



Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California

Smoke Signal April 1983

PRESIDENT
Ioline Cleveland

Next meeting of the Chatsworth Historical Society:

1st V.P. (PROGRAM)
Laurie Dager

April 19 - 7:30 PM

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

Election of Officers & Program
IN CELEBRATION OF SPRING!!!!!!
"ROSES OF YESTERDAY" the theme

3rd V.P. (FINANCIAL)
Lillian Schepler

Candy Craig will show her color slides of rare and historical old garden roses. They are beautiful..

4th V.P. (HOSPITALITY)
Eileen Janess

Bouquets of old roses blooming at the Homestead Acre will be on display.

TREASURER
Chuck Janess

Members and friends are invited to bring an arrangement of roses or garden flowers to put on our hobby table...

RECORDING SECRETARY
Sheelagh Watts

OTHER COMING EVENTS:

- (1) SEE PAGE 3 for Chatsworth High School's 20th Anniversary.
- (2) An invitation from the San Fernando Valley Historical Society to join them in their first tour in the new year to Santa Clarita Valley to visit Mentryville, the William Hart Ranch and the Saugus Railroad Station in Newhall. Those that missed going on this tour with the Chatsworth Historical Society several years ago, may want to join this group.

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
and ASST. DIRECTOR OF DOCENTS**
Tricia Plucknett

**DIRECTOR OF DOCENTS & MUSEUM
and PERMANENT BOARD MEMBER**
Lila Schepler

SAVE THE DATE: - SUNDAY, APRIL 24

Meet at the Pico Adobe - park in the parking lot. The bus will leave promptly at 10:00 AM - A gourmet box lunch will be served at noon - home by 3:00 PM. Cost is \$14:00 per person.....

**CURATOR and PERMANENT
BOARD MEMBER**
Virginia Watson

Mentryville was the little town that grew up in Pico Canyon around the first commercial oil producing well in California. The canyon was named for Andres Pico who gathered oil from seepage, brought it to the Mission (his ranch home) and distilled kerosene for his own use. The property is now owned by Standard Oil Co. and it is a rare privilege to be allowed to visit it. We will see the original Mentry house, a barn and the Felton school house - all lovingly restored and furnished by the Lagasee family.

PERMANENT BOARD MEMBER
Charles Janess

We will visit the Saugus Railroad Station and hear the exciting story of how this was moved by the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society. The William Hart Ranch home on top of the hill contains fine furnishings and paintings. Also in the park is the Ranch Bunk House with many historical photos and artifacts on view.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Bill Schepler

MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Betty Summers

Reserve seats on the bus, and for lunch, by sending a check with the form below to Carol Phelps, 16933 Horace Street, Granada Hills, 91344 363-0585. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO San Fernando valley Historical Society. NO REFUNDS AFTER April 20, 1983.

SMOKE SIGNAL EDITOR
Celia Woodman

OPEN HOUSE at the MUSEUM and MINNIE PALMER HOUSE every 1st SUNDAY of month-between 1 & 4 PM. This month MAY 1st Location: 10385 Shadow Oak Drive Chatsworth Park South, in Chatsworth.....Docents this month will be:

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

Reg. meeting is held the 3rd Tues. of the month at 7:30 PM at the Glendale Federal Savings & Loan-21821 Devonshire, Chatsworth

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

WE HAVE JUST HEARD and you will want to keep this date -- Monday April 25th at 8 PM on Channel 28 we can see Heather Watts, daughter of Keith and Sheelagh, star in the Ballet "THE MAGIC FLUTE". Since most of us will never be able to see this famous Ballet Star in her New York performances, we now have the opportunity to see her on television.

We were happy to learn when the 1983 World Book came out, she was the only one under "Dance"

Ira Rifkin has kindly given me permission to use this article that was printed in the Daily News on Saturday - April 2, 1983. It is so complete and answers all the questions we have asked about when and where to go to see this beautiful Spring Panorama of colors. By Ira Rifkin I know I have traveled several times to the Antelope Valley to see what others have raved about and have found only a few patches - I was too late or too early.

