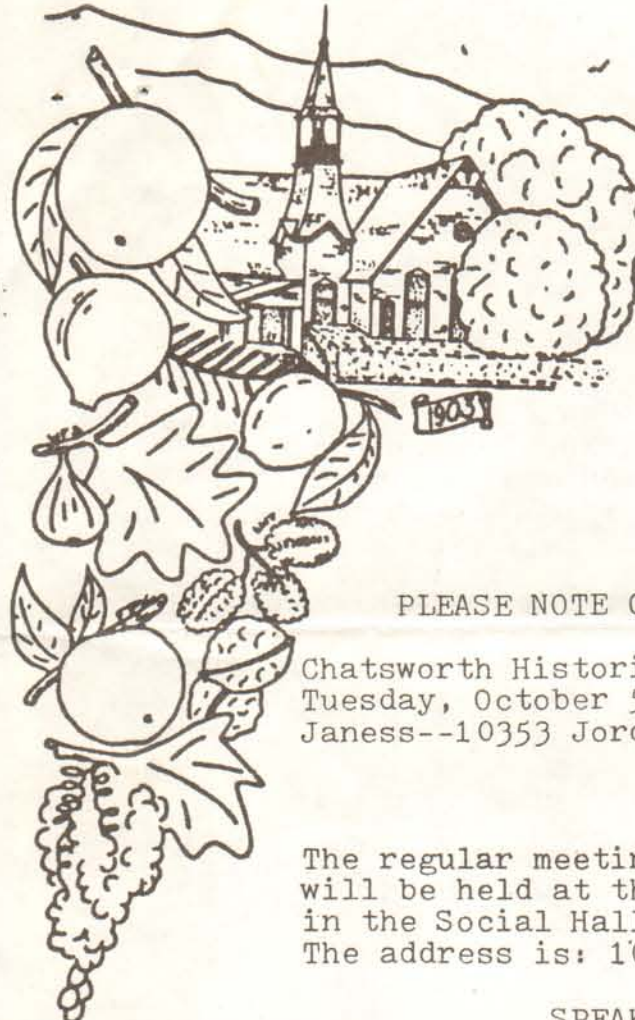


Oct 1982



Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California 91311

Smoke Signal

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF PLACES AND DATES!!!!!!!

Chatsworth Historical Society Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 5th at the home of Chuck and Eileen Janess--10353 Jordan, Chatsworth at 7:30 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Chatsworth Historical Soc. will be held at the Chatsworth United Methodist Church in the Social Hall on----Tuesday - OCTOBER 12 - 7:30 PM The address is: 10824 Topanga Canyon Blvd. Chatsworth.

SPEAK to old friends and new!
SEE you at the Church!

HEAR our informative speaker!

TASTE our delicious refreshments!

- PRESIDENT
Ioline Cleveland
- 1st. V.P. (PROGRAM)
Laurie Dager
- 2nd V.P. (FINANCIAL)
Lillian Schepler
- 3rd V.P. (MEMBERSHIP)
Marian Hyland
- 4th V.P. (HOSPITALITY)
Eileen Janess

We will be honored by having Dr. Leonard Pitt speak to us. He is the Director of the Urban Archives Project at California State University, Northridge. Our West Valley Oral History group has heard him speak on this most interesting project. You will not want to miss it! Please invite your friends. Bring a new member.....

- TREASURER
Chuck Janess
- RECORDING SECRETARY
Sheelagh Watts
- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY)
Tricia Plucknett
- MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Bill Schepler
- MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Betty Summers

The time and place have not been set for the meeting of the West Valley Oral Historians in October, you will be notified. We are anxious to have more members who are interested in learning about and taking oral histories. If someone you know is interested, please contact your editor, Celia Woodman - 347-8569 or Catherine Mulholland - 998-7972.....

A Letter from your President:

We had such a good first meeting in September for which I thank the many people who served on various committees. I hope all our meetings will be just as exciting.

- SMOKE SIGNAL EDITOR
Celia Woodman-347-8569

Seeing old teachers and principals, students and friends was so much fun and our speakers: Catherine Mulholland and Virginia Ditto were outstanding.

- CHAIRMEN OF GROUND COMM.
Candy and Dean Craig
- CHAIRMAN OF DOCENTS
Lila Schepler

I will be looking forward to seeing you at the October meeting.

*Sincerely,
Ioline Cleveland*

The Pioneer Church is located in Oakwood Memorial Park - 22601 Lassen Our Museum and Minnie-Hill Palmer House are on the Homestead Acre --- 10385 Shadow Oak Drive (Chatsworth Park South) in Chatsworth.....

