



Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California

Smoke Signal

President: Ioline Cleveland 341-1529

Editor: Celia Woodman (347-8569)

1st Vice Pres. (program)
Bill Schepler-341-3447

NOVEMBER 1983

2nd V.P. (membership)
Marian Hyland-882-1852

THE REGULAR MEETING OF OUR

3rd V.P. (financial)
Lillian Schepler

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY **

4th V.P. (hospitality)
Fern Jack-998-0589

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MUSEUM & PERMANENT BOARD M.
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CURATOR and PERMANENT
BOARD MEMBER
Virginia Watson-341-3053

PERMANENT BOARD MEMBER
Chuck Janess-341-2828

MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Burrell Plucknett
341-2828

MEMBER-AT-LARGE and
ASST. CURATOR
Betty Summers-341-2714

CO-CHAIRMAN of GROUNDS
COMMITTEE
Dean & Candy Craig
341-4461

will be held at the regular time - 7:50 P.m. and at the regular place, Glendale Federal.. Tuesday, November 15th - come to visit and.. meet new members and friends before the regular meeting begins. This would be a good time to get acquainted with our new members: 341-1912 Wilda Johnson Life Member - Fern Ann Falls - Chatsworth Winnie Averill - 10068-3 Larwin, Chatsworth - 998-9904 Dolores M. Jamentz - 17246 Tennyson Pl. Gr. H.360-7841

Our speaker for this evening will be: NANCY SANDQUIST.

She is a member of the Los Angeles Conservancy. We also belong to this group, which is primarily concerned with preservation of buildings and other things of historical value. Come to learn more of happenings.

THURSDAY November 17th will be an exciting evening for 25 of our members who signed up for a trip to THE MAGIC CASTLE, an old Victorian Mansion which has been converted for the purposes of the organization for hosting the Magic Shows. Only 25 people can go on a tour. Bill Schepler made the arrangements through Dean Craig, a long time member of the "Magic Castle Assoc." Bill presented the sign-up sheet at the last meeting and it was filled that night. Thank you Bill and Dean.



ROY AND DALE ROGERS:

Watch for their program "50 YEARS OF STARDOM with the great KING AND QUEEN OF WESTERN MOVIES - HAPPY TRAILS - Dale & Roy. (Dale & Roy seem part of our family-gave our 1st \$1000.00) Watch for dates on Disney T.V. Cable. See, on yours or friends!

OPEN HOUSE at the MUSEUM and MINNIE PALMER HOUSE every 1st SUNDAY of month-between 1 & 4 PM. This month ~~Nov. 6 & Dec. 11th~~ 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

**There will be no Open House on Dec. 4th because of the Chatsworth Parade (We will be a participant - come to see this parade, it gets better each year.) Open House will be Dec. 4th showing the beautiful doll collection of Mary Avila's and the antique bank collection belonging to her husband, Ramon. Board meeting will be Dec. 6th - to "Trim-the-Tree" for the museum. Bring an old fashioned ornament to get in.

There is more to OUR News than "crime, weather and sports"! But you must let me know. I don't have much time for sleuthing because of working as a school nurse substitute every day and my housework, Chatsworth Historical Society and other activities so please call me 347-8569.

When we had our pot-luck after the Yard-Sale-was-over, I was attracted to two large volumes that Jim and Betty Summers had in their library. I recognized them as "Who's Who in something or other", because my grandfather is written up in "Who's Who in Colorado".

Joyce Burkhardt Muehlenbach Ower was in the book "THE NATIONAL DEAN'S LIST 1979-1980".....

She is the daughter of Jim and Betty Summers and is also one of our loyal members and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Berkmeier, members. I had reported in an earlier issue of the Smoke Signal that she is a teacher in a High School in Anchorage, Alaska. She is married to Bill Ower



MUEHLENBACH, JOYCE M., Univ of Ak at Anchorage; Anchorage, AK; MAT; Natl Affiliation For Lit Advance 78-80; AK Diabetes Assn Sec 74; AK Mountaineering Assn 72-74; Boy Scouts of Amer Troop Tres Sec 76-78; UCSB BA Anthropology 70; Soc Sci; Educ

Jeffery Taylor Burkhardt was in 1978 Volume *OUTSTANDING YOUNG MEN OF AMERICA*

Jeff is a professor at St. Mary's of the Plains College in Dodge City Kansas and his wife, Annie, is also an instructor there.



