

Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAY-JUNE, 1990

Chatsworth, California

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Sheila Watts, President, Editor



**Conference of California Historical Societies
Gives Posthumous Honor to
Ioline Cleveland.**



Conference of California Historical Societies

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GREETINGS:

THE CONFERENCE AWARDS COMMITTEE WISHES TO COMMEND THE CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SHEILA WATTS, PRESIDENT FOR NOMINATING IOLENE CLEVELAND IN THE INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY.

DURING HER LIFETIME, IOLENE CLEVELAND'S DEDICATION TO LOCAL HISTORY WAS OUTSTANDING. AMONG THE AREAS OF INVOLVEMENT, SHE SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY. FOR 27 YEARS SHE WAS A TEACHER AT CHATSWORTH PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WHICH CULMINATED IN A BOOKLET ON ITS 100 YEAR OLD HISTORY. IOLENE COMPLETELY FINANCED THE PROJECT HERSELF AND SAW TO IT THAT THE FUNDS FROM THE SALE GO TO THE SOCIETY.

FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS SHE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE ANNUAL YARD SALE AND WAS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR EARNING MORE THAN \$50,000 FOR THE WORK OF THE SOCIETY AND THE UPKEEP OF THE HOMESTEAD ACRE AND ITS BUILDINGS.

THE AWARDS COMMITTEE, THEREFORE, WISHES TO POSTHUMOUSLY PRESENT AN HONORABLE MENTION FOR IOLENE CLEVELAND'S WORK. HER NAME WILL BE ON THE AWARDS PROGRAM THAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE LUNCHEON IN SAN LUIS OBISPO ON JUNE 22, 1990.

SINCERELY,

Elva Meline
ELVA MELINE, CHAIRMAN

AWARDS COMMITTEE

ELAINE GILLERAN
JOHN SHEA
CHARLES TICHENOR
NORMA VOSS

From the desk of the President:

As you will have noticed, this issue of the newsletter is dedicated to Ioline Cleveland. We are all very proud that she was chosen for Honorable Mention by the California Conference of Historical Societies. We are equally as proud of Ramon Avila for having been named Citizen of the Year by the Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council.

When we return to our regular activities in September, some changes will have taken place in our program meetings. Last year we held four quarterly meetings and in the coming year we shall meet on alternate months. The first meeting will be in September and the second in November, etc. A calendar detailing all the meetings and other activities will be included with the September Smoke Signal.

Dead heading - two words that describe the principal care of roses in the summer when we cut off the dead blossoms along with several inches of stem. This helps to keep the rose bushes looking pretty but promotes growth of more roses. WE NEED HELP WITH THIS CHORE! We have a large number of rose bushes and they need to be dead headed to keep them all looking pretty and therefore assuring that the Acre looks lovely for the monthly tours and the weddings. CALL me if you can donate an hour of time for this very important project and I'll meet you there, unlock the gate and work with you for an hour. 341-4489. Thanks.

DOCENT.....a teacher, a tutor or a guide. We have a group of women who serve as docents, who provide leadership when tours of the museum, cottage and grounds are provided to the public. The Homestead Acre is open on the first Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. The docents have provided extra tours this past season for classes from local schools, Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops, Women's Clubs, Historical Societies, docent groups and church groups.

All of a sudden, the Chatsworth Homestead Acre is a very popular historic monument and the current group of docents is barely able to keep up with the requests for tours. Now we are asking for volunteers, men and women, to train and assist with group tours. Lila Schepler is chairman of the docent committee and she personally trains the new volunteers. While the current group of guides chooses to wear pioneer costumes, this is not a hard and fast rule and for women a skirt and blouse would suffice while blue jeans and a shirt would be suitable for the men.

Again, if you would be interested in taking the training course and serving as a docent, CALL ME, 341-4489. (Ofcourse, I'm prejudiced, but I think our docent program is the best one around.)

Elsewhere in the Smoke Signal you will find a memorial to Linn Stuckenbruck with information on the brief service to be held on Sunday, July 1st at 12:30 p.m. at the Time Capsule Court at the Homestead Acre.

A dues statement is enclosed for general members and we urge you to send in your dues promptly to keep your membership current and to ensure continued receipt of the Smoke Signal.

In the meantime, thanks for your support of the past year and enjoy a relaxed and happy summer.

Sheila.

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DOWN MEMORY LANE.....

Our annual installation banquet was a great success, it was well attended and enjoyed by all. Bea Berman, chairman, made a poem for all nine of this century's decades and these were read by board members dressed in costumes to match the decade. Catherine Mulholland served as installing officer. Providing a backdrop for the evening was the new quilt made by Zena Thorpe. Titled, "Zena's England," this quilt is a work of art. It was sent recently to England and is currently at Hadfield House where it is in contest with many other quilts. From there it will be sent to Roundhay in Leeds for further competition.

