

# Chatsworth Lake Manor

- This Presentation touches on the history and unique aspects of the foothill community of Chatsworth Lake Manor
  - The Chumash heritage and 1797 Mission influence. 1836 – Chumash Chief Odón and El Escorpion de las Salinas.
  - 1849 Pierre Domec, the lime kiln, and the Domec Adobe
  - The Domec Daughters and their 1901 homestead on 148 acres that would become Chatsworth Lake Manor
  - The 1918 Chatsworth Reservoir/Lake, and movies made in the area.
  - The Cabin Sites Brochure, from the 1920's.
  - Recent history and influences - The Church, Log Cabin, Market, Lenny's, Fire Station 75



## Presentation Reference Points

- The red outline is Francesca Domec's 148 acre homestead recorded in 1901.
- The green outline is Pierre Domec's 1861 sketch map and 1865 parcel map. It was filed but never recorded, as the lower portion of the parcel was on Rancho Ex-Mission de San Fernando lands.
- The white square is Domec's Limekiln.

# Native American Heritage

- The eastern Simi Hills were an area of major cultural interaction. To the west were the Ventureño **Chumash** of Simi Valley, whose principle village was in Malibu. To the east were speakers of the Fernandeano dialect of Gabrielino (**Tongva**), and the **Tataviam** lived in the mountains to the north.

The red star to the right is where Chatsworth is today, next to the village of Momonga.





# Native American Heritage

- When the Spanish established Mission de San Fernando in 1797, they documented a ranchería named **Momonga**, the home territory of the original sociopolitical group who lived somewhere along the eastern slope of the Simi Hills in the vicinity of the Santa Susana Pass.
- The San Fernando Mission was “staffed” primarily with Chumash, Gabrielino (Tongva) and Tataviam, and their descendants became the historic Fernandeano.
- In 1797 a Chumash Native American, **Odón Chihuya**, was born at Humaliwo (Malibu), and later lived at the San Fernando Mission. His granddaughter, **Francesca Domec**, was granted a 148 acre homestead in 1901 in what is now **Chatsworth Lake Manor**.

# The beginning of the Lake Manor Timeline

- In 1797, The San Fernando Mission was established. That same year, a Chumash Native American, **Odón Chihuya**, was born. He married Eusabia, and they had four children. Two of their daughters, Maria Dolores and Espiritu, would marry two Frenchmen, Pierre Domec and Miguel Leonis.
- In 1836, Odón moved to Rancho El Escorpion property at the mouth of **Bell Canyon**, and the site of the Chumash village known as **Huwam**.
- In 1839, at the age of 42, Odón received his Decree of Emancipation from the San Fernando Mission.
- By 1843, Odón's son-in-law Urbano and Urbano's son Manuel join Odón at El Escorpion.

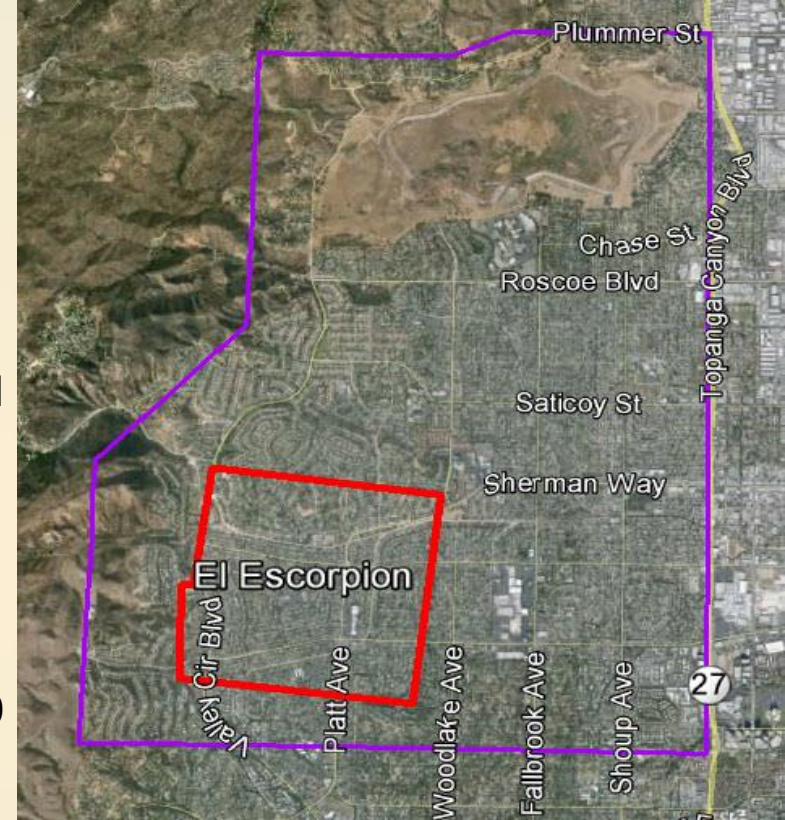


El Escorpion today is known as Castle Peak, located at Vanowen and Valley Circle Blvd, just south of Bell Canyon.

There is a 3 acre El Escorpion Park at the site.

# Rancho El Escorpion

- In 1845, the three **Chumash** Native Americans, Odón, Urbano, and Manuel petition Governor Pio Pico for two leagues of land, close to 9,000 acres.
- In that year, Governor Pico makes the grant for one half of a square league. Juan Sepulveda, the Second Alcalde (mayor) of Los Angeles, surveyed off a parcel that was actually only a quarter of a league (1,110 acres), even though it was ratified as half a square league. It was accepted by Odón and Urbano.
- Up to 1870, Odón and future partners of El Escorpion dispute the boundaries, occupying and using all 9,000 acres of land at various times.



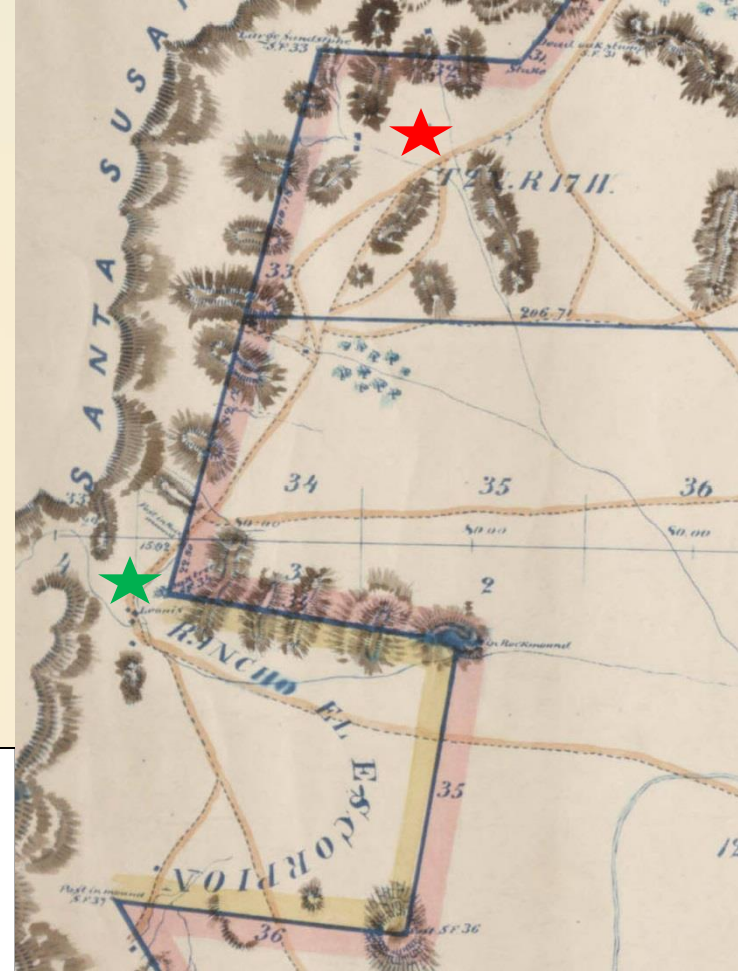
To the right, the 1,100 acres of El Escorpion is outlined in red. The purple outline is representative of the 9,000 acres of land used by the grantees of El Escorpion, reaching north to include the Chatsworth Reservoir, and east to Topanga Canyon.

