



# Smoke Signal



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

President: Virginia Watson

Editor: Sheila Watts

MAY, 1997

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 1996-97 year is coming to a close and my term as leader is ending. First of all I want to thank all of the executive board members who worked at making it a successful year. It is the executive board that makes the decisions and keeps the Society on an even keel. Thank you to the chairpersons who gave of their time and talents, who planned and worked the ideas through to completion. Also a big thank you to all the members who supported the many projects throughout the year.

To look back a little, we started the year last June planning for the highly successful Pioneer Day, we participated in an environmental art show, we re-activated Wednesday-at-the -Acre and we paid on our Fema loan. We also had broken water pipes, critter problems and we got the long-awaited handicap ramp (which now needs widening) for the museum and new iron railings for the steps to the porch at the cottage and the museum. We had a big, white mailbox installed, damaged by vandals and reinstalled and repaired. We had wind damage and lost a few trees, the City came and trimmed the trees as did members. The storage shed was damaged and repaired and the gardens were changed and made easier to care for.

We had really interesting programs, especially the November event and the Jack/Victoria Oakie program. The slide lectures to the community continued. The docent program continued with several successful school tours and one big tour for the Department of Recreation & Parks. We hosted the Johnson reunion and learned much about the early pioneers who settled in Chatsworth. The membership grew and the Smoke Signal got bigger and better than ever.

We wrote letters supporting the naming of Corriganville to a State Landmark, we supported Dan Huffman and wrote asking that the Harvester Farms barn be named a Cultural Historical Monument, (they did) and we supported the SSMPA in their project to receive a mitigation grant for acquiring additional land for the nearing State Park Project (they received it!) and members continued to represent us on the Art Project for the Metrolink Station which became a reality this month, culminating a four-year participation.

We held a campaign for contributing sponsor membership, netting over a thousand dollars. Recently Marty Bell painted a picture of the Pioneer Church which The Chatsworth Florist sponsored. They gave us a percentage of the profits of the sale of the lithographs and again

we realized over \$1000. The Rose-Garden Festival was a huge success netting over \$2000!

All in all a busy year. Thank you each everyone for making it fun.

Virginia

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### **ANNUAL INSTALLATION, TUESDAY, MAY 20TH, 7 PM\***

Please join us for the 1997-98 installation party in the cottage. Long time member Ruth Grant will officiate as installing officer.

In a party-like atmosphere we'll serve desserts, coffee and juice.

Some board members favor wearing outfits depicting any decade of this century - Western gear, shimmy dresses, the New Look or tie-dyed tee-shirts! Or dress sedately or stylishly- wear whatever but DO COME!

\* Note new time!

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### **DOCENT DOINGS:**

#### Sunday, June 1st Open House: Team Two:

Lillian Schepler, Lila Schepler, Sylvia Oates, Vicki Wyant.

About 90 third graders from Mrs. Cynthia Harris's "Hands-On-History" classes at Sierra Canyon School visited the Homestead Acre on April 29th. Some of the artifacts were brought out of the cottage to show and tell what daily life was like for the Hill-Palmer and other homesteader families. Docents Virginia Watson, Lillian Schepler and I did the presentation in the citrus grove. Kathy Reynolds, her daughter Katelin, and Evelyn Kanouse assisted the groups as

they toured through the cottage and the museum.

Virginia will present her slide-show to the 4th and 5th grade students at Shepherd of the Valley School in West Hills on May 29 in culmination of their study unit on western expansion.

Among the visitors at the May Open House were a local couple who remembered Minnie working in her garden, a Pierce College student wanting geological information on Stoney Point; a man who had come to the Rose-Garden Festival, returning to see the cottage; a couple who had been married at the acre four years ago and two women, related to Calla and Rhoda Hill, doing genealogy research. Meeting such a variety of interesting people is one of the rewards of hosting a Sunday Open House. If you would like to join the docent group please call Virginia at 341-3053.

Donna Afflerbach

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### **OBITUARY**

We regretfully announce the recent death of Life Member Lorna Ahlstrom at Citrus Heights, California, following a long illness. Lorna and her husband Ed lived in Chatsworth for many years before moving north. Lorna had been a busy volunteer with various PTA's here both at local school level as well as in the District. She had served as church secretary when the church was on Topanga Canyon Boulevard and also worked in the same capacity at Rocketdyne. Lorna was also an active member of the Chatsworth Business and Professional Women's Club.

A memorial service will be held in the

chapel at Oakwood Memorial Park, on Saturday, May 31st at 1 p.m.

Besides her husband she is survived by three sons, John of Chatsworth, and Jerry and Russell of the Sacramento area.

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### **CALENDAR**

May 20th, Installation Program meeting  
June 1st, Open House at the Acre  
Sat., July 26: An artistic and musical fete, "Down at the Station." sponsored by the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce.

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### **SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP '97**

The following recently became sustaining members for '97 and their contributions are sincerely appreciated:

Mary and Ramon Avila  
Nancy Oliva-Bond  
Lois Soloman  
Lois Orr (Chatsworth Women's Club)

by Candy Craig, Chairperson

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Steve and Melissa Bidermann  
Jo Ann King  
Sandra Mills

Dues Reminder: It's that time of the year again and annual fees are due from the General members. For your convenience, a dues remittance form is included with this issue of the Smoke Signal. Please include it with your dues and mail to Chatsworth Historical Society, 10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311.

Keith Watts,  
V.P. Membership

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