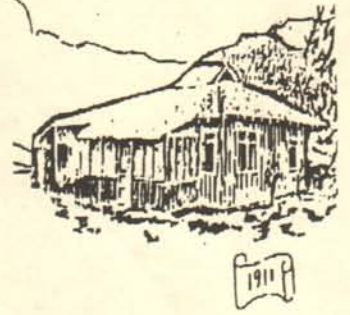


Smoke Signal



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

President: John Thorpe

Editor: Sheila Watts

JUNE, 1997

John Thorpe was installed as president of CHS in a ceremony at the Homestead Cottage in May. Ruth Grant officiated and it should be a sweet year as Ruth used candy bars as symbols of each officers' responsibilities. As John Thorpe was a British subject until recently, English Trifle was served in his honor.

John came to this country in the early sixties and returned to England for a time, including a spell in the Army. He met Zena over there, returned to the States and re-met Zena. The couple married in England.

John is sole proprietor of the fine auto repair shop, Yorks & Lancs, on Canoga Avenue, specializing in the repair of English cars but highly qualified to repair all makes. He's proud to announce that 1997 marks the 25th anniversary of founding the business and moving to Chatsworth to his home on Gierson Avenue.

John and Zena have two sons and two daughters. Oliver and Johnny assist him as highly skilled auto mechanics. Katy and Allison are both married and Allison is the mother of everyone's favorite grandson, Alejandro.

John has been a board members of the Society for a number of years and he has been president of the Friends of

Chatsworth Library for a decade. When Chatsworth enjoyed the annual Holiday Parades, John was able to arrange for many unusual cars and other vehicles to enhance the parade.

During his term of office he hopes to run a tight ship and to spearhead a campaign to assure that the Society plans suitable celebrations of first, California's susquecentennial and second, the second millennium. With the support of our active members the editor is sure these goals will be accomplished.

DOCENT DOINGS:

Docent Team three will serve as hostesses for the open house at the Acre on Sunday, July 6 from 1 to 4 PM: Donna Afflerbach, Bea Berman, Evelyn Kanouse and Sheila Watts.

GOOD NEWS! Ruth Grant has volunteered to serve as Vice President of Hospitality for the remainder of 1997-98. We welcome her aboard and look for inspiring refreshments!

MEMBERS HONORED. At the annual awards banquet of the Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council in

May, Evelyn Kanouse, a very active docent, received a Certificate of Appreciation for all her hard work and Valeta Koller was honored for her continuing support of Society projects. All of this help is greatly appreciated. The event was held at the Encino Glen Restaurant and was attended by 130 people including State Senator Cathy Wright and Assemblyman Tom McClintock.

CURATOR'S CORNER by Virginia Watson.

This has been a very busy month for the museum and for incoming information about some of the early settlers. Two ladies, Kay House and Sharon Wilson, visited the museum on the May Open House. They are relatives of Minnie Hill Palmer, actually Kay House is the great-granddaughter of Calla Lily Hill Nelson, Minnie's younger sister and Sharon Wilson is the great-granddaughter of Rhoda Jane Hill's brother Josephus. The docents on duty sent them up to the Pioneer Church where I was working and we got acquainted and have been corresponding.

When the article about Ann Willden Johnson appeared in the LA Times May 9 (CHS had given them a one-time right to publish Ann's picture, it had the Society's name on it and I had given the reporter information on Ann Johnson) I received a call from Donna Willden Bertucelli of Burbank who is the great granddaughter of Ann Johnson's brother, Charles Willden. She shared information about Ann's family and the memorial to the family at Cove Creek in Utah. We have kept in touch and I gave her the names and addresses of the people who

attended the Johnson family reunion held at The Acre last July.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Livingston attended the June Open House at the Pioneer Church. Jack is the great-grandson of Louise Wilden, Ann Johnson's younger sister. They brought an article about the Willden family memorial in Cove Creek, Utah for our files. I told them that Donna Bertucelli and I will keep in touch with both of them.

