

A Message from the President.....

March 1983

"HAPPY 95TH BIRTHDAY CHATSWORTH"

....Ioline Cleveland

PRESIDENT
Ioline Cleveland

1st V.P. (PROGRAM)
Laurie Dager

2nd V.P. (MEMBERSHIP)
and MAILING EDITOR
Marian Hyland

3rd V.P. (FINANCIAL)
Lillian Schepler

4th V.P. (HOSPITALITY)
Eileen Janess

TREASURER
Chuck Janess

RECORDING SECRETARY
Sheelagh Watts

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
and ASST. DIRECTOR OF DOCENTS
Tricia Plucknett

DIRECTOR OF DOCENTS & MUSEUM
and PERMANENT BOARD MEMBER
Lila Schepler

CURATOR and PERMANENT
BOARD MEMBER
Virginia Watson

PERMANENT BOARD MEMBER
Charles Janess

MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Bill Schepler

MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Betty Summers

SMOKE SIGNAL EDITOR
Celia Woodman

Tuesday March 15th is our

BIRTHDAY PARTY!!!

7:30 P.M.

Place: Glendale Federal Savings & Loan

Everyone will want to come to this Special Occasion---
Everyone will want to bring a friend or two (or three)

Yes, there'll be a beautiful Birthday Cake and other goodies.
Joe Iverson and Virginia Ditto will cut the cake and
the Girl Scouts will sing Happy Birthday and will
serve the cake.

Boy Scout Troop 226 will furnish the Color Guard and
lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Virginia Watson, our Curator, will give us "The History
of Chatsworth" and who can do it better?
Virginia wrote our "Child's History of Chatsworth",
and she is constantly asked to speak at schools and
civic organizations - she was the guest speaker at
the dedication of Stony Point Park - she belongs to
our Oral History group--she arranges for a special
exhibit each month, and writes the publicity for it.

Sheelagh Watts, our present Recording Secretary and Past
President--two years, will give the many accomplish-
ments of our Chatsworth Historical Society. You will
recall that Sheelagh was recently presented with the
"Woman of the Year" Award by the Chatsworth Chamber
of Commerce.

OPEN HOUSE from 1 to 4 PM at the museum and Minnie Palmer house
will be Sunday March 27th instead of April 3rd because
of Easter.....Please note this on your calendar!!!!!!

The Pioneer Church is located in Oakwood Memorial Park - 22601 Lassen, Chatsworth

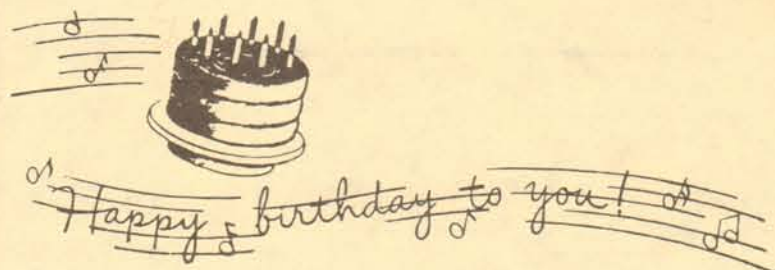
Museum and Minnie-Hill Palmer House are on the Homestead Acre - turn to the right as
you enter Chatsworth Park South - 10385 Shadow Oak Drive - follow Devonshire west into the
park - enter through the chain link gate. OPEN HOUSE is the first Sunday of each month

1 to 4 PM - Next date will be MARCH 23 27

DUES

Regular meetings are 3rd Tuesday of each month 7:30 PM	\$10.00 per person per year
At Glendale Federal Savings & Loan-21821 Devonshire	\$15.00 Dual membership
	\$1.00 Student membership
	\$100.00 Life membership
	\$100.00 Organizational

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WHAT AN EXCITING YEAR!

Our Town Chatsworth is 95 years old March 10th

Chatsworth Historical Society is 20 years old.

(both events will be celebrated at our March 15th meeting at Glendale Federal)

Chatsworth Library will be celebrating its 20th year on Saturday 21st of May. Watch the Smoke Signal and local papers for more information. OUR John Thorpe is the new President of the Friends of the Library. He says, "This seems to be the "Year of Anniversary Celebrations" and we are not to be outdone!" OUR Eunice Kent is is Senior Librarian and OUR Virginia Watson received the first library card(while it was a traveling lib.)

