

Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California

SEPTEMBER 1986

Smoke Signal

PRESIDENT: Lila Schepler
(341-3447)
22335 Devonshire
Chats. CA 91311

EDITOR: Celia Woodman
(347-8569)
8867 Farralone
Canoga Park, CA 91504

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DINNER MEETING

Sept. 21, 1986 - SUNDAY 6:30 pm
HOMESTEAD ACRE



CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY AIRLINE

WILL BE TAKING OFF AT THE HOMESTEAD ACRE AIRFIELD



Boarding Time..... 6:30 pm

Inflight Drinks.....6:30 pm

Inflight Dinner.....7:00 pm

If your last name begins with the following letters, please bring food as indicated - Also, please bring your own TABLE SERVICE

A.....G.....Bring salad

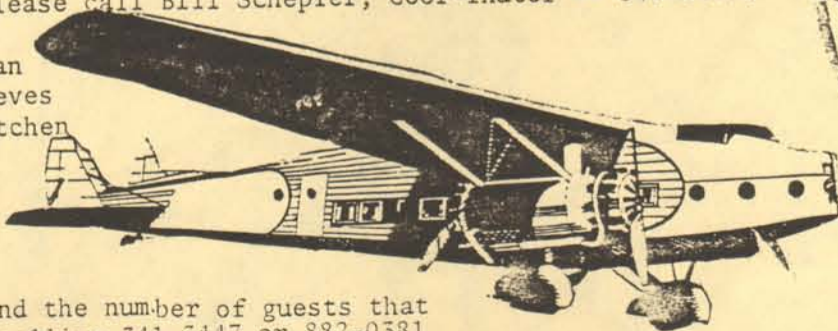
H.....S.....Bring Main dish enough to serve 10

T.....Z.....Bring Dessert

INFLIGHT SLIDE SHOW.....8:00 pm "VANCOUVER'S WONDERFUL EXPO".....

If anyone else has slides taken at the Expo during your vacation and would like to share them, please call Bill Schepler, Coordinator -- 341-3447.

STEWARDESSES: Ruby Swan
Mil Steeves
Mary Kitchen



Confirm your flight and the number of guests that you are bringing, by calling 341-3447 or 882-0581

HAPPY LANDING!

LILA SCHEPLER - President	341-3447
IOLINE CLEVELAND - 1st V.P.	341-1529
LILLIAN SCHEPLER - 2nd V.P.	341-2010
MARIAN HYLAND - 3rd V.P.	882-1852
MILDRED GOFF - 4th V.P.	882-0381
ZENA THORPE - Recording Sec.	882-3572
CHARLES JANESS - Treasurer	341-2828
VIRGINIA WATSON - Curator	341-3053
TRICIA PLUCKNETT - Corres, Sec.	341-2008
WILLIAM SCHEPLER - Dir. of Photo	341-3447
CANDY CRAIG - Dir. of Gardens	341-4461
BETTY SUMMERS - Member at Large	341-2714
RAMON AVILA - Member at Large	341-2346
DEAN CRAIG - Member at Large	341-4461
and co-chairman of Grounds	
CELIA WOODMAN - Editor	347-8569
MARIAN HYLAND - is also	
DIRECTOR of DOCENTS this year	882-1852



Here Comes Fall!

There were many interested visitors at the OPEN HOUSE at the Acre during June, July and August.

The Southern California HERITAGE ROSES will be making a tour on September 6th

On Sunday September 14th a motorcycle group called T.R.A.T. will be visiting. They are a motorcycle group touring points of historical interest.

We were delighted to have Life Member- Eloise Overlin, a former teacher at Chats. Park Elem. visit us during the summer. Eloise moved to Mt.Home,AR after retirement.

At the Homestead Acre - Museum, Minnie Palmer House & Gardens.
FIRST SUNDAY of every month from 1 to 4 pm.

Location: 10385 Shadow Oak Drive - Chatsworth Park South

DOCENTS for next Open House

Virginia Watson, Zena Thorpe, Pauline Aue & Nancy Razanski

Work party date August 28th for Open House August 7th (9:30 am)

Work party date Sept. 25th for Open House October 5th (9:30 am)

The more volunteers that come, the sooner the museum, house and gardens will be ready for Open House the following Sunday.

OPEN HOUSE

Mar

Barbara Pampalone paid her housekeeper to go to the cottage during the summer to wash all the windows. Now they are sparkling once again!

