

Chatsworth Celebrities - John Brandeis



1927 Tabloid article
 Canton Ohio

1932 John Brandeis and wife Claire Blavette at the Johnson Homestead he purchased in 1929



Brandeis Ranch Overview

In 1929, 140 acres of the 160-acre 1874 Johnson homestead is sold to John Brandeis.

Brandeis builds an elaborate new estate house and outbuildings, replacing the homestead house.

By 1962 a newspaper article describes the 525-acre Brandeis Ranch in Chatsworth, which included an exotic animal preserve.

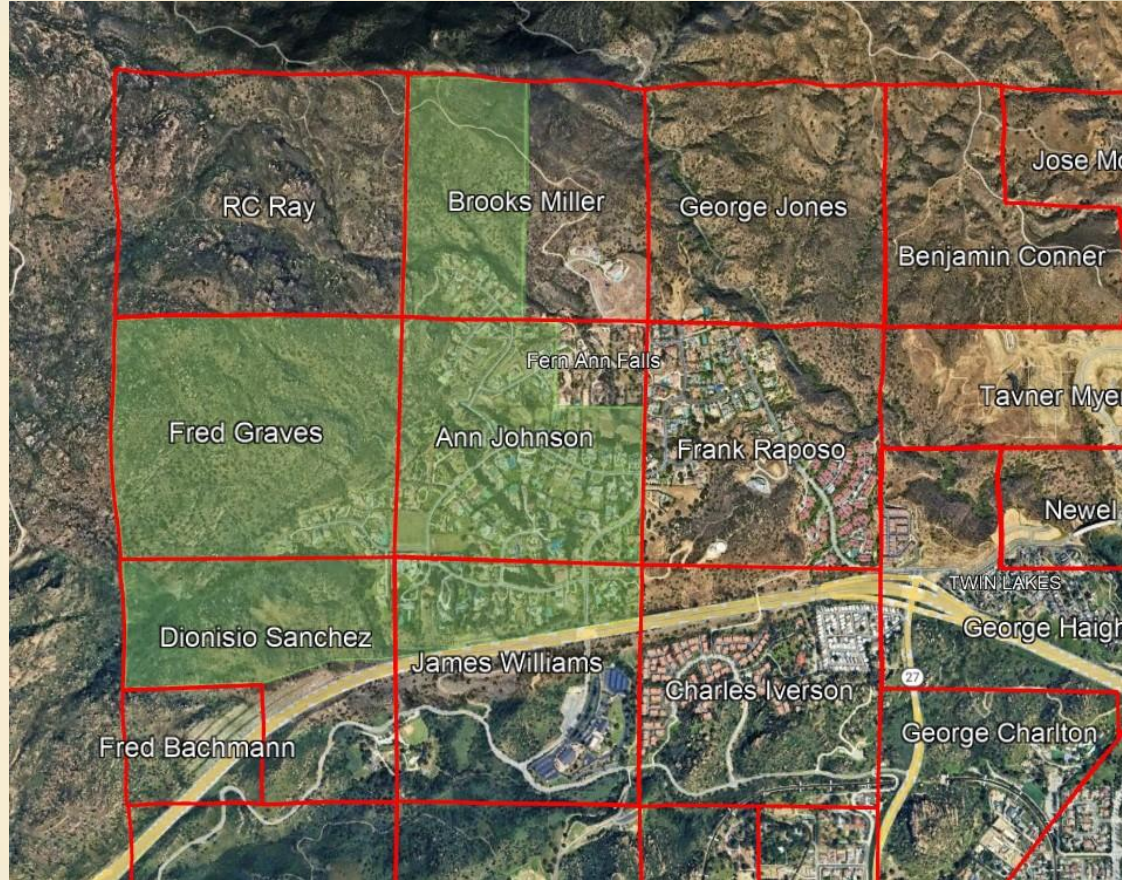
A 1970 fire destroys all buildings, Brandeis rebuilds in 1971.

Brandeis dies in 1974.

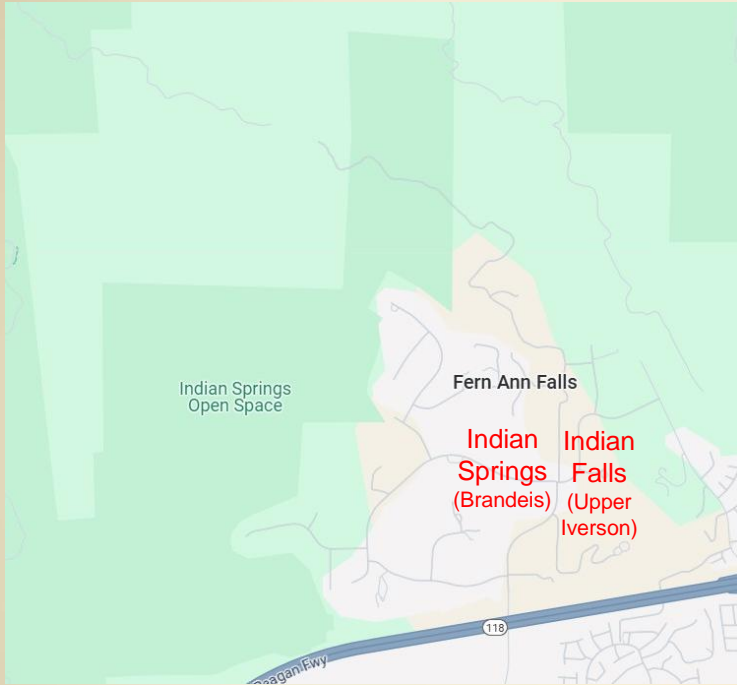
In 1977 a newspaper article discusses the planned development of the 525-acre Brandeis Chatsworth ranch. It is described as a 160-acre subdivision, with 365 acres of open space.

