

Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California

November 1982
Smoke Signal

President: Ioline Cleveland

Editor: Celia Woodman

1st V.P. (PROGRAM)
Laurie Dager

2nd V.P. (MEMBERSHIP)
Marian Hyland

3rd V.P. (FINANCIAL)
Lillian Schepler

4th V.P. (HOSPITALITY)
Eileen Janess

TREASURER
Chuck Janess

RECORDING SECRETARY
Sheelagh Watts

CORRESPONDING SEC.
Tricia Plucknett

MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Bill Schepler

MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Betty Summers

DIRECTOR OF DOCENTS
Lila Schepler

CHAIRMEN OF GROUND COMM.
Candy and Dean Craig



When Johnny Comes Marching Home

mf

1. When John - ny comes march - ing home a - gain, Hur - rah, -
 2. The old — church bell will peal with joy, Hur - rah, -
 3. Get read - y for the ju - bi - lee, Hur - rah, -

NOVEMBER MEETING - Tuesday 16th

7:30 P.M.

Glendale Federal Savings and

Loan. The THEME of the

program is to honor

"VETERAN'S DAY"

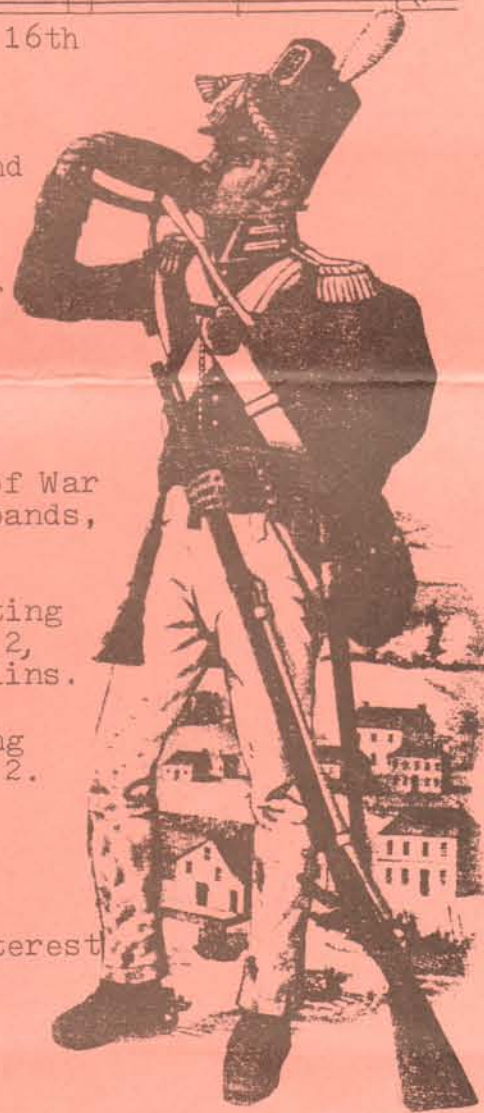
Russell Wilson is a collector of War Memorabilia which includes; arm bands, buttons, uniforms, etc.

Bill Schepler has some interesting artifacts from World War I and 2, which include parts of Zeppelins.

Ramon Avila has some interesting pictures of World War 2.

PLEASE COME!

Should be of special interest to History Students!!



OPEN HOUSE at the MUSEUM and MINNIE PALMER HOUSE every 1st SUNDAY of month-between 1 & 4 PM. This month November 7th Location: 10385 Shadow Oak Drive Chatsworth Park South, in Chatsworth.....Docents this month will be: Marlys Stuckenbruck, Betty Selvidge and Lila Schepler.

The Pioneer Church is located in Oakwood Memorial Park - 22601 Lassen Chats. Dues:

Reg. meeting is held the 3rd Tues. of the month at 7:30 PM at the Glendale Federal Savings & Loan-21821 Devonshire, Chatsworth. Bring any war memorabilia that you can share that night or call Bill Schepler 347-8147..

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

Buttons of the 3rd Artillery, 1st Lt. Art. & the 9th Inf. Infantry Regiments.





A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Dear members and friends,

Our year has started with two successful meetings and many accomplishments during the summer.

