



Smoke Signal

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CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

10385 Shadow Oak Drive

Chatsworth, CA

SHEILA WATTS, PRESIDENT

VIRGINIA WATSON, EDITOR



From The President

We're entering another busy season - this week a ladies dress sale, the on-going upkeep of the museum, cottage and grounds and we are looking forward to another interesting program on November 15. I hope many of you can join us for the event when we'll learn about Depression glass.

I'm happy to announce that we have received a \$500 grant from the Los Angeles City Council. For this we are grateful to Councilman Hal Bernson who arranged for the grant that must be spent on the care of the grounds to ensure that they are always tidy and attractive for public use. Thank you, Hal, and staff member Greig Smith, for your assistance.

Best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving.

Sheila

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LAST MINUTE NEWS FLASH

The Ladies Dress Sale held over last weekend was not a successful event. Sheila Watts reports that a mere \$43 was our share for the treasury. However Sheila would like to thank all the people who helped on the project and those who purchased dresses and hats.

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FROM PIONEER DAY CHAIRMAN DONNA AFFLERBACH

"I apologize for names inadvertently omitted from the Thank You's given in the October Smoke Signal. **MAGIC WORLD, WILLIAM STANDING BEAR, AND ALL THOSE WHO DONATED ITEMS FOR THE WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE.**"

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NOVEMBER EVENTS Plus December

Nov. 12.....Telephone Pioneers Tour
10 a.m.

Nov. 15.....Program Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Bonita Campbell and William Freeman, both professors at CSUN, will discuss Depression Glass, telling a little of its history, why it is desirable and collectible, and give a few tips on the fine art of collecting. Part of their extensive collection is on display at the museum.

Members and guests are invited to bring along pieces of Depression Glass for sharing with the experts.

Pumpkin pie and decaf coffee will be served.

DEC. 04.....Open House 1-4 p.m.
Team Three Docents:
Afflerbach, Wyant, Reynolds
Clark and Roth.

Dec. 07.....Holiday Fete at Pierce
See details on Page 2
Meet at Homestead Acre 6 p.

Dec. 12.....Holiday Festival at
Mason Park 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
See Page 2 for Details



BRIGHTEN YOUR SPIRITS!

First, join us for fellowship and refreshments at the Homestead Cottage, which will be dressed in its holiday finery. Then, the exceptional music and song provided by the California Brass Ensemble and Pierce College Choir will entice you to sing - a - long with the audience of young and old attending their old-fashioned holiday concert, THE FESTIVAL OF THE CAROLS.

The total package of holiday cheer, the Society's social and the Holiday Concert, can be had for only \$5 per person. Tickets are limited and must be pre-paid. Call DONNA at 882-0485 evenings to reserve your tickets or for more information. Tickets will be available at the November 15th program meeting.

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOLIDAY FETE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7th
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM HOMESTEAD COTTAGE
(Pre-theatre social)
7:15 PM DEPART
(Car-pool to Pierce College Campus)
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM FESTIVAL OF THE CAROLS

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HOLIDAY FESTIVAL
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A holiday festival will be held on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10th at MASON PARK in substitute for the Chamber Parade as a signal for the start of the Holiday Season. Attendees can lend a helping hand to the needy by bringing non-perishable food or personal care products which will be distributed by our local food pantries. There will be surprizes, goodies and entertainment as well as a visit by Santa. A special HAND-IN-HAND CEREMONY, joining all those assembled at the park, will celebrate the spirit of joy, hope, determination and fellowship that invigorates our community of Chatsworth.

EVENTS:

10 - 4 BOUTIQUE (Hand-made items from local artisans)

11 - 1 SILENT AUCTION (Benefitting children's programs at Mason Park)

1 - 4 COMMUNITY FESTIVAL (Entertainment, surprizes, goodies, etc. Don't forget your gifts for the needy!)

2:00 PM HAND - IN - HAND CEREMONY (Inspiration and messages from public and community officials)

2:30 PM SANTA VISITS

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE COTTAGE?

Betty Summers is our assistant curator and as such is in charge of the collection of furniture and items in The Cottage. Many of our members do not know that she has a numbering system, an extensive file, complete with snapshots of the contents of the house.

Recently Betty and her husband Jim, took the reed-bottom rocking chair (the one that has had the whole seat broken out for the past several years) to be repaired. The work is complete and the chair is back in the Cottage and it looks great!

JANE Matthews, former president who now lives in San Juan Capistrano, recently donated a small clear glass kerosine lamp to use in the living room of the Cottage.

Betty would like to ask other people who have items of furniture, pictures, knick-knacks, etc. that would be suitable for our circa 1910 decorating of the house to contact her regarding donating them to the Society.

Recently board members and docents agreed that the north-east bedroom would contain children's items. Although Minnie's family did not have a "nursery" as such, it was decided that items of the period that are suitable for children would all go in that bedroom. The dolls and doll buggy are already placed there. Call **Betty at (818) 341-2714** for more information.

Also **Betty needs assistance**. So far she has done all the numbering of the items, keeping up the cards on who gave us the item, where it came from, and all the rest of the paperwork. She needs a **committee to help**. The Cottage is cleaned every month before Open House (by our gardener Trini's wife Paula) but Betty and the docents often oil the furniture, wash the windows and curtains etc.

PAULA DELZER, our new hostess, looks after the kitchen and its contents. She puts the kitchen in order, checks the refrigerator, keeps the paper goods and supplies up-to-date. She will also be **calling for volunteers** as she gets into her new job.

(con. next column)

COTTAGE NEWS CONTINUED

Lillian Schepler, our treasurer, is the one who arranges for the cleaning of the Cottage, making sure all is ready for our Open House and special occasions. (In addition to her regular duties as treasurer and being in charge of the costume collection and the decorating of the new costume or display case honoring Louise Butler Roberts.) **Paula Delzer** assisted her with the case last month and in November. However **Lillian needs help with the costume collection**. See her at the November meeting if you can help in December or January.
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SAD NEWS - Word has been received of the death of one of the Society's early supporters, **Val Wangsgard**. Mr. Wangsgard spent most of his early years in Chatsworth. He, his wife June, and their three sons, Chris, Lance and Neal, were all active community workers before they moved to Bishop, California in the early seventies.
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DOCENT DOINGS

A reminder that Donna is collecting information about items that would be considered for re-stocking the museum gift shop.

Plans are being made to get the Museum and Cottage decorated for the holidays. Tentative dates for decorating the Cottage are: Wed., Nov. 30, or Sat., Dec. 2, in the morning starting at 9 a.m. until about 11 a.m.
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MEMBER NEWS

MARY AVILA is undergoing dialysis several times a week and is recovering from eye surgery. In between getting Mary to the doctor, Ramon is deep watering
(Cont. next page)

MEMBER NEWS CONTINUED

the fruit trees at The Acre and gathering lemons which he sells to Biscuits 'n Gravy for us. He was out the other day looking at the lime tree and expressing the hope that he might sell limes to Nick Montano at Los Toros.

Zena Thorpe is back from a trip to Houston, Texas where she entered her newest quilt, "Frogmore" and won not only **"BEST OF SHOW"**, from the professional judges but also the **"FOUNDERS' AWARD"** chosen by four of the women who had started **"THE HOUSTON QUILT FESTIVAL"**.

The festival is one of the most well-known quilt shows in the United States and was celebrating an anniversary.

(Cont. next column.)

Editorial Note:

The end of the Smoke Signal. I didn't run out of news--I ran out of time!

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The quilt has a floral theme and was inspired and named for the ceiling in a room at "Frogmore" one of the favorite mansions of Queen Victoria and is located within New Windsor, Berkshire, England. (You may remember that Zena lived in England before she came to America and is familiar with the famous ceiling.)

Painted in 1790 by Mary Moser, a well-known artist who specialized in painting flowers, Frogmore is also famous for the real flowers on the estate and the landscaping. Queen Victoria buried Prince Albert on the grounds because she loved it so much. Later, she too, was buried there and now it is the official mausoleum for the British monarchy.

Zena was invited to the show to appear in person where she was presented with ribbons and a trophy. They paid for her airfare and put her up at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in a plush suite.

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