

Chatsworth, California 1888 - 1988

Smoke Signal

February, 1989

Chatsworth Historical Society
Chatsworth, California
Jane Matthews, President

Volume 26, No. 7
Sheila Watts, Editor

MARCH MEETING

The meeting will be held at the Homestead Acre on Sunday, March 12 at 1:30 p.m. and all members of the Society are invited to attend the brief event. The only item of business will be the election of officers for the 1989-90 year. The report of the nominating committee will be found elsewhere in the Smoke Signal.

Immediately following the election of officers, at 2 p.m., the Society will assist the Centennial Committee with the ceremonies involved in the burial of the TIME CAPSULE.

The ceremonies will feature Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, elected officials, entertainment by the Natural High group; a song by president Jane Matthews and the dedication of the capsule and the adjoining plaque by Bea Berman, Centennial Committee chairman.

Lillian Schepler is in charge of the Time Capsule and she has set March 1st as the deadline for submitting items for inclusion in the capsule as well as for placing names on the adjoining plaque. Items for the capsule should be placed in an 8 1/2 x 10 1/2 inch manila envelope and this costs \$10. Family names to be included on the plaque cost \$25.

Refreshments will be served following the ceremonies and members and friends are invited to attend. If anyone would care to assist with this project please contact Lillian at 341-2697.

SPRING YARD SALE COMING UP SOON!

So don't forget to save your castoffs after you finish spring cleaning. Call Sheila 341-4489, Lillian, 341-2697, Donna, 882-0485

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members of the San Fernando Valley Roses and Heritage Roses came on January 28 to prune the roses at the Homestead Acre. This is a community effort for them and we are most grateful. They covered quite a bit of the area. Board members served a casserole lunch and told about life in the days of the Hills and early day Chatsworth. Dean and Candy Craig are now working to finish the project and fertilize the beds.

On January 31, eight members enjoyed lunch at Little Joe's in downtown Los Angeles and then went on to the Wells Fargo Bank Museum. The curator gave a very complete presentation of the history of the stagecoach routes, the gold discovery, and other events depicting the development of the West. We will plan future trips on weekends for those who wish to learn more of the lore of our history.

Jane

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT by Virginia Watson

President.....Sheila Watts
1st U.P. Programs.....Bea Berman
2nd U.P. Ways & Means, Weddings_open___
3rd U.P. Membership.....Marian Hyland
4th U.P. Hospitality.....Betty Summers
Recording Secretary,
Corresponding Secretary,
Combined in 1988.....Donna Afflerbach
Treasurer.....Lillian Schepler
Editor, Smoke Signal.....Sheila Watts
Assistant to Editor.....Marian Hyland
Director of
Photographic Materials.....Bill Schepler
Board Member at Large
and Grounds Chairman.....Ramon Avila
Board Member at Large.....Louise Roberts
Bd Member at Large &
Assistant Docent Director.....Pauline Aue

Nominating Committee Report continued.....

IN MEMORIAM

The following are permanent board positions that do not require being voted on:

Chuck Janess, Eileen Janess; Lila Schepler, permanent director of docents, Virginia Watson, curator, Jane Matthews, immediate past president and parliamentarian.

Marian Hyland, assistant to editor, will mail the Smoke Signal and telephone members for news for the newsletter; this position is voluntary and does not require a vote. The same is true of Betty Summers decision to remain as assistant curator: no vote required as that position is voluntary.....but arn't they all!

Albert the gardner has been working very hard and the results show. Even though the grass still has its winter look, there are signs of spring with narcissis and other early blossoms brightening the recent cold spell. The good news is that the City Parks & Recreation Dept., is providing pink oleanders and Albert is busy planting these with the help of court referral people. The first are being planted on the outside of the fence starting along the side of the private road to the east of the Acre. Eventually, the entire Acre will be surrounded by the bushes that will allow for privacy.

Dean Craig has been working on the sprinkler system which is unreliable to say the least.

Money has been coming in to the treasury as a result of Milly Goff's generous offer to donate her profit from the sale of Shaklee products to Society members. An exact sum is not available but it is well over \$100. Thank you Milly.

At the time of the printing of this issue, Milly has a great deal on her mind and we offer her love and prayers.

Milly's daughter has a brain tumour - she is currently being treated by several doctors all of whom are highly skilled in this field. Our prayers are with the family.

REMINDER.....Please tell friends and relatives that the Homestead Acre is available for weddings and parties!!

Henry W. Berkemeyer was born March 8, 1893 in San Francisco, Calif. His family moved to San Luis Obispo and had a bakery there. He felt the San Francisco earthquake which knocked a box of stick matches off the wall that would have started a fire if he had not been there to put it out. His birth certificate burned up in the San Francisco fire that followed the quake.

He graduated from California Polytechnical School in 1910 and then came to Los Angeles where he worked as an electrician for Edison, Newbury Electric, Bullocks and Lockheed. Soon after coming to the area he was severely injured while working on high voltage wires but he made a good recovery.

He married Hildur Petersen in 1915 and they were married for 72 years. They had two children, six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. They bought and fixed up old houses, moving around the L.A. area for several years.. They even owned a chicken ranch in Reseda at one time. They finally moved to Glendale and stayed there for many years.

They moved to Chatsworth in 1943 and he opened an electrical shop in 1946. He wired the original Women's Clubhouse and Minnie Palmer's house along with many others. He finally retired and spent his time gardening and travelling. He was a member of the Elk's Lodge for 62 years.

He is greatly missed by his family and friends - he always had a lot of good advice to give or an interesting story about the past to keep his listener interested.

JANE MATTHEW'S superb collection of African art is currently on exhibit at the Bakersfield College Art Gallery, Bakersfield, CA through February 24 together with the African art collection of Jim Gulbranson. In addition to displaying her collection, Jane was curator of the entire exhibit.

The total number of art items on display is 83 and these range from masks in numerous media, statuary, jewelry, trays, staffs and fertility dolls. Just setting up the display must have been time consuming and in addition, Jane wrote the introduction to the exhibit for the show's brochure. Don't know how she manages all of these outstanding activities.
