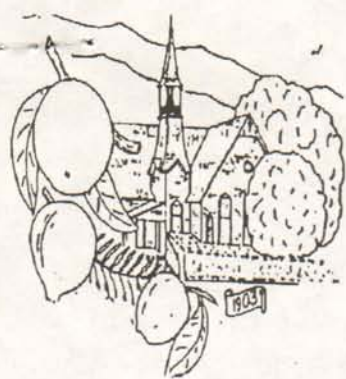


Dec. 93



Smoke Signal



CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth CA 91311
(818)-882-5614

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President: Bea Berman
Editor: Sheila Watts

DECEMBER, 1993

Docent Training Continues.

The second half of the docent training sessions will continue on the following Saturdays in January:

Jan. 8: 9 a.m. Coffee and conversation.
9:30 a.m. Students of Sierra Canyon School toured the Acre and a video of the tour will be shown. A video of the moving of the Pioneer Church will be shown. Keith Watts made the video from an 8 m.m movie that he made in January 1965.

10:30 a.m. A brief break.
11 a.m. Clara Leveur will present Theatre Arts, "How to Conduct a Tour."

Jan. 15: 9 a.m. Coffee and conversation.
9:30 a.m. Docents and trainees will be conducting tours.
10:30 a.m. A brief break.
11 a.m. More tours.

Jan. 22 9 a.m. Coffee and conversation.
9:30 a.m. Again docents and trainees will be conducting tours.
10:30 a.m. A brief break.
11 a.m. The group will form teams for a permanent schedule.

All docents should plan to attend the three sessions.

Lila Schepler
Director of Docents.

Quarterly Meeting on January 17, 18

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m., in the museum. Members and guests will provide an exciting program for the evening by bringing interesting items from personal collections for "Show and Tell." In the past we have found that there is great interest in bringing personal collectibles and disclosing a little of the history of each item. Please come and bring a conversation piece and also bring a friend.

Mrs. Ann McKeeby has made a very interesting donation of an item from her family collectibles and this will be presented to the Society at the meeting by Mr. Kevin Haas, long time Chatsworth resident and a professional photographer.

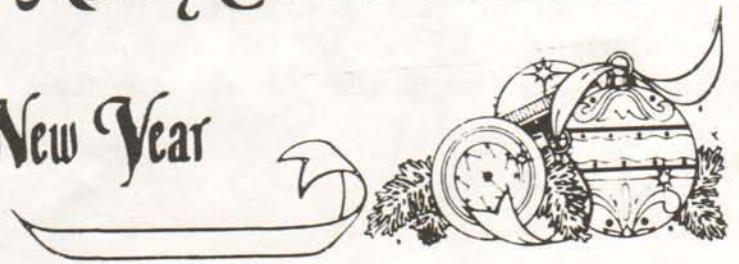
Ken Levy will be honored by the Museum Council.

Refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there.

Donna Afflerbach,
Program vice president.

Merry Christmas and a

Happy New Year



Life Members and Museum Council News

Barry and Paula Wheeler and family who moved to Texas this summer were recently in town. They each purchased a Life Membership and then had their daughters Kristine and Kimberly join the Museum Council.

We thank them all for supporting the CHS, and also Ray Johnson, Jr., who also joined the Museum Council this month. Ray is the son of Kelly and Katherine Johnson, founding members of the Chatsworth Historical Society.

The final renovation of the museum will get underway in mid-January and this will allow us to store the costume collection in a safe and protective manner.

CHS Parade Float wins!

The annual Christmas parade was held on December 12 with Hollywood as its theme. The float committee decided to emphasize that period of Chatsworth's history when some 2200 movies were filmed in the hills surrounding the town. The float was titled "Lights, Camera, Action - Chatsworth in the 1920's," and was depicted with a cameraman (Johnny Thorpe); a director (Bea Berman), a black-hatted cowboy, (Brandy Butler); a white hatted cowboy, (Keith Watts) and a dance-hall girl, (Katy Collasanti) playing cards in a barroom. Apparently this very B-Western was enjoyed by the judges who presented us with a second place trophy. Next year, High Noon!

Many thanks to CQ Auto Parts, Inc., 21116 Devonshire, Chatsworth for the loan of the 12-foot flatbed truck, to all the members who helped decorate the float and to Bea's son-in-law, Gary Burcow, who drove the truck.

A Message from our President:

Dear Friends:

December has been a busy month - the Holiday Open House was delightful, the triip to Pierce College for the Chorale Festival was a lovely event, and thanks to Donna Afflerbach for providing all the goodies at the Homestead Cottage before the program.

I'm happy to announce that a costume display case has been ordered for the museum. This is a memorial gift to the Society in memory of Louise Butler Roberts by her sister, Valeta Butler Kohler.

I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!

Bea

Dates to Remember

- Sunday, Jan. 2 Open House at the Acre; 1 to 4 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 8 Docent Training; 9:30 a.m.
Saturday, Jan. 15 —ditto—
Tuesday, Jan. 18 "Show & Tell," 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 22 Docent Training; 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, Feb. 6 Open House at the Acre; 1 to 4 p.m.
Sunday, Mar. 6 —ditto—
Tuesday, Mar. 15 The Society's birthday meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Apr. 3 Easter Sunday and Open House at the Acre 1 p.m.
Sunday, May 1 Garden Festival, 1 to 4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 17 Installation Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

agement for the hundreds of victims.

CHATSWORTH HOLIDAY PARADE DECEMBER 12, 1993, 1 P.M.

The theme of the parade this year is "Hollywood." The Society's board has agreed to enter a float, "Lights, Camera, Action." The committee includes Bea Berman, 341-5449, Sheila, 341-4489 and Zena Thorpe, 882-3572. Please, if you'd like to help, call one of the above and volunteer. We'll have a lot fun so please join us.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS.

As usual the Homestead Cottage will be decorated with traditional Christmas ornaments and embellishments in time for the monthly open house on Sunday, December 5. The Museum will have Christmas touches but we'll also be spotlighting Chanukah.

The celebration of Chanukah begins on the 25th day of the month of Kislev, (usually in December,) and lasts eight days. It commemorates the victory of Judas Maccabeus over the Syrian Greeks, whose king, Antiochus IV (of whose dominions the Land of Israel then formed a part,) tried to impose Greek customs and worship of Greek idols on the Jews, and forbade the observances of the Jewish religion. The revolt against this religious persecution was initiated by Mattathias, a priest who lived in the village of Modin in the hills of Judah. The revolt was led at first by Judah, one of Mattathias' five sons. After four important victories over the Syrians in the years 166 and 165 BCE, Judah entered Jerusalem and re-dedicated the Temple, which had been defiled by the Syrians with idol worship and the sacrifice of unclean animals.

When the perpetual lamp was about to be lit, only one flask of Holy Oil was found undefiled, sufficient only for the needs of one day. However, the oil lasted for eight days, long enough for a new supply to be prepared. In memory of this miracle, the principal observance of Chanukah is the kindling of lights, one on the first night, two on the second and so on till eight are kindled on the eighth day.

The lights may take the form of candles or miniature oil lamps. A ninth light, called the 'Shamash,' "i.e. servant or minister," is kindled first and used to light the others. The candle stick or candelabrum is called a "Menorah" or, more commonly in Israel today, a "Chanukiyah." It is generally placed on the window-sill or in some other conspicuous place where it may be seen from the outside. (My thanks to Bea Berman for this information.)

WATTS WHAT. In the October newsletter, former Chatsworth resident Ken Levy submitted a letter regarding his need for space to park the family motor home during the winter months. The writer is happy to report that the trailer has a winter home at the residence of Lila and Bill Schepler.

The Watts went to Washington D.C., and Newport News, Va., in early October. Heather was performing at the Warner Theatre in Washington with Stars of the New York City Ballet. Joining them in Washington were Jennifer and Mitch Green as well as Sheila's sister and brother-in-law, Joy and Morris Broyles who reside in Virginia.

Another highlight of the visit was a trip to the Capitol building where the statue of Freedom was being readied for its return to the top of the Capitol dome. The historic statue has been on top of the building for 130 years and was removed by helicopter in May for its first refurbishing. (See photo and information later in the newsletter.)

Would you believe that Jim and Betty Summers also visited the statue within days of the Watts visit. But the Summers' odyssey had taken them to many parts of the continent besides the nation's capital. They were travelling for two months and went to many places they had always wanted to visit including Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Niagara Falls, New York and the Statue of Liberty. More are Arizona, Boston and Gettysburg. While in Arizona the two saw both the Everett Clevelands and the Ralph Hylands.

Restoration of the Statue of Freedom

The statue was removed from the Capitol dome and placed in a fenced area on the Capitol grounds. The work included removal of corrosion, caulk, and interior paint; repairs to the bronze; repatination; and application of protective coatings of wax and lacquer.

The statue is an allegorical figure. Her right hand rests upon a sheathed sword; her left hand holds a victory wreath and the shield of the United States. The crest of her helmet is composed of eagle's head, feathers and talons, a reference to the costume of Native Americans. The statue is 19 feet 6 inches tall and weighs approximately 15,000 pounds.

The statue's cast-iron pedestal remained in place atop the dome during the restoration where it too was cleaned, repaired and recoated. It consists of a globe encircled with the national motto, E Pluribus Unum, and a lower section decorated with fasces and wreaths.

American sculptor Thomas Crawford was commissioned to design the statue in 1855, shortly after Congress approved the construction of the new cast-iron dome. Crawford ex-

ecuted the plaster model for the statue in his studio in Rome, and it was shipped from Italy in 1858. Clark Mills began the casting in 1860 at his foundry on Bladensburg Road; the work was interrupted in 1861 because of the Civil War, but by the end of 1862, the statue was finished and temporarily assembled for display on the Capitol grounds. Late in 1863, when construction of the dome was sufficiently advanced, the statue was lifted in sections for reassembly on the pedestal. The final section, the head and the shoulders was installed on December 2, 1863; the statue remained in place, its crest 287 feet 5-1/2 inches above the east front plaza for almost 130 years.

Funds for the restoration were provided to the Architect of the Capitol by the U.S. Capitol Preservation Commission. The structural engineering consultants are Cagley and Associates Inc., and the bronze was restored by Fine Objects Conservation, Inc. Work on the pedestal was performed by members of the Architect of the Capitol in workforce in consultation with an expert from the National Park Service.

The statue was replaced on the dome by helicopter on Saturday, October 24, 1993.

