

# CHATSWORTH BUILT BY ENGLISH GROUP

## Was Originally a Stage Coach Stop

From the oldest surviving member of the old Mission Indian tribe that used to inhabit this region before the advent of the white man comes a story of the early days in that part of San Fernando Valley now known as Chatsworth.

Septimo, son of Rojerio, is the only Indian now alive who dwelt at San Fernando Mission under the regime of the padres. Here is the story that he and other early settlers have handed down:

Water was a precious possession and it was only natural that the Indians and the first Spanish settlers should make their homes near a water supply. That part of the Chatsworth Hills now known as Oakwood Cemetery was called "Las Pilitas" or "the small fountains," because of several springs that bubbled from clefts in the sandstone rock.

It was there that Senor Vicente de la Osa brought his wife, Dona Rita, and some of the old timers still call it de la Osa rancho. They developed the springs and lived on the rugged slope overlooking the Valley, and the rancho became a stage coach station where horses were changed before the long, tortuous trip over the Santa Susanna grade.

Ramon Jaramillo, so the story goes, was the first owner of the land where the town of Chatsworth now stands. In a later period it was the Miranda family that settled west of the townsite and it was from them that property was purchased for Oakwood Cemetery.

Then came the building of the railroad and the founding of the town of Chatsworth Park by a group of Englishmen. Devonshire and other typically English street names are marks left by these English developers.

As years went by residents dropped the last part of the name for convenience, and the town is now known as Chatsworth.