BURKHART, JEFFERY TAYLOR
Dodge City, Kansas. Assistant Professor; b: Mar 2, 1945; m: Anna Marie; p: Bill Burkhardt and Mrs James Summers; p-in-law: Joseph and Lorraine Laos, ed. Humboldt State U, BA 1965-67; Arizona State U, PhD 1968-71; career: Visiting Prof, Phoenix College 1972-75; Scottsdale Comm College 1971-75; St Mary of the Plains College, Asst Prof 1975-76; Kansas Acad of Sci 1976; Southwestern Assn of Naturalists 1972; Sigma Xi 1970; Advance for Christ 1969-73; Pres 1969-71; Intercolligate Knights 1965-68; Publ Dir 1966-67; Kansas Ornithological Soc 1975; Kansas Herpetological Soc 1977; honors: State of California, Fshp 1967; NSF, Traineeship 1968; Sigma Xi, Grant-in-Aid 1978.



Your editor can remember them when she had them in her Sunday School Class at the church that is now our Pioneer Church. Their parents and grandparents must be very proud of their accomplishments. I can remember them as the most delightful children and the teachers at Chatsworth Park Elementary School are proud to see them amongst the other talented young people who began their learning at our school, C.P.E.S.

A NEW BABY, TOO!

Betty Summers has just returned from Colorado Springs, Colorado where she went to help Janie with the new grandchild, Daniel James, born November 1, 1983 to parents, John and Janie Gerding. In addition to the happy parents and grandparents, Danny has a delighted sister, Jessica to welcome him. Congratulations all!

Betty's aunt, Olga Bay, is presently hospitalized in West Hills Hospital. I am sure she would appreciate a remembrance card from each one of us. She is undergoing diagnostic tests. Call before going to see if she can have visitors.

NOVEMBER'S HAPPY BIRTHDAYS:

Fred Clark, Dennis Moran, Milo Johnson Jr., Myrna Leiner, Olga Bay, Violet Wilson, Betty Selvidge, Lewis Holliday, Valeta Koller & Maureen Cates.

NEWS about the Pioneer Church from -- John and Zena Thorpe:

There are two new stained glass windows in the Pioneer Church. They were donated by Mrs. Estelle Smith of New Jersey in memory of her grandson, "Keoki" Ross, who rests in the Sleep of Peace just a few yards from the church. They are named the "Keoki" windows and each contains a hidden "K" in its design. The windows depict St. Gereon, a relic of whom lies deep in the alter of the church and the other St. Clare. A third window depicting St. Genevieve is to be installed in the near future. An attempt was made to design windows that would fit the style and period of the old church. Elaborate Gothic simply would not fit. The surrounding areas of the central figures are very similar to those of the original windows. They had, unfortunately, to be installed between sheets of bullet-proof plexiglass (a sign of the times!), but this in no way mars their beauty when the sun shines thru.

Mrs. Smith has donated vibrant electronic chimes also in memory of Keoki. They will play before and after each Sunday morning service and the sounds of these beautiful musical notes will float over the grave where he lies in rest, and will be enjoyed by all who can hear their sweet tones.

GOOD THINGS ARE BEING RECOGNIZED:

Sheelagh Watts was President of our Chatsworth Historical Society 1980-'81 and 1981-'82 at a very busy (so, when isn't it a busy time?) when Los Angeles celebrated its Bicentennial and when she opened her lovely Nature's Flower Garden. The following article was found in the Valley View, Wednesday 10/19 under National Business Woman's Week.....



Sheelagh Watts
Owner
Nature's Flower Garden



Sheelagh has lived in Chatsworth for 23 years with husband Keith. They have four grown children. She is past president of eight civic organizations, most recently the Chatsworth Historical Society. She was chosen Woman of the Year 1983 by the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce. Her florist shop is a joy because she deals with flowers and people. Weddings are a specialty! 341-0480

Mardi and Ed Clark spent their vacation in Cancun, Mexico, on the Yucatan Peninsula in the Caribbean, where they own a time-share. They were joined there by their son and his fiancée. Randall attends Pierce College. This semester he is the President of Alpha Gamma Sigma, the scholastic honor society. He hopes to enter the field of law when he has completed his B.A. Degree. Last semester he attained a 4.0 grade average and received a book scholarship and the John Bixby Sheppard scholarship.

We wish we could see more of Ed and Mardi, but she teaches college classes on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, so is unable to attend the regular meetings. We were delighted to have them attend our first meeting at our Potluck at the Acre on Sunday Sept. 11th.

News

that we like to hear about!

The following is a report from Lila Schepler who was there with husband, Bill and Candy Craig to supervise the Supervisors who supervised the C. C. C.s:.....so come to see before the rains cause the weeds to grow again (but they'll never grow that big again!) The ones of us that couldn't be there really extend our gratitude.

CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS PROJECT AT HOMESTEAD ACRE

OCTOBER 11,12,13 THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS SENT A CREW TO OUR HOMESTEAD ACRE AND WE ARE GLAD THEY CAME !