Daily News Staff Writer

In 1816, a naturalist named Edelbert von Chamisso traveling with a Russian expedition to California discovered a bright orange flower that he unceremoniously named *Eschscholtzia Californica*. The name was derived from the location and the last name of the expedition's doctor, a certain Johann Frederick Eschscholtz.

Both von Chamisso and Eschscholtz have faded into oblivion, but their discovery - better known as the California poppy - has become a big hit.

This year, the annual spring poppy explosion that covers portions of the Antelope Valley with a carpet of living beauty should be particularly spectacular, thanks to this past winter's heavy rains.

The display, which has already started, should be in full bloom about mid-April, depending upon the weather. The delicate buds require sunny, dry days with little wind to fully open.

"With all the rain we have had, this should be a banner year. We'll know in a couple of weeks," said Dorothy Bolt, chairman of the Lancaster Wildflower Preservation Committee.

Poppies are certainly not the only wildflowers now coming into bloom in the high desert. The yellow fiddleneck, blue pigmy lupin, lavender filaree, pale yellow cream cups, chartreuse and yellow desert candles and yellow and white dune primrose are among the other flowers that turn the normally wheat-colored Antelope Valley into an artist's palette.

But the poppy - the official state flower - is certainly the best known. Thousands of camera-carrying visitors are expected to descend upon the 1,760-acre state poppy reserve outside Lancaster during the months of April and May.

The reserve was given to the state in 1976 by the California State Parks Foundation, an Oakland-based organization that purchases private land for public preservation. Last year, a wind and solar-powered information center was opened. It is partly recessed into a hillside and features a short video and other displays about the poppy and the high desert environment.

The west Antelope Valley contains the state's largest wild concentrations of the California poppy, but, noted Bolt, no one really knows what it is about the region's climatic and soil conditions that accounts for the profusion of poppies.

The poppies' life cycle can be either annual and perennial. Seeds may lie dormant for as long as seven years before germinating. Those that take hold on a perennial basis generally live for three years, Bolt explained.

The reserve is located about 70 miles north of the central San Fernando Valley. To get there, take the Antelope Valley Freeway (Highway 14) to the Avenue I exit. Then head west on Avenue I and Lancaster Road for about 15 miles.

Admission is \$2 per vehicle and the reserve is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends until the end of May. School buses are allowed in free of charge.

The Antelope Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Lancaster Womens' Club also operate a Wildflower Information Center in Lancaster, which serves as a clearing house for free information on all the other species of flowers in bloom around the Antelope Valley. The center is at 841 W. Ave. J in Lancaster. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day except Monday.

MENTRYVILLE [circa 1888]

As early as 1869 an oil well was successfully "spring-poiled" in Pico Canyon by W. W. Jenkins, Sanford Lyon and H. C. Wiley. On September 26, 1876, C.S.O. #4, drilled to 617 feet, commenced pumping, making it the first successful commercial oil well in the west. This was achieved under the supervision of C.A. "Alex" Mentry, for whom the boom town in Pico Canyon was named.

After the field trip "Mentryville" Page I, the San Fernando Valley Historical Society will have "A SUMMER OF SUNDAYS" showing many items from their collections. Each exhibit will be shown for a month. April and May program: I will put June July & August in later issues of Smoke Signal.

April 10, 17, 24 from 1:00 to 4:00 p. m.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT - "Los Angeles"

Black and White photographs by William Grote taken during the 1930s.

Donor: James B. Gulbranson

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 from 1:00 to 4:00 p. m.

"WOMAN'S WORK" - An exhibit of household work items, fashions, needlework and photographs of Valley Pioneer Women.

