

April 1981
Days

Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California

Smoke Signal

President: Sheelagh Watts

Editor: Celia Woodman

Dear Friends:

The Bicentennial Lecture Series was an outstanding success - Standing Room Only. My thanks to Lila Schepler and her committee for all the hard work involved in making it so successful.

This message is a direct appeal to all able-bodied members of the Society who can help and should help with this problem. The weeds at the Homestead Acre are growing daily. If we could get five or six men or women with their own lawnmowers on one work day at the acre we could have the weeds banished in about 2 or three hours. Please give serious consideration to this - the only alternative is to hire professional gardeners at great expense. This has already been an expensive month for the Society with insurance premiums of almost \$500. If you CAN help, call me at 341-4489 or 341-0480. If you can't help physically, please donate a few dollars to help with the expenses.

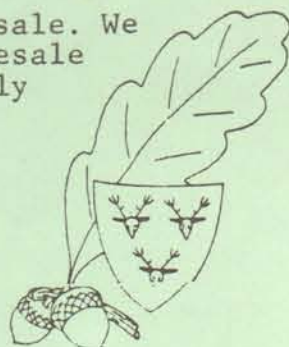
Plan to attend the next meeting of the Society on April 21. Program chairman Adrienne Gudin has arranged for a most interesting speaker, as usual. Last month we had a most interesting speaker from the Chinese Historical Society. This month our speaker is from Forest Lawn.

The lovely addition to our museum, the Frank H. Schepler, Jr., Library, is almost completed. We shall have dedication ceremonies in July - in the meantime, anyone wishing to contribute pertinent books to the library may make plans to do so - call me at one of the above numbers for pick-up.

Last but not least - remember the yard sale. We need your castoffs - anything that has any resale value. Let's make it the best ever and really make history.

Sincerely,

Sheelagh Watts

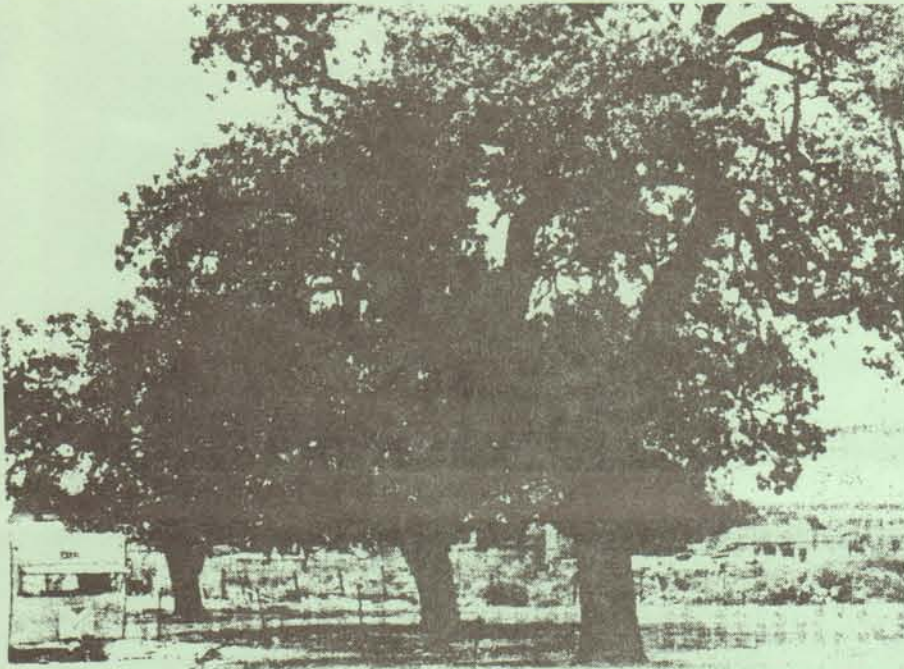


At our next meeting - Tuesday - April 21, 1981 - 7:30 PM Glendale Federal, we have two special events - 1981-'82 Nominating Committee Report and an exciting program from Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale California.

CHATSWORTH -- "The Birth of Liberty" will be presented by noted So. Calif. lecturer Grant Owens.

