

**Knapp Home 1912
Owensmouth St. & Cohasset Ave.**



The Knapp Family comes to Owensmouth

- Frank Knapp Senior (1875-1952), his wife Maria, and their first three children (Mary, Frank and Alfonso) immigrated from the Tyrol region of Austria to the United States, in 1903.
- There would eventually be eight siblings: six boys and two girls. By 1911 the family was established in the new community of Owensmouth, the core area of what would later become Canoga Park, in the west San Fernando Valley.
- Frank Senior was a craftsman that worked in wood, stone, concrete, and plaster, and he did a considerable amount of work, much of it artistic, in those medium in the then just-beginning modern development of the west San Fernando Valley.

1903

Maria, Frank, Maria's sister Josephina
Alfonso, Frank Jr., Mary



Frank and Maria Knapp



1916 LA Evening Express: Frank Knapp of Owensmouth Comes of Old Family of Alpine Chisel Wielders

**Swiss Wins Artists' Praise
Lauds Loved Land in Wood**

**American Aviator,
Norman Prince, Has
Plunge Near Death**

LONDON, Oct. 19.—Norman Prince, one of the American aviators with the French army, has had a narrow escape.

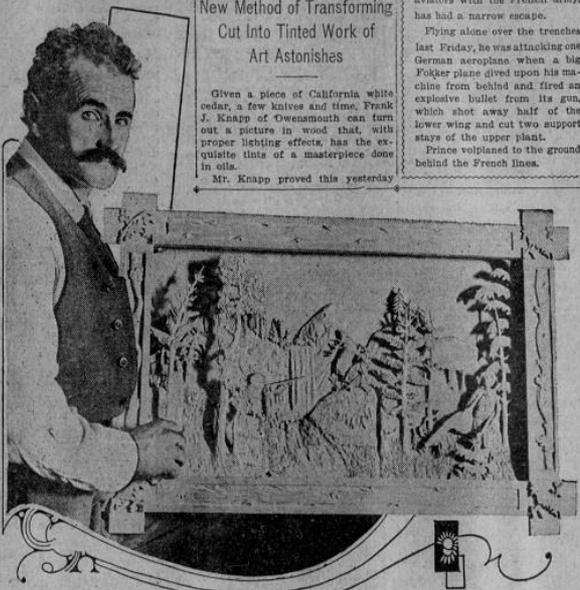
Flying alone over the trenches last Friday, he was attacking one German aeroplane when a big Fokker plane dived upon his machine from behind and fired an explosive bullet from its gun, which shot away half of the lower wing and cut two support struts of the upper plane.

Prince volplaned to the ground behind the French lines.

**New Method of Transforming
Cut Into Tinted Work of
Art Astonishes**

Given a piece of California white cedar, a few knives and time, Frank J. Knapp of Owensmouth can turn out a picture in wood that, with proper lighting effects, has the exquisite tints of a masterpiece done in oils.

Mr. Knapp proved this yesterday



Frank J. Knapp of Owensmouth, Whose Nimble Fingers Create Beautiful Images in Wood, Comes of Old Family of Alpine Chisel Wielders.

The first Knapp home in Owensmouth

German style Old World use of
stone and rock

“Whenever arriving from
Europe . . . They built their
homes from stone whenever
possible, as it was more
durable than the wood used by
the Yankees or Appalachian
people.”

Photo from 1912, the same
year that Owensmouth was
founded. Notice palm trees on
Owensmouth.



“The Castle” – the second, and better- known Knapp house

At 7511 Owensmouth,
on a .55 acre parcel,
at the northwest corner of
Cohasset and Owensmouth

Built in 1925, destroyed in
the 1994 Northridge
earthquake.

Photos of the Castle and
the statuary on the
grounds follow.....





Frank Sr. started building the Castle house around 1922, at the age of 47.

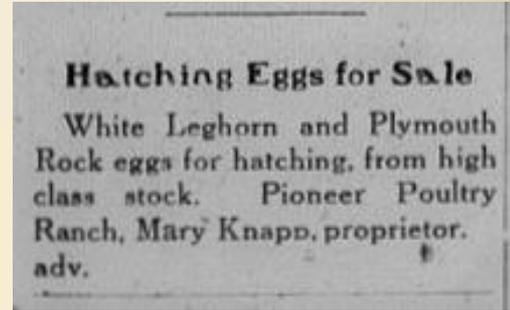
Frank Jr. was 22 years old, Alfonso 20, Fred 17, Max 15, Walter 11 and Joe 8



In 1913, Frank Knapp was awarded the contract to build sidewalks in Owensmouth
(from the "Six Years Ago Today" 1919 Owensmouth Gazette clipping (at right)

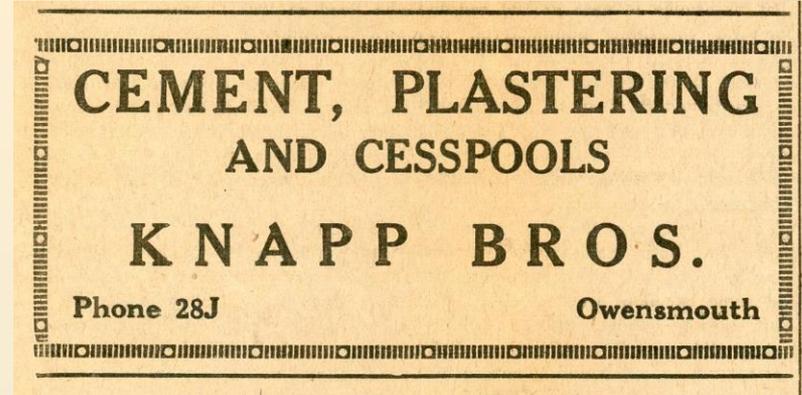


1917 Owensmouth Gazette clipping (at right) , Hatching Eggs for Sale, Maria Knapp proprietor



The 1923 Owensmouth Directory lists Frank Sr, Frank Jr, and Alfonso as cement contractors.

1925 Owensmouth Gazette clipping (at right), Knapp Bros. (Frank Jr and Alfonso) advertisement.





Frank Sr.
on the
front porch
of the
Castle





View of front pillar through front gate during construction –
View of completed home and front door below



8/7/2023

Knapp Family - Owensmouth and West Valley History

10

Early and later view of the front of the home...



8/7/2023

Knapp Family - Owensmouth and West Valley History

11

Before and after Owensmouth
street view of the home...

Notice the smaller palm trees
below...and it was a dirt road...



There was a side gate on Cohasset street, seen at right, circa 1955, including Pam and Mike Miller.

The gate led to a circular driveway, in the center of which was a statue of the “Lady on the World”, seen below. Mary Knapp Monks, Pam and Mike’s grandmother, circa 1953-54.



In 1975, a chapter of the book **Land of the West Valley**, by Laura Gaye, discussed the Knapp family. It was based on an interview Laura had with Mary Knapp Straubinger Monks, the first child of Frank and Mary Knapp.

Laura describes the Lady on the World:

“In the backyard is a large sundial which is composed of a young goddess sitting on top of the world, signs of the zodiac circle the world, a kind of plaque and pointer are held in the woman's hands, it is this object which forms the sundial.”

On the back of the world is inscribed the phrase:

***Count that day lost whose low descending sun
Views from thy hand no worthy action done***



Mary Knapp Straubinger Monks, in the circular driveway next to the Lady on the World statue.



1947
Frank and Maria
Knapp,
in the front yard of
the Castle.

Behind them
(basically at the
corner of
Owensmouth and
Cohasset) is an
arbor with a nativity
scene

Note palm trees on
Owensmouth Ave.



