

Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 102, Chatsworth, California

Smoke Signal

LILA SCHEPLER,
President

NOVEMBER 1986

CELIA WOODMAN,
Editor

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM WILL BE.....

A VISIT TO CHATSWORTH PARK, ENGLAND and A TOUR OF THE ANCESTRAL
HOME OF

THE DUKE & DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE

Lecture, slides by Zena Thorpe

Zena Thorpe was born just thirteen miles from Chatsworth Park, Derbyshire, England - she has many happy memories of picnics held there by her family and friends. Zena and her husband, John Thorpe, came to America twenty years ago and settled in Chatsworth, California!

Both John and Zena have given service to Chatsworth, John is a past president of the Friends of the Library and Zena is currently treasurer of that group. Zena is also serving as president of the Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council; she is also senior warden at St. Mary the Divine Anglican Catholic Church - which meets in the historic 1903 Pioneer Church that was saved and restored by the Chatsworth Historical Society.

Zena and John are the parents of four children. Please come and enjoy this interesting program.

TIME: 7:30 P.M.
DATE: Tuesday, November 18, 1986
PLACE: Glendale Federal Community Room

*****HOBBY CORNER*****HOBBY CORNER*****

Louise Roberts will share her collection of books on California history. A collection of books and letters owned by the Society and pertaining to the Duke of Devonshire will be on display.

Don't eat dessert at home - join us for an exciting taste experience prior to the meeting and browse through the hobby corner - hostesses for this event are Lillian Schemwell and Eileen Janess, more later - Millie Goff, chairman, hostesses committee.

OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Come and join the fun - our hosts, Phil and Steve at their antique filled - ABNER'S YELLOW BARN, 16710 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, Saturday, December 6 from 7 to 9 p.m.

If you attend please plan to bring along finger food - not just cookies, please - finger sandwiches, meatballs, cocktail sausages - use your imagination! After all - 'tis the season to be jolly!

We'll also exchange gifts - to a value of \$3 so bring some little something along and enjoy the good company of friends from our Society.

CENTENNIAL

Sunday, November 2, 1986

The Homestead Acre's centennial celebration took place under cloudless blue skies with the serenity of the acre itself adding a timeless quality to the afternoon. The museum, house and gardens were open for tours as usual but there were some interesting added attractions. Among these attractions, one of the most elegant was the 1927 Chrysler model 60, in all its beauty, sporting little American flags in a cluster on the radiator ornament. Its proud owner, Bill Hodges, explained that the car had been in his family for about forty years and that it had served as wedding car when he was married in 1951 also for his offspring and the newest member of the family, 6 months old, is destined to ride to his wedding in the Chrysler. Bill also told of the many hours he has spent in rebuilding the engine and restoring the car and keeping it running - but he also admits to having visited many out of the way places throughout Southern California, with his wife, when they have been made to feel very welcome and at most of these spots, special parking places are usually arranged for - he's driven the car to San Diego, Solvang and many historic spots throughout the southland.

Thanks, Mr. & Mrs. Hodges for sharing your elegant car!

Several talented people demonstrated household crafts, and two charming women were there with spinning wheels to demonstrate their ability to take raw wool (and other substances) and make yarn that they later use in needle craft hobbies such as knitting and crotcheting.

Hope Parshall, of Chatsworth, has been "spinning" for about ten years and her friend Jan Flores has been active with the hobby for about seven years. The type of wheel they use is a working wheel. It was designed during World War I in New Zealand and was used to make yarn for the women to knit woollen garments needed by the men fighting the war. Theirs are modern copies of the original machines.

The two women buy supplies, such as the raw wool, collectively with friends at conventions and meetings of suppliers. Their organization is "The Spinning Jennies."

At the time of the centennial, Hope was spinning yarn from a Sheltly - apparently not the first time she has made yarn from a canine fur. After completing the spinning from the Sheltly pelt, Hope had produced a very handsome yarn that in turn she will knit into something for the Sheltly's owner. Meanwhile, the yarn being spun by Jan was from the wool of a black Australian sheep.

