



Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California

Editor: Celia Woodman

DECEMBER 1981

Season's Greetings

Our Festive Holiday Party will be held on Sunday -- December 13th at 2:00 P.M. in the Museum at the Homestead Acre. Please bring friends for this lovely occasion. Members bring a plate of finger sandwiches, cookies or cheeses and dips.....

This will be in place of the regular meeting of the Chatsworth Historical Society and the West Valley Historians combined their November and December meeting on December 1st at the cottage.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- President:
Sheelagh Watts
- 1st Vice President:
Lillian Schepler
- 2nd Vice President:
Iolene Cleveland
- 3rd Vice President:
Marion Hyland
- 4th Vice President:
Eileen Janess
- Recording Secretary:
Betty Selvidge
- Treasurer:
Keith Watts
- Corresponding Secretary:
Tricia Plucknett
- Curator:
Virginia Watson
- Director of Docents:
Lila Schepler
- Honorary Board Member:
Charles Janess
- Assistant Curator:
Betty Summers
- Member at Large:
William Schepler

Oakwood Memorial Park Association has leased out the Pioneer Church to an Anglican congregation. They are already in residence and have made improvements to the interior. They are planning to scrape and paint the exterior. We have retained the right to take tours and hold weddings and funerals but these are in cooperation with the days the congregation is using the church. Please tell friends and relatives that it is available for weddings and funerals. The rent for weddings is \$200 and for funerals \$100. For information call me at 341-4489.

Enjoy the holidays - Hannukkah on December 21st and Christmas the 25th. Welcome in the New Year with the hope for Peace in 1982. I thank all of you who have worked so hard during 1981 to help us accomplish our goals....the most important of course being the completion of the Frank H. Schepler, Jr., Library and as equally of lasting importance the establishment of a docent program under the direction of Lila Schepler - we NEED MORE DOCENTS. Our members were instrumental in the founding of the West Valley Oral History organization which will have long lasting effects for our members.

May God be with you this Holiday Season

Sheelagh



We wish to welcome two new members thanks to our Tricia Plucknett, corresponding secretary and mailing editor. Francene Thomas who is an associate of Tricia's tel. no. 998-8970 - address: 10400 Milwood, Chatsworth & Vee Perez - 341-9883 - address: 21721 Septo, Chatsworth. All three ladies work for Century 21.....

Burrell and Tricia were happy to have the family together during the Thanksgiving Holidays. Their daughter came down from Morrow Bay and Tricia's sister and family traveled from Phoenix.....

We wish a very happy December Birthday to: Luella Clark, Ginny Dill, Richard Quintana, Irene Haåg, Ruby Swan, Mary Hansen, Gene Cleveland and Winifred Maclay Widney. (If any of our members have not given me his birthday - do.)

The Chronicle is now in Chatsworth and our President, Sheelagh Watts is the correspondent for Chatsworth. Below is the write-up about our Minnie Palmer House -- we welcome article from other members of our Society.

By Sheelagh Watts

With completion of the Frank H. Schepler, Jr., Library this year, the Chatsworth Historical Society has completed facilities for research. The library is located in the museum of the Pioneer Acre in Chatsworth Park South at the west end of Devonshire Street. The Acre also is the site of the Minnie Hill Palmer cottage, a Los Angeles historic monument, and the only pioneer cottage in the city preserved for historic reasons. The museum and cottage are open to the public the first Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 p.m., staffed by volunteer docents.

The cottage was built in 1912 by the Hill family, close to the site of the first cottage they had built shortly after homesteading the land in the late 1880's. Minnie Hill Palmer lived in the cottage most of her adult life and raised her family there. A true pioneer, Minnie gardened to provide food for her family and made good use of the various fruit and nut trees on the acre.

About four years ago, she decided she was tired of housekeeping and gardening and at the age of 90, she moved to a senior citizen home. Mrs. Palmer died this year at age 94. Arrangements were made, at her request, for the Historical Society to be trustees of the cottage and acre that are now owned by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks.

All of Mrs. Palmer's belongings were removed and the cottage is now furnished with furnishings purchased by the Society or those donated. The vegetable garden is tended by society members Candy and Dean Craig and the garden now includes herbs as well as vegetable.

Our members and friends will be saddened to learn of the passing of three of our loved ones within one week:

Rubin Ahlstrom, long time resident of Chatsworth past away after being in the hospital only 1½ hours. Cliff, his son, said he just went to sleep. Rubin was 96½ years old and had been living in Fallbrook with his daughter, Betty Simmons for the past few years. He died on Monday November 16th...he is survived by his sons Ed, Art and Cliff and by his daughter Betty and six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.. Ed and Art and families live in Yuba City, Ca. and Cliff and family live in Chatsworth.

Our beloved Rosemary Johnston died on Monday November 23rd after a long illness. Rosie was the youngest of 6 children. Three of them survive her - brother, Garland and sisters, Martha and Helen. Ray and Rosie were married June 9, 1939 and have enjoyed these many years of happiness together especially after Ray's retirement when they made many trips together - some to Mexico where she would take clothing to the poor. Most of her friends will remember her as she worked with the young people in the Community Church, now our Historical Monument (Pioneer Church) in Oakwood Memorial Park. Ray will welcome visits from his friends at their home 22044 Lassen Street. All of her friends and loved ones remember Rosie as the most unselfish and most loving person always thinking of others before herself - we'll miss her!

Bill Symcovits, friend and patient of Celia and Jim Woodman for four years also passed away on Monday - November 23rd. Bill has lived with Jim and Celia since a short time after his wife, Grace died. He was an active member of our Society until his stroke two years ago. Most vivid memory of Bill for the Historical Society was the night of our installation off officers when he dressed as Groucho Marx and no one had to wonder who he was representing - he was so typical, cigar and all! He, also, passed away quietly without suffering even though he was a constant care we will miss him. He is survived by his step-daughter, Irene Lanzendorf and her husband, Bill and by five grandchildren.....

On a happier note we have learned of the marriage of Debbie, daughter of our Iva Basil, to Jim Taylor on November 14th in Las Vegas, Nev. Jeremy is delighted with his new daddy and we are happy for all of them. The nicest wedding gift is the promise of a job at Hughes Aircraft who has just signed a 20-year contract.

Six members of the Chatsworth Historical Society were fortunate enough to get to ride in the fantastic Holiday Parade sponsored by the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce on Sunday December 6th. It was a beautiful day and no one could believe that "little" Chatsworth could have such a grand parade. Of course, we have a great Chamber of Commerce and Chatsworth is no longer "little". The stars of the parade were the Anheuser Busch Clydesdales, but there were so many other stars that they can not be mentioned here. We learned that Lind Feamster had (and keeps) the covered wagon of 1890 that was drawn by her Welsh ponies. We are going to get more of that story. Our Ken Minyard, honorary mayor of Chatsworth was grand marshal and young Adam Rich from "Eight-is-enough" followed as honorary sheriff. There were so many entries, many from out of town. Those from our Society that were fortunate enough to ride in the big green wagon drawn by two famous mules, and owned by Betty and Tim Mylrea from Reseda. Those of us riding on the hay were: Chuck and Eileen Janess, Virginia Watson and Marian Hyland, Celia Woodman and Bill Schepler - all dressed in our Pioneer costumes...It was such a great day! We believe there were 10,000 observers.