



# Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California

January 1982

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Save our regular meeting night, January 19th, for another lovely evening at at Chatsworth's Royal Dynasty Restaurant -- 21356 Devonshire -- 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Stan Lou from the Chinese Historical Society will be our guest speaker. Come to celebrate the Chinese New Year with us by calling for your reservation now. The cost will be \$10.00 per person, which includes everything. Please call Sheelagh Watts -- 341-0480 or 341--4489 for reservations.

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Annual - BOOK SALE \* BOOK SALE \* BOOK SALE Jan. 22, 23, & 24. At Topanga Plaza. We urgently need your books and magazines for our second largest fund-raising event each year. We need help from each one of you. Please give 2 or more hours on one of the above dates. Lillian is working at this time so please call Sheelagh for the hours & day you will work. 341-0480.....

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Friday - 8 AM to 9 PM, Saturday - 9 AM to 6 PM - Sunday - 10 PM/5 PM

From the President:

Sheelagh Watts,  
President

We're ready to tackle another year of preservation of important things - and just now important the Homestead Acre is was proven last Sunday when some 60 people visited during our "first Sunday of the month Open House." The docents were kept busy.

Lillian Schepler,  
1st Vice President

We could use volunteers for several projects coming up in the weeks ahead. We have the used book sale January 22, 23 & 24 at Topanga Plaza. Details are elsewhere in the Smoke Signal but we would appreciate help. We would also appreciate used books and magazines.

Iolene Cleveland,  
2nd Vice President

Marion Hyland,  
3rd Vice President

Before we know it, the June yard sale will be here and this is a reminder to start collecting items for the sale. We do have access to storage so if you hear of anyone having discards, call Iolene Cleveland.

Eileen Janess,  
4th Vice President

BettySelvidge,  
Recording Secretary

We really do need more docents - it takes three to staff the acre on the first Sunday of each month. Lila Schepler trains the docents and I can assure you from first-hand experience that the work is pleasant, educational and rewarding.

Keith Watts,  
Treasurer

Make reservations early for our second annual celebration of the Chinese New Year. We'll be dining at the Royal Dynasty Restaurant on our usual meeting night, January 19 (details elsewhere) - the banquet room is not too large so be sure to call for a reservation soon.

Tricia Plucknett  
Corr. Secretary

Virginia Watson,  
Curator

See you there - Sheelagh.

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Charles Janess,  
Honorary Board Member

Saturday January 16 - Mini-Conference of the Associated Historians of L. A. - starting at 9 AM -- Azusa Pacific University. Any Questions, call Lila Schepler..

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BettySummers,  
Assistant Curator

January 29th - West Valley Historians in association with Urban Archives Project C.S.U.N. will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, 7:30 P.M. in our Museum.

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William Schepler,  
Member at Large

Celia Woodman,  
Editor

Sunday, February 7th - Open House at the Acre will feature a very interesting display -- Old and unusual Valentines and a Patriotic Exhibit. If you have any articles for this display, please call Betty Summers at 341-2714 or Lila Schepler - 341-3447. Don't forget to bring your friends+visitors the first Sunday of every month. We are very proud to show our Museum and Minnie Palmer Homestead House. It has brought new members and supporters and many new friends....

A VERY SPECIAL HAPPENING IN DECEMBER:

In keeping with the history of Peace and Giving at Christmas, the FISH of Chatsworth organization has helped so many people in so many ways that I have asked Louise Curinga to give us a historical overview of the many happenings of this past year. The ANGEL TREES intrigued me the most; these Angel Trees were found in any one of the following places: Chatsworth Library, Chatsworth Camera, Crocker Bank, Trans-world Bank, All-State Savings and Security First Bank - others were, Fredrico of Italy Beauty Shop, De Cut Beauty Shop, Chatsworth Cleaners and the Holy Shepherd Luthern Church.

Any one taking an Angel card would find the name and age of a child for whom they would get a gift and return it to place they found it. On the Friday before Christmas, all packages were given to Joan Archer, who matched them with the food baskets to be given to the families.....  
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by Louise Curinga

FISH of Chatsworth started as a community project in several of the churches in Chatsworth, but is now extended to the West Valley. It is a volunteer temporary emergency answering service in Jesus name. Started in 1971, we work through Cooperative Answering Service here in Chatsworth and received 1320 calls this year. Anyone needing our service may call - 882-FISH.

We had many fund-raising projects and parties during the year in which we received many donations and some new members. I was interviewed by the Valley News in April and a very nice article and a picture appeared. Through it our project was greatly enhanced. At our planning meeting in Feb. our Honorary Mayor, Ken Minyard, was invited, also Mayor Bradley and Councilman Bernson. More interest was created.

In November we received more donations and we were able to help 77 families. The baskets were packed at several participating churches.

The Christmas Season was the most exciting season for FISH..... The following churches are participating members and all were actively in collecting donations of food and money and packing and delivering the food and gifts to 35 needy families.

A surprise gift of \$5000.00 was received through Councilman Bernson from Cal-Neva Cable Corporation in West Covina (the company that has been digging up little trenches in the streets for cable TV). I was also able to procure \$3000.00 in gift certificates from J. C. Penney's \$30.00 for adults and \$20.00--child. The selected families came from the Head Start families from Canoga Park and Reseda, and the Haven Hills Battered Wives and children.