I hope that during this month of Thanksgiving that we can reflect upon the work of many people that has brought us thus far.

We indeed are thankful for; and appreciative of, the efforts in in varying degrees and different ways that has made our accomplishments possible.

I hope to see you at our November meeting. Come and see for yourselves, what is happening!!

Sincerely,

Joline Cleveland, President

President

Future Dates To Reserve

Oral Historians will be notified by mail for date and place for their next meeting.

Nov. 21 The public is invited to the Cascarone Breakfast sponsored by the San Fernando Valley Historical Soc. The time: 8-11 AM - price: \$3.50 Address: 10940 Sepulveda Blvd. Parking: Brand and Sepulveda Blvd.

Dec. 4-5- December 4 & 5th is the Chatsworth Holiday Fair. Sunday Dec. 5th is the parade in which our Chatsworth Historical Society will participate. Come to the meeting on Nov. 16th to find out the details. The Fair will be at Mason Park, Chats.

Dec. 18 - 7:30 P.M. Las Posadas, an Annual pageant sponsored by the San Fernando Historical Society at 10940 Sepulveda Blvd. Free unless you want to participate in the procession for which there will be a \$1.00 charge for the candle that you carry. This is a beautiful event, one which you will want to take your friends.

Jan. 27-28-29 Annual Book Sale at Topanga Canyon Plaza. We have been asking that you save all books and magazines (even if you don't think they are worth anything - someone else may want just that one.) Bring any books or magazines that you may now have to the next two meetings.

Several of our members have been quite ill or hospitalized - we send our best wishes and prayers for a speedy recovery:

Jim Woodman has been ill with Shingles for over a month. Only those who have actually had the disease can describe the "itch or pain" seeming to affect all nerve endings and with characteristic lesions appearing around the waist line. Stories of recovery have been from 3 weeks to 3 months. (His wife, a nurse, and your editor truly hopes the terminal course will not take 3 months, as he is a very uncooperative patient!).

We are truly sorry to hear of the severe illness of Lorraine Mitchell, who lives in Simi, but we are happy to learn she is under the finest medical care and is taking radiation treatments daily for 5 weeks at a Center in Thousand Oaks.....

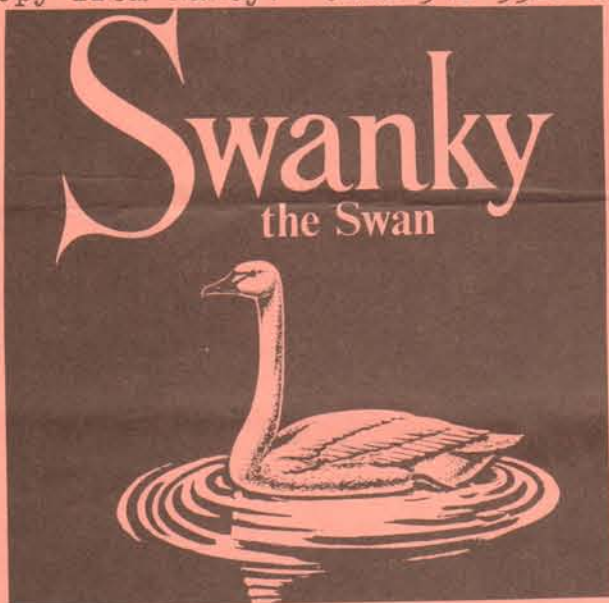
Another Life Member, Margaret Johnson, had surgery on her carotid artery and is regaining her strength slowly, and is recovering under the good care of husband, Paul, who is just now realizing what we mothers have known all along - that the profession of cook, housekeeper, shopper, laundry-worker, nurse and telephoneanswerer, is one of the hardest, yet rewarding professions of love that we have.

News

WE ARE SO PROUD!

Two of our members have had their books published recently..... Winifred Maclay Widney, who lived in Santa Susana and was quite active in our Chatsworth Historical Society, until her illness forced her to move. She is now living with her niece in Gresham, Oregon, as reported in our last Smoke Signal. Her beautiful book of poems is called "Wayside Wanderings" and in order to give you a preview of her life, I have copied the forward in her book across the page. I have one of these lovely copies that I will share with anyone and if you are interested, we can find out how to obtain more copies.

