

Smoke Signal

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CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

10385 Shadow Oak Drive Chatsworth, CA

Sheila Watts, President, Editor

ADMISSION DAY RECITAL

A musical salute to California's Admission Day will be held at the Homestead Acre in Chatsworth Park South on Sunday, September 15 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Chatsworth Historical Society will present Elizabeth Waldo and her multi-ethnic ensemble in an historic music-dance-drama entitled, "California, Splendor of the Golden Land." The event is open to the public.

This colorful program is drawn from the Indian, Spanish Mission and Rancho periods of early California.

The Historical Society will provide refreshments including finger food, punch and coffee. Tours of the cottage and museum will follow the program.

The musical is funded in part by the Cultural Affairs Department of the City of Los Angeles and the Multicultural Music and Art Foundation, Northridge.

California was admitted into the Union on September 9, 1850 as the 31st state.

The Wednesday afternoon work parties have been discontinued for the month of August. We shall return to the weekly event starting on Wednesday, September 3rd from 2 pm to 4:30 pm.

Help is needed on a variety of projects. The first two or three Wednesday afternoons will be spent clearing out the storage unit after which we shall hold one last Yard Sale. Plans are underway to create closets and drawers for correct storage of the costume collection. The collection has outgrown its present location in the closet of the museum.

The present closet will then be made into an office for the use of Virginia Watson, curator.



The first known voyage to Alta California was that commanded by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in 1542.

President's message:

I hope that all of you are enjoying a pleasant summer and that you'll all be eager to give a hand when the Society's activities resume in September.

I am really happy to announce that Virginia Watson's, "Chatsworth History," has been reprinted and is now on sale in the museum. An autograph party will be held in the Fall. Cost of this third printing was paid for by the Society and with a generous donation from Louise Roberts. The book sells for \$5 with all proceeds to the Society.

The docents and members of the board of directors have been busy this summer as the Acre is proving to be a popular site for weddings. Several weddings are already booked for the 1992 season. If we are to continue holding weddings to subsidize the cost of the upkeep of the cottage, museum and grounds it will be necessary for more volunteers to help supervise these events. The same five people have been directing these activities and help is needed. Please tele-me at 341-4489 to volunteer for the wedding committee.....or please send a donation to help with the expenses.

We have received a grant from the Los Angeles City Council to help refurbish the grounds and the buildings at the Homestead Acre but these funds cannot be used for normal upkeep. The grant will partially reimburse the Society for moneys used to pay for the repainting of the cottage.

Plan to attend the musical program on September 15 when we celebrate the 141st anniversary of California's Admission Day.

See you all this Fall,

Sheila

NEWS BRIEFS: Long time member Violet Wilson (Virginia Watson's mother) has changed her place of residence and is now a Chatsworth citizen.

Mrs. Wilson had lived in Sylmar at the Mountain View Manor, a apartment house complex for mostly senior citizens, for the past 11 years. Before that she lived in downtown Los Angeles on Wilshire Blvd near the Sheraton Hotel where she was employed before she retired.

Following a brief illness and ten days in

acute care, she is now in the intermediate care wing of the Chatsworth Park Convalescent Hospital, 10610 Owensmouth Ave., Room 121A, Chatsworth, CA 91311.

Family members are still talking about how they enjoyed the big re-union type party for Mrs. Wilson last November at the Homestead Acre on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Bill Schepler was honored by a group of friends and relatives on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

Virginia & Hank Watson have returned from a brief three day vacation at Asilmar where Virginia attended the 4th Annual California Writers' Conference and Hank played golf.

COMMUNITY EFFORT REFURBISHES CHURCH

The Historical Society is delighted to announce that the exterior of the Chatsworth Community Church, Los Angeles Historic Monument #14, has been returned to its original beauty in a refurbishing operation that involved Oakwood Memorial Park, the congregation of St. Mary the Virgin Church and Timothy Horton, 17, an Eagle Scout aspirant.

Norman Ruppert, manager of Oakwood, spearheaded the refurbishing that includes a new roof, repainting and a great deal of repair to the siding and the spire. The congregation of St. Mary's contributed a great deal to the funding though the major portion was paid for by Oakwood Memorial Park Association. The wood for the shutters was donated by Terry Lumber Company of Chatsworth. Tim and the members of his Scout Troop 226 made the shutters that are exact duplicates of the original 1903 window covers.

Mr. Ruppert was presented an Honorary Life Membership in the Society for this outstanding contribution to the Church, the Society's first major project. We also give thanks to John & Zena Thorpe of St. Mary's congregation for their endeavors on behalf of the Pioneer Church.

Tim, 17, is the son of Phil and Katie Horton, a senior at Chatsworth High School and a member of the school's track team specializing in hurdles and relays. He supervised ten fellow Scouts who assisted with the shutter project. Grateful thanks to all who helped with this major project.