Past president Jane Matthews demonstrated quilting using pieces already made by her late mother, Esther Sandburg Wachs. Mrs. Wachs was working on the quilt with the lovely name of Grandmother's Flower Garden, and Jane had finally decided that certain strips and edgings of the quilt depict the garden paths. At first Jane was inclined toward completing the quilt on the sewing machine but can't do that - the paths would not absolutely square off. Jane's mother was a former resident of Chatsworth.

Zena Thorpe was demonstrating crocheting and had numerous samples of this intricate work while Marian Hyland was busy knitting - and holding forth with by-standers who were discussing the pro's and con's of knitting the English or the American way. We do have some talented folk in our town - including Bill Razanski who brought along some of his prize-winning oil and acrylic paintings. Bill has several realistic Western-style canvases and one in particular depicting the oft told tale of people getting out of the stage coach on our old trail, helping push the coach up Devil's Slide. (Your acting editor has always been grateful not to have been born to a real pioneer family!)

Other highlights of the centennial included the presentation of a city scroll from Councilman Hal Bernson by his deputy, Reta Fitzgerald, accepted graciously by Lila Schepler; a very interesting history of the acre and its surrounding acreage by Virginia Watson plus entertainment by Fern Jack on the old organ, accompanying Jane Matthews in the singing of several old songs.

A note from Lila.....

Once again we thank Sheelagh Watts for editing the "Smoke Signal" while Celia Woodman is ill. We all enjoyed last month's issue, Sheelagh.

Celia would appreciate cards from her many friends - maybe you would like to tell her you're thinking of her.

With the help of Mrs. Ditlow at Chatsworth High School we have ten young people interested in doing an oral history project - interviewing teachers and the principals who brought Chatsworth High to this era; also community leaders who helped launch Chatsworth High in 1963. This should prove to be an interesting and fun committment for all concerned.. Are you interested in assisting with it?

May Thanksgiving be a beautiful time for you,

Lila

From Millie Goff, Hostess Committee Chairman:

The committee wishes to express a welcome to the visitors at the October meeting at Glendale Federal. We hope that you'll come and join us each month on the third Tuesday. The visitors are, Beverly Arneson, Harold Callahan and Sara Schell of Chatsworth and Fran Spivak of Northridge.

My grateful thanks to Marian Hyland and Zena Thorpe for the delicious "goodies" and table decorations for the October meeting.

Millie.

USED BOOK SALE COMING UP.....

Mark the dates, **JANUARY 23, 24, 25** at Topanga Plaza. Lillian Schepler, ways and means chairman, is in charge and she's asking you to save books and magazines and call her to arrange for pick up if this is needed. Last year we raised quite a bit of money at the sale. Let's top that record this year! Plan to sign up to work one of the three days...

HELP****HELP****HELP

Helen Fladwed has given us an electric stove for the Society's use in the back kitchen at the Homestead cottage. (Note! for our use not as an historic artifact) We can only accept this stove if we can have the kitchen door re-hung and the opening into the back porch enlarged. The stove is 2 and 1/4" too wide for the door to open inward as at the present time. Is there someone in our Society who could do this for us, or do you know someone who can? Thanks a lot Helen.

When the Hill-Palmer family owned the the general store in town, about the time they built the present cottage, they had a roll top desk that later became an important part of the furnishings at the cottage. The Society is interested in obtaining an authentic roll top desk of the period. If anyone in the Society has one they would like to donate we would be delighted to acquire this needed addition to the furnishings. Or perhaps you have a fund-raising idea for buying one!
+++++

The obituaries of two members of our society will appear in the next issue of the Smoke Signal. Space in this issue is limited. Our condolences to the families of:

Dr. Donald Ferris, husband of past president Dr. Ruth Boak; and a life member;
Virgil Heumann, our friend, security agent and more, and husband of Ruth and an honorary member.

