



Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California 91311

FEBRUARY 1983

Smoke Signal

Our Program Chairman, Laurie Dager, has promised us a "Super" Program at our next regular meeting - Tuesday February 15, 1983 - 7:30 P.M.

Rex Wignall, Pastor at the Chatsworth United Methodist Church will speak on, "THE CHANGE IN RELATIONS OF A COMMUNITY CHURCH IN A GROWING COMMUNITY"

Please bring at least one new person - how else can we grow?

- PRESIDENT
Ioline Cleveland
- 1st. V.P. (PROGRAM)
Laurie Dager
- 2nd. V.P. (MEMBERSHIP) and Mailing Editor
MARIAN HYLAND
- 3rd Vice President (Financial)
LILLIAN SCHEPLER
- 4th V.P. (HOSPITALITY)
Eileen Janess
- TREASURER
Chuck Janess
- RECORDING SECRETARY
Sheelagh Watts
- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Tricia Plucknett
- MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Bill Schepler
- MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Betty Summers
- CURATOR
Virginia Watson
- CHAIRMEN OF GROUND COMM.
Candy and Dean Craig
- SMOKE SIGNAL EDITOR
Celia Woodman
- DIRECTOR OF DOCENTS *
Lila Schepler

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

As a historical society we make a note of the fact that February 22, 1733 ranks high in great events of the United States and the world.

Our traditionally red, white and blue patriotic February has special significance this year because the twenty second will be the 250th anniversary of the birth of George Washington who became the first president of the United States and is popularly known as "Father of His Country".

Over the years, many legends about this famous president have grown and been repeated. One of these legends has linked him both to a hatchet and a cherry tree.

The man who is given the responsibility for the nucleus of this cherry tree story is Mason Locke Weems, an Episcopalian clergyman who supplemented his income by writing religious and political tracts.

George Washington was one of his favorite heroes. Just about a year after the death of our President, the Reverend Weem's book entitled The Life and Memorable Actions of General Washington was published. It became a best seller and was published in other languages. He wrote that when little George was six years old, he received as a present a small hatchet. One day he struck a little cherry tree in his father's garden with the edge of of that hatchet which "barked it terribly." When the elder Washington discovered the mutilated tree, he inquired among his family and servants whether any of them knew anything about the seeming vandalism. According to this biographer,



cont. on next page

Next OPEN HOUSE at the Acre is Sunday Feb. 6th 1-4 PM - Sunday Mar. 6th 1--4 PM

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.....

DUES

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Glendale Federal Savings & Loan Association -- 21821 Devonshire St. Chatsworth	\$10.00	Per person per year
	\$15.00	Dual membership
	\$ 1.00	Students
	\$100.00	Life Membership
	\$100.00	Organizational

when George was questioned he, looking up bravely cried out, "I can't tell a lie Pa, I did cut it with my hatchet."

Whether this story is truth or legend it is a fact that George Washington took over in very unstable times and helped unite our country and start it on its path to a true United States of America.

Ioline Cleveland

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS:

We are happy to report the operation that Lorraine Mitchell had on January 15 was successful although she has her up and down days, she is gradually getting her strength back, with the loving care given to her by her devoted husband, Orville Mitchell. She must be thriving on the prayers of all her loved ones because she still can't take very much nourishment following the radiology treatments.

We haven't heard from our Winifred Widney or her niece who is giving her the best of loving care. Winifred sent us ten of her lovely books of poems. The donations from the books amounted to \$50. that was given to the Frank Schepler Jr. Memorial Library. Thank you, Winifred, and we miss you!

Jim Woodman is finally, after four months, getting over his Shingles. He still gets tired and needs to rest more often than before.

Margaret Johnson continues to gain strength and has been seen at the last tow Esther Fellowship meetings and we hope she will be able to come to our next Historical Society meeting.....

We wish a happy birthday this Feb. to: Betty Summers, John Thorpe, Chas. Choate, Myrtle Johnson, Laurie Dager and Jim Woodman.

Sheelagh Watts recently took advantage of the \$99 airfare to N.Y. (tickets purchased from Bill Schepler at Rockpointe Travel) and flew east for another reunion with daughters Heather and Jennifer, where she saw 15 ballets performed by the New York City Balet at the State Theatre at Lincoln Center and Heather danced in 11 of them. She also saw Jennifer at work in her new job as head cashier at movie producer Dino De Lorerjer's Gourmet food store.

Other great moments remembered were: a display of men's & women's evening and day time dress covering the years between 1859 and 1913 - exquisite examples of the dress worn by the socialites of their day. In another wing she saw a display from one room of Frank Lloyd Wright, architect and the best was the Vatican exhibit that was unveiled that weekend - a most glorious collection of religious artifacts.....

I was just about to announce to our out of towners that we have our Caltrain from Simi to L.A. when now they are going to discontinue it, BUT the FREEWAY from Simi, is open all the way!

LOOKING FORWARD TO COMING EVENTS:

Lila Schepler is having another Seminar for Docents for the Acre about the last of February - date has not been set, but we are anxious to have many people sign up, especially some men. It is a thrilling experience to be able to tell all about our museum, the cottage and the gardens .. the more people we have the less often you will have to be there - remember, it is only the first Sunday of each month unless it happens to fall on Christmas or Easter or 4th of July. Call her if you or a friend would be interested. Lila - 341-3447 (probably Feb. 19th).