Mr. Ruppert's award was presented at the annual installation banquet. A second Life Membership was awarded at that time. Honored was Nanci Oliva-Bond a long time member of the Society, a hard working deputy to Councilman Hal Bernson who has provided a great deal of assistance to the CHS through the years. Nanci was one of the founders of Chatsworth Beautiful, organized in the 1960's to conserve the natural beauty of the town and to help preserve the town. Most recently Nanci has helped us obtain special funding for refurbishing the Homestead Acre and to find funding for the September musicale.

UNCLE SAM wants you.....



The November general meeting will feature a speaker and exhibits covering the years of World War II. The 50th anniversary of

Pearl Harbor will be on December 7th. Many of our members have items of memorabilia from that era and it would be appreciated if you would share the mementoes or memories with us for display.

The meeting will be held at the museum on Tuesday, November 18. Those interested in loaning suitable photos, books etc., should contact Virginia Watson, curator, who will be in charge of the display, at 341-3053.

If you would be interested in contributing any kind of information toward the observance of Pearl Harbor or the years that followed, it will be appreciated.

Congratulations to Bea and Marshall Berman. Their middle daughter, Randy, was married to Gary Berrow earlier this month in a beautiful ceremony at Calabasas Inn.

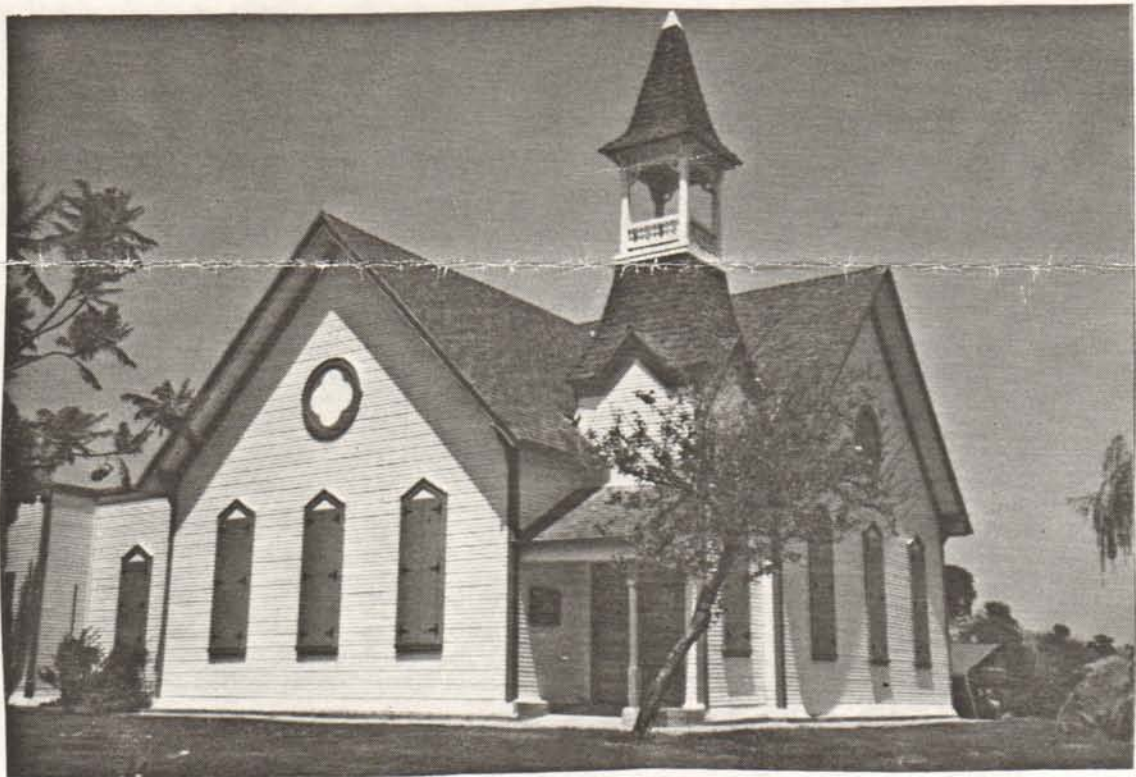
Congratulations to Keith Watts who is now president of the Stanford Club of the San Fernando Valley.

Congratulations to the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association. After 20 years of hard work, the State of California finally acquired the original 55 acres that are adjacent to the Stage Coach Trail.





Norman Ruppert, manager of Oakwood Memorial Park and Nanci Oliva-Bond, deputy to Councilman Hal Bernson, were awarded Honorary Life Memberships for support of the objectives of the Chatsworth Historical Society.



The Chatsworth Pioneer Church, Los Angeles Historic Monument #14, following completion of painting and roofing project. The shutters were replaced by Scouts of troop 226. Church is located in Oakwood Memorial Park.