

Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California

Smoke Signal

LILA SCHEPLER,
President

OCTOBER, 1986

CELIA WOODMAN,
Editor

October 21, 1986

GENERAL MEETING

7:30 p.m.

SEARCHING FOR OUR ROOTS

is the topic of speaker, Jan Spivak. She will tell us the why's and how's of looking into family history. There is a universal appeal to this subject...so many of us want to know where we came from and this will give us an opportunity of finding out just where to start the search.

HOBBY CORNER

KNITTING, NEEDLEPOINT, EMBROIDERY
by Sara Schell

WORLD OF BOXES - WORLD WIDE
by Bill Schepler

Join us for delicious dessert at 7:30 p.m., Millie Goff, hospitality chairman and her assistants promise a delectable surprise.

COME FLY WITH US to our Second Meeting!

COME FLY WITH US-----Flight #1 was a great success!

The potluck was delicious and a large number of members and guests enjoyed the food, the companionship and the slides and commentaries on Expo '86 - slides courtesy Bill Schepler, additional comments by Jane Matthews and Lillian Schepler. Apparently all who visited Expo and Alaska this summer had a great time.

From hospitality committee chairman, Millie Goff:

I want to thank the hostess committee for the generous time and effort each one gave in making our Pot Luck at the Acre such a great success. Mil Steeves, Ruby Swan and Mary Avila, you were the greatest!

MINI-CONFERENCE OCTOBER 25

The Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County will host this event at Pueblo State Park, Los Angeles. Car pooling will be organized. According to Lila Schepler, there will be much to see. The Avila Adobe is L.A.'s oldest adobe home and for two short weeks housed General Fremont and his forces when they had defeated the Mexican fighters.

Please contact Lila if you are interested in attending this event.

A LINE FROM LILA.....

Our love and best wishes to Editor Celia Woodman as she is recovering from her recent surgery. Celia has served as editor for more than a decade and the "Smoke Signal" is tribute to her devotion and service. Hurry back, Celia!

We are grateful to Sheelagh Watts (a former editor and Past President of the Society) who has assumed the title of Editor for the October issue. Thank you, Sheelagh, for bringing your service and fine talent to this task.

I urge you to stop at the museum and see the wonderful exhibit of photos given by Gerald Jack about the development of flight of Howard Hughes flying boat or Spruce Goose as it has been nicknamed. Gerald headed the Development & Planning sections of Hughes Aircraft at that time and we thank him for this gift.

See you at the October 21st meeting when we learn about genealogy -

Lila

MUSEUM NEWS.....from Millie Goff

The motorcycle group known as TRAC (Trail Riders Association of California) visited our Homestead Acre on September 14, arriving in small groups in the early afternoon from various cities and towns in Southern California. Lila Schepler and I acted as tour guides and had an enjoyable experience. They were all very interested and appreciative of the special hours for the tour. In appreciation we both received honorary TRAC pins

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Our Homestead Acre and the other 108 acres adjacent was first filed for homestead by Rhoda Jane and David Hill in 1896 - 100 years from then to the present.

To honor this first century, the Chatsworth Historical Society will host a Sunday Afternoon at the Homestead on November 2, 1986

From 1 till 4 p.m., we will be open to members and friends. A formal presentation of the centennial will be held at 3 p.m., and the event will include demonstrations of crafts including quilting, crocheting, embroidery, wood working with old tools and other crafts of early days. Please tell your neighbors of this historic event - all are invited to share our 100th birthday.

P.S. Minnie Hill Palmer was born on the Homestead Acre on November 30, 1896.

OBITUARIES:

We extend our sympathy to two of our life members and their families on the recent loss of their mother, Edith Valeta Elwood - Louise Roberts and Valeta Kohler. The service was conducted by a grandson, Rex Butler; the eulogy by Valeta Koller. A poem written by Mrs. Elwood in Chatsworth on Christmas Day 1932 was read by a granddaughter.

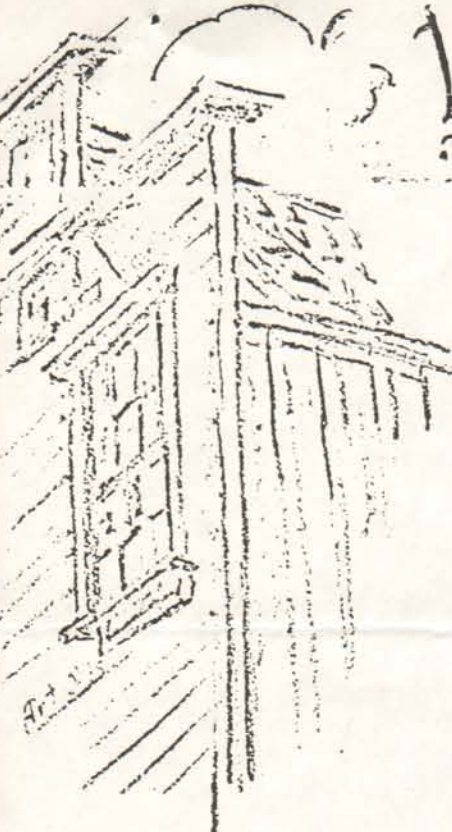
We extend sympathy also to our friends Ruth, Kevin, Karen and Nicole Heuman in the death of Virgil last week. Our security guard and good friend, Virgil was born in Quincy, ILL., on July 5, 1913; he grew up in St. Joseph, Missouri. He married Ruth in June of 1935 and they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year. The two moved to Burbank in 1941 where Virgil managed the Western Auto Store; they lived briefly in San Fernando then moved to Chatsworth on Casaba St.

They had lived in the mobile home for 17 years, since the golf course closed. During that time Virgil worked as a recreation assistant for the Los Angeles Parks & Recreation Dept. Ruth retired over five years ago after working for Facey Medical Group for 35 years.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday Oct 19 at Chapel in the Canyon; dishes will be appreciated. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to the Chatsworth Historical Society.

Window Into The Past

A LITTLE BIT OF SIN



You would have to have been born before the early twenties to really appreciate what the so-called Great Depression was really like. There were no jobs to be had - period! No part time jobs as gas station attendants nor at McDonalds. So, for that reason, when someone told me a stable hand at the Uplifter's Club in Santa Monica had quit, I was on my way to try and replace him. Even though I wasn't much of a horse lover. But, alas, I was too late and they had already filled the job.

As I was leaving they asked me if I had any strong feelings against gambling, which I didn't, having matched lots of pennies and really had in my time played a mean game of marbles! It seemed that the following Sunday night they were having a Charity Ball and needed some dealers to run the games. I think they offered me \$2.50 and my dinner to show up "dressed to kill" in my graduation suit. I jumped at the chance.

I got there about five P.M. with two or three other young fellows. We were each to run some game of chance. The others, I think, had more experience than I had, so I was put in charge of a large Wheel of Fortune. But, first, before the guests arrived, we had a really scrumptious buffet- the nicest I had ever seen. Everything looked like it was from Good Housekeeping Magazine. Cheeses and all kinds of sliced meat and fancy deviled eggs topped with caviar (I had never eaten that before) - and the pies and cakes! I suppose I made a "pig" of myself but they didn't seem to mind.

Soon the guests began to arrive. They were either society or movie people, though there were some politicians as well. The only ones I still remember are Charlie Chaplin and our crusading City District Attorney, whom I was surprised to see at a gambling affair.

They gave me a covey of young debutantes who went out among the guests and sold chances on bags of groceries or hams. Periodically I spun the wheel and passed out several bags of groceries and a few hams.

I remember Charlie Chaplin did not feel he had gotten a fair deal and complained to me that he should have gotten a ham. I remember wondering what he would do with a ham. But, I took a chance, and made a special spin just for him. I was lucky- he lost.

When the dancing and music died down shortly after one A.M. I turned my money in to the gentlemen who furnished the games. They seemed pleased with what I turned in, but one of the other dealers had had a run of bad luck and they were giving him a bad time. They seemed to know how much he should have turned in.

So, it was back to the little village of Chatsworth in the wee hours of the morning in my Model A "pumpkin" after getting a glimpse of how the other half sometimes lived.

- Bill Schepler
October 1986

Yes, the little church was the setting for the wedding of Kevin David Watts and Diane Ross Lawson on Sunday afternoon, August 24th. Margaret Lawson, age 11, and Dana Lawson, age 5, served as attendants for the bride, their mother. Roger Balabanow was best man; Mark Watts and Brian Danforth served as ushers. The bride was escorted by her father, Thomas Ross. Sharon Wilson officiated.

A reception for some eighty guests followed at the auditorium of Santa Susana School. Following the reception the couple left for a honeymoon in Tahoe. They now make their home in Woodland Hills.

Diane is the daughter of Thomas and Margaret Ross of Thousand Oaks and Kevin is the son of Keith & Sheelagh Watts of our Society. Out of town guests included Sheelagh's sister & brother-in-law, Joy and Morris Broyles of Newport News, VA; Cinde and Mark Watts, the groom's brother & sister in law of Sacramento; Heather Watts, sister of the groom of New York City and the groom's younger sister, Jennifer of Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y.

August 24th was also the 39th wedding anniversary of Keith and Sheelagh who were married at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Long Beach, CA in 1947.


AND WEDDING BELLS RING OUT.....at the Acre!

Marking the first solemnization of a wedding at the acre was the marriage of KEVIN HEUMAN, born Aug. 27 and KAREN BAKER, born in Austria on Aug 31 - born just a few days apart in 1954 - and both had attended Chatsworth Park Elementary School, Columbus Junior High and Chatsworth High.

Karen is the daughter of Elizabeth & Jessie Baker who formerly resided at Farralone & Lassen Streets and Kevin is the only son of Ruth and Virgil, our friends and Society members.

The Rev. Lawrence White of Chapel in the Canyon officiated and the ceremony was held in the rose arbor at the acre.

Kevin's daughter by his first marriage, Nicole, visited the family this year for several months and was able to attend Chatsworth Park School for the 5th grade. She presently resides in Virginia with her mother, Sandy.

		
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	and co-chairman of Grounds	
CELIA WOODMAN - Editor		347-8569
MARIAN HYLAND - is also		
DIRECTOR of DOCENTS this year		882-1852

From Celia: Love to all my friends - thanks for your prayers, gifts and phone calls.