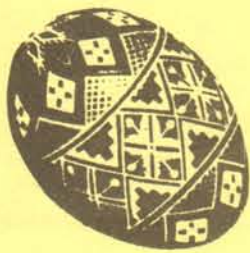


**Chatsworth Historical Society**  
 Box 102, Chatsworth, California  
**Smoke Signal**

Celia Woodman - Editor 347-8569

Sheelagh Watts - President \*\* 341-0480 or 341-4489

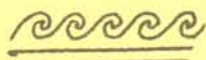
*April 1982*



Don't you always wonder what is coming next? What news of historical interest, what pictures, what progress, what new program and how are the new members - do you want to meet old & new friends?

This is the place: Chatsworth Historical Society at  
 Glendale Federal-21821 Devonshire.  
 This is the day & time: Tues. April 20 \* 7:30 P.M.

Our Program Chairman, Lillian Schepler, as always, has arranged for an exceptionally exciting program that will interest all of us..... FRED THOMAS, President of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce will be our guest speaker. His subject will be: THE CHATSWORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE. What historical memories he will have for us, as he reviews this most active organization - the oldest organization in Chatsworth and the hub of the most small businesses of any community as well as an interest in private and public activities! Bring friends....



President's message -

I look forward to seeing many of you at the April 20 meeting. That evening we will hold election of officers. Come & make your vote count.

I have enjoyed being president of such a good group of people. When I go out of office in May I will have the pleasure of knowing that this was the most pleasant task I have ever had - being President of the Chatsworth Historical Society. I have never been turned down on a request for help.

We have come a long way in the past nineteen years - our membership has grown and the quality has remained the same - excellent.

Do come to the meeting -

Sincerely,

Sheelagh



From **catherine mulholland**, Chairman of West Valley Historians:  
 There was no meeting of the West Valley Historians in March. Instead plans have been made for quarterly meetings instead of monthly meetings. The next one will be Tuesday, April 27, 1982, at the Homestead Acre in Chats. at 7:30 P.M. We still need more volunteers for our work, so if you, or anyone you know, would be interested, please come to the meeting or call her (Catherine) at 998-7972. We have the expertise of gathering historical data about our Valley and putting it on tape for further research..

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Congratulations are in order for APRIL BIRTHDAYS: Ioline Cleveland, Bob Swartz, Catherine Mulholland, Larry McCoy, Marian Hyland, Tom Woodard and Iva Basil.....

Report from nominating committee held at the home of Chuck & Eileen Janess - March 2, 1982.....  
Chairman - Chuck Janess  
Committee members - Lila Schepler and Virginia Watson

.....  
The names chosen will be voted on at the next meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted if person has been notified.

President - Ioline Cleveland  
1st V.P. - Laurie Dager (Program)  
2nd V.P. Lillian Schepler (financial)  
3rd V.P. Marian Hyland (membership)  
4th V.P. Eileen Janess (hospitality)  
Treasurer - Chuck Janess  
Recording Sec.-Sheelagh Watts  
Corresponding Sec. Tricia Plucknett  
Member-at-Large - Bill Schepler  
Member-at-Large - Betty Summers  
Smoke Signal Editor - Celia Woodman

Board members that do not need to be voted on are: Immediate past president - Sheelagh Watts  
Honorary Bd. Member - Chuck Janess  
Director of Docents-Lila Schepler  
Curator - Virginia Watson (Betty Summers serves as assistant curator & Bd. member-at-large)

\*\*\*\*

Welcome to our new members!  
Mr. and Mrs. James Nicholson  
16757 McKeever - Granada Hills  
91344 Te. 368-9775  
Sandra J. (Jody) Schroeder -  
7646 Milwood, Canoga Park 91304  
Pauline Aue - 11417 Cree Trail -  
Tel. 341-5872 *Chats 9/3/1*

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News:

.....and the rain waited!  
Many members and friends attended the Sunrise Service on Easter morning that was sponsored by 3 of our Chatsworth churches - St. Mary's Angelica Church, the Chatsworth United Methodist Church and the Church of the Nazarene. The lovely and inspirational Services were held on the Pioneer Church grounds in Oakwood Memorial Park. The ministers participating were; Father Noel Stipkovich from St. Mary's - Rev. Rex Wignall from Chats. U.M. and Rev. Bryan Cuthill from Nazarene. Even though there was no sunshine, the feeling was the same. More people were present than last year and the sponsoring groups are hopeful that this service will be on-going on this lovely site. Breakfast refreshments were served inside the church following the Service. Special recognition and Thanks to be given to Henry Mendoza for staying up most of the night guarding the Church as there had been more recent vandalism.

Mr. and Mrs. James Woodman were delighted by a visit from their son Jimmy, daughter-in-law, Lanita, and grandson, Peter, from Breckenridge, Colorado during the Spring vacation. One could not tell who was the most excited and happy - Shelly, their daughter, who lives with grandma and grandpa Woodman with two sons, Jesse 2½ and Joshua 9 mo. (to see her parents and brother, Peter) or the parents and Peter to see them and all of us, including his sister and our daughter, Jeanne Marks and her family. Yes. Jimmy lives in the ski country where the recent snows often came above the window sills and it was a cool 38° below zero while some of us were still swimming in our pools. But they invite you skiers to stop by.