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Glendale Federal Savings & Loan Association -- 21821 Devonshire St. Chatsworth

	DUES	
\$10.00	Per person per year	
\$15.00	Dual membership	
\$ 1.00	Students	
\$100.00	Life Membership	
\$100.00	Organizational	

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING WITH THE CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY?

There has been cleaning and weeding; painting and building a bridge at our Homestead Acre.

Ben Weiner from Scout Troop #226 is working toward his Eagle Scout Award. Saturday August 21st, Ben, his father Terry and brother Stevie and other boys from his scout troop with some fathers and under the guidance of Dean and Candy Craig, removed the weeds and trash and moved bushes in preparation for building the bridge over the ditch to replace the slab of rotted wood that was unsightly and unsafe. Now the mower can go over the bridge - a beautiful and sturdy Redwood Bridge, designed and constructed by Ben and Dean with the help of others. It has not been painted or varnished so it will soon take on the appearance of a rustic bridge. Dean coordinated the work program with two-by-two, and "the cooperation was terrific," they said. Others in the troop that helped were: David Burnison, Bobby Hayes and his father, Robert; Oliver Thorpe, Brian Oliver and Jeff, Tom and Dan Weinstein; Doug. Brandt and his father, Don - Ronald Cohen - Steve Sheveland and his father, Bob (Scout Master) and his brother, Rob and David Hirsh.

While the older boys and fathers built the bridge the younger ones sanded the window sills and the doors in the museum and Candy painted them.

Candy said it was a beautiful cloudy and rainy morning to work, but in the afternoon the temperature rose to 109°.

Many members of our Historical Society had boys in Scout Troop #26, still active and sponsored by the United Methodist Church and at that time Chuck Janess was Cub Scout Leader in Cub Scout Pack #226. This Scout Troop #226 was chartered June 1966. This Scout Troop is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Chatsworth. Ben is an 8th grade student at Sepulveda Jr. High, his home is in Northridge and his troupe meets in Germaine St. School in Chats.

NOW ABOUT OUR ROSE GARDEN:

Approval has been given by the Board for a permanent Rose Garden - 12'x40' - just after you cross the new bridge. Candy is so excited (and so are we)! Some of the roses were dug up and moved to the area by the boys on their work day and a very rare rose was discovered (maybe two) - it is a Roy Rogers Rose, beautiful dark red in the center and almost black on the other side of the petals. Eight others that Minnie had planted have been saved. All these have a beautiful fragrance. The Huntington Library and Gardens have donated 50 old Hybrid Tea Roses and 50 polyanthas (1880 to 1940) to us. When the Rose Garden is finished we will be exclusive - only the Huntington will be better. Any time you feel you want to "dig in the dirt" or change your exercise routine to gardening instead of jogging - Dean and Candy can use you. Just call: 341-4461

OUR PROGRAMS GET BETTER AND BETTER - The September meeting at Chatsworth Park Elementary School was given by Catherine Mulholland and Virginia Ditto. Much information was given about the first school in Chatsworth named, "Santa Susana", followed by other schools being built and torn down. The historical data was highlighted by humorous stories regarding their childhood days. Virginia gives her sister, Bonnie Jean, and her class credit for being the "worst and most unruly" class at the time, but she could do the best cart-wheels of anyone in the ballet class. Then, they recalled Marlena Dietrich's daughter in the class and Marlena came to the dance program in black pants! -----the best entertainment at the time was going to the Boy Scout Dances. In 1915 there was no flood control -- when it rained there was no school... In 1915 the first large school was built - it had 8 rooms and Corinthian pillars! 1915 was a memorable year - Reseda was called "Marion" and Canoga Park was "Owensmouth" - in March, the Red cars started to run and in that same year the Valley voted to become a part of Los Angeles (so we could have water, too). Van Nuys High School had its first graduating class (only two), but it had 172 automobiles, whereas Chatsworth had 20 and Calabasas, where Catherine lived, had only 16. The highlights of history were - 1) - a total eclipse, 2) - it snowed, 3) - an earthquake.

We were delighted with the number of former principals, teachers and other faculty members that came, who have retired or have been moved to another school: Margaret Sears, Beverly Baba, Annette Carnahan and Audrey Graves; also Dr. Stan Hirsh. Donna Teno, Sharon Lovette, Gene Schmidt, John Petrich, Ellie Babbe, Margaret Evans, Jackie Cotton and Celia Woodman RN.

