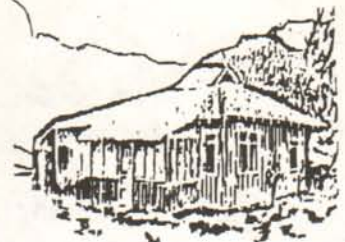


Smoke Signal



CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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JULY, 1997

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PICNIC TO HONOR JANE MATTHEWS

On Sunday, July 27 the executive board of the Society will provide a picnic lunch at the Homestead Acre to pay tribute to Jane Matthews as she prepares to leave California for a new home in Williamsburg, Virginia. Jane was president in 1979-1980 just about the time the Society became co-trustee of the Homestead Acre and the Cottage. She steered the CHS through the cottage clean-up and the establishment of the Chatsworth Museum. The picnic will start at 1 p.m., and there'll be time to chat about the Good Old Days.

Members are invited to join us for the event and RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST. The committee needs to know how many people to prepare refreshments for and the deadline is Friday, July 25. You may place a reservation by calling the Society's machine at 882-5614. Have a question? Call Sheila Watts at 341-4489.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by John Thorpe.

Having spent my first quarter century around Sheffield, England, I found very interesting reading, a diary that was

presented to the CHS by a descendent of the writer - the author was Charles W. Wilden, Sr., a steel worker in Sheffield. During the early 1800's he emigrated to the U.S.A., and his daughter, Ann Wilden Johnson, settled in Chatsworth, California.

In the diary, which is a collection of dates, miles and other daily jottings, Mr. Wilden mentioned in one entry that he set off at 6 a.m., from Sheffield and arrived in Chesterfield by noon the same day. All this on foot. At the time he was a Mormon and the reason for the trip was to spread the good word etc.

I was just reflecting on this story while listening to the unfolding story of the Rover vehicle on Mars going about its appointed duty, just 150 years after Mr. Wilden walked his 30-odd miles in a practically machineless world and now we have a remote-controlled vehicle obeying commands from earth over a hundred million miles away. Mr Wilden lived to be 77 in an age when most people died thirty years younger than that --- maybe it was all that walking!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS by Keith Watts.

Thanks to the following couples who renewed membership this month:

John & Zena Thorpe and Peg and Bill Haggerty.

Remember that dues are now payable for General members:

\$15 single membership and
\$20 for family membership.

Also, if you know of anyone who is interested in local history and culture, please encourage them to join the CHS. Membership applications are available if you call the Homestead Acre at 882-5614.

CURATOR'S CORNER by Virginia Watson

Wednesday at the Acre is continuing through the summer and many people drop in from 9 to noon. It is a work day, a good time to tie up loose ends and to keep in touch with what's happening.

Evelyn and Virginia are working on the books in the library. Several times we have almost completed the project and something happens such as the Northridge earthquake that dumped all the books off the shelves and ditto the records. We're making sure that every book has a title card, an author card, and is listed in a notebook with the names of the donors. We have some fine books thanks to members and friends who made donations. Louise Butler Roberts and her sister, Valeta Butler Koller have donated many fine California history books as has the Chatsworth branch library. Also Ruth Grant gave us her precious Leo Polito books for the collection. As we complete work on the library we'll share more information on the collection in future Smoke Signals.

The library is named for Frank H.

Schepler, Jr., Lillian's late husband and Bill's brother. It is a research library - the books cannot be taken home - must be used in the library. It is being used more frequently these days.

Hot weather has brought up the subject of keeping the Acre watered. We hope to get volunteers for Tuesday and Saturday and Trini the gardener working on Thursday. Andre and Linda Van der Valk took the first Sunday ensuring nice green lawns for open house. Jim and Betty Summers, back from a vacation, spent time last Wednesday watering and Betty dead-headed. Betty also keeps the Bird of Paradise near the front door neat and tidy. Ramon Avila spends a lot of time with the citrus trees and performs other garden chores. Keith Watts reprogrammed the watering system for the roses fronting the museum, and also checked on the overhead sprinklers on the Cottage roof and recommends a work party to repair them.

There's need for more volunteers for the garden and light repair work. Stop by on Wednesday work day or call 882-5614. We'd love fit you into our schedule!

NEW ARRIVAL.

Virginia Watson is proud to announce the birth of a great grandchild, Dillon Jeude. His parents are Justin and Dove Jeude of Gardnerville, Nevada. Justin is the youngest son of Judy and Jim Jeude of Bridgeport, California. Dillon arrived early but is doing fine. He joins his big brother in the family Dakota Jeude, who will be three in August. Dakota is a performer---he attends the Indian Powwows in costume and dances native dances. His mother sings at many events

and recently sang the National Anthem at the opening of a San Francisco ball game.

Dillon is Virginia's third great grandchild. She has a great granddaughter, Natalie Jeude who lives in Oceanside with her parents, Lt. and Mrs. Jeffrey Jeude. Natalie won't be a year old until October.

NEXT OPEN HOUSE

Open House at the Homestead Acre is on Sunday, August 3rd, 1 to 4 p.m.

MANY THANKS!

To Sylvia Oates and Betty Summers for acquiring, preparing and hanging new lace curtains in the living room of the Cottage, all in time for the July Open House.

OBITUARY.

Former member of the CHS, Georgia Cooper of Canoga Park died and a funeral service was held June 11 at Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills, Georgia, age 75, used to be active with the Society, attending many events. She also donated the Blue Willow teapot that is featured in the cabinet in the dining room of the Cottage.

SOME NOTABLE HISTORICAL EVENTS IN JULY

July 4, 1776: The American Colonies issued the Declaration of Independence.

July 15, 1792: Director David Rittenhouse laid the cornerstone in Philadelphia for the United States Mint, *the first building of the federal government.*

Those born on July 4th include: Novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne. Calvin Coolidge, U.S. president; Jazz Great Louis Armstrong; the writer's husband, Keith Watts; and twin sister columnists, Ann Landers & Abigail Van Buren.

July 4, 1826: In one of history's notable coincidences, former presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died, 50 years to the day after they signed the Declaration of Independence.

July 4, 1863, Union troops defeated Confederate forces at Vicksburg, Miss.

July 4, 1986: More than 250 sailing ships and the United States' biggest fireworks display honored the Statue of Liberty on her 100th birthday. (And I was there!)
