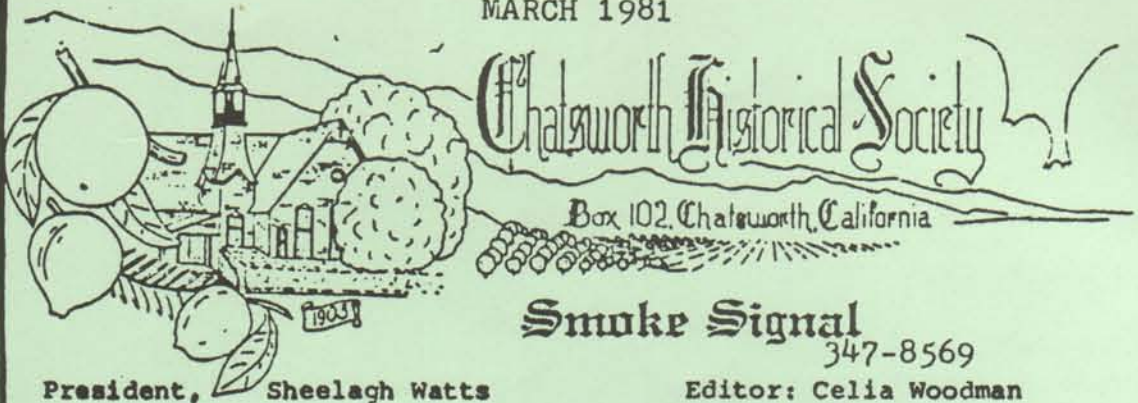


MARCH 1981



**Chatsworth Historical Society**  
 Box 102, Chatsworth, California  
**Smoke Signal** 347-8569  
 President, Sheelagh Watts      Editor: Celia Woodman

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHATSWORTH 1888-1981

You are cordially invited to celebrate with us.....  
 Chatsworth's Ninety Third Birthday - at the regular meeting of  
 the Chatsworth Historical Society - Tuesday - March 17, 7:30 PM  
 Glendale Federal Savings & Loan

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Our Special Speaker will be - Stan Lau from the  
 Chinese Historical Society of Los Angeles

His Subject will be: "Early Chinese in Southern  
 California from 1850 to 1900".....

Bring a friend! Come early (7:30 PM) to enjoy the company of  
 members, friends and neighbors (and hopefully some special guests).

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From Adrienne Gudin, Program Chairman:  
 PLEASE REMEMBER THIS DATE -- Tuesday - April 21st. The Forest  
 Lawn Foundation will present the Birth of Liberty, a beautiful  
 program featuring 25 familiar paintings reproduced in sparkling  
 mosaic at the Court of Liberty. More about it in next Smoke Signal.

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From Lila Schepler.....

## *Bicentennial Calendar*



CELEBRATE    LOS ANGELES BICENTENNIAL    1781 1981

T H E   C H A T S W O R T H   H I S T O R I C A L   S O C I E T Y

P R E S E N T S

A Two-Part Free Lecture Series on Local History

CHATSWORTH:    FIVE DECADES IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY  
 over

Saturday --- 10:00 A.M.

MARCH 14 - THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY  
Early 1900's through the Roaring 20's

LECTURERS

CATHERINE MULHOLLAND

VIRGINIA WATSON

A descendant of the pioneer Haas and Mulholland families, Author, Historian, Playwright

Curator of the Chatsworth History Museum, Historian, Author

MARCH 21 - - REMEMBERING THE DEPRESSION AND WAR YEARS  
Chatsworth meeting the challenges of the 30's and 40's

LECTURER - WILLIAM SCHEPLER

Local Resident for Half a Century, Amateur Historian, Lecturer

PLUS: A SLIDE PRESENTATION of Scenes through the Decades

Directions to - Homestead Acre is located in Chatsworth Park South at the west end of Devonshire Street in Chatsworth. Drive through gate at entrance and turn north. Drive ahead to Museum gates. Parking has been arranged for on the Museum grounds.

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From Ioline Cleveland, Ways and Means Chairman:

It is now time to begin planning for our Annual Rummage Yard Sale which will be held in June at the Cleveland residence - 10347 Jordan Ave.

In case you are not aware, this is our main money making venture. This income pays our light and water bill at Homestead Acre. It is used for our insurance and other regular bills. It is also used for activities that our Society plans or supports.