Nancy Razanski has copies available of her delightful children's book called "Swanky the Swan". This hard back book not only has beautiful pictures painted by her father, William but a beautiful story with a message. The story is about a swan (Whistling Swan; Cygninae O'lor Columbianus) named Swanky, who migrates from Alaska to Mexico, stopping at various places along the way; one of which is our Chatsworth Reservoir. Nancy has lived in Chatsworth for the past 12 years and not only loves the beauty of our area, but has a great interest and desire in further preservation of our wildlife and our trees and everything the the Chatsworth Historical Society, the Santa Susana Park Mt. Assoc. and the Audubon Society are trying to save. Many of us have done our Christmas shopping for a child, 2-8, by staying at home and ordering an autographed copy from Nancy. Call 341-3512 eve.



A great, great great grandson of pioneer Chatsworth settlers, Neils & Ann (Willden) Johnson, was born Oct. 15 in Seattle, Washington. The new arrival is Ryan Lawrence Asher, first child & son of Ann (Johnson) & Larry. Maternal grandparents are Ed Johnson of Chats. & Joanne Watson of Laguna Hills. Our Myrtle Johnson, widow of the late Harold Johnson, is great grandmother. Young Ryan is Myrtle's 14th great grandchild; she has 12 grandchildren,

Winifred Maclay Widney, youngest daughter of Samuel A. and Anna E. Widney, was born in Los Angeles, December 29, 1894. The Widneys, as a prominent pioneer California family, along with the Maclays, were instrumental in developing the area and founding the University of Southern California.

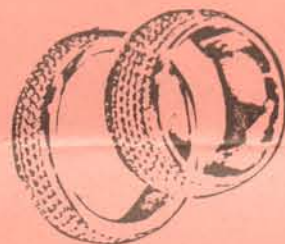
Winifred's life centered around her love of music. Professionally she was a teacher of piano, voice, organ, guitar and accordion. She interrupted her musical activities to drive truck as a civilian for the U.S. Army during World War II at Camp Cooke.

She fell in love with Simi Valley, California, acquiring her foothills 'retreat' in 1936. She made the valley her permanent home in 1963; once again teaching music to many valley residents - until 1979.

Winifred became involved with the San Fernando Valley and Chatsworth Historical Societies. This interest stemmed from the Maclays - her great uncle, State Senator Charles Maclay founded the City of San Fernando and his brother, Robert Samuel Maclay headed the Maclay College of Theology, which later was transferred to the University of So. California; thence to Claremont, California. These men were brothers of Arabella Maclay, who married Wilson Widney. Arabella and Wilson Widney were Winifred's grandparents and great-grandparents of Mary Opray Peterson of Gresham, Oregon.

Winifred started writing poetry and music as a young woman. Her poetry was always very private with her and it was only after considerable urging, that she allowed this volume to be published while residing with her niece in Gresham during the summer of 1982.

Rings were exchanged at the lovely wedding of Anita Delvecchio and Joe Weidenfeld at the Lindley Ave. Baptist Church in Tarzana on October 16th. The Bride, daughter of Gertrude Cook, wore a beige chiffon gown. She wore a spray of rose buds & carnations in her hair. The groom wore a dark blue suit with a boutonniere of a pink rosebud and stalk. Joe is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Weidenfeld of Friendly Valley.



Ralph Wilson, the pastor, officiated at this beautiful service with God and Jesus Christ as the motivating factor. It seemed the Holy Spirit was over all present. Anita's son, Tom, gave the bride away.

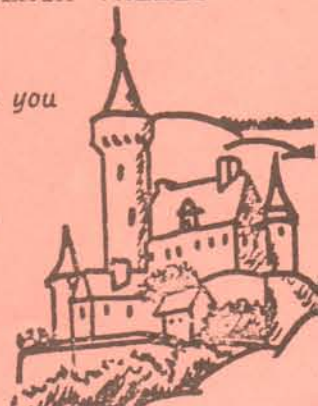
A luncheon reception followed in the Fireside Room.

They traveled to northern California for their honeymoon and are now at home 22222 Lassen, Chatsworth, California...