Owens, a resident of Van Nuys, has been professionally recognized throughout this area as a lecturer, and for accomplishments in dramatic theater, television and motion pictures.

The audio-visual program will highlight the early history of the United States with individual scenes from the panoramic Birth of Liberty Mosaic at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Hollywood Hills. The outdoor mosaic, largest of its kind in North America, was some eight years in the making. It utilizes ten million separate pieces of multi-colored Venetian glass in depicting historical incidents of the United States from the sailing of the Mayflower through the Revolutionary War.



Staff photo by Stephen J. Klenk

Placid

Ranging in age from 200 to 300 years old, these oak trees are located near the intersection of Lassen Street and Topanga Canyon Boulevard in Chatsworth. Land developer or environmental group may decide their future.

DEVELOPER- ENVIRONMENTALISTS

'Save the Oaks' sounds again

By Stephen J. Klenk

The fate of eight great and old Chatsworth oak trees is uncertain after actions by a land developer is said to place their continued existence in jeopardy.

The trees, located on about three and a half acres of land near the intersection of Lassen Street and Topanga Canyon Boulevard, have recently been included in the developer's application to the city of Los Angeles to remove oak trees.

A permit to remove oak trees from parcels of land an acre or larger in the city is required by a city ordinance passed last March.

But in the first of many counter charges, land developer Richard Wax contends the application for permit to remove the trees has never been formally submitted as there is nothing in writing.

"I sent one of my architects down to City Hall to pick up an application they (the city) said they had but when he got there he was told the application couldn't be found," Wax, who also owns a landscape firm in Canoga Park, said.

The city, but more explicitly, the Department of Public Works Street Tree Division, which enforces the oak tree ordinance, disagrees.

"There is no written application for the permit to remove oak trees," said Neil Denering, Street Tree Division superintendent.

"Wax started the application process just by calling to inform us that he intends to remove oak trees and we in turn told him what was expected of him," he said.

What's expected, Denering said, is a plan from Wax showing the new building and the location of each oak tree including the ones he would like to remove.

The Street Tree Division, Denering said, would then meet with Wax to look at the plans and then conduct a study of the trees considered for removal.

"We'll be looking for things like the health of the tree, the size of the tree, if it's in danger of falling, drainage on the property and other factors," Denering said.

But Wax said a specific plan for the property, including a determination as to the number of trees he will request be removed, has not been made.

"We will definitely go with either an industrial complex or a shopping center," Wax said of the property which is currently zoned QMR-1. "I know the community favors a shopping center."

Wax bristles at the suggestion made by some that he is determined to destroy all the oak trees on the property. "Listen, I initiated the oak tree ordinance that is now in existence, so you can bet I don't intend removing all of the trees."

He did, however, say his own tree surgeons have been out to look at the trees and have determined at least five of the trees to be in a state of physical decline.

Physical decline is one of the conditions under which permits to remove oak trees may be granted.

Though Wax's association with the present ordinance and his intention for the oak trees are points of dispute among those closely associated with oak tree protection, his actions clearly worry them.

Until a few weeks ago many of the trees shaded clusters of trailers holding supplies for Bispo Feed, a grain supply company currently a tenant on the property.

"Just look at those places in Encino and Thousand Oaks where oak trees have been left in place; that property is more valuable today with those trees than it would be without them," she said.

But the question of the reasonable development of the property may be made moot by the Historical Monuments clause of the oak tree ordinance.

The Historical Monuments clause states, in essence, that if an oak tree is determined to have historical significance, the city is to "require retention of (the) oak tree at its existing location."

Henry Morris, counselor for the Los Angeles City Attorney's office, said, "the Historical Monument clause takes precedence to the reasonable development section of the ordinance."

Helen Treend, president of the Oak Tree Coalition, said she has established the historical significance of the trees.

"The property is the site of the first Southern Pacific Railroad Station," Treend said, "which was built in 1896. It is also the site of the original Chatsworth Inn, built a year later."

Treend said she will present her case to the Los Angeles Board of Public Works when it holds hearings to determine whether to grant a permit for removal of the oak trees.

Reprint is the courtesy of Stephen J. Klenk & Valley View...