Lillian Schepler is thrilled (after being nearly exhausted) to report that we made \$463 on the book sale. There were many of our members that helped, but next year we expect more because Lillian is going to ask for 3 tables. We made about \$70 on magazines (at 10¢ apiece) and could have sold more if we had had another table. Start saving again. We know of at least 4 people that said they had just thrown out a lot the week before. So ask your friends every month - call Lillian 341-2010, she will pick them up every month or you can bring them each month to the Historical Soc. meeting, now that we have a place to store them. We especially need children's books, cook books, foreign language books, science, travel and newsweek, etc. Perhaps those of you who were not able to support our project by helping or donating, you may want to send a special donation, because as those of you who have been to the meetings know, we have many expenses- insurances, repairs, Smoke Signal and the stamps to send it and we only have 2 fund raising events a year- the Book Sale and the Yard Sale.

At this time your editor wishes to thank the Board for allowing me to have extra copies made to give to people that I think might be interested. By giving them a Smoke Signal I have created their interest and have either directly or indirectly had 23 people join. So please share yours with a friend or neighbor.

Marian Hyland wishes to thank every one for their cooperation in renewing their membership. Call her if you have a question. 882-1852

See our display at Glendale Fed.

Keep this date - March 15 will be Chatsworth's Birthday Party at Glendale Federal.

April the nominating committee will give us a slate of new officers.

May will be elections of new officers

CANDY'S CORNER:

What's blooming at the Homestead garden?
 Sweet Violet: *Viola odorata*
 Planted under the black walnut tree just east of the vegetable garden in a round, rock-outlined bed grow the violets of song and story. Their sweet fragrance puts to shame the scentless nosegays of violets offered for sale at flower shops & street intersections.



(*Viola odorata*)

The Romans used violets for violet wine & candied violets. The Greeks made garlands of them for festive occasions. The Empress Josephine had violets embroidered on her wedding dress and they were forever the signature of love between her and Napoleon. More has been written about the humble violet than any other flower, except possibly the rose and lily. Native to Europe, Africa & Asia the sweet violet needs summer shade in the S.F. Valley but must have winter sunshine to bloom well. The growth inhibiting secretions from the black walnut do not bother violets & the fact that the tree is deciduous in winter gives them sunlight they need. Easy to propagate by division they bloom in our garden from mid December thru May. They need fertilizing only once a year in November.

Paperwhite Narcissus: *Narcissus tazetta*
 Sprinkled in several places, especially under the large walnut tree behind the museum this clusters of white perianths framing tiny white or gold cups. Small, but highly scented, these Mediterranean bulbs are very happy naturalized in S. Calif. They bloom for 8-10 weeks beginning in late in December. Naturalized they prefer spots in the garden where winter rains collect, but like but like being dry in summer. Truly carefree, they are a common sight in Calif. gardens that have been long abandoned.



Narcissus tazetta
 Orientalis

Summer Snowflake: *Leucojum aestivum*
 At the back of the house in north shade a few leucojum have appeared. The 3/4" pointed petal, bell-shaped white flowers have tiny green dots at the tip of the petal. Strap shaped leaves are bright green. Another Mediterranean native bulb, in Calif. it grows best in light shade & can exist solely on winter rainfall. "Summer Snowflake" blooms in the winter in So. California.



Leucojum aestivum

by Candy Craig

Dean & Candy Craig spend some of almost every day, especially in summer, working in the gardens and almost every Saturday-then, on Open House the first Sunday they act as docents for showing off our Gardens. In addition to that and the beautiful programs she gave in January, she does a great deal of research for "Candy's Corner", they probably spend more time than any other ones of us for the Historical Society. So we would really appreciate anyone who could help by sending some money to them or to the Historical Soc. to hire extra help.



VALENTINE'S DAY

by
 Christina Mitchell
 4th grade

St. Valentine's Day started from an old Roman festival called the Lupercalia. It was celebrated every year on February 15th. The time of this ceremony was also the time of St. Valentine's anniversary. The early Christians confused the ideas of the ceremonies and out of it came the new St. Valentine's Day. Which we now celebrate. It is not a serious holiday but one which we can all enjoy. Sending valentines was begun about the seventeenth century. The first valentines were made by hand and decorated by the person sending them. They even had books to help write the verse. "Ladie's Polite Valentine Writer" or "Cupid's Annual Charter" were two of the most popular. Now we have a large choice of cards to send but many people still enjoy making their own.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Christina is the daughter of Ed and Louise Mitchell, her grandparents are Bill & Lila Schepler and Orville & Lorraine Mitchell and her great grandmother, is Eleanor Schepler... other members of our Historical Society are her aunt and uncle, Marian and Bob Swartz and aunt Lillian Schepler and aunt Elaine Swartz. Her teacher and M.I.P. is Marlys Stuckenbruck.

.....

The Oral Historians had their meeting last week at the home of Catherine Mulholland. It was an exciting meeting, but we also need more dedicated members, especially someone who is interested and retired, who would have more time than most of us to devote their time in interviewing some of our old timers. If you or anyone that you know would be interested in learning this technique, please call Catherine-998-7972

.....

Would any of you readers know if our mother orange tree came from Spain?

.....

Ioline just gave me the sad news that another of our former members, Oscar Roller has passed away. He was laid to rest in Oakwood Memorial Park Friday, January 28th. We remember him and his wife, Phyllis, also deceased, from Roller's Relics here in Chatsworth. They had given us many things for our Historical Society and allowed us space in their "barn" for storage.
