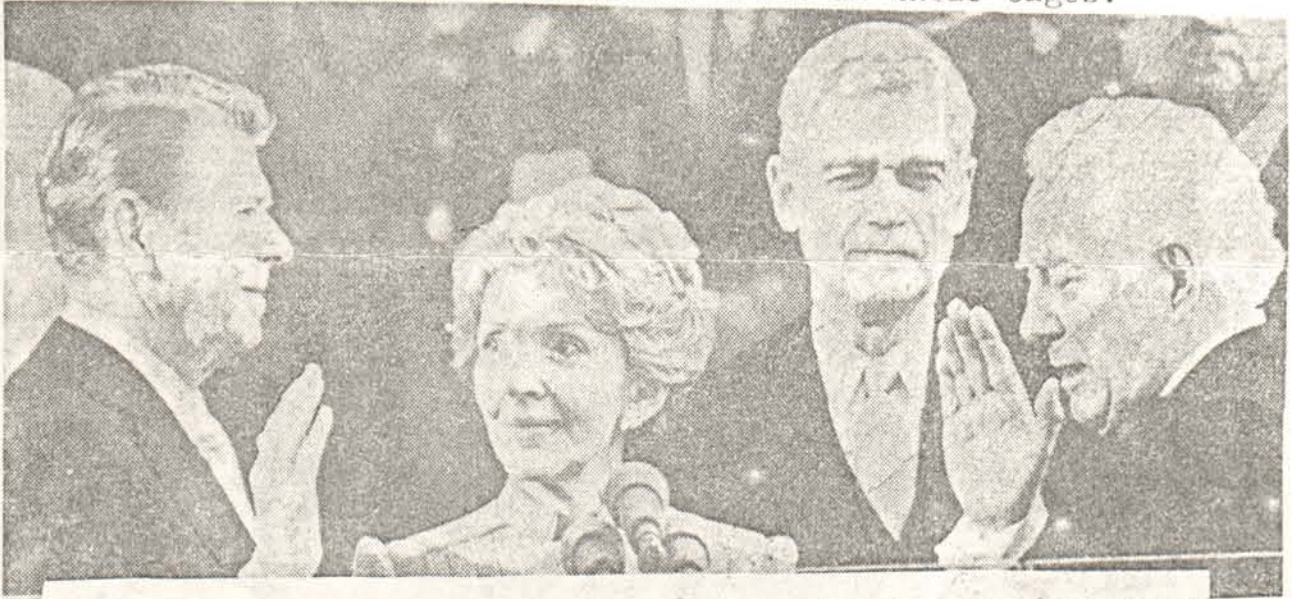
At present he is supervising the building of the Frank Schepler Memorial Library in our museum, in memory of his brother. He would appreciate any good book that you may want to donate - call Bill or Lila 341-3447 or Lillian-341-2010. He and Frank served as chairmen for the relocation of the Pioneer Church now completed and in Oakwood Memorial Park. He received a citation from the City of LA for this work and later a second citation for his volunteer work with HUD.

He is a charter and founding member of the Horseless Carriage Club of Amer., belongs to the Antique Aircraft Club; collects stamps, coins and German World War I edged weapons, postcards of the antique variety and books. He belongs to the "Lighter Than Air Society" and has an outstanding collection of those books as well as on railroad memorabilia, which is why he is in demand for lectures and programs.

Bill has been a member of the Chats. Chamber of Commerce and served on the executive board. He has also been a member of the exec. board of CHS for 17 years and was its first Life member..

He is an important resource person for our Minnie Palmer Homestead Cottage.

Inauguration of President Ronald Reagan; Release of 52 hostages; the Parade; the beautiful Inaugural Ball (which many of us did not see because we were at the Chatsworth Historical Soc. January meeting - it was a very interesting meeting and we were sorry that some of you could not be there, but we did have many new visitors). There were other historical facts. Ronald Reagan is the oldest President to be inaugurated, Jimmy Carter was the youngest President to leave office. It was a beautiful day in Washington - 55 was the warmest for any inauguration (the coldest was in 1873 when U.S. Grant was inaugurated, the band instruments froze and canaries froze in their cages.



