



Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY DECEMBER 1989
Chatsworth, California Volume 27, No. 6
Sheila Watts, President, Editor

HOLIDAY TIME AT THE HOMESTEAD ACRE.

This Sunday, December 3rd, the Homestead Acre will provide the start of the holiday celebrations, with an open house from 1 to 4 p.m.

The docents will give tours of the garden, the cottage and the museum - the latter two will be decorated



for the holidays. The open house will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Enjoy the light refreshments, browse in the museum and shop for Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers.

Bring along a camera and take photographs of the decorations. Bring along friends and introduce them to the charms of the Acre.

***** GET READY FOR THE HOLIDAY PARADE.....

To ensure a winning float in the annual Chatsworth Holiday Parade that will get underway at 1 p.m. on Sunday, December 10, we're inviting all talented, ambitious and devoted members to come to the Acre on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND between 11 am and 3 p.m. to help decorate.

The theme this year is "Holidays Around the World" so in keeping with the Society's historic image we've decided to portray "Christmas at Grandma's Homestead Acre." All types of talents are needed - don't be shy - come and give a helping hand. Lunch will be served to all who work!

On Sunday the 10th we expect all our fans to line both sides of Devonshire Street to cheer us on to first place! See you there.

HANUKKAH, HAH noo kah, also written HANUKKA or CHAN-UKAH, is the Jewish Feast of Lights, or Feast of Dedication. Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of

the Jewish month of Kislev, which falls in December. It lasts eight days. At sundown on each day a new candle is lighted. By the end of the celebration, eight lighted candles stand together. Some groups light all 8 the first evening and remove 1 candle each day afterward.

The feast was started in 165 BC by Judas Maccabeus to honor the rededication of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. (cont'd in column 2)

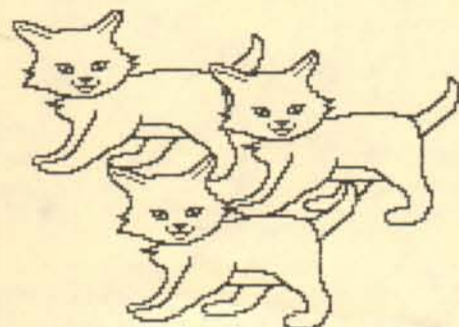


Three years before this date, a Syrian conqueror had used the temple for idol worship. Hanukkah will start on December 23rd this year. The editor thanks U.P. Bea Berman for this information.

"Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house not a creature was stirring,

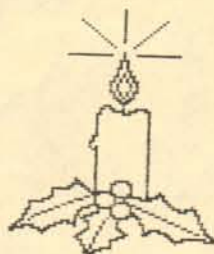


not even a mouse,"



WATTS WHAT.....Jane Matthews, immediate past president, is always on the go. In October she made a trip with 17 other African art collectors, members of the Center for African Art in New York, to view private collections and museums in Zurich, Bern, Basel and Geneva. Then a flight to Florence for "The Great Sculpture of Black Africa," an international exhibition. In January Jane will be off to Nigeria. In the meantime, she's moving from Camarillo and here are the vital statistics. As of Dec. 1, write to her at P.O. Box 23086, San Bernardino, CA 92406; street address: 525 E. Country Club Lane; telephone: 714-886-1998 and Jane says she'll welcome all Society callers if they'll just give her warning so she can heat up the stew! I'm sorry to report that two of our members are ill. Helen Thomas, one of our dependable and helpful docents, has been having treatment for a serious illness and does not expect to be able to rejoin our activities until January or February so please, lets keep her in our thoughts and prayers. Helen's granddaughter, Dawn Budd, always accompanied her grandma and served as a junior docent - we've missed them both. Just recently, Betty Grill suffered a serious stroke and is undergoing therapy at Kaiser Hospital in Panorama City. Her family is suggesting that cards would cheer her up until such time that she can receive visitors. Again let's keep her in our prayers.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Letter to the Editor:

To all the members: I'm writing to you from our new home in Oroville, CA.

Bob and I and our son Robert moved from the Valley October 2, 1989.

It was quite a trip but we feel it was worth it. Bob is feeling a lot better and has not had any trouble breathing since we arrived here.

Lila (Bob's sister) and Bill visited us while they were on a trip. Gene and Lisa Swartz and Elaine plan on coming up for a few days at Thanksgiving.

We look forward to a new life style. The Historical Society here is very active and I plan to join.

Please continue to send the Smoke Signal

As Always, Marian & Bob Swartz
6383 Woodman Drive
Oroville, CA 95966



At the gift store:

You'll find packages of note paper with either the Pioneer Church or the Homestead Cottage at 5 for \$1.00
Ioline Cleveland's

book, "The History of Chatsworth Park Elementary School," \$10.00; The Duchess of Devonshire fine foods include preserves and jams from \$4; chutney from \$5; collector plates from \$10; fine English teas from \$5 and individually packed gourmet baskets from \$10 and up. There are items of Centennial memorabilia including Christmas tree decorations and Christmas cards.

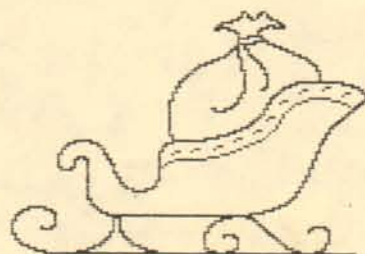
JANESS HONORED.
by Virginia Watson

Charles "Chuck" Janess, founding president of the Chatsworth Historical Society, was honored by the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce at its Diamond Jubilee luncheon held at the Porter Valley Country Club on November 16.

With his wife Eileen at his side (they have been married for 56 years!), Janess heard former presidents of the Chamber, elected officials and other people who had worked with him over the years, tell of the exemplary role he has played in the growth of Chatsworth. Fellow board members and politicians alike extolled the uncounted personal contributions to the community as the audience applauded.

The newly-formed Past Presidents' Association created the "Chuck" Janess Distinguished Service Award to be presented only when an individual demonstrates outstanding personal service to both the Chamber and the community. The Association further honored Janess by naming him the first recipient.

In presenting the award, Senator Ed Davis added his own personal recognition of Chuck Janess's unselfish devotion to his fellow man.



Plaques were presented to Janess and to the Chamber from the elected officials and letters of congratulations were read including a letter from President George Bush.

John Halpin, president of the Chamber, presided and the invocation was given by the Rev. Kevin Smith, pastor of the Chatsworth United Methodist Church.

Our president, Sheila Watts, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and as a former manager of the Chamber was acknowledged by the audience. She was a member of the committee that worked on the celebration and near the end of the program she accepted the gift of the original Secretary's Minutes Book for the first years of the Chamber's organization starting with April, 1914. Halpin presented the original document to the CHS with Sheila accepting on behalf of the Society.

Our own Bill Schepler, Director of Photographic Material for the CHS, narrated an interesting slide presentation featuring the history of the business community through the years.

"A Walk into Historic Chatsworth," a display of pictures was arranged with costumed docents from the Society offering information about the pictures.

Lila Schepler, Director of Docents, and Donna Afflerbach, secretary, along with Bill were a committee of three for the display. Docents who assisted are Betty Summers, Lillian Schepler, Sheila Watts and Virginia Watson.

Janess was president of the Chamber in 1956 and again in 1968-69. Another member of the CHC also served as president of the Chamber and was singled out for recognition at the event. Dr. Ruth Boak, who also served as president of CHS, was the first woman president of the Chamber, serving in 1973. In spite of an injured back she was able to attend the luncheon and offer her congratulations to Janess.



State Senator Ed Davis about to present the first "Chuck Janess" award to Janess, center, as John Kelly, past president of Chatsworth Chamber holds the award plaque.