NEW YORK CITY BALLET NEWS

The 90 member City Ballet gave seven performances during the week of October 15th through 19th at the new Orange County Performing Arts Center, Segerstrom Hall, in Costa Mesa. Of course, Heather Watts' family was well represented at all performances. The new theatre is beautiful and a major cultural asset to the southland.

Friends and family enjoyed all the performances and especially the newest ballet choreographed for Heather and her partner, Jock Soto, titled "Songs of the Auvergne," to music by Marie-Joseph Canteloube. Soprano Karen Hunt accompanied the dancers and the choreography is by Peter Martins.

IOLINE CLEVELAND RECUPERATES.....

Ioline Cleveland is in Alliance, Nebraska, where her daughter Cathe teaches school. She is recuperating from serious surgery but is coming along very well. However, she will probably not be released to return to Chatsworth until the first week in December. We think of her often, with great affection, and wish her a very speedy recover. Everett is staying there and we hope they'll both return home soon because we miss them!

MARIAN on MEMBERSHIP:

Thanks to all of you for so promptly sending in dues for the 1986-87 year - no long lists of delinquents anymore!

We now have a total of seven honorary life members; fifty eight life members plus two organizations, Chatsworth Park Elementary School and Chatsworth Woman's Club (counting heads - not families); we also have one hundred and fifty six general members plus five student members! The total is 228!

Please add the following names to your roster:

Dan & Dorothy Leinwand
19147 Clymer Street
Northridge, CA 91326
Michael Leinwand, student.

Trudi Schaff
10045 Casaba Ave.,
Chatsworth, CA 91311
886-4348

Doris Potvin,
c/o Printing Safari
9843 Topanga Canyon Blvd.,
Chatsworth, CA 91311
709-3752

Bill & Irene Lazendorf
8877 Farralone Ave.,
Canoga Park, CA 91304
347-8147

Bela & Ann Molnar

10179-7 Larwin Ave.,
Chatsworth, CA 91311
709--4720

PLEASE NOTE! Change of address:

Wilda N. Johnson
703 E. Magnolia, Apt. D
Burbank, CA 91501

There are so many of you that we've been unable to get to know - with a roster so long we should be looking for a larger place to meet. But please do come to our meetings whenever you can. Remember, Chatsworth will celebrate its centennial in 1988 - if you have any suggestions for celebrating this event we'd love to hear from you. Thanks for helping build our organization.

Marian Hyland, vice president, membership committee.

P.S. Would you like to be a docent and take tours of the cottage and the museum, tell the history of the acre - it's fun!

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 and co-chairman of Grounds	341-4461
CELIA WOODMAN - Editor	347-8569
MARIAN HYLAND - is also DIRECTOR of DOCENTS this year	882-1852

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:
(and if I have neglected to write up on any-
one, please let me know. 347-8569)

Trude (Gertrude) Schaff
10045 Casaba, Chatsworth, CA 91311
Tel. 886-4345
Trudi has always been an interested and active non-member before, that is, as officer mgr. for the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce, she would attend some of our functions and always put new in their monthly paper (If I could get it to her in time). She worked for the Chamber for 7 1/2 years, but she really didn't retire from writing because she is now Editor for the "Chit Chat" the news letter written for her church "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints"- Chatsworth First Ward.

As a farewell gift the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce gave her a 12-day trip to Hawaii, where she stayed in the home of her son, Jerry. This, of course, gave her a greater opportunity to see and enjoy the Island of Oahu than if she had gone on a regular tour. Jerry lives on the 34th floor in the pent house! There they had a beautiful view of Pearl Harbor.

In addition to Jerry they have 3 other children, Sandra, Kathleen and Mark & husband, Larry.

BELA (pronounced "Bala") & Ann Molnar
10179-7Larwin Chatsworth, CA 91311
Tel. 709-4720
They have only lived in Chatsworth since May 1986 and love it very much - so we know we can count on them to be some of our active members.

Bela is retired from the Dry cleaning business Ann was a patternmaker for 48 years (she was probably one of our designers who changed our styles each year from short to long dress, from medium to tight or flaired pants, from girdle type gowns to loose fitting tops).... Her hobby is music, esp. the piano. She worked 22 years without a vacation, so let's not be too hard on her for awhile. His hobbies are traveling and doing most everything - so we can use that!