THE ASSOCIATED HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY (to which we belong) will have their MINI-CONF. on Saturday - May 21, 1983. It is hosted by the San Fernando Valley Historical Society at the Andres Pico Adobe, 10940 Sepulveda. B. - Mission Hills.....

Registration will be at 9:30 - Luncheon will be served followed by a bus tour to the Saugus Railroad Station. The theme of the Mini-Conference is: "Rails in the Valley" Our Bill Schepler is part of the program. He will be showing his slides and talking on Railroads and Street Cars in the Valley, Past and Present.

WE ARE WELL AND GROWING.....

WE ARE HAPPY TO WELCOME 8 NEW MEMBERS TO OUR SOCIETY :

Greg and Jeanne (Woodman) Marks
9855 Shoup, Chatsworth, Calif. Tel. 882-0816
They have had an interest long before they joined
have given us many things for our Homestead Cottage.

Bill and Irene Lanzendorf - Tel. 347-8147
8877 Farralone Ave. - Canoga Park CA 91304

Miriam Farquer Tel. 700-9719
21936 Nordhoff - Chatsworth

Mil Steeves Tel. 340-3983
19715 Victory Blvd. - Woodland Hills 91367
Mrs. Steeves came to the last meeting because of the nice write-up that Virginia put in the Daily News, but we have been friends since 1957 when our daughters went to school together at Sequoia Jr. High.

Collin and Mary Guilmette Tel. 341-4246
10662 Desplain - Chatsworth



.....Another REMINDER - SAVE
for Yard Sale-June 11 & 12





If you doubt there is a God,
look deep into a rose;
See the velvet petals
from the folded bud unclose;
Note the tint and texture
and the lovely coloring . . .
Could nature of itself evolve
so fair a thing?

*Feel the softness of the petal,
breathe the fragrant scent;
Need you waste another thought
on further argument?
Here is proof of a Creator . . .
God made manifest,
In this little rose
we see divinity expressed.*

Candy's Corner:

THE HOMESTEAD ACRE ROSE GARDENS

Part 1

For the past year and a half Dean and I have been planting roses. At first we planted modern hybrid teas near the vegetable garden. Then a group of floribundas, "Rose Parade" and the climber "America" were added to the front of the museum. The southeast corner of the house was brightened by four brilliant yellow "Sunsprite" floribundas. Then we turned "historic". After we worked to get Minnie Palmer's old roses to bloom and one was identified as an old, rare, hybrid tea, "Will Rogers" we felt an old rose garden located in the same spot would be appropriate. Thanks to John MacGregor and the Huntington we were able to get rooted cuttings of other rare "oldies".

The board voted the money for a sprinkler system and we were ready to start. Along with Greg Miller, our high school senior, part-time helper, we removed the turf and weeds in a 12 by 30 foot oval bed. Jim Summers brought his tiller and worked in bags of compost, manure and gypsum. Then it was three weekends of installing sprinklers and planting 56 roses.

In the center of the bed 22 old hybrid teas are planted in a double row and are bordered with 34 old cluster-flowered roses that include polyanthas, bourbons and chinas. Our oldest group of border roses is "Old Blush", introduced in 1752. This is thought to be the famous "Last Rose of Summer". It has never been without a blossom all winter long!

Please come to sniff the fragrance and enjoy the colors of our old "ladies and gentlemen"; "Will Rogers", "Viscountess Folkestone", "Dame Edith Helen", "Mme. Caroline Testout", "Mrs. E.F. Thom", "The Doctor", and "Dainty Bess", etc..... They will be at their best in April, May and June.

Next month: The Tea and China Garden and the Old European Rose Garden.

.....by Candy Craig

If anyone has a hobby that can be displayed at our regular meeting nights, please call Ioline Cleveland - 341-1529.

Does anyone have an interesting display that can be used in Glendale Federal, please call Betty Summers - 341-2714



OPEN HOUSE - everyone invited

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Friday May 6, 1983

Visit classrooms
There will be a Plant and Crafts Sale
See the Art Show

OFFICIAL CEREMONY OF DEDICATION

11:15 to 12:00

The theme: "A Rededication to Excellence."

