

Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California

Smoke Signal JUNE 1983

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Ioline Cleveland

1st V.P. (PROGRAM)
William Schepler

2nd V.P.-(Finance)
Lillian Schepler

3rd V.P. (Membership)
Marian Hyland

4th V.P. (HOSPITALITY)
Fern Jack

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Tricia Plucknett

**DIRECTOR OF DOCENTS & MUSEUM
and PERMANENT BOARD MEMBER**
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**CURATOR and PERMANENT
BOARD MEMBER**
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PERMANENT BOARD MEMBER
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MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Burrell Plucknett

MEMBER-AT-LARGE & Ass't Curator
Betty Summers

SMOKE SIGNAL EDITOR
Celia Woodman

IT'S NOT A STAGECOACH

IT'S NOT A CAR!



OUR PROGRAM

FOR

THE LAST MEETING OF THE YEAR FOR THE CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOC.

Tuesday June 21st - 7:30 PM

"Rails in the Valley"

Glendale Saving and Loan Association

Bill Schepler will be showing pictures and slides of street cars and trains in Valley in early days. Bill has done a great deal of research and has many beautiful slides to show (and tell). PLEASE bring a friend or two.

Bill gave this program to the Associated Historical Societies of L.A. at their Mini-Conference on May 21st. It met with great ovation.



SUPER YARD SALE

At the home of Everett and Ioline Cleveland - 10347 Jordan - Chats.

We are expecting EACH & EVERY member to donate and to help one evening or more in pricing, folding & carrying articles that have been donatedand.....to.. REMIND all your friends and neighbors to come and buy.. We always have hidden treasures. Sat. & Sun. June 11 & 12.

OPEN HOUSE
First **SUNDAY 1-4 pm**

At the Museum and Minnie Palmer House (Homestead Acre)
July 3, 1983

August 7, 1983

September 4, 1983

LOCATION: Turn to the right as you enter Chatsworth Park South - 10385 Shadow Oak Drive. Entrance through chain link gate. No charge for Sunday tour. Docents there to guide you - bring your friends.

Docents for July 3 will be: Chuck and Eileen Janess and Lillian Schepler, assisted by Vee Perez and Millie Goff.

August 7 Lila Schepler, Tricia Plucknett, Betty Grill, assisted by Carol Overton and Zena Thorpe.

September 4.... Sheelagh Watts, Mary Gregush, Betty Selvidge, assisted by Eleanor Leonard and Pauline Aue.

(Next issue of the Smoke Signal will be in September)
Send news to Celia Woodman 8867 Farralalone, Canoga Park 91304

"DISCOVERY at THE HOMESTEAD ACRE!"

Our acre is proving to be even more historic than we thought. The date of the Hill-Palmer homesteading was a hundred years ago, but before that the Simi Hills were home to several Indian tribes. The Tongva, Chumash and Alliklik all lived at one time or another in the northwest valley. Acorn meal was the staple diet of these hunting-gathering Indians. Agriculture was not practised by them until the mid 1800's. Only one quality mars the meal and that is the great quantity of tannic acid it contains. This makes the meal bitter and, in large quantities, is poisonous. The Indians solved this problem by soaking the meal in water and then draining it, thus removing the tannic acid. In other parts of the valley this was done by putting the coarse meal in porous, closely woven baskets over a scooped out hollow in sandy soil and pouring it through.

In the Simi Hills with its numerous sandstone boulders, permanent leaching basins could be hollowed out of the soft rock with a drain slit at the lowest end. Directly behind the cottage in the large sandstone boulder is our own INDIAN ACORN LEACHING BASIN. It may be hundreds of years old. According to Virgil Heumann, Minnie Palmer did not know what the basin was used for, but she said that when she was born, there were two Indian tribes living far up in what is now Chatsworth Park South. Our basin collects rainwater, naturally, from the slope at the far end of the rock.

Candy Craig

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MORE ABOUT SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES IN THE VALLEY:

In the March issue of the Smoke Signal, we reported the anniversaries of:

Chatsworth Town - March 10, 1888

Chatsworth Historical Society - 20 years old.

Chatsworth Library to celebrate with Open House - again 20 years - May 21, 1983.....

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Mulholland Junior High celebrated their 20th Birthday with an Open House and Barbeque-May 4th

James Monroe High School had a big celebration on Saturday, May 14th "James Monroe High School-the First 25 Years" with music, film, guests, cheerleaders, and an Anniversary Faire, featuring memorabilia, old annuals, T-shirts, food and a souvenir booklet. It was a great day with former classmates getting together.

Germain Street School - 20th Anniversary -Thursday May 26th..5 to 7 PM. Delicious refreshments were served by parents. The program was sponsored by the P.T.A. a very active group at Germain. The school is near Mason Park in Chatsworth. Your Editor, Celia Woodman, was the school nurse in that school and Chatsworth Park School in 1977 when she retired. All the former principals were there. Mrs Sarah McNamara arrived late, coming from San Diego. Councilman Bernson's Office sent a beautiful plaque:

HAPPINESS IS

GERMAIN STREET SCHOOL

Another beautiful plaque was given by teachers, students and parents in Memory of a former beloved teacher, Raoul "Mike" Carillo 1964-1981.

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Even the "Soaps" get into the act - General Hospital also celebrated its 20th Anniversary!

A chocolate fair

The weekend of May 14 & 15th was an answer to many a chocoholic's prayers.

The Salute to Chocolate was at the L.A. Convention Center where 40 gourmet chocolate makers had their creations on display. One of our members, Gertrude Cook, her daughter, Anita met her eldest daughter, Marie and her son, Mark and his wife, Veronica where they were almost the first in a long line that went around the building - 2 deep. Everyone longed to be a "chocolate taster". They didn't stay long enough to see if the entire crowd was able to enter.

They were given coupons for samples-the first was a chocolate covered fresh strawberry, next a chocolate covered orange peel. Each guest was given a plastic bag in which they could put all the delicious items that they couldn't eat at the time. Gertrude wishes she could describe the delight of looking at the many different exhibits, such as a chocolate house, a large chocolate cake and many chocolate molds and types of chocolate. Their last treat was a chocolate ice cream cone (cone also chocolate)...then to lunch ...someplace without sweets!

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Miriam Farquer, one of our new members, had the pleasure of going on a tour with her pastor, Kenneth Woll, members of her church and friends. She just returned from a 16-day ten country tour in Europe that started in Israel and ended in Italy. Her head is still spinning with all the beautiful sites. It will take time to sort out all the highlights but her most vivid remembrance was the one of becoming lost in the museum that houses the Dead Sea Scrolls. "I was terrified. Do you know what it's like to be lost in a foreign country where you don't know the language or where to go next? I was found after being unaware that the exit the other members of our tour group had taken was at the opposite end of the building." In her own words.....

"One morning before we got started, I decided to view the town on my own---and guess what?---Lost again! But what an adventure!"

While in Jerusalem she visited the "Dome of the Rock" - The Moslem Mosque is built on the site of the original Jewish Temple that was destroyed. It is on Mt. Moriah where Abraham was to have offered his son, Isaac as a sacrifice to God.

There are many things too numerous to mention here-Miriam's advise,"See for yourself."

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Jim and Celia Woodman attended the 50th Anniversary of the Council of School Nurses at Castagnola's Lobster House, in Marina Del Rey on Wednesday, May 18th.

Several plaques were given-one from the Mayor, another from the L.A. City Board of Education and others. Several hundred school nurses, their husbands and friends attended the delicious dinner and inspirational program. The theme with the Installation of New Officers was as our Chatsworth Historical Society "Roses" (but it was not as inspirational as the one given by Virginia Watson and Candy Craig for us - those not attending our Installation Meeting May 17th missed a very beautiful event!



"Imagination is as good as many voyages— and how much cheaper."

George William Curtis

A HEARTY WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

James C. (Jimmy) Studnicka II (student)
10439 Jordan, Chatsworth CA 91311
Tel 882-7224 - A very enthusiastic young man - already a good helper, involved in Yard Sale and other activities.

Jean Williams, Girl's Dean at Chatsworth High - she, too, has already been involved in announcements and cooperating in any way she can with her very busy schedule, and we are happy that she now belongs to US.

George Meltzer has now joined as a LIFE Member. Since the beginning of our Historical Society, George has received our Smoke Signal and made use of our slides and talks for his history classes at Chatsworth High. He joined the Society officially last year when he retired from teaching. He was the Chairman of the Social Studies Department, retiring with many honors.

Sarita Goodwin was genuinely surprised by the birthday party given for her by her "Jordan Street" friends at the home of Marcia Milo. At least 15 persons were there to honor Sarita.

She came to America 50 years ago from Chili, So. America. She has baby-sat for many of our children and grandchildren and even now one has to make a reservation several weeks ahead for the loving care she will give for house-sitting, dog-sitting and cat-sitting.

Only Sarita and her birth certificate can believe she is 89 years old - not even her own doctor! MANY HAPPY MORE, Sarita!

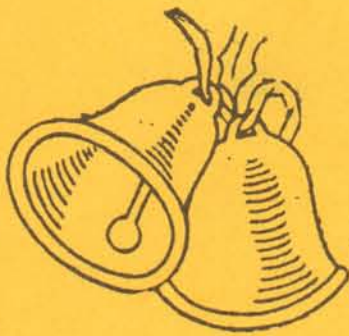
Helen Fladwed welcomed a house guest from Des Moines, Iowa on May 29th. Bonnie Swift and Helen have been continuous friends since they were both 7 years old. They went all the way through school together, both graduating from High School at the same time. After marriage they each had one girl and one boy. They spent a week together reminiscing over their past lives and in their "old age" as Helen says, "same aches and pains."

We were happy to hear of the honor bestowed upon Joyce Muehlenbach Ower, daughter of Jim and Betty Summers (and also one of our own members). Three teachers were honored by the Alaska Council on Economic Education for Excellence in the teaching of Economics. Joyce won second place. She is a personal finance teacher in East High School, in Anchorage, Alaska, where she lives.

Her great-aunt and Betty's aunt is Olga Bay who is now vacationing in northern CA and Oregon. She, too, is one of our members.

WE WERE THERE!

Lillian Schepler, Celia Woodman and Carolyn Grimm were pleased to represent the Chatsworth Historical Society at Chatsworth High Schools historical 20th Anniversary on May 6th. Others seen from the historical Society were : Joe and Barbara Pampalone, Mr. and Mrs. George Meltzer, Geneva Coulter and Hyland's daughter, Lynda. We are sorry if we missed others - there was such a wonderful crowd ! A telegram was received and read from Heather, Jennifer and Kevin Watts. Celia Woodman was the lucky one to win the beautiful floral arrangement at the head table, that had been donated by Keith and Sheelagh Watts . From the flight of 1000 balloons-all was great!



WEDDING BELLS

HAVE BEEN RINGING....

....FOR THREE OF OUR FAMILIES

Douglas Plucknett took as his bride, Roberta Jacobson. The wedding ceremony was held by candle-light in her lovely livingroom.- May 14, 1983. The bride wore a beautiful hand-beaded white chiffon gown and her groom was handsome in his black tuxedo. Forty guests were present - his parents, Burrell and Tricia Plucknett and his sister, Peggy Myking, who came down from her home in Morrow Bay. Marcia Milo was a very special guest, because she was "the cause of it all" - having been the one that introduced Roberta to Doug. A reception was held following the ceremony. Their honeymoon is postponed until July, when they will visit Mexico with friends. They are home in Woodland Hills.

Lisa Ahlstrom, daughter of John and Sharon Ahlstrom and granddaughter of Ed and Lorna Ahlstrom was married to Michael Anthony Sett in Grace Community Church - Panorama City on May 21 - 4 PM. She wore a full length, white Victorian gown with lace and pearls and a very long train. Her sister, Debbie, was the Maid of Honor and she had three bridesmaids. The groom's Best Man was Tim Brannigan who had three groomsmen and two ushers. There were 380 guests at the wedding and receptions that followed. His parents are, Scelsi and Shirley Sett of Granada Hills. They are now at home in Canoga Park following the return from their honeymoon.

Those present from our Society were Ed and Lorna Ahlstrom - Chuck and Eileen Janess - Jim and Charlene Roesch and Cliff and Margo Ahlstrom.

Sister, Debbie, graduated from nursing school at the L. A. County Medical Center on Sunday June 5th and she will be married July 23rd. Will John and Sharon survive after two weddings and a graduation all within a 6-weeks period?

Chuck and Eileen Janess traveled to Fallon, Nevada for the wedding of their grandson, Michael. Michael is the son of Bill and Nancy Janess. His new bride was Virginia Powell. They were married in Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses in Fallon on Saturday - June 4th at 3 PM. Others traveling to the wedding from here were - Don, Sharon and Roxy Janess - Jim, Charlene and Charlie Roesch and their daughter and granddaughter, Doreen and Lauren (now 7 months old-her first wedding)- Daniel Roesch and his fiance, Celene Watters. Michael's sister, Katherine, was a bridesmaid and Daniel was a groom. Virginia's Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Norman Powell, also from Fallon. Everyone has returned home except Chuck and Eileen, who will be home Tuesday to help with the Yard Sale and the Food Sale at the home of Eileen next door to Ioline Cleveland so all those who are helping with the yard sale can stay longer to work while still helping the United Methodist Women with their Fund Raiser.

Remember. Yard Sale - Yard Sale - June 11 & 12
Come to help! Come to buy! Bring your friends & neighbors!

Sends us their program - "A Summer of Sundays"

The Society has many items in its collections which we do not have space to exhibit. In order to make them more available for viewing we are inaugurating a series of special exhibits on Sunday Afternoons.

Each exhibit will be shown for a month and the first Sunday of each month will be a "special opening"

June 5, 12, 19, 26 from 1:00 to 4:00 p. m.

"MEN'S WORK" - An exhibit of tools, farm photos and implements and photographs of early Pioneer Men.



July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 from 1:00 to 4:00 p. m.

The San Fernando Valley Historical Society celebrates its July 4th - 40th Birthday on July 3 with a picnic at the Pico Adobe.

On exhibit will be historical items and photographs of Society history and Valley history during World War II.



August 7, 14, 21, 28 from 1:00 to 4:00 p. m.

EXHIBIT - "The Citrus Industry in the San Fernando Valley." This exhibit will also be on view during Pico Court Night August 27.



A NICE PROBLEM!

Bill and Lila Schepler had a problem this Spring that they loved. Bill won a Round Trip Ticket to any where Continental Airlines flies in the United States (excepting Hawaii). Great! But the tickets must be used before the end of May in 1983. So maybe a trip through the Panama Canal on the Queen Elizabeth II and fly home from New York. But come to find out the ship was completely sold out. Then they thought about a trip up the Inland Waterway on the East Coast, but the price seemed a little high.

The solution was a trip on the Mississippi from New Orleans to Memphis, on the Riverboat "Mississippi Queen"- with their own private veranda, no less.

The river was in flood stage so they looked over the levies into each small town. And toured the cities along the way- Antebellum Mansions, Civil War Memorabilia, lovely Gardens. And had a ball with all the "Riverboat" activities that kept them busy.

But- there was one little problem. Continental Air doesn't fly to Memphis. So they had to fly to Little Rock, Ark., and then to Houston, Texas, and then home. The flight to Little Rock was less than one hour and cost \$112.00. But it was all a wonderful vacation (including time spent in beautiful New Orleans) and they are busy looking for more problems like this one.

WE HAVE LOST OUR KELLY JOHNSON --

Our sympathy and condolences are extended to his wife, Mary Brown, his children, Ray, (Viola) now deceased, Thelma and Chuck and to all his grandchildren.

Kelly was one of our first members of the Chatsworth Historical Society after its initial beginnings with Chuck Janess, Virginia Watson and his wife Katharine Johnson. Even though he did not hold a membership on the Board, he was always there to help.

We are hoping that our members and friends, who wish to contribute in his memory, will do so that we may have his name on our memorial plaque.

He was born Ray LaValle "Kelly" Johnson September 12, 1898 in Calabasas, Ca. and passed away May 10, 1983 in Merced, Ca. where he has made his home since his marriage to Mary Brown.

A beautiful memorial service was given for him at the Chatsworth United Methodist Church on May 15th with Reverend Rex Wignall and Reverend Richard Brooks presiding. He was buried in Merced, Ca. after a lovely chapel service and graveside service were held.

Kelly was the grandson of Ann Johnson, the pioneer who started the Sunday School that eventually led to the building of our Pioneer Church, now standing in Oakwood Memorial Park.

Most every pioneer can remember Kelly as a top athlete. He played football, and was the best sprinter in track. It was not too many years ago that he would be seen every day coaching the boys baseball team. But many of us remember him as "always the auctioneer" at any of our events and for many years as the only mailcarrier - the one who knew everyone on his route, personally. Kelly could always keep you laughing even though he thought he was being cynical.

We have pictures of him in school at Chatsworth Park Elem. in our museum and an Oral History tape that was done by Bill and Lila Schepler and a 7-page printed history of his life that has been done by the pastor of the United Methodist Church, Reverend Rex Wignall, which we can share in a program at our Historical Society sometime.

His hobby and his avocation were his pigeons for which he has many ribbons, trophies, etc. and he was still raising them while living in Merced. We will always cherish these memories.

It isn't too late to wish June people a very happy Birthday!

Chuck Janess, Kelley Watson Daily, Helen Moran, Betty Woodard, Gertrude Cook, Nancy Lovelady, Tricia Plucknett, Nancy Oliva, Georgia Cooper and Carmelita Johnson.