



Smoke Signal



CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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NOVEMBER, 1996

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The past six months have been busy and very eventful for the Chatsworth Historical Society. My theme for the year started with, "Let's Revitalize the Society." And I think we are well on the way to doing just that. Everyone has been cooperative and worked so hard and it's been fun. We still have six months to go and I hope we can keep up the momentum. The yard sale was a big success and we got rid of a lot of unwanted merchandise from the storage unit. Thanks to everyone who worked and especially Sheila who served as chairman.

The membership responded to our plea for help with the FEMA loan. The names will be found elsewhere in the Smoke Signal.

Dean Craig was appointed chairman of the movie and TV rentals and will show *The Acre* when the Society is approached by TV and movie companies.

Thanks so much to Ramon Avila for our "lemon business." Many of you may not know that he picks and sells lemons and limes to two local businesses - Biscuits 'N Gravy and Los Toros - and turns in the money to the treasurer.

Hope all of you can come to the November meeting. We always serve pie

at the meeting nearest Thanksgiving and John Thorpe, Hospitality vice-president, has planned pumpkin and pecan pie among other delicacies.

Come and see our display for Veterans' Day.

Virginia

FALL QUARTERLY MEETING..

The event will be held at the museum on Tuesday, November 19 at 7:30 p.m. Alvin Bautista of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will present a program on the history of water in the San Fernando Valley and perhaps foretell the future of the supply of water.

Refreshments will be served and the program will include a salute to veterans.

MEMBERSHIPS & DONATIONS:

The Historical Society is very grateful for the generous responses to appeals for help with the FEMA earthquake damage loan.

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Seidman purchased a dual membership and also contributed to the FEMA loan repayment plan. Bruce is Senior Librarian at the Chatsworth Branch Library. The following also

contributed \$40 in October to the repayment plan:

Bob Lowe
Pauline Aue
William Briggs
Keith & Sheila Watts
Chatsworth Coordinating
Council
Barbara & Joe Pampalone
Andre & Linda Van der Valk

Thanks to all for their support and generosity, and to previous contributors.

DOCENT DOINGS:

Sunday, December 1st Open House: Team #3, Donna Afflerbach, Vicki Wyant and Kathy Reynolds. Cookies and coffee will be served at this holiday event.

For those wishing to learn more about local Indians and their horticulture and plant usage while viewing spectacular vistas and boulder formations, I highly recommend taking an easy hike through Sage Ranch led by the personable and informative docent, Jim Laing, on Saturday, November 23rd from 10 a.m., to 12:30 p.m. Sage Ranch is located by following the signs to Rocketdyne's Santa Susanna facility turning from Valley Circle onto Woolsey Canyon Road. At the top of the hill turn right onto Black Canyon Road for about 200 feet to the entrance to the park. Bring water, a snack and maybe binoculars. Contact Nancy at (310) 589-3200, extension 126 with any questions and information on other dates for walks in December.

Donna Afflerbach
Director of Docents.

LOCAL AUTHOR

Mrs. Victoria Oakie, widow of famed comic actor Jack Oakie, long time resident of the valley, will be discussing her book, "When the Line is Straight," on Saturday, November 16 at 3 p.m., at Barnes & Noble, 8800 Tampa Avenue, Northridge. The book is about their lives together at their home on Devonshire Street, close to Reseda Boulevard, that is still visible through the surrounding trees.

GROUNDS NEWS

Dean and Candy Crain are directors at large of the gardens at the Acre. They are doing superb jobs and recently acquired over 50 roses that were donated for sale at the Spring Garden Festival and to fill up some of the spaces in the rose gardens caused by attrition....for, according to Candy, "roses don't live forever."

The generous donor is a long-time friend of the Craigs, Kim Rupert, a hybridizer who runs a test garden at his home in Canyon Country. Rupert is very knowledgeable about roses and writes about them for numerous rose publications specializing in the diseases and genetics of the various types of plants. Candy and Dean will nurture the plants through the spring and have high hopes of selling all that are available at the Festival. The Society is grateful for this type of support.

QUILT DEPICTS BIRTHPLACE OF DEMOCRACY.

Quilter Zena Thorpe was selected as a finalist in a show sponsored by the International Quilt Association in Houston

recently. Her quilt, "Crowned with Glory - Right Royally " was then named winner of the Founders' Trophy, top prize of the show.

A trip to London's Houses of Parliament was the inspiration for the quilt where she decided to capture the look and feel of the "birthplace of democracy," she said. The decor is just overwhelming, the crowns, the tapestries - it's just glorious stuff," Thorpe said. "And this is what I wanted to portray. I wanted the impression of the opulence of the House of Parliament." Zena calls quilting an obsession and admits to spending an average of three to four hours a day, and often more, on her work.

The quilt is adorned with crowns and fantastic flowers placed on a red background, with a royal purple border. There were 326 finalists in the competition. Zena won the Best of Show award in 1994.

DEADLINES FOR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER:

Friday, December 6, 9 a.m., Watts' residence.

Friday, January 10, 1997; 9 a.m., Watts' residence.

Please send news items or other information for inclusion in the Smoke Signal to the Editor in accordance with the schedules above.



Happy Thanksgiving!