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Have you visited Glendale Federal to see the egg collection set up for the month of April by our display Chairman, Betty Summers? If not, please do. Do you have a collection that would be of interest to those

visiting or doing business at Glendale Federal? If so, please contact Betty at 341-2714 evenings.

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We still have a few of our lovely Chatsworth Historical Calendars for a donation of \$3.00. Have you given them to all your friends who are interested in our town, Chatsworth? You can get them from any member or at our regular meeting each 3rd Tues. or at the Museum and Minnie Palmer House on the FIRST SUNDAY of each month from 1-4 as we have Open House with real live docents! (by the way, we need more interested docents - please call Lila Schepler 341-3447

\*\*\*\*

\*\* WHAT DO THESE NAMES MEAN TO YOU

DEAN of your school stern and cross?  
CANDY eggs and everything sweet?  
CRAIG where have I heard it before?  
NO!  
Dean kills all our weeds  
and cuts down the grass.  
Candy, though sweet, as Head Gardener  
can't be beat!  
Craig is their family name - the name  
We think of as caretakers of our  
flowers and trees.  
They care for them all, one & the same.  
Come!, walk through our gardens here.  
Minnie is smiling, we know she is,  
As she looks down from her  
Heavenly Home  
To see how they've kept her garden  
So fair!

Celia Abbie



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHATSWORTH!

A copy of the speech made by Virginia Watson for the 94th Birthday celebration on March 17, 1982.

Tonight Chatsworth is celebrating its 94th birthday--not exactly on the date, but close to it. We have chosen to celebrate as close to the actual date as is practical.

March 10, 1888 the first subdivision map of a city called Chatsworth Park was filed with the Los Angeles County Recorder's office. The land had been surveyed in 1887 by Charles T. Healey and William F. Sweeney. The city was laid-out in 10-acre plots in family farms that were the way of life in the 1880's.

The first community did not prosper due to bad weather conditions (floods ruined the Valley's wheat crops) and the boom of the eighties became a bust.

However in 1893 another map of a "Plat of Chatsworth Park Townsite" was filed in the Los Angeles County Recorder's office. This time it was W. B. Barber, president of the San Fernando Valley Improvement Company, who filed the map.

The area was named for the Duke of Devonshire's palatial estate "Chatsworth" in England which has a large park around it.

This time the community grew and prospered slowly. A county school was started in 1880. The first postmaster was appointed in 1890 and in 1893 the railroad came as far as Chatsworth and the first station built.

The stage coach still carried people over the hill to Simi Valley until the tunnel was completed in 1904.

By the 1900 census Chatsworth Park had 23 people listed as residents and boasted a Post Office, a General Store, the Southern Pacific Railroad Station WITH a telegraph office--big city stuff in those days.

In 1914 the first Chamber of Commerce was formed.

In 1915 the people of Chatsworth Park (by now called just Chatsworth by most people and listed both ways in the railroad timetable) voted to become a part of the greater city of Los Angeles in order to get water from the Owens River.

Chatsworth suffered through World War I with a home guard and in the 20's the movie industry discovered Chatsworth and made many movies in the area. Chatsworth also had an airfield in the 20's; Oakwood Memorial Park was started; and Docia Conley's Tea Room drew people from the Los Angeles area.

The Great Depression slowed Chatsworth's growth and the 1933 earthquake damaged the 1917-built school building so much it had to be torn down and the children went to school in tents on the grounds.

World War II found American Soldiers camped in Chatsworth guarding the tunnels. German prisoners of war picked the oranges from the local orchards.

After World War II, Chatsworth mushroomed and by the 50's Chatsworth had over 4000 people, but was still largely agricultural. Until the late 50's Chatsworth had only one community church. With the larger population new churches were built.

The 60's brought big growth. Large industry came beginning in the late 50's and continuing into the 70's. The area got its first high school building in the 60's and new elementary schools were built as well as more churches.

In 1963 the Chatsworth Historical Society was formed to save the little 1903 Pioneer Church, and in 1965 it was moved to Oakwood Memorial Park.

The 70's were marked by fire, flood and earthquake. Many homes were lost (official count 125 homes) in a destructive fire that jumped over the hills from Newhall and swept through the area in September 1970, followed by flooding in the winter season and on Feb. 9, 1971, a severe earthquake hit the San Fernando Valley. The first reports said the epicenter was Chatsworth, and it felt like it was, but later reports proved it was centered in Sylmar.

The 70's also brought to the Chatsworth Historical Society the acquisition of the Homestead Acre, with the naming of the Hill-Palmer House to the National Register of Historic Places and the arrangement with Minnie Hill Palmer and the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks.

The 80's have seen the growth of the museum and the cottage on the Homestead Acre as a tourist attraction, and the opening of the Frank Schepler, Jr., Memorial Library.

The late 70's saw many new housing developments completed, lots of new condos, new banks and commercial development. The 70's also saw the last of the large orange groves.

The 80's have started out on a low-key with a diminished economy, smaller housing growth, but much industrial and commercial growth and lots more industrial growth anticipated.

The Chatsworth community was once an Indian Village, later an important part of the mail route and stage coach line between Los Angeles and San Francisco, a railroad stop, an important part of the space program through the Santa Susana site of Rocketdyne, an industrial area and still as the Indians found it to be--a nice place to live!

A community with a colorful past and a great future.  
"Happy Birthday Chatsworth!"