

Smoke Signal

Virginia Watson, President

Sheila Watts, Editor

June, 1987



Chatsworth Historical Society

Box 3102, Chatsworth, California

GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 16th

7:30 p.m.

Glendale Federal Savings
21821 Devonshire Street

Plan to attend the last meeting before the summer recess.

Eunice Kent, librarian of the Chatsworth branch of the Los Angeles Public Library will be the featured speaker.

Her topic will be the replacement of the hundreds of volumes of books that were lost during the fire at the main branch of the Los Angeles Library. Creative financing and a developer with an original idea guarantee that the building will be rebuilt, so now the important compilation of the lost volumes and their purchase will be the topic of our June meeting.

Lila Schepler will be hostess and her co-hostess will be Helen Fladwed; Lila will share her interest in turquoise jewelry for the hobby corner.

We cordially invite you to attend and become an important part of the Society - your attendance at meetings helps the board of directors plan more interesting meetings for your entertainment.

YARD SALE

Saturday & Sunday June 13,14
8 a.m. till 5 p.m. each day.
10347 Jordan Avenue,
Chatsworth.

We need your donations, we need help with the pricing each evening until the sale.

Plan to help by donating, working or buying merchandise. Remember, we need all your discards and we already have thousands of items for sale - dishes, books, furniture, appliances, bedding, tools, bicycles, clothing, collectibles, office machinery, working small appliances. ...everything from A to Z - and remember -

THIS IS YOUR SALE!!!

Dates to Remember.....

June 28 Shower for Lila

July 4th Happy Birthday America!

July 5 Acre Open House

Aug 2 Acre Open House
Aug 27 reception at the Acre for the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce. Need volunteers in costume for tours, serve refreshments 5 to 8 p.m.

Sept. 20 Potluck with entertainment 1:30 to 4 p.m. Kicking off the new year for the Society and the start of our Centennial celebration.

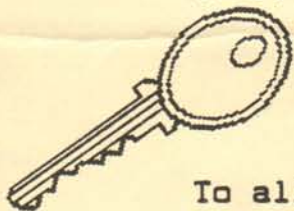
President's Message:

Many thanks to last year's president Lila Schepler and the outgoing executive board for the delightful installation ceremony and the fine year just completed. Many of the same people will be working on this year's board plus a few new board members and I know that this year will also be successful.

"Chatsworth's Centennial and our Silver Anniversary" is the theme and we have planned an exciting year. Elsewhere you will find a program approved by the board.

Docents and garden volunteers will be working throughout the summer, but after our upcoming June program meeting we will not have a meeting until Sept 20th when we'll enjoy a family picnic at the Acre. More about that in our September Smoke Signal.

Hope you have a pleasant summer and if you travel please visit other historical places and bring back information about how they present the story of their area.
Virginia.



PLEASE NOTE!

To all of those who have keys to the Homestead Acre. If the gate is locked when you arrive to work at the Acre, please be sure that you LOCK IT WHEN YOU LEAVE.

If you plan to come to the Homestead Acre after dark, please give Ruth Heumann a call beforehand and let her know you are coming, or if that is not possible, please knock on her door and let her know it is someone with permission to be on the grounds.

Ruth's number is 341-3586.

Virginia.

1987 PROGRAM

- Sept 20 Family picnic at the Acre
- Oct 10 Trip to Malibu to Ringe Ranch and Malibu tile works
- Oct 20 Program, Jane Matthews, Old and New Africa
- Nov 8 Fund raising trip to Piru mansion
- Nov 17 Chumash Indian expert from Cal Lutheran, display old cook books, highlight foods, maize.
- Dec 13 Chatsworth Parade
- Dec 15 Christmas party at the Acre; food for FISH instead of exchanging gifts.
- Dec 20 Trip to Descanso Gardens.

POSSIBLE WAYS & MEANS PROJECTS for 1987/1988

A recent meeting of the Ways & Means committee was attended by Lillian Schepler, ways and means vice president, Jane Matthews, vice president programs and Virginia Watson, president. According to Lillian, the following fund raisers were suggested:

Lemonade to be made from lemons from the Acre to be sold during open house at the

Acre.

Book sale the last weekend in January at Topanga Plaza;

Yard sale at the Acre on April 9 and 10;

Pioneer Days, May 14 at the Acre with booths, bake sale, barbecue, crafts, gifts;

Gift Shop - T-Shirts, clothes-pin dolls. Possible summer workshops for needlewomen and men to make craft items for sale in the gift shop, asking others besides Society members to help.

Plus the three trips mentioned - Malibu; Jane Matthews in charge; Piru Mansion, Virginia in charge and Descanso Gardens, Lillian in charge.



Virginia Watson, President
1987-88

Virginia Watson, one of the organizers of the Chatsworth Historical Society, will serve her third term as president. She was secretary for the organizing group and then served as president in

1970-72 and again in 1978-79 when the Society became conservators of the Homestead Acre (Bill Schepler named it that!)

She and her husband, Henry Watson, have been married 47 years this August. They have two children, Judy (Mrs. James) Jeude, of Bridgeport, California and Kelley (Mrs. Jeff) Daily of Northridge.

They have five grandchildren; Jeff Jeude is the oldest, age 21. He attends CSUN and is a geography major. He also attends UCLA for ROTC classes and should be commissioned as a second lieutenant next May.

Jodie Jeude, 18, will be graduating from Coleville High School this month and will come to Los Angeles in September to attend cosmetology class and will live with Virginia & Hank while going to school.

Justin Jeude, 16, attends high school and is an entrepreneur--he owns his own skateboard business which he runs out of his home.

Crystal Daily, 5, is Kelley's oldest child and will start to school in September and Alex Taylor Daily will be two in September.

Virginia was working on the history of Chatsworth before there was a historical society--she started in 1961 to gather information, to interview old timers, search records, and it was her collection that became the society's collection.

Since moving to Chatsworth in

1952, Virginia has been involved in all areas of community service. It is a privilege for our Society to have this accomplished writer, author and historic researcher as the president of our organization.

Born Virginia Wilson in Terre Haute, Indiana, she came to California in the thirties when only 12 years old. The family lived in Highland Park on the south side of Los Angeles. After her marriage to Hank the young couple moved to Culver City where he was employed by M.G.M. Studios.

Virginia became acquainted with Chuch Janess shortly after moving to Chatsworth when they were both Civil Defense workers taking training in an old warehouse in Canoga Park. You might say that they met over a stretcher, as they were doing practice evacuation at the time.

Later Virginia organized and was in charge of the Chatsworth Block Mothers for Civil Defense and arranged for First Aid classes for Chatsworth. She organized Chatsworth in Blocks and was the Mother's March chairman for five years. She worked a year as secretary at the Chatsworth Park Elementary School and worked in PTA, Girl Scouts, 4-H and the Chatsworth Womens Club.

Virginia was a charter member of the Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council and she assisted Evie Bowers in getting that organization started.

She is a writer, has had a few poems published, many magazine

and newspaper articles published, writes fiction now and then, but now writes mostly history.

She has been a correspondent/-columnist for the Daily News for more than 25 years and writes a weekly column about Chatsworth, Granada Hills and Northridge.

Her goals include making the Chatsworth Historical Society a stronger, better-known organization and to see that the Society leads the way in the Centennial celebration.

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

It was with great regret that the board of directors of the Chatsworth Historical Society received, and accepted, the resignation of Candy Craig as Grounds chairman and the resignation of Dean Craig as Grounds co-chairman. The board of directors wrote a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Craig reluctantly accepting their resignations.

Candy and Dean have been most devoted to the Society and its objectives and have been responsible for many of the improvements that have taken place since the Acre came under the Society's care. The recent Rose Festival was a great success due to their attendance to detail.

In a Fall Issue of the Smoke Signal we will feature a list of their accomplishments.
