



Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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President: John Thorpe

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Editor: Zena Thorpe

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our members. This is an abbreviated version of our newsletter due to the hectic holidays but we want to keep in touch and remind you of the exciting things coming up. It was great to meet with and welcome the new docents at the holiday pot-luck luncheon. If you are interested in becoming a docent at the museum please call Virginia Watson at 341-3053. You will be much appreciated PLUS you get to come to the luncheon next year!

John Thorpe

NEWS OF THE ACRE

Our new docents-in-training have been meeting on Wednesday mornings getting acquainted with local history and helping out with the office work, museum duties and house chores. They decorated the house for Christmas under the direction of Betty Summers, Cottage Curator, and it really looked nice!

On Wednesday, December 15, the group took some time off and had a potluck luncheon in the cottage. Surprise guests were Donna and Mike Afflerbach, now of northern California, who motored down for the event. It was wonderful to see them and to hear about their new home. They promised to come down especially for our Sesquicentennial event.

Lila Schepler, Director of Docents welcomed the group present and thanked them for the work they have accomplished. John Thorpe, president, also praised the group and thanked them with a little gift.

Delicious food and friendly conversation completed the event which marked a two-week vacation from the Wednesday work.

Open House was held Sunday, January 3, 2000 with Bea Berman, Pauline Aue and Virginia Watson working. Connie and Gerry Ager shadowed the group, even though Gerry was recuperating from recent throat surgery and they both had colds.

We entered a float in the Chatsworth Parade on Sunday, Dec. 12th. Our theme was 'Forging Ahead in the New Millennium--Helping children by teaching them about the past.' John got us a flatbed truck, and Dr. Standke brought his forge and anvil, and he and his son Alex fashioned a look-alike fire for the float. They both rode on the float working at the forge and Zena Thorpe and her grandson, Alejandro, were seated at the two computers that Dr. Standke brought. Connie and Gerry dressed as pioneers sat at the rear of the float and waved. Bea, Mrs. Standke and their younger son, Zena, John, Gerry, Connie and Virginia (chairman) decorated (and undecorated) the float with signs and decorations left over from years past. Thrifty Zena turned the old sign over and used the back side. All together the float only cost the \$30 entry fee. Connie baked rice kris pie and chocolate chip bars for us all. Delicious and wholesome!! We missed the ceremonies afterward, but we won a third prize.

LEARN TO PRUNE YOUR ROSES

Wednesday, January 12th, 10am

For hands-on experience come to the Acre and learn from Candy how to keep your roses happy and flourishing. Bring gloves and pruners.

FROM GRIZZLIES TO CATERPILLARS

Tuesday, January 18th, 7:30 - 9pm

Our own Bill Schepler will show slides and talk about the historic changes in the West Valley during the last century. His new book, '*Window into the Past*', will be available for sale. Program: 8pm, book-signing and sale 7:30pm & after program

CALIFORNIA SESQUICENTENNIAL AND CHATSWORTH'S 112TH BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATIVE EVENT, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 10th, 11th & 12th

Look for more details on this exciting event in your next newsletter but save the dates.