OPEN HOUSE is also held on the first Sunday of the month (1 to 4pm) at THE PIONEER CHURCH, located in Oakwood Memorial Park - 22601 Lassen, Chatsworth. St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church holds services each Sunday morning - Morning Prayer - 9:30 am - Holy Communion, 10:00am. Visitors are welcomed at the services.

The Santa Susana Mt. Park Assoc. also has Open House each Sunday noon to 3:00 pm at the Visitors Center - So. We. corner of the recreation building, Chats. Park So. (22360 Devon.) There you will learn more about their nature-history walks, horseback riding, etc.

Notes from Lila:

As a Society we are appreciative of the many folk who have maintained the Homestead Acre during these hot summer months. We, of course, miss Candy and Dean Craig terribly and will be happy to welcome them back this September. (we know they are having a wonderful time at their summer cottage in Colorado.) During their absence Ramon Avila and Bill Schepler have maintained the Homestead Acre during these summer months, they have been on frequent call to maintain sprinkling systems, lawn mower, plumbing repairs, etc.. They helped the gardner who comes once a week with equipment and guidance in any work that was needed to maintain the yard.

The ladies who came to deadhead the roses and do weeding do not sign in, but I believe all their names are listed here. They have worked hard to try to maintain the rose gardens and the other flowers and plants: Betty Summers, Nancy Razanski, Lillian Schepler, Lila Schepler, Virginia Watson, Janice Goetze (from Valencia, who belongs to the Heritage Soc.), and Henry Berkemeyer, who is 94 years old - that should put the rest of to shame!

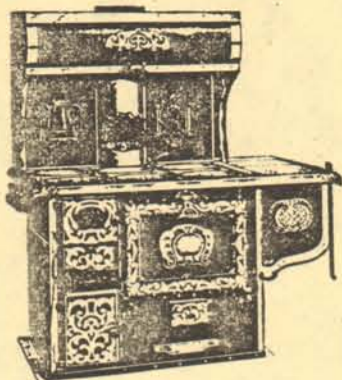
Mary and Ramon Avila who prepare the cottage for each Sunday Open House, including lovely flower arrangements prepared by Mary.

Work parties have taken place on Mondays with Virginia Watson, Marlys Stuckenbruck, and Lillian Schepler - Thursdays with Lila and Lillian Schepler and Louise Roberts. The Museum work has been accomplished.

Everett and Ioline Cleveland have built shelves in the storage room, and of course, our Man and Lady in Residence - Virgil and Ruth Heumann who overlook the cottage, museum and gardens and keep us all alerted when work is needed or some phase of the operation needs attention and are ever watchful of the Homestead Acre. In addition to building the shelves Ioline and Everett have been busy sorting rummage and other donated items for the museum.

New rosters have been mailed to members of the Society. These are, of course, for you and are privileged information and are to be used in the work of the Society only (if you have not received yours please call Lila 341-3447. Marian Hyland prepared the list, Elaine Swartz did all the typing and xeroxing. Louise Roberts did the collating & stapling and Millie Goff addressed and stuffed the envelopes to see that they are in your hands - thanks all.

ANTIQUE CORNER



Yes this is an antique cook stove almost like we have in Minnie's kitchen. No-we do not need another like it, but we are still in need of a pot-belly heating stove for the living room (it's hard to think about heating with our present weather, but some of you may come across a bargain sometime - let us know.

AT THE PRESENT TIME we are very much in need of an electric range to use in the "built on" kitchen where we prepare luncheons, heat rolls, etc, for various functions. We would like it if we could get it free, but any leads on a good buy would be appreciated.

MORE WORDS OF WISDOM FROM OUR PRESIDENT, LILA:

It is a joy to greet you all at the beginning of our 1986-1987 year. Keep in mind that 1987 will be the 99th year for our town and that our Centennial is fast approaching. Such exciting times to come! Please try to be at our very first meeting in September and "Fly with Us". It is so beautiful in the evening under the giant walnut tree. Bring a light wrap as we watch the EXPO pictures. (see the story elsewhere).

Do try to see the "Mary Rose Exhibit" at the Museum of Natural History. This fascinating story of Henry the VIII's Flagship, which was sunk in the 1500's raised in this decade, will astound you. The artifacts on display are wonderful to see.

A really marvelous California Exhibit on the lower level will bring you joy to see, as well.

