

# Smoke Signal



## Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 3102, Chatsworth, California

Lila Schepler, President

Sheila Watts, Editor

7:30 p.m. May 19, 1987

Chatsworth Historical Society  
Meeting

Glendale Federal Community  
Room; Installation of Officers  
with the theme, "Bake A 100th  
Birthday Cake," Lila Schepler,  
Installing Officer.

Hostesses, Millie Goff,  
Virginia Watson and Lucille  
Clements.

Hobby corner, Virginia Watson,  
A Collection of Brides and  
Leuise and Ed Mitchell,  
Porcelain dolls.

Y'all come - and help us bake  
that cake!!

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### ANNUAL YARD SALE!

June 13/14

This year's fund raising yard  
sale will once again be held  
at the home of Everett &  
Iolene Cleveland.....and we  
need your help. Please save us  
all of your discards and bring  
them to the Cleveland's home  
during the next few weeks.

We need everything - old toys,  
clocks, watches, tools,  
collectibles, vases, curtains,  
drapes, towels, baby furniture,  
and white elephants in general.

We also need people to help  
price in the week before the  
sale - we're holding work  
parties on the evenings prior  
to the sale.

Sale hours will be from 8 a.m.  
to dusk, both days. Please  
volunteer to help by donating,  
working and purchasing.

A LINE FROM LILA.....

In my last month as President  
it is a joy to write to each  
of you to thank you for the  
opportunity of serving as  
your President for the sixth  
time.

I extend my gratitude for the  
support, service and unselfish  
work and effort the 1986-87  
Board has shown during this  
period. When I remember the  
events which have taken place  
this year: "Come Fly With Us,"  
(our first meeting), with 63  
present; "100 years at the  
Homestead," honoring 1886-1986  
and the changes which have  
taken place; our 99th birthday  
party in March and the program  
wherein we reminisced together  
via Dr. Del Stelck's video  
show the many changes that  
have occurred in the valley;  
the fun we had at Phil Saylor's  
"Yellow Barn" for our Christmas  
party. I am thrilled with the  
work of your board.

Even smaller tasks such as  
placing the correct date on  
the "Welcome to Chatsworth"  
sign; distributing up-to-date  
rosters (thanks to Elaine  
Swartz and Marian Hyland) plus  
Barbara Pampalone's gift of  
our computerized address  
labels for the monthly newslet-  
ter. When I think of the fund  
raisers, Lillian Schepler and  
the Book Sale; Candy & Dean  
Craig's Rose Festival - it  
boggles the mind!

Thank you to all for happy  
memories and congratulations  
on so many accomplishments.



My best wishes to each board member who will be serving during 1987-88 and may you all have a joyous centennial year for our town and a successful 25th anniversary for our Society. Thank you to all.

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### CENTENNIAL QUILT

Chairman: Ruth Grant reports:

The Chatsworth Historical Society quilt for Chatsworth's 100th Birthday celebration will incorporate a combination of two traditional patchwork patterns (as illustrated elsewhere in the Newsletter), 'the Road to California and 'the North Wind.....both appropriate to Chatsworth. It will feature pictorial squares honoring our history, natural attractions and historical monuments. It will also include a botanical profile of the community. When complete, the quilt will be permanently displayed at the Homestead Acre Museum.

Many of you are already aware that the quilt backing has been on display at the Museum for about a month. For \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children, signatures are being placed on the backing. The museum will be open on June 6 from 1 to 4 p.m. Please visit and place your signature on the quilt.

This is a group VOLUNTEER project being accomplished by experienced seamstresses of our community. It is not too late for interested volunteers to join the project.

Five of the thirteen member committee are not members of the Society and we welcome their assistance on this memorable project. Committee members are:

Ruth Ball Jackie O'Reilly  
Jan Fornanek Millie Goff  
Marian Hyland Carmie Johnson  
Lila Schepler Zena Thorpe  
Margaret Perkins Betty Summers  
Dorothy Sammartano  
Jackie Sylvester Ruth Grant.

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### MUSEUM RENOVATION

What a rewarding project to work on! What an upheaval the two months have been! How wonderful it all looks today!

