



Smoke Signal



CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth CA 91311
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VOLUME 31, NO. 8

President: Bea Berman
Editor: Sheila Watts

MARCH, 1994

NEW BEGINNINGS, On The Occasion Of Chatsworth's 106th Birthday!

Seven weeks have passed since the Northridge 'Quake and it is time for the Society and its members to try to return to normal operations. The interior of the museum was very messy and that has been 80% corrected. The cottage looks very nice and the Acre itself certainly is looking pretty with occasional iris, flowering peach, a few early roses and the birds of paradise in flower. The board and other Society members have done a great job of restoring order in spite of the fact that their own homes were jolted along with the rest of the San Fernando Valley. Elsewhere you'll find a list of the volunteers as well as a list of some of the hardest hit buildings in town.

The elusive Show and Tell will take place on Tuesday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m., when members share some of their favorite pieces of the past or collectibles. Those who live close by are invited to attend and bring something to share. We've already received the promise of a family Bible, an old savings bank and Indian jewelry.

Newly trained docents will be pinned and welcomed into the docent committee. Also Civil War photographs will be on display. New members of the Museum Council will be honored. Refreshments will be served. Election of officers will take place. Join us for new beginnings and birthday cake!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 1994-95:

President	Sheila Watts
1st V.P., Program	Zena Thorpe
2nd V.P., Ways & Means	Donna Afflerbach
3rd V.P., Membership	Keith Watts
4th V.P., Hospitality	Nomination from the floor
Secretary	Bea Berman
Editor, Smoke Signal	Virginia Watson
Board Members at Large	John Thorpe, Betty Summers, (Ass't Curator).

PERMANENT BOARD MEMBERS:

Curator	Virginia Watson
Director of Docents	Lila Schepler
Director of Photographic Materials	Bill Schepler
Permanent Honorary Board Member	Eileen Janess.

Parliamentarian is appointed by the president or is the immediate past president. The late Charles Janess was Founding President.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Afflerbach, Keith Watts & Virginia Watson, chairperson.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The past two months have been difficult for those members who live close by as our lives were changed forever by the January 17 earth-

quake. As usual, the board members, docents and members came through with support and help even in the middle of their own crises. The L.A. Dept of Recreation & Parks has done its share to help restore our historic monuments.

It's time now for all of us to get back to living normal lives. Help us to do just that by supporting our programs and efforts.

Sincerely,

Bea Berman.

FROM THE CURATOR:

The docents and museum staff met recently to restore the Museum to its usual orderly appearance and this included replacing all of the books that fell off the shelves in the Frank Schepler Jr., library. We'll hold one more meeting this coming Saturday so that all will look well for Chatsworth's birthday meeting.

The Society has received a copy of a beautiful tray that was used at Chatsworth Park, Derbyshire, England the home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. The tray is of black enamel decorated with lovely paintings of the flowers symbolic of the Chatsworth estate. In the center is a tiny replica of Chatsworth House.

The tray has been donated by long time life member, Betty Grill, in memory of her late husband, Charles Grill. The tray will be displayed in a case containing other memorabilia of the Devonshires'.

I want to thank the Chatsworth Historical Society for submitting my name as a nominee for an award from the California Conference of Historical Societies. It is an honor and I am very grateful.

Virginia Watson

COMING SOON - Sunday May 1st, the Spring Garden Festival.

This event will feature flower arranging, plant and white elephant booths, garden clubs, wildflower and drought resistant plants. Look for more information in the April "Smoke Signal," but please circle the date, Sunday May 2 from 11 a.m., to 4 p.m.

MANY THANKS.....

We thank all of the following who have spent time in the past seven weeks helping us to restore the Acre, with its Museum and Homestead Cottage, to its usual tranquility: Donna Afflerbach, Pauline Aue, Ramon Avila, Bea Berman, Dean and Candy Craig, Joseph Pampalone and Carlos, Jim and Betty Summers, Lila and Bill Schepler, Lillian Schepler, Virginia Watson, Keith Watts and Vicki Wyant.

WE WELCOME: NEW MEMBER AND MUSEUM COUNCIL MEMBER

Dr. Kant Thakker joined the Society in January and also became part of the Museum Council. He and his wife, Dr. Harriman, are the new owners of the Brandeis Ranch in the hills overlooking Chatsworth. Their address is 22637 La Quilla Drive, Chatsworth.

Lila and Bill Schepler had planned to join a tour of the Holy Land in February. Instead, a small cancer was discovered in Lila's breast. This was removed and starting this week Lila will undergo treatment for six weeks. Lila says she is feeling fine at the present. However, she has resigned as Director of Docents but will continue to support the Historical Society. Donna Afflerbach will be Director of Docents.

FOR OUT-OF-TOWNERS:

The following buildings were red-tagged or severely damaged: Mason Avenue was hard hit starting north of Devonshire Street with the Pic'n Save store, Ross department store, Ralph's Market (to reopen this week), Wells Fargo bank is operating out of mobile offices, all the small stores on the east side of the street were badly damaged as was Thrifty Drug Store. The Rozann Zimmerman Ballet center was damaged but is now open, St. John Eudes Church may have to be rebuilt; the sanctuary of the Congregational Church was red-tagged. A lot of houses were damaged when chimneys fell in. The Chatsworth Post Office is fenced off and will be demolished. Private homes were damaged in different ways. Rockpoint Condominium suffered a lot of damage on the north side of Devonshire. The gym in Chatsworth Park South is unusable as the ground beneath it is unstable and will undergo further geological evaluation.

The Department of History of
California State University, Northridge
and the History Chapter of the
CSUN Alumni Association
cordially invite you to attend
the inaugural lecture in the

W. P. Whitsett California Lecture Series

by
Dr. Glenn Dumke
on

"The Boom of the 1880s
in Southern California"

with an introduction by

Dr. John Caughey

Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 p.m.
in the Santa Clarita Room of the
University Student Union

All are invited to a dinner in the
Tapestry Room following the lecture.
As seating is limited, reservations
are required. Payment of \$15 per
dinner with selection of entree should
be sent to the History Department by
November 23. Make checks payable to the
CSUN Foundation and send to the
Dept. of History
California State University, Northridge
18111 Nordhoff St.
Northridge, CA 91330

Choice of Entrees: Top Sirloin
Chicken Scallopini Marsala
Tortellini de la Casa (Veg.)

For further information call 818-885-3566

In November, 1986 the W. P. Whitsett Foundation and California State University, Northridge, established the W. P. Whitsett California Lecture Series and the W. P. Whitsett Endowed Chair in California History. The Whitsett Foundation's gift was intended to honor the memory of W. P. Whitsett and his pioneering role in San Fernando Valley history. The lecture series will be on topics related to the history, the development and the future prospects of California. The Whitsett Committee of the Department of History will organize two lectures a year and intends to make the series an influential and prominent forum for the study of California's past, present and future.