We wish to thank everyone who wrote a letter (or letters) or signed the letters that we sent to all the City Councilmen, regarding our request to make Stoney Point into a City Park.

..... There were many members of our community present at the City Council Committee Meeting on March 30th for the Public Hearing.

It was passed on full council by the Committee Report and the ordinance will be brought into council for final approval on April 29, 1981.

Councilman Hal Bernson took the leadership and there was affirmative action by Joy Picus, Pat Russell, Ernani Bernardi, and Gilbert Lindsey who is Chairman of Parks and Recreation.

..... Some of the representatives that were there were: Bill and Lila Schepler from Chatsworth Historical Society, Nancy Razanski from the Santa Susana Mt. Park Assoc., and Tom Jeter from the Sierra Club, as Chairman of Stoney Point Task Force.

HISTORIC NEWS!!

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.—The space shuttle Columbia, with astronauts John W. Young and Robert L. Crippen aboard, was launched spectacularly Sunday morning on the first of a series of shakedown cruises aimed at establishing it as a major new national resource.

The space plane took off at 7 a.m. EST with a thunderclap of rocket engine noise and rose with a continuing staccato, crackling sound that seemed to slap the ground and caused it to vibrate. There were reports that this earth-shaking noise was felt as far away as Orlando, about 50 miles inland.

As we go to press today, Tuesday - April 14, 1981 the two astronauts have just landed the spaceship Columbia safely at Edwards Air Force Base. There was a large and excited crowd to meet them. One of our neighbors was there. Guy R. Wilson of Northridge, had supervised all electric work at Edwards Air Force Base in 1953-57 in preparation for this historic event.

..... Another excited family was the Schepler family: Ed Schepler, son of Lillian and grandson of Eleanor Schepler has been working at Cape Kennedy for Rocketdyne and was chosen to be on the preferred list attending a banquet where he met the Astronauts. He was also on the bleachers as the space shuttle left on Sunday morning. Of course he called his mother and grandmother and letters were sent to all his family with a stamp just as it went up.

From Lila Schepler, Director of Docents and Chatsworth Bicentennial Chairman:
Our Docents for the past month of March were: Lucille Clements, Bill &
Lila Schepler

month of April: Chuck and Eileen Janess, Tricia
Plucknett, Virginia Watson,
Lila Schepler

Those who will be working the month of May are: Marion Hyland, Lillian
Schepler, Jane Matthews

Will YOU please sign up for June and July at our Meeting? The sheet
will be available at that time for signatures.

Saturday, April 4 at our work party the following was accomplished:

Betty and Jim Summers pulled a huge pile of weeds around the garden in
front and at the side of Minnie Palmers house; also Jim cut the grass
around the house, and around the flowers in the field.

Bill Schepler built the Bulletin Board and made it ready for painting.

Lillian Schepler prepared the entire Library section for painting, and sanded
it.

Lila Schepler cleaned the Museum and Homestead house in preparation for the
open house on Sunday April 5.

THERE will be a WORK PARTY on May 2nd-Saturday- at 10:00A.M. at Homestead
Acre. Please bring hoes, and small garden tools. Also, need one
the house and Museum.

This will prepare the Acre for OPEN HOUSE ON SUNDAY MAY 3.

As a Society we are grateful to the following people who have worked in
the preparation of the Library:

Bill Schepler who drew the plans

Bob Swartz who built it

Everett Cleveland who did the electrical work, as well as lighting for
the storage areas.

Norman Jack who has painted it.

And a myriad of hard workers who donated to the Frank Hanson Schepler, Jr.
Memorial Library.

Lillian Schepler and Sheelagh Watts and Lila Schepler took Youth Groups on
Tour of the Acre this past month. Two large Tours are scheduled for the
month of May already.

Bill and Lila Schepler had a totally delightful experience on April 7. They
were privileged to participate at Chatsworth High School at their "Bicentennial
and International Experience". Lila Spoke briefly on the Bicentennial of L.A.
and Bill showed the slides of old Chatsworth to two assemblies-10:15 and
11:20. to a full house in their multi-purpose room seating several hundreds.
Then- we joined them at lunch. The young people had about 40 booths set up-each
with a different exhibit and food from separate countries of the world all
beautifully decorated and young people in costumes- Europe, Mexico, Islands, U.S.
the Orient.