Tower and front walkway



backyard



Front of house

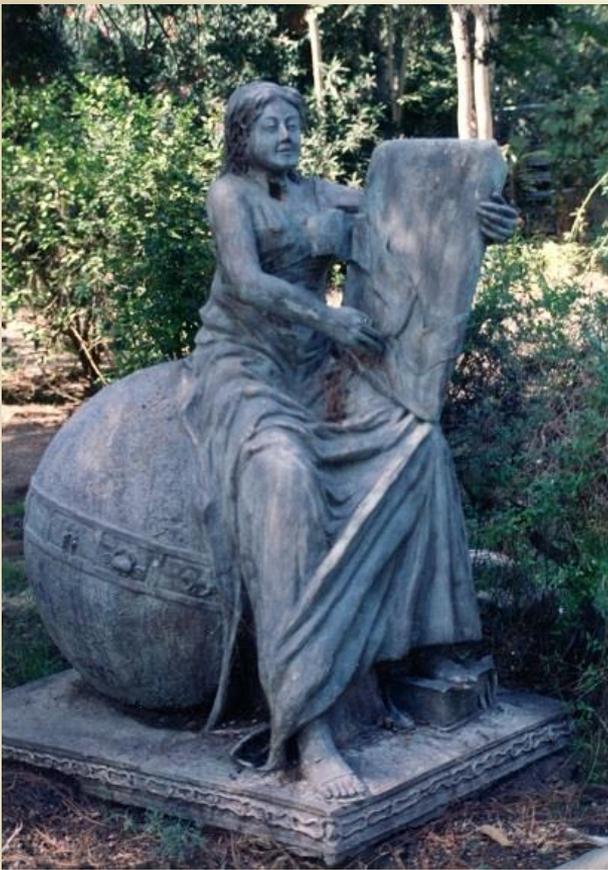


Back of studio over garage, notice palm trees on Owensmouth



Butterfly on side yard, with inlaid colored marbles and tiles, once had lights, above a small fish pond. Behind the butterfly is the Flutist and Maiden statue

Cactus path, with mission statue



Woman on the World,
in circular driveway



Monk in alcove

16-piece Nativity Scene carved by Frank Knapp from sugar pine in 1919
A 1954 newspaper article describes its display in the Canoga Park Bakery



A Nativity Scene Diorama carved from wood by Frank Knapp



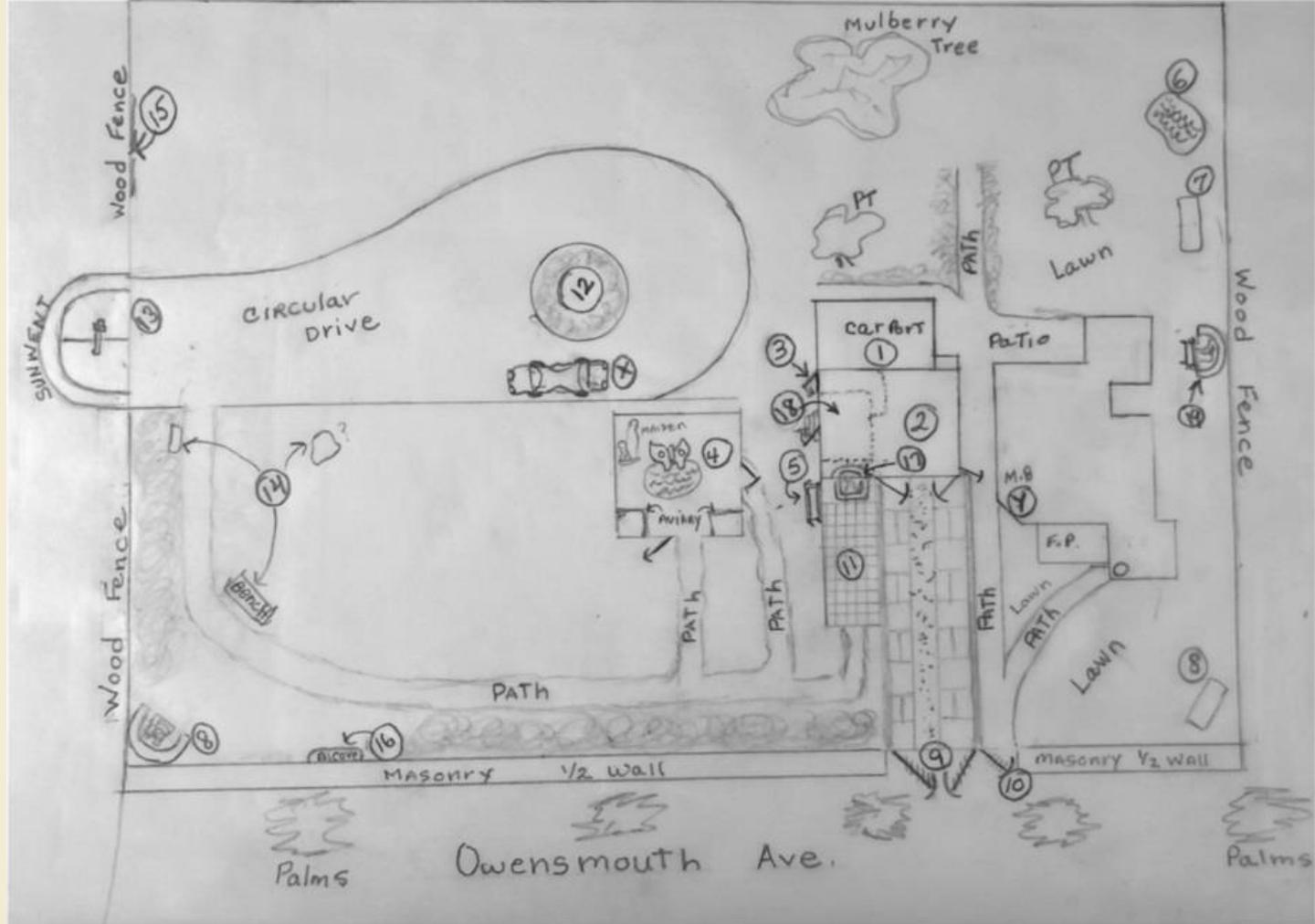


On Jan 17, 1994, the pre-dawn 6.6 magnitude Northridge Earthquake destroyed the Castle (luckily no one was injured)

Castle layout, sketch and comments by Ed Hall, pg1

1925 Castle is on right, in the middle is the foundation of the 1911-12 house

The main entrance was on Owensmouth, but there was also a circular driveway on Cohasset

