

# Chatsworth, California

## 1888 - 1988



### Smoke Signal

### February, 1988

Chatsworth Historical Society  
Chatsworth, California  
Virginia Watson, President

Volume 25, No.2  
Sheila Watts, Editor

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear Members and Friends:

We are already into February of the Centennial year and each day brings us closer to the 100th birthday of Chatsworth on March 10, and the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Chatsworth Historical Society on April 17.

The big birthday party will be held at the Recreation Building at Chatsworth Park South at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 10, and all Chatsworth Historical Society Members are invited.

Prior to the party a reception will be held for for VIP's including Mayor Bradley and other honored guests. Chatsworth Historical Society board members and docents will act as hostesses and the refreshments will be catered. Centennial Committee members will also serve as hosts and hostesses.

We are stil making plans for the Society's Silver Anniversary and will announce them next month.

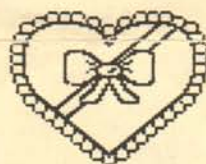
On Sunday, March 13, several of our members will be honored at the 25th All-Class Reunion of Chatsworth High School also to be held at the Park.

Lila and Bill Schepler will be honored as a team for 25 years of committment and leadership to the Chatsworth Historical Society and the community.

Jan Hinkston, a long time member of CHS and founder of the Santa Susana MountainPark Association, will also be honored.

Our special Valentine will be Ioline Cleveland at the February 18 meeting! Hope to see you all there - Virginia.

PROGRAM MEETING FEBRUARY 18 AT  
7:30 P.M. AT GLENDALE  
FEDERAL SAVINGS.



Mrs. Ioline Cleveland will be the speaker at the February meeting and the subject will be the history of Chatsworth Park Elementary School.

Ioline has recently completed lengthy research into the history of the school covering over 100 years so this is her personal centennial project. The board of directors voted recently to support this important project. The school's recent history covers the period when it has been part of the Los Angeles Unified School District but we shall learn from Ioline's talk of other school districts with which it was associated.

Ioline is well known to most of the members of the Society as she was president for three years and served as ways and means chairman for a decade. Together with her husband, Everett, Ioline hosted the famous fund raising yard sales that kept the Society solvent.



Until her retirement two or three years ago Ioline was a teacher for over three decades at Chatsworth Park Elementary School. Because of this, her interest in the school's history brought about her in-depth research and this will result in a booklet that the Society can offer in the museum book store, adding to our fund of knowledge about Chatsworth.

In addition, Ioline will share her large collection of Valentine Cards - a wonderful collection of cards going back about a century.

We are inviting all of you who plan to attend the meeting on Tuesday to bring a book to share - a book that has been important in your life. It may be a new book, a book of prose or verse, a book on any subject.

### WHITSETT LECTURE SERIES!

The second lecture in the W.P. Whitesett California Lecture series will be held on Friday, April 22 at California State University, Northridge. Dr. Andrew Rolle of Occidental College will speak on "Exploring an Explorer: California, Psychohistory, and John C. Fremont". A reception will begin at 6 p.m. in the Tapestry Room of the University Student Union at CSUN, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. The lecture will be in the Santa Clarita Room at 8 p.m. Free parking will be available for all guests. For further information contact the Department of History at (818) 885-3566.  
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### ABOUT THE LOMBARDI BUILDING by Virginia Ditto

The Woman's Club of Chatsworth was formed a few years before my parents moved here in 1924. They had all sorts of fund raisers and some of the better established families had contributed to the building fund. They had enough for a building on their lot when.....Frank Hageman (husband of the first Woman's Club president, Grace Hageman) who fancied himself as a Real Estate entrepreneur prevailed upon the ladies to buy several lots and build a large building. Then the payments by the Club would be met by the rentals from the other stores in the larger building. That worked fine for a while - the Postoffice was there, a butcher shop I remember - 'twas the center of town. Then they paved Topanga Canyon to Canoga Park and the Ralph Building went up on the South East corner of Devonshire and Topanga/Santa Susana -remember the street name used to change there (later the home of Chatsworth Pharmacy)-----and with this, the center of town changed and moved to that intersection.



The ladies were not good at business and soon Mr. Salvadore Lombardi had to foreclose to protect his investment. He let the Woman's Club stay there for a

LONG time. He was very nice about it all. After a while when he could rent the room, the ladies moved to Juliet Wilkins old store on the S.E. corner of Owensmouth & Devonshire and they stayed there until Mr. & Mrs. Frank Schepler Sr., donated the land across from Chatsworth Park Elementary School and a new building was built (now the Jehovah's Witness Hall).

WATTS WHAT: Betty Summers has a lovely pictorial calendar of the Phillips University Colorado Field Camp for 1988 that features her son, Dr. Jeffrey Burkhart, a biologist and director of the summer camp. The camp promotes discovery, fellowship and learning by doing in a non-traditional campus setting.

This has been a strange winter with lots of snow, very cool temperatures and more wind than anyone needs. This has produced more sicknesses and if I were to list all of those suffering from 'flu, colds, arthritis symptoms, it would include most of the members who live in Chatsworth.



The board of directors is working on a project for the museum for display in May and June. This is the Parsons Project and we hope to collect photographs and memorabilia about Milton & Collette Parsons, their "Cookie Jar Theatre", Chatsworth Summer Theatre and the many film roles that Milton portrayed. If anyone out there has any photographs or information, playbills or other mementoes of these two very talented and interesting people - please contact the editor at 341-4489 or 341-0480.

While working as a docent last Sunday, your editor was lucky enough to meet Mr & Mrs. Joe Lopez - Joe's parents moved to Chatsworth in 1918 where his Dad was employed by the Southern Pacific Railroad and his parents first lived in the section housing on the south side of Devonshire between the wash and the RR tracks. Later his family lived right next to Chatsworth Park Elementary School and he remained in Chatsworth until 1937 when he married and moved to San Fernando. He verified Virginia Ditto's account of the Lombardi building and said that Mr. Hageman owned the lemon grove that went from Owensmouth to Topanga on the North side of Devonshire while the Salvador Lombardi Family ranch was at Mason & Lassen. Joe also remembered that there was a barber shop in the Lombardi building which was built around 1924 and was the only brick building in town at that time.