In view of the importance of this project to our progress, I would like to enlist your help. (editor's note: many of our members believe this is for the 'other guy', but each member has an obligation to help, even if you are out of town - there is something you could do, if it is only a donation - the ones who work, work so hard, but all of us benefit; so please offer to help, even if it is only for two hours. There is work to be done BEFORE, DURING and AFTER- call Ioline 341-1529 before she calls you). Would you please consider the following suggestions?

1. Save any items you might be getting rid of. Deliver them to 10347 Jordan or call 341-1529 for pick-up.

2. Talk to your neighbors or friends about donating their things to the Historical Society. Help by picking them up or calling us.

3. If your church or other organization is having a sale, perhaps they will donate things left over to our sale.

4. If you have a green thumb, you could start some plants to be ready for the sale in June.

5. Save paper bags and clothes hangers to be used the day of the sale.

6. Volunteer to do work ahead of time such as washing dishes, clothes, bedding, etc.

7. The week of the sale we need volunteers for sorting, hanging clothes and marking - plus hauling from storage.

8. The two days of the sale (Sat. and Sun.), we need volunteers to sell, talk to people and answer questions. (there are always people wanting to know more about our Historical Society - we have had some new members from this activity, alone),

9. On Sunday, after the sale, we would like to have a buffet supper for the workers (this could be you!); could you help with this?

10. If you are unable to help physically, we would appreciate your financial support by donation. WE NEED YOUR HELP to keep this event going and to make it a success in any way you can. Call Ioline 341-1529 or Lila 341-3447.

## The President's Message

Dear Friends: My theme for the year is "Let's Make History." Let's do just that and have the biggest turnout ever for a birthday meeting and for the Bicentennial Lecture series. The lecture series starts Saturday, March 14 and the birthday meeting is Tuesday the 17th.

Next in importance is the annual yard sale to be held in June, as usual, at the home of Everett and Ioline Cleveland. Start saving your rejects - everything from A to Z assuring that great fund-raising lady, Ioline, the most successful sale ever.

Let's continue to make history by announcing to the world that the Chatsworth Community Church (historic monument #14) will be available as a wedding chapel starting August, 1981. We already have one wedding booked for January, 1982. It's been a long time coming but we are grateful to the Oakwood Memorial Park Association for their continued assistance.

A little news of the Watts' family - Heather was home with us for a few precious days - here to re-shoot the Ship n/ Shore TV commercial. This brought the rest of the Watts' clan home for visits and we had a great time.

Here's to history!

Sheelagh

# Golden Anniversary

We were happy to see our Roy Rogers and Dale Evans on the Barbara Mandrell & the Mandrell Sisters television show on Sat. Mar. 7th. They have been celebrating their 50th Anniversary in Show Business. They have received hundreds of cards & telegrams and other congratulations and the Chatsworth Historical Society is privileged to have them as a very vital part of our "family". Dale & Roy were our first Honorary Life Members. It was at their home we held our first Historical Society Event before moving our Pioneer Church.

It was with nostalgia that we listened to the song, Happy Trails, that Dale wrote for Roy and they sang again on the program. Their beautiful voices together will always be remembered with their beautiful spirits. Everyone loves them! And Mayor Bradley had even dedicated this day as Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Day. Congratulations and all our love to The King of the Cowboys and The Queen of the West! (Please come to see us soon!) Their most treasured telegram was sent from their friends, Ron and Nancy Reagon!

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Happy March Birthday to:  
Wanda Daugherty, Henry Watson, Virginia Watson,  
Brian Mitchell, Cheryl Quintana, Jane Matthews,  
Henry Berkemeyer, Eleanor Schepler, Marlys Stuckenbruck, Megan Cleveland, Marshall Berman, Bob Dager, Arnold Hanson and Jan Hingston.

Travelers: Lillian Schepler spent 4 days at Parker, Arizona visiting Mr. & Mrs. Milton Zim - friends of 40 years.----  
Kurt and Carolyn Grimm just returned from a week of "beautiful" skiing at Sun Valley.....

## Mendenhall honored by officials

Los Angeles city and county officials Tuesday adjourned their meetings in honor of Ferdinand Mendenhall, Daily News executive, who passed away last Saturday.

Supervisors ordered the lowering of the flag at Patriotic Hall to half staff until after Mendenhall's funeral today at Forest Lawn Glendale.