Birthday Congratulations for November are: Fred Clark, Dennis Moran, Milo Johnson Jr. Olga Bay, Violet Wilson, Maureen Cates, Betty Selvidge, Lewis Holliday.

A part of Winifred's poem "DEATH VALLEY"

*Did you ever go to Death Valley
And ride up to Dante's View
With salt beds stretched out before you
And Mt. Whitney against the blue?
Did you ever see Scotty's Castle
And heave an envious sigh
As the sun lowered swiftly in glory
To rest on the edge of the sky?
Did you see the Shoshone Indians
And their modern Glamorous Maids
A far cry from '73
Ah! how the dim past fades.*



MORE EXCITING NEWS!

Two more of our Chatsworth Historical Society members have received the honor of having been chosen by the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce to be the "Man of the Community" and the "Woman of the Community" for 1982.

The presentations were given at the luncheon at the Porter Valley Country Club on October 28th. Leonard Chenard, Life Member of the Chatsworth Historical Society was presented by Bill Schepler, a member of the Society and of the Chamber of Commerce, as well as a long-time friend. All the accomplishments of our past-president, Sheelagh Watts was given by our Vice President, Laurie Dager. The pictures were not ready for the Smoke Signal, therefore they will be shown in the next issue.

It is not possible to recall ALL of the things these two people have done for Chatsworth, but I will give an overview of many of their accomplishments:

Leonard Chenard

Should have been a recipient many years ago, but has been on the Award's Committee for this even for the Chamber of Commerce and "it just wouldn't have been ethical."
Life Member of Chatsworth Historical Society and active in any of our projects.
He started the Chatsworth Jr. Baseball Team in 1957 and has been not only the coach, a counselor and a "great guy" the boys could look up to. Several of "his" boys have gone on to the Major Leagues.
He is active in the Rotarians and the American Legion, always showing leadership and guidance.
He is a Charter Member of the Chats. Rotary Club - on Park Committee to get Chatsworth Park North.
He was active in getting our Chatsworth Library Building and starting the Chatsworth Youth Foundation. Athletic Awards are given to Jr. High and Senior each year. He received such an award when he was at Canoga Park High and realized the importance of giving it to one of our students each year.
He was a member of the committee to complete the Master Plan for zoning for Chatsworth and was the chairman for the Bicentennial Committee here.
And much, much more.....

Sheelagh Watts

Sheelagh is Past President (2 years) of Chatsworth Historical Society. She has held many offices including Smoke Signal Editor and is currently our Recording Secretary. She was one of the 5 founders of the Chatsworth Historical Society and is active in all our Fund Raising activities, even though she is very busy with her own florist business. And even then she is sharing her bouquets with all her organizations.
She was a member of the Chatsworth Jr. Women's Club for 5 years and one of their presidents.
She then became a member of the Senior Women's Club and was active in that. She was named "Junior Woman of the Year" by the Sierra Cahuenga District.
She served as counselor for the Chatsworth Youth Employment.
She wrote the column "Out Our Way" for the local paper for 10 years.
She was Managing Sec. for the Chats. Chamber of Commerce for 4 years.
She worked in the P.T.A. for 10 years. She was not only a Brownie leader, but also a Blue Bird leader.
And much, much more.....

Tuning in to Travel

We were happy to learn of the safe return and the happy vacation that Virgil and Ruth Heumann have recently returned after having been gone a month. We really missed them, and are glad that nothing happened to our Homestead Acre, that is always under their watchful eye, while they were gone. They passed by many historical sites, but because of time and weather they did not have time to take any of the tours. They started Sept. 25th and stopped in Phoenix to see old-time friends then to Sedona, Ariz. where they were able to find Jane Matthews, our Life Member and former President of the Chatsworth Historical Society. They had a lovely visit and were able to see her beautiful new home. Jane sends her love and greetings to all her friends here. They visited in Topeka, Kan. where an Aunt was celebrating her 90th birthday. Then to St. Joseph, MO., their hometown (but where they could find no one they knew). When they got to Omaha, Neb. it was snowing-time to come home to sun.