Chatsworth High School, opened in 1963 and will celebrate its 20th anniversary on May 6, 1983. Ceremonies are being planned to celebrate this historic occasion - also - watch the papers for these events.

HISTORY OF CHATSWORTH HIGH SCHOOL

by

Eric Stepan

Eric is a Senior in Mrs. Farley's 6th period Social Studies class. Mrs. Farley is the Chairman of the Social Studies department.

When the school opened for the spring semester in 1963, it consisted of approximately 850 - 10th & 11th grade students and 40 faculty members. Three teachers, Walter Franks, Ralph Hallenbeck and Manuel Miranda are the original faculty members still teaching at Chatsworth.

The next year, under principal, Dr. Gjertrud Smith and a faculty of 59 teachers, 8 of whom are still here, Chatsworth graduated its first senior class of 240 students and its enrollment grew to 1100 students overall. Because Chatsworth High opened in the spring, there were two graduating classes each year one of which was in winter, before switching to a single graduating class in summer.

Although Chatsworth is one of the newest high schools in the Valley, it was constructed at a time when orange groves and ranches dominated the surrounding landscape. Indeed, many students would ride horses to school and hitch them up on the school perimeter before going to class.

Today, Chatsworth has grown to 2,600 students and over 120 teachers and administrators, headed by newly-appointed principal, Donna Smith.

It has a very good reputation throughout the city as a very academically oriented high school, as well as possessing a good athletic program.

It is also an integral part of the Chatsworth community. It has served as a Red Cross emergency simulation location, an evacuation relocation center during brush fires and mud slides.

Its athletic facilities are the home of the Chatsworth Chiefs youth athletic program.

As students, we are proud of our school and try to uphold its high standards of scholastic and moral integrity.

A BIG WELCOME to our new members:

Carol Overton - 15111 Archwood St. Van Nuys, CA 91405 Tel. 989-7169

James & Helen Thomas - 14780 Chats. Dr. Mission Hills CA 91345 - Tel. 365-1317

Jan Hinkston has been one of our loyal members for several years and is now our newest LIFE member. She's been the kindergarten teacher to many of our children or grandchildren--the other kindergarten teacher is Virginia Chipperfield, also a LIFE member -- Chatsworth Park Elem.. We remember Jan as the founding member of the Santa Susana Mt. Park Assoc.-started to save the Stage Coach Trail and important sites in Chatsworth where Indians had formerly lived. She has been president of that organization several times, whose members, our Historical Society and other local organizations, were instrumental in saving Stony Point for a park. The current president is Cynthia Fichtner, who is equally as enthusiastic and dedicated as Jan.

Many members and friends have asked about the current status of progress in obtaining additional land to save some of these important sites: Conference with Cynthia Feb. 27th she relates the following progress: There are two open space areas - The Garden of the Gods & part of Devil's Canyon (the part that covers the hiking area). The Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy accepting the dedication when the Condo Development is complete. The Board agreed to accept the dedication with the SSMPA and other local groups to do the maintenance. There are plans for 550 Condos west of Topanga and south of the freeway. Each will have their own Homeowners Assoc. "some will be affordable". SSMPA sponsors 3 hikes a month: Second Sunday, 9AM Chatsworth Park Elem. School-4th Sunday - same time & place. 4th Saturday - family nature history walk - 9 AM, meet at top of Pass Road, at Rocky Peak off-ramp.

Their March meeting- March 21st, is Wild Flower Month. Their interesting meeting will have three speakers: B. Muns, an expert on wild flowers of the Santa Susana Mountains and Pepper Ebert, from the Theodore Payne Foundation, speaking & showing slides on native plants. In addition, Terry Franklin will show his outstanding life-time collection of pressed wild flowers.

The public is invited - they, also, have their meeting at Glendale Federal - Mon. 7:30PM

SECOND DOCENT TRAINING CLASS -- Saturday March 12th - 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon..... at the Museum.....

Thanks to Virginia's write-up in the Daily News, we have three new Docents, two coming from outside Chatsworth.