Board members unanimously adopted the motion by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn as well as an adjourning resolution authored by Board Chairman Edmund D. Edelman calling for adjournment in Mendenhall's memory.

Mendenhall was vice president and director of special events for the Daily News.

Mendenhall, a World War II Navy officer and an active civic leader for more than 30 years, was particularly praised by Hahn for his "interests in all patriotic events."

At City Hall, Councilman Ernani Bernardi also asked the council to adjourn in Mendenhall's memory because of their long and close relationship.

Mr Mendenhall was always very supportive of all our community projects, especially any activities of the Scout programs. We recall that Mr. Mendenhall received the first Eagle Scout award given to a Chatsworth Boy Scout.

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To FERN JACK and family "we, the Chatsworth Historical Society wish to express our sorrow on the loss of your sister, Fannie Gillespie on Valentine's Day."

Fern's sister who lived in Portland, Indiana had been ill for sometime. We are happy to learn that Fern was at her bedside when she passed away. Her son, Bobby, was her only immediate survivor.



# In Memory Of

Frank C. Enderle

June 1908 - February 1981

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21 at the Oakwood Chapel for a very dear friend of the Chatsworth Historical Society, Frank C. Enderle, president of Oakwood Memorial Park Association.

In 1963 when the Historical Society was in its first year and had just been given the little 1903 Pioneer Church (providing it could be moved within 90 days) Mr. Enderle offered the land so the church could be moved into Oakwood Memorial Park. He contributed money to help move the church, and was instrumental in getting many of his friends and associates to contribute money to the project.

Many other times the Enderles gave money in large amounts when we needed it for specific purchases or purposes. Frank also gave generously of his time, knowledge, business advice and friendly words of encouragement.

Before he had the first stroke, Frank Enderle was a familiar sight sitting on his tractor, actually doing some of the physical work toward making the little church's relocation and refurbishment a reality.

After the church was moved into Oakwood, Mr. and Mrs. Enderle responded to the community's request to move the church a quarter turn around so that it would look better sitting at exactly the right spot on the hill, and they paid for the movers to turn it around.

Together Mr. and Mrs. Enderle paid for three quarters of the cost of publishing "A Child's History of Chatsworth," one of the major fund-raising projects of the society.

Frank Enderle was named a Life Member during the country's bicentennial celebration at the rededication of the Pioneer Church, letting him know how much we appreciated what he had done for the society.

Truly a friend of the Chatsworth Historical Society, a man who shared our common dream of saving a bit of the history of our community, Frank Enderle will be sorely missed by all of us.

## OUR MINNIE HAS GONE HOME

At the funeral for Minnie Hill Palmer on March 6, 1981, the minister, The Rev. Gerald Richardson of the Foothill Baptist Church, said, "Minnie A. Palmer has gone home" and told what a joyful person she was. He told of her interest in gardening and how her life, like a pebble tossed into a pool of water, rippled out and touched so many people.

We, of the Chatsworth Historical Society, know that is true. Minnie, with her joyous attitude toward life, touched us all. Everybody knew her and called her by her first name as though she was an old friend. Little children knew her through her interest in baseball, Girl Scouts and the historical society.

People still come by the museum when it is open and tell us how they talked with her when the golf course was adjacent to her property.

Her life began in 1886 when she was born in another house on the land we now call "The Homestead Acre." She was the seventh of eight children and lived most of her life in the home built about 1911 by her brother Lovell Hill, assisted by her father and Willard Johnson.

Minnie's childhood was short, children worked alongside their parents in those days and Minnie helped her parents with the work of the ranch. Her life wasn't easy, the family raised their own food and preserved it and worked hard selling fruits to the men who built the tunnel. They also worked at picking and drying fruit here in the San Fernando Valley and in the Simi Valley.

Minnie married and left home but returned in the 1920's to care for her bedridden mother. After her mother died, the family stayed on. Her husband died and left her with two children, but Minnie managed.

She had the typical pioneer spirit--the ability to face adversity with determination and a smile.

She enjoyed the birthday party we gave for her at the Mountain View Sanitarium last November when she was 94, smiling and enjoying being surrounded by her family and friends.

As the minister said, "Minnie has gone home," but her memory will live on in the work we do at the Homestead Acre.

# # # # # # by Virginia Watson