Chatsworth Park School has a present enrollment of 430. Dora Golden is the principal with 14 teachers:(most of them are members of our Chatsworth Historical Society) - Virginia Chipperfield, Janice Hinkston, Bettie Hughes, Ellen Kameya, Gerry Notman - then our Ioline Cleveland (President), Beverly Manesse, Sandra Johnson, Marlys Stuckenbruck, Lucy Riddle, Mary Talanay, Phyllis Greene, Bonnie Koblentz and Don Miller with Lois Kidder, Office Mgr. presiding over! Without her no one could get their work done. It was a delightful evening with the Chats, PTA serving the delicious refreshments.



from wonderful winsome Winifred:

Your editor received a lovely letter from Mary Opray Peterson, a niece of our Winifred Widney. Our Winifred has been very ill and is extremely weak, but she wants us to know that she thinks of us often and is always happy to receive the Smoke Signal. She also wishes to thank us for the Get-Well card that we signed at the installation dinner and sent to her.

They have accomplished one thing since she went to live with her niece in Oregon - they have put together a selection of her poems, written at various times in her life. They have now been put into book form and she is sending an autographed volume for the Frank Schepler Memorial Library. I have ordered a book for myself and as long as she has the strength to autograph one she will have one for you. I don't know the cost as yet, but if you will contact me I will have the information at that time. Winifred is now 87 years old. We have many nostalgic memories of her stories of earlier life in the historic Widney family. She still loves to hear from her friends so please write, but do not expect to receive her reply, as she is too ill.

Our sincere congratulations to Dean and Candy Craig, the excited and ecstatic grandparents of their new grandson (their first)--Timothy Kellogg Craig, born September 29th. His parents are Matthew and Lisa Craig who live in Canyon Country - so grandparents can see them often.

Other happy grandparents are Ed and Esther Dietrich. Sara Catherine Hedderly-Smith was born on August 5, 1982. Her parents are delighted with their first child, who is a beautiful little girl. Her parents, Bruce and Carol live on Bainbridge Island in lovely Washington. Carol is Ed's daughter.

Have some of you been wondering? -- why you did not receive the Sept. Issue of the Smoke Signal? Tricia Plucknett, our mailing editor had not finished addressing all of them (Labor Day) when she slipped and fell on her kitchen floor and broke her left shoulder. She has suffered a great deal of pain which has kept her somewhat mobile for our usually active Tricia. Please let Tricia or me know if you did not receive your Smoke Signal and we will send it to you. Tricia - 341-2008 Celia - 347-8569

Oh - Those Golden Years! Gerald and Fern Jack - Oct.9, 1932-Oct.9, 1982 Gerald and Fern will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Oct. 8th at their lovely home. Their three sons, Norman, Neil and Robert will host the party for their parents. We wish them the very happiest and many more.

It was surely planned by the God above
To unite you two with a special love
And to endow you with boys so dear --
Sons to depend on year after year.
Each with a talent unique--
Each has his own way to speak--
These sons of Gerald and Fern.
Proud moments, each has his turn
Doing what he can do best,
With that, the whole family is Blest.
Celia Abbie

Here is a good place to bestow October Birthday Congratulations: Delia Enderle, Doris Dossler, Win Holliday, Mildred Goff, Polly Vickers, Cathe Cleveland, Sheelagh Watts, Lucille Clements, Margaret Ruffalo, Lillian Schepler, Louise Curinga, Myrtle Bradley and Dr. Don Ferris... Did I miss anyone?....

Marian Hyland wishes to thank each of you for sending your annual dues so promptly -- she has almost 100%. If you have forgotten or have been on vacation it is not too late to send it in (in fact, it is never too late, but if you neglect to send it in you may miss a Smoke Signal!)

Grandparents, Henry and Virginia Watson were joyful over the event of their baby granddaughter's christening at our Pioneer Church in Oakwood Mem. Park on Sunday - September 26th. Baby Crystal Elizabeth Dailey's parents are Jeff and Kelley. 25 relatives and friends including great grandmother, Violet Wilson were also there and at the reception following at Dailey's home.

Clifford Swartz, Lila's brother, flew in from San Antonio, Texas for the 50th year following graduation from Canoga Park High School. The Golden Anniversary Party was held at the Knollwood Country Club for all those who graduated in the 30s - October 2, 1982. Those from CHS were Bill and Lila Schepler, Margo and Cliff Ahlstrom and Louis and Peggy Beltramo -- we are happy to report that Peggy (a Life Member) is recovering nicely after her long illness. We wish her well!

REGARDING WORLD AND OTHER TRAVELERS:

Editor Celia Woodman and husband, Jim, have recently returned from a delightful vacation visiting relatives, friends and "moved away" members of the Chatsworth Historical Society.

The initial stop was for the wedding of Jim's nephew, Steven Paulson to Jane Madeley in a beautiful garden setting at the home of Jane's grandmother, Charlotte Madeley. Like a story-book Alice in Wonderland this cultivated, picturesque scene is found at the top of a mountain after following a winding road lined with scrub oak and dying summer grasses. The area is Newcastle, CA., a short ways from our State Capitol, Sacramento. Jane's grandparents are pioneers there and know all about the history of Sacramento.

