



Smoke Signal



CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

As you can see by reading this issue of the Smoke Signal, there are busy days ahead for the society.

I wish to extend my personal invitation to all of you to attend the September 12 barbecue and membership roundup as well as the Pioneer Day on Sunday, October 3rd.

The October 24 celebration of the 90th birthday of the Pioneer Church will be a day of rejoicing.

Hope to see you there,

Bea

MEMBERSHIP ROUNDUP & POTLUCK BARBECUE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 at 3:00 p.m
HOMESTEAD ACRE

Society Members and Friends:

We're firing up the barbecues again for the first membership meeting of the year. Save the date, Sunday, September 12 at 3 p.m., and come and share news and ideas for the coming year.

Please bring a friend who might be interested in our activities.

The Society will provide the drinks and

hamburgers with all the trimmings.

Members with last names beginning with A-L are asked to bring dessert and M-Z to bring a salad.

"Dmetri Christine and Friends" will provide some toe-tapping bluegrass music as we gather under the gigantic walnut tree at the Homestead Acre.

Hope to see you there!

Donna Afflerbach,
Program Vice President

Reservations and information: (818) 882-0485

DOCENT COMMITTEE NEWS

Visiting the Acre in August.....

Minnie Palmer's daughter Edith Butler accompanied by her granddaughter, Val Jenkino; Eileen Janess with a dozen or so relatives who were in town for the Janess family reunion and the Heritage Girl Scout day camp from Sylmar.

POPULAR COUPLE HONORED

Docent Paula Wheeler and her husband Barry Wheeler, were honored guests at a western barbecue at the home of Lila and Bill Schepler recently. For several years Paula and Barry and

their two lovely daughters, Kris and Kim, lived across the little dead-end street near Lila and Bill and participated in many of our CHS events.

Last year Paula took the docent training and was just getting into giving tours when the family had to change its place of residence and moved to Texas--thus the reason for the party.

Many neighbors and friends attended the event hosted by Lila and Bill, Kathy Reynolds and the CHS docents. Among the guests were Pauline Aue, Mary and Ramon Avila, Eileen Janess, Donna and Mike Afflerbach, Bea and Marshall Berman, Beverly and Paul Arneson, Betty and Jim Summers, Lillian Schepler, Gene Swartz, Elaine Swartz, Louise and Eddie Mitchell and Virginia Watson.

The tiniest guest present was little four day old Katlyn Mary Reynolds, daughter of Kathy and Tim. Born on July 19 she weighed in at 9 lbs. 12 ounces and was 20-1/2" long! Looking sweet, comfortable and alert, her carrier placed by the fireplace, she was admired by everyone. Her brothers and big sisters also attended the event.

The food was a mixture of homemade and catered from The Bear Pit in San Fernando. Kerosene lamps and red and white tablecloths on the picnic tables scattered around the big backyard were colorful as well as the western-looking cacti (some real.) The weather was a little chilly - unexpected after such a hot spell - but it didn't put a damper on the festivities. The children especially enjoyed exploring the backyard oddities such as Bill's bomb shelter and the flagpole from the river steamboat.

The San Fernando Valley Historical Society is sponsoring a tour of valley historical sites on September 19 and of course, one of the stops on the tour will be at the Homestead Acre. The docents will be ready to explain local history to the tourists.

PIONEER CHURCH IS 90 YEARS OLD! 1903 - 1993

Roy Rogers and Dale Evans will be honored at the 90th birthday celebration of the Pioneer Church, now relocated in Oakwood Memorial Park, 22601 Lassen Street, Chatsworth. The event will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, October 24 at the church.

Former residents and patrons of the Chatsworth Historical Society, the Rogers were instrumental in the forming of the local historical society and in moving the building from its former location at 10051 Topanga Canyon Boulevard.

First named the Chatsworth Community Church, the white frame, Victorian-styled building was erected in 1903 with volunteer labor. It was named Los Angeles Cultural Historic Monument Number 14 and was the first city monument to be moved.

It was relocated in January, 1965, through the efforts of the Chatsworth Historical Society, stated Lila Schepler, president of the Society at that time. Mrs. Schepler will speak at the event.

A full day of celebration is planned according to Father Anthony Rasch, rector of St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Catholic Church, now using the building for regular church services.

A pontifical mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m., with Arthur David Seeland, Bishop of the Diocese of the Pacific Southwest, Anglican Catholic Church, presiding. The rites of confirmation and baptism are planned and new members will be welcomed into the congregation. Jane Matthews, past president, will sing, Los Angeles' Mayor Richard Riordan may be able to attend and Councilman Hal Bernson and his deputy, Nanci Oliva-Bond, have been invited. A reception for the Bishop will follow the service.

Tours of the building will be given from 1 p.m., to 4 p.m., by docents of the Historical Society who will explain how the church was saved, moved and

rehabilitated. Docents will be Sheila Watts, Zena Thorpe, Bill Schepler and Virginia Watson.

The public is invited. For more information call chairmen John or Zena Thorpe, (818) 882-3572.

CELEBRATE PIONEER DAY!

Sunday, October 3, 11 a.m.