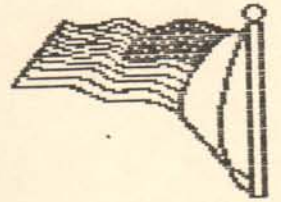
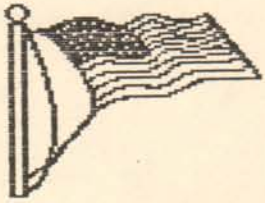
At the conclusion of the installation banquet it was the consensus that the restaurant was an ideal place for us to meet and we'll undoubtedly meet next year at the Taste of Scandinavia Restaurant.



1989-90 Installation
Left to right:
Sheila Watts, Catherine Mulholland,
Marian Hyland & Betty Summers

Summary of the 1989/90 year of the Chatsworth Historical Society.

- In September, 1989, we held our first quarterly meeting at the Acre - a potluck dinner and the fellowship of our friends and members.
 - In October we raised over \$900 with a great yard sale run by Lillian Schepler.
 - In November the Society served as the program for the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce luncheon when the Chamber celebrated its 75th anniversary. At the meeting, the first Charles Janess Award for outstanding contributions to the community was presented to Charles Janess, founding president of the Chatsworth Historical Society.
 - Also in November, we enjoyed our second quarterly meeting, held at Glendale Federal Bank, when we heard Tom Alexander, Executive Director of the Historical Society of Southern California, give a very upbeat talk on the future of historical societies. Mr. Alexander emphasized that an historical society has the responsibility to commemorate events in a community.
 - November also included our visit to San Juan Capistrano along with members of the San Fernando Valley Historical Society.
 - With our expertise in decorating, our float not only took first place for clubs in the Chatsworth Holiday Parade, it was featured on an obscure channel on local TV!
 - In February the romantic redwood swing became a permanent part of the decore at the Homestead Acre. Purchased with memorial funds in memory of Henry & Hildur Berkemeyer, Betty Summer's parents, the swing is a favorite of all. It was made by Ralph Hyland.
 - We celebrated Chatsworth's 102nd birthday on March 10 by taking a bus to the Gene Autry Museum and enjoyed cake and punch enroute.
 - On April 27/28, under the leadership of Lillian Schepler, we held our most successful yard sale at its current location and raised over \$1000.
 - In addition we held a number of weddings at the Acre which provided us with several hundred dollars and lots of good public relations. Several more are already scheduled for the coming year.
 - Our docent committee, though smaller in number, has provided a full schedule of tours for numerous organizations.
 - We have a \$400 donation from Louise Roberts to help with the re-printing of Virginia Watson's book, "A History of Chatsworth," which will also be funded by Lila and Bill Schepler.
 - We nominated Ioline Cleveland for a posthumous award from the California Conference of Historical Societies and we also nominated Betty Summers and Ramon Avila for Citizen of the Year Awards by the Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council.
 - Finally, we have been informed that the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy will provide a \$7500 grant to the CHS upon receipt of proof of non-profit status. These funds will be used to help re-roof the Pioneer Church!.
- All in all - a very good year!



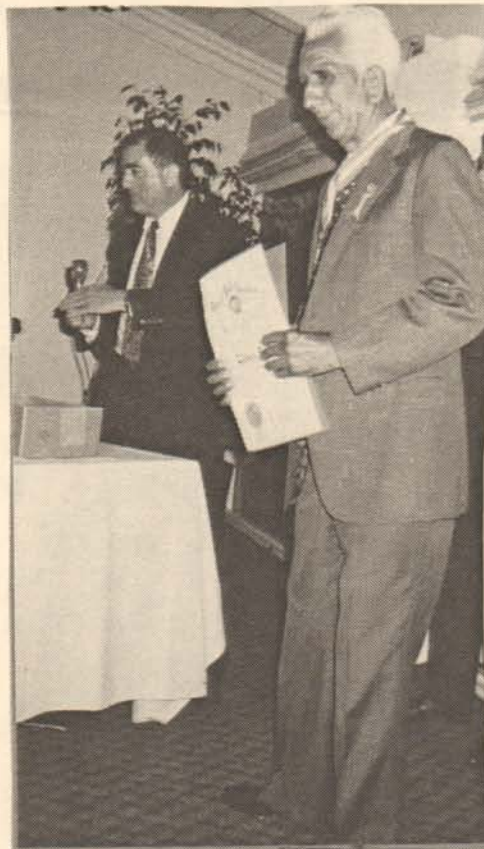
GOD BLESS AMERICA!