There will be speakers and Chatsworth Dignitaries and former school personnel.

Gjertrud Smith - first principal

Donna Smith - present principal

Jean Williams - Assistant principal

Ted Siegel - past principal

Jack Smith

City Officials have been invited

Adam Carmer is the present Student Body President....

At 12:00 noon--1000 balloons will ascend toward the sky from Chatsworth High!!!!

At some time during the program they will dig up the Time Capsule and add something to what is already there.

Same evening - Dinner at the Sportsman's Lodge. No Host bar at 7:30-Dinner at 8:00. Dinner is \$15.00 with deadline April 22.

A note from Marian Hyland, Membership Chairman:

To all members of our Historical Society and to future members. May I remind you that our membership year starts June 1st and your membership is valid 'til May 31st of the following year, regardless of the month your dues are paid.

New members who join in March, April or May are given an extended year 'til May '84.

May I suggest that dues for 1983 to 1984 may be paid at any time from now 'til the Yard Sale in June.

I expect to be out of state from mid-June until the end of August. It would be nice to report that our memberships are fully paid up by the September meeting.

APRIL--may bring showers, but it also brings our Happy Birthday wishes to:

Our President, Ioline Cleveland, Bob Swartz Catherine Mulholland, Marian Hyland, Tom Woodard, and Iva Basil. We just missed our new member's March birthday-Mary Guilmette.

April Rain

April washed the world last night
Then hung it up to dry.
A sleepy sun now starts to climb
The stairway to the sky.

*The robins pause to rearrange
Their feathers one by one,
As raindrops glisten on the grass
Like diamonds in the sun.*

While crocuses in purple gowns
Put on a fashion show,
The daffodils reach up to catch
The morning's golden glow.



Iva Basil has a precious new granddaughter, Daniele Kristine Taylor - the parents are Jim and Debbie Taylor and the proud big brother is Jeremy. The happy little family lives in Northridge. Iva now has 8 lovely grandchildren. Daniele was born February 1, 1983.....

*A grandmother has a lovely way
Of bringing joy to every day
By finding thoughtful things to do
To show the love she has for you.
Her love is shown in many ways,
Sometimes in a word of praise,
Sometimes in a nice surprise,
Or just the look that's in her eyes..*

Several of our people have been ill or hospitalized recently:
Margaret Johnson was hospitalized again for 3 days and is recovering, not as fast as she would like, but is wishing to get back into the "swing of things" with her church activities. She is grateful for the good care of all her loved ones.

Helen Fladwed has been ill, but refused to go to the hospital-rest and home care finds her still playing for her church and weddings.

Eileen Janess was hospitalized with and undetermined infection (that's the way those virus work - sneaky and often illusive!)

Virgil Heuman had surgery for an artery in his neck. He, too, wishes he could recover faster. Some of the medication he was taking for one problem had severe side-effects and that's the way it is sometimes - you try to take care of one problem and another one pops up. After taking away the one Rx that made him see double, become dizzy and nauseated, he is now feeling better.

We are sorry to hear of the death of Lorraine Mitchell's mother, Bertha Pool from Hobart, Okla., and we send our condolences to the family. She passed away on April 4th after a long illness. Lorraine and Orville flew to Oklahoma. Lorraine has been recovering nicely after her long program of chemotherapy and surgery. Mrs. Pool leaves her two grandsons, Eddie and Larry Mitchell and great-grandchildren, Christina and Matthew Mitchell - Brian and Jeffrey Mitchell here, and others in Oklahoma.

ARE YOU SAVING? DID YOU REMEMBER?

Yard Sale --- June 11th and 12th

At the Cleveland's Home. Call us, we can pick-up--we have a place to store until then.

Save these dates, and the dates before, to help! Our only other fund raising event.....