# Rancho El Escorpion

- The area to the south was known as Escorpion Viejo. The area to the north was known as El Escorpion de las Salinas (salt marshes), later known as Chatsworth Lake/Reservoir/Nature Preserve.
- Chief Odón's daughters married two Frenchmen.
  - By 1849 - Pierre Domec marries? Maria Dolores Odón, and lived north of El Escorpion in today's Chatsworth Nature Preserve. (red star)
  - 1859 - Miguel Leonis enters into a common-law marriage with Espiritu Odón and lives at El Escorpion ranch headquarters. (green star)

To the right is a portion of the 1871 Plat of the Ex Mission de San Fernando finally confirmed to Eulogio de Celis, courtesy of the Huntington Digital Library.

The horizontal line on the map was the 1869 dividing line of Ex Mission lands, later to become Roscoe Blvd.





# Pierre Domec

- Pierre Domec arrived in Los Angeles in 1844 at the age of 24. He works as a cooper, and was in charge of the wine cellars of his compatriot Jean Louis Vignes.
- By 1849, 29-year old Pierre Domec was described as living at Santa Susanna at an Indian camp with Maria Dolores (1891 court testimony, *The Leonis Estate Case*)
- Daughters Francesca born in 1854, Celedonia in 1861, and Maria A. in 1862.

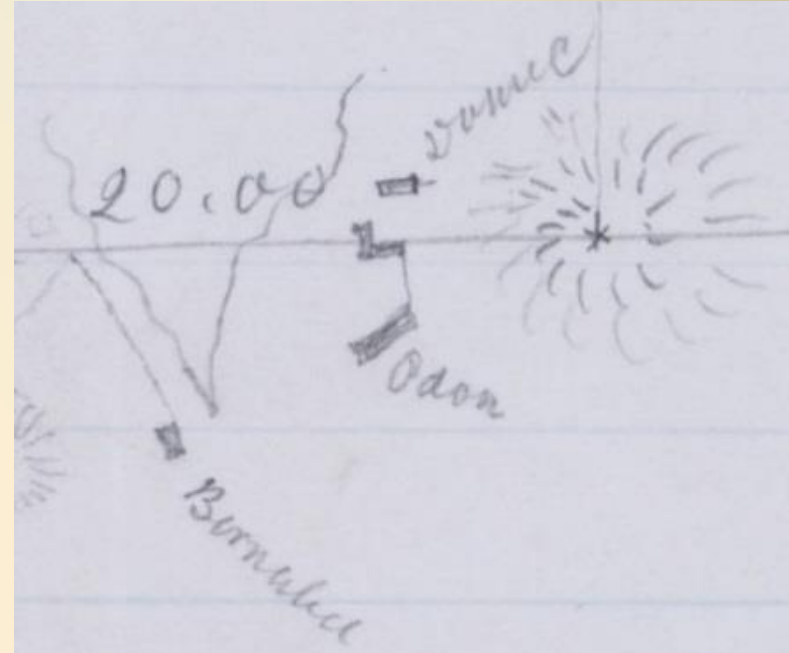
Pierre Domec and wife Maria,  
from the Leonis Adobe archives



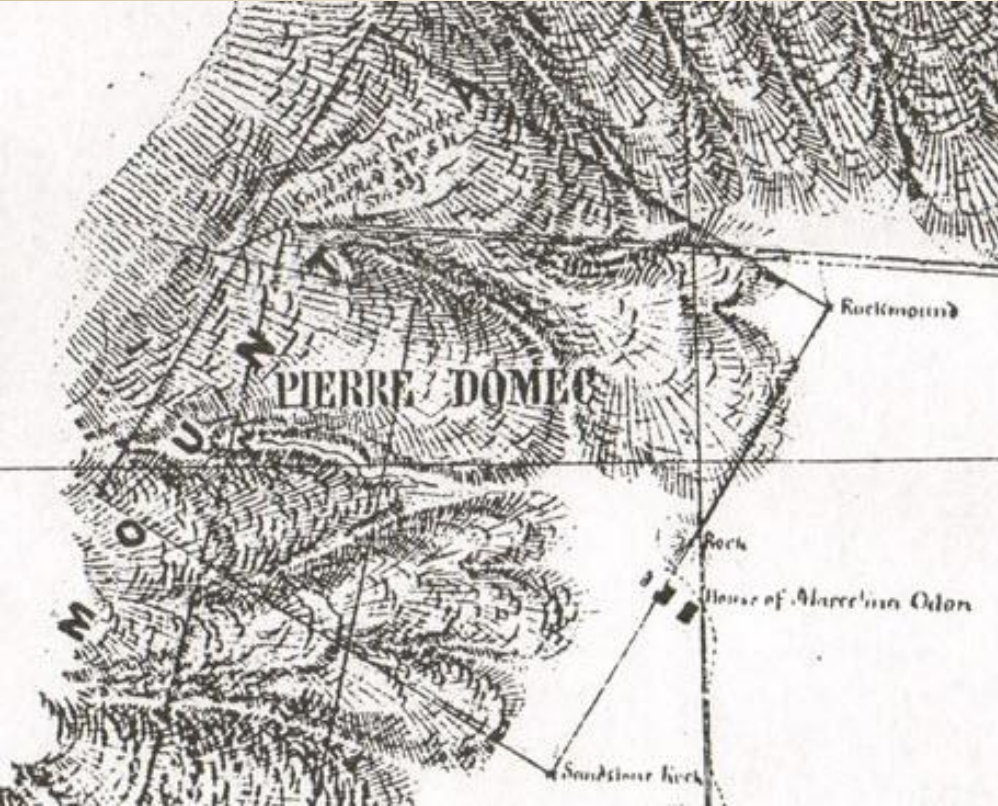




Above, an 1861 sketch of a 160 acre parcel map for Pierre Domec courtesy of the Huntington Library. The area is just south of Chatsworth Lake Manor and includes the limekiln near Woolsey Canyon.



Above, detail of the lower section of the map to the left. Notice Domec, Odón and Bernabel adobes. Marcelina Odón and Bernabel were Odón's children.



The 1865 formal survey of the 1861 sketch by the Deputy County Surveyor of Los Angeles County, was for 160 acres.

The 1865 survey boundaries overlaid on Google Earth in green. The white outline is Domec's limekiln.



# Pierre Domec's Limekiln

- Pierre Domec and other Frenchmen operated limekilns at El Escorpion in the 1850s-60s. Lime had a ready market in Los Angeles, for mortar in brick construction, for the process of tanning cowhides, and in sanitation.
- The limekiln can be seen today looking east at the intersection of Woolsey Canyon and Valley Circle.

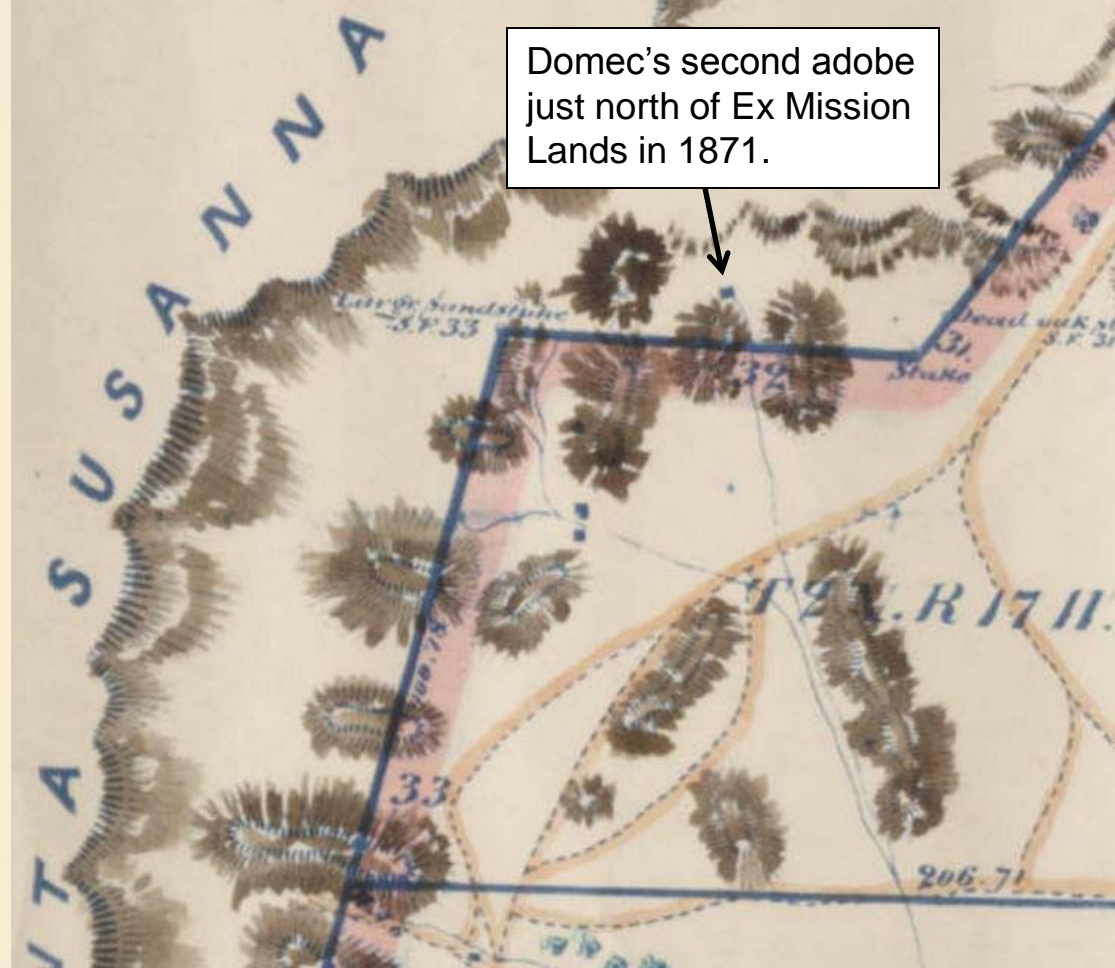


2014 photo of Limekiln, known as Chatsworth Calera Site, designated in 1975 as *L.A. Historic Cultural Monument 141*



# Pierre Domec

- When the 1871 Plat of the Ex Mission de San Fernando was published, the 1861 Domec adobe is not on the map. The Bernabel and Marcelina Odón adobes remained.
- A new house/adobe was marked on the 1871 map, located on government land, to the west of the creek at the site of today's Chatsworth Lake Manor Church.
- It appears that Domec built a new adobe by 1871 on government land.



# Pierre Domec's Adobe



Pierre Domec's second adobe, from the Los Angeles Public Library archives, identified as taken in 1959. Skyline rock features of a 2014 photo taken next to the church identify the adobe location as near the Chatsworth Lake Manor church.

# Pierre Domec Obituary

Excerpts from a Google translation of a January 1883 article in L'Union Nouvelle, organe de la population française du sud de la Californie)

- M. Pierre Domec, who died last Monday at the age of 63 was a pioneer of Los Angeles when he arrived in 1844. He was soon given the direction of the cellars of his compatriot Jean Louis Vignes.
- Later he created lime furnaces and in 1863 he was appointed director of the liquidation of Don Abel Stearns, a position he held three years.
- Then he conceived a project to ship a convoy of 3,500 horses across the Rocky Mountains to Omaha where they were sold to the army of the United States. He then went to Texas where he bought 4,000 cattle to take back to California. His return was disastrous; he struggled against Indians and drought across unknown lands and deserts. In short, he lost in this campaign most of his fortune.
- Since that time P. Domec could not recover from this disaster and he succumbs to both moral and physical sufferings, but he is remembered as one of France's most enterprising citizens of this country.

## PIERRE DOMECC

M. Pierre Domec, qui est décédé lundi dernier, à l'âge de 63 ans était un pionnier de Los Angeles. où il était arrivé en 1844. Venu de la contrée qui produit les fameux vins de Graves et tonnelier de profession il ne tarda à avoir la direction des caves de son compatriote Jean Louis Vignes à l'instigation duquel du reste il avait immigré ici. Plus tard il créa des fourneaux à chaux et en 1863 il était nommé administrateur de la liquidation de Don Abel Stearns, poste qu'il occupa trois années à la suite desquelles l'ordre était rétabli dans les affaires de ce marchand millionnaire. Après la mort de ce dernier, la fortune de Pierre Domec pouvait être estimée à près de \$100,000. C'est alors qu'il conçut le projet de son expédition aux Etats-Unis. Avec un convoi de 3,500 chevaux



# Francesca Domec

- Pierre died in 1883, and his wife Maria Dolores in 1884.
- Francesca and her sister Celedonia never married. The daughters filed a homestead claim in 1896, and in 1901, Francesca received the 148 acre homestead.
- By 1880, their younger sister Maria Antonia Domec had married Francisco Moore and they had a daughter Marie Irene Moore born in 1882.



Francesca (31?) and Celedonia (24?), 1885?  
Leonis Adobe, unidentified pictures, Domec Trunk collection

# Francesca Domec

- In the 1940 Chatsworth census, Marie Moore is living with her son Henry Acosta (20) at 23144 Smith Road in Chatsworth Lake Manor.
- In 1952 Henry dies, leaving a wife Frances and two children John (12) and Yolanda (2).
- A 1952 newspaper article has John Acosta in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Chatsworth Elementary and active in the Scout Pack from Chatsworth Lake

Line No.	LOCATION Street, avenue, road, etc.	HOUSEHOLD DATA				NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION				EDUCATION		PLACE OF BIRTH		CITIZENSHIP	IN WHAT PLACE BORN		
		House number (in cities and towns)	Number of household in order of visitation	Home owned (O) or rented (R)	Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented			Does this household live on a farm? (Yes or No)	Relationship of this person to the head of the household, as wife, daughter, father, mother-in-law, grand-mother, lodger, lodger's wife, servant, blood hand, etc.	Color or race	Age at last birthday	Marital status—(M) Married, (W) Widowed, (D) Divorced	Attended school or college any time since March 1, 1940? (Yes or No)	Highest grade of school completed	If born in the United States, give State, Terr., city, or possession.			If foreign born, give country in which birthplace was situated on January 1, 1940.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	A	9	10	11	12	13	14	B	15	C	16	17
67						— VIOLA M	WIFE	F	W	24	M	No	H			OKLAHOMA			SHAWNEE
68						— ALFRED D.	SON	M	W	11	S	No	O			CALIFORNIA			
69		9231	R	15	No	WHITE GEORGE CRAPPEY	HEAD	M	W	71	M	No	H-4	30		ILLINOIS			SAME HOUSE
70						WHITE MAUD B	WIFE	F	W	55	M	No	8			OHIO			SAME HOUSE
71		9239	O	1000		BENNETT FRANK M (X)	HEAD	M	W	54	M	No	H-4	30		IOWA			SAME HOUSE
72						— ROXIE	WIFE	F	W	42	M	No	H-4	30		WASHINGTON			SAME HOUSE
73						— EILEEN	DAUGHTER	F	W	17	S	No	H-3	14		CALIFORNIA			SAME HOUSE
74						— RUSSELL	SON	M	W	15	S	No	H-1	14		CALIFORNIA			SAME HOUSE
75						— BENJAMIN	SON	M	W	8	S	No	3	3		CALIFORNIA			SAME HOUSE
76		9327				BENNETT AMELIA (X)	MOTHER	F	W	75	W	No	C-3	42		OHIO			LOS ANGELES
77		23331	O	7500		QUINN THORNA V	HEAD	F	W	56	W	No	C-3	42		PENNSYLVANIA			LOS ANGELES
78		NONE	O	500		MOORE MARY IRENE (X)	HEAD	F	W	52	W	No	C-4	38		CALIFORNIA			SAME HOUSE
79						ACOSTA HENRY C	SON	M	W	20	S	No	C-2	18		ARIZONA			SAME HOUSE
80						CELEDONIA DOMEK	AUNT	F	W	83	S	No	C-3	40		CALIFORNIA			LOS ANGELES
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS						FOR PERSONS OF ALL AGES													

Excerpt from 1940 Census, "Chatsworth Manor"  
 Marie Moore (50), Henry Acosta (20), Celedonia Domec (83)  
 Francesca Domec dies in 1936, buried at the Calvary Cemetery

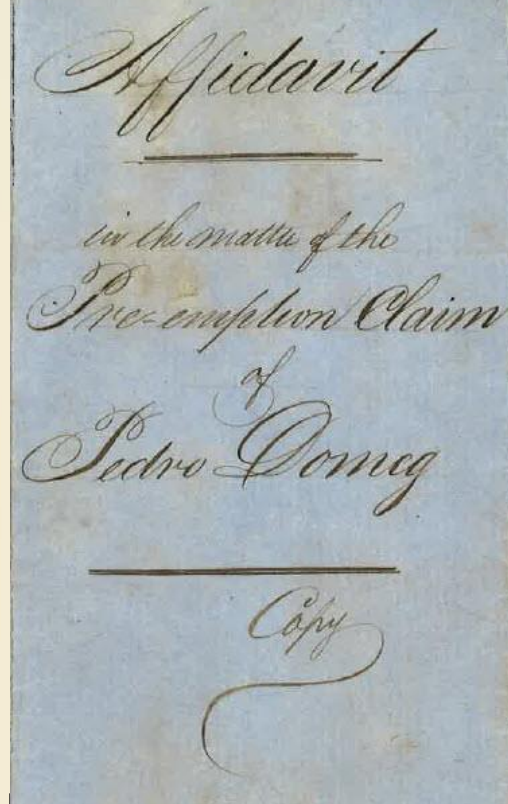
# Pierre Domec Trunk Story

The Story below as remembered by Rayborn (Ray) Phillips, past president of the Leonis Adobe Association.

*Around 1980, an antique dealer was driving down Melrose Ave. in Los Angeles and saw some old trunks sitting by the curb waiting for trash disposal; recognized them as mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Chinese painted trunks so popular in early California and “rescued” them. Apparently the last owner had died.*

*The dealer found them full of items relating to the Pierre Domec family; toys, books, photographs, documents, letters, etc. A man connected with our Adobe heard about them and recognized the fact that the Domec family was related to the Leonis family. He told me about them, and I obtained the trunks and almost everything except the toys, which he had sold off.*

Ray paid just \$1,000 for the three trunks and their contents.



An 1855 Pre-emption claim,  
from the Domec Trunk  
Collection



# Chatsworth Lake

- 1913 - Los Angeles Aqueduct opening day celebration Nov. 5, 1913.
- 1918 - Chatsworth Reservoir, owned by the Department of Water and Power, is built using the hydraulic fill method, i.e. there was no mechanical compaction of the soil forming the dam.



1925 Chatsworth Reservoir – LAPL Archives

# Chatsworth Lake

- 1969 – The reservoir was drained to deepen shallow areas and construct a storm flow bypass system.
- 1971 – The Sylmar earthquake damaged two other hydraulic fill dams at the Upper and Lower Van Norman reservoirs. As a result, a decision was made to not store water in the Chatsworth Reservoir unless the dam was rebuilt.





# Chatsworth Lake

- 2002 – April 7<sup>th</sup> – First Earth Day Celebration, opening the Nature Preserve to the public one day a year.
- 2014 – The reservoir has been dry for 43 years. The 30 acre ecology pond, at the far north end of the reservoir, is maintained by the DWP for wildlife and migratory birds.



Chatsworth Nature Preserve and Ecology Pond



# Chatsworth Lake

- Many movies were filmed at Chatsworth Lake over the years.
- Jerry England has made a one minute collection of video clips of movies that you may remember.....



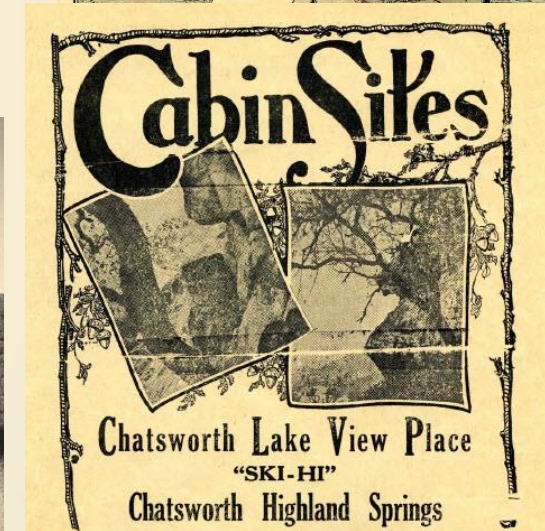
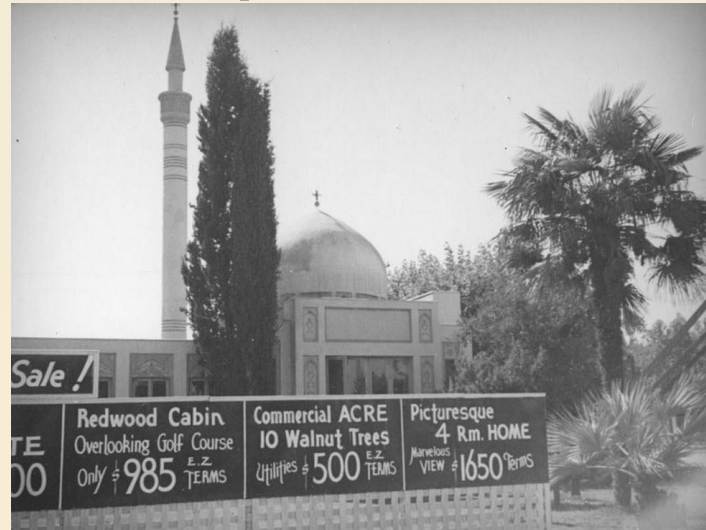
Mary Pickford at Chatsworth Lake  
1922, "Tess of the Storm Country"

Chatsworth  
Lake  
filming  
locations –  
YouTube

courtesy  
Jerry  
England

# Local Real Estate Developments in the 20's

- **Girard**, Middle Eastern/Turkish Theme, now Woodland Hills
- **Santa Susana Hills Cabin Sites**, near Corriganville
- **Twin Lakes Park**, Mayan/Aztec Theme
- **Cabin Sites**, now Lake Manor and Box Canyon





# Box Canyon and Lake Manor

- The flyer to the right identifies Walter Brooks selling Cabin Sites in "Chatsworth Lake View Place". (Note: "Chatsworth Lake View Place" was identified in the 1930 Simi Township Census)
- We also know that Walter Brooks before 1927 was managing the estate of Pierre Domec. The P.D. Estate Company was formed, with shares distributed to sisters Francesca and Caledonia and their niece Maria Moore.

**Cabin Sites**

**Chatsworth Lake View Place**

**"SKI-HI"**

**Chatsworth Highland Springs**

**CABIN and CLUB SITES**  
Total Cost \$25.00—\$35.00—\$50.00

**WALTER G. BROOKS**  
REALTOR

Office: 60 Market St. Office Phone 65277  
Res: 1227 Alexandria Way VENICE, CAL. Phone: 63518 Venice

Handed to you by: **W. J. GARDNER**  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
TRACT MANAGER AND SALESMAN

WE NEED A FEW MORE SALESMEN

Take the Family Up  
Where it's always cool"

Spend a day among the live oaks—big rocks, sloping mountain canyons. Let them rest in the always cool mountain

**CHATSWORTH LAKE VIEW PLACE**

and

**CHATSWORTH HIGHLAND SPRINGS**

Foot Cabin Site in this beautiful mountain tract with free road to the streets—a clear deed—a good title—a good view of the valley is but Twenty-five Dollars.

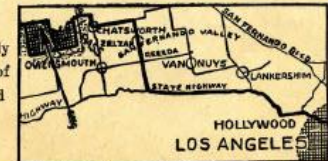
Our arrangements to go up before the best is picked, and see the place before buying. Just let the office know when you can go and one will meet you on the property, or go up with you.

Nothing to investigate and very little if you purchase

**Be Sure And Come Up Sunday**

Salesman on Tract Daily

BUY NOW, AHEAD OF DEVELOPMENT!



Bring  
Your  
Lunch  
Stay  
All  
Day

A Natural, Beautiful Playground That You  
Will Enjoy



- The brochure describes 25 x 70 ft. Cabin Sites for \$25, with Free Sweet Spring Water Piped to the Streets.
- Total Cost \$25, \$35 or \$50.
- “Take the family up where it’s always cool. Let them spend a day among the live oaks, big rocks, sloping mountains, dark canyons. Let them rest in the always cool mountain breeze.”

Adjoins proposed new 100-acre City Park and Playground  
**CHATSWORTH HIGHLAND SPRINGS A NEW PROPERTY ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN**

**Vacation Dreams May Be Realized**

Spend your vacation and your idle hours on your own cabin site where the cool, pure God-given air, the hunting, hiking and numerous other outdoor sports will send you back to your everyday life better men, women and children. You owe it to yourself as well as to your little tots. You will never regret it. Plenty of loose stone to make a rock cabin, free.



**Sweet Spring Water Piped to Streets  
Always Cool, Pure Mountain Air**

The Air is Cool in Summer

Hundreds of lots are being sold through the favorable reports brought back by those who spent a day at Chatsworth Lake.

**HOW TO GET THERE**

Hollywood to Sherman Way in Lankershim, follow the Pacific Electric tracks to Owensmouth, turn right at railroad station to Chatsworth or until you see our signs. When you go to Chatsworth Lake, look for cabins and flags up in the hills.

Located on good road, one and one-quarter mile off concrete boulevard, on survey of Valley Boulevard (Mulholland Highway Extension) a 100-ft. scenic highway. Survey completed and construction to start soon.



**A Clear Deed  
Lots—25x70  
Buy a Lot  
in the  
Mountains  
For That Boy  
or Girl**

**Mountain Retreat but a Step from Your City Home for 25 Dollars**



Come out Sunday. If you don't select a lot, you will be delighted with the trip, and if you like hiking, it would take a long time to see all there is to see on this property. Just two and a half miles square. If you like to hunt, bring your gun and dog. If you want to snap pictures, bring your camera, but be sure you wear your hiking clothes, for you cannot resist the temptation to go to the top of the mountains.

Located in the western part of the rich, Fertile San Fernando Valley; only 24 miles on paved roads an easy hour's ride from Hollywood; 8 miles N. W. of the town of Owensmouth.

A 300-acre wild flower garden, dotted with grand live oak trees, surrounded by rugged, picturesque mountains. An ideal picnic spot.

Overlooking the immense Chatsworth Lake Reservoir and the entire San Fernando Valley.

A treat for city-tired mind and eyes.

**Chatsworth Highland Springs is But a Short Distance from the Lake**  
 SPECIAL ATTENTION TO SMALL CLUBS

April 1927 LA Times

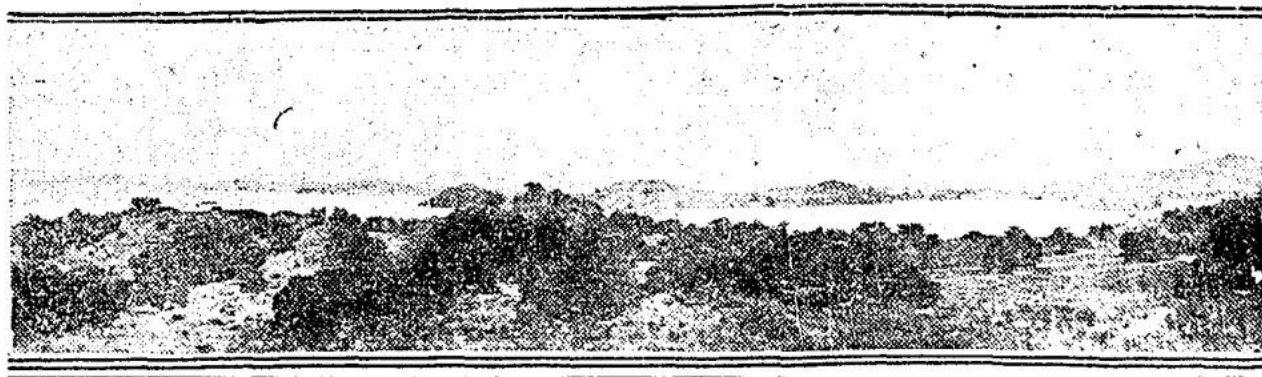
First published  
mention of

“Chatsworth Lake  
Manor”

- “As the result of the discovery of valuable therapeutic water from mineral springs on the Domec Estate, plans are being made for the establishment of a great health resort.”
- The estate has been renamed Chatsworth Lake Manor

# THERAPEUTIC SPRINGS DISCOVERED

Plans Made to Establish New Health Resort



View of Chatsworth Lake from New Tract

AS THE result of the discovery of valuable therapeutic qualities in the waters from mineral springs on the Domec Estate, near Chatsworth Lake, plans are being made for the establishment of a great health resort on the outskirts of the city.

The tract to be developed overlooks the lake and a broad vista of hills, knolls and valleys, and is only thirty miles from the heart of the city. W.

G. Brooks of Venice heads the management of the estate.

While water was being developed it was noted that some of the findings showed marked mineral content. Attorney F. M. Andreani, one of the owners of the property, took samples to the Muas Laboratories for analysis. The chemist's report showed that one of the springs produced a water with 2.67 iron oxide and 8.03 sodium sulphate. Another sample ran 9.39 sodium bicarbonate, 2.62 sodium sul-

phate and 4.18 magnesium bicarbonate.

Immediately plans for development of the estate were changed so as to include a health resort. In addition to this, several clubs, among them the Forest, Fish and Game Protective Association, are planning to establish quarters on some of the picturesque knolls in the tract. The estate has been renamed Chatsworth Lake Manor.

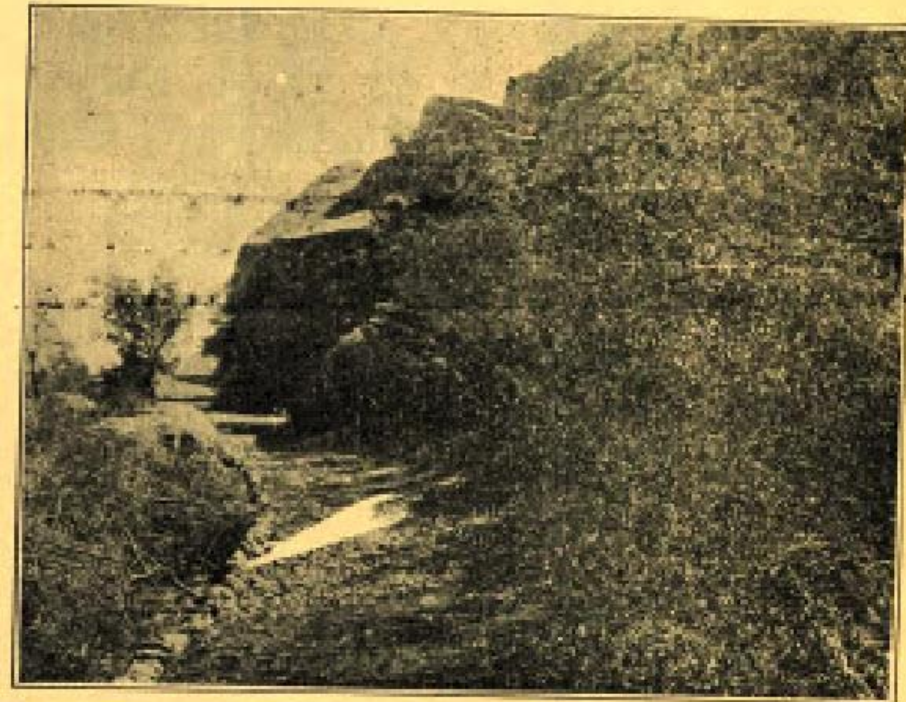


# Cabin Sites Water Supply

The story of the source of the water supply comes from this excerpt from the 2001 Lake Times:

*In the 1920's when Lake Manor was a thriving resort, Clarence "Speed" Glanton was "the" water company. He and his wife laid miles of 2 1/2" galvanized pipe by hand. They had a well off Mesa Drive (the Mesa off Box Canyon) and a spring that drained into the tank with the sun painted on it on Box Canyon. From there, water dripped into the customer's tanks that dotted the hills above Lake Manor.*

*Those tanks provided volume and pressure. Eventually Speed was shut out of the water business, but he lived on in the home he built in the twenties until his passing a few years ago .*

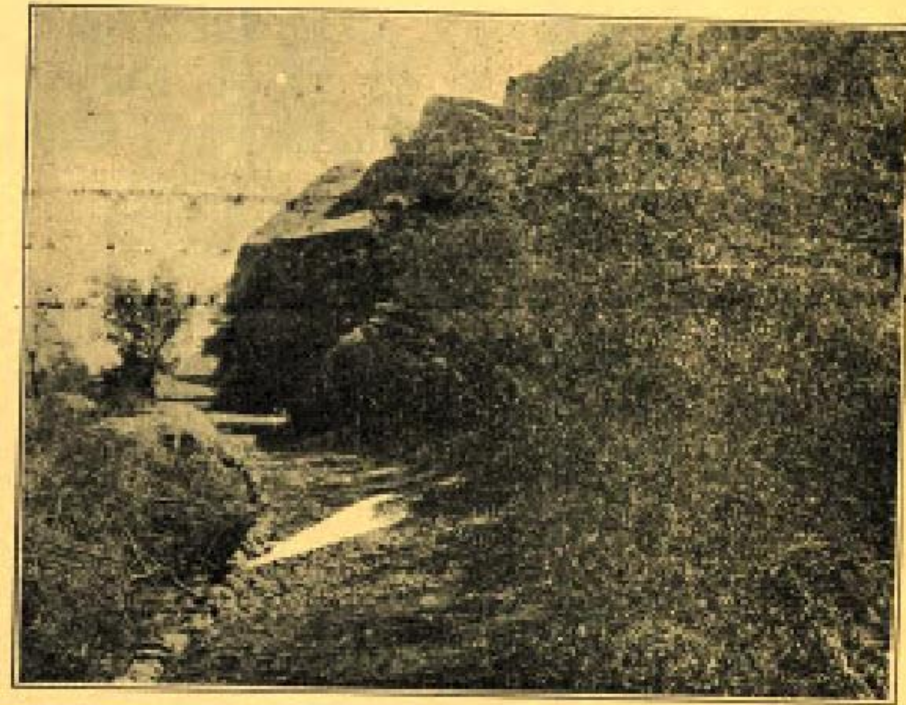


**Sweet Spring Water Piped to Streets  
Always Cool, Pure Mountain Air**

# Cabin Sites Water Supply

Comments below from Susie Foreman:

- The homes were on well water in 1957, Buck Washburn was the local water man. And he was like a sheriff of water. If you had a piece of grass in your yard you were in major trouble.
- The Foremans, Shaws and Kissengers formed a group to get the water bond to get water for the area. (Water came from Los Virgenes Municipal) I remember that it was like a \$100,000 water bond.



**Sweet Spring Water Piped to Streets  
Always Cool, Pure Mountain Air**



# Floyd & Essie Mae Berry

*Excerpts below from Oct 1995 Lake Times*

- Floyd was one of the early developers (1925) of the Lake Manor subdivisions. He set up his surveyor's equipment in a tent on the site now occupied by The Lake Manor Chapel.
- Working around the clock (at night, with kerosene lanterns), he supervised the plotting and laying out of all of the roads and subdivisions we enjoy today.
- His real estate office was at today's Log Cabin Mercantile; his residence, located at the rear of the office, was built in stone from the hills he loved so much.
- In 1955 they began to sell their land holdings. Essie lived at the Log Cabin until 1966.

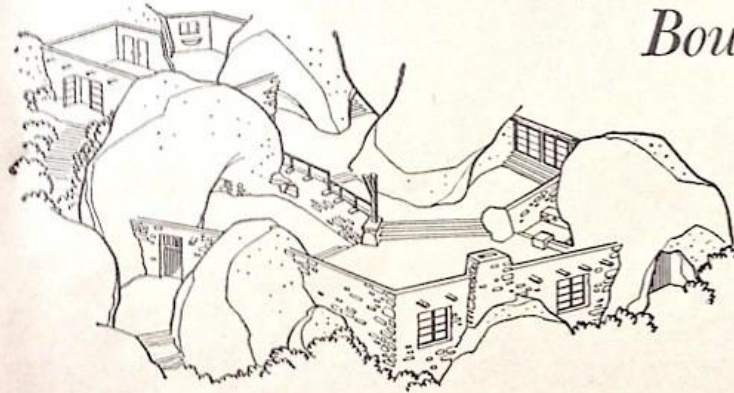
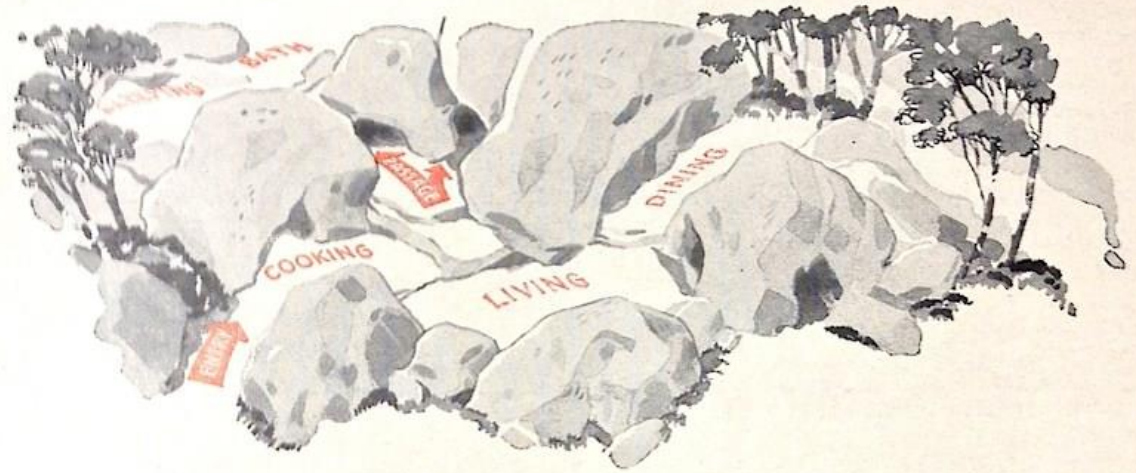


In 1961, Floyd and Essie Berry offered to donate 100 acres to the proposed Santa Susana State Park. Essie is second from left, Floyd is second from right. Ray Crash Corrigan, who also pledged 100 acres, is in the middle. (*Valley News*, Jan 31, 1961)



# The Boulder Shelter

- A very unique cabin site was featured in **Sunset Magazine** in **May 1948**.
- “The house was not built of necessity, but simply because its builders, **Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Berry of Chatsworth**, fell in love with the huge boulders shown here.”



## *Boulder shelter*

**THIS** is not presented as an inspirational story in home-making against great obstacles. The house was not built of necessity, but simply because its builders, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Berry of Chatsworth, California, fell in love with the huge boulders shown here.

Their original intention was to build a one-room shelter a little more finished than the type of camp-cabin illustrated on page 42. However, their enthusiasm got the best of them.

We feature the story because we believe you can find ideas in it which you may be able to use in your own camp or cabin.

# The Boulder Shelter

- Entrance doorway to the left framed in redwood ties.
- Cooling alcove to the right. Hole above fireplace at left leads to bedroom.

*Below. The entrance doorway, framed in redwood ties, leads into kitchen alcove on level above the living room*



*Cooking alcove. Fireplace is built up from natural crevice by fashioning flue with small stones and mortar. Chairs are two inner spring cushions fastened together. Hole above fireplace at left leads to bedroom. Hole at right, to roof. Railing, hand-hewn redwood*



# The Boulder Shelter

- Bedroom on the left. Notice stone wall.
- Right, looking in to living room. Notice hollowed out rock for dishes and kitchen supplies.



*Above. Bedroom was added after one-room house was completed. Camp stool with plywood removable top used for chairside table. Steps lead to outdoor area. Fireplace flue had to be drilled out of large rock*



*Right. Looking into living room from passageway leading to roof through natural opening. Main fireplace, right. Hollowed out rock for dishes and kitchen supplies*

JERRY ANSON



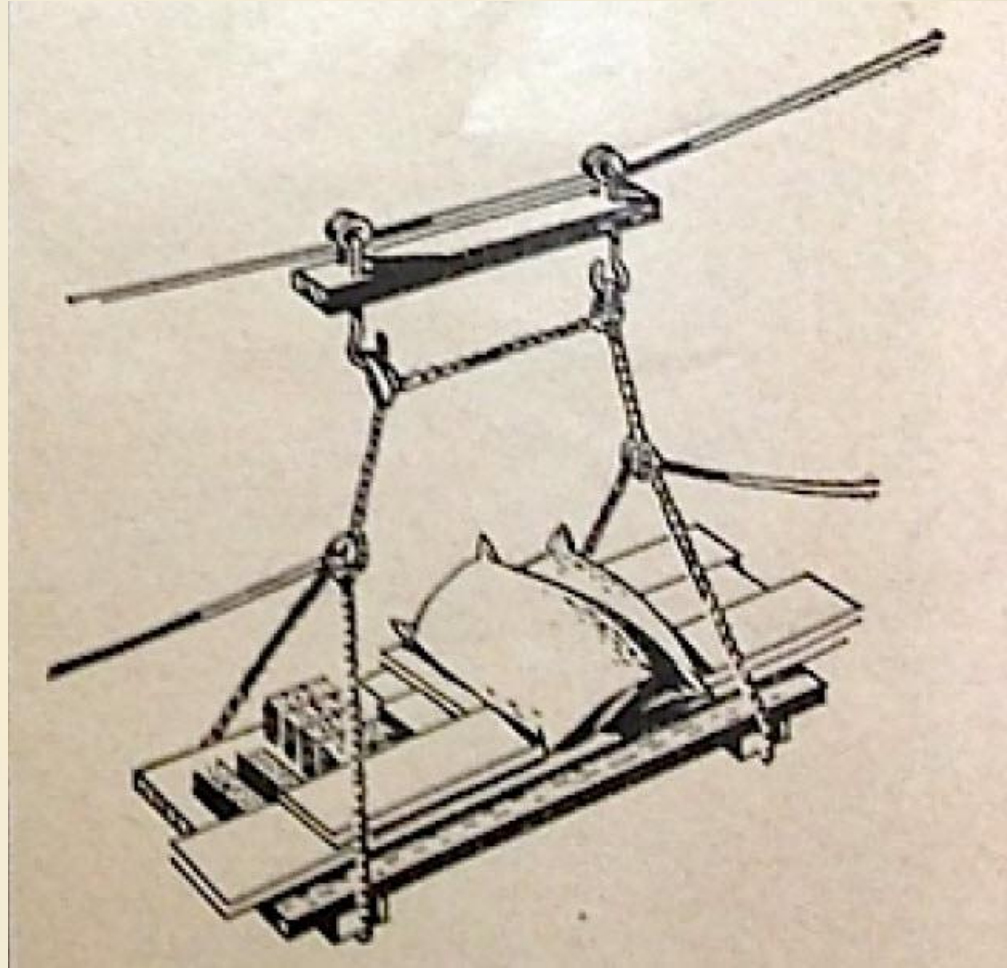
# The Boulder Shelter

- Dining area doors open onto small level area on the side of the canyon through which a stream tumbles and roars.



# The Boulder Shelter

- Approach to the house is across a small canyon.
- This sling, sliding on a cable, eases problem of transportation across canyon.



# Recent History and Influences – Lake Manor Church, Log Cabin Mercantile, Chatsworth Lake Market, Lenny's, Fire Station 75





# Chatsworth Lake Community Church

- Perhaps one of the last of its kind, Lake Manor Chapel reflects an era gone by. This neighborhood country church was planted in the early 1920's.
- The first years saw the Christian congregation arriving by horse and buggy and holding worship services inside a tent.



23449 Lake Manor Drive

# Chatsworth Lake Community Church

- In 1955, work was completed on the chapel and kitchen building.
- Dale Dawson has been the Pastor of the Church since 2008.
- The church is well known for hosting seasonal dinners and events for the community.





# Log Cabin Mercantile Co.

- The exact date of when the Log Cabin was built is unknown, but it would have been a good selling promotion for Cabin Sites sold in the early 20's.



23300 Valley Cir Blvd - 2014

# Log Cabin Mercantile Co.

- Floyd and Essie Berry owned Chatsworth Lake Properties. They ran their business from the cabin and built their home in back.
- Stone work on the home and behind the cabin was done by Essie's father and Frank Bell. Later stone work was added by stone mason Mike Knapp.
- Essie Berry owned the cabin and home until she passed away in 1967.





# Log Cabin Mercantile Co.

*Photo courtesy "Summit Life", May 2014*

- In 1968 Joe and Margaret Foreman along with their daughter Susie purchased the cabin and started the Log Cabin Mercantile as a family business. The office still contained old real estate ledgers.
- Picture to the right is Cherokee O'Dea and mother Susie. In the 80's, Susie's father helped the church raise funds to save the church and surrounding vacant parcels from development. Much of those funds were pennies, earning him the nickname "Penny Joe".



# Log Cabin Mercantile Co.



- Cherie Currie (lead singer for The Runaways in the 70's) had a Chainsaw Gallery at the Log Cabin in the 90's, along with other Chainsaw artists.
- Today, the Log Cabin features Antiques, Accessories, Home Décor, and Christmas Trees in December.





# Chatsworth Lake Market

The Chatsworth Lake Market has been owned by Vinod and Kiran Roy (aka “Mr. Roy” or just “Roy”) since 1990. (24 years)



23400 Lake Manor Drive - 2014

In 2008, there was a Grand Reopening with an expanded market and services. Mr. Roy made sure that the ambience of the expansion continued the feeling of the country store that everyone knew.

# Chatsworth Lake Market

- In the 1940's it was the **Red & White**, owned by Edie Washburn.
- Joe Eckhoff Memories: In 1939-41 Keg Day ... one day a year for good show.. Acme Beer Co. would give a free keg of beer to Edie Washburn's store and she'd put it under the big oak tree which is now Lenny's parking lot and the whole town would turn out with their own cups and mugs for this social event.



Chatsworth Lake Market 1960



# Chatsworth Lake Market

- Maude Waite bought the store for \$600 from Edie Washburn
- In the 1950s, it was owned by Katherine (Kay) Slater, whose brothers were Burt & George.
- The market burned down around 1972.



Chatsworth Lake Market 1960

# Chatsworth Lake Market

- A few years after the fire, Frank and Joan Cannarella purchased the business, and it operated in the tiny building next to the fire station.
- A few years later they bought the vacant lot where the old store was, and moved a small store onto the property around 1977. It was called Canyon Trading Post.
- Picture at right is of Frank and Joan from a 1981 LA Times article on Mom and Pop stores.



Frank and Joan Cannarella, proprietors of the Canyon Trading Post in Chatsworth, have no intention

of expanding the business, and close up early to go to local square dances or swap meets.

Judy Graeme



# Chatsworth Lake Market

- Marco Bogash leased the store for a time, followed by Kent Randall in 1986.
- Vinod Roy purchased the store in 1990, and eventually the land in 1999.



Chatsworth Lake Market 1980's

# Lenny's Smokehouse

- Built in 1966
- 1970's **Hillbilly Haven** – Biker Bar, two pool tables, beer and Harleys.
- 1980's **The Acorn** owned by Gerry Miller – gourmet restaurant.
- 2001 **Eagle Bar and Grill**
- 2004 **Le Petite Chic** owner Kathi Bakshi Tea Room.
- 2005 **Burgundy Creek**
- 2012 **Lenny's Smokehouse** owner Lenny Bent also runs a gourmet production catering company for the film and television industry.



23360 Lake Manor Drive - 2014



# The Silver Dollar Saloon

- Right across the street from Lenny's at the corner of Thompson was The Silver Dollar Saloon.
- Built in 1952, It was the Silver Dollar Saloon during the early 70's. Residents remember a pool table there.
- In 1996 it was Norville Paschal's Saw Sharpening Shack in the back, with his wife Sharon's Lake Manor Gallery in the front.



Front Entrance



# Fire Station 75

- Los Angeles County Fire Station 75 has been at Lake Manor since 1968-9, occupying an eight room converted house at 23310 Lake Manor Drive.
- The station was almost closed in 1991, but was saved in part because of the efforts of local residents.
- The nine firefighters have one Fire Engine and a Patrol truck, and cover Lake Manor, Twin Lakes, and Indian Springs areas.
- Ventura County and Los Angeles City Fire help out with "automatic aid" for any large incidents.





# Fire Station 75 History

- In 1934 the Twin Lakes Park Company granted conditional use of their land to the LA County Forestry Department for the purposes of fire prevention and suppression.
- Fire Station 75 operated the station located at 21880 Mayan Drive from 1935 to 1967.
- The construction of the 118 Freeway required a move to a new location.



The photo above is circa 1934. The sign reads "LA County Forestry Dept. Chatsworth Patrol Station Soledad Division". This photo may be off of Topanga before the Mayan Drive location.

# Fire Station 75 History

- A 1940 Topo Map of Chatsworth. Each small square or dot represents a house.
- Fire Station 75, located at 21880 Mayan Drive is identified as the solid square within the red circle.
- The “flat” area to the southwest of the station is where the Iverson Ranch Western town movie sets were located. Today it is the Indian Hills Mobile Home park.





# Fire Station 75 History

These 1937 photos from the LA County Fire Department Photo Archives show the Mayan Road location.

The picture to the right is looking south; Stoney Point is behind the water tower.



# Fire Station 75 History – The Grizzly Bear

- Stacy Poitras, a local chainsaw artist, carved the Grizzly Bear that is currently in front of the Fire Station.
- He carved the bear while creating chainsaw sculptures at the Log Cabin Mercantile around 1998.
- The Bear was moved from the Log Cabin to the Fire Station around 2008.
- In 2012 a 10 episode reality TV show “Chainsaw Gang” was created by Country Music TV featuring Stacy and other local artists.





# Closing Thoughts

We found this photo and poem in Bob Wood's Dec 1992 Lake Times newsletter. The photo was provided by Charles Rose, who acquired it when he bought his home in 1951 and believes it was taken in the 1930's. The home is on Hazel Ct. and overlooked Chatsworth Lake.

- On the back of the photo this poem was barely legible:

*"Here we will be rich  
The fool's esteem you ponder  
You'll rule a plot  
Which Kings can never buy --  
The glory of the eve  
Is at your door and  
All those quiet stars  
Are in your sky"*



Sunrise at  
Chatsworth  
Lake Manor



Lorrie Lussier-  
Lawrence 2014  
Facebook post

9/16/2014

Chatsworth Historical Society - Chatsworth Lake Manor

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