In 1984 Indian Springs development begins, on 2 to 4-acre parcels in a gate guarded community.

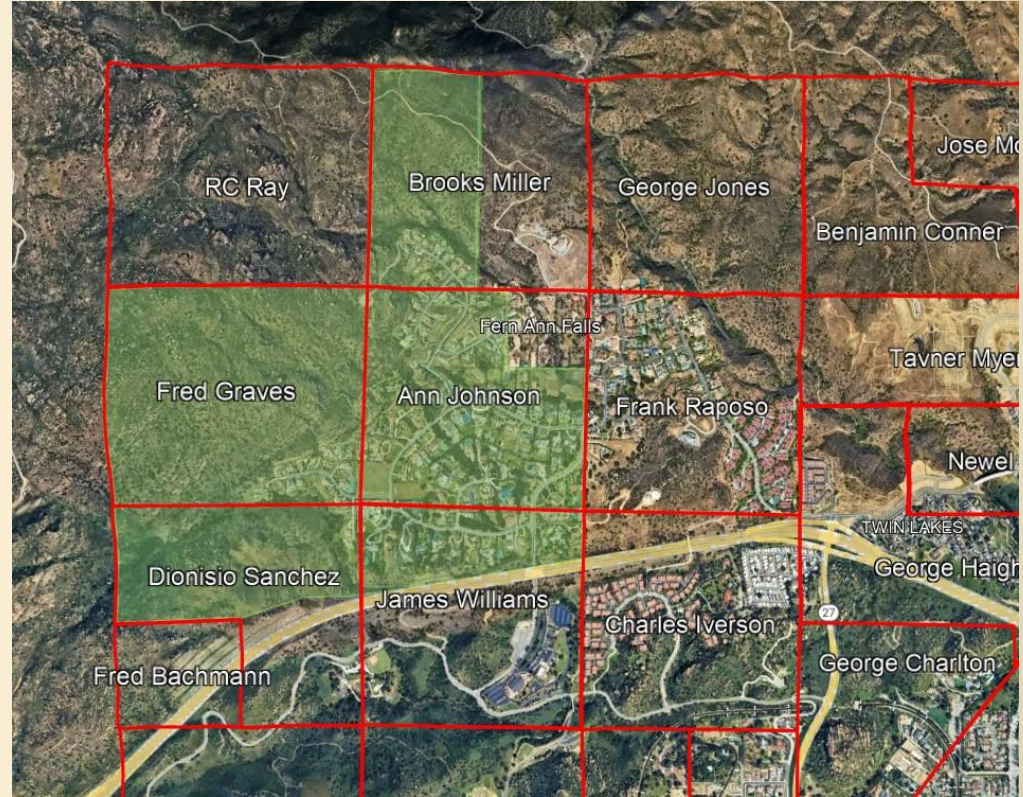
Google Earth - The 525-acre Brandeis ranch is in green, on the Homesteader Parcel overlay



Brandeis Ranch Overview



Google Maps identifies the 365 acres of Indian Springs Open Space, the undeveloped portion of the Brandeis Ranch



Google Earth - The 525-acre Brandeis ranch is in green, on the Homesteader Parcel overlay

Johnson Homestead 1929

- At right is the earliest aerial of the Johnson homestead, the year it was sold to John Brandeis.
- Notice that it is completely fenced.
- Notice the diagonal tree lined driveway/road to their house, which is at the foot of the mountains at today's 22637 La Quilla Drive (\$10 mil, 16 acres per Zillow)

Yellow - corners of the 160-acre homestead
Red - Homestead house, at end of tree lined road
Black - 20-acre Fern Ann Falls, reserved for Johnson descendants