Another exciting visitor was Beverly Folkes and her nephew, Alan Salazar, two native Americans who can trace their family line back to the San Fernando Mission. Beverly grew up in San Fernando and recently found in her deceased mother's Bible documentation that proves her lineage. We hope to have them speak at our September program.

At the recent board meeting the executive board formed a committee to write a brief booklet about the movie stars and other notables who have lived in Chatsworth that we could sell in the gift shop. Virginia Watson and Linda van der Valk were named to the committee.

A preliminary list of Movie stars who lived here follows. Please look over the list and if you know of someone who should be on the list, please forward their name(s) to Movie Stars, Chatsworth Historical Society, 10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth CA 9311:

Roy Rogers & Dale Evans; Alan & Jack Jones, Lucille Ball & Desi Arnez; Barbara Eden; Lionel Barrymore; Fred Astaire; Ginny Simms; Marian Marsh; Chad Everett; Sabu; Dan Dailey; Dale

Robertson; Robert Taylor; James Brolin; Warren Berlinger; Barbara Stanwyck; Val Kilmer; Victor Borge, and Mare Winningham.

DONATIONS.

During the past month two donations have been received. Bill and Lila Schepler of the Society's speakers' bureau gave \$25 received from a local Lodge after they presented a slide show.

Heather Watts sent a check for \$75 saying how much she had enjoyed her recent visit to the Acre.

Thank you to the three of them.

MEMBERSHIP

Since the May issue of the Smoke Signal, we have received the following NEW MEMBERS and bid them "Welcome to the Historical Society"!

Leslie Chudnoff, new librarian at
our local branch.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Knapp

In addition, we are pleased to welcome the following renewed members:

Paul & Beverly Arneson

Lillian Baker

Dean & Candy Craig

John & Liz Gengl

Ruth Grant

Dorothy Hammond

Carmelita Johnson

Ray & Dorothy Johnson

Margaret Kaiser

Bert & Bunny Levine

Sandra Mills

Sandy & Felicia Robinson

Joe & Dorothy Sammartano

Margaret Stichweh

Jim & Betty Summers

Andre & Linda van der Valk
Phil & Patti Wolfe

Note: If anyone has been overlooked, please let us know so we may rectify. For the benefit of any new members and/or any General members who wish to renew their membership, please send your check (\$15 - individual, \$20 - dual membership) to Chatsworth Historical Society, 10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311.

Keith Watts
Membership

OBITUARIES.

Mary Avila, beloved wife of Ramon, died on May 14 following a lengthy illness. The two have been life members of the Society for many years and both have contributed many hours of work to the Society.

Mary was born on July 10, 1928. A beautiful memorial service was held at the Pioneer Church; the church was crowded with relatives and friends.

In addition to the Society, Mary was an active participant of the Chatsworth Park Elementary School PTA, where we women of that era remember making hot dogs every week sharing the job with fun and laughter. At the United Methodist Church she was an active member of the church and the Methodist Women's Club.

For more than sixteen years Mary chaired the annual fund raising yard sale, raising thousands of dollars in support of church activities. To all of these projects Mary brought her soft voice and lovely smile - and her deep faith.

In addition to Ramon, Mary is survived by three children, Robert, Gloria and Phillip; six grandchildren, Christina, Rick, Lisa, Robert, Michael and Rebekah . Also surviving are Ignacia Reynosa, Pat Castro, Santos Castro and Simon Castro.

FOUND - Before and after Rose/Garden festival: Gold ring inscribed with woman's name and date. One pair of sun glasses, one pair of prescription glasses. Call 882-3514 to identify and claim.

Ruby Swan, a longtime life member of the Society, died June 17 after a long illness. There is to be a memorial service at the family home on May 28. Ruby had made gifts of antiques to the Society through the years and supported all of the monthly programs and special events. She will be missed.

Editor's note. This information was given too late for a longer obituary at this time.