A Big Thank You! to all those from the churches and the Boy Scouts and the Girls Scouts - all in all, we helped 166 families in December. These are the churches that belong: St. Eudes Catholic Church - Chats., Chatsworth Congregational, Chats. United Methodist, Holy Shephard Lutheran of Chats., Kirk of the Valley Reseda, Our Lady of the Valley-Canoga Park, St. James Presbyterian-Encino, Our Lady of the Valley-Canoga Park, St. Marks Presbyterian-Van Nuys, St. Stephens Presbyterian-Chats., St. Johns Methodist-Canoga Park, Seventh-Day Adventist-Canoga Park, Reseda United Methodist and Our Redeemer Luthern-C.P.

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BOOKS RECENTLY DONATED TO THE.....  
FRANK SCHEPLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY.....

Two historical books were donated by Bill and Lila Schepler - one in memory of Rubin Ahlstrom and the other for Rosemary Johnston. The beautiful, historical book, "WE AMERICANS", from the National Geographic Society was purchased by the library committee. We were honored and impressed that it was autographed by Anne D. Kobar, one of the authors.

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IN MEMORIAM:

Tom Pappas, a long time friend of the Chatsworth Historical Society, died just before Christmas. He was the owner of Chatsworth Florist since the late 1960's. Mr. Pappas was Past-President of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce and Chatsworth Rotary Club. He was not a member of the Society but was supportive and his floral designs enriched many events sponsored by our Society.

He will be missed by all of us - our sincere sympathy to his family.....

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We will long remember Helen Ransom who passed away December 17th - we will remember how she would always come to the Chatsworth Historical Soc. with her daughter, Louise Curinga, even after she could no longer see & it was difficult for her to hear. She would have been 91 on Feb. 10th. Some of the members of our Society attended the memorial service for her at the Congregational Church of Chatsworth. It is always sad, to me, to learn at the time of a memorial, all the beautiful and wonderful things about a person that we wish we had known at the time. We know the love and care that our Angel Louise had given to her mother and there were other members of her family who cared for her and were happy to do it because she was so incredibly patient and thoughtful for those who helped in any way. Cont.

# Church Wedding



Our historic pioneer church was the scene of a beautiful wedding on Sunday, January 10 - the first wedding held there since it became a wedding chapel.

The bride, Joyce Kaiser, is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Conrad J. Kaiser, long time residents of Rockpoint. The bride selected burgundy & white as her colors and the altar was decorated with large baskets of white gladiolas with a touch of burgundy.

The bride carried a bouquet of deep red roses, the maid of honor and the bridesmaids wore burgundy dresses and carried long stemmed white roses.

The groom, Robert H. Gold, is from Davis, California and the two met at the university there. The service was non-denominational with 200 people in attendance. The reception was held at the Calabasas Inn. The young left for a honeymoon on Santa Catalina Island.

God must love the old country church  
With its quiet peaceful air;  
Symbol of sturdy devotion  
To God for His love and care.

The slender, graceful, lofty spire  
That seems etched against the sky...  
A guidepost on the road to Heaven  
To each rushing passerby.

*Upon their steadfast loyalty  
They builded the church we know,  
By toil and love and sacrifice  
In those days of long ago.*

*We still feel the benediction  
Of those sturdy souls and true  
Who raised this temple of God's love,  
Building better than they knew.*

## SOCIETY MEMBERS HONORED

At the 68th annual installation of officers banquet of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce, two members of the Chatsworth Historical Society were honored. Virginia Watson was named Woman of the Year and Everett Cleveland was named Man of the Year.

Virginia's contributions to the community of Chatsworth date back to the early 1950's and include working through many community organizations - the 4-H Club, Girl Scouts, PTA's of at least two schools; membership in St. Martin-in-the-Field Episcopal Church and many more. For the Chatsworth Historical Society, her many contributions are almost too lengthy to list. She was the very first secretary, she wrote the book, "A Child's History of Chatsworth," and allows the proceeds to remain with the Society; she was historiographer for many years and is now curator; she has handled publicity for the Society since its founding. She is the mainstay of the Chatsworth Historical Society.

Everett was selected because of his contributions to the community and the Society - for always being there whenever needed to handle such diverse chores as storage, haulage and selling of donated items; for helping set up the annual used book sale, working there and then carrying all of the books back to Chatsworth. For having allowed the Society the use of his home and yard each June for our major fund-raiser, the yard sale. For doing electrical work and repair work, refinishing furniture and in general, always being there when needed. Without Everett, our fund raising efforts would be dismal.

## Ransom - cont. from p.2

A beautiful memorial was given by her granddaughter, Virginia Curinga. There were so many things we would like to recall, but amongst all of these were threaded her love for family, church and community. She was born and raised her family in Upstate New York. She can trace her family back to the Mayflower as a descendent of John Alden and Priscella. Helen's pictures, when a girl, show her to be elegant and graceful with beautiful auburn red hair. Her uncle & grandfather were ministers, the beginning of her deep faith in God.

She became a teacher at 18, but changed her vocation to a nurse & receptionist for her new husband, a doctor. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was an active Republican and was involved in 2 bridge clubs and the Historical Club and until her last illness would always accompany Louise to deliver food for FISH. She has lived with Louise and her husband 9 years.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:  
Luella Clark, Ginny Dill, Irene Haag,  
Ruby Swan, Mary Hanson, Gene Cleveland  
and Winifred Maclay Widney.....