Representing the Historical Society at this event was a JOY.

We are grateful to Dorothy Johnson Pogue for participating in the Oral
History project. She has been interviewed twice for the tapings, and
has given us dozens of pictures of old Chatsworth, which have been made
into slides by Dr. Lynn Stuckenbruk for our collection. There were 80
pictures the first time- and more being processed at the time we go to
press. Glenna Sanderson, (Dorothy's daughter) also participated. These
folk are descendants of Ann and Neils Johnson, 1867 Pioneer settlers in
what became Chatsworth. Lila and Bill Schepler did the Interviews.

Kate Frost Sheridan also participated in an Interview during this month,
of her memories of this area from the 1920's on.

We received a book "Winnetka's Heritage" written by Carolyn Ryan for our
Library, this month. Donor was Celia Woodman.

Names to be voted on at April meeting as presented by the nominating committee - Virginia Watson, Chairman, Lillian Schepler & Betty Selvidge:

President.....Sheelagh Watts
1st Vice President (Program Chairman).....Lillian Schepler
2nd Vice President (Finance Chairman).....Ioline Cleveland
3rd Vice President (Membership Chairman).....Marion Hyland
4th Vice President (Hospitality Chairman).....Eileen Janess
Recording SecretaryBetty Selvidge
Corresponding Secretary.....Tricia Plucknett
Treasurer.....Lucille Clements
Permanent Board Members:
Curator.....Virginia Watson
Founding President (Honorary Board Member).....Chuck Janess
Director of Docents.....Lila Schepler
Board Member at Large.....Betty Summers
Board Member at Large.....Bill Schepler
Smoke Signal Editor.....Celia Woodman

Appointed Chairmen:

Hobby Chairman.....Ralene Rubin
Display Chairman.....Betty Summers

From Ralene Rubin, Hobby Chairman:

Now is the time! Carmelita Johnson has been promising to show her lovely collection of authentic Indian Jewelry. It will be on display at our April meeting.

Do you have a hobby that you would share? There will be a tear-off at bottom of Smoke Signal (or if you do not want to spoil the Smoke Signal and are keeping it for Historical reference or nostalgia, send a note to Raylene - 10200 De Soto #303 - Chatsworth, Ca. 91311.)

If you are not interested in our progress (and who couldn't be?) if you come for our interesting programs and to see the Hobby Displays, your evening will be well spent AND we always have delicious refreshments - how about the lovely St. Patrick's Day flower arrangements, the green lime punch and the beautifully decorated "Chatsworth Birthday Cake" that was baked and artistically designed by girls from the Home Economics class in Chatsworth High School. A "thank you" was sent for their talents.

We had a very fine crowd and everyone enjoyed the program -- the speaker from the Chinese Historical Society, the Flag Salute by the Boy Scouts, the "Happy Birthday" song by the Brownies and the community song "This is Our Chatsworth Town" - words written by Celia Woodman and arranged by Helen Fladwed. Oriental jewelry and fine pieces of Oriental art were arranged on the Hobby Table.

From Betty Summers, Display Chairman:

We have had a display of Antique and unusual Birthday Cards in Glendale Federal honoring our Birthday Month - Chatsworth's Birthday, Minnie Palmer's Birthday, and other March Birthdays. If you have an idea for something for a special month, please call Betty at 341-2714.....

From Lillian Schepler, Membership Chairman:

Following The Chatsworth Historical Society's "Bicentennial" Events -- March 14 - The Beginning of the 20th Century - Early 1900's through the Roaring-20's on Sat. and March 21 - Sat. -- Remembering the Depression and War Years, we were elated to have had many visitors in addition to our regular members. This, among the many things that we are doing to preserve our community has created a great interest in our progress and activities and we have received these new members:

