



# Smoke Signal



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

President: John Thorpe  
MARCH, 1999

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"The year the war broke out," how my parents would describe 1939, was when the Native Daughters of the Golden West placed the plaque on the rock face along side the Devil's Slide, up in the hills above Chatsworth.

This rocky slide was part of the Old Stage Coach Trail linking Los Angeles with San Francisco during the Civil War. The Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains is hosting the 60th anniversary of the placement by the Topanga Parlor No.269 Chapter of the Native Daughters of the Golden West. This event takes place Saturday, March 20 at 10:00 a.m. in Chatsworth Park South. The Chatsworth Historical Society will participate and one of our members - Dorothy Pogue - who was present at the original installation will be present. There will be trail hikes to the plaque, entertainment, food and displays. Hope to see you there.

John Thorpe

## JOEL AMROMAN SPEAKS ON THE CHATSWORTH TRAINS

As an active member of the Santa Susana Railroad Historical Society, Mr. Amroman researched the history of the Chatsworth Depot and Chatsworth Railroading. He will bring slides and a video of the different buildings and trains and presents the history

of how the railroad influenced Chatsworth.

Hopefully our members will attend this exciting program for our CHS birthday celebration. Lila and Bill Schepler will cut the cake celebrating the anniversary of the Historical Society on Tuesday evening, 7:00 P.M., March 16th, the day before St. Patrick's Day - at the CHS Museum.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

That evening we also vote on officers for the next year. The nominating committee presents the following slate. Also, nominations will be open from the membership floor.

President - John Thorpe  
1st V.P. (Programs) - Candy Craig  
2nd V.P.(Ways, Means) - Joseph Pampalone  
3rd V.P.(Membership) - Keith Watts  
4th V.P.(Hospitality) - Bea Berman  
Secretary - Barbara Pampalone  
Treasurer - Lillian Schepler  
Curator - Virginia Watson  
Editor, Newsletter - Zena Thorpe  
Directors:  
Photographic Material - Bill Schepler  
Docents - Lila Schepler  
Gardens - Dean Craig  
At-Large, Assst Curator - Betty Summers  
At-Large - Linda & Andre van der Valk  
At-Large - Ruth Grant  
Permanent - Eileen Janess

## **60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PLACING OF THE NDGW PLAQUE**

Don't forget to attend the commemoration ceremony, March 20th at 10:00 A.M. in Chatsworth Park South as mentioned above. This historic site has recently become part of the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

CHS member Dorthy Pogue and her daughter who were both at the original unveiling of the plaque will be at the commemoration ceremony.

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## **"WINDOWS INTO THE PAST" TO BE PUBLISHED**

The Board of Directors voted to publish in book form the "Windows into the Past" that Bill Schepler has written for the Smoke Signal. Bill is choosing the photographs that will be used with the stories. Nellie Smith has done the typing on the computer to make this project possible.

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## **DOCENT DOINGS**

In January Lila Schepler held classes to train and reinforce training for new and regular docents. A few new people were able to join the classes, but the program is continuing with too few active docents. These volunteers have kept the museum, the house and the gardens open for many visitors on the first Sunday of each month.

Plans are for the docents to take a bus trip to Culver City to visit Sony Studios.

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## **IN THE GARDEN**

Forty-six California native perennials and shrubs as well as a few dozen annual

California poppies, linaria and larkspur now grow along the creek bank under the trees where the old trailer stood. Thanks to Chris Van Shaack or Tarweed Nursery for help with the project. Enjoy the Maroon Monkey Flower, Woolly Blue Curls, California Lilac, ground cover mansanita, snowberry, deer grass and California Bush Poppy.

We have about 65 roses potted for sale at the Garden Festival, as well as 24 White Columbines and 40 other small plants.

Watering the garden has been tremendous work as the park sprinkler system has been shut down for three months. Candy and Dean Craig, besides doing planting and trimming to keep the garden pleasant, have been running hoses daily to keep the place watered. The city needs to buy and install a \$400. Valve and a bunch of pipe: perhaps they should pay Trini, Candy and Craig for the hours they put in ...

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## **TRANSPORTATION MEMOROBILIA DISPLAYS**

The Chatsworth train depot foundation has purchased two display cases for which the Historical Society will help prepare historical transportation exhibits where available. The cases should be installed in the near future, according to the foundation.

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## **DONATIONS**

Bob Turner has donated a silver bugle, guitar and violin with which he won awards playing in the 1930's.

Nadine Gilbert of Burbank donated a 6-foot wooden park bench that washed up in their yard in the 1938 flood, was refurbished and stored since that time. A truly historic bench!

## **ROSE GARDEN FESTIVAL**

The Garden Festival will be held this year on Sunday, April 25th, and again will provide an opportunity for members and the public to observe The Homestead Acre rose gardens and purchase fine garden items. Bea Berman has arranged for many exhibitors of garden-related gifts, and Candy Craig has prepared many potted flowers for sale. Of course, there will be exhibits, food and entertainment. The Garden Tea Room will again be featured. Polynesian dances by the Chatsworth Dance Center will be presented at 1:00 on Sunday, April 25th.

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## **MEMBERSHIP REMINDER**

For all general members who have not paid their dues, please do so immediately, if not sooner! Please mail checks to:

Chatsworth Historical Society  
10385 Shadow Oak Drive  
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