I want to tell you about the people who worked on the project because all of our projects begin with volunteers. The folks are,

Virginia Watson, Lillian Schepler, Millie Goff, Marian Hyland, Bette Butler, Ruby Swan, Mary Kitchens, Fern Jack, Eileen Janess, Chuck Janess, Bill Schepler, Ramon Avila, Candy Craig, Dean Craig, Lila Schepler. Altogether they clocked in 957 hours of service on the entire renovation. Even at \$8 per hour, that has saved the Society \$7256.00. What a wonderful gift! I extend the gratitude of the Society to these folk.

A multitude of tasks were addressed:

1. The costume collection was logged in, assigned an inventory number and every item had this number placed on it -



dresses, tuxedos, shawls, purses, hats, overcoats, wedding dresses, jewelry etc. All costumes have been placed in boxes or hung in garment bags and labeled by the decade each bag represents. The furs have been cleaned and placed with the collection.

Costumes have also been placed in the A and B collections, meaning that some costumes would be useful for a Fashion Show but might be a re-production rather than an authentic item of clothing.

2. The entire store has been inventoried and store cases re-decorated. The curtains have been replaced with a colorful pannier. Potted plants now hang in the windows and interesting or antique plates have been hung in the windows.

3. The entire library has been inventoried, a card file has been made of every book, pamphlet, monograph etc.

4. The exterior museum closets have been made more useful by the installation of sturdy shelves. On these are such items as the public address system and podium; large photographs, maps, posters at least 3' x 3' in size. Also collections which have been donated such as the Canteen Club Albums (for the boys in the service), PTA year books. Several organizations now defunct have donated their memorabilia to the Society for their preservation. The old fire bell from the elementary school is there along with 3 huge cartons of newspapers we hope to have micro-filmed someday. These storage systems were

labeled 1, 2 & 3 made more useful by the doors being changed so they open out and locks were installed. (The doors were painted during the "55 weekend" by fraternity members.)

5. Every item in our collections of photographs and artifacts were assigned numbers and placed in proper storage i.e. acid free boxes for all photos, etc. The cottage had previously been completed but was brought up to date with all of the items added during this year.

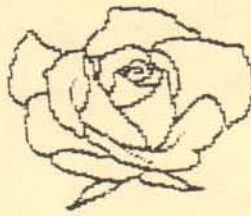
6. Everything was removed from the walls and cases. New photos were enlarged and placed on the walls to tell the brief story of the early days of Chatsworth. Cases all have new displays - one dedicated to Indians (all prehistoric) memorabilia from Chatsworth. Another to Minnie Hill Palmer; still another to tools used by early pioneers, many from the Palmer homestead such as Minnie's hoe.

7. All exhibition walls and cases have been newly labeled.

In the above brief description of work now completed, you have a word picture of the gift your fellow members have made for the Society. If you didn't get to Open House, Rose Festival, etc., do make it a special point to visit the first Sunday of the month so you can enjoy the New Look for yourself.

Thank you to all who assisted in any way, Lila Schepler, Chmn.





NEW VENTURE

Member Paul Dentzel (son of our friend, Elizabeth Waldo Dentzel and the late Carl Dentzel) is opening his own store in the new plaza at Reseda Blvd and Chase St in Northridge around the first of June.

The store will feature ice cream and yogurt and Paul plans to display photographs and information about valley history on the walls.

Congratulations and we'll watch for the announcement of the grand opening!

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ROSE FESTIVAL

The newsletter is going to press too soon for a final report on this 4th annual event but from all accounts it was a winner.

Hundreds of people turned out and roses, books, cookies were sell-outs and financially we made more than last year.

Watch the next Smoke Signal for a complete report and join us in congratulating Candy and Dean Craig for a job well done.

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Northridge Park Festival and Judged Art Show to be held on June 6 & 7 at 10058 Reseda Blvd Northridge.

The Society will have a booth staffed by docents who will be there to answer questions about the Historical Society and also about the history of Chatsworth, its monuments and artifacts.

A very entertaining weekend is in store for the whole family there'll be food booths including a chili cook-off, arts & crafts show, continuous entertainment on 4 stages plus a battle of the bands. The carnival will open at 6 p.m. and in the children's area will be a petting zoo, miniature train rides and the Bob Baker Marionettes.