Life Member: Dr. Robert G. Bleier - 20933 Superior, Chatsworth, Ca.;
General membership: Ruth Ulery - 8901 Eton #53, Canoga Park, Ca.; June Dougherty - 5304 La Forest Dr., La Canada, Ca. 91011; Esther B. Carter - P.O. Box 17 - Chatsworth, Ca.; Dottie Hammond - 20203 Germain, Chatsworth -Tel. 341-7848; Mary Bozeman - 20301 Germain, Chatsworth, Ca.-Tel-341-9351.
Mr. & Mrs. Ed H. Clark (Mardi) 19318 Singing Hills Dr. Northridge, Ca.91326

Happy Birthday to: Ioline Cleveland, Bob Swartz, Larry McCoy, Catherine Mulholland, Marian Hyland, Tom Woodard, Iva Basil and Jeffrey Mitchell. (All the members who have not given me their names please do so! Editor) Just the MONTH of your birthday will be fine.....

NOTE _ NOTE_ NOTE Cont. from Lila Schepler

April 26, Sunday at 1:00 P.M. there will be a Bicentennial Parade in downtown Los Angeles- "200 Years of Transportation". There will be covered wagons, equestrians, Model T's, Vintage cars, bands etc etc. It will take place on Spring St. between 7th and Temple. It is underwritten by the Ford Company.

Don't miss it!

You could then go over to Exposition Park at the Museum to see Tony Duquette's "Flight of Angels" Exhibit. It will only be there a little longer.

Or-
visit the El Pueblo State Park around Olivera St.

Place on your calendar: June 18, 19 and 20th. We will be participating in Annual Meeting of the Conference of Calif. Historical Societies at the Biltmore Hotel in L.A. It is being hosted by the Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County. Both of these organizations we have been members of for many years.

A peek at it- more details next month-

Thursday: registration and Tour of the Beautifully restored Biltmore Hotel. Evenings dinner Theme: LA's Bountiful 20's. John Weaver will speak on "The Yankees are coming". Wear a favorite outfit from the 20's?

Friday" Theme: Western Movie Cowboy- Speaker at Luncheon Dr. Robert Winter "LA the Magnificent" Evenings Theme "Hurray for Hollywood" Costumes from MGM modeled by Culver City Historical Society. Come as your favorite Movie star?

Saturday: Bus Tour- "See LA's Roots" Southwest Museum, Loomis Home, Heritage Square, Lunch in China Town, Avila Adobe, Merced Theatre "Spectrum 200". etc. Evenings Theme "Fiesta Los Angeles"-wear Fiesta clothes? Entertainment: "America-200 years in song and dance"-The Grandland Singers" and Installation of Officers.

Come to ALL or any part of it- enrich your LIFE!

At the Annual Meeting there will be a Fund raising Auction. Will you donate a Book- an Antique- an Art piece or souvenir you brought back from a trip you have taken? Please let your President know immediately if you have a donation.

From Ioline Cleveland, Finance Chairman:

First I want to give a vote of "thanks" to Connie Lovejoy of Lovejoy's Antiques in Chatsworth. She has kindly offered to store all things for the Yard Sale in the barn until we are ready for the sale - in addition, she has donated articles and has done many things to help our special event a grand success!! We do have many wonderful helpers, but we still need more..... Repeat from last month (and maybe for next month): 1) Save any items you might be getting rid of - deliver to 10347 Jordan or call 341-1529 for pick-up. 2) Talk to your neighbors or friends about donating their things to Hist. Soc. Help by picking them up or calling us. 3) If your church or organization is having a sale, perhaps they will donate things left over to our sale. 4) If you have a green thumb, start some some plants. 5) Save paper bags and clothes hangers to be used day of sale. 6) Volunteer to do work ahead of time such as washing dishes, clothes and bedding, etc. 7) The week of sale we need volunteers to sort, hang clothes, mark, etc. 8) The Sat. & Sun. of sale we need volunteers to sell, talk to people and answer questions (we always get new members that way!) 9) On the Sunday afternoon of the sale, Tricia Plucknett has offered her home for a buffet supper for all those who worked. Thank you, Tricia. 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 as great a success as it has always been. Call Ioline, 341-1529-Lila, 341-3447.

Our most recent purchase was a gray granite Home Comfort cooking range for the kitchen in our Minnie Palmer Homestead house.