Looking forward to sharing our September meeting with you. Lila

NEWS about our people:

Life member, Gertrude Cook has a fractured hip, she is now home a recuperating.....

Maude Graves is in the Henry Mayo Memorial Hospital recovering from fractured hip, pelvis and ribs. Her injuries were sustained as she and her husband, Warren were traveling in their car. He had a sudden heart attack causing her to lose control of the car. Warren and Maude had joined the Society at the Graves-Johnson Reception given by the Chats. Historical Society. Warren was the son of Emma and Fred Graves. Many of us remember Emma riding her horse until she was in her 90's. I was calling Ed & Wilda Johnson & even Dorothy Pogue to get the correct number of children, etc. Dorothy told me to call son Lester in Santa Susana and Maude was home from the hospital (today 8/26) She told me he is survived by son, Lester & daughters, Beverly, Harriet & Dolores - 17 grandchildren & 23 great-grandchildren. At the Johnson-Graves reunion in July he had his picture taken with each of them. I will give our historiographer the rest of the story for our archives.

NEWS cont....

Joyce Burkhart Ower (daughter of Jim and Betty Summers) is a teacher in Alaska. She was given a great honor this year. She spent two weeks in July in Washington D.C. She was presented with the TAFT ACCOLADES FOR TEACHERS, this is to honor excellence in teaching in government and two-party politics to elementary and high school students. 36 were sent from all over the U.S. - two were chosen from Alaska. In addition to the award given in Washington D.C. she was presented a plaque / Excellence by the Alaskan Senator.

We are sorry to hear of the death of our long-time member and friend, Ruth Ulery. She was born 12/22/1899 and died July 21, 1986 of a heart attack. She had recently returned from the hospital after having had a fractured hip. She was at home in her mobile home when she called one of her neighbors to say she thought she was having a heart attack - she died before reaching the hosp. One of her best friend's and neighbor for many years, Ruby Campbell, said even though in her later years she had arthritis and heart condition she was always helping others. She was also very active in the American Legion participating in all their events, selling poppys, etc. We will miss her.



IOLINE CLEVELAND
and
EVERETT CLEVELAND

We know that each of you are anxiously awaiting the results of our last great Yard Sale in June: (Ioline Everett are vacationing in their hometown in Nebraska

therefore, I am able to reveal many things about them that they would not want me to write about if they were here:

Yard Sale June 14, 1986.....	
Saturday June 14, 1986	\$971.95
Sunday June 15, 1986	\$611.70
Monday June 16, 1986	\$392.75
	<hr/>
Total	\$1986.40

Sold by Everett and Ioline during the year at Swap meets, privately and at Shows:

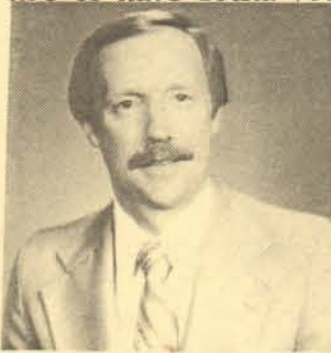
	\$2002.95
Swap meet June, 22, 1986	\$53.00
Total for year.....	<hr/>
	\$4042.35

So you can see that you can donate valuables (except clothing) all during the year..And of course, they couldn't have done all these wonderful things if it hadn't been for all our concerned members and friends and those who have given when they have moved. Thank you all. When Ioline and Everett received the plaque in 1985 for all they had done since they started having the yard sales in their home, the total was \$22,000, so when we add last year and this year it becomes almost too much to imagine. In addition to the sales and after each "clean-up" the remaining things have been given to Salvation Army and to Deseret Industries, so many people have been helped.

Also, the Chats. United Methodist Women had a food sale on Sat. June 14th-they made \$250.00. They do wish to thank all C.H.S. members and friends who have helped and donated in anyway.

A VERY HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS
(and to some not so new that I have missed--
if I have missed you, please call me 347-8569)

"It is better to have loved and lost, than to
never have loved at all"..... so perhaps
It was better to have been missed than for
not to have found you at all!