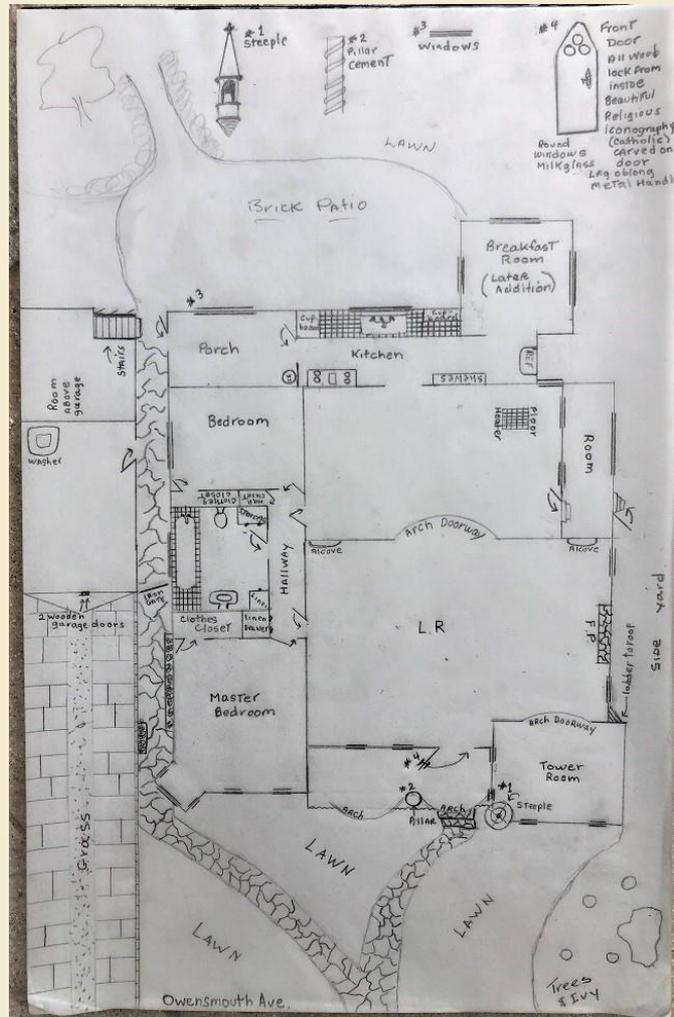


Castle layout, sketch and comments by Ed Hall, pg2

Continued comments, referencing the sketch on the previous page

- 1 Carport aka work area & bench
 - 2 Room over garage
 - 3 Door to cellar
 - 4 Butterfly sculpture & pond in skeleton of old house
 - 5 BBQ (I think built by Walter) adjacent to table. Small outdoor sink at end of grape arbor (see #11)
 - 6 A fish pond as I recall, small, no fish
 - 7 Sculptures – native American theme, I think
 - 8 Sculptures – Cohasset corner grotto sm. Nativity, Owensmouth corner, a plain grotto
 - 9 Wrought iron gates across driveway
 - 10 Wrought iron main gate (arched)
 - 11 Grape arbor (lots of hanging grapes)
 - 12 Sculpture of Lady on Globe
 - 13 Wood gate in archway with “Sunwent” in concrete on Cohasset side
 - 14 I recall a masonry bench here and possible other sculptures
 - 15 few loose boards for Ed’s special, secret ingress & egress :)
 - 16 Alcove – Monk playing violin
 - 17 Alcove – Crown of Thorns sculpture under grape arbor on back wall
 - 18 Grandfather’s creation workroom
 - 19 Grotto with Jesus praying & a kneeling bench
- X I remember Grandfather (Frank Sr.) standing here with his car parked.
Just before, my mom (Betty) said, I was NOT to go with him if he drove!
- Y Grandfather died in the Master Bedroom (1952)
- PT Pomegranate Trees

Floor Plan of the Castle,
 sketch/drawing by Pam Colao



Early work by Frank Knapp Sr. in the west San Fernando Valley includes that at the 1924 Oakwood Memorial Park Cemetery in Chatsworth, and may include the original native stone entrance



1st Mausoleum in Oakwood Cemetery

A Dec. 1926 article announced "Mayan Tomb First Mausoleum to Adorn Slopes of Oakwood"



At left, Circa 1969 photo of unfinished 1926/27 Mausoleum
At right, 1969 construction photo of “Twin Pines” Mausoleum at Oakwood,
with 1926/27 Mausoleum at upper left under an oak tree.



Frank Sr., Maria, and other members of the Knapp family
are interred at Oakwood Memorial Park



Frank Knapp's
eight children as
adults –

Left to right:
Alfonso, Max,
Fred, Walter,
Betty, Joe, Mary,
Frank Jr. in late
1960's



Contributions of Knapp Family to local history are numerous –

These include

- Betty Knapp-Hall and Bill Hall - Family ranching and construction activities at Burro Flats
- Frank Sr and Max Knapp – Statuary and construction at Orcutt Ranch Park
- Max Knapp – Stone house at Chatsworth Lake Manor
- Knapp’s Kitchen Kupboard on Sherman Way in Owensmouth/Canoga Park
- Joe Knapp construction at Quail Run Ranch in Woolsey Canyon
- Frank Jr at Dry Gulch Ranch in West Hills, and at the Frank Jr Knapp Ranch in the Angeles National Forest.

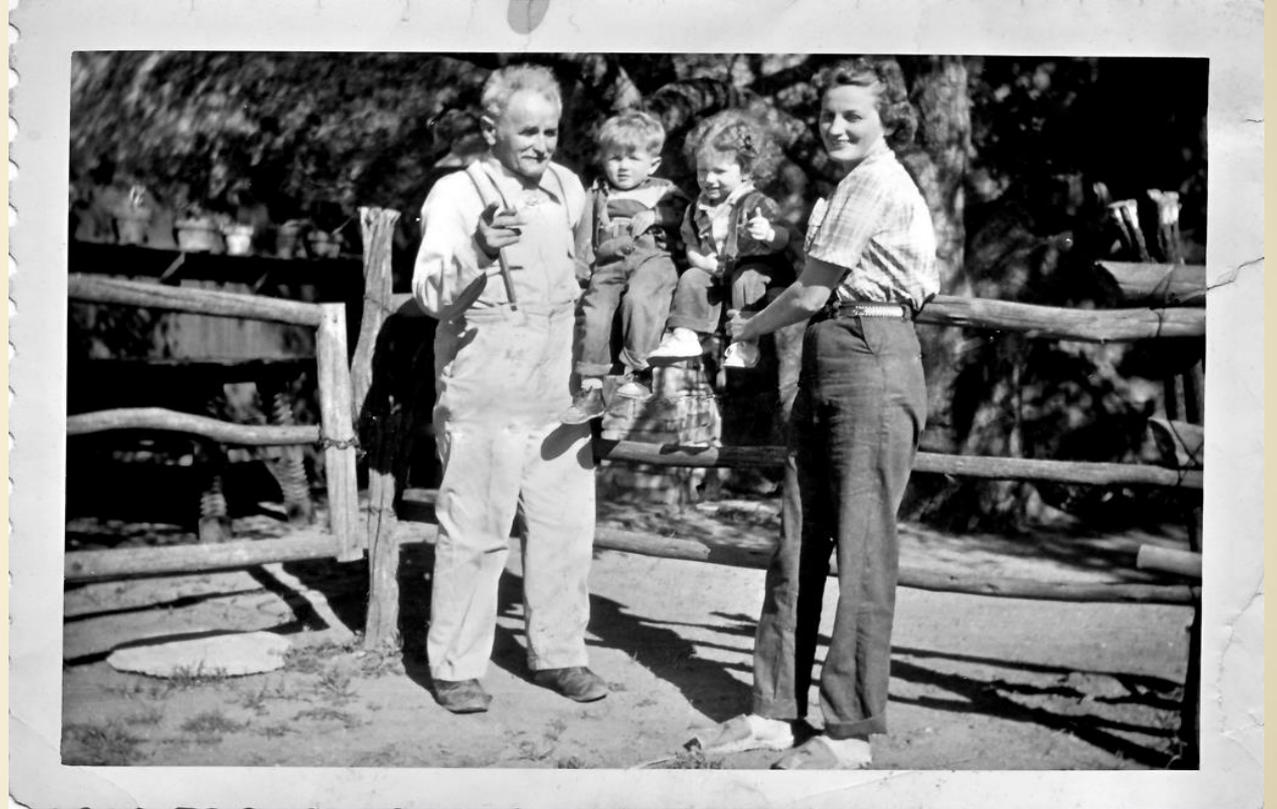
Burro Flats

- In 1939, Henry Silvernale, a 57 year old dentist in Santa Monica, his son Max and family friend Bill Hall purchased “Burro Flats”
- They purchased 1,060 acres for \$3 an acre.
- They owned Burro Flats for 15 years, until 1954, when it was sold to North American Aviation.
- Two houses were built at Burro Flats, one for the Silvernales, and one for Bill and Betty Knapp-Hall



Burro Flats

Frank Knapp Sr., Edwin
Hall, cousin Pam, and
Betty Knapp-Hall
At the cliff-house at
Burro Flats 1949



Burro Flats-
William "Bill" Hall,
Betty Knapp-Hall,
Edwin Hall,
Blue 1949



Harvesting Hay at Burro Flats
Bill Hall and Betty Knapp-Hall at left,
Edwin Hall is the child in the foreground



The Hall-Knapp cliff-House
at Burro Flats under construction



View down-canyon from the cliff-House

The Hall-Knapp house
overlooked upper Bell Canyon

And down-canyon there was
something truly wonderful . . .