Reagan takes oath from Chief Justice Warren Burger; with them, Mrs. Reagan, Sen. Mark Hatfield

WASHINGTON—Ronald Reagan assumed office as the nation's 40th President Tuesday with a passionate call for an "era of national renewal" and a pledge not to compromise on his promises to cut taxes and reduce the size of the federal government.

In his first official act as President, less than an hour after being sworn in, the former California governor signed an order imposing a federal hiring freeze that he said "will eventually lead to a sizable reduction in the federal work force."

"It is time for us to realize that we are too great a nation to limit ourselves to small dreams," declared Reagan, who during the 1980 campaign said President Carter had too limited a view of the nation's potential.

Not Doomed to Decline

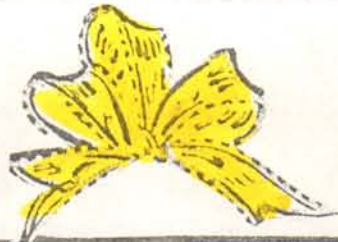
"We're not, as some would have us believe, doomed to an inevitable decline," he said. "I do not believe in a fate that will fall on us no matter what we do. I do believe in a fate that will fall on us if we do nothing. So with all the creative energy at our command, let us begin an era of national renewal."

Inaugurated as the American hostages were being freed in Iran, Reagan also had a warning for international terrorists. He declared that no weapon against them is so formidable as one employed by Americans—"The will and moral courage of free men and women.

"Let that be understood by those who practice terrorism and prey upon their neighbors."

Reagan made no direct reference to the hostages in his forcefully delivered, 19-minute Inaugural Address. But the high drama of their release dominated the conversations of many of the thousands who turned out to watch the inaugural ceremonies and parade under cloudy skies and in almost spring-like weather.

God Bless America!



There were yellow ribbons everywhere - on trees, on banners, worn as corsages and ribbons in the hair! Our Sheelagh, from Nature's Flower Garden made 65 yellow ribbons and Chatsworth Florist Shop made at least 50 - and that is only our little town of Chatsworth. We would like to know how many times and in how many places the song "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree" was played that day.

WASHINGTON—Free at last, the 52 American hostages who endured so much for so long at the hands of taunting Iranian kidnapers traveled with tears and laughter Tuesday night toward a nation that never forgot them during their 444 days of captivity.

The flight to freedom began 33 minutes after Ronald Reagan assumed the presidency from Jimmy Carter, who had devoted his last hours in office to turning national humiliation into what he called "this day of joy and thanksgiving."

First the journey was to Algeria, the North African nation that acted as middleman in negotiating the agreement exchanging frozen Iranian gold and bank deposits for the hostages' release. Then, with holiday dinners of turkey and the trimmings en route, it was on to a U.S. military hospital in Wiesbaden, West Germany, for several days of rest before the 50 men and 2 women—most of them diplomats and military personnel—headed home.

Church Bells and Sirens

And from the beginning of their odyssey, all across a thankful land Americans joined in spontaneous celebration with silent prayers, the pealing of church bells and a cacophony of sirens and honking horns.

"They're Free! They're Free!" flashed a huge sign in New York's Times Square. The torch atop the Statue of Liberty was lit. So was Washington's National Christmas Tree, symbolically dark during two trying holiday seasons.

America's first glimpse of the freed hostages came via satellite television transmissions when they stepped from an Algerian airliner in Algiers eight hours after leaving Tehran amidst shouts of "Down with America" from their militant captors.

There were 52 faces wreathed in smiles in Algiers—and animated talk and laughter—as some flashed "V for Victory" signs. The first two off the plane—political officer Elizabeth Ann Swift and cultural attache Kathryn L. Koob—wore in their hair the yellow ribbons that at home had symbolized a nation's hope for their safe return.

February 1981
Bicentennial Calendar
Noon today: A Bicentennial salute opens Black History Month in Los Angeles, with a fine arts exhibit at City Hall East. Appearances by Mayor Tom Bradley and Councilman Gilbert Lindsay. First Street side of City Hall in Flint Plaza.