This event will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Northridge Salute to the Arts and Lila Schepler will be one of those honored at the re-union as one of those who helped it begin - as will member Ginny Dill who was one of the founders.

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WATTS WHAT.....

Lorna Ahlstrom is in the hospital taking treatments which will make it possible for her to come home and the healing process will continue. In June, 1987, Ed and Lorna will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Ioline Cleveland is home from Nebraska and beginning to feel better.

Tricia is back from Australia and her shoulder is healing nicely.

Jane Matthews is busy as usual and she is always busy with extremely interesting projects. First she's chairing a committee for the Swedish American Historical Assn., of Calif., which is working with a committee from the Thousand Oaks branch of the American Scandinavian Foundation to establish a Scandinavian



Cultural Center at California Lutheran University.

Jane is also serving as Grounds Committee chair for the Laurelwood Homeowners Assn. in Camarillo the position she has held for the past year.

Jane will be lecturing throughout the state on "Carl Sandburg's America," and "The Sculptures of Africa." Jane will be lecturing to organizations including University Women, the Cuesta College Forum series, Calif. Lutheran University etc.

Fern and Gerald Jack had a wonderful time flying to Indiana and back and brought back many fond memories.

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#### SHOWER ANNOUNCED

Incoming president Virginia Watson is planning a "Fire Shower" for outgoing president Lila Schepler. This event will take place on the afternoon of June 28 at the Homestead Acre and all members of the Society are invited to attend.

Remember, a fire gutted the kitchen of Lila and Bill Schepler last November, and also destroyed all the contents. Let's help replace them.

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HOMESTEAD ACRE TOURS  
Sun. June 7, 1 to 4 p.m.

Zena Thorpe will replace Marian Hyland as lead docent and other docents are Helen Thomas and Millie Goff. Starting with this open house,

we'll be serving lemonade and cookies as a fund raiser.

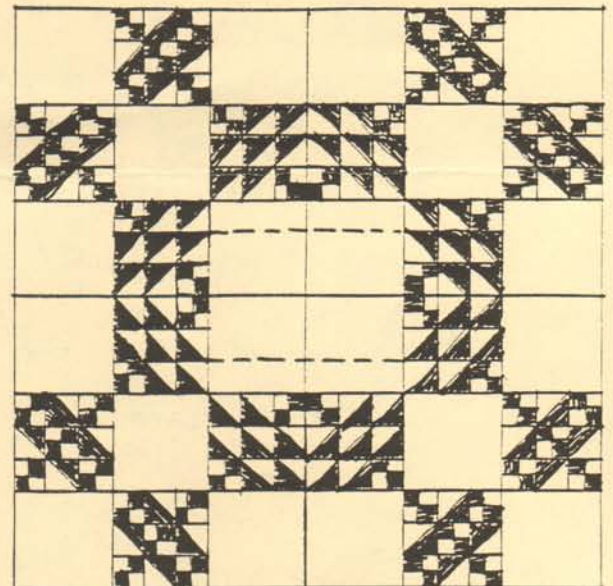
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#### SIGNATURES NEEDED

Californians for Parks and Wildlife are seeking a large number of signatures to qualify for an initiative on the ballot. The board of directors of the Historical Society voted to help them in this quest. Contact Jan Hinkston of the Santa Susanna Mountain Park Assn., or write to Californians for Parks and Wildlife, P.O. Box 88, Reseda, CA 91335.

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*the CHATSWORTH 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY QUILT . . .*



Drawn by Ruth Grant



She was born Mary Elizabeth Spurrier on December 12, 1918 in North Platt, Nebraska. Her parents moved to Jackson, California when she was eighteen months old and then to Chatsworth when she was four and a half years. She grew up doing chores on her father's chicken ranch but took every opportunity she could to kick off her shoes and go climb trees or sneak off to read a book. She often told us her shoes had to be wired to her feet so her grandchildren come by going barefoot honestly.

She excelled in school and graduated valedictorian of her senior class. She had hoped to go to college to become a kindergarten teacher but the depression changed her mind and brought into her life her husband, Lewis Barksdale, of forty nine years and nine months. They had their first date on Saturday night before Easter Sunday and it ended with sunrise services. They fell in love and were married six weeks later on May 14, 1937. They made their first home in Long Beach, then moved to Idylwild and finally to Hemet. While in Long Beach they had three children, two boys and a girl.

