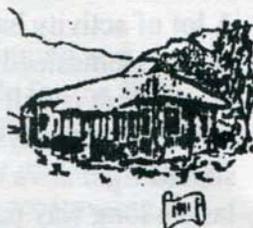


Smoke Signal



CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Editor: Zena Thorpe

Our preparations for the California Sesquicentennial Commemoration in March of 2000 are underway, we already have had two meetings. The next meeting will be August 25th at the Acre. The three day event will consist of lectures, musical programs, dancing and lots of other activities that will reflect the life and the diverse ethnic cultures in the Golden State. With the help of the California Council for the Humanities, we are hoping to have their "History Alive ! Chautauqua" program. During this program we will have scholars / performers portray Pio Pico and John Sutter. We have also booked a Fashion Through the Ages show presented by the Goodwill Industries. If you would like to help and support the production of this event, then please attend the August meeting at 7pm.

John Thorpe

Joseph Olivier Pampalone

June 9th 1926 - May 29th 1999

He who has a thousand friends has not a friend to spare

It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden death of Dr. Joe Pampalone, Chatsworth dentist since 1967. He, along with his wife Dr. Barbara, was a member of the executive board of the Historical Society and a tireless worker for the good of the community, both locally and further afield, in so many areas. He will be sadly missed by his patients and by the many community groups who enjoyed his caring assistance.



MUSEUM NOTES

A lot of activity has been taking place at The Homestead Acre. Wednesday-at-the-Acre is still an on-going event. Some Wednesdays it doesn't get started right at 9a.m. and sometimes it lasts a long way past noon. A few Wednesdays have been dark, but for the most part it is a weekly productive three or four hours where we work on projects such as making up the packages of the notepaper that we sell, package the seeds, price items for the gift shop, put away items that have been left out, plan and work on new displays for the cases.

We also have a lot of visitors. Recently *ALAN* ~~Anne~~ Pettebone, a former resident, stopped by with the de Palma family, (another long-time Chatsworth family), who were here with the children practising the program for their pre-school graduation ceremony held in the centennial area. Bea Berman was in charge of this event.

Two Wednesdays, June 16th and 23rd, were taken up with school tours. Noble Ave. Elementary School in North Hills brought two groups of students to tour the museum, the cottage and the gardens. There were over 60 students each Wednesday with many adults accompanying them. Afterwards they went to the park for lunch and playtime on the equipment.

We divided the children into groups of 20 using colored tags, (made and

donated by Kelley & Crystal Daily), to identify the groups. Blue tags started in the museum, yellow in the cottage and orange in the garden. After 20 minutes they switched according to a schedule so that each group got 20 mins. in each area. The docents stayed in one location. It worked out very well and the adults on the tour seemed to enjoy it as much as the children. Docents who participated are: Lila Schepler, Pauline Aue, Bea Berman, Candy Craig, Evelyn Kanouse, Lillian Schepler, Betty Summers and Virginia Watson. Our newest docent, Marilyn Frump, observed and helped out and Shirley Herald also came to observe. It was a very successful event and the school hopes to come again in September.

A huge thank you note complete with drawings arrived with the second group and is on the table in the museum for everyone to see. (Please note the prominence of rabbits in the pictures. One of Candy's garden groups was fortunate enough to see one of our resident bunnies pop out of the bushes and run back to the back of the property, a definite highlight for the tour.)

We have a large file of thank you notes from other years and other tours. Perhaps we will display them or make a book for everyone to enjoy. Another day we had a visitor, Dave Valastro, the new director of Chatsworth Park South. He was given

a quick tour of the house and museum. He may make arrangements to have a docent-led tour for his coming day camp program.

The Chatsworth Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution has met several times in the museum. We allowed them to use our facility for their organizational meeting and they have met here several times. Pamela Myers is the organizing regent of the group.

As curator I spoke and showed slides to the Widows & Widowers group, (WOW), of the Shepherd of the Valley Church at Porter Ranch. Mary Paige, a long-time member of our society, arranged the event. The group was very receptive to our history and especially enjoyed the few slides from the Eileen Janess collection of Chatsworth in 1948 when she and her family first came to Chatsworth. Group members also commented favorably on the slides from the Duke of Devonshire's estate in England and our docent costumes. Recently an honorarium arrived to show their appreciation.

The Chatsworth Historical Society Sesquicentennial Committee met in the museum twice and will meet here again in August.

Virginia Watson, Curator

PIONEER DAY

October 3rd

Summer is just beginning and already plans are being made for the fall and our annual Pioneer Day. Mark October 3rd on your calendar and be prepared to have a day of fun recapturing the olden days plus our mini chili cook-off, petting zoo, quilt show and many other exhibits.

Remember October 3rd, 11am.- 4pm. at the Homestead Acre.

Bea Berman - chairman

GROWING UP ON THE HOMESTEAD ACRE IN THE 1920's AND 30's

In 1986 Dean & Candy Craig interviewed Minnie Hill Palmer's children, Edith Palmer Butler (b.1910) and Leroy E. Palmer (b.1912) and Minnie's niece, Ruth Manny Hill Rider. Following is the first in a series of a recording of the interview.

