



Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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From the president:

Once again we wish to express care and concern for those affected by the most recent fires and we thank God for us being so lucky that the Homestead Acre and the Pioneer Church were spared as the fire came so close.

Bea Berman

(cont'd)

Betty Summers: "The Cottage Story"

1030 a.m. Brief break.

11:00 a.m. Lila Schepler: Distribution of docent manuals and review,

A brief quiz.

If time allows, new docents will tour the cottage.

From Lila Schepler, Director of Docents:

We are pleased that so many could attend the Docent Tea and hear about the prospective docent classes scheduled and also to learn about the different types of work docents participate in. The first docent training class was held November 6th. The next two will be held on November 13th and 20th as follows:

Nov.13: 9 a.m. Coffee and conversation.
9:30 a.m. Virginia Watson, Curator, "Early Pioneers and Homesteaders-Their Lives and Times."
10:30 a.m. Brief Break.
11:00 a.m. Lillian Schepler: The Society Costume Collection from different eras. With examples to view.

Nov.20: 9 a.m. Coffee and conversation.
9:30 a.m. Virginia Watson, Curator
The Minnie Palmer Story,"
About her life, family and their homestead.

We'll then adjourn for the rest of November and December. You will be notified in writing when the January sessions begin on Saturday the 8th.

All prospective docents will take the classes whether they will be tour docents or not. It is life enriching to have the opportunity to hear from those who have so much to share. If you'd care to attend and bring a friend, just let me know. All sessions will end before noon.

Lila,
341-3447

DATES TO REMEMBER!

November Quarterly Meeting, Tuesday, November 16.

Christmas Program, Wednesday, December 15.

Details elsewhere in this newsletter.

90th Anniversary of the Pioneer Church was a Happy Event

Sunday, October 24 marked the 90th birthday of the Chatsworth Pioneer Church (Los Angeles Historic Monument #14,) originally located at 10051 Topanga Canyon Blvd., and now located in Oakwood Memorial Park. The church is now the home of the St. Mary-the-Virgin Anglican-Catholic Church and a celebratory religious service was held in the morning.

A standing-room-only crowd attended the afternoon ceremonies. Following the presentation of colors by Boy Scout Troop 226 and the invocation by Dr. Marvin Kennon, pastor of Chatsworth United Methodist Church, Father Anthony Rasch, rector of St. Mary's church welcomed the audience.

Lila Schepler related the history of the little church, built in 1903 by volunteer labor. Bea Berman, society president, presented a special award to Bill and Lila Schepler on behalf of the Society, stressing the numerous contributions the couple has made to the church and the community of Chatsworth.

Keith Watts, a founder of the Society, presented an award and other gifts to Roy Rogers and Dale Evans although Dale was unable to be present. Watts remarked on the many contributions the Rogers had made in support of the society's early days. This included the use of their gardens for a thank you reception for others who had aided with rescuing the church from demolition.

Roy reminisced about the early years of their marriage when they lived in Chatsworth with their children. He also announced that the little church is only 8 years older than he is!

Musical interludes were provided by Jane Matthews, former president of the CHS and by the E.N.C.O.R.E. ensemble of

Valleyaires of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America. Led by Bob Platzer the group includes Jim Summers, also a Society member.

Other speakers included State Senator Cathie Wright and Norman Ruppert, manager of Oakwood Memorial Park.

Finger food and cool drinks were served outside the building by the congregation of St. Mary's.

The church is in very good condition reflecting the loving care of the church members. The day was beautiful with bright azure-blue cloudless skies.

For the record:

Seemingly never-ending firestorms blazed throughout Southern California during the last days of October and the first days of November causing the most damage by fire ever experienced in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Negligence caused the Altadena Fire and arson is attributed to many of the others while the heroes were the numerous firemen, peace officers, pilots and all who worked to save homes and possessions. The winds and the fire lines were capricious, the winds fanning the flames into two hundred foot wavering walls.

Four firefighters were seriously injured in the Chatsworth Fire when the fire changed paths on Lilac Lane where they were in a fire truck on standby duty. The truck was engulfed in flames and the four men are at the Sherman Oaks burn center in serious condition. Many others suffered less severe injuries throughout the weeklong devastation. We owe a great deal of thanks to all of these people as well as support and encour-

Pioneer Church Anniversary Revisited

The 90th birthday celebration of the Chatsworth Pioneer Church held on Sunday, October 24 included many memorable moments. As you may recall, a standing-room-only crowd attended the afternoon ceremonies and enjoyed the presentations, musical interludes, and refreshments.

CHS President Bea Berman presented a special award to Bill and Lila Schepler, longtime members of the Society, stressing the numerous contributions the couple has made to the church and the community of Chatsworth. Bill currently serves on the CHS Board of Directors as Director of Photographic Materials, while Lila serves in a similar capacity as Director of Docents. (Photo at right).



Keith Watts, a Society founder, presented an award and other gifts to Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, former Chatsworth residents and early supporters of the Society. Although Dale (Mrs. Rogers) was unable to attend, Roy Rogers reminisced about the early years of their marriage when they lived in Chatsworth with their children. (Photo at right).