Burro Flats Painted Cave

This photograph from the 1940s
is the oldest known picture of
Burro Flats Painted Cave

Courtesy of Edwin Hall,
the son of William Hall
and Betty Knapp-Hall



Burro Flats Painted Cave is listed on the National Register of Historic Places



Frank Sr. and his children were also active at several other locations in the west San Fernando Valley including Orcutt Ranch Park.

The Ranch was, they say, “built by Orcutt” (the “father of petroleum geology”), but Frank Sr. and his family were the people that did much of the construction work

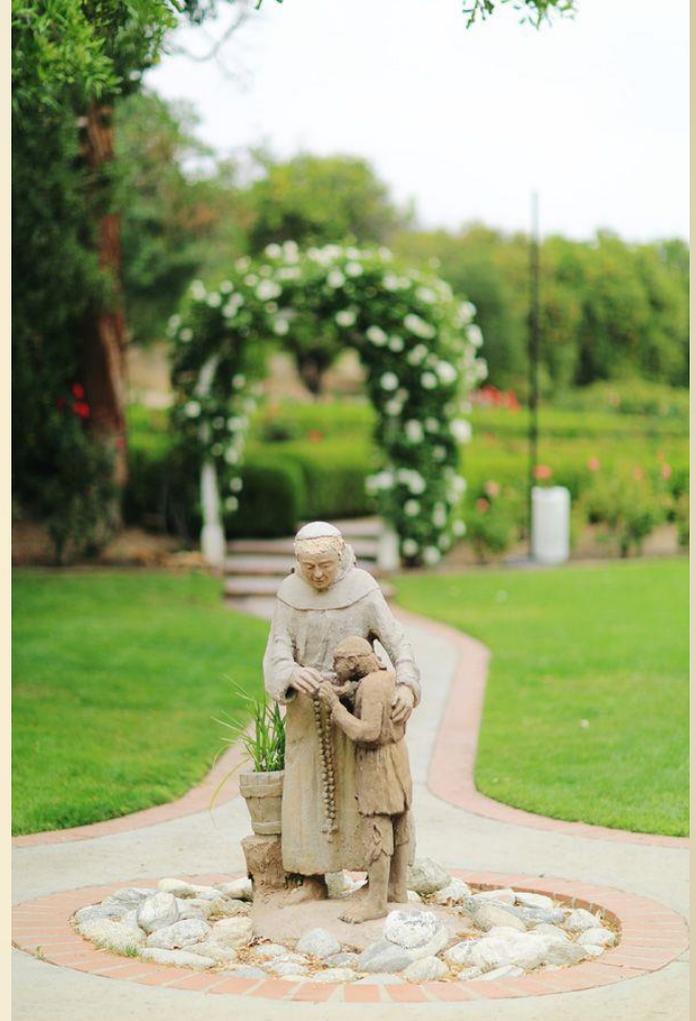
PADRE AND INDIAN IN STONE
Sculptor's Work for Girard Garden



Frank Knapp, Sr., Displays Latest
Southland Artist puts finishing touch on group designed for rustic setting. Statue five feet high shows Franciscan monk proffering drink of water to Indian lad. When set up as a fountain, water will drip from the good friar's hand into the cup.

1929 LA Times article, Frank Knapp Sr. displays "Franciscan monk proffering drink of water to Indian lad" at Orcutt Ranch in the then city of Girard.

A color photograph of the statue at today's Orcutt Ranch Horticulture Center in West Hills, formally known as Rancho Sombra del Roble



Other examples of Frank Senior's work at Orcutt Ranch Park

The Friar Serra statue today



8/7/2023

Another garden statue



Knapp Family - Owensmouth and West Valley History

42

Other examples of Frank Senior's work at Orcutt Ranch

William W. Orcutt marker at original ranch entrance



Wall insert on main ranch house



Orcutt Ranch Park -1981 LA Times newspaper article mentions some of Frank Senior's contributions

Gardens, artifacts at Orcutt Ranch in Canoga Park

By IRA GRIBIN

An original adobe home with artifacts, gardens with rare trees and shrubs plus picnic areas and walking paths are part of the historical and recreational Orcutt Ranch Horticulture Center in Canoga Park.

William Orcutt, who is considered by many to be the father of modern geology, organized the first petroleum geology department in the West in 1901 and is credited for the La Brea Tar Pits discovery of the skeletal remains of a giant ground sloth.

The tar pits exploration led to Orcutt's promotion to vice president of Union Oil.

In 1917 the ranch in Canoga Park was a vacation

home for Orcutt and his wife Mary, who lived in Los Angeles.

C. G. Knipe, an Arizona architect, was hired in 1920 to design the vacation cabin into a Spanish-style estate, which became known as the Rancho Sombra Del Roble, "ranch of the shaded oak."

The 3,060-square-foot home was adorned with tiles from Mexico, carved mahogany and walnut from the Philippines. The adobe walls were 16 inches thick.

The 200-acre estate was bounded on the east by Woodlake, Valley circle on the west, Cohasset to the south and Chatsworth reservoir to the north. Citrus and

Please Turn to Page 15

ORCUTT RANCH CENTER

Continued from First Page

walnut groves covered the rolling hills.

Ernesto Cornejo the Orcutts' gardener, planted many varieties of trees and shrubs including the Lady Palm, a native of China and Japan, the Bunya-Bunya from Australia and three unusual cork oaks. The valley oaks and coastal live oaks on the property were established before Cornejo's hiring in 1929. The oldest and largest oak has a circumference of 32 feet, 11 inches and is 700 years old.

The stone statues that are part of the park were built by Frank Knapp. Other statues, such as the Italian marble muses that overlook the rose garden, were purchased at a local auction.

Construction started on the second wing of the house in the late-1930s and continued in to the early 1940s. The additions amounted to guest bedrooms, dressing rooms and baths.

President Herbert Hoover, Leo Carillo, Cardinal Spaulding and Cardinal Cushman were among the visitors to the estate.

The Orcutt ranch and gardens were purchased by the Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department in 1966. The park, 22355 Justice St., Canoga Park, is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For information, call 883-6641.

Gribin is chairman of Gribin von Dyl Realtors.

**This newspaper article
credits Frank's son
Max Knapp Sr. with repairing
a statue and performing
building work
in the park**

Los Angeles Department of
Recreation and Parks honors
volunteers Max Knapp @ Orcutt
Ranch Park – Los Angeles Times
July 25, 1976

Orcutt Ranch to Honor Volunteers, Workmen

CANOGA PARK—Volunteers and workmen who have aided in development of Orcutt Ranch Horticulture Center, 23600 Roscoe Blvd., will be honored today in ceremonies beginning at 1 p.m.

Mrs. Helen Treend, founder of Save Orcutt Community, which is sponsoring the event with the Department of Recreation and Parks, will be honored for her brochure describing the work of the center and its history.

Others who will receive recognition are Max Knapp, historian and stone mason who repaired the statues of Father Junipero Serra and an Indian boy and built a foundation for a display of vitreous rock taken from

old Spanish kilns on the property, and Frank Chavez, who built an addition to the greenhouse.

Chavez also constructed two bridges across Dayton Creek on the center's nature trail.

Ernesto Cornejo and William Byron will be cited for contributions to the 200 gardens in the park, as will docent tour guides who lead visitors to the ranch and to the Rancho Sombral del Roble which was built by the Orcutt family.

The afternoon will include dedication of three large Quercous Virginia oaks and designation of a 700-year-old Coastal Live Oak as a bicentennial tree for Canoga Park.

Tours will be available.

Max Knapp Construction Company

23529
Lake Manor Drive
built in 1934
by Max Sr.



Max Knapp Construction Company houses in Canoga Park

7423 Jordan Avenue

Built in 1982 by Max Jr. and Mike Miller



7435 Jordan Avenue

Built in 1926 by Max Sr.