WANTED!
ONE CAST IRON POT-BELLY HEATING STOVE
Does not have to be in working order. We hope one of our members knows where an old stove can be obtained. help.
OLD FASHIONED PIANO OR ORGAN STOOL OR CHAIR.,
to go with our 1885 walnut-cased organ.
If you can help, please call:Lila 341-3447 or Candy 341-4461 or Ioline 341-1529.....



Thank you everyone for the letters sent to the Editor answering questions that were asked and other comments of interest.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

(in answer to the question, "Does anyone know the origin of the "Mother" orange tree in CA.)

In 1873, William Saunders, Superintendent for Gardens & Grounds for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, gave Eliza Tibbets of Riverside, CA, 3 branches of a new orange variety that he had obtained from Bahia, Brazil. It was first grown in Wash. D.C. so was named the "Washington" navel. Quality was superior to any other orange grown in CA. The 3 trees started fruiting in 1878. The response to these oranges was so great and the demand so high that Eliza could sell propagating material for up to \$5.00 a piece. Today one of the 3 original trees is still alive and bearing fruit at the head of Magnolia St. in Riverside. The original Mission Inn tree died.

Citrus is native to So. & S.E. Asia & the Malay Peninsula.

(Citrus by Richard Ray & Lance Walheim
H.P.Books 1980)

CITRUS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

During this same period of the mid-1800's citrus trees were also planted in northern CA. The most famous planting was that of Judge Joseph Lewis who planted 3 sweet orange seedlings at Bidwell's Bar outside of Oroville in 1856. One of these trees is still producing fruit although it was moved in 1965 to a site above the Oroville Dam. It is known as the "MOTHER ORANGE" and is evidently the oldest living orange tree in California.

from Candy Craig



Conference of California Historical Societies

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95211

Feb. 3, 198

Dear Mrs. Woodman:

I am impressed by your fine bulletin, "Smoke Signal" which I saw for the first time, recently.

As Regional Vice President from the San Fernando Valley, I try to keep in touch with the Valley Societies.

Could you put me on the mailing list for the "Smoke Signal"?

It would help in making reports, etc.

Thank you,

Best wishes in all your activities.

Sincerely,

Dwight Cushman

Feb. 23, 1983

Letter To The Editor

As my father, Jim Butler probably planted the majority of the citrus groves in Chatsworth, I was intrigued with the question concerning the origin of the orange tree. I relied on sources available in my home library but what I discovered seems well founded.

From an autobiography written by Charles Teague, the principal founder of Sunkist, comes the information that the Navel orange came from Brazil. Two of the trees came by way of Washington, D.C. to Riverside in 1873. The original Valencia trees came by way of London and were planted on the Chapman ranch in Pasadena in 1876. The article didn't mention where they came from but I would assume it was Valencia, Spain.

Hubert Howe Bancroft's "History of California" does substantiate the probable earlier introduction of the orange to California. To paraphrase a quote from the book, he said: in spite of interest in dates as to when various fruits, including, oranges, were introduced into California, there are no records, but probably they were brought from "the peninsula" (Lower California) between 1769 and 1773.

Perhaps this information may be of interest. Thank you.

Valeta Koller

IN MEMORIAM:

We have lost two "loved ones" from our "family" this past month:

Mary Peterson, niece of Winifred Maclay Widney, wrote to us of her passing away after long and painful illness. We will always remember her interesting stories of the history of our S.F.Valley. We feel saddened about her death, but also glad that she has been released from her pain and suffering and that her devoted nieces have been relieved from the constant care and worry. Following is a copy from her book "Wayside Wanderings" - the poem was written Sept.1935.

Born to life among the fragrant flowers,
To suffer and die in rosy bowers,
Watching petals fall and crumble one by one,
The fragrance ling'ring on,
 while withered by the sun.
Just as Earth shall spread its darkening orb
Before the moon in full, divine eclipse,
So shall my sins o'ershadow me, 'til death
Removes them from the path of brightest rays.

