

Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 1990

Chatsworth, California

Volume 27, No. 8

Sheila Watts, President, Editor

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT & ELECTION INFORMATION.

Bea Berman, chairman of the nominating committee, has made the following report on the slate of officers for the 1990-91 year. Election of officers will be held on the bus on Sunday March 11 when we travel to the Gene Autry Museum. Nominations will be accepted at that time:

President.....Sheila Watts
 1st Vice President.....Zena Thorpe
 2nd Vice President.....position not filled...
 3rd Vice President.....Donna Afflerbach
 4th Vice President.....Betty Summers
 Recording &
 Corresponding Secretary.....Marian Hyland
 Editor.....Sheila Watts
 Directors at Large....Bea Berman, Ramon Avila & Louise Roberts

The following positions are permanent and do not require a vote:

Director of Photographic
 Materials.....Bill Schepler
 Director of Docents.....Lila Schepler
 Curator.....Virginia Watson

We have two honorary members of the board of directors:

Eileen & Charles Janess

MUSEUM TRIP.....

There are still a few tickets available for the trip to the Gene Autry Museum. Cost of the bus is free and there is a \$3 charge for the museum for adults and \$1.75 for children under 12. Call Sheila at 341-4489 for reservations.

We'll be meeting at the Acre this Sunday, March 11 at 12:30 p.m., parking on the grass in front of the Acre. The return trip will leave the museum at at 5 p.m.

Enroute we'll enjoy cake a cider to celebrate Chatsworth's 102nd birthday and the Society's founding 27 years ago in April.

WINDOW INTO THE PAST.....

It's a pleasure to welcome back Bill Schepler who contributes his memories and interesting stories of early day Chatsworth. This month's issue is actually the Forward to a new series that Bill describes as a monograph about coming of age in Chatsworth.

According to Bill, this may reach 100 pages before he completes the story of his coming of age in this corner of the San Fernando Valley - we shall look forward with pleasure to each segment.

SPECIAL CEREMONY AT OPEN HOUSE.

The first Sunday of each month is Open House at the Acre from 1 to 4 p.m., featuring guided tours of the museum, the cottage and the grounds.

Open House in April will fall on the 1st and in addition to the docent tours we'll be holding a brief ceremony at the site of the Centennial Time Capsule.

Bea Berman, chairman of the Chatsworth Centennial Committee, recently announced that the second plaque has been placed on the capsule assuring that all of the people who contributed to the capsule fund are recognized with their names in bronze on the outside of the capsule.

The ceremony will be held at 1:30 p.m., at which time Bea will officially turn over the care of the capsule to the Chatsworth Historical Society.....to those of us who'll be here 98 years from now!

Please join us for this special event.

GALA INSTALLATION ANNOUNCED.....

Please mark the calendar for the 27th annual installation banquet!

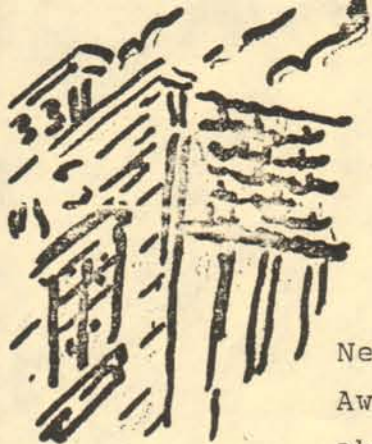
The dinner will be held at the Taste of Scandinavia Smorgasbord Restaurant, 21629 Devonshire St., Chatsworth on Tuesday, May 15, 1990 at 6:30 p.m. for the social hour, dinner at 7:15 p.m.

The dinner will be buffet style and the cost including tip and tax is \$8.

Bea Berman is chairman of the event and she is being assisted by Zena Thorpe. The theme, "Those Were the Days My Friend," has prompted some members of the board to decide to wear costumes depicting the different decades of the past 90 years but it is byno means a costume party so plan to attend.

Special entertainment is planned and we'd love to see you there so circle the date on your calendar - Tuesday, May 15.

REMEMBER TO TELL YOUR FRIENDS.....the Acre is available for rent for weddings and banquets. We already have weddings booked for the summer months - if you're interested, please contact the wedding committee: Lillian Schepler, Donna Afflerbach or Virginia Watson. The Society's 'phone number is 882-5614.



Window Into The Past

March

FORWARD

Next month I hope to start a monograph I have entitled "Getting Away from Chatsworth". It is going to be a personal revelation about coming of age in Chatsworth. Maybe a little before and maybe a little after. It is something I believe my grandchildren (or even my great grandchildren) will enjoy.

As we get older we begin to wonder about what life was like for our parents and grandparents: where they lived and how they lived; what kind of work they did; how did they get their jobs? But by the time we are able to slow down and ask them ,they are gone.

For instance, in this monograph, I say my parents made a long trip from Detroit to Southern California after World War I to investigate this promised land. They were here for weeks. How could they have afforded such a trip? They were only twentyfive or so. My father hadn't even graduated from High School. Neither of their families were wealthy- there were no lotteries then. My mother lived into her nineties, and she told us many stories, but I never thought to ask her about this. Now, it is too late.

Time is something that young people feel they have lots of. As you get older time moves faster. Everything is really so new in our country. Our entire country is less than three times as old as I am. This was really brought home to me about fifteen years ago. We were on a Cruise to Alaska when we met a man in his early eighties who had camped at Anchorage with his brother the year I was born, 1916. He told us his grandfather(whom, of course, he had never seen) was born the year George Washington died.

The first time I had gone to Alaska was in 1938. I went steerage part of the way and I met men, also in steerage, who had been returning to Alaska every summer since the Gold Rush up there.

The Old-Timers I met when we came to Chatsworth hadn't lived here as long as we have now. Even our neighbor, Emma Johnson Graves, was much younger than I am today. And she worked much harder too. She was, as you know, the first blue eyed white child born in the San Fernando Valley. She didn't tell any old tales about life out here. I was a good listener and some of the others had great tales to tell. But I may have been a good listener, but not one to remember, I am sorry to say.

So this will be my story. I am sure my grandchildren will enjoy it. I think there will be enough about what life was like here for you to enjoy it also, especially those of you who live in Chatsworth today.

William F. Schepler
March 1990