Knapp Construction Company 6 House Motor Court on Vassar Avenue

This 6-house motor court is on the opposite side of the block from the 2 houses on Jordan Avenue.

Built in 1947
By Max Sr.



1950's Max Knapp's Kitchen Kupboard

The little girl behind the car is Lynne Hall
 Note add for horsemeat in bottom center



Max Knapp's **KITCHEN KUPBOARD**

21609 SHERMAN WAY Open Daily 9-7
Friday and Saturday, 9-8 **SUNDAY, 9-6, CANOGA PARK**

SPECIALS FOR THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SAT URDAY, SUNDAY — APRIL 23, 24, 25, 26
 "THE INDEPENDENT STORE WITH CHAIN STORE PRICES"

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p><small>10c Coupon on Can Good on Next Purchase</small></p> <p>CRISCO 3lb 79^c</p> <hr/> <p><small>LARGE SIZE</small></p> <p>TIDE 25^c</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">FRUITS AND VEGETABLES</p> <p><small>CRISP</small> LETTUCE 5^c lb.</p> <hr/> <p><small>SWEET SPANISH</small> ONIONS 2 lbs 9^c</p> <hr/> <p><small>FRESH GREEN</small> ASPARAGUS 2 lbs. 29^c</p> <hr/> <p><small>COACHELLA</small> GRAPEFRUIT 2 for 9^c</p> | <p><small>M.J.B.</small></p> <p>COFFEE 79^c lb.</p> <hr/> <p><small>DENNISON'S, 14-oz.</small></p> <p>CATSUP 12^{1/2} ^c</p> <hr/> <p><small>S & W 303 CAN</small></p> <p>Apple Sauce 3/49^c</p> <hr/> <p><small>HUNT'S SOLID PACK,</small> TOMATOES No. 2 1/2 19^c</p> <hr/> <p><small>PRINCE'S No. 1 Tall Tin</small> HORSE MEAT 15^c</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Finest MEATS</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>CHOICE MEATS ONLY!</small></p> <p><small>When you're not satisfied with meat you buy. Come into Knapp's and give us a try. If you do that, and we hope you will, you'll have a satisfied feeling and lower meat bill.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>"A Thought for Today"</small></p> <hr/> <p><small>SWIFT'S PAN READY</small> FRYERS 62^c lb.</p> <hr/> <p><small>SMALL SIZE, EASTERN</small> SPARE RIBS 47^c lb.</p> <hr/> <p><small>MORREL'S PRIDE</small> BACON, Grade "A" 65^c lb.</p> <hr/> <p><small>BABY BEEF</small> LIVER 59^c lb.</p> |
|--|--|---|

Alfonso at his brother Frank Knapp Jr's 1943 Dry Gulch Ranch, part of which is now Knapp Park, at the west end of Kittridge Street

Alfonso in 1925 building a retaining wall -
Castle Peak in background



Alfonso 1950's at Dry Gulch oil field



Possibly Oil?

Canoga Park Rancher May Have "Black Gold"

Signs of oil in a 195-foot well sunk for the purpose of obtaining water sent Frank Knapp Jr., owner of the Dry Gulch ranch in Canoga Park, hurrying to oil men this week for analyses and reports.

Instead of water, drillers of the well opened what apparently was a gas pocket in which appeared a seepage of oil reported to be so near the refined state as to warrant the conclusion by some visitors that it was a seepage of distillate from some unknown source. The gas was said to be under no pressure.

The well was sunk about one-quarter mile northwest of the end of Vanowen St., and only a few feet from the line separating the Dry Gulch ranch from property of the George E. Platt Co.

City officials were eyeing the situation speculatively in view of the fact that drilling for oil can be done only by permit from the Planning Commission and City Council just as drilling for water in the Valley can be done only under permit from the Water and Power Department.

Note that – thank goodness – the “Dry Gulch Oil Field” was a flop, and only a few gallons of oil were recovered -

Not to mention that no drilling permit had been issued.

If there had been oil present, the West Hills area might look quite different today.

In the meantime, their brother Joe had purchased his own piece of property, in upper Woolsey Canyon, and named it “Quail Run Ranch.”

Joe Knapp and Quail Run Ranch

- In 1916, Annie Gallow was granted a 93 acre homestead in Upper Woolsey Canyon.
- In 1917, from the March 9th Owensmouth Gazette, Annie invited *“all the people of Owensmouth and vicinity to join in a picnic at her mountain home, the Eyrie, on Saturday, March 10. Arrangements will be made to have wagons at the foot of the mountain to carry those who are unable to walk up the trail”*
- Annie died in 1939. Joe Knapp purchased the homestead, and built a home on it in 1940, at 24584 Woolsey Canyon Road.
- Joe renamed it Quail Run Ranch.
- If you search for 24584 Woolsey Canyon on Google Maps, you will see it is just off of Knapp Ranch Rd.

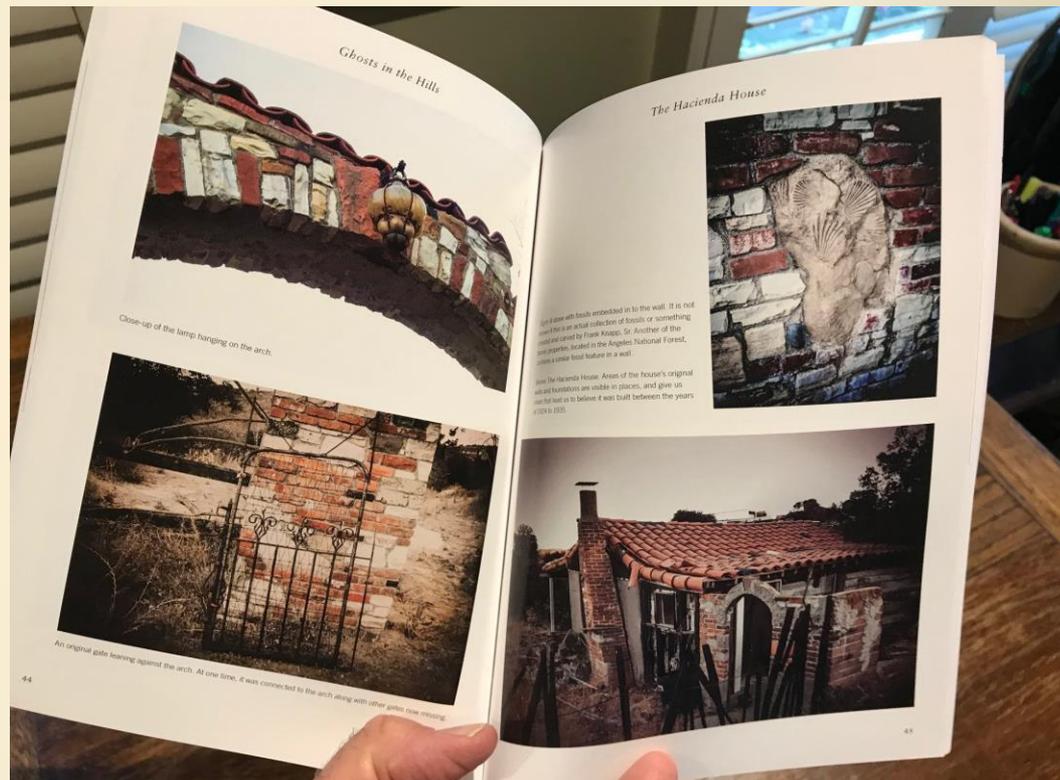
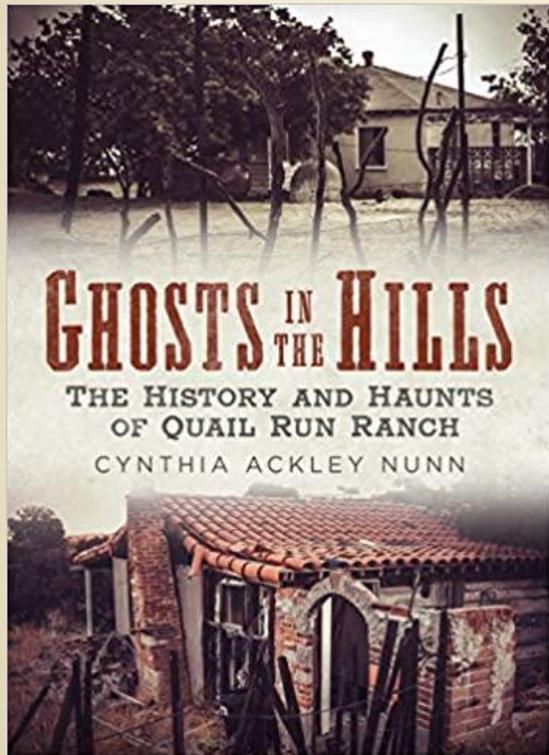
Joe Knapp and Quail Run Ranch