As we celebrate our country's 214th birthday on Wednesday, July 4th, would all of you join me in flying the Stars and Stripes to commemorate this country's greatness!

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Earlier this year the board of directors nominated two hard working members of the Chatsworth Historical Society for the annual Citizen of the Year Awards that are presented to people in the Chatsworth area for outstanding contributions to the community. The board selected Betty Summers and Ramon Avila for both of them have worked tirelessly for the Society through the years as well as serving as volunteers in the community in a variety of ways. Ramon was the choice of the committee for this year's honor and the board of directors wants to thank both of these hard working individuals for all their efforts through the years.

Not only did Ramon receive the applause of all those present, he received scrolls and certificates from elected officials. These included Congressman Elton Gallegly, State Senator Ed Davis, State Assemblywoman Cathie Wright, L.A. County Supervisor Mike Antanovich and Councilman Hal Bernson. Congratulations to you, Ramon, from the Chatsworth Historical Society.



Ramon
and Councilman Hal Bernson

Supplied by Bea Berman

FOR THOSE OF US BORN BEFORE 1935

WE ARE SURVIVORS!!! Consider the changes we have witnessed:

We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees and "The Pill".

We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens; before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes -- and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be? In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of". Designer Jeans were scheming girls named Jean, and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along well with our cousins.

We were before house-husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness - not computers or condominiums; a "chip" meant a piece of wood; hardware meant hardware; and software wasn't even a word.

In 1940, "made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exam. "McDonald's" and instant coffee were unheard of. We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent, and Outer Space was the back of the Theatre.

We hit the scene when there were 5 & 10 cent stores where you bought things for five and ten cents. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600, but who could afford one; a pity, too, because gas was 11 cents a gallon.

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed, Coke was a cold drink and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was Grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the Principle's office.

We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were surely before the sex change; we made do with what we had. And we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby!

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap today!
BUT WE SURVIVED!!! What better reason to celebrate?

Dr. Linn Stuckenbruck Mourned.

It is with a great deal of sadness that we report the loss of two of our long-time members. Dr. LINN STUCKENBRUCK passed away May 1, 1990 of complications following a heart attack. His widow MARLYS is moving to Texas to live in a convalescent hospital near her daughter Corky and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Smith.

Modest and unassuming the Stuckenbrucks have been an integral part of our organization as well as being prominent in the academic and social life of the community.

Linn was a man of great intellect with many interests and hobbies. He was one of the Rocketdyne Santa Susana Testing Laboratory group who helped develop solid fuel so that America could get a spacecraft to the moon. Known internationally for his work with the PMI (Project Management Institute) he received its Distinguished Service Award in 1980 and was given a PMI Fellow award in 1986 at the convention in Montreal, Canada.

He obtained his Ph. D. in chemical engineering at the State University of Iowa and worked as a technical specialist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory of the California Institute of Technology before coming to Chatsworth in 1956.

He collected stamps, coins, first editions and books on California History and was interested in photography. He and Marlys went to high school together in Jamestown, No. Dakota before WW II where she was the editor of the yearbook and he was in charge of photography.
(more)

Generous with his knowledge and equipment, members of the CHS could borrow snapshots and pictures from private collections and he would copy them immediately so the pictures could be returned. He and Marlys donated most of the money they spent on film and in developing -- always saying, "It's our contribution."

A prisoner of war during World War II, Dr. Stuckenbruck gave several programs for us about his personal experiences and slide lectures about airplanes, with Marlys helping him. They were always a team.

Marlys was a fourth grade master teacher at Chatsworth Park Elementary School until her retirement in 1986 after 30 years. A favorite with both the children and their parents she received many awards including a Life Membership in the Chatsworth Park PTA. She was one of the three original docents who showed The Homestead Acre and the Chatsworth Museum the first time we were officially open in 1978 when the Conference of Historical Societies toured during the annual meeting at Mission Hills. She worked in some way on almost every money-raising project the CHS participated in.

Together the Stuckenbrucks encouraged the first printing of the History of Chatsworth, loaning rare books and providing guidance and insight and acted in an advisory capacity on many of our projects.

A memorial fund has been established for Linn Stuckenbruck and the CHS will hold a brief ceremony on July 1st at 12:30 pm at the Homestead Acre. Since Marlys is moving away, the Society will include her name with Linn's on the fund.

We are considering building a gazebo on the grounds and plan to install a plaque with their names, possibly combining other memorial gifts for the project.