Keith and Sheelagh Watts went to Wash. D.C. to see Heather when she was in a performance at the Kennedy Center - October 10-13. They were delighted to have daughter, Jennifer, who lives in New York there at the same time, as well her sister, Joy and brother-in-law Morris Broyles, who live in Newport News, VA

ATTENTION! Please come to the regular meeting, or call Lillian Schepler, to sign up for the times you can work at the book sale. 341-2010 (evenings)
On the next page is the proposal for improvement and further development of the Chatsworth Historical Society Museum at the Homestead Acre. Please let us know which one, or more, of the projects you would like to do.....

Since the building was renovated and completed for use as a Museum the only improvements which have been made concern the development of the F.H.Schepler Jr. Memorial Library, and the resulting storage facilities from that development.

We are badly in need of certain minimal development and equipment, which are necessary for the preservation of our various collections- which are one of the reasons for our existence as a Society.

Other proposals listed here may be considered as desirable, or even as long-range plans or goals.

We use here estimated costs, only (based on estimates from Catalogues, and other sources- and prices may have been raised due to inflation, etc.). We believe they are good "ball-park" figures. Some of the furniture items may be available locally, and thus we could save shipping fees. Some items may be available as "used" furniture, and thus save more money. If the Board of Directors approves this project in concept, correct estimates will be researched and presented at subsequent meetings.

1. PHOTOGRAPHY: Frame certain pictures; enlarge pertinent pictures; "blow-up" pictures to poster size for display; properly mark and identify all pictures; have many of our slides duplicated (as reserves in case of loss, and for use in a second lecture series). \$240.00
2. PROPER STORAGE OF PHOTOGRAPHS, DOCUMENTS, SLIDES, PRINTS: By the purchase of vermin-proof, acid-free boxes- such as those used for Archival Materiel at Museums. \$210.00
\$18 each- for 10= \$180
\$25 for 6 = \$ 25 Etc.Etc.
\$ 2 each for 6 = \$ 12
3. DEVELOPMENT OF STORE AREA: Purchase an additional case, or hanging case, or hanging shelves, identifying flag or poster to notify "this is the store", do a display of items for sale in both Museum & Cottage. \$30.00
4. SUN-BLOCK DRAPERIES OR BLINDS: Should be black out blinds or Milar blinds, or lined draperies to prevent the inevitable fading of photos, exhibits, and deterioration of paper and book bindings; as well as deterioration of signs marking the exhibits. \$400.
5. SHELVES IN LIBRARY CUPBOARDS: To provide easily accessible storage at two levels. 1 sheet of 3/4" plywood will do it. \$15.
6. HOUSEKEEPING NEEDS: Clean and repair or remove refrigerator; lay carpet in hallway to costumes; clean and wind-proof chair storage closet so other items may be stored there which are not in weekly or monthly use, purchase upright vacuum for use on carpet in Museum & Cottage; door mat for outside front door. \$? ?
7. HANG SHUTTER DOORS IN DOORWAY TO STORAGE: Where draperies (needing mending) are now hanging. Should be dutch doors so lower portion may be closed while Museum is in use & and work is in progress in storage area. \$150.
8. ART DISPLAYER CASE: For display of pictures, newspapers, snap shots or small prints, documents etc. This would be free standing with very large "pages". \$400.
9. TALL & LIGHTED DISPLAY CASES: With storage below. May be placed flat against wall. Need 4 eventually. \$2000.
10. TRACK LIGHTS: Along ceiling, spotlighting cases needing it. \$? ?
11. RENT TYPEWRITER 1 WEEKEND: "Idiot" type, to print all the explanatory & descriptive cards used for Exhibits, so they will be uniform and professional in appearance. \$ 25.00

Among the other needs for the Museum, but not listed here, are the following items:

Desk Chair and carpet protector
Repair of clock for Museum wall
Scrap books for our history record
Large Glass case for changing costume exhibit & display
Bulletin Board for wall at entrance to library
Xerox accession forms for committee review and record
Repair rocking chair and cover seat
Costume bags for storage of costumes
Etc. Etc.

SUBMITTED: Virginia Watson, Curator, Chatsworth Historical Society
Betty Summers, Assistant Curator, Chatsworth Historical Soc.
Lila Schepler, Chairperson of Docents Program, Chats. Hist. Soc.

October 12, 1982