



Smoke Signal



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

Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

Editor : Keith Watts

JANUARY, 2007

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Happy New Year. Andre and I are looking forward to a healthy and happy New Year for everyone. It was great to see everybody at the Christmas Party. I think every year the turn out is getting bigger. We had a great time.

At the Homestead Acre we are looking at a year of concentrating on our pictures and the museum collection. We need screens for the cottage, fixing the time capsule, and we are working on getting some more blinds for the cottage. The Councilman has designated funds for the blinds (we just need to get them) and the Parks department will fix the capsule and the screens. Time certainly has a way of getting away from us.

Just the other day we had a Boy Scout Troop

come all the way from Upland for a tour. We are getting to be known more and more, and that has been a goal for a long time.

Happy Birthday to Lila Schepler who will be 90 on Jan. 15th.

Linda and Andre

PROGRAM PREVIEWS

I can't believe we are starting a new year! It was nice having a month off, but I became very lax and before I knew it, it was time for planning the Garden Festival and a January program.

The Garden Festival is scheduled for April 29th and of course we have our wonderful Duchess Tea. Spread the word and I will keep you posted on the progress.

The January program should be very enjoyable. It is called "Old Timers Night" Bring your questions about old Chatsworth. Residents who have lived in Chatsworth for over fifty and sixty years will answer questions and tell us how it was back then. Of course we can't stop progress, but it's nice to know how things were then. Bring your friends and let's have a nice turnout.

Remember, Tuesday, January 16th, 7:00 P.M. at the Acre.

.....Bea Berman

Chatsworth Historical Society
Board of Directors 2005-2007

Co-Presidents.....Linda & Andre van der Valk 882-3661
Programs, Ways & Means.....Bea Berman 341-5449
Membership.....Keith Watts 341-4489
Treasurer.....Lillian Schepler 341-2697
Rec. Secretary.....Elaine Campbell 341-4954
Smoke Signal.....Keith Watts 341-4489
Museum Curator.....Virginia Watson 341-3053
Cottage Curator.....Betty Summers 341-2714
Hospitality.....Committee
Garden Directors.....Jim & Betty Summers 341-2714
Director-at-l arge.....Ruth Grant 882-3992
Permanent Member.....Lila Schepler 341 3447

VOLUNTEER & LEARN TO PRUNE ROSES

The many roses in the Homestead Acre gardens need to be pruned each year, and now is the time! Volunteers are needed to help with the annual Rose Pruning event on **Saturday, January 27th**.

At 9:00 a.m., David Bassani, of the San Fernando Rose Society, will give an expert demonstration of the pruning procedure, which should be helpful to learners and a refresher for experienced gardeners.

Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 8:30 a.m. by the Chatsworth Historical Society.

Bring your own pruning shears - gardening gloves will be provided, as well as additional instructions. So come and enjoy the day at the Homestead Acre, within Chatsworth Park South at the west end of Devonshire Street.

A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

.....Virginia Watson

Lila Schepler, who guided the CHS through most of its formative years, is celebrating a milestone birthday this month. She will be 90 years old on Jan. 15th, and will be feted with messages of good will and best wishes from her many friends and relatives. Back in 1963 when the CHS was first formed, Mrs. Schepler was elected vice president and stepped up to finish founding president Charles Janess' first term of office when he succumbed to a sudden illness. Mrs. Schepler then was elected to her own term, leading the fledgling group through the first few years of saving the vacated Pioneer Church building, and then arranging for it to be moved to its new location in Oakwood Memorial Park - all the time guiding the growing CHS membership in providing an historic background to the community. She served as president again, when in 1976 the

building was finally completed and restored. A gala rededication was held where Dale Evans, who with her husband, Roy Rogers, had been a patron of the church building, and Carl Dentzel, former president of the Cultural Heritage Board of Los Angeles, both spoke at the rededication. The event also doubled as the community's celebration of the Bicentennial year.

Mrs. Schepler has continued her membership in the CHS and has served officially on the executive board every year since its inception.

In the community Mrs. Schepler, and her late husband William "Bill" Schepler, became known to hundreds of school children through the presentation of the CHS's slide show in the classrooms.

Her work in the community includes holding every office including that of steward in the Chatsworth First Methodist Church, being a telephone volunteer for the local FISH Program, working with Girl Scouts on an executive level, planning conferences for local youth groups and statewide historical societies. She has been honored for her work in the field of recreation especially for starting the statewide Junior Historical Society Program.

She was a member of the Destination 90 which shaped the cultural future of the San Fernando Valley and has been a community worker since she first moved to Chatsworth in the 1930's when she was a teenager. She started her adult community life by working on a local election board where she met her late husband; and they were married for 63 years before his demise in 2003.

Mrs. Schepler has been a long-time supporter of the Chatsworth Historical Society and her many accomplishments and activities are remembered with pleasure.

So from the members of the Chatsworth Historical Society it is a "BIG HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY, LILA SCHEPLER."

CHATSWORTH CHRISTMAS PARADE - Industrious CHS members decorated a float for the parade, which had a theme of "*Western Heritage.*"



A distant photo shot of the CHS float as it was being towed along Devonshire Street.



A photo shot showing the CHS float and some of the riders. Visible are Jelena Csanyi (waving); Gary Bercow (black hat); Linda van der Valk (facing) with her grandchildren, Hunter and Charley; and Jessica Bercow.