In the June Smoke Signal
I had pictures of all the
V.I.P.s , Presidents of
other organization and
Donna Smith, principal of
Chatsworth High School,
who belong to C.H.S..
Rich Miller is the new
President of the Chats.
Chamber of Commerce and

one of our newer members, as the owner-Broker
of Chats. Century 21, I had mentioned other
of our members who work there - Tricia Pluck-
net, Janet Miller & Greg Marks. but I hadn't
had it brought to my attention that Broker-
Ken Bartlett had joined about a year ago. We
are truly sorry to have missed you, Ken, but
glad to know you are one of our loyal members.
Ken lives in their lovely home 9824 Baden.
Chats. with wife, Diana and son, Timmy, who
is a student at Chaminade. They have two
grown children Mark and Michele. 882-

Their home tel. 998-8053. Century 21-2821.

Ken is an avid professional golfer.

Wife, Diana, has 5 horses that she not
only rides, but trains them for shows.

Dave Alveri, who owns Mac's Feed store has
been a loyal supporter of the Chatsworth
Historical Society in many of our projects,
and now we welcome him as a regular member.
Many of us remember getting our horse feed
and chicken feed from him when his old
building was on the corner of Devonshire &
Owensmouth - we were delighted when he took
over the building that used to be the Chats.
Post Office on Topanga Canyon just north of
Devonshire. He moved there in 1971. Three
of his children are still living at home
with him and his wife, Cathy. And if you
don't find Dave in the store, you know he
will be out water-skiing.

Judy Arnold (a friend of Ioline's)
16732 Saticoy #4 - Van Nuys, CA 91406. Her
daughter, Becky lives with her. She
works at Dunlap Aviation. She worked hard
on the Rose Festival and the Yard Sale.
She has many hobbies, crocheting, quilting,
macrame and other crafts. She likes to go
hiking and camping and has a LOVE AFFAIR
with the 1850 and Turn of the Century
Pioneers - so we really need you as one of
our active members, Judy.

It would take a whole page to tell all the
interesting things about Betty (Mrs. Lewis)
Barksdale. She lives at 41788 Walnut Park Way.
Hemet. CA First of all she is a long-time
friend and former classmate of our Louise Roberts
and the Hadley girls whose father was mgr. of
the Porter Ranch . At the 20th reunion in Feb.
she remembers seeing the name of the Mussetter
family They moved in 1934 so she believes
the name was put on in 1931. They are great
travelers, having been to Japan 3 times and
also to Australia. He belongs to the Lions
Club in which they entertain exchange students.
They have one at the present time. a Japanese
student named "Yumi" .

DORIS POTVIN owner of the Printing Safari
where we have had our beautiful Smoke Signal
printed for several years, is now an official
member. Doris has always generously contribut-
ed to several of our projects and has given us
"special attention" on the Smoke Signal as
well as Terry and her other efficient helpers.
Doris has a very interesting as well as suc-
cessful life.

She opened the Printing Safari in Feb.1981
with 3 employees and 10 customers the first
day - she now has 10 employees and at least
150 customers a day. The address of the shop is
9843 Topanga Canyon - tel. 709-3752. Her
hobbies are horse-back riding, hiking, horse-
camping in the High Sierras and deserts where
she plan a trip each month. She lives on a 15
acre ranch in Topanga, where she raises, goats,
& chickens - she, also, has led wagon trains.
On May 17th she was presented a special award:

Printing Safari, owned and operated
by Doris Potvin has just been named
by Assemblyman Richard Katz as the
winner of the Chatsworth Small Busi-
ness of the Year Award.

The award was presented at a ban-
quet on May 16th at the Airtel Plaza.
This third annual luncheon was held
to honor the Small Business Men and
Women of the San Fernando Valley.
The week of May 19th was designated
as Small Business Week and the
awards were the kick-off event.

Your Editor attended the Annual Awards and
Installation Banquet June 6th, 1986 followed
by 4 new members:

Dorothy and Daniel and son Michael Leinwand
and Carol Hiestand.

Carol came from Canoga Park to live in our
lovely Chatsworth 12 years ago - add. 10034
Lubao, Chats. Tel. 886-5531.. She has 2 girls
and a boy and husband, John. They all like to
go back packing and skiing, but most of all
she loves to do volunteer work. She was one of
the two to win Citizen of the Year Award at
this Banquet. She was the Chairman of the
Valley High Walk which was increased from the
original 300 to 600 - they raised \$37,000 for
the poor. She was also she was active in Chats
High Site Council in which they get young
people interested in volunteering.