They have a married son, Peter Oreckinta, who is a Sound Engineer. his lovely wife was Jackie Lutz, a native Californian, they have a darling daughter Andrea Joy age 4 1/2. They live in Woodland Hills.

In my interview with Ann she mentioned her inspirational trip to Israel, she had pointed out to her the little hut where John, the beloved, brought the Mother Mary after the crucifixion of Christ. Probably the most exciting event was 6/14/'85 with the hijacking of the plane - they were only 2 planes behind, but could get no information of anything.

Now for our belated birthdays: June:
Chuck Janess, Kelley Watson Daily, Dean Craig Gertrude Cook, Joe Iverson, Tricia Plucknett, Fauness Day, Nancy Oliva, Georgia Cooper, Carmelita Johnson & Clark Davis... July:

Eileen Janess, Bill Schepler, Sandy Johnson, Lorraine Mitchell, Keith Watts, Marilyn Hayes Louise Roberts, Mary Bishop, George Weisberg, Robert Winter, Red Ewalt, Harry Mitchell, Ann Molnar & Felicia Robinson.

Aug.: Kenneth Bartlett, Orville Mitchell, Celia Woodman, Trudi Schaff, Judy Arnold, Ken Bartlett, Orville Mitchell, Robert Hayes Irene Nalbandian, Dave Alveri, Zen Thorpe, Wilda Johnson, Steve Washburn & Desmond Green

SEPT. Jim Summers, Bob Selvidge, Virginia Ditto, Bob Sherman, Matthew Mitchell, Ed Dietrick, Louise Mitchell, Ed Mitchell.

PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR: We will be in the Holiday Parade Dec 14th - Theme- "Holiday Traditions" our float-Christmas at the Homestead Acre"

Dear friends and readers,
I am so happy to be improving enough to write this part of the Smoke Signal.

After I became ill and had to have immediate surgery - I was still worrying who would write the Smoke Signal. Sometimes we believe that we are indispensable (perhaps because because I love writing it so much), because we think that no one else could do it. After I was told I had to go to the hospital for surgery. I started to think "who will write the Smoke Signal?" My first thought was Lila Schepler, but she is too busy being President (and Chairman of next year's Centennial) and she hates writing it anyway. - Next I thought of Wilda Johnson, but now she lives too far away, by the way her new address is: 703 E. Magnolia #D, Burbank, CA 91501. Jane Matthews also lives too far away. George and Evelyn Meltzer have all the potential, but they spend 6 months here at their home and 6 months at their vacation home. Louise Roberts had to quit even as sec. of our C.H.S. because of her busy schedule. Pauline Aue is also so busy with many other secretarial duties. Lucille Clements could have done the typing, but someone else would have had to do all the interviewing and have everyone bring the news to her. Virginia Watson (was the editor before me) has more than enough to do with her column in the Daily News "Neighbors". If you don't take the Daily all those living in Chatsworth and Northridge should at least buy it at a news stand on Wed.

At this time I want to thank all of you for your concerns - over 100 cards, prayers, about 50 gifts, flower arrangements and food.. On the last lovely growing basket arrangement was a dear little note from Sheelagh Watts saying, "I will do the Smoke Signal for you for Oct." How sweet! Sheelagh owns Natures Flower Garden on Devonshire and I know that on Holidays and weddings, etc. she often gets up at 4 am and may not go to bed until after midnight, so how could I have imposed on her? She is also doing the rest of the Smoke Signal this time. Isn't it always the busiest person?

