



# Smoke Signal

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## The Party's Over!

Sunday, March 12 proved to be another perfect day for a celebration at the Homestead Acre and it was there that the Chatsworth Centennial Committee held the final party for Chatsworth's 100th birthday.

With songs, jokes, balloons and a cast of one hundred, the Time Capsule was placed in its own monument and eventually sealed.

Bea Berman, Centennial Committee chairman, led the proceedings that included warm greetings from elected officials, State Assemblywoman Cathy Wright and County Supervisor Mike Antonovich, entertainment by the Natural High Group and our own Jane Matthews.

A surprise happening was the beautiful pillow that Zena Thorpe and Ruth Grant designed, made and presented to Bea as a lifetime memento of the Centennial year. The pillow is a miniature of the second Centennial Quilt and includes an embroidered and stitched satin rose.....one of a kind!

The Time Capsule was absolutely full by the time it was sealed and had the oxygen removed - individuals and businesses contributed fascinating memorabilia as did local organizations. In fact the contents include a complete Cub Scout uniform.

Songs included "America the Beautiful," and "I'll Make the San Fernando Valley My Home." It was a brief ceremony and following the balloon release, refreshments were served by CHS docents who also conducted tours of the cottage and museum.

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Election of Officers for the 1989-90 year was held at the museum prior to the Centennial event. The slate was elected unanimously and installation of the new officers will take place at the May quarterly meeting. info on the installation will be announced in the April issue of the Smoke Signal.

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## NEWS FROM THE HOMESTEAD ACRE.....

Spring arrived a little early at the Homestead Acre this year--the narcissus and spring bulbs are almost finished blooming, but the fruit trees are just beginning to blossom and the Acre is lovely this time of the year.

It is always a pleasant surprise to find the sudden blossoming of a bulb we didn't know was there. Many of you remember Minnie Hill Palmer who spent most of her life at The Acre. She loved flowers and especially flowers that grew from a bulb. People were always giving her bulbs and she often moved flowers. On many occasions I've seen her standing talking and saw her reach down and dig a hole to plant a bulb where she was standing. So flowers come up in unexpected places. Also when we first obtained The Acre the Los Angeles Dept of Recreation and Parks lined the driveway they made around the cottage with the big purple and other colored bearded iris. Candy and Dean also planted many bulbs and so we have a fine display of unexpected beauty.

Candy has completed pruning the roses and is fertilizing them. She is replacing some that we lost. She and Dean put in some lovely colorful plants in the flower beds at their own expense for which we are very grateful.

Dean is repairing and updating the sprinkler system that he put in with the grant from RCA. He has also tuned and repaired the garden tractor.

Other volunteers who worked in the gardens recently are Marian Hyland, Betty Summers, Ramon Avila & Donna Afflerbach. Many thanks to all who helped.

Albert Redondo, our gardening contractor, has been very busy lately. He spent St. Patrick's Day readying the "green" for us! Earlier he had readied the garden area for the sod and on Friday placed it. Ruth Heumann helped us out by watching for the truck and showing them where to put the delivery. We purchased the grass sod from Randy at Chatsworth Nursery. If you will remember that same nursery donated the Centennial willow tree and gave us a special rate on the sod we bought last year. They helped us out again this time and the garden area looks so inviting. It would make a nice location for our installation in May. Also if any of our members would like to rent the grounds for a private party, we would give a special rate to members.

We have had many calls for rentals but so far have not booked weddings for this summer. However, at our April Open House we plan on having a surprise bride in a wedding dress and Linn Stuckenbruck will take photographs to use as publicity for weddings.

ACRE continued.....

That's about all the current news for this month, next month will be my last report as Ramon Avila will be in charge of the grounds after our installation. I would like to thank everyone who helped throughout the year--those of you who deadheaded, weeded, watered and planted and those of you who contributed to our money-raising projects which gave us the money to do the needed projects.

Virginia.

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News of the Docent Committee:

Lila Schepler, director of docents, has announced that three women are now enrolled in the docent training program that will continue through April 15\16 and that the final training will take place in the Homestead Cottage instead of the museum as the museum will be in use for the yard sale.

The first addition to the docent roster is Donna Afflerbach who became involved in the Historical Society after working with the Centennial Committee. She was one of the hard working members of that committee as she served as liaison to the public and private schools of the area for the essay contest and the balloon lift for the birthday party.

Donna was born in Massachusetts and her husband, Michael, was born in Philadelphia. The two met in Okinawa where she was teaching elementary school for the Defense Department and he was a technical representative for Litton Industries. Michael returned to the States, to Woodland Hills and when Donna returned she stopped to visit him - and they went from there to Las Vegas to be married.

The Afflerbach family has lived in Chatsworth for sixteen years and includes 19 year old Amy and Nick, 16. In addition to her community interests, Donna enjoys bowling with a group she's been with since the children were in nursery school and she also enjoys gardening. Welcome to our docent program.

Dorothy Sammartano and her husband, Joe, moved to their home on Halsted Street in Chatsworth 30 years ago. Joe is an engineer with Litton Guidance Systems. They have three adult children, St eve who is married and has three daughters, Lesly is also married and has a son and the youngest is Tom a fireman and single. Besides enjoying their children and grandchildren, Joe and Dorothy share hobbies - they own two model A Ford automobiles. The one they shared with us at the Time Capsule ceremony is a right hand drive built strictly for export to South America.

Dorothy has worked in city school cafeterias for many years, the last five at Lawrence Junior High and she became involved with the CHS because of her quilting hobby when she joined the Centennial Quilting Committee. We welcome Dorothy to the committee.

Beverly & Paul Arneson moved here from Illinois in 1964 to the home they still

occupy at 9511 Laramie, when Richard Brooks was minister of the Chatsworth United Methodist Church. Beverly has served as wedding director for the church for 17 years and really enjoys working with brides to ensure perfect weddings.

Paul is a counselor at Reseda High School and at the present Bev is working at St John Eudes Catholic Church in an after-school program designed to help working mothers and she's also active with a Circle at the church. The couple's daughter, Kristy, is married to Michael Gergen and they are the parents of Tyler, age 2-1/2 who is the apple of Bev's eye - and Bev & Paul also have a son, Brett, age 21. Welcome aboard!

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MOUNTAIN PARKLAND TO BE PURCHASED BY THE STATE!

Lillian Schepler and Marian Hyland attended a meeting sponsored by the State of California to help decide what wildlife corridor would be secured by purchase of land through Bond Issue 70. A letter from the Historical Society was presented by Lillian. The Society supports the position of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Assn., that required a corridor that would be in both Ventura and Los Angeles counties.

On Friday, March 12th the L.A. Times had an article indicating that the state will purchase over 400 acres adjacent to Chatsworth Park South and North.

Mrs. Jan Hinkston, founder and often president of the SSMPA is to be congratulated for her 19 year battle to preserve the old stage coach road and surrounding lands.

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WATTS WHAT.....We're happy to report that Eileen Janess was feeling well enough to return to work for one day last week ....remember she took a nasty fall in December.....also glad to report that this issue contains a new "Window in to the Past" by Bill Schepler, the first one for two years; thanks Bill we always enjoy your historic anecdotes. March 16 marked the 50 anniversary of the plaque being placed on the old stage coach road by the Native Daughters of the Golden West and Minnie Hill Palmer. The SSMPA held a commemorative hike to the plaque. Milly Goff's daughter will enter UCLA medical center for surgery soon so we will have the family in our prayers....Betty Jane Zimmer, Betty & Charles Grill's daughter will soon celebrate 21 years as a surgical nurse. She was trained at L.A. Valley College, worked first at St. Joseph's in Burbank and for the past 12 years at Kaiser Hospital in Sacramento. Betty Jane is married to Michael Zimmer and they are the parents of Stephanie, almost five. Corky Stuckenbruck, daughter of Linn & Marlys, has received a \$5000 grant from the Nat'l. Endowment of the Humanities to be used for materials for teaching weaving by computers - she teaches art and weaving in Texas.