Doreen Ruson was the other adult to receive
the Citizen of the Year Award. Doreen was
formerly a member of our Society, we are hoping
she will renew her membership (I have not been
able to contact her. she must be on vacation).
Michael Leinwand won Youth Citizen of the Year
He works in a Vet Hosp.-Chats. Oak Pet Clinic.
where he became interested in raising and
training a Seeing Eye dog for International
Guiding Eyes. He also owns a band which enter-
tains at hospitals and rest homes. He is a
pianist & plays the electric key board. He is
going to U.C.L.A. on an Alumni Scholarship.
Michael with parents, Daniel and Dorothy, also
new members live at 19147 Clymer St. Northridge
91326 - Tel. 3636082

Daniel works for Sales Familiar at the City
of Industry. He enjoys golfing and gardening .
Dorothy is a teacher at Van Gogh El. . School
She also enjoys golf and gardening.
Of all the new officers of the Chatsworth Coor-
dinating Council: Zena Thorpe, Roberta Weinstei
Pauline Aue, Geneva Coulter. Marilyn Hayes,
Lillian Schepler and Ruth Grant, all but
Roberta Weinstein belong to the C.H.S. (we
are hoping Roberta will join us next year).
In Oct. issue of Smoke Signal, I will give
names of all those recipients of Certificates
for exceptional service to the community.

All that I have missed will be in next issue

A True Tale of Chatsworth

Jean Bruce Poole, Senior Curator at "El Pueblo State Park" received the following information from Robert Scherrer. It is in the Park at the northern end of Olvera St. that a stone trough was placed many years ago.

The bronze marker formerly read:

WATER TROUGH HEWN BY THE MISSION INDIANS IN THE YEAR EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY. PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES. 1930.

The true story is:

Some years ago historian Don Meadows published an article regarding "Mis-information that is Current in Southern California." This is what the article said:

"One night on the Colorado Desert while a group of week-end desert rats were gathered around a camp fire of mesquite roots the subject of Olvera Street in Los Angeles was mentioned, and George Schweikand, who was born in San Fernando Valley more than seventy years ago, chuckled and said he had helped make that street picturesque. Of course, we wanted to know why, and he told the following yarn.

'When I was a kid of ten or twelve, it was in 1897 I think, the rains played one of their frequent tricks and only showed up in a casual sort of way. My father was raising stock in the San Fernando Valley, over on the west end where the Chatsworth reservoir now covers the ground, and we had a hard time to find forage for them. Dad took up a homestead out there in the late eighties. Well, we knew the pigs liked acorns because we would see them under the oak trees enjoying themselves, so Dad had the idea that the horses would eat them too if the shells were broken. We tried out the idea and it worked fine. Then Dad got the idea that a feeding basin of rock would be the easiest way to break up the acorns so we found a big hunk of sandstone--there's lots of it out there--and with a dull hatchet we cut out a nice big trough in the horse corral. We kids would gather up the acorns in buckets and put them in the trough and mash them up for the stock.

'In 1912 the City of Los Angeles bought our ranch for the site of the Chatsworth reservoir, and we all moved into town. Roy Tucker--that's my brother-in-law--was working for the City on the reservoir and one day a truck came up to the construction camp and the driver wanted to know where the old Indian watering trough was located. Roy didn't know anything about a watering trough but he did steer the crew to our old feed rock. The boys in the truck said that was what they were looking for, and with a lot of trouble they got the rock loaded to carry away. Roy asked what was going to be done with the rock, and they said they had orders to take it into town because it was of historical importance. Roy told them what the thing was, but they said it didn't make any difference, they had been told to get it, and that was all there was to it. Next thing any of us knew we saw our old feeding trough at the north end of Olvera Street with a sign on it saying it had been made by the Indians more than a hundred years ago. I've been called a lot of things, but never an Indian before. Of course, if people get a kick out of looking at the thing and thinking how wonderful the aborigines could work in stone, it's O.K. with me. I guess I did do a pretty good job on it, but maybe I ought to get some credit for the sweat I put out. You can't always believe in signs.'

Back in civilization we went over to Olvera Street to see how good a job George had done. The trough was there all right, cut out of a yellow sandstone rock that weighed perhaps a couple of tons. George had nothing to be ashamed of, but the persons who were responsible for the fable in bronze should feel rather embarrassed when they learn the truth.

Today the bronze marker truthfully reads:

SANDSTONE TROUGH USED FOR FEEDING ACORNS TO LIVESTOCK, HEWN IN 1897, by THE SCHWEIKAND FAMILY ON THEIR SAN FERNANDO VALLEY RANCH. PRESENTED IN 1930 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES.