

## Early Chatsworth Memories Captured

Beverly Hill sent the Chatsworth Historical Society an email to ask for help remembering the names of a few areas from her childhood. With that inquiry she shared her memories of Chatsworth.

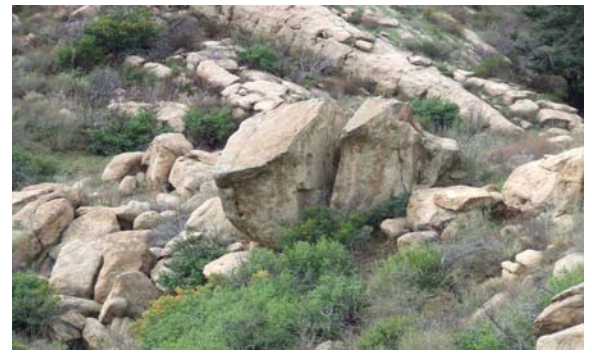
The area with armed guards mentioned below is the Santa Susana Field Lab.

I am Beverly Stone Hill, 88 years old and spent a number of years at the RX80 ranch at the corner of Plummer and Valley Circle Drive. My father, R.B. Stone bought the 10 acres for “\$10 down and \$10 when you can catch me”. That was actually the way things were done at that time and legal forms came about later. He built the house we lived in from real estate shacks that were no longer being used and he assembled them and connected them and gradually added on. We did not have electricity for quite a while and I studied by kerosene light and did our wash at my fathers dental office in Canoga Park. It was a beautiful place, we raised goats, rabbits etc. My brother and I each had a horse and traveled all over the hills at will. I remember the fires coming down to the back of the house. One of the ways I met my future husband was he came over and rescued my horses while we were in Canada on vacation.

I remember there was a road going back into the hills alongside the park. I remember it as going to a huge ranch that was developing war materials and one day my brother and I were met by an armed guard and told never to come back. Needless to say we stayed far away after that. I also remember riding our horses through a movie being filmed at the Iverson ranch.

I remember Lionel Barrymore living in Chatsworth and yelling something at us as we left the hills and found a street that led us back to civilization.

My brother was Rexford K. Stone 1931-2014. He graduated from Van Nuys Grammar School and entered Van Nuys Junior High when we moved from Van Nuys to RX80 ranch in Chatsworth. Like the typical big sister I teased him about having to go back to grammar school, Chatsworth Grammar School where he graduated in 1945. We had ridden our horses from Van Nuys along the track on Sherman Way to Topanga Canyon Blvd, and then Plummer to Valley Circle Drive and home.



Everyone remembers our majestic Chatsworth boulders

My husband’s parents were Vernon A Hill (1896-1970) and Myrtle B. Hill. They lived on Baden just around the corner from my home. She taught English at Canoga Park High School and raised Nubian goats. The Al Rakim herd. He worked for the Garmen Dairy.

The lake was the big attraction and we loved it. It was always fenced off and we could see the deer and other wildlife. Once the lake was drained the beauty was lessened and we continually griped about it. We have a lot of beautiful memories – the goats jumping around on the cliffs, having my girl scout troop up for camping experiences, shooting or jumping over rattlesnakes curled up on our doorstep or under the rabbit cages. My mother was a perfectionist and as she got older could not do or hire anyone to do the outside upkeep. Roy Rogers was not an asset. He was trying to build a development and one day my husband and I walked up to the top of our hill to find he had destroyed some huge boulders etc. that were on our property. The man we talked to about it was pretty nasty, but they did get off our land and sort of restored it but not adequately.

My mom sold the property and moved to a trailer court for a few years before moving to Arizona to be near my brother. I know we have pictures somewhere and as I downsize if I find some good ones I will send them on to you. Again thank you so much you helped bring back a lot of beautiful memories.

My husband taught at Taft High School for 30 years and then we tried to recapture our youth by moving to Bear Valley Springs, Tehachapi. When our health dictated being near doctors we moved up here to Sequim, WA., to be near doctors and our daughter.

Best, Beverly Hill