



Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California

Smoke Signal

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OCTOBER 1983

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THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

will be Tuesday - October 18, 1983
7:30 P.M.

Jane Matthews, one of our Past Presidents will be coming from her home in West Sedona, Arizona, to speak to us about Charles Lummis, a very colorful figure with a great deal of knowledge about California history. Jane has studied and made a research about his life and is happy to share this knowledge with us.

I think it will be exciting to learn more about the events of his life - if you will recall from the last issue I even spelled his name wrong (my excuse - I'm not a native Californian.) Let's each bring one friend to have a large and interested audience.

I found the following article in the Sept. 28, L.A. Times.

Deep in the underground basement of the Los Angeles Central Library, locked away in darkness behind an unmarked door, lie literary treasures of California's past and other important works. But unlike private or university collections, which often limit use to scholars, these materials are available to anyone needing the information they contain.

The roughly 3,000 books, periodicals and other items in the Rare Book Vault are a part of the library's Special Collections, numbering approximately 13,000 items, that are given extra protection because of their value, rarity, scholarly importance and/or fragility.

Not Ideal Conditions

The Special Collections, like all the library's materials, are housed under less-than-ideal conditions, but there are plans to remedy that as part of the library's upcoming renovation.

Mayor Tom Bradley is scheduled to announce today the designation of October as Los Angeles Library

Month, which will kick off the Los Angeles Library Assn.'s 1983-84 fund-raising year with special events to benefit the library.

The Special Collections are strongest in California history going back to the earliest Spanish colonial times.

Lummis' Legacy

Many of the earliest California and Mexican histories were acquired by Charles Lummis (city librarian from 1905 to 1910) at the turn of the century for very little money because there wasn't much interest in them at the time. One of the highlights of the collection is a 1702 first edition of Picolo's "Informe," a Jesuit missionary's report to King Philip V of Spain on the progress in converting the Indians, to justify funds provided by the king. It is the first printed account of California. The library also has the original printed decree by Jose Maria Gutierrez Estrada giving Los Angeles in 1835 the title of City, the first in Alta California, and making it capital of the territory.

OPEN HOUSE at the MUSEUM and MINNIE PALMER HOUSE every 1st SUNDAY of month-between 1 & 4 PM. This month November 6th Location: 10385 Shadow Oak Drive Chatsworth Park South, in Chatsworth... Docents this month will be: Marian Hyland, Betty Summers, Lila Schepler, Vee Perez, Millie Goff & Zena Thorpe. 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



The California Historical Society will be making a bus tour of the Pioneer Church and our Minnie Palmer Homestead Acre on November 12th. Conducting the tour will be Dan Hoie.

Don't forget about our Memorial Plaque for your loved ones and friends.....

ALL ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

Ernest Hunt, Vice President and General Manager of Oakwood Memorial Park and our Honorary Life Member.....we hope will soon be released for full time back-to-work following surgery in August. When I called to inquire about his progress report and to give him our best wishes for a speedy recovery, he, in turn, sends his greetings and a "thank-you-for-your-concern" to all in the Chatsworth Historical Society.

In September, about the time that we sent our Smoke Signal out - Sam (Red) Ewalt was also hospitalized with severe chest pains that fortunately, turned out to be a slight heart attack and he is doing well now. I believe he and his wife, Thelma, must be vacationing around, because I can never find them home to interview.

Do you believe in Miracles? Paul does! Paul and Margaret Johnson were vacationing in Mammoth when of a sudden Paul developed a very severe pain in the lower left thoracic area - when the pain did not disappear in a short time the paramedics were called and a drama as good as that on Mash developed: after a correct diagnosis had been made he was rushed to the hospital in Bishop 40 miles away. When he arrived, the hospital staff had cancelled another operation and were all waiting, scrubbed and gloved - a very fine heart surgeon and a surgeon, who specializes in aortic aneurysms, were also there. To make things even more complicated, he even had a heart attack while on the operating table. The surgeons, the hospital, the nurses were all the greatest. Paul is now looking and feeling so good!

TRAVELING TO AND FROM COLORADO:

Jim and Betty Summers visited daughter, Janie, son-in-law, John and granddaughter, Jessica in Colorado Springs, arriving home just in time for school to start. IT WAS A HAPPY TIME FOR LOVED ONES TO GET TOGETHER and a beautiful season to visit this lovely city. Betty is still very busy in the cafeteria at Lawrence Jr. and taking her father to the doctor as well as visiting her mother, Mrs. Berkemeyer who is in a convalescent hospital following another fall in which she fractured her left leg..... She still takes time to be one of our Docents when needed and has charge of the display in Glendale Federal for the Chatsworth Historical Society. Have you seen it? It is old-style kitchen utensils.

Jim, Lanita and Peter Woodman have returned to Chatsworth-Canoga Park from Colorado where they have been living since Jimmy's accident on his police motorcycle in Feb. '77. The police dept. is recalling every disabled one that can still do some service. AND NOW WE ARE 10! His parents are Jim and Celia Woodman and his sister and brother-in-law are Jeanne and Greg Marks, all members of our society.

WE ARE HAPPY TO LEARN:

..... that Jak Gilmore has purchased Roller's Relics Antique Shop, across the street from Hughes market. It was through Jak that Jim and Celia were able to purchase the lovely, all handmade Courting Chair, that can be seen when you visit the Minnie Palmer House. Jak was a member when he had his antique shop in Canoga Park (which burned down) and has now renewed his membership. He will let us know when he will have Open House, but the shop is now open - please stop in. We welcome you back, Jak, and hope you great success.

SORRY WE MISSED ALL THE BIRTHDAYS DURING THE SUMMER and in the last issue I did not have one "impth" of space left on the page. So now we wish to honor all those and any who have never given me their names:

July--Eileen Janess, Bill Schepler, Nancy Wilkins, Sandy Johnson, Lorraine Mitchell, Keith Watts, Louise Roberts, Jean Williams, Harmon Swan, Harry Mitchell & Felicia Robinson. August--Orville Mitchell, Celia Woodman, Irene Nalbandian, Zena Thorpe, Steve Washburn..... September: Jim Summers, Bob Selvidge, Lee Arnold, Virginia Ditto, Ed Clark, Ed Dietrich, Leuse Mitchell, Eddie Mitchell, Carol Overton and Hildur Berkemeyer (now 92 years old)..... October--Doris Dosser, Michael Lauritzen, Win Holliday, Mildred Goff, Polly Vickers, Carolyn Grimm, Cathe Cleveland, Peggy Beltramo, Lucille Clements, Sheelagh Watts, Margaret Ruffalo, Lillian Schepler, Louise Curinga, Myrtle Bradley and Dr. Don Ferris.

We are most happy to have our Marian Hyland, Membership Chairman, back with us, but even happier to have learned about the delightful vacation that she and Ralph had from June 16th to September 16th, in Canada. They took their motor home and visited former friends and relatives. Marian visited her niece in Montreal and her sister in Hawkes Bay. They spent most of the summer boating and fishing and just plain RESTING on the shores of many different lakes. This is called "Cottaging". You park your motor home or trailer on the shore if you can find a place between the trees, The forest comes clear to the edge of the water in most places so when you park you will stay for awhile and there you may be isolated for a long while - no phone, no store, no mail.. The one greatest highlight was a boat trip on the Steamboat Sequoia, the only commercial steamboat left. They visited Gull Island on Muscovy Lake - it is a National Bird Sanctuary.

We received a lovely letter from Bonnie Jean Lakey, Virginia Ditto's sister. She has been living in the Province of ALICANTE in the State of Valencia for 7½ years. Virginia has sent her back issues of the Smoke Signal which she has enjoyed very much. One of the most interesting papers was the one about "oranges". If you come to the next meeting we will read her letter and her comments about Valencianos.

Old Mr. Levy was found dead on Oct. 3rd. He was not a member of our Chatsworth Historical Society (but we wish he had been!) He was a recluse, but all of us will remember him as a historical figure walking everywhere, from Lassen to Ralph's or Hughes or Canoga Park, etc. He always looked so destitute and ragged and soiled, but always had a smile and cheery greeting. When the D.A. checked his trailer where he has lived at Bill and Lila's since 1977, they found over \$170,000.00 in money & other things. Before he moved to this Scheplers, he had had his trailer at Jim & Lanita's and prior to that, he had been living at the Frank Schepler Sr's who had given the trailer to him. They learned he was orphaned at 2 years old & later had to live in a barn at his Aunt & Uncles. At one time he made a walking tour to Florida from Texas, then rode his bicycle to Calif.



"Two lizard's eggs, raw" ... six mashed
frog's warts ... three minced
spider hearts ..."

—Mal in TV Guide Magazine