

Smoke Signal



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

President & Editor: Sheila Watts

JANUARY, 1996

QUARTERLY PROGRAM MEETING!

The Quarterly meeting of the Chatsworth Historical Society will take place:

The Time: 7:30 P.M.

The Date: Tuesday, January 16, 1996

The Place: The Chatsworth Museum

The Subject: Trains of the Southern Pacific Coast Line during the 1950's.

We welcome as our speaker, Joel Amromin, a member of the Santa Susana Model Railroad Club and editor of the club quarterly, "The Burning Journal." Amronin is a native of Chicago and has had a fascination with trains all of his life.

The video has great footage of the entire route, including Chatsworth. Amronin will also discuss the 1903 Southern Pacific Santa Susana Depot which is currently being restored as a museum. The grand rededication of the edifice will be held January 20th at 10 a.m.

Refreshments will be served - join us for a stimulating evening as we remember back to the great days of the Coast line.

PRUNING SHEARS & CLEANING SUPPLIES A MUST!

Please join us for a fun working party at the Acre on Saturday, February 10 (rain date February 17) at 10 a.m., when the winter pruning of our three hundred roses will take place under the professional direction of Candy Craig, rosarian and energetic volunteer. We have unusual and rare

roses in a special bed and those who help with the pruning will be allowed clippings from this collection.

If you have never pruned a rose, now is the time to learn all about it and to help the Society at the same time. Bring along a pair of sharp pruners.

And for those of you who are swifter with the furniture polish than pruners, Betty Summers, custodian of the cottage, will direct activities inside the building with an eye to making it glow!

We anticipate about a two hour stint and the work will be followed by refreshments. Please come and give a hand - and bring a friend. We know you'll enjoy a morning at the beautiful Acre.

Call Sheila, 341-4489; Betty, 341-2714 or Candy, 341-4461 for further information.



DOCENT NEWS:

The next open house at the Acre will be Sunday, February 3rd. Team number four will conduct tours: Virginia Watson, Betty Summers, Evelyn Knouse and Beverly Arneson.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I hope all of you enjoyed the recent holiday season and are ready now to help make 1996 a successful year in the history of the Society. Join us first for the January 16 meeting and then for the February 10 pruning and clean-up session.

The Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce has hired an independent film company to produce a video extolling the virtues of moving a business to, or buying a house in, Chatsworth. The video will be used as a tool by businesses and will premiere at the 82nd annual installation banquet of the Chamber on February 4th. The company interviewed Virginia Watson at the Acre as part of the story of Chatsworth while other footage covers an interview with L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan. We're hoping to be able to show the film at one of our future meetings.

I would like to remind all of you that we are still inviting donations of \$40 to repay the post earthquake SBA loan. For a month of your choice - to memorialize a loved one or to celebrate a birth - think of the Chatsworth Historical Society's loan obligation!

I wish all of you a healthy and happy New Year. And by the way, perhaps we should start planning for New Year's Eve 2000!

Sheila Watts

MEMORIAL

Graveside services were held for Edith Palmer Butler at Pierce Brothers Valhalla Cemetery on October 24, 1995. She was 85 years old. Mrs. Butler was the only daughter of Minnie and Alfred Palmer who owned what the family members refer to as "The Ranch." Historical Society members call it "The Acre" or "The Homestead Acre." Mrs. Butler was preceded in death by her only brother, LeRoy Palmer.

Although Mrs. Butler was not born in Chatsworth

(she was born in Los Angeles in 1910) she spent a lot of her childhood on "The Ranch." She often told of doing her homework sitting at the dining room table in the cottage, studying by the light of the kerosene lamp. She is the one who donated that original lamp to the Society. It hangs in the corner of the Museum.

She left the homestead after she got married and lived in San Fernando the rest of her life. She was very proud of having her former home named an historic monument; and at the memorial service one of the speakers mentioned it and her love of flowers and plants.

She was a member of the Chatsworth Historical Society and attended many Society events and donated items that had belonged to Minnie. Her two children, Ronnie Palmer and Valerie Jenkins, have requested that the Society continue to send the Smoke Signal to them at Ronnie's address so that they can keep in touch with us.

Virginia Watson.

We extend deepest sympathy to Lila Schepler and family members on the recent death of her youngest brother, Eugene Swartz. Services were held at the Pioneer Church with interment in Oakwood Memorial Park. Many of our members will remember him as he grew up in Chatsworth.

Another loss during the recent holiday season was the death of Curly Alward. Curly's Stoney Point Auto Repair was a fixture in Chatsworth for many, many years. He will be missed by his friends, in the town and in Rotary Club.

WATTS WHAT.

Virginia Watson underwent an angiogram recently that confirmed the necessity of triple by-pass surgery. At the present Virginia is feeling better than she has during the past few months but the surgery will be scheduled for February. We'll all be thinking of you Virginia.....the newest member of Dean & Candy Craig's household is a

young adult border terrier named Dussie who is adorable but is starting dog training classes.....the Society's board has been formulating plans for the town's 108th birthday circa March 10. If the replicated Railroad Depot is complete by that time we may tie the birthday celebration to the Depot's dedication. However, contingency plans are called for - as we all learned from the 1994 'quake - not all projected completion dates are reliable!Jane Matthews reports that she has recovered from a recent illness and has booked passage on the S.S. Queen Odyssey for a Caribbean cruise in mid-January - smooth sailing, Jane.....

The Watts' are looking forward to an end-of-January visit with daughter Jennifer and granddaughter Savannah, along with son-in law, Mitchell Green, refugees from the bitter weather in New York.....The Friends of Chatsworth Library will hold a used book sale at the library, 21052 Devonshire Street on Saturday, January 20th, a good place to buy books and support our community's library.....The purchase of a paving stone for the new Depot provides an excellent means to help the community, raise funds for the Historical Society, and assure a place in local history. See the accompanying notice for information.

NEW IN THIS ISSUE

On the reverse of this page you will find the business cards of organizational supporters who have each donated \$5 to display their business cards and to assist the Society. We thank them and ask our local members to patronize the businesses.



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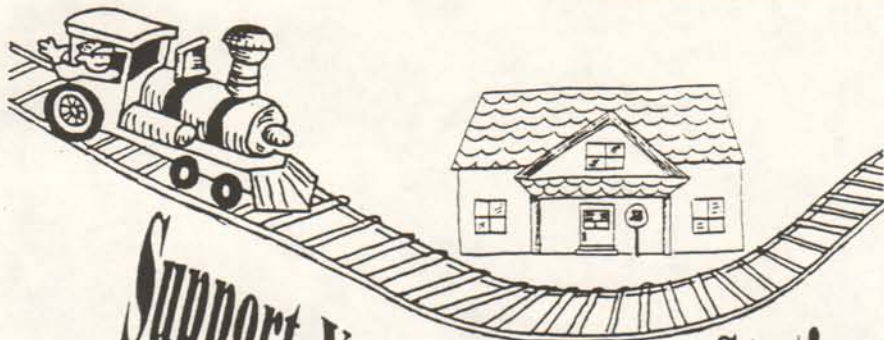
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