Quail Run Ranch recently sold in 2017. The multiple listing service described the property as:

Quail Run Ranch is a majestic horse ranch with a small traditional home, sprawling acreage, huge flat pads and magical views of the surrounding mountains, San Fernando Valley, Warner Center and beyond.



Quail Run Ranch – In Print!



Quail Run Ranch

The book has LOTS of good photos of the ranch after Joseph left, as it fell into ruins.

Unfortunately, it is full of misinformation about Joseph and his family. This including a bunch of made-up ghost-stories (bad things happened there, the place is haunted, etc.).



Quail Run Ranch Photos by Michele Knapp

“Knapp style” sandstone
and brick work



Hand carved inside cabinets –
Carved by Joe, in his father's style



Frank Knapp Jr. and Dry Gulch Ranch

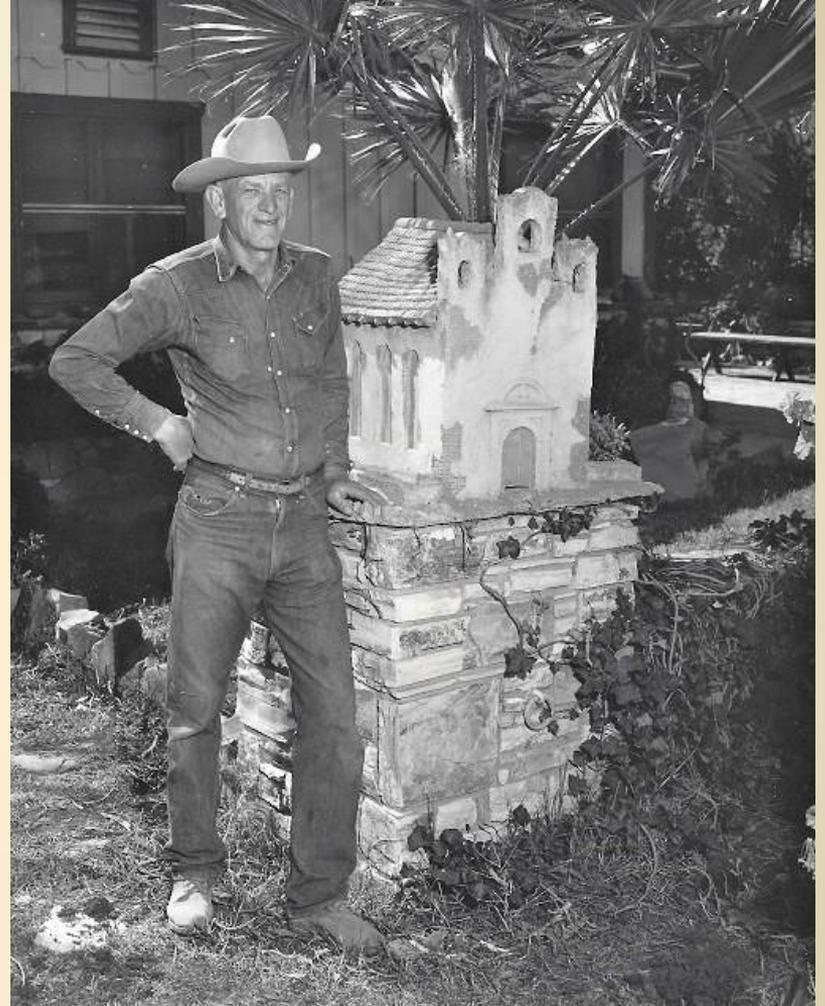
- In 1943, Frank Knapp Jr. purchased the Johnson Ranch where years earlier he had helped to bale hay as a youngster in 1913 for a dollar a day.
- He paid \$9,500 and paid \$75 a year in taxes for the 180-acre ranch.
- He called his new property the Dry Gulch Ranch. It was located west of present-day Valley Circle Boulevard and Kittridge Street in West Hills.
- In 1968, the 55-acre Knapp Park in West Hills was named and dedicated to Knapp's son, a casualty of the second World War.



Knapp's west valley ranch in 1945.

Frank Knapp Jr. and Dry Gulch Ranch

- Frank Jr. next to a Mission carved by Frank Sr.
- A 1928 LA Times article discusses Frank Knapp Sr. “Sculptures On Display”. The exhibition includes a display of California Missions in miniature.
- A 1929 article explains that “most of the miniature missions have found their way into the gardens of exclusive homes in Beverly Hills and Hollywood”



Frank Junior and his first couple of bison at Dry Gulch Ranch

Frank didn't like it when the area began to be developed, so he sold Dry Gulch and bought a ranch in the Angeles National Forest



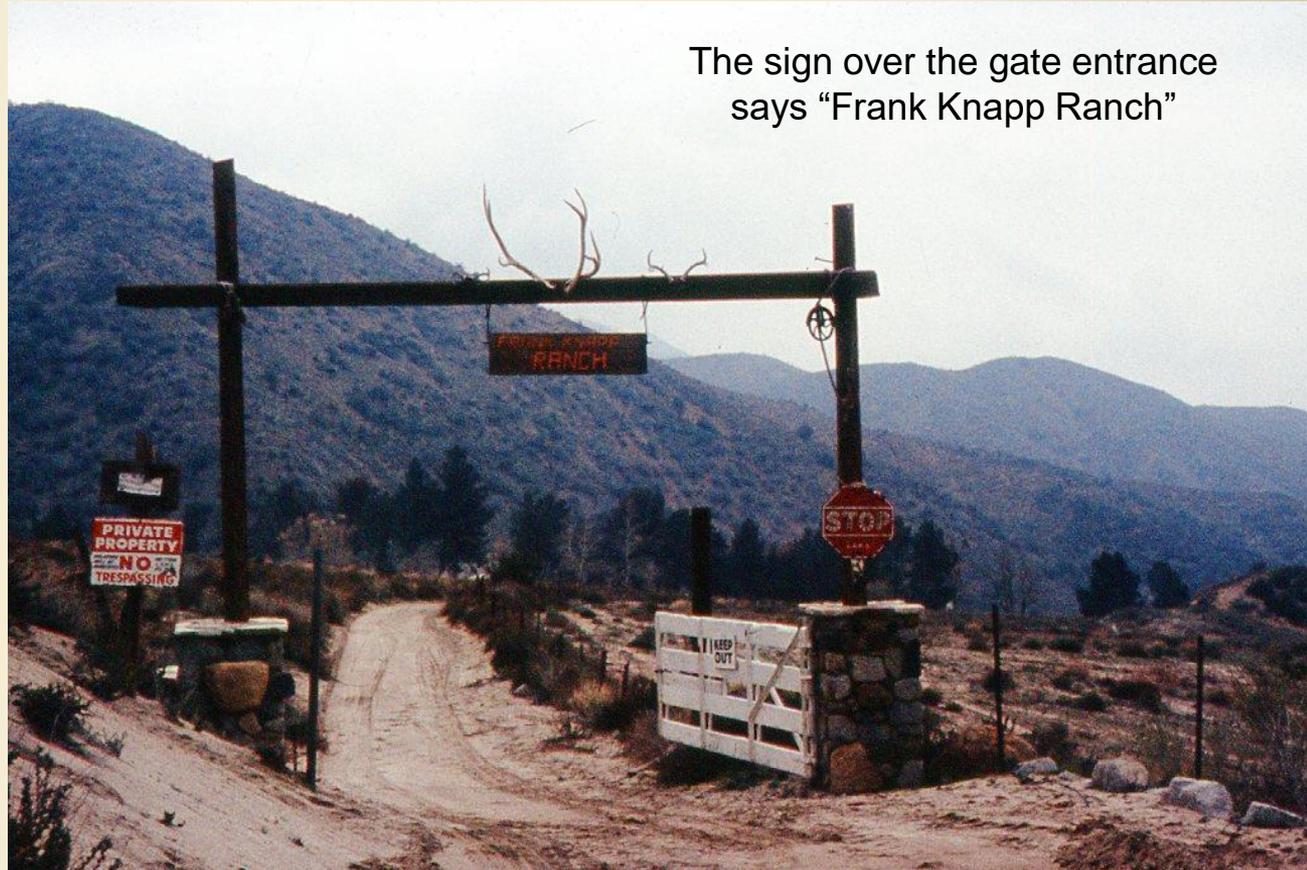
Knapp Ranch in the Angeles National Forest

In 1962, Frank Knapp Jr. and his brother Alfonso bought the 160-acre ranch property as equal partners. According to the part-time foreman at Knapp Ranch, Ronald T. Abramchuk (nickname "Black Bart"), the brothers planned to turn the ranch into a hunting lodge.

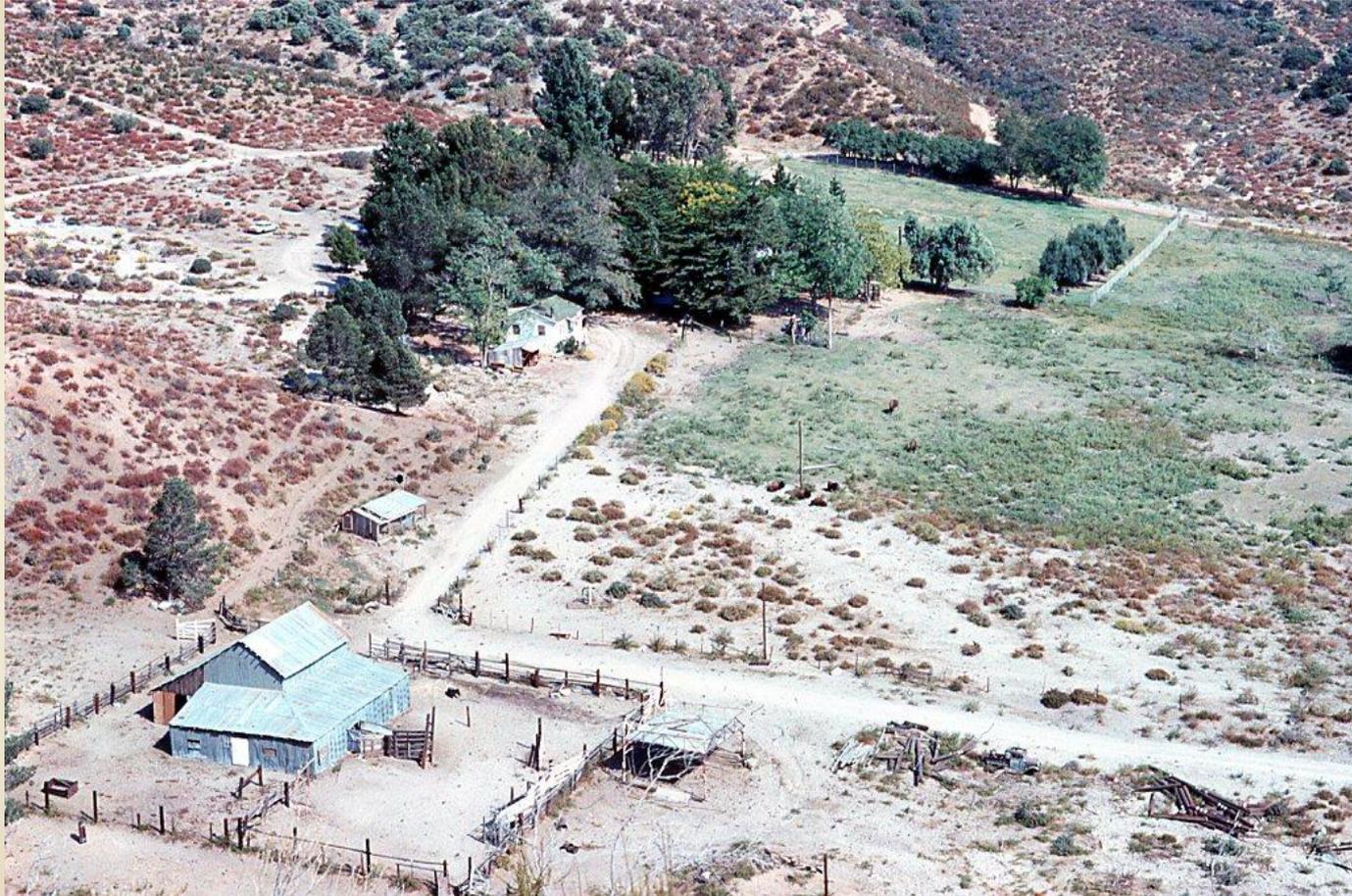
When Alfonso died unexpectedly a few years later in 1968, Frank bought his partner's half share for \$40,000 and became the sole owner of the Knapp Ranch.

The property was acquired by the Angeles National Forest in 1995.

The sign over the gate entrance says "Frank Knapp Ranch"



Knapp Ranch in the Angeles National Forest



8/7/2023

Knapp Family - Owensmouth and West Valley History

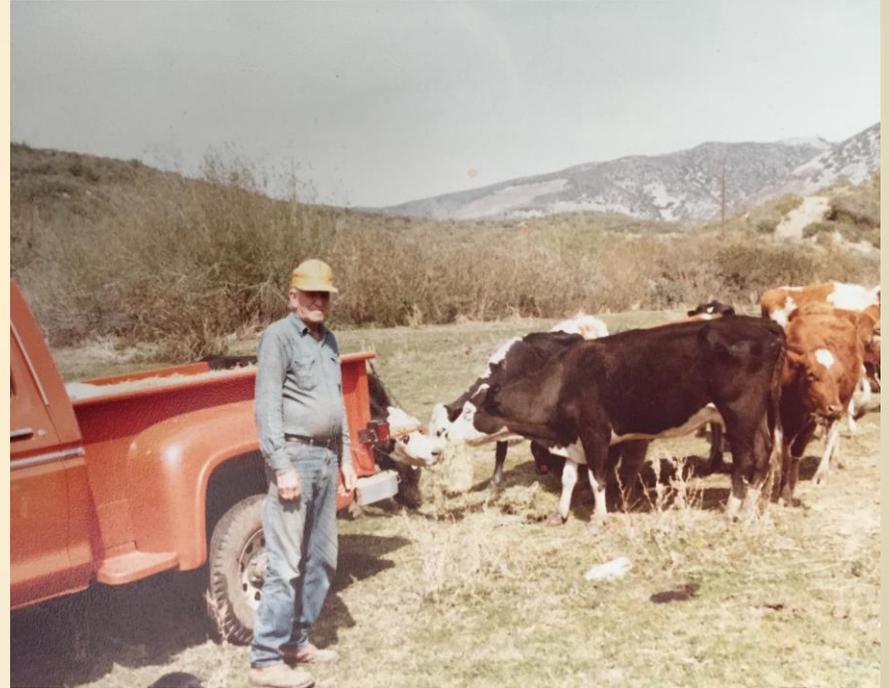
61

Knapp Ranch in the Angeles National Forest

Frank's bison herd increased to 6 animals



Frank also raised beef cattle



Knapp Ranch in the Angeles National Forest

Frank Jr. was known as a soft-touch when it came to being protective of the wild-life in the area around his ranch and **NO HUNTING** was allowed.

