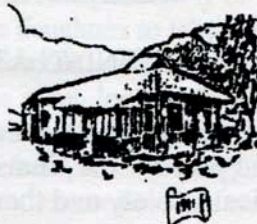


# Smoke Signal



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

President: John Thorpe

February 2000

Editor: Zena Thorpe

Rather than report on the doings of the Chatsworth Historical Society I thought our members might be interested in an up-date on the location of the new library to be built in Chatsworth thanks to Prop. BB. I have attended two community meetings over the past 3 months. At the last one in January, of four sites suggested, the choice has been narrowed down to the Chatsworth Metrolink Station area and the present library site. A majority at the meeting voted for the present location. This would entail knocking down the present building, purchasing the property immediately east and erecting a 12,500 sq. foot building on the expanded site.

Nothing has been finalised at this time but if you are interested in its progress then please inquire at the library for further information.

John Thorpe

## Chatsworth Historical Society Board 1999-2000

President.....	John Thorpe 882-3572
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Permanent member.....	Lila Schepler 341-3447
Permanent member.....	Eileen Janess 341-2828

## BILL'S BOOK IS OUT !!!

Bill Schepler's new book, "**Window into the Past**", debuted at the Society's January meeting and was warmly received by all. The book is filled with fascinating anecdotes about life in Chatsworth during the last century. We're not saying how old Bill is but suffice it to say he covers quite a chunk of the 20th century! A short selection from the book appears elsewhere in this newsletter. The book may be obtained by sending a check for \$12, which includes postage, to:  
Chatsworth Historical Society,  
10385 Shadow Oak Dr.,  
Chatsworth, CA 91311



## MUSEUM NOTES

### WHATS HAPPENING AT THE ACRE

The year 2000 is turning out to be an eventful year for the Chatsworth Historical Society and therefore The Homestead Acre, as we call our little piece of the past.

We are all working hard to make the upcoming California Sesquicentennial and our 112th Birthday celebration for Chatsworth a huge success. It takes a lot of planning, a lot of background work, getting people together, making sure everyone knows what is happening and what is expected of them and each one of us doing our own little part.

John and Zena have been fabulous and have really done a good job of pulling the program together, getting grants, meeting with people and generally following up on what we are planning.

All of us are getting down to the details now and we are in the process of finalizing all the plans and working together to make it a big success!

The Historical Society was invited to a workshop at The Getty Museum to learn about a \$75,000 planning grant that is available. Our president, John Thorpe, and I attended Monday, January 24. It was such a well-planned event They had paper and pencils for us, coffee, lunch, umbrellas in case it rained and more. They thought of everything! The speakers were excellent and explained how we need to first find out what needs to be done to repair Mnnie's house, and then plan how it can be done. We need to start with a planning committee and of course, we

need to involve the City. The deadline for filing the application is March 31, 2000. We will have to juggle our time to work on this but I think the most part of it can be done after our Sesquicentennial if we plan ahead.

The third big thing we have is a proposal from Gaynor MacLaren, a producer of television shows, to film our tours that we give on Sundays. He would like to have a program similar to Huell Howser's where he interviews people in the San Fernando Valley for cable TV.

He plans to film three segments about us. One in the museum with docents helping people, a separate one for the house tour and a third for the garden.

We (John and I) told him that we are very busy with our Sesquicentennial and he agreed to film our Sesquicentennial Birthday event and wait until afterward to film our tours.

While all this is going on we are steadily working on our part of the display and the new networking organizations being formed with leadership from CSUN.

Lara Bickell has completed her part of our wonderful new website and now Keith Watts, our computer expert, has arranged for our new website to be online. More on this after our next board meeting.

Is it any wonder we are busy? And wouldn't you say that the year 2000 is going to be our best year yet?

Virginia, Curator.

*Following is an excerpt from Bill Schepler's new book, "WINDOW INTO THE PAST". If this snippet whets your appetite for more, as we are sure it will,*



*instructions for ordering the book are given on the front page of the newsletter.*

## CHATSWORTH AT THE WORLD'S FAIR

Due to a life long love affair with expositions I have been privileged to attend at least eight World Fairs. Surprisingly, the only ones that I really feel stressed nudism were the last two held in California.

In 1939 my brother Frank and I, (both teenagers), journeyed up the newly paved highway #1 to San Francisco where we stayed at the YMCA for, (I think) \$1.25 a night. Then off to Treasure Island for a couple of days of pure pleasure. This included, of course, "Sally Rand's Nude Ranch"! I was pleased to see how few men were needed at such a ranch establishment! Mostly the girls were walking around in boots and sombreros or playing a lackadaisical game of badminton or volleyball. I was surprised at how soon I got tired of bouncing bandanas - but I really shouldn't have been - I never was a real sports fan. But I must admit, spectator sports have never held my interest as long, either before or since.

But just outside of the ranch site was a small concession that promised movies taken at a real nudist colony. That sounded very educational as well as interesting; so we paid our quarter and entered. It wasn't long before we began to notice the background and it looked familiar. That long ago in Chatsworth swimming pools were very rare but there was one in this picture and we, of course, knew where it was located.

When we got home we asked a lot of questions such as, "why didn't we know about the shooting of this educational picture?" But we must have been away when it happened; just about every other teenager knew about it.

It was just recently I heard the whole story. It seems that the mother had gone away on a trip leaving two teenage daughters to take care of the place on their own. They felt they were lucky when a movie scout, looking for a location, found them and made a princely offer for the use of their place for a day. They couldn't turn it down, even when they were asked if they could use the mother's aprons and maybe the cat. After the deal had been made they were told the nature of the film and that no-one would be allowed near the site. The money still looked good.

So, the girls called all their teenage friends to bring field glasses and join the fun from a dsitance. The film makers rented a swayback horse and furnished a lot of beer and improvised the script as they went along. As the beer supply diminished the teenagers became bolder, climbing the trees overlooking the pool but no-one seemed to care. But in the meantime another story was beginning to unfold. The girls' aunt lived in West Los Angeles and had conservative friends visiting from the middle west. The aunt gave them the directions and sent them out to look for her sister's ranch in Chatsworth. When they arrived they were stopped by a guard with a shotgun but they bluffed their way past him. Now, those were the days of Jean Harlow with platinum hair being very popular, (one of our teenage heroines had platinum hair and so did several of the so-called actresses). So you can see what happened, and what the aunt said to her sister, and how surprised the mother was to get the money back which she had left for her daughters to live on!

Even so, you could have said Chatsworth was represented at the World's Fair

William F. Schepler, January 14th 1976



## SESQUICENTENNIAL BOOKLET

A special commemorative booklet is planned for our two-day celebration, Staurday and Sunday, March 11th and 12th.

It will include historica; photos, reprints from the Historical Society archives, a Los Angeles timeline of the first 15 years of statehood as well as short biographies of Pio Pico, John Sutter, The New Buffalo Soldiers, etc. and a full program of activities and presentations of the event.

To become a part of the book we are offering our members and friends business card size (2" x 4") spaces for their personal messages and names or business ads for \$15. (This price includes one reserved copy of the book.) Quarter page (4" x 5"), half page, (5" x 8") and full page (8" x 10") spaces are available for \$25, \$50 & \$100.

Space is limited so, if you wish to be included in this "once ina lifetime" publication, please mail names and message or business card advertisements with check to CHS, 10385 Shadow Oak Dr., Chatsworth, CA 91311

**Deadline for ordering your space is Feb. 15th**

If you need more information call Candy Craig:  
(818) 341-4461

sample

For Your Sweet Tooth

Chatsworth Candy Co.  
22270 Devonshire St.  
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Dulce Jones

(818) 222-7869

## DALE EVANS ROGERS

Dale has a new book out.  
Her granddaughter, Mindy Fox Petersen, writes:-  
"I am in awe of my grandma Dale. At eighty-seven she is the kindest, sweetest, most beautiful lady in my world. We traveled together, along with her caregiver Martha, to florida where we attended the Christian Booksellers Association Convention along with 15,000+ other folks!  
She was there to promote her newest book, *Rainbow on a Hard Trail*. What a wonderful book it is - encouraging and faith inspiring. No wonder, considering the source.....Watch for her to appear on network television and radio programs soon."

sample

*Happy Birthday California*

*Jane & John Doe*

*Jack & Judy*



SESSQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, March 10th, 11th 12th, 2000

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, March 10th

10am-2pm. School children view Sesquicentennial Quilt in the lobby of the Metrolink Train Station, 10040 Old Depot Plaza Road, Chatsworth. Third and Fourth Grades from all elementary schools invited. including private schools.

7-9pm. Evening reception. Local dignitaries invited.

Saturday, March 11th

10am Opening ceremony with school bands.

11am Lecture by Charles Bausback, noted historian from the Huntington Library.

11am. Outside in the garden - Mexican and Flamenco dancing

12 noon-1p.m. Mariachi music Funded by the City of LA Cultural Affairs Dept.

1p.m. Living History presentation. Captain John Sutter, by Chautauqua Scholar David Fenimore. Funded by the California Council for the Humanities. a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

1 - 3pm Outside in the garden - World Champion Trick Roper, Felix Lopez

2pm Goodwill Industries, "Fashions Through the Ages," to be held in the Chatsworth Park South Recreation Center, 22601 Devonshire St., Chatsworth. Funded by LA Times. Cost \$3 per person.

3p.m. Lecture by Albert Knight, archeologist and authority on Chumash culture.

Sunday, March 12th

10a.m. Lecture by Lara Bickell, studying for her Ph.D. in history at Claremont University.

11a.m. Presentation by Los Angeles Times columnist. Cecelia Rasmussen

11am. Outside in the garden - Indian Drummers & Dancers presented by William Standing Bear

12noon-4pm. Western culture music by Roy Rogers protege, guitarist David Arlen. Funded by the City of LA Cultural Affairs Dept.

1pm Living presentation. Pio Pico by Chautauqua Scholar Roberto Garza, funded by the California Council for the Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

1pm. Outside in the garden - East Wind Lion Chinese Dance Troupe

2p.m. Entertainment by the Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus. Funded CHSy

3pm Lecture by Catherine Mulholland, granddaughter of William Mulholland, and author of numerous books on San Fernando Valley history.

Activities will take place in a rented tent with stage and PA system.

There will be an ongoing exhibition on the history of the San Fernando Valley in the Chatsworth Museum at The Homestead Acre. Many Valley Historical Societies will participate. The exhibition will be digitized and made available to students and the community through on-line computer display. It will be created by Dr. Robert Marshall of the Urban Archives Center at CSUN and Lara Bickell, a graduate student in history at the Claremont Graduate School. The California Sesquicentennial Quilt will be displayed both Saturday and Sunday in the Chatsworth Museum.

Outside in the gardens. in addition to the ethnic dance presentations, there will be continuous demonstrations of gold-panning, blacksmith, Indian artifacts with tepee, cowboy culture - roping etc., celebrity look-alikes. New Buffalo Soldier encampment and more. There will also be food booths offering a variety of refreshment. Hikes up the Stagecoach Trail will be lead by State Parks Rangers in cooperation with Santa Susana Mountain Park Association.