Join us as when we duplicate the lives of the Hill-Palmer families by demonstrating bread baking, laundry and other household chores and present a booth of native American-Indian artifacts, a petting zoo, branding, children's stories, rocks and gems, 'white elephants' and plants.

Exhibits in the Museum will include a collection of traditional quilts and the porcelain doll collection of Leuse Mitchell while the rose filled grounds will feature a display by the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association, tatting and knitting as well as a fascinating collection of barbed wire.

Of course there'll be refreshments for sale and entertainment, so come along for a day on the farm - and bring a friend - admission \$2.

SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK Association Asks Your Support

The 54 acres between Stoney Point and the 118 Freeway and bounded by Topanga Canyon Blvd., on the west and Canoga Avenue on the east have been slated for purchase by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy with funds from Los Angeles County's 1992 Proposition A. This option, rather than purchase by the city of Los Angeles, was placed in the proposition at the request of Councilman Hal Bernson. Its acquisition

will more than double the size of the existing Stoney Point Park, which is designated as archeological site CA-LAN-89:LACHM 132.

Rising above its surroundings, massive Stoney Point has been Chatsworth's defining landmark. Native Americans lived in its shadows, leaving their archeological relics. In its present natural state, the 54 acres slated for acquisition contains impressive rock formations and is part of a wildlife corridor leading from Brown's and Devil's Canyons beneath the Freeway via Canoga Avenue and eventually to Corriganville. The area includes equestrian trails and interesting vegetation. By preserving it, the view of Stoney Point from the Freeway will be unimpeded by structures.

Apparently unaware of these plans, the Valley Christian Reform Church's congregation led by the Reverend Jai Yown Kim, has purchased the property with the intent to erect a church, senior citizen's center and school plus associated parking facilities and roads. To do so, they must obtain the support of Councilman Bernson for a conditional use permit. Of course we realize that the congregation has worked long and hard to raise the money needed for them to achieve their dreams. However, we believe that other property is available in the northwest San Fernando Valley which is equally suitable for their needs and which is not critical to the expansion of an existing park and the preservation of the scenic, natural, and archeological values of the subject property. Thus we urge you to support our efforts to save the 54 acres for the expansion of Stoney Point Park by the following actions:

1. Helping the Reverend Kim's congregation find another location for their activities;
2. Urging Mr. Bernson to deny the conditional use permit; and
3. requesting Mr. Joseph Edmiston, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy to start the acquisition of the subject 54 acres.

(more)

Write Councilman Bernson, 18917 Nordhoff St., Northridge, CA 91324 or phone Nanci Oliva at that office (818) 989-8504. Write to Mr. Ediston at the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy, 3700 Solstice Canyon Rd., Malibu, CA 91265

For further information contact Zelma Van Derlinder, president of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (818) 341-2504 or Janice Hinkston, founder, (818) 9610.

HIKE SCHEDULE - SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

Hikes not conducted July, August or September due to extreme heat. Weekly schedule resumes October 3, 1993.

Hike information: 5 mile, 700 ft. gain loop up Stagecoach Trail - hills west of Chatsworth Park South.

Meet 9 a.m., Chatsworth Park South Recreation Bldg., parking lot, west end of Devonshire Street. Bring water & lunch in hiker's pack of individual choice, back pack or hip pack. Lugsole shoes and hat. Rain cancels schedule and all hikes are conducted by knowledgeable, experienced leaders.

Schedule and leaders:

- October 3 - Kent Kellegrew
- October 10 - Barbara Coffman
- October 17 - Diane Huffman
- October 24 - Lee Baum

Monthly meetings of the Mountain Park Association are held the third Monday of each month, 7 p.m., Glendale Federal Bank, Community Room, 21821 Devonshire St., Chatsworth. Dark July & August.

WEDDING BELLS CHIME

On Saturday, July 17th, Kathryn (Katie) Thorpe, older daughter of John and Zena Thorpe, was married to Michael Colasanti, son of Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Colasanti, at the Pioneer Church. Father Anthony Rasche officiated.

Oliver Thorpe, brother of the bride, served as best man and the matron of honor was Julia Caldwell. The bridesmaids were Julie Jackson, Brandy Butler and Rose Colasanti, sister of the groom. The flower girl was Katherine Swain, granddaughter of Jackie and Bruce O'Reilly.

It was a charming ceremony with the radiant bride wearing the beautiful lace and beaded gown made by her mother, Zena. The theme of the wedding was roses and this was reflected in the bride's bouquet, the bride's mother's dress and the bridesmaid's dresses, all designed and made by Zena. Katherine's pretty dress was made by Grandma Jackie.

A dinner reception followed in the gardens of the Thorpe's Chatsworth home. The table decorations continued the theme with specially dried roses around the candles. The young couple honeymooned in Hawaii and now make their home in Santa Susana in the Simi Valley.

"MATINEE RANCH"

Graham Hill was the recent guest of the Society's board of directors when he presented a video program titled, "Matinee Ranch," that he had made from film and TV clips of features made in the mountains around Chatsworth - most notably at the Iverson Movie Ranch. Hill is an Englishman who has had a life long interest in movie making and is currently employed in that field. It is his hope to make the work into a first class video and he was