Norman Jack, son of Gerald and Fern Jack is finishing the painting in the Frank Schepler Jr. Memorial Library -- it is almost finished, then we will be ready to accept more good books....

News: Ed and Esther Dietrich will be visiting Sarita Goodwin for 2 weeks beginning April 15th. We hope to have them as visitors at our next meeting.

Irene Nalbandian, Margo Ahlstrom, and Lillian Schepler attended the Woman's Club Convention on April 8th and 9th at the Holiday Inn - Ventura.

Belated congratulations to Olieta Clark on the birth of her great-grandson, Christopher John Clark on February 12, 1981.

News from Santa Susana Mt. Park Assoc.:

The public is invited to attend the next meeting at Glendale Fed. Savings and Loan - Monday April 20th - 7:30 PM. "California Gold Rush", a color film will be featured, showing the Gold Rush from 1848-1900. This is an excellent film by a professional living in Sylmar. It is used as a resource film in our schools.

We are sorry to hear of the illness of Jeff Burkhart again. Jeff is the son of Jim and Betty Summers. He is hospitalized with endocarditis. Our prayers are with and for you, Jeff.

Jim and Celia Woodman welcome their granddaughter, Shelly Woodman Archuleta and great-grandson, Jesse to live in their home. Shelly has been living in Colorado Springs. Her parents Jim and Lanita and Peter have moved from Sanford, Colorado to Breckenridge, Colo. - too cold for us "old" people, but great for skiing when it snows.



Other Happenings for April 1981



Did you vote in the Primary Election today, April 14th? If not, no complaints.

Good Friday -- Easter -- First Day of Passover.....

Everywhere in spring we see the signs of resurrection! All Christian will celebrate the Resurrection of Christ on April 19th this year and at the same time Passover will begin. Passover is a Jewish feast commemorating the night when God, smiting the first-born of the Egyptians, "passed over" the houses of the children of Israel - the entire festival of 7 days following the paschal supper, during which only unleavened bread is eaten.

Esther Baldwin York says, "The event of the Resurrection brought a new perspective to the vision of man. No longer was he restricted to the little distance of an earthly existence. The horizon melted away, as it were, and he could glimpse beyond the clouds the golden glory of eternal life."

and

Martin Luther has said: "Our Lord has written the promise of the Resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

and

An old Chinese Proverb: "Flowers leave some of their fragrance in the hand that bestows them."

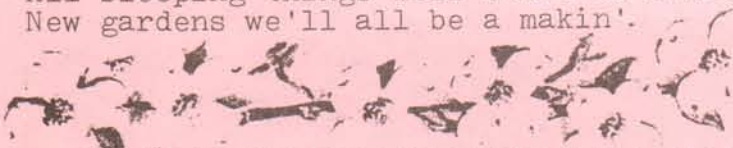
SIGNS OF SPRING by Celia Abbie



We marvel at all the Wonders of each Spring -
New life - new hope - is a very precious thing!
We know the signs of spring will chime
And Easter is a Resurrection time,
For bunnies, birds and bees -
For sun and rain and budding trees.

And over all our earth
We see the joys of rebirth!
Eggs will be hatchin'
Loves will be matchin'
All sleeping things will start to awaken.
New gardens we'll all be a makin'.

Spring is really in the air.
We can see it everywhere,
When we see the flowers that bloom
And hear the birds sing a mating tune.



So let us now take time to live,
Our world has so very much to give -
Our very souls will shine today
For those we help along the way!

.....
Tear-Off

Please return before next Smoke-Signal

- 1) What is your hobby? Would you be willing to show or display at a meeting?
- 2) What subject have we not covered on our program that you would like to see or hear about? Or other suggestions or comments?
- 3) Have you brought a friend or new member?
- 4) Please give Editor the month of your birth (age not required)!
- 5) Do we have your telephone number? Would you be willing to make tel. calls?
- 6) If you do not wish to be a regular member, would you be willing to pay \$5.00 a year to cover the cost of printing and stamps for Smoke-Signal?
- 7) Do you always send me the news of your immediate family - births, marriages, deaths or things of special interest? Celia Woodman - 347-8569