Celia visited members of her 1933 graduation as nurses from their class at Mercy Hospital in Denver, Colo. - one living in Lodi, another in Hayward and the third in Castro Valley.

A few happy hours were spent with Wally and Goldie Smith - former Chatsworth friends who have a lovely home amongst the pines in Truckee, Calif. Wally is still able to supervise construction projects. (Wally had fallen from a roof, breaking his back, when they lived in Chatsworth and is still confined to a wheel chair, but this disability does not keep him from doing what he can do best). They are most happy to have their children and grandchildren all living near them. They send greetings to all Chatsworth friends!

Next stop was an overnight visit with Ed and Lorna Ahlstrom (Life members) who are now living on a large ranch in Yuba City. They, also, live in a beautiful home (of course, in would be now that Ed has used his talents in rebuilding the old house into a modern home). Most everything is grown on one of the three ranches that they supervise - everything that was prepared by Lorna for our delicious dinner that evening was grown on one of the ranches except a jar of ripe olives. They miss their Chatsworth friends, but are glad to have Jerry and his family and Russell with his family living nearby. Johnnie, Lois and daughters still live in Chatsworth. They are anxious for visitors from their hometown, especially -- address: J. E. Ahlstrom--Route 99 601 Rednoll Road - Yuba City, CA 95991.

Then to Norman and Eleanore Gage's - Eleanore is Celia's sister. They live in Edmonds, Washington - and their daughter, Myrna Knowlden. She and her husband and 3 daughters live in nearby Lynnwood. Norman and Eleanore are former Chatsworth residents, in fact, their previous home is now the Chatsworth Lake Fire Station. They live in a beautiful area - so many flowers and beautiful evergreen trees - and it rained only two of the days we were there! Eleanore and Norman presented our Chatsworth Historical Soc. with the antique sewing machine that we have in the Minnie Palmer House. We are trying to get in touch with the original owner for a story that will be written up in the Smoke Signal.

Another delightful day while we were in Washington was spent with Ed & Esther Dietrich on Bainbridge Island. Before they moved to Washington, she was the treasurer for our CHS. Eleanore and Myrna drove us to this beautiful garden paradise, crossing on the ferry, another fun experience. Ed and Esther live in a lovely mobile home with lush green all around. In addition to their prolific veg. garden they have fruit and luscious berries. Ed picked a quart of blackberries for us and I ate almost all my self. They, too, are anxious for visitors from Chatsworth. Address: Mr. & Mrs. Ed Dietrich - 9624 Mandus Olson Road - NE Bainbridge Island, Wash. 98110

On our way home down the coast we stopped to see Rita Holmes in Arcata, Calif. She and Bob were the first friends that Norman and Eleanore had introduced us to when we moved to Chats. in 1947. Rita retired 4 years ago and lives in her home with her dear little mother now 87 years old (Bob died 2 years ago when I wrote the article in the SS). Bob's mother also lives on their mountain-top ranch in her own home - she is looking as beautiful and bright and chipper as she always has. All of Rita's children have a home of their own on this land and all live there except Becky and her family who have recently moved to Missouri. She also, sends greetings to Chatsworth.

Before we stopped at Rita's we visited Harriet Johnson in Grant's Pass, Oregon. She lives in a beautiful home built for her by husband, Palmer who passed away only a year after they moved to Oregon. She misses her friends in Chatsworth and Canoga Park and welcomes visitors.

We were going to spend only a few minutes with Kelly and Mary Johnson in Merced, Calif., but there were so many things to talk about-remembrances of Chatsworth days before Kelly remarried - places they have been and knowing that we may never have had our CHS if it hadn't been for his wife, Catharine and Chuck Janess and Virginia Watson. We relived the many places they have been -their Caribbean Cruise in Feb. 1980 when Mary went through with the Captain so she "wouldn't miss a thing", but Kelly wouldn't climb the ladder, preferred just "sitting while watching the locks go by". They were happy to meet Jimmy Williams, who is the son of the late Dick Williams, while on this cruise. Mary went to China on a tour (her second), but Kelly stayed home to take care of his pigeons (too much walking, he said). Their most recent and happy travel was taken the last of July when they drove to Washington accompanied by Viola Cook, Kelly's daughter, where they met Mary's son who presented them with a new cadillac - to Mary for Mother's Day! On the way home they met Bruz Bryant, Queenie's son who lives in Pinedale, Wyoming. Queenie's children and Mary's children are first cousins (her first husband's side). Kelly is our same jovial Kelly and it is wonderful to see them happy.