Although he was a private citizen, the Forest Service would sometimes bring injured animals to him for care.



Frank's adopted injured bobcat

Knapp Ranch in the Angeles National Forest

Frank and Cindy Knapp
and friends



Frank may have played the tough guy, but he
obviously had a heart of gold



The Knapp family today

Lucinda Michele Knapp
Albert Knight
Pam Colao
Cindy Knapp
with 2 of
Frank Knapp Senior's
statues

At the Knapp family
residence in Canoga
Park



Knapp family heirlooms

Some are in good shape



Some not so good



The Knapp family heirlooms are looking for a forever home



Knapp family heirlooms

Toy Chair



Toy Table



Presentation updates – Sept 7th 2021 Zoom Mtg

- This presentation was first given as an online Zoom Meeting on September 7, 2021, hosted by the Canoga-Owensmouth Historical Society.
- At the end of the presentation, a lively discussion was had by Knapp family members (a total of 43 people were at the presentation)
- The presentation was recorded by the Canoga-Owensmouth Historical Society, and is currently available at their Facebook website [COHS General Meeting September 2021](#)
- The first 43 minutes of the recording is the presentation, followed by comments and memories from the Knapp family for 24 minutes, followed by a final 5 minutes by Bill Ratner discussing the Changes to the COHS Museum (following slide).

Presentation updates – Sept 7th 2021 Zoom Mtg

× f

Changes to Our Museum

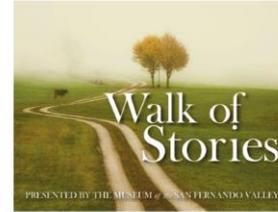


Ray, Ann & Al have provided new artifacts for viewing at the COHS Museum as a result of their presentation

June 12, 2022

Statuary moved to the Museum of the San Fernando Valley

- The Museum of the San Fernando Valley is proud to be opening next Sunday, June 12, 2022 (from 10:00 am with dedication and light reception around noon), its "Walk of Stories" exhibition which includes Frank Knapp Sr's life and family history **through an outside kiosk with his sculptures.**
- 18904 Nordhoff Street, Northridge (Corner of Nordhoff St. & Wilbur Ave.)
- <https://themuseumsfvnow.org>



GRAND OPENING

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022
from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

18904 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91324
(Corner of Nordhoff St. & Wilbur Ave.)

The Museum of the San Fernando Valley is proud to present "A Walk of Stories"

This integrated art/oral history exhibition is designed to share the stories of three immigrant artists' journeys from their native countries to the San Fernando Valley, their creativity through their displayed art, and how these individuals ended up being influencers of Valley growth and part of the fabric of the San Fernando Valley.

Visitors self-guide through outdoor kiosks that display looped oral histories, photos, historical backgrounds and artistic works of each immigrant artist.

Made possible by a grant from the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, you will meet:

- Shahin Atigheh, metal scrap sculptress from Iran who created the three displayed 20' dinosaurs;
- Frank Knapp Sr., early 1900s mason and sculptor from Austria who built up Owensmouth and worked in cement, concrete and wooden carvings to create the 100-year-old cement sculptures on display;
- Hector Ponce, sign maker and eventual muralist from El Salvador who, with his son Levi Ponce, will be painting a mural of his journey to the San Fernando Valley.



The Museum
of the San Fernando Valley



dca
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

This exhibition will be expanded to include special workshops next year that explore "Making Simple Metal Crafts", "Basic Murals" and "Fun with Sculpting".

18904 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91324 / www.themuseumsfv.org / 818-347-9665 / TheMuseumSFV@gmail.com

June 2022 – The Castle Front Door on Display inside the Museum SFV



Inside the door is a little poem by Longfellow:

***Stay at home
My heart and rest
Homeloving Hearts
Are Happiest***



October 2022 - Statuary Display at Museum SFV

Kiosk below (without video screen),
photo of castle after earthquake.

Statuary in open area behind kiosk.



October 2022 - Statuary Display at Museum SFV

Eight objects on display



October 2022 - Statuary Display at Museum SFV



Left – Flutist, two pots

Right – Woman on the
World

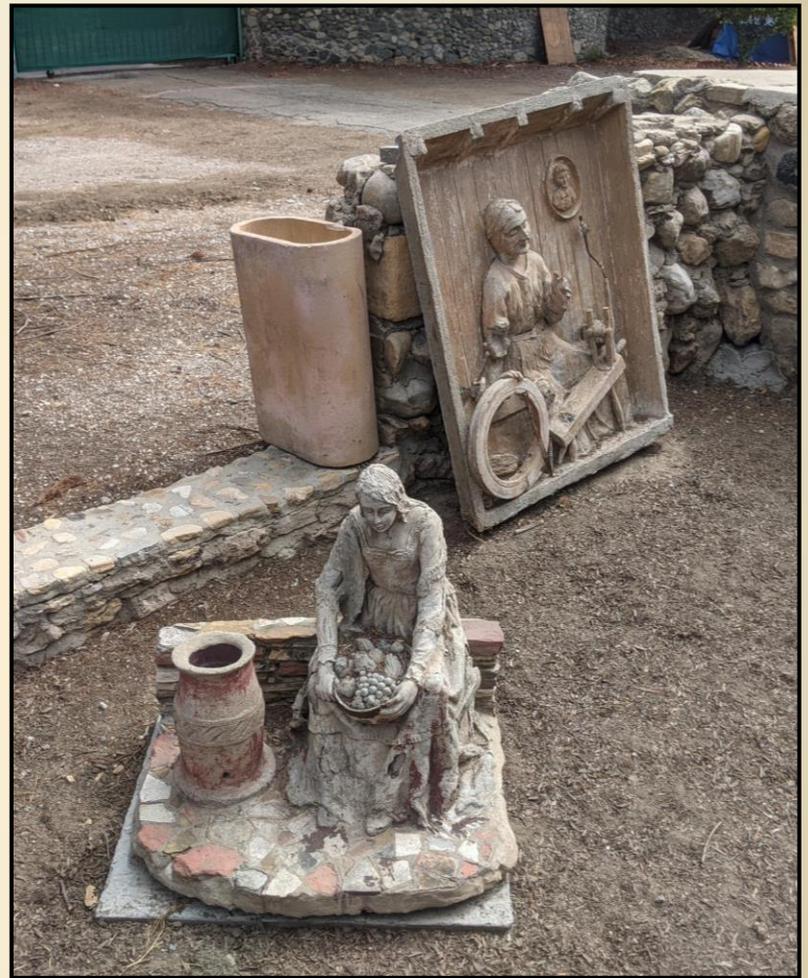


October 2022 - Statuary Display at Museum SFV



Left – Crown of
Thorns, Monk

Right – Woman
with fruit, Spinning
wheel



October 2022 - Statuary Display at Museum SFV

Back of Kiosk

The Castle

Frank and Maria



Sources/Acknowledgements

- The contributions of the Knapp family descendants have made this presentation possible, including Ed Hall, Cindy Knapp, Michelle Knapp, Pam Colao, etc....
 - Color photographs of the grounds and statuary of the Castle from Pam Colao, dated 1992
 - [1975 - Land Of The West Valley - Laura Gaye] Knapp Family pgs. 200-205
 - [The History of Burro Flats, Rocketdyne and the SSFL](#), Chatsworth Historical Society
 - Wikipedia, Knapp Ranch, California – It includes a good history of Frank Knapp Jr. and Sr.
-
- Prepared by Al Knight and Ray Vincent, Sept 2021, updated October 2022, August 2023