THE CREW OF ELEVEN AND SUPERVISOR J.T.TAYLOR CLEARED OUT THE HUGE AND HEAVY WEEDS WHICH COMPLETELY FILLED THE CREEK (TO A HEIGHT OF THREE OR FOUR FEET) IN FRONT OF THE HOMESTEAD COTTAGE; THE SIDES OF THE CREEK WERE STRAIGHTENED AND DEEPENED;THE AREAS WHICH WERE WASHED OUT IN LAST YEARS HEAVY RAINS WERE REFILLED; 75 SAND BAGS WERE FILLED AND PLACED TO ADVANTAGE TO PROTECT THE ROAD AND THE ENTRY TO THE SPILL WAY;A WILLOW TREE WAS REMOVED;POMEGRANATE TREES WERE TRIMMED WHERE THEY HUNG TOO DEEPLY OVER THE CREEK; THE CREEK WAS RE-CONTOURED AND DEEPENED;FILL DIRT WAS PLACED AROUND THE BRIDGE TO PROTECT IT.

ALSO, THE BAMBOO REMNANTS(AFTER THE BACK-HOE WORK HAD REMOVED MOST OF THE HEAVY GROWTH) WERE REMOVED AND PULLED FROM THE CHAIN LINK FENCE IN FRONT OF THE MUSEUM; THE ENTIRE FRONT AREA WAS SKINNED TO PREPARE IT FOR THE NEW ROSE GARDEN;THE IRIS BORDER WHICH OUTLINES THE DRIVEWAY WAS CLEARED OF ALL WEEDS; THE LOW WEEDS GROWING ABOUT THE COTTAGE WERE SKINNED OFF; THE BACK OF THE ACRE ALONG THE NORTH FENCE WAS CLEARED;SEVERAL OLD TREES WHICH OBSTRUCTED THE VIEW OF THE COTTAGE FROM HEUMAN'S TRAILER WERE REMOVED;AND THE BANK REPLANTED; THE AREA WHERE WE PLAN TO PLACE THE NEW STORAGE TRAILER HAS BEEN CLEARED OF DEBRIS AND WEEDED IN PREPARATION FOR THE FOUNDATION NEEDED.

AND MORE! AND MORE!

THE SOCIETY IS GRATEFUL TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO WORKED ON THIS PROJECT: DEAN AND CANDY CRAIG WHO DEVELOPED A PLAN OF WORK NEEDED. VIRGIL AND RUTH HEUMAN,LILA AND BILL SCHEPLER FOR MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS; IOLINE CLEVELAND WHO DONATED ALL THE SODA POP THE CREW DRANK EACH OF THE THREE DAYS FOR LUNCH; EILEEN JANESS WHO MADE THE DONATION OF ALL THE PUNCH THE CREW DRANK THAT FIRST DAY DURING THEIR BREAKS PLUS MAD HOMEMADE CUPCAKES FOR THEIR DESSERT EACH DAY OF THE LUNCHEONS;LILA SCHEPLER FOR ARRANGING AND SERVING THE LUNCHEON-WITH THE HELP OF CANDY-EACH OF THE THREE DAYS; TO CANDY AND LILA FOR THE SALADS MADE THE DAY OF THE FINAL LUNCHEON; TO LILA SCHEPLER FOR INITIATING THE PROJECT AND THE CONTRACT WITH ED MILLER, DIRECTOR OF THE C.C.C.;AND TO CANDY,BILL,AND LILA FOR TAKING TURNS AND STAYING FROM 7A.M. to 4P.M. EACH DAY OF THE PROJECT;AND TO THE SAME THREE,PLUS DEAN, WHO GAVE THE ORIENTATION ON THE SOCIETY AND TOUR OF THE FACILITIES THE FIRST DAY;

THANK YOU TO JIM SUMMERS FOR THE LOAN OF TWO WHEEL BARROWS , AND TO BILL SCHEPLER FOR TWO WHEEL BARROWS PLUS THE TRANSPORTING OF SAME TO THE ACRE;TO DEAN AND BILL FOR FOR REMOVING A PORTION OF THE FENCE, AND REPLACING IT LATER, FOR EASIER ACCESS TO THE PROPERTY;TO THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS FOR REMOVING THE LOADS OF BAGGED DEBRIS.

THE SOCIETY ALSO WISHES TO THANK THE ROCKPOINT HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION (AND DEAN CRAIG FOR INITIATING THE REQUEST) FOR A \$50.00 DONATION TO THE PROJECT. AND TO "PIZZA HUT" AND "KENTUCKY COLONEL'S" FOR DISCOUNTS ON FOOD PURCHASED.AND TO THE FIRE DEPT. AND STREET MAINTENANCE DEPT. OF LOS ANGELS FOR THE SANDBAGS.

A VERY SUCCESSFUL PROJECT FOR THE CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY! AND THE COST FOR ALL THIS WORK (BECAUSE OF DONATIONS BOTH MONETARY AND WORK-WISE BY THE ABOVE MENTIONED FOLK) WAS ONLY \$62.77 AMAZING!

A NOTE FROM MARIAN HYLAND, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:

There are still 17 members who have not as yet paid dues for "83-84". Remember that our membership year is from June 1st to May 31st . If you cannot keep up your interest in our Society, please let me know by phone or letter that you do not wish to receive the Smoke Signal. We cannot afford to continue sending to inactive members. Thank you for your cooperation. Marian Hyland - membership chairman - 10343 Jordan Ave. Chatsworth, CA 91311 - tel. 882-1852

We need many things for our Minnie Palmer House and Museum. Our most urgent need is for a new roof on the house. We have an estimate of \$1755.00. We have to have many fund-raising projects to cover the costs of just "keeping up". If you or if you have an employer who has a need for an income tax deduction, please remember the Chatsworth Historical Society. Last month Millie Goff gave a Shaklee Party and gave all the proceeds to us. What can you do? REMEMBER OUR MEMORIAL PLAQUE! Frances Mahieu is the newest name to be added to the plaque - \$100.00 given by her children and grandchildren. We are now receiving donations in memory of Katharine Johnson. Please send to Celia Woodman-8867 Farralone - Canoga Park, CA 91304 or Chuck Janess - 10353 Jordan, Chatsworth, CA 91311. Jane Matthews has given more than \$100.00 in memory of her parents - Arthur and Esther Wachs. This is a lovely way to remember loved ones.



Thanksgiving 1983
Over the river and pay the
toll
And don't spill the high-fiber
casserole;

Gram's new condominium
gets a rave
While the turkey cooks in her
microwave.

—Peg Kehret in *The Wall Street Journal*



Helen Fladwed was SURPRISED on October 30th as she played for her last service in the Holy Shepherd Luthern Church on Mason in Chatsworth to have the entire congregation invite her to a Buffet Luncheon at the church. She has played the organ there for many years and expected this to be a quiet retirement, but her beloved friends had a different idea. Following the luncheon, there was singing and congratulations given by many. Her gift was a beautiful sterling silver, hand carved cross on a chain.

Learning is fun! And cost very little if you belong to the Chatsworth Historical Society. We learn so much by coming to the meetings. It cost not \$3000.00 or \$300.00 or even \$30.00, just \$10.00 for one or \$15.00 for 2. What a bargain to learn about the past and present historical findings. A good example was the excellent program given by Jane Matthews on the life of Charles Lummis. How many of you knew before that Charles F. Lummis had 17 published writings and 3 unpublished manuscripts, which included his diary 1888-1928? His list of writings was very versatile - Book on Awakening of a Nation, cook book, Spanish songs, poetry and the intriguing title "The Man Who Married the Moon and Other Pueblo Indian Folk Stories". Who of us knew he was the first person who really developed the Special Collections in the L.A. Central Library, as reported by Romaine Ahlstrom? And now we are wondering that Ahlstrom is related to OUR Ahlstroms?

HOW MANY OF US CAN
REMEMBER THIS KIND
OF EXCITEMENT AND
WORK IN PREPARA-
FOR THANKSGIVING?



HOW MANY OF YOU
HAVE SEEN OUR OLD-
FASHIONED TUB AND
WRINGER AND OUR OLD
COOK STOVE? VISIT US!

On a separate page from the Smoke Signal, you will find a sheet entitled "Chatsworth Historical Society - Accession Form. This is the form that needs to be filled out and given to Virginia Watson, Curator, if we have something to donate to the Minnie Palmer House or to the Museum. Please keep this form. You may not have anything that is appropriate at this time, but may see something that we could either use or exchange for another item.

Our member John Thorpe is President of the Friends of the Library. He wishes to thank all those who helped at the Annual Book Sale and those who purchased books. Their goal is to raise \$14,000 for a security system. They made \$1200.00 on Sat. October 29th. Librarian Eunice Kent, also our member, reported that in the last year more than 2000 books, valued at \$41,000 had been lost or stolen. So sad to hear, when we are all given this free service That seems like such a lot to raise when we are struggling to raise the money for a new roof and a storage building.

WE JUST LEARNED that one of our Life Members, Irene Haag will be celebrating her 70th birthday on December the 6th (before our next Smoke Signal is out.) She has lived in Chats. for 39 years - her girls were friends of our Louise Mitchell. Congratulations-(we hope to see you at our November meeting, Irene.)