She went to work for the County of Riverside Welfare Department in 1956 as a case worker in various capacities and retired in 1986. Besides raising a family and working she was involved with Eastern Star, Rainbow Girls, Boy Scouting, and the Romona Pageant. She and Lewis had become involved with Lions Youth Exchange about 1970 and had many adoptive Japanese and Australian families as a result. There were also many people locally who thought of Betty and Lewis as family.

One of her favorite things to do was to travel. We've had to check her calendar occasionally in order to plan activities. As many of you know Betty and Lewis were on vacation in Australia for an extended time. As some do not know she became ill from diverticulitis and peritonitis and lost the battle for her life on February 9 in Melbourne, Australia. A memorial service was held for her there. A memorial gathering is planned for March 1 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the home of Tony and Patti Barksdale, 181 Possum Hollow, Anaheim, 714-998-2916. Lewis can be contacted at that address until May.

We request that any contributions be made to the City of Hope, 1500 E. Duarte, Duarte, Ca. 91010 in her name in lieu of flowers.

Survived by husband Lewis Barksdale, Sincerely,  
of Hemet, Anna Gary Barksdale of  
Camarillo, Tony Barksdale of Anaheim, Family of Betty Barksdale  
Seven grandchildren, & Brother  
Bill Spurrier of Los Osos.



May 1987



FREE ADMISSION

LOTS OF PARKING

FOURTH ANNUAL

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# ROSE FESTIVAL

SAT., MAY 9

HOMEMADE LEMONADE

1-4 P.M.

BAKED GOODS

COTTAGE, MUSEUM,  
& GARDEN TOURS

MINI-BOOK SALE

OLD, RARE OR UNUSUAL

**FOR  
SALE!**

## ROSE BUSHES

Join us for an old fashioned

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON**

AT

**THE HOMESTEAD ACRE**

West end of Devonshire St. in Chatsworth Park South.

For more information:

(818) 341-4461

(818) 341-3447



# Chatsworth Historical Society

Lila Schepler President **Smoke Signal** Sheila Watts, Editor

## Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 3rd from 1 to 4 p.m., Open House at the Acre. Come and tour the museum, the cottage & the gardens - see all the new photographs on the walls. The museum in particular looks "all new" because of the hard work of the refurbishing committee.



SATURDAY, May 9th will be the 4th annual Rose Festival - please see details on reverse side of this page.

Saturday, May 16 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., will be Old Timers Day at Abner's Yellow Barn and the details will be found in the advertisement on this page.

Tuesday, May 19 - circle the date - will be the installation of officers for the Historical Society. The details have not been completed but do hold the date and all the information will be in the next newsletter.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers:

Virginia Watson,	President
Jane Matthews	1st V.P.
Lillian Schepler	2nd V.P.
Marian Hyland	3rd V.P.
Mildred Goff	4th V.P.
Zena Thorpe	Rec. Sec.
Mary Kitchens	Corr. Sec.
Charles Janess, Treasurer & Permanent Board Member	
Virginia Watson, Curator & Permanent Board Member	
Wm. Schepler, Dir. of Photo- graphic Materials	
Betty Summers, Member at Large	
Candy Craig, Chmn Grounds Committee	



Eileen Janess	Auditor
Sheila Watts	Editor
Dean Craig,	Co-chairman,
Grounds & Member at Large	
Lila Schepler,	Director of
Docents.	

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The Girl Scouts are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of their organization.

The former PTA (now PTSA) is celebrating 90 years of service to youth and education.

The Chatsworth Centennial is coming up fast and we've heard rumours that the committee has invited the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire to be honored guests during 1988!

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**"OLD TIMER'S DAY"**  
**ANTIQUÉ EXHIBITION**  
**& OLD FASHIONED AUTO SHOW**  
**ABNER'S YELLOW BARN**  
**ANTIQUÉ EMPORIUM**  
 to Recreate the days of yesteryear...  
**Date: Saturday, May 16, 1987**



Time: 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.  
16710 SHERMAN WAY - VAN NUYS  
JUST EAST OF BALBOA - AMPLE FREE PARKING

ADMISSION \$3.00