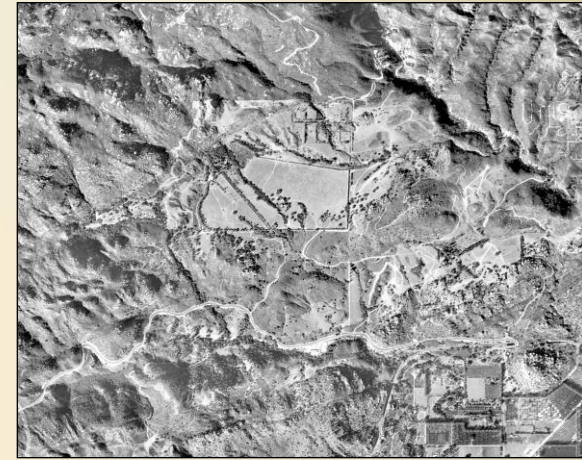
1929 ucsb aerial Johnson Homestead



View of the Johnson Homestead, looking east



1952 Brandeis Ranch, the old Johnson Homestead



Above overview,
And at left enlarged,

a 1952 aerial of Brandeis Ranch,
the old 160-acre Johnson Homestead

The 10 2-acre parcels of Fern Ann Falls
can be seen in the upper right

2025 Google Earth Brandeis Ranch, the old Johnson Homestead



Google Earth - Brandeis ranch / Johnson 160 acres on the Homesteader Parcel overlay, today's Indian Springs

LA County Assessor, Brandeis Ranch House (2014 aerial)



Los Angeles County Office of the Assessor
Valuing People and Property

Property Assessment Information System

Parcel Details

I want to...

- [Property records are kept at the North District Office](#)
- [How frequently is this site updated? \(and other FAQs\)](#)

Property Information

Assessor's ID No: 2821-021-033
Address: 22637 LA QUILLA DR
CHATSWORTH CA
91311
Property Type: Single Family
Residential
Region / Cluster: 02 / 02413
Tax Rate Area (TRA): 12770
• [View Assessor Map](#)
• [View Index map](#)

Recent Sales Information

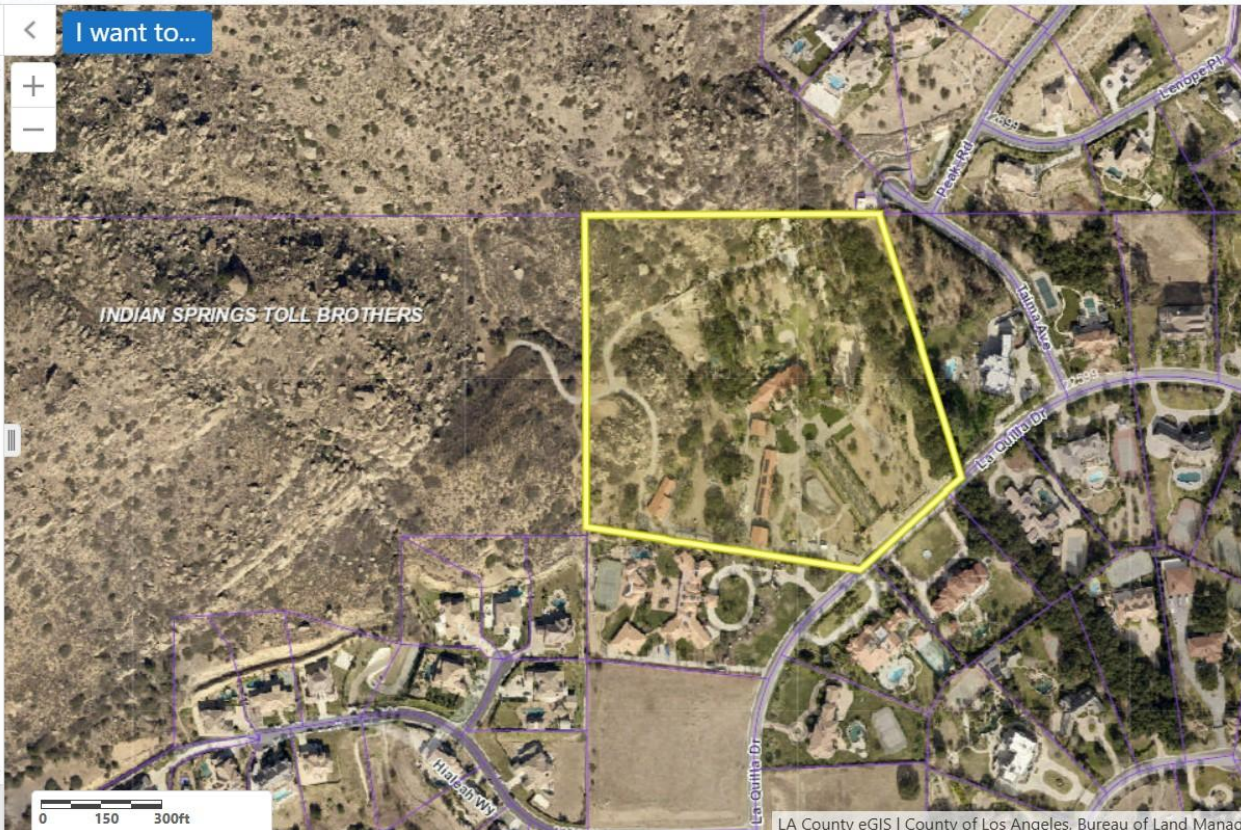
Latest Sale Date:
Indