

Chatsworth, California 1888 - 1988

Smoke Signal

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Chatsworth Historical Society
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Jane Matthews, President

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Sheila Watts, Editor

CATCH A STAGECOACH TO ADVENTURE!

Lila and Bill Schepler have arranged for Society members and their guests to visit the Wells Fargo Museum in Los Angeles on Tuesday, January 31st.

Those interested in taking this tour should meet at the Acre at 10:45 am to share rides. Lunch will be at Little Joe's Restaurant and luncheon costs are \$5 and up.

We'll park possibly at Union Station and travel to the museum on the "Dash" shuttle bus at a cost of .25 cents each way.

You'll enjoy visiting an early-day Wells Fargo office; see the craftsmanship of an original Concord stagecoach built in 1890, and see an impressive display of gold samples and mining tools. Questions or reservations? Call Lila at 341-3447.

ROSE PRUNING TIME AT THE ACRE!

It's that time of year again - the time when we must prune the roses - so mark the date and please come:

Saturday, January 28th at 10 a.m.

A local Rose Society will be assisting but we do need your help.

CASTOFFS NEEDED! FOR Spring Yard Sale***April 15 and 16

Time also for some spring cleaning - to clean out closets, garages, and other storage areas and to bring or send all of your castoffs to the Acre.

On a recent radio program I heard an interesting discussion about the clutter in most people's lives and I decided to make it my New Year's resolution to get rid of some of my clutter. The speaker said that the average kitchen has at least one totally unused small appliance so I decided to check and sure enough I found a manual vegetable chopper I haven't used since I got the food processor a decade ago.

Please call Lillian Schepler at 341-2697 or Donna Afflerbach at 882-0485 to arrange for pick up of donations.

We need everything from books and tools to top quality clothing and bric-a-brac and everything in between.

Nominating Committee News

The Nominating Committee will report in the February issue of the Smoke Signal and election of officers for the 1989-1990 year will be held at the March quarterly meeting of the Society, according to Virginia Watson chairman of the Committee.

Autograph Party a Success

By any standard, the Christmas party at the Homestead Acre was an unqualified success. The turn out was tremendous and a very enjoyable time was had by all participants.

Iolene Cleveland's book, "Chatsworth Park Elementary School: The First 100 Years," was hot off the press and Iolene was on hand to autograph copies for the many buyers....all of whom appeared to have fond memories of the school, and its staff, through the years.

In addition to the autograph party, docents were on hand to lead tours of the museum, the cottage and the grounds. Following the autograph session, the docents served tea and refreshments in the cottage.

The weather was beautiful adding to the enjoyment of the day and many old friends came to visit. As a Society we should be grateful for many things - for Iolene for her tenacity in researching and writing this valuable addition to our publications - and on Iolene's behalf we give thanks for her improved health. For more than two years Iolene's health has not been good and she has still not completely recovered but on this particular day she looked much improved.

Thanks Iolene - we sold over \$900 worth of the books and requests are still coming in.

MANY THANKS to Rocky and Mary Gendler, owners of Allen Graphics. The young couple were married in the Pioneer Church earlier this year. Just before Christmas they donated 500 beautiful Christmas cards to St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church - the cards feature a lovely picture of our little church. Zena Thorpe graciously gave half of these to the Society and we have them on sale at the museum store for \$10 for 25. Also on sale there are foodstuffs of the Duchess of Devonshire line - come to an open house and check all this out.

MARCH MEETING TO CONCLUDE CENTENNIAL YEAR

The one year celebration of Chatsworth's 100th birthday will end on Sunday, March 12 when the Historical Society and the Centennial Committee meet at the Homestead Acre for ceremonies marking the burial of the time capsule.

Society members and friends will meet at the Acre at 2 p.m. for the March quarterly meeting that will include election of officers. At the conclusion of the meeting the time capsule ceremonies will take place. Refreshments will be served. Lillian Schepler is in charge of assembling items for the capsule. Individuals and organizations are invited to submit such items. There is a \$10 charge for this and lists, photographs or memorabilia should be placed in a manila envelope size 8-1/2" x 10-1/2".

For those interested in having family names on the plaque to be placed by the side of the time capsule, the cost is \$25 per family.

Please call Lillian at 341-2697 with any questions but remember the deadline for entering items in the capsule is January 31st.

WATTS WHAT.....While the wonderful autograph party was being held in Chatsworth your editor was across the country in New York City visiting daughters Heather and Jennifer - an early Christmas! Keith accompanied me of course and we both enjoyed seeing New York prepare for the holidays - the horse drawn vehicles were white with touches of red and green, the windows in Sak's and other major stores were like individual tableaus depicting holiday scenes and the skating at Rockefeller Center was colorful and exciting; the Metropolitan Museum had two special shows featuring the artists Degas and Georgia O'Keefe. We sat entranced through the magical "Nutcracker" danced by the New York City Ballet with Heather as the Sugar Plum Fairy and were thoroughly entertained by pianist Bobbie Short at the Carlisle Hotel. It was a brief but exciting weekend..... Marlys and Linn Stuckenbruck visited their only daughter Linda (Corky) and her husband Mark Smith in Dallas, Texas during the recent holidays. They visited several museums and shops where Corky's weaving is on display and included museum shops where Mark's new art form of wood carvings are being sold. Corky now teaches weaving using the computer and enjoys it very much, according to her parents. They have moved from Denton, Texas where they lived in an historic house which they had restored. Now they live closer to the museums where Corky teaches in addition to the classes she teaches at the university.....Speaking of the children of our members being involved in history and historic projects-- did you know that Caroline Schepler Grimm is a docent for the L.A. Conservancy? And that Louise Schepler Mitchell teaches antique China doll painting - Louise has twelve students and has been teaching for 2 years but prefers workshops where teachers & students learn alike.

EAGLE SCOUT NEWS

For some time now, David Vincent age 14 of troop 535 BSA, has been working on his Eagle Award. His project is to clean and weed the rose beds near the back of the house and to put up new identifying markers for the old roses. He came to the Homestead Acre and Virginia Watson made a copy of the diagrams that Candy Craig made of the names of the roses in the Garden Docent Manual that she edited. David, his father and members of his troop made new aluminum identifying stakes.

On Saturday, December 17, David was accompanied to the Acre by a large group of Scouts and members of the Church of the Latter Day Saints and they all spent the morning weeding the rose beds and placing new stakes.

It was a rainy day but it cleared enough for the group to complete their work and have lunch before leaving. David and his crew did a fine job and the CHS is very pleased with the results.

Hope Parshall, one of our newer members, has been very ill with a middle ear infection that causes her to lose her balance. She is the lady who brings her spinning wheel to our open house on Sundays and for our Pioneer Days.

Eileen Janess is recovering from a bad fall at her home when she broke her hip. She's using a walker and was able to attend the January board meeting at the home of Jane Matthews. Eileen spent over a week in the the hospital and when she came home, Chuck had to be hospitalized for a few days for constant hiccups. We hope the New Year will see these folks both returned to good health.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS.

We welcome two new Life Members into the Society this month. They are Nancy Resenski and Marjorie Wilkinson.

Nancy has been a regular member of the Society for a number of years and Marjorie is the wife of former City Councilman Robert Wilkinson who is an honorary member of the CHS.

TYPEWRITER, WORD PROCESSOR OR COMPUTER?

It's soon going to be decision time as to what machine will be most advantageous for use at the Frank Schepler, Jr., Library. For years we have had aging typewriters that we've used to their last gasp. It's time to rethink and weigh the advantages of the more recent word processor and computer over a typewriter that can serve only the one function - several members are using word processors and computers and our labels were originally supplied by Barbara Pampalone and now by the editor. All of our archival information could be permanently stored through use of either of these machines. Of course they cost more - but maybe someone on our list would like to be an angel and donate one!!