

Sept 88

Chatsworth, California 1888 - 1988



Smoke Signal

September, 1988

Chatsworth Historical Society
Chatsworth, California Volume 26, No.2
Jane Matthews, President Sheila Watts, Editor

BRUNCH TO START NEW SEASON

The Historical Society will open the 1988-89 year with a salad potluck brunch at the Acre on Sunday, September 11 at 1:30 p.m. Members of the San Fernando valley Historical Society will join us for the event.

Dennis Adler will be the speaker and his subject will be his recent trip to England as the guest of the Rolls Royce Company. Adler is the vintage cars editor for Westways magazine and this year's visit included a tour of the Rolls Royce plant at Crewe and tours of several British castles. He will provide a slide demonstration.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend. Call Millie Goff at 882-0381 or the Society's answering machine, 882-5614.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT.

This summer is passing rapidly. Work around the Acre has moved somewhat more slowly, although much has been accomplished. Members of the Calif. Conservation Corps spent several days doing brick work and cleaning weeds from the creek bed. The trees have gotten attention. Grassy areas have replaced the vegetable garden and the weeding is ongoing. Scrap pipe and wood have been

removed. When you next visit the Acre, I think you will be



pleased with the results. Some defective flooring in the house will be replaced and vinyl flooring is being stalled in the addition at the rear.

The Dept of Recreation & Parks will be planting oleanders outside the fence along the private road within a month or two.

I hope you all had a recreative summer and I look forward to seeing you at the September 11th meeting. Plans for the year will be outlined then.

Jane Matthews

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FROM THE ACRE.....

It is so peaceful and quiet at the Homestead Acre--unlocking the gate and stepping inside is like stepping back in time, back to the early part of the century. That is why I am so glad that we saved and preserved it. That is why I enjoy going up there and feel that the time I spent working there this summer was well spent.

It may be peaceful and quiet most of the time but it does take a lot of work to keep it looking good. We have Albert Redondo, our gardening contract-

or, who works once a week or so at maintaining the Acre and who has put in a lot of extra time cleaning up the area under the fruit trees and putting in the sod in our reception area.

The Centennial Willow Tree is doing fine! Remember - Chatsworth Nursery donated it and we planted it during our Pioneer Day celebration. Albert and I made sure it got off to a good start. We are lucky that Albert is such a dedicated worker and does a fine job. He is knowledgeable about roses, plants and trees and comes highly recommended by the gardeners at Orcutt Park where he works part time.

In addition we had the Calif. Conservation Corps for almost a week. They weeded the flower beds & cleaned out the creek bed, made the brick outline around the front lawn and a lot of clean up. A young man by the name of Jesse was in charge of the crew and the young men & women loved the Homestead and the home cooking we provided for their lunches. While they were working the toilet overflowed so Jesse helped Ramon Avila repair it with parts supplied by CHS.

George Atkinson is working at the Acre regularly. He is a Court referral like the fraternity members we had a while back. He works at least once a week and he's good with the roses and knows many plants. He is a hard worker and a real asset to the Acre.

WE have a resident family of bluejays--there's a grandfather bluejay who has lived there a long time and now it looks like a large family. I saw five altogether the

other day. They scold anyone who comes to the Acre early in the morning. They come in every afternoon for a shower before settling in for the night.

A possum wandered in and died under the black walnut tree and I had to call the animal regulation department. Ruth Heumann let them in and pointed out the possum. The skunks come out at night and wander around but so far have not taken up residence again as they did a few years back.

Jane has spent a lot of time weeding and other work at the Acre. She has been there once a week all summer working with the CCC and dead-heading among other work.

The Dept of Recreation & Parks has been helping us by mowing the biggest part of the lawn. Albert does the smaller areas with our own Toro. He's had to take the tires to Chatsworth Tire several times recently and they fixed them for us at no charge. Be sure to thank them when you go in for your own personal tire business. Right now the lawnmower is at AAA Repair in Canoga Park where Albert took it when it broke down.

I am reporting all these events as I think the members should know how much work and how much money it takes to keep up the grounds. Other people will report on the house etc. But you should know that the money for your dues and other fund-raising events goes for very practical everyday upkeep of the Acre.

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AWARD OF MERIT

The California Historical Society honored Elisabeth Waldo of Northridge with an Award of Merit in Folkways. Ms. Waldo is the mother of CHS first vice president Paul Dentzel and she is an internationally renowned violinist, conductor and ethnomusicologist. The award was present-ed at the Society's 1988 Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon recently at the AwahneeHotel in Yosemite National Park.

Ms. Waldo received the award for her unique and creative interpretation of the music of early California. Composed and conducted by Ms. Waldo, her original music is based on extensive research on the Indo-Hispanic and Asian cultures of 18th and 19th century California natives.

Elisabeth Waldo recently formed the Multi-cultural Visual & Performing Arts Center at her Northridge studio, a non profit organization of which she is artistic director. We congratulate this talented musician and cultural leader.

SHEILA'S SHENANIGANS CONTINUED.....

Jane Matthews is a very busy lady indeed. In addition to serving as president of the CHS she is on the board of four other organizations including that of the Scandinavian Cultural Center at Cal Lutheran in Thousand Oaks. She'll be curating an exhibition of Scandinavian artifacts including those from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden during September at the University.

TALENTED SPINNER.....

Many thanks to Hope Parshall for her extremely interesting speech and exhibit at our June meeting, on the theme of spinning and weaving - we were all astonished to learn how

menkind has been involved in this vocation. Hope has also attended all of our open house Sundays at the Acre and exhibited her great spinning talent for the enjoyment of the visitors.

SAD NEWS.....

We were saddened to receive the news from Grant's Pass, Oregon of the death of Sam "Red" Ewalt, husband of Thelma Johnson Ewalt. This news was received too late for me to have any details for the newsletter.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ralph and Marian Hyland whose son Jim is very seriously ill - please add this fine family to your prayers.

We welcome Geoge Atkinson as a new member of the Society.

CONTINUING THE SAGA OF THE WATTS offspring, Heather danced with and directed a group of dancers from the N.Y. City Ballet on a tour of Greece and Spain this summer, returning in time to leave for several performances in Tokyo with the entire company. Mark and Cindy recently returned from three weeks in Australia where Cindy worked with the members of the California exhibit at the Expo in Brisbane during California week which was officially opened by Gov. Dukmejian. Mark & Cindy then enjoyed touring the Great Barrier Reef and the wine country around Newcastle. Kevin & Diane and children moved to San Diego during the summer.

We hear from Lillian Schepler that Sarita Goodwin is enjoying her new life at Chatsworth Park Convalescent Hospital, 10610 Owensmouth Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311.....if anyone would care to drop her a line.

CENTENNIAL QUILT BRINGS HONORS TO CHATSWORTH:

The beautiful quilt made by the Centennial Quilt Committee, under the direction of Ruth Grant, was entered in the San Fernando Valley Fair in August and to the great delight of all, it won "Best of the Show," and was awarded a huge ribbon.

Many members made the trip to the Fair to see the quilt.

The quilt is named for the "North Wind" and the "Road to California," and includes squares depicting the history of Chatsworth, and the flora and fauna of the area.

Encouraged by this success, the editor contacted the California State Fair Committee in Sacramento and when they learned that it had won great honor at the local fair, they encouraged the Society to enter the quilt in their fair. Through the cooperation of State Assembly-woman Cathy Wright who delivered the quilt to the Fairgrounds in Sacramento, the quilt was entered and won an Award of Merit!

The quilt will not be entered at the Los Angeles County Fair in Pomona as that Fair only accepts Quilts made by individuals.

To say the least, the Centennial Committee and the Chatsworth Historical Society have great pride in the accomplishments of these extremely talented needlewomen and thank them again for contributing probably the most permanent article commemorating the town's 100th birthday.

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WHOO WHOO! Make a note historians - once again Chatsworth is involved with the passenger train business. The odd little platform at DeSoto and the railroad tracks was reactivated recently.

The first train stopped on the evening of July 2nd with many dignitaries on hand to get their pictures in the papers.

The trains are south bound from Santa Barbara and north bound from San Diego. According to Kevin Watts who rode it the second night, July 3rd, the train makes lots of stops and was a pleasant way to return to Chatsworth when his car broke down in San

Diego. Information about the service is available from AMTRAK.

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THE ARCHITECTURE OF JOHN LAUTNER:

A tour will showcase four rarely-opened homes as part of an ongoing program for public appreciation of Post World War II architecture, and the Los Angeles Conservancy will offer a sampling of the expressionist architecture of John Lautner on Sunday, Oct 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost of the tour is \$30 for L.A. Conservancy members, \$40 for the general public and includes van transportation from central locations and guided tours of each home.

The four houses included in the tour are the world famous Silvertop (1957), the Carling House (1950), the Garcia/Rainbow House (1963) and Lautner's own first residence. Like much of Lautner's work, these highly original designs are uniquely integrated with their sites, affording spectacular views of the city. For information and tickets contact the L.A. Conservancy, Suite 1024, Los Angeles, CA 90013 or telephone (213) 623-CITY.

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WELLS FARGO HISTORY MUSEUM

Located at 333 South Grand Avenue in Los Angeles, at Wells Fargo Center atop Bunker Hill it includes more than 1,000 historical items and early California exhibits from the collection of the West's oldest bank.

Features include a 60 x 8 ft mural depicting Los Angeles in the mid-1800's, two Concord stage-coaches and a walk-through Wells Fargo agent's office with a working telegraph key.

Open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tours available. Documentaries shown in the museum theatre. For information, call (213) 253-7166

Lila Schepler is looking into the possibility of Society members taking an arranged tour, possibly on a weekend.

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From the editor: The reason for the two part newsletter this month is that we experienced a serious problem with the program used for publishing the Smoke Signal.