In 1920 Minnie and Alfred Palmer and their two young children, Edith & Leroy, came home to California from Montana where they had lived and farmed for four or five years. (Minnie and Alfred married in 1909 and had previously lived in Los Angeles and Hawthorne.) The family had only marginal success in Montana: too many crops had been lost to hailstorms

and the price of grain had fallen precipitously after the end of WWI.

Living on the "ranch" at the time were Minnie's older brother, Lovell Hill, age 44, and their mother, Rhoda Enlow Hill, age 74. Mrs. Hill's youngest daughter, Calla Hill Hardacre and her two young children had been living temporarily with the family, helping to care for Mrs. Hill who had been in poor health. Now it was Minnie's turn to care for her mother who was a semi-invalid until her death nearly fifteen years later. Minnie's father, James David Hill, had lived for some years with his older daughter, Rhoda Jane Smith, in Whittier before his death in 1918 or 1919.

The 1911 cottage that replaced the original smaller house was built by Lovell Hill and Willard Johnson and was currently occupied by Lovell and his mother. Edith and Leroy also slept in the cottage but Minnie and Alfred slept in a one room building located southwest of the house. Later this building became the bathhouse.

Behind the cottage were a high-roofed, open-sided garage and a house-shed that held a bed. A large barn stood about 200 feet southeast of the house. There was also an outhouse, a chicken coop and one of three dynamite sheds. (The small stone building near the entrance to Chatsworth Park South is the only dynamite shed that remains.)

There was also a large redwood water tank mounted on a flatbed trailer in front of the house. It was refilled at a water tap on Devonshire St. and held water used for drinking and washing. Also, near the front of the house was a cushioned metal hammock hung between pomegranate trees. At the west of the house were tubs and clothelines used for the family laundry.

The cottage at this time did not have the later shed-roofed kitchen or bathroom and the front porch was not screened but had translucent shades on the front and east side and opaque canvas shades on the west. Leroy said his uncle, Arthur Smith, built the enclosure.

At this time Lovell Hill was no longer Postmaster in Chatsworth or associated with the Graves-Hill store. The lower 120 acres of the property that had produced grain crops for many years lay fallow much of the time because the water table had dropped and "dry farming" was not productive.

The family's livelihood was now their dynamite and trucking business. They owned two Denby trucks that, besides dynamite, hauled granite (called "bluestone") from the stone quarry. Lovell, Alfred and, later, Leroy, drove the trucks back and forth to San Leandro, San Diego and San Bernadino for construction projects

and into Nevada to deliver dynamite for mining activities.

The animals kept on the ranch included goats, one bull, two heifers and a milk cow, four to eight horses, pigs, chickens, pigeons, dogs and cats.

Edith told us about Towser, Lovell Hill's yellow terrier, who adored his master. Long before any of the family could hear the sound of Lovell's truck Towser had disappeared, running "lickety-split" to meet the truck far down the road and ride home with Lovell.

More of the interview next month

JULY GARDEN NOTES

from Candy

Deadhead your roses regularly. Cut faded flowers all the way back to a pencil sized stem, just above a leaf that points outward. This will encourage long, strong stems and bigger blooms.

Don't cultivate the soil around roses because it destroys the feeder roots. Use a 2-3 inch layer of mulch instead. It smothers fungus diseases, conserves moisture and keeps the soil cool. With the hot weather upon us be sure to give your beauties a couple of inches of water a week.

Feed roses, other blooming plants and citrus. Stop feeding camellias and azaleas until next spring.

Pick the winners! Snail baits only paralyze prey, leaving them unable to retreat from the hot sun. However, the strong do survive. Hand pick for best results. Get outside early before the little critters hide away.

If you have a snail free garden chances are you have a healthy population of opossums. The only American marsupial, this pouched pal loves snails so if you have opossums treasure them and don't use poison bait unnecessarily.

The snail, which everywhere doth roam, carrying his own house still, still is at home.

John Donne

Editor's Note

Since this year marks the end of the century, and indeed the millennium, many lists are appearing of the best this, that or the other of the century. The quilt world has its own list of the 100 Best American Quilts of the 20th Century nominated by a panel of quilt experts from national organizations. I am very proud to announce that one of my quilts, "Crowned With Glory - Right Royally", has been placed on the list and will be included in a special exhibition at the International Quilt Festival in Houston this October.

Zena Thorpe

Pasadena Heritage presents "Swingin' Under the Stars", A celebration on the Colorado Street Bridge.

Join the annual summertime celebration on Pasadena's historic Colorado Street Bridge where the joint will be jumpin' with the sights and sounds of the Big Band era. Mark your calendars, Saturday, July 17th, 6pm. - 11pm.

Trip the light fantastic to live bands on three stages playing melodies of yesteryear. Sample local favorite foods from more than 20 Pasadena restaurants. And what's a celebration without a corral of classic, cool cars.

Chatsworth Historical Society
10386 Shadow Oak Drive