Viola Johnson Cook of Wimer, Oregon, daughter of Kelly and Katharine Johnson, passed away Feb 5, 1983 after an illness that lasted two months. Her mother Katharine, preceded her in death in 1975. Katharine, as we remember her with Chuck Janess and Virginia Watson were the founding members of our Chatsworth Historical Society (20 years ago)-started to save our first Historical Monument - the Pioneer Church-with these three dedicated persons and then many of us following right away and others keep coming until now we have 225 members and eleven organizations.

Besides her father, Viola leaves her husband of 40 years, Ray, and four children; son, Wayne and daughters, Gayle C. Cook, Janine C. Coulter, Lori C. Scroggins and 12 grandchildren.

Viola's sister, Thelma Johnson Ewalt, and brothers, Ray Jr. and Charles Johnson, all attended the services in Oregon. Also her Aunt Dorothy Pogue and cousin, Dorothy Wilson were able to attend. Ray Cook's three brothers, Victor

(. Bud), Bob, and Wayne, all formerly of Chatsworth. We need all of our members present as we present our new roster of officers for 1983-1984. The following names were presented by the nominating committee:

She will be greatly missed by family and friends (written by her sister, Thelma Ewalt)

Three of our members have been hospitalized this past month: Charles Janess, Eleanor Schepler and Kelly Johnson. Chuck & Eleanor have returned home and are under medication and doctor's care. Kelly lives in Merced and has been hospitalized there since the 16th of Feb. He first had a problem with his heart and medication, but is now recovering from a muscle spasm in his back. He is much improved and looking forward to going home.

We pray for their rapid recovery!

In addition to Chatsworth's 95th Birthday other March birthdays are: Henry Watson, Virginia Watson, Wanda Daugherty, Mardi Clark, Jane Matthews, Henry Berkemeyer, Eleanore Schepler, Marlys Stuckenbruck, Bob Dager, Arnold Hanson and Jan Hingston. New members Jim & Helen Thomas had Feb. birthdays.

RECENT TRAVELERS:

Sam "Red" and Thelma Ewalt took Red's sister, Pauline Cox of Dallas, Texas, as their guest, to Hawaii. They left Feb. 12th and returned home Feb. 19th.

The sights of Oahu were enjoyed. They stayed at Waikiki.

This was Mrs. Cox's first trip to Hawaii.

On their return, the three went to spend the day with Red and Paulin's Aunt and Uncle in San Gabriel - Sunday 20th. On Monday, a quick trip to Los Vegas, also a first for Mrs. Cox. It was enjoyed by all. Mrs. Cox returned home on Feb. 24th. Everyone was tired but happy.

On March 1st Red and Thelma went to Merced to visit Kelly Johnson for a couple of days. Also visiting Kelly were son, Chuck and daughter-in-law, Marcy Johnson, son, Ray Jr. and his wife, Dorothy; grandson "Rusty" Ewalt and great grandsons, Russ and Scott Ewalt. Kelly's sister, Dorothy Pogue, returned home from Oregon with Kelly and his wife, Mary B Johnson, and has remained there. She has been very helpful during this illness.

Jim and Celia Woodman traveled only a short way - to Knott's Berry Farm and Park - but it was for a very special and almost historical occasion. Celia's classmate from Lakewood Elementary School (near Denver, Colorado) came to Calif. for a visit. Becky Bruce Brown and Celia Jellison Woodman have always kept in touch. Little did they think as they graduated from the 8th grade in 1926 that they would by eating Chicken Dinner and shopping in a place like the historic Knott's entertainment center near where Becky's brother has lived for many years, Cecil Bruce.

Please Note!

- President - Ioline Cleveland
- 1st Vice Pres. - Wm. Schepler (Program)
- 2nd Vice Pres. - Lillian Schepler (Financial)
- 3rd Vice. Pres. Marian Hyland (Membership & Mailing Editor)
- 4th Vice Pres. Fern Jack (Hospitality)
- Recording Secretary - Louise Robert
- Corresponding Secretary-Tricia Plucknett and Asst. Director of Docents
- Treasurer - Chuck Janess
- Director of Docents & Museum - Lila Schepler
- Curator & Permanent Board Mem. Virginia Watson
- Permanent Board Member - Chuck Janess
- Member-at-Large & - Betty Summers
- Assistant Curator
- Membership-at-Large - Burrell Plucknett
- Editor of Smoke Signal - Celia Woodman

