Chatsworth Celebrities - Julius Fried (pronounced "Freed")



1910-06-12 Photo from a Lakeview Gusher article Los Angeles Times



Fried Citrus Ranch 11110 Canoga, circa 1922

Words at top of photo:
"Fruit trees planted by Reuben Ahlstrom on ranch
north of Devonshire at the end of Canoga Avenue..."



Julius Fried with his borzois, holding a goat, on his ranch in Chatsworth



NOT the inventor of Orange Julius

Presentation Overview

This presentation will cover the following topics:

- Julius Fried (pronounced "Freed") (1872-1958) was born in Healdsburg, Sonoma, CA. His father Heinrich was born in 1831 in Bavaria and immigrated to California in 1849 during the gold rush.
- Early Career: Worked in the Coalinga California oilfields from 1901 to 1905, then pursued other oil ventures.
- Lakeview Gusher (1910–1911): In 1909, Fried purchased land in Kern County and formed the Lakeview Oil Company. Before the well struck oil in 1910, Julius sold 51% of the company to Union Oil; On March 15, 1910, the Lakeview #1 well, drilled to 2,265 feet, erupted, producing 9 million barrels over eighteen months, the largest oil gusher in U.S. history. Julius was instantly wealthy.
- William W. Orcutt, geologist of Union Oil (of Orcutt Ranch on Reseda in Canoga Park), became the president of Lakeview Oil.
- Chatsworth Citrus Ranch (1922): Julius and Dorothy purchased a 50-acre citrus ranch at the north end of Canoga in Chatsworth, Los Angeles County. Managed by Harry Misumi (1930s) and later the Vargas family (late 1940s–1962). The property was sold in 1962 and later subdivided. The Vargas family ran a produce stand at Tulsa and Topanga.
- Archaeological Discovery (1939): A Southwest Museum excavation on Fried's Chatsworth citrus ranch found evidence of Prehistoric Native American presence.
- Post-gusher, Julius and Dorothy lived in Santa Monica, then Beverly Hills. They regularly visited the Chatsworth ranch.
- Orange Julius Clarification: Lakeview Gusher Julius Fried did not invent Orange Julius, it was created by Butte Montana Julius Fried. They both lived in Los Angeles at the same time. A fun story in our Sept 2020 newsletter.

This presentation will be posted at our website, chatsworthhistory.com, Digital Archives, Presentations.

March 15, 1910 Lakeview Gusher

Timeline (from articles in this presentation, referenced):

1908-05 Parker Barrett and John Dunn locate 340 acres in Section 25-12, southwest of Bakersfield (1910-06-12 Big Winners)

1908-06 Julius Fried agrees to finance the development of the property and acquired an interest in all of their holdings. (1910-06-12 Big Winners)

1908-11 - Drilling begins (1910-08 Sunset Magazine Calif. Black Gold pg 176 and 1910-03-18 Biggest Yet)

1909-06 A.E. Hodgkinson purchases an interest in the land holdings. (1910-06-12 Big Winners) Other investors are FP Wells, G. Safford, Dr. White and C. Leonardt (1910-03-18 Biggest Yet)

1909-08 Stockholders spent \$70,000 getting down 1,900 ft, ran out of funds. Union Oil buys 51% of Lakeview Oil Stock and keeps drilling. (Union Oil wanted the land for a pumping station) (1910-03-18 Biggest yet)

1910-03-15 The Lakeview #1 Gusher Hits! The well had reached a depth of 2,200 ft, but headquarters gives orders to stop drilling, and to perforate the casing at the first stratum of oil sand. Drillers disregard the order and drill another 65 ft. (1910-08 Sunset Magazine Calif. Black Gold pg 177, 1910-06-12 Big Winners, 1910-03-18 Biggest yet)

Tremendous Oil Gusher in the Sunset Field. Thirty Thousand Barrels I. Estimated Flow. Well Has a History That Is Somewhat Unique. BAKERSFIELD. March 17.-The Lakeview Oil Company's well, No. on Section 25, 12-24 in the Sunset field which began operations at 8 o'clock Monday night by blowing the baler into the crown block, flowed 24,000 barrels of 21 gravity oil the first twenty four hours, and then, with a subterranean explosion sending up a shower of rocks that filled the derrick with sparks and tore away the crown block and the lodged baler altogether, it be-

of the State, wresting the palm from the spectacular Mays gusher of North Midway, which flowed at a tremendous rate on two days, but only for short periods each time. The Mays well is still sanded up after its last perbarrels a day. formance, but the Lakeview is increas-

ing its flow, and is rapidly clearing itself of sand. _

of 30,000 or 32,000 barrels.

gan flowing 19 gravity oil at the rate

The new well is easily the premier

Lakeview Oil Company's well No. 1 on Section 25, Sunset field that is flowing at the rate of 30,000

"Lakeview is Biggest Yet" 1910-03-18 **LATimes**

(three days after the Lakeview Gusher hits)

Directors of the company believe that when the shower of rocks was sent up Tuesday night a new strata of oil broke into the well, which was drilled 2260 feet and was a foot in the sand when the first explosion of gas occu.red. The rocks and the sparks caused by their friction against each other and the casing drove the drillers from the well, and all hands have since been working overtime provid-

ing an outlet for the oil. Fortunately for the Lakeview the Producers' Transportation Company's pumping station is located on the Lakeview's land, and two four-inch pumps now are forcing oil through four-inch pipe lines from the sumps to the Transportation Company's two \$5,000-barrel tanks. These are not nearly sufficient, however, and a six-inch pump and a six-inch line are being placed in commission, and arrangements are being made to construct a million-barrel earthen reservoir.

The history of the company is full of interest. It was organized a year ago last November by Charles F. Off, R. D. Wade and F. E. Dunlap, all of Los Angeles, and a lease of 340 acres in section 25, 12-24 was secured from Julius Fried and Barrett & Dunn. The stockholders of the Lakeview spent \$70,000 in getting down 1900 feet, and were financially at the end of their re-

Last August the Union Oil Company decided that the Lakeview's land was the logical location for the Producers' Transportation Company's pumping station, and the Lakeview officers were glad to gain the Union's assistance in development by selling the big comrany half of the Lakeview's stock.

Even then the big gusher was in some respects an accident. Only a few days before it came in a consultation was held and it was decided to stop drilling, on account of the fear of encountering water, and perforate the casing to secure the oil from two sand strata passed higher up. Before the order was communicated to the drillers, however, they had drilled fortyseven feet deeper and uncovered the sand. They were sending the baler into the sand when the rush of gas caught it and hurled it into the crown

Lakeview beside those named are F. P. Wells of Buffalo, Gearge Safford, Dr. Leonardt of Los Angeles.

On Section 34 the Lakeview is down 1163 feet with a ten-inch casing in No. 3, on Section 30, No. 2 is down 1400 feet with a twelve and one-half-inch casing, and three other wells are in course of drilling.