SEPT. cont.: Candy Craig, Carol Overton, Hildur Berkemeyer OCT: Doris Dossier, Michael Lauritson, Mildred Goff, Polly Vickers, Cathe Cleveland, Peggy Beltramo, Doris Potvin, Sheelagh Watts, Lucille Clements, Lillian Schepler, Margaret Tagoris, Louise Curinga, Charles Daniels, Augustine Enderle, Car. Grimm

The Topless Ford
by
Valeta Koller

Dad always thought Mom was too harum-scarum to drive an automobile. It was bad enough when she used to drive that frisky filly pulling her phaeton but now there was a Model T. Well, we didn't have much traffic in our town in those days and only one paved street in the whole town; she couldn't get into too much trouble, just driving to the general store and taking us kids to church on Sunday morning. Dad didn't go to church; all he ever did was work, working the fields from sun up till sun down, seven days a week.

It was a bright clear day; the Sunday I remember best. Visibility was perfect. We had stopped to visit with all the town folks on the church steps, just like we did every Sunday. I'm not sure if we were in a hurry, we might have been. Mom might have talked a little longer than usual and Sunday dinner could have been in the oven, but then Mom was usually in a hurry, even when she wasn't, that's the feeling you always got around her.

I was in the back seat of the old Ford, it didn't have a top, I don't know if it ever did. I couldn't remember any. We left the church and turned down our street, it crossed the railroad tracks about a quarter of a mile down the road, right at the top of a little knoll. I saw the train coming; we didn't have any bells in those days, at least not in our little town, just one of those cross-armed things that said: "Look out for the trains." Well wouldn't anyone? particularly if they had knowbn for years and years, that the tracks were there.

I knew my mother was a pretty fast driver--as I said, she always gave everyone the impression that she was in a hurry--she did see the train, didn't she? As we got closer and closer to the track and she didn't slow down I began to wonder, but by that time I couldn't even yell; I was frozen in my seat, my eyes glued to that onrushing monster. Finally she did see it but we could have never stopped in time. The throttle went all the way down; it was hand operated, located on the steering wheel column rather than the floor. We shot over those tracks like a rocket. With a scrape and a swish, the old steam engine went past!

We never stopped; I don't think Mom could have. No one said anything the rest of the way home. We pulled into the barn and we all piled out of the car. Mom found her voice then, "Don't mention about that, to your Dad." Well, I'm sure us kids did a lot of discussing about it in private, but it wasn't a supper time topic. One evening, about two weeks later, Dad came in from the barn. I heard him ask Mom: "Whatever happened to the tail light on the Ford?"

THE END

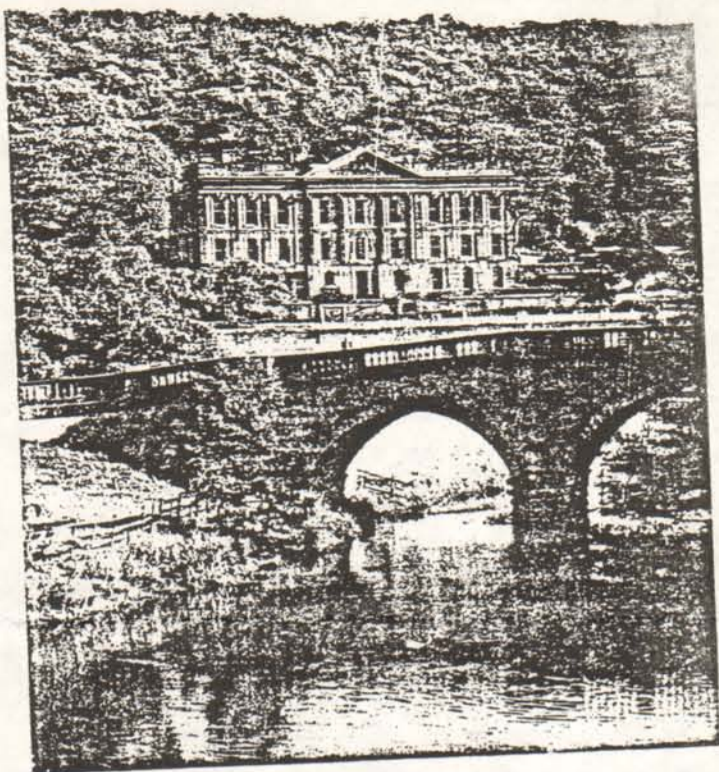
Editor's note: Thanks Valeta for a story about our town, and for the information of our readers, this took place in the late 1920's, on Lassen Street and the church of course is our little church.



Bill Hodges & 1927 Chrysler



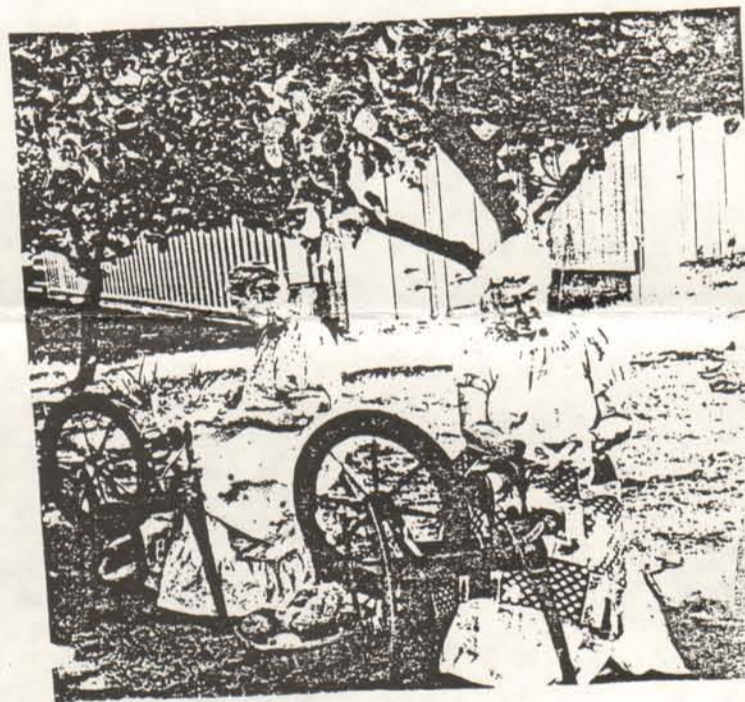
New York City Ballet star Heather Watts



Home of
The Duke & Duchess of Devonshire



Jane Matthews, quilting



Jan Flores & Hope Parshall, spinning



Zena Thorpe, crotchetting



Marian Myland, knitting

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SOCIETY MEMBER HONORED

Linn C. Stuckenbruck has returned to Chatsworth from Montreal, Canada, where he was honored at the 18th annual seminar/symposium of the Project Management Institute International. Stuckenbruck received the PMI Fellow award in recognition of his achievements and contributions to the advancement of project management.

The author of "The Implementation of Project Management: The Professional's Handbook," published by the Project Management Institute in 1981, he also wrote a handbook titled "Team Building for Project Managers," and prepared an index of all the PMI papers published in the Project Management Journal from 1969 to 1984.

A national officer of the PMI, he was presented its Distinguished Service Award in 1980.

Currently he is a professor of systems management with the Institute of Safety and Systems Management at USC where he has been an instructor for more than 17 years. Linn has taught a wide variety of systems and management courses and has conducted research in the areas of project management, team building, organizational development and other management problems.

Prior to going to USC, Linn was employed at Rockwell International where he held several management positions. Earlier in his career he was a technical specialist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at California Institute of Technology.

Linn is a graduate of the State University of Iowa where he obtained his Ph.D in chemical engineering. He studied management at USC. An active community worker, Linn is a member of Toastmaster International, he's an aviation buff and collects pictures and memorabilia of old airplanes. He's a member of the photography and publications committee of our Society and assists with its collection of historic photographs and slides.

Of course, Linn is married to Marlys, active Society member and recently retired fourth grade teacher at Chatsworth Park Elementary School and the two have a married daughter, Linda "Corky" Smith who lives in Texas.

SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK NEWS.....

The public is invited to the Mountain Park's 16th anniversary party and the second anniversary of the establishment of the Visitors Center in Chatsworth Park South. Musical entertainment and a cake-cutting are planned - Sunday, November 16, noon to 3.