



Smoke Signal



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

President: Virginia Watson

FEBRUARY, 1997

Editor: Sheila Watts

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The Society has been basking in a little reflected glory recently with the progress of the efforts to name the Edna Fagan Ranch on Devonshire Street next to the Chatsworth Park Elementary School an Historic Monument under the name Harvester Farms. The fact that television's talking horse, "Mr. Ed" was a Harvester colt and born there has brought a lot of interest to the project.

Dan Huffman said that our supporting letter helped him get over the first hurdle of appearing before the Cultural Heritage Board. Dan is so enthusiastic and so thorough in his research of the property's history, his enthusiasm is contagious. It is a pleasure to see our young neighbors interested in preserving the best of the past.

After an article appeared in the Daily News, people began calling with information. Pat Wheeler who lived next door to the farm, knew Mrs. Fagan well, and had much information. She verified the fact that Mrs. Fagan had ridden in the Rose Parade for forty consecutive years. Pat was so pleased about the saving of the farm she plans to become a member of the Society. The Daily News printed an editorial about Mr. Ed and monument status on January 28, 1997.

More details next month.

Virginia

DOCENT DOINGS

by Donna Afflerbach, Director.

Sunday, March 2, 1997, open house at the Acre

Team Two: Lila Schepler, Lillian Schepler, Vicki Wyant and Sylvia Oates.

We encourage Society members to consider helping host the public open houses held from 1:00 to 4 p.m., the first Sunday of each month. We are currently reviewing the tour lecture, making it more concise and easier for new docents to interpret to visitors. This is an enjoyable way of helping keep the doors of the Homestead Acre open.

Society member Eileen Janess, widow of the late Charles Janess, has loaned us part of his collection of miniature horses and horse-drawn vehicles for display in the museum for February and March and we are most appreciative. Eileen recalled that Chuck's hobby started innocently enough with the purchase of two or three horses on their trip to California in 1946. Chuck, friends and relatives added to the collection over the years until it reached about 300 pieces. He kept the collection on display at his moving and storage business. Today

Eileen keeps it in a room that is affectionately called Chuck's Stable.

Docents Virginia Watson, Vicki Wyant and Evelyn Kanouse recently volunteered to serve as a committee to organize the photographs of Historical Society events.

COMING EVENTS:

Saturday, March 15, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Book Sale, Friends of the Library, at the Chatsworth Branch Library, 21052 Devonshire Street.

Tuesday, March 18, at 7 p.m.* at the Museum:

Quarterly Meeting featuring as speaker Mrs. Jack Oakie, widow of the comedic actor, who will share her memories of their years together at their Northridge home.

* Please note new time.

Sunday, April 20, Rose-Garden Festival,
SEE ATTACHED FLYER.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

The following board members have been appointed to serve as the nominating committee for 1997. They are Lila Schepler, 341-3447, Betty Summers, 341-2714 and Zena Thorpe, 882-3572. Please consider serving on the executive board this year and call one of the above to learn what jobs are available. The committee will report to the March 4th board meeting with a final report to the general membership at the March 18th meeting.

BUDGET COMMITTEE:

Lillian Schepler, Andre van der Valk and Keith Watts are meeting to bring a suggested budget to the executive board with the purpose of helping devise ways and means to raise the sums involved in meeting our annual outlay of over \$5000.

CONGRATULATIONS to long-time Life Member Laurie Dager whose daughter, Melody Henion Stevenson, is the author of a first novel, *The Heartstone of Singing Bird*, which has received an excellent review in the New York Times Book section. The story covers the intertwined lives of midwest pioneers and the neighboring Indians all recounted in unforgettable prose. Melody gave a reading and autographs at Barnes & Noble and she will repeat this at the Chatsworth Women's Club luncheon this month at the Chatsworth Hotel. Melody is at work on her second novel and she teaches English and Literature at two local colleges as well as teaching ballet at the Chatsworth Dance Academy.

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council is urging local individuals and organizations to submit nominees for the annual Citizen & Youth of the Year Awards. For submission forms please contact Barbara Pampalone, president, 709-1200. Deadline is March 12.

MEMBERSHIP

We are happy to announce that long-time member and friend of the Society, Beatrice Samuel, has obtained a Life Membership. Welcome, Bea!

Chatsworth Historical Society Presents a

Rose-Garden Festival

A Celebration of Spring!

Noted Rose Expert, Author and Hybridizer

Kim Rupert

"Unusual Colors & Oddities in the Rose World"

- **Rose Talk**
2:00 p.m.

- **Rose Bushes for Sale**
Old, New, Unusual

- **Garden Plants for Sale**

- **Rose Search**
Discover where you can
get that special rose

- **Rose Bush Raffle**
2:30 p.m.

The DUCHESS' TEA ROOM

Tea, Sandwiches and Goodies

- **DISPLAYS**

Rose & flower QUILTS
Antique CUT-GLASS & CRYSTAL
Hundreds of Roses in Bloom

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 1997

11 a.m. TO 3 p.m.

\$2 Donation - under 12 FREE

THE HOMESTEAD ACRE

AT THE FIRST STOP SIGN IN

CHATSWORTH PARK SOUTH,

(WEST END OF DEVONSHIRE St.)

Information - (818)-882-5614