Big Winners from Unequaled Spouter - Lakeview Gusher

Quote from the article at right:

"At this time Messrs. Fried, Dunn, Barrett and Hodgkinson own the land on which the Lakeview well is located, Mr. Fried holding five-eighths and the other men one-eighth each. By the terms of the lease they receive a one-sixth royalty on all the oil produced by the Lakeview Oil Company, and are enjoying themselves on the shady side of Broadway. All, naturally, are great believers in the future of California's oil industry and are interested in many properties which will be developed.

Julius Fried, who has profited in a larger measure from the Lakeview gusher than any of the others, because of his large holdings, is a native son having been born in Sonoma County, California, in 1875. He was educated in the common schools of Healdsburg and took a course in a San Francisco business college. After serving as assistant cashier of a bank in Healdsburg for four years, young Fried went to San Francisco, bought a seat on the stock exchange and later organized several oil companies. In this line of endeavor he was successful, and it was a natural sequence of environment for him to join the oil men who located the property that produced the world's greatest gusher. Mr. Fried is unmarried and makes his headquarters at the Sierra Madre Club."

1910-06-12 Big Winners Los Angeles Times



OIL - article on Julius Fried

Quotes from the article at right:

"The story of the Lakeview gusher, the greatest well ever drilled in the world, is indicative of the "slip betwixt the cup and the lip" in the oil fields. It also shows that the world will always step aside for the man who understands his business and knows whither he is going."

"The details of the drilling of this well are interesting mainly because of the number of people who got "cold feet" before it was completed. One after another quit, but Fried stayed with it. Finally, when funds ran low, the Union Oil Company was induced to complete the well for a majority of the stock then issued."

"The drilling of the Lakeview gusher started other developments so that today the Midway-Sunset has more sensational wells than any other district in the world."

OIL

Three years ago two young men walked over the Sunset-Midway oil field. These young men had notions. After carefully studying the geology of the district and the old wells then operating at a small profit, they came to the conclusion that the oil formation ran from the hills out into the flat and that this flat would, because of the formation, yield oil in larger quantities. Their opinions were derided by the older operators who, according to these young men, had got "in a rut". For two years they tried to interest capital and failed. The panic came on and the writer of this little sketch (who was one of these young men) got "cold feet" and quit. The other young man, already a successful oil operator, stuck, and stuck hard. He went ahead and took up more land from the Government, moved up rigs and protected the titles. That man is Julius Fried of Los Angeles, and today his income is between \$2000 and \$3000 per day!

The story of the Lakeview gusher, the greatest well ever drilled in the world, is indicative of the "slip betwixt the cup and the lip" in the oil fields. It also shows that the world will always step aside for the man who understands his business and knows whither he is going.

When the Lakeview property was staked out it looked to many like "wild cat". The land had laid practically unnoticed for years, a waste of sand and sage brush. To Julius Fried it looked like proven property. The day the stakes were driven an old operator smilingly asked of Fried if he was going to build a summer cottage out there. If so, he would have a fine view of the lake. (The thermometer goes to 120 in the summer time and a small lake is a mile or so below). To which Fried replied, "Sure, and I guess I'll name it the "Lake-view"." Today the summer cottage location has one well, the great gusher, that flows 40,000 barrels of crude oil per day. Oil sells at 60e per barrel and the prospective cottager's royalty interest alone is about \$2000 per day.

The details of the drilling of this well are interesting mainly because of the number of people who got "cold feet" before it was completed. One after another quit, but Fried stayed with it. Finally, when funds ran low, the Union Oil Company was induced to complete the well for a majority of the stock then issued.

To the northwest of the "Lake-view" is a section of 640 acres. All this was neglected (almost despised) Government land and was located under the oil and mining laws. That section is today worth at least \$5,000,000, and it hasn't a producing well on it.

Below this section is a fraction of 112 acres. This was located in a spare moment as something it might be worth while to file upon. Last week 56 acres of this fraction was sold for \$70,000 cash!

The drilling of the Lakeview gusher started other developments so that today the Midway-Sunset has more sensational wells than any other district in the world. Naturally, there has been and there still is a great scramble for land. The papers are full of oil news and the advertisements of new oil companies. One day last week one company sold \$9000 worth of stock through a single advertisement; and here comes the danger.

Unquestionably a large number of good oil wells will be drilled in the next year. But it is hardly possible that all the new companies can "make investors rich". One Los Angeles paper refuses to take the advertisements of any oil company not yet on a revenue-producing basis. This, the writer believes, is unfair. Generally when a company is on a revenue-producing basis the stock is not advertised. It is also true that many companies advertising stock for sale and just starting are properly organized and located on good land. In fact, the writer hardly sees how a newspaper can justly refuse oil stock advertisements because the newspaper generally is not capable of judging this form of investment.

It's up to the investor to "look before he leaps." Some will make a great deal of money but some others are almost certain to lose. While the oil business is one of the greatest and most profitable in the state, nevertheless an investor is not justified in "taking a flyer" any more than in any other business. "Taking a flyer" generally means going into something that you know nothing about.

If you contemplate investing in oil, be sure of several things; if you can't be sure of them—stay out. Be sure of the men in charge; of the capitalization and promotion stock; of the locality of the land.

An investor can always get this information. Hunt up several oil men who have been successful in the field. You are certain to have your enquiries answered to the best of their ability. If opinions differ too radically, go up to the property and look it over. The chances are your conservatism will be strengthened. As you cannot be an expert judge of the property (unless an operator) the main thing is to be sure of the men at the helm.

Not many of us can be a Julius Fried; such a well as the Lake-view gusher may never again be drilled. But all of us can have a bit of common sense, and if you should have this backed up with capital it cannot be gainsaid that, should you invest in the oil business, you are practically certain of good profits. It is the 'Oh, I'll just take a flyer' man who drops his bank roll.

1910-04-11 OIL
The Pomona Daily Review

California's Black Gold - The Romance of the Oil Gushers By Walter V. Woehlke

Quote from the 15-page Sunset Magazine article at right:

"Fried was the man with the money -- the angel with the needed supply of manna. Locating a claim in the arid sagebrush plain is no child's play; but compared with the effort required to locate the cash for its development it is a soft snap, a task no harder than lying in a shady hammock with the lemonade within reach of the right hand.

Fried could supply the sinews of war, having gathered them in the Coalinga oil field during an up-and-down career of eight years. He had entered the oil business through the doors of the San Francisco stock exchange in 1900, leaving railroad employment to invest his savings in petroleum shares during the first boom, with such success that he opened a brokerage office which left him as bare as a burnt-over hillside when the bubble burst.

Nevertheless he stuck to the business and won out, and the same determination that induced him to stay in the oil business after the bottom had dropped out of it, helped him to become the father of the Lakeview gusher."

1910-08 Sunset Magazine California's Black Gold pg 176



A pumping station in an established field

sides and brows of the heights. The hills and cañons were then considered the only promising territory. The gentle, gradual slope leading to the valley's broad floor was thought to be barren, dry territory. Had not this ground been proved worthless by the dry 700-foot well on fractional section 25, so worthless that M. C. Platz, the city attorney of Bakersfield, was able to buy the land upon which the dry well had been drilled at a sheriff's sale for five dollars, allowing his chance five-dollar investment to go to waste?

Just as a flyer, Barrett and Dunn stuck up their location notices on the ground abandoned years ago by the McCutchen brothers and began to do a little assessment work in their spare hours. One day a stranger from the Coalinga oil field, Julius Fried, drifted in, looked over the ground, considered the indications worth while and joined the locators.

Fried was the man with the money-the angel with the needed supply of manna, Locating a claim in the arid sagebrush plain is no child's play; but compared with the effort required to locate the cash for its development it is a soft snap, a task no harder than lying in a shady hammock with the lemonade within reach of the right hand. Fried could supply the sinews of war, having gathered them in the Coalinga oil field during an up-and-down career of eight years. He had entered the oil business through the doors of the San Francisco stock exchange in 1900, leaving railroad employment to invest his savings in petroleum shares during the first boom, with such success that he opened a brokerage office

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For a one-sixth share of the expected production, the locators, Barrett, Dunn and Fried, leased the land to the Lakeview Oil Company, organized by Fried with a capital of \$100,000, the shares selling for 50 cents. Fried received 10,000 shares; like amounts were taken by G. S. Seifert of Los Angeles, the president of a trucking company, and F. P. Wells, the "oar king" of Buffalo, who was induced by Fried to help paddle the canoe of the newly organized concern. Banker Wickersham of Arizona subscribed for five thousand shares and the Santa Maria Crude Oil Company, having no more use for its machinery in the Santa Maria field, where it had failed to strike the pay sand, sold its equipment to the Lakeview concern for thirty thousand shares.

In the fall of 1908 Fried staked out the site for the new well and drilling began. It continued for a year and a half. It ate all the cash received from the sale of stock; it ate the proceeds of four assessments and called for more; it ate a hole into Fried's bank account when he had to make one loan after another in order to keep the Lakeview drill going, and still it insistently clamored for more cash. The operators and drillers farther up on the hills smiled at the costly efforts of the Lakeview people out "on the flat" and predicted that the Lakeview would find about as much oil as the first drillers did ten years ago. The geologist of one of the largest companies



Louding oil cars at the end of a pipe-lin

Digitized by Goo

California Historical Landmark # 485 at Lakeview Gusher Monument Site

Words on this marker:

California Historical Marker

Lakeview Gusher No.1

America's most spectacular gusher blew in here on March 14, 1910. Initially 18,000 barrels per day, the flow later reached an uncontrolled peak of 100,000 barrels per day, completely destroying the derrick. This Union Oil Company well between Taft and Maricopa produced nine million barrels of oil in 18 months.

Dedicated

Feb 3rd, 1952

Marker Placed by

Miocene Parler No. 228 N.D.G.W. Kern County Historical Society

Kern County Museum

State Historical Landmark No. 485



Lakeview Gusher, Petroleum Club Rd, Maricopa, CA 93252 Google Maps Dec 2023

Sign at Lakeview Gusher Monument Site

Words on the sign at right: Lakeview Gusher #1

On March 15, 1910, at a depth of 2,225 feet, Lakeview #1 blew in. Union Oil was the Producer. Flowing at an estimated rate of 18,000 barrels a day, the oil demolished the derrick. Sand covered the engine house and bunkhouses.

Men worked around the clock building a barricade of sandbags surrounding the well while teams and scrapers built 20 huge sumps covering over 60 acres. This was not only for recovery purposes, but to keep the oil from flowing into Buena Vista Lake, a source of irrigation water for Miller and Lux Farms, 8 miles away.

At its peak, the uncontrolled flow reached an estimated 90,000 barrels a day. It flowed for 544 days.



Lakeview Gusher, Petroleum Club Rd, Maricopa, CA 93252 Google Maps Dec 2009

Lakeview #1 produced an estimated 9 million barrels of oil, a record not yet equaled by any other well in California. The rescue operation recovered more that 4 million barrels, the remainder was lost.

Julius Fried, a local grocer (ed. note: Julius was an oil man), started the Lakeview Oil Company, but it was undercapitalized. Neighboring Union Oil Company agreed that for 51% of the capital stock and 4 of 7 seats on the board of directors, Union would drill the well when their crews were available, for they wanted the property as a site for storage tanks for the Producer's Pipeline then being built.

Huell Howser visits the Lakeview Gusher site

Up Next:

Huell Howser visits the Lakeview Gusher site on California's Gold, as a part of his visit to the West Kern Oil Museum in Taft, CA, on November 11, 1995.

Up next is a 6-minute clip of their visit to the Lakeview #1 Gusher site. It is available at https://youtu.be/E9Km_H20Vw

The full 27-minute visit to the West Kern Oil Museum is available at Chapman University, Oil – California's Gold (609)



Connection to William W Orcutt (Orcutt Ranch, West Hills, HCM #31)

W.W. Orcutt, geologist of the Union Oil Company, and president of the Lakeview Oil Company, stated yesterday that the great gusher on the company's property in the Midway district had completed its twenty-ninth day, and still is flowing at a rate that is undiminished.

The gusher is flowing at a minimum of 30,000 barrels a day, and the company has saved over 1 million barrels of oil.

At least 15 percent of the production has been lost through evaporation and percolation.

> 1910-04-14 Lakeview is Still Going W.W. Orcutt LATimes



ion Oil Company, and president of the Lakeview Oil Company, stated yesterday that the great gusher on the company's property in the Midway district had completed its twenty-ninth day, and still is flowing at a rate that is undiminished.

While Mr. Orcutt, in the interest of conservation, only claims that the gusher has been flowing 30,000 barrels of oil a day at a minimum, the fact remains that the company, up to the present time, has saved over 1,000,000 barrels of oil, and Mr. Orcutt says that at least 15 per cent, of the well's production has been lost through evaporation and percolation. From this it is apparent that the Lakeview gusher has spouted forth over 40,000 barrels of oil every twenty-four hours since it was brought in.

Mr. Orcutt admits that the enormous pressure of the well's flow has worn off the top of the six, eight and teninch casing, but says the twelve and a half and sixteen-inch casing still is intact. He says the casing may be cut off for a depth of 100 feet, but not

Some days ago an effort was made to control the well by the construction of an oil cushion, but this only was effective for a period of twenty-four hours. A tank was built on the ground at the top of the well and filled with oil into which the flow from the gusher was diverted. This method, Mr. Orcutt says, will be tried again on a larger scale, and on a more permanent foundation.

Some idea of the force back of the well's flow may be gained from the fact that measurements were taken one day by triangulation, showing that the highest altitude reached by the spray was 481 feet from the ground.

The Lakeview gusher might well be known as the million-dollar well, since its production for a month almost will equal that sum. It is agreed now by all well-informed oil men Lakeview is the most wonderful oil well that ever has been known in the United States. Geologist Orcutt says that wells in Baku, Russia, have been known to flow in excess of 100,000 barrels of oil a day, but nothing equal to the Lakeview's daily performance is recorded in the annals of the history of the oil industry of the United

The official sof the company are in doubt as to the exact finish of the gusher, but are hoping that it will hold out at its present production for

an indefinite time.

Connection to William W Orcutt (Orcutt Ranch, West Hills, HCM #31)

W.W. Orcutt, president of Lakeview Oil, reported that the gusher is still giving forth oil at an undiminished rate, but for the first time the well is under absolute control.

The big oil cushion at the base of the derrick is doing its work well.

Some humor in the last paragraph.....

The men employed at the Lakeview have formed the theory that the oil comes direct from China, as several Chinese coins have been picked up near the well. They intimate that these coins were ejected from the gusher along with the shark's teeth and other objects...

1910-04-27 No Let-up to Well WW Orcutt president Lakeview Oil Company The Los Angeles Times

NO LET-UP TO WELL. W. W. ORCUTT RETURNS.

W. W. Orcutt, president of the Lakeview Oil Company, returned yesterday from an over-Sunday visit to the company's property in the Sunset-Midway district. He found the famous gusher still giving forth oil at an undiminished rate, and says that for the first time the well is now under absolute control. The big oil cushon at the base of the derrick is doing its work well.

The Lakeview gusher was brought in on March 15 and, therefore, has been doing duty for forty-one days. Mr. Orcutt still estimates the flow in excess of 30,000 barrels of oil a day. From all appearances, he says, the well might keep on flowing indefinitely.

The men employed at the Lakeview have formed the theory that the oil comes direct from China, as several Chinese coins have been picked up near the well. They intimate that these coins were ejected from the gusher along with the shark's teeth and other objects.

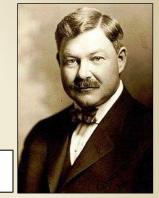
Connection to William W Orcutt (Orcutt Ranch, West Hills, HCM #31)

Orcutt Ranch was the vacation and retirement estate of <u>William Warren Orcutt</u>, an early pioneer of oil production in California and the discoverer of one of the first prehistoric skeletons at the La Brea Tar Pits.

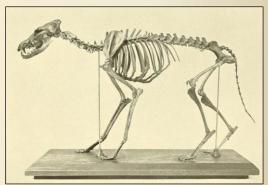
The March 25, 1910 Oil Age Weekly identifies the Lakeview Oil Company as organized in 1908 with Julius Fried; at the present time the president of Lakeview Oil is WW Orcutt of the Union Oil Company.

Orcutt was born in Dodge County, Minnesota on February 14, 1869. His family moved west and settled in Ventura, California, when he was 12 years old. After graduating from Stanford University with a degree in geology and engineering in 1895, he was employed as a civil and hydraulic engineer and as a United States Deputy Surveyor until 1899. That year he joined the Union Oil Company of California as superintendent of its San Joaquin Valley Division; he would stay with Unocal, eventually becoming a Vice-President and a member of the board, until he retired in 1939.

Orcutt discovered fossils embedded in the asphalt deposits on the Hancock Ranch shortly after he moved to Los Angeles in 1901. Fossils found in the La Brea Tar Pits had been mentioned in the scientific literature as early as 1875, but it was not until Orcutt collected saber-toothed cat, dire wolf, ground sloth and other fossils from the site that the scientific community recognized the value of the La Brea Tar Pits in understanding the late Pleistocene fauna and flora of North America. Orcutt eventually gave his fossil collection to John Campbell Merriam of the University of California.



William Orcutt (1869-1942)



The La Brea Coyote (Canis latrans orcutti) Skeleton from the La Brea Tar Pits named after William Orcutt

Recap of Julius Fried Timeline

Julius Fried (1872-1958), born and raised in Healdsburg, Sonoma

1898 - Julius marries Maud (Mary) Gorman at the age of 25, and is working as a clerk at the railroad pass office in Oakland in the 1900 census.

1902 - The Philadelphia-San Francisco Oil company is starting on its second well in the **Coalinga Field**. Julius Fried, the company's superintendent, has also purchased 40 acres on Sec. 6. (article at right).

1908-1911 Lakeview #1 drilling begins, March 1910 the gusher hits, oil flows for 544 days, until Sept 1911.

1910 Census, May 4th. Two months after the Lakeview gusher, at the age of 37, Julius is renting at the Brunson Mansion, 347 South Grand on Bunker Hill, Los Angeles.

The residence known as the Brunson Mansion was built in the early 1880s by Judge Anson Brunson.

It was "a dark red house, large, compact, dignified, in the center of sloping lawns walled up above the level of three streets."

The house was so large it had a Bunker Hill Avenue and a Grand Avenue address, before settling on 347 South Grand as its official label.

By 1917, the automobile had come to Bunker Hill and the owners of the property at 347 South Grand decided that a two-story brick garage would be more lucrative than a hotel.



The Coalinga Field

A good deal of eastern capital is said to be going into the Coalinga field for development work. The stock of the St. Paul-Fresno Oil company is owned principally by the head officials of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads who reside at St. Paul, Minn The Philadelphia. So Francisco Oil company is also mainly owned by men of means who reside in Philadelphia, and this influx of capital, says the Hanford Journal, is going into good territory and more is certain to follow.

The St. Paul San-Francisco has purchased the rig of the Black Diamond Oil company, that operated in the Kreyenhagen district, and is having it moved onto Sec. 33, 20-14, near the old coal mine. Drilling will be begun as soon as the rig is up and ready for work, and will be done by contract. The Philadelphia-San Francisco is starting on its second well, on Sec. 36. No. 1 well is a good producer. Julius Fried, the company's superintendent, has also purchased forty acres on Sec. 6, lying between the Mercantile Crude and San Francisco Crude, and will begin operations in this proven territory.

1902-02-20 Coalinga Field LA Herald Examiner

Recap of Julius Fried Timeline

1910 - Four months after Lakeview #1 hits, Julius (age 37, who is divorced from his first wife Maud) marries Dorothy (Dot) Cramer (age 22). They travel to Monterey by train, get married, have a quiet wedding dinner at the Hotel Del Monte, and return to Los Angeles on the evening train (article upper right)

Hotel Del Monte and its Spacious Grounds, The Most Noted Resort in California, Monterey.

Stereograph Card



1913 - An entry in Who's Who (article lower right). Julius and Dot are now living at 451 S. Manhattan Place, in Los Angeles.

Julius' office is in the 1895 Byrne Bldg, northwest corner of 3rd St and Broadway, today's LA-HCM #544. (a side note, the first Orange Julius stand, owned by Butte Montana Julius Fried, opened in 1926 on Broadway and 8th St.)

1913 Julius Fried Who's Who on the Pacific Coast LOS ANGELES PEOPLE
MARRIED IN GROV

Julius Fried and Miss Dorothy G. Cramer, both of Los Angeles, took a run over to Pacific Grove yesterday afternoon at 5 p. m. in a Del Monte automobile and were quietly married at the parsonage of St. Mary's, Rev. Mr. Molony performing the ceremony in the presence of a small audience. The day chosen was a very propitious one, being the festival of St. James, the apostle.

After the ceremony the happy couple returned to the Hotel Del Monte, where they had a quiet little wedding dinner, returning to Los Angeles on the evening train.

1910-07-26 Julius and Dorothy married in Pacific Grove Monterey Daily Cypress

FRIED, Julius, Oil Operator; born, Healdsburg, Cal., 1875; his father was a Cal. pioneer. Edu.: common schools, Healdsburg; Bus. College, San Francisco. Asst. Cashier, Farmers & Mechanics Bank, Healdsburg, Cal., 4½ years; Passenger Agt., U. P. R. R., San Francisco. Went to Coalinga, Cal., oil fields, 1901, and after 4 years' activity sold his interests; organized Record Oil Co. Became interested in Midway fields, 1908. Dir., Lakeview Oil Co., until June, 1912. Club: Sierra Madre. Res.: 451 S. Manhattan Place; Office: Byrne bldg., Los Angeles, Cal

Recap of Julius Fried Timeline

1915 - Julius and Dorothy create the Comique Film Company with John E. Breman (article at right) Note: "Comique" is French for Comical.

John E. Brennan (1865-1940) became popular on vaudeville in the 1890's, and was one of the most well-known silent comedy stars of the early 1910's. He began his film career with the Kalem Film Company in **Santa Monica** in 1912 and was often teamed with actress Ruth Roland until 1915. He appeared in 150 one-reel comedies (10-12 minutes) between 1912 and 1915, filming 67 in 1913.



1915-02-16 Comique Film **Company**Los Angeles Express



Irene Boyle, John E. Brennan, Ruth Roland, and Juanita Sponsler in What the Doctor Ordered (1913)

A curious/perhaps related side story/unsolved puzzle...

John Brennan made one movie in 1916, The Devils Needle, with Norma Talmadge, released August 13th. Norma Talmadge married Joseph Schenck on October 20, 1916.

A 1916-09-27 article announces that Fatty Arbuckle will quit Keystone to form the Comique Film **Corporation** with Schenck in New York City. From 1917 to 1919, Joseph Schenck produced a series of Comique comedies starring master movie comedian Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle and featuring an apprentice, Joseph Frank "Buster" Keaton.

In 1918 Julius' draft card (at right) had him living with Dot at Santa Monica Beach at 115 Hart ave, Ocean Park, Santa Monica

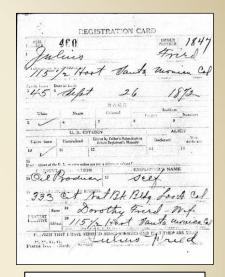
In 1922 (below) Julius is registered to vote on Canoga St in Chatsworth as a farmer, he is 50 years old. He never registered again to vote in Chatsworth, voting instead at his homes in Los Angeles.

It is surmised that with the 1922 registration he wanted to "plant the flag" so to speak on his 50 acre citrus ranch in Chatsworth.

Note: In 1922, 171 people were registered to vote in Chatsworth, including Minnie Hill and Alfred Palmer.

Flory, Mrs Cora E, hswf, Santa Susana blvd, east, R
Flory, Jacob W, crpntrng, Santa Susana st, R
Foss, Mrs Anna M, hswf, Lassen st, R
Foss, Leander A, rnchr, Lassen st, R
Fried, Julius, frmr, Canoga st, R
Frost, Mrs Anna C, hswf, Santa Susana blvd, Pro
Frost, John H, rnchr, Santa Susana blvd, R

1922 Chatsworth Voter Registration



1918-09-12 Draft Card 115 Hart Santa Monica

The photo at right was donated by the Ahlstrom family. Reuben Ahlstrom (a descendant of the Johnson homesteading family), lived on the southwest corner of Lassen and Topanga in 1920, that included the Graves/Hill Store area.

Reuben was 37 years old in 1922.

The trees were planted symmetrically on the 10-acre plot below the 2-story house.

Based on the mature eucalyptus trees planted west of the house, we assume that the house was built by someone else earlier, and Julius purchased the property as an investment /vacation home.

Fried Citrus Ranch, 11110 Canoga, circa 1922 Looking north

Words at top of photo:

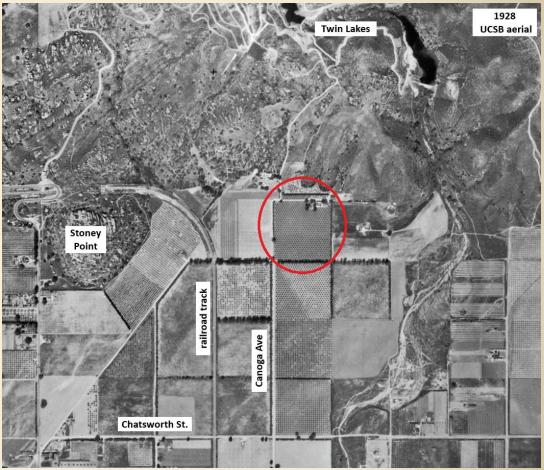
"Fruit trees planted by Reuben Ahlstrom on ranch north of Devonshire at the end of Canoga Avenue..."



The 1928 aerial at right is the earliest aerial of the Fried Ranch (circled in red), 6 years after the photo below.

Notice Julius could drive north on Canoga to Twin Lakes and Deerlake Highlands, which began selling lots in 1927. The Mayan road entrance arch to Twin Lakes is above the hairpin turn just north west of Stoney Point. Twin Lakes & Deer Lake Highlands History





The 1934 article below right provides more information on the Julius Fried Ranch. It describes a cluster of 35 oranges on one twig, picked from a 12-year-old tree, which would calculate to a grove planted in 1922, the same (and only) year that Julius registered to vote in Chatsworth.

It also mentions that H. Misumi is the caretaker of the Fried grove, and Fried has a 50-acre citrus ranch.

The 1940 census lists Harry Misumi (63 yrs old), born in Japan, living at 11110 Canoga. His occupation is farm manager, industry is citrus groves. He lived at the same place in 1935.

Also living at 11110 Canoga is Syoki Tanaka (50), his wife Yalio (43), both born in Japan, and son Siyao (23), salesman at a vegetable market, and daughter Siyaki (19), both born in California.

Across the street in 1940, at 11105 Canoga, was Alfred and Clara Brandt, with daughter Ingrid. Ingrid would marry Ray Johnson Jr. in 1943, he was the son of Ray "Kelly" Johnson and Katharine Johnson. The Johnsons lived on today's Bee Canyon Road, and the first meeting of the Chatsworth Historical Society was held at their kitchen table.

1934-08-25 Los Angeles Times

A Tree-full in a Handful

Miss Virginia Lindeman holding cluster of thirty-five oranges picked from a twelve-year-old tree in the Julius Fried grove at Chatsworth.

FULL CRATE OF ORANGES ON ONE TWIG

Cluster of Thirty-five, All Extra, Fancy, Grown on Chatsworth Ranch

Harvesting oranges in Southern California would be easy if all trees would produce a full crate in a single cluster on one small twig, such as the one picked yesterday from a twelve-year-old tree in the grove of Julius Fried at Chatsworth. Mr. Fried, who maintains offices at 219 West Seventh street, has a fifty-acre citrus ranch in the Chatsworth district.

Each of the thirty-five oranges in the cluster was of extra fancy grade, according to H. Misumi, caretaker of the Fried grove. The cluster weighed twenty-one pounds, and hung near the end of a small branch of the tree. Misumi said that several of the older trees in the grove are bearing unusually heavy this season, and that in many instances the oranges are producing in large clusters.

Julius Fried and the Docia Conley Fig Cannery

In 1928, Julius is president of the Los Angeles Fig Cannery in Chatsworth. (article at right). The article describes that 75 tons of figs have been prepared for market in 33 days.

The story of <u>Docia Conley, Kadota Figs, and the Paradise Gift Shoppe</u> is told in our presentation on our website.

To summarize, in 1924, 148 acres of figs were planted at Devonshire and DeSoto by WG Loomis. In 1926, Docia and George Conley, who had been processing/canning fruit since 1908, buy a 2-acre fig farm in Chatsworth. They build The Paradise Tea Room and Gift Shoppe, and a \$10,000 preserving plant on their 2-acre property.

The \$10,000 preserving plant at the Kadota Fig Farms on Devonshire is discussed in a 1926-01-28 LA Daily News article (pg. 42 of the presentation). Julius no doubt was involved in the formation or funding of the Fig Cannery/preserving plant as President.



FIG CANNERY CLOSES RUN FOR THIS YEAR

Seventy-Five Tons Are Prepared for Shipment

The Los Angeles Fig Cannery, Chatsworth, has just completed its annual run on figs, having prepared 75 ton of figs for the market in 38 days. Forty people were employed in operating the plant which is operated entirely by electricity, steam being used in cooking.

The next few weeks are to be devoted to re-processing a large quantity of figs into candy and various other uses.

Julius Pried is president of the Los Augeles Pig Cannery, Inc., white Thomas Moore is vice president and Mrs. A. E. Hughes is assistant manager and treasurer.

A. E. Hughes is connected with the Runnymede Finance Company in charge of the sales force numbering 80 men and he predicts a great future for the Runnymede district.

> 1928-11-02 The Van Nuys News

Walker's Chatsworth Cairn Site

In January of 1939, Mrs. Julius Fried of Chatsworth called at the Southwest Museum and presented a soapstone artifact which had been unearthed by a plow at the Fried citrus ranch in Chatsworth.

A team of archaeologists and volunteers led by Edwin Walker documented and excavated artifacts over 23 days. It was called the "Chatsworth Cairn Site", and was determined to be ceremonial in nature.

The Fried Ranch was at today's northeast corner of Canoga and Celtic, 1/3 mile east of Stoney Point. Today it is single family homes built in 1980 and 1984.

The Cairn Site was in the northwest corner of the Fried 10-acre citrus orchard.

Steatite Beads
Chatsworth Cairn Site, CA-LAN-21
Autry Collection Online



Walker's Chatsworth Cairn Site

The cairns were underground, and comprised mostly of broken stone bowls and pestles, manos and metates.

Also found were atlatl points, sandstone bowls, and some fragments of cremated human bones that indicated the sites were mortuary in character.

The artifacts ranged from 1,000 B.C. to A.D. 1,000.



Left: Ceremonial sandstone bowl and pestle Right: gorget/pendant and disc-shaped object Chatsworth Cairn Site, CA-LAN-21 Autry Collection Online



Moving forward in time, in the 1940's to 1962, the Vargas family were caretakers of the Fried Ranch. Frank Vargas shared photos of Julius and Dorothy Fried at their Chatsworth Ranch, which will follow.

But first, a backstory of Frank Vargas contacting Joanne Mello, a relative of Julius Fried, and Frank also contacting Virginia Watson of the Chatsworth Historical Society.

And then, sharing the photos of Julius and Dot at the Ranch.

Followed by some history of the Vargas family in Chatsworth.

Backstory of Frank Vargas contacting Joanne Mello, a relative of Julius Fried, and also Virginia Watson of the Chatsworth Historical Society

In November 2020, we were contacted by Joanne Mello through Ancestry.com. Joanne is Julius' 1st cousin twice removed. Julius' father Heinrich Fried and Joanne's great-grandmother Margarethe Fried (md. Egli) were brother and sister. She had accumulated a large file of research material on Julius and Dorothy, including their probate files. Joanne mailed her research material to us for our use in telling this story.

In 2005, Joanne corresponded with Frank Vargas, who grew up on the estate of Julius Fried in Chatsworth.

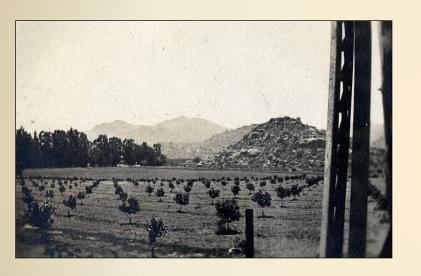
In 2010, Frank Vargas contacted Virginia Watson of the Chatsworth Historical Society, and shared photos and stories of the Fried Ranch. Ann Vincent corresponded with Frank to gather slides to produce the best copies available.

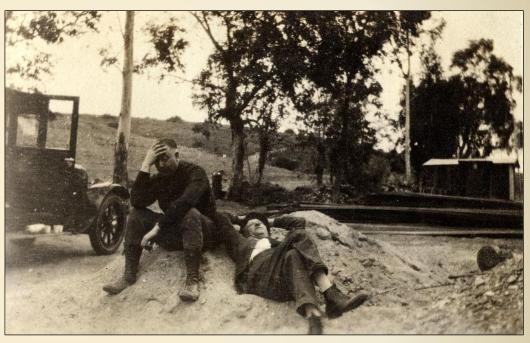




2-story house, looking east

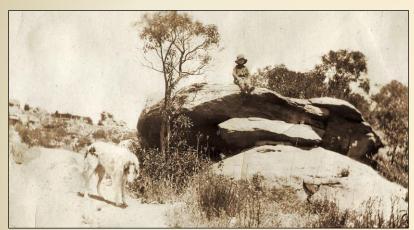
Ranch and house looking north





Stoney point looking west

Julius and friend resting on a pile of dirt



Niece with Borzoi, looking north to Twin Lakes (see house at top of hill)



Julius and Dot cooking outdoors



One-story house with borzoi and small goat



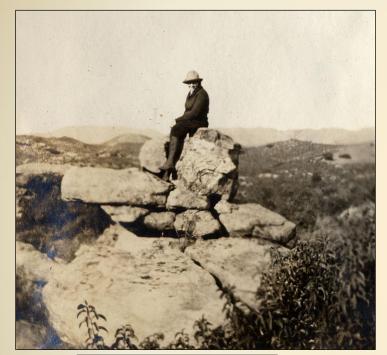
One-story house with snow
The one-story house was east of the two-story house

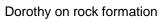


Julius with two other men and borzoi



Frank Vargas created this logo in 2011, with some help from a friend Dana







road to house, looking east barn in back



Canoga snow on the mountains looking north



Canoga view of ranch and house snow on mountains

Looking north



south-facing side of one-story house east of two-story house shed and barn beyond with snow



south-facing side of one-story house Dorothy with borzoi. Trees around house are bigger

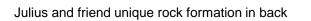




trees facing south maybe from 2story house

Julius, Dorothy in wheelbarrow







prone gunman pumpkins shed or barn in back





Julius in barn with goats

Julius holding goat with borzois



View west Stoney Point



Thumbnail index

The Vargas Family in Chatsworth

Frank Vargas told us that his grandparents, Martin and Barbara Velasquez, were caretakers of the ranch in the late 40's to 1962. They were one of the executors of the estate. Mrs. Fried paid cash for the house they moved into near Devonshire and Jordan when they had to relocate. (Note: Julius passed in 1958 at the age of 86, Dorothy passed in 1966 at the age of 78.)

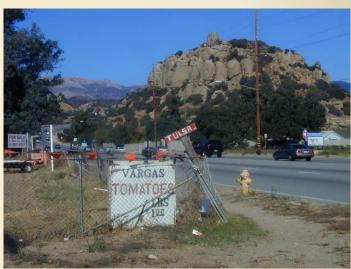
We remember the Vargas family for the produce stand they had on the northwest corner of Tulsa and Devonshire.



1984 Joe Vargas and Joe Vargas Jr.







2003 The Vargas Produce Stand on NW corner of Tulsa and Topanga, before subdivision

The Vargas Family in Chatsworth

The 2008 article below interviews Joe Vargas Jr., the last member of the Vargas family operating the Chatsworth farm his grandfather Valentine Vargas founded in 1937.

Their family farm once encompassed 200 acres and employed 200 pickers.

"I'm a one-man farm now", Joe says, down to working a couple of acres surrounding the stand. "I plant it, I weed it, and I harvest it."

Family farm without a future

alentine Vargas loved two things in life above all others - his family So, it didn't particularly sur-

prise anyone in the family when the patriarch decided to take his 1-month-old grandson, Joe, out into the fields with him every morning.

"He'd put me in a tomato box, and set me down in the shade while he and my father picked the crops," the baby says - 60 years later.

"It was 1940, right around the time my family was starting to make a lot of money farming in the Valley after

years. I think my grandfather and father thought l was their charm.

DENNIS McCARTHY and wanted me close by." Joe Vargas smiles as he says these words, but there is a sad-

ness in his eyes. The former baby of one of the oldest farming families in the San Fernando Valley -



Joe Vargas may be the last member of his family to operate the Chatsworth farm his grandfather founded in 1937.

dving business.

He takes no one into the fields with him when he farms today - not a son, not a How can you ask your chil-

dren to carry on the family legacy when you know in your heart they'll never be able to make a living at farming in the Valley anymore? Joe asks. You can't.

"So, I'm the last one," he says Wednesday, sitting behind a rundown fruit and vegetable stand on Topanga Canyon Boulevard in Chatsworth - a stand that once thrived selling the crops of a family farm that encompassed 200 acres and employed 200 pickers.

"I'm a one-man farm now," Joe says, down to working a couple of acres surrounding the stand. "I plant it, I weed it and I harvest it."

An old buckboard out front has a weather-beaten sign on it that reads, "Vargas Fresh Picked Strawberries," but there were none this year.

Joe would have had to plant them last October to have a crop, but he was too busy helping his brothers and mother care for his dad, Joe Sr., who died in December at

It was the first time in 25 years the Vargas family didn't have a crop of strawberries for local schoolkids to pick, Joe

Over at Metamorphosis Pre-School & Kindergarten, down the block from the stand, that visit to the Vargas farm was missed.

"Joe has always gone out of his way to make sure our kids took field trips to pick strawberries and pumpkins, or take hay rides," said teacher Sandra Franz.

"The kids always looked forward to it, and missed it this year.'

With the Valley's rich agricultural heritage now just a memory, the Vargas family is one of the last holdouts, still farming in small plots here and there, says Glenn Thornhill of the San Fernando Vallev Historical Society.

"Farming and ranching were so important to the growth of this Valley, and soon, it's all going to be gone, covered up by housing," he said. "It's so sad to see."

Sad, ves, but inevitable, Joe Vargas says, getting ready to close down his stand by noon Wednesday because he promised to take his grandkids to Chuck E. Cheese's for a pizza

It didn't matter much. though. In the hour we talked, not one customer stopped by for any fruits or vegetables.

"My father used to say you can't fight progress, and he was right, you can't," Joe says. "By 1960, we had sold off most of our land, California is becoming all homes now, just look at what's happening in Oxnard."

Developers may be able to cover the land that once fed this country, but they can't cover the memories in the ground under those homes, Joe says.

No one can ever take that away from the Vargas family

"I can still remember as a little boy watching my grandmother and mother helping pick the fruits and vegetables, and taking them over to the train station on the corner of where Sherman Way and Canoga Avenue is today," Joe

"The Vargas Bros. Farm helped feed the war effort during World War II. Our tomatoes, carrots, cantaloupes and other produce was shipped up to San Francisco, then sent overseas."



Third-generation farmer and Valley resident Joe Vargas, then 17, poses with his family farm's truck in this 1957 photo

And no amount of homes can cover the fields the family sat in after a long, hard day, listening to Valentine Vargas tell the story of how he rode out of Mexico on horseback as a young man in 1900, and wound up in this place called the San Fernando Valley as a farm laborer.

How through the 1920s and most of the '30s, he and his sons worked other people's land, until they could afford to Friday and Sunday.

buy their own stake of farm-

How, while he worked, he used to put his 1-month-old grandson, Joe, in a tomato box under a shade tree because he wanted to be near the two things he loved most

His family and farming

Dennis McCarthy's column appears Tuesday, Thursday,

2008-08-31 Daily News

Places Julius and Dorothy lived in Los Angeles

1920's - 115 Hart ave Ocean Park, Santa Monica

1930's - 729 South Hobart, Wilshire district

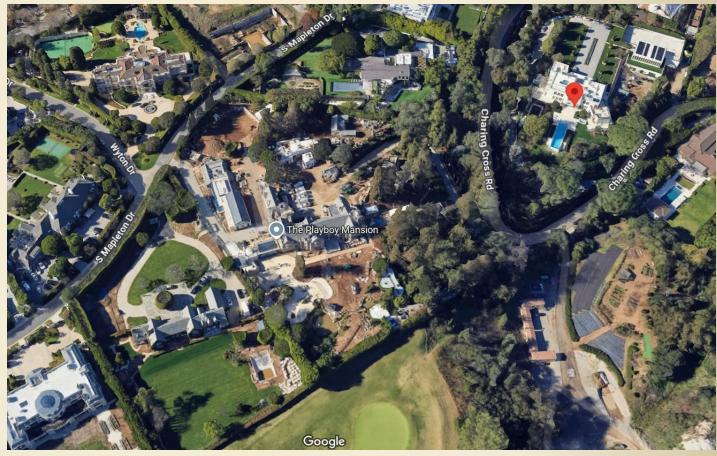
1940's - 120 South June St., Hancock Park

1950's - 10231 Charing Cross Rd., Beverly Hills

2025 Google Maps

10231 Charing Cross Rd (red arrow)

Next door to what would be the Playboy Mansion in 1971, at 10236 Charing Cross Rd.



There were two Julius Frieds in Los Angeles at the same time

Orange Julius Clarification: Lakeview Gusher Julius Fried did not invent Orange Julius, it was created by Butte Montana Julius Fried. They both lived in Los Angeles at the same time. A fun story in our Sept 2020 newsletter.

Orange Julius, a very popular citrus drink in the 60's & 70's (when I was a teenager), was founded in 1926 as the "General Citrus Stores Company". In 1929 the name of the company was changed to "Orange Julius, Ltd". Those documents, obtained from the Los Angeles Natural History Museum Seaver Center, identify Julius Fried as 2/3 owner, and Williard (Bill) Hamlin as 1/3 owner. There have been many articles written about Orange Julius, mostly from the perspective of Hamlin.

In Hamlin's 1987 obituary, the story is told that Hamlin became involved in the Orange Julius business in 1926 after Julius Fried asked him to help find a site to sell freshly squeezed orange juice. The first store was located in downtown Los Angeles on Broadway and 8th. Hamlin suggested an additive to the juice, including crushed ice, syrup and a still secret powder of pure food products.

Within three years the company had stands nationwide, and Hamlin later bought out Julius Fried. Hamlin retired in 1967, and had seen his innovation grow from a downtown Los Angeles lunch counter into an international network of 700 red-and-white stands in eight countries and territories around the world. That year he sold his business to International Industries/Dairy Queen.

The 1967 telephone book has two listed in Canoga Park, at 6819 Topanga Canyon (across from Canoga Park High), and one at 6600 Topanga Canyon, in Topanga Plaza.

1957 Orange Julius Franchise literature



Fried Millions willed to Relatives, Charities

Property worth several million dollars was placed in trust for his widow, Dorothy Fried, his two nieces, and charitable purposes.

Half of the funds went to Dorothy Fried of 10231 Charing Cross Road.

From the second half of the remainder, Fried established a \$600,000 trust for his nieces, Edna Roseborough and Gladys Burtchett.

The residue of the estate is to be distributed to charities.

Edna Haigh Roseborough was the daughter of Julius' older sister Emma Fried Haigh (1864-1929)

Gladys Pond Burtchett was the daughter of Julius' older sister Frieda Fried Pond

(1862-1951)

A photo of Julius and Dorothy, from the Healdsburg

1958-11-06 Los Angeles Times

Fried Millions Willed to Relatives, Charities

Trust Funds Created for Widow, Nieces Among Bequests by Pioneer Oil Figure

million dollars was placed in children. trust by Julius Fried, pioneer oil developer, for his widow, child the property from this two nieces and charitable purposes, it was disclosed the City of Hope, 5% to the vesterday when his will was Cedars of Lebanon Hospital admitted to probate by Superior Judge Harold W. Schweitzer.

The document, dated Oct. 13, 1955, and supplemented Braille Institute of America, by a codicil signed last Aug. Inc. 22, provided for many specific bequests to relatives, friends and household em-

plovees. Half of the remainder was placed in a trust fund for the benefit of the widow, Mrs. Dorothy Fried, of 10231 Charing Cross Road, whom Fried married in 1910. The will specified that pending probate she receive \$3000-amonth family allowance.

Fund for Nieces

From the second half of portion. \$600 a month each and the strikes in California.

Property worth several income will pass to their

But the will provided that on the death of their last trust be distributed 65% to and 10% each to the Los Angeles Orthopaedic Foundation, Childrens Hospital Society of Los Angeles and

Residue of Estate

The residue of the estate, the will instructed, is to be set up into a third trust the income from which is to be divided among the charitable organizations in the same proportions. The will directed that upon the death of Mrs. Fried, her trust and the charitable trust be dissolved and the property be distributed to the organizations, also in the same pro-

the remainder, Fried di- Fried, 86, died last Oct. 9. rected establishment of a He was known as one of the \$600,000 trust for the benefit organizers of the company of the nieces. Edna Rose-which brought in the fabuborough and Gladys Burt-lous Lakeview oil gusher, chett. They are to be paid one of the earliest petroleum

Museum

In Memoriam

Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale Great Mausoleum Corridor of Covenant Distinguished Memorial sarcophagus

In the family sarcophagus are:
Julius Fried Beloved Husband 1872-1958
Dorothy Fried Loving Wife 1888-1966
Floyd F. Burtchett 1959 (nieces' husband)
Frieda Pond 1862-1951 (Julius' sister)
Don C. Roseborough 1968 (nieces' husband)

In sarcophagus B (not pictured) Edna Haigh Roseborough (1895-1983)





Photos from findagrave.com

Sources and Acknowledgements

- Dec 2012 SmokeSignal newsletter Chatsworth Early Residents....Julius Fried
- Sept 2020 SmokeSignal newsletter Which Julius Fried (pronounced Freed) founded Orange Julius?
- Stoney Point History Presentation Walker's Chatsworth Cairn Site
- Joanne Mello, Julius' 1st cousin twice removed. She contacted us via Ancestry.com, and she shared with us her research documents, including the wills of Julius and Dorothy Fried. She was corresponding with Frank Vargas in 2005.
- West Kern Oil Museum, Taft, CA www.westkernoilmuseum.org
- Vargas and Vellone Produce Stands 1988-05-07, Topanga and Tulsa, <u>LA Times</u>
- Newspapers.com
- Ancestry.com
- Prepared by Ann & Ray Vincent May 2025

Comments,

Questions?