



Smoke Signal

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

President: Sheila Watts

Editor: Virginia Watson

From the President:

In spite of all the showers and wintery gales, the re-carpeted museum and the cottage were open to the public on March 4th. I would like to thank Virginia, Betty and Donna for preparing the museum for display.

All of the cases were emptied and moved in order for the carpet to be installed. The three of them really worked last week to ready it for visitors.

One case is filled with Betty's collection of tins - remember when all foodstuffs came in lovely reusable cans, everything from mustard to soda crackers, and more! More of Minnie's kitchen gadgets are on display.

Yet another case contains the collection from Betty Summer's father's bakery shop of San Luis Obispo. We're so thankful when people share their collections as it makes the museum much more interesting.

The dining room table in the cottage was set for a meal using the lovely Chinaware that was recently donated by Harry Gohl, Jr. The Azalea pattern is a sister to Minnie's Noritaki China.

By the time you read this message I hope to be recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Till next month -

Sheila

During the months of May and June, the Society will commemorate the long sought end of World War II....the 50th anniversary of a conflict that changed the world.

If you have any memorabilia of the wartime experience, please give Virginia a call at 341-3053.

Pictures, newspapers, military uniforms or documents - we'll take care of them and return them promptly.

OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, APRIL 2nd
1-4 p.m.

TEAM THREE:

Donna Afflerbach, Melissa Clark,
Kathy Reynolds, Barbara Roth, and
Virginia Watson for Vicki Wyant.

DOCENT DOINGS

A Brownie Troop from Beckford Elementary School in Northridge to The Acre on Tuesday, March 28.

Report From Sheila -

S.B.A. LOAN

Starting this month we must begin to repay the earthquake loan at the rate of \$40.00 per month. We have decided to invite the membership to adopt a month, if anyone is interested in honoring a friend or loved ones birthday or anniversary.

Those who so choose will be mentioned in the Smoke Signal and the honoree will be notified of the donation on a suitable card.

If interested, please send a check to the Historical Society at 10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311.

Sheila Watts has chosen the month of March to honor Chatsworth's 107th birthday; Bea Berman has chosen April with thanks for Marshall's improving health.

The Society's Wish List!

At the top of the list of things that the Society would like to acquire the top-most object is a VCR with a monitor or TV. The Speakers' Bureau has managed very well for a very long time using slides shown on a screen. We need a second screen and set of slides to operate more efficiently.

It would be such an improvement to have the slides on a VCR tape, preferably a VCR player with a monitor. So - if members have any suggestions regarding attaining this objective please give a call to committee members:

Keith Watts, 341-4489 or
John Thorpe, 882-3572

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHATSWORTH!!!

On Saturday, March 11, 1995 (Chatsworth's actual birthday is March 10, 1888) the Chatsworth Historical Society celebrated the community's 107th Birthday with a trip to the Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Rogers Museum in Victorville. Those of you who have been members for a long time will remember that 30 years ago when we first organized the Society, Roy and Dale were our patrons, writing a letter to the public to urge them to join the Society and allowing us to have our first Appreciation Reception at their home. Also the Rogers donated the last \$1000 dollars left in Debbie's bank account after her untimely death, to the CHS to begin the moving fund to relocate the Pioneer Church. Your editor was unable to attend the bus trip due to a family emergency but the following is a report from Vice President Donna Afflerbach who was in charge of the trip.

Nary a drop of rain fell on the 38 people who traveled to the Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Rogers Museum in Victorville on what was elsewhere a very stormy Saturday.

Dale Evans met our group in the hall where Nellybelle, their famous jeep and other vehicles are displayed. Dale brought greetings from Roy who is recuperating nicely from recent angina pectoris surgery. She related that she and Roy sadly left Chatsworth and their ranch nearly 30 years ago when memories of their daughter who died in a tragic accident became too painful.

Dottie Hammond reminisced of when her young son insisted on telephoning his hero, Roy Rogers, whom he knew lived in the same town.

Thanks to Andre van der Valk and John Thorpe, we enjoyed Roy and Dale's 1949 movie, "Santa Susanna Pass" on the bus ride home. Valk and Thorpe have donated the video to the Society.

The very comfortable bus was subsidized by Councilman Hal Bernson's office.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

President and Editor of the Smoke Signal
Sheila Watts

1st Vice President, Program
Bea Berman

2nd Vice President, Ways and Means
Donna Afflerbach

3rd Vice President, Membership
Keith Watts

4th Vice President, Hospitality
Paula Delzer

Secretary
Zena Thorpe

Treasurer
Lillian Schepler

Directors-at-Large
John Thorpe
Betty Summers, Assistant Curator
Sylvia Oates

Three permanent board members are Virginia Watson, Curator; Bill Schepler, Director of Photographic Materials; and Lila Schepler. Although Lila resigned as chairperson of the Docent program, the bylaws have not been changed and she is a permanent board member.

Elections will be held at our April meeting according to our By-laws. Details can be ironed out at our April board meeting.

Nominations can be made from the floor with the permission of the nominee. See the next Smoke Signal for more details.

SAVE THE DATE - APRIL 30th

IT IS A SUNDAY AND WE ARE PLANNING OUR SPRING GARDEN FESTIVAL FOR THAT DAY!

Workers are needed, White Elephants to sell, plants to sell (Potted or otherwise). There will be an outdoor tea room in the Centennial Area and we will need homemade sandwiches and cakes or cookies to sell and much more!

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Long time member Helen Fladwed celebrated her 90th birthday with a gala party at Los Toros Restaurant. (Los Toros is also owned by another long-time member Nick Montano.)

Sheila Watts, president, is home from the hospital recuperating, according to her husband Keith.

Marshall Berman is home from the hospital following surgery for Parkinson's Disease. Marshall says his recovery, "Is coming along very, very, slowly and it is very frustrating." Doctors tell him he will be a long time recuperating.

Betty Grill, one of our early members, is recuperating from pneumonia. She is hoping to be able to attend our Spring Garden Festival. It is one event she can attend because it is held outside and easily accessible with her wheel chair.

Bobbette Fleschler, now a Chatsworth resident, is also still recuperating. She is undergoing dialysis several times a week.

Virginia Watson has a new great grandson! Dakota Jeude visited Chatsworth recently with his mother and dad, Dove and Justin Jeude of Gardenerville, Nevada.

Lila Schepler's brother "Gene" Swartz of Stanton, California, one of our faraway members, underwent brain surgery March 21. He is reported to have come through the surgery for a tumor and further reports will be coming.

Jeff Burkhart, Betty Summer's son who teaches Marine Biology at Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma, recently took time off to go down to Belice and teach for a year at a small university off the coast. Betty says he wanted the experience and to enjoy the beautiful coral reefs and the marine life in that area.

Also congratulations to Betty's Aunt, Edith Curry, who will be 100 years old on this Saturday (March 25). Mrs. Curry lived alone until last year's earthquake and now lives with her son near Germain Street Elementary. A surprise party is planned for her.

LOOKING BACK

April 17, 1995 will mark the 32nd anniversary of the founding of the Chatsworth Historical Society. The group of citizens, "Interested in preserving the history and historic landmarks of the community met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Johnson, Sr., on Wenesday evening," according to the first minutes which I just filed in our metal file cabinet at The Acre this week. "I" being your editor and the one who took those first notes. It is interesting to note at this point that our gardener Trini now lives in that same house where the Johnson's lived. And it is fun for me to read, "Art Honey was made temporary treasurer. He arranged to take the \$20.00 given to him by Mrs. Johnson who stated that the money was to be the first money donated toward the fund. It was given by Mrs. Henry Watson, through Mrs. Johnson." I remember that it was money given to me by Mrs. Johnson for writing her column in the Herald Tribune while she was on vacation.

There were three objectives named at that first meeting. "1. To find a place to locate the church building. 2. To arrange for the moving of the building after a location is found. 3. To maintain the building after it is located permanently."

And later in the minutes, "It was agreed that other people and other organizations will be needed to support the project. Discussion was held as to what could be done to arouse interest in other groups."

De ja you? Here we are 32 years later, hundreds of miles of fund raisers under our belts, we've moved the church, we rehabilitated it, we suffered through vandalism, rallied, completed the project and now it is safe and rented and we have celebrated the building's 90th birthday two years ago. We also have the Hill-Palmer Homestead Acre, a library and a museum. Not bad for a little group of "hysterical society" dreamers!. But we are still trying to interest other groups and other people!