

Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California 91313

FEBRUARY 1985

Smoke Signal

(347-8569)

President: Ioline Cleveland - (341-1529)

Editor: Celia Woodman
8867 Farralone,
Canoga Park, CA 91304



OFFICERS FOR 1984-85

1st VP Zena Thorpe (program)	882-3572
2nd VP Lillian Schepler (Ways/Mea)	341-2010
3rd VP Marian Hyland (Membership)	882-1852
4th VP Mildred Goff (Hospitality)	882-0381
Louise Roberts (Recording Sec.)	341-3796
Charles Janess (Treasurer and Honorary Board Member)	341-2828
Lila Schepler (Director of Docents and Permanent Board Member)	341-3447
Virginia Watson (Permanent Bd. Mem)	341-3053
Tricia Plucknett (Corres. Sec. and Asst. Dir. of Docents)	341-2008
William Schepler (Director of Photographic Materials)	341-3447
Betty Summers (Assist. Curator & Member at Large)	341-2346
Candy Craig (Co-Chairman-Grounds)	341-4461
Eileen Janess (Auditor)	341-2828
Ramon Avila (Member at Large)	341-2346
Dean Craig (Member at Large)	341-4461

The next meeting of the Chatsworth Historical will be February 19th -- 7:30 PM

Special attention to History Students and others interested in Civil War Hx.

Dwight Cushman will give us an interesting talk on the HISTORY of the CIVIL WAR

Dwight has long been an admirer of our Chats. Historical Society - he has attended some of the lecture series that we had - he is the Founding President of the San Fernando Geneo-logical Society and is past President of the San Fernando Valley Historical Society, he is past president of the Regional Conference of California Historical Societies. He is a member of the local, state and national Mayflower Descendants. He was a history teacher for the L.A. City Unified Schools for 23 years and has spent more than 30 years researching history and geneology....You Must Come!

Betty Summers always has an interesting display in Glendale Federal -- over the Holidays she had old toys and memoralia -- this month the interested spectators have relived their parents and grandparents days by viewing old irons, rolling pin and kitchen utensils. Do you have something that could be displayed for others to enjoy for a period of one month?

As I am writing this Smoke Signal today, I have been unable to learn what the display will be for Open House at the Museum on March 3rd -- You will just have to come to see..... There might be a display of Civil War items or perhaps Ioline will have Antique Valentines.

OPEN HOUSE

Zena Thorpe reports that having the Pioneer Church open for visitors at the same time we have Open House at the Acre, has brought many people - some, old friends or former members, others visiting Oakwood Memorial Park.

At the Homestead Acre - Museum, Minnie Palmer House and the Gardens the FIRST Sunday of every month from 1 to 4 PM
Location: 10385 Shadow Oak Drive - Chatsworth Park South

The Pioneer Church is located in Oakwood Memorial Park South 22601 Lassen, Chatsworth. St. Mary the Virgin Angelican Church holds Services each Sunday - Morning Prayer - 9:15 AM
Holy Communion - 10:00 AM

Visitors are welcome to view the Church each Sunday Morning

DOCENTS this month will be ~~Marian Hyland, Millie Goff, Lucille Clements & Wanda Daugherty~~
WORK DAY Thursday Feb. 28

Chatsworth Historical Society

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday--7:30 P.M.
Glendale Federal Savings & Loan
21821 Devonshire St.
Chatsworth, Calif. (Corner Vassar)

Annual Dues:

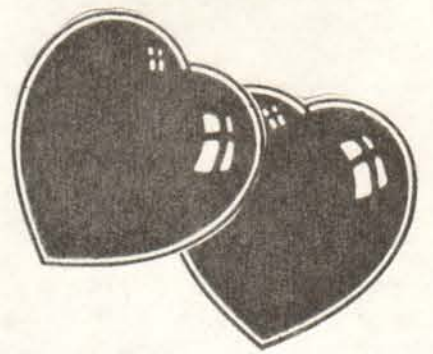
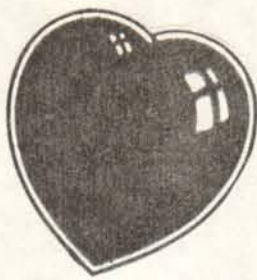
Single	\$ 10.00
Couple	15.00
Life Membership (each)	100.00

Print Please:

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

Bring with you or mail to--

Chatsworth Historical Society
P.O. Box 102
Chatsworth, California 91311



HEARTS -- HEARTS -- HEARTS --

Helen has a new heart! not a transplant, but something to make her old heart tick. Helen Fladwed had a new pacemaker on January 16th at Encino Hospital. She is recovering nicely, although she gets tired easily.

Bill Janess, son of Chuck and Eileen Janess had a sudden heart attack 12/21 with severe chest pains in which he had to have a triple by-pass. They are happy to report that he is doing well and has gone back to work part-time. Bill and his wife, Nancy live in Fallon, Nevada. They have only two of their children still at home. Nancy and Bill spent a few days at Lake Tahoe to celebrate their Silver Anniversary that was in April.

The exciting 28-day cruise that had been planned by Bill and Lila Schepler was almost ruined because Bill became very ill with chest pains while almost in the beginning of their trip, while still in Athens. He was under the care of the ship's doctor and had to take it easy, but did get to see the beautiful lights come on in London for Christmas. Everything is decorated, stores, building streets, etc. and all lights are turned on at one time - a most strikingly beautiful sight, Lila said. They saw the Parthenon, The Temple of Athena on the Acropolis. They were in Italy, -Pompeii and Naples. They cruised in the Mediterranean, visited in Malaga, Spain and Nice, France. In the Atlantic they followed the same route that Columbus did. They went to Casa Blanca and the Canary Islands, Datar and Senecal - Africa and to Cape Verde (meaning green), but Lila says it is the ungreenest place in the world and in now just a volcanic rock. They visited Barbados and St. Thomas then to Miami and home. It would have been the most beautiful trip if Bill had not become ill. He is now under the care of a cardiologist and may have to have the balloon catheterization to make the final diagnosis. Now, Bill, you must do just what the doctor says, we can't get along without you.

Regarding the Historic Headlines: Would anyone in our Society volunteer to catalogue and help to preserve these brown and fragile papers? Perhaps you know someone in the High School or University who has this knowledge and would be willing to do this for us. It is so interesting to look at the way people are dressed and the prices of food and clothing and even candy 20¢ to 75¢ a pound.

A NEW GREAT-GRANDCHILD:

It's not the Three Stooges
Nor the Three Muscateers,
But now "My Three Sons" for Bill and Shelly Simon. Shelly is the granddaughter of Jim and Celia Woodman and is now the mother of William Corey Simon, born February 9, 1985. He will be called Corey, because there are so many "Bills" in the family. He is adored by his parents and brothers, Jesse and Joshua. His great Aunt Jeanne and Uncle Greg Marks are also members of our Chatsworth Historical Society. Now what does it make him when Shelly's God-Parents are our Orville & Lorraine Mitchell?

Bob Sherman, author of Quiet On The Set, is also a member of our Society. Last week he visited the Pioneer Church, where services are held by St. Mary's Anglican Church. John and Zena Thorpe were giving him the tour and mentioned some needed repairs to the roof. Bob offered to take care of the repairs at no expense to the congregation. Volunteer services are so important to all of us and it really does make each of us feel so much better. "Try it, you may like it," someone has said.

Speaking of authors, I can remember quite sometime ago of hearing the name Lauritzen and knowing he was a Children's author, but I never met the gentleman. Jim and I visit his widow, Verda once each month and just learned last week that her husband (now deceased) is the author that I had always wanted to meet. Verda has an autographed copy to her, of each of his books. Wouldn't it be a nice idea if Mike, his son, who is also a member of our Society, would do a book review of one of his father's books?

HISTORICAL HEADLINES:

My sister, Eleanore Gage, has donated all the old papers with Historical Headlines that were kept by her husband, Norman. After he passed away in November, she felt that more people could enjoy them if they were kept at our Frank Schepler Jr. Memorial Library. The earliest one that we have is "The Californian - Oct. 22, 1904. "Russian Peasants Thirsty for Education" Oct, 21 '23 "Hundreds Flee Homes in Chatsworth Fire" 11/1/49 Feb. 26, 1948 "Iverson Ranch, Scene for Hollywood's "Ben Hur" & Tarzan Pictures".

CONGRATULATIONS to those having birthdays in February, the Presidents' Month:
Betty Summers, Mil Steeves, James Thomas, Patricia Rudolph, Helen Thomas, Thelma Ewalt, Henrietta Washburn, Bill Lanzendorf, Bill Ruson, John Thorpe, Barbara Sirkus, Winnie Averill, Charles Choate, Laurie Dager and Jim Woodman.

Another of our beloved pioneers has passed away: MYRTLE NAOMI JOHNSON January 10, 1985

She was laid to rest in Grand View Memorial Park in Glendale, beside her husband, Harold. After the beautiful funeral service on Jan. 14th, a beautiful Memorial Service was held at the Chatsworth United Methodist Church where she was an active member. This, too, was a lovely service led by the pastor Rex Wignall - her friends, Lois Smith at the piano and Wanda Headrick at the organ playing her favorite hymns followed by many friends and loved ones "remembering" many sweet things about her. Most of her 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren were there, as well as her four children & others. Her husband, Harold had Passed away soon after they had celebrated their 60th wedding Anniversary. Her daughters Wilda and Dorothy had taken turns staying with their mother after Harold's death, Wilda, with Wilda's friend, Hilda Colley were with her when she quietly passed away.

I have asked Wilda to give me a mini-history of her life which we can add to our Archives.

MYRTLE NAOMI (POGUE) JOHNSON

Myrtle Naomi (Pogue) Johnson passed away peacefully at home on former Johnson homestead property at Fern Ann Falls Road in Chatsworth, California on January 10, 1985. She was the widow of the late Harold Johnson, grandson of the 1874 homesteaders, Neils and Ann Wilden Johnson.

Myrtle was born February 23, 1901 in Burbank, California, the older of 2 children. Her parents and grandparents were early settlers of that community: Charles and Sarah (Edmunds) Pogue and Archibald and Elizabeth Pogue as well as Cassius and Susan Edmunds. She attended Burbank schools and was connected with Burbank First Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include 4 children: Sarah Grether of Santa Clara, CA; Wilda Johnson of Glendale, CA; Dorothy Wilson of Palmdale, CA; and Edmund Johnson of Chatsworth. There are 12 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. The youngest great grandchild, born October 18, 1984, spent Christmas with Myrtle: she's named Fern Ann for the road where Myrtle lived (the road was named by the homesteader family for the ferns in the hills and the pioneer, Ann Wilden Johnson).

The Johnson homestead in the hills of Chatsworth was leased by Myrtle's family in 1918. There, she met Harold Johnson after the Nov. 11th armistice when he returned home to Chatsworth after serving as a mechanic in the U.S.A. Airforce overseas. They were married in the Johnson homestead house on June 21st, 1919. Harold and Myrtle lived near Stoney Point (west of the Caro Hatcher Spastic Home) for the first 5 years of their marriage. During that time, they were active at the Methodist Church and farmed to earn a living.

In 1924, the family now with 2 daughters, moved to Burbank. Two more children were born and income to support the family of 6 was earned by house-building and bee-keeping. Burbank First Presbyterian Church welcomed these new members.

By 1950, with the 3 daughters out on their own, Harold and Myrtle returned with son, Ed, to Chatsworth. Harold and Myrtle spent the rest of their lives at their home on Fern Ann Falls Road. Harold passed away in September of 1979. Both were active at Chatsworth United Methodist Church and had a special interest in the Christian education of the young people.

WE WISH TO WELCOME our newest LIFE MEMBER, Mrs. Dorothy Wilson. Dorothy is Wilda's sister, also a Life Member. Dorothy Frances (Johnson) Wilson has never lived in Chatsworth, but has spent much of her time here. As a young child, she spent most holidays here with her parents

Harold and Myrtle, visiting her grandfather, the late Charles Wilden Johnson, plus numerous other Johnson relatives, including her late Uncle Kelly and her late Aunt Katharine Johnson as well as her Aunt Dorothy (Johnson) Pogue and late Uncle Glen Pogue & myriads of cousins.

Dorothy is married to Herb Wilson. They are owners of Wilson Ambulance and Sick Room Supplies in Palmdale, CA. They have four children and six grandchildren, all living in the Antelope Valley. As already stated, Dorothy had been helping her sister, Wilda with their mother who had continued to live at Fern Ann Falls, the home which was a part of the 1874 Neils and Ann Johnson homestead in the hills near Iverson Road and the 118 freeway.

Address: Mrs. Dorothy F. Wilson -- 37825 5th St. E - Palmdale, CA 93550

The names of Harold and Myrtle Johnson are now being inscribed on our Memorial Plaque.

For each \$100.00 we can have the name of your loved one inscribed upon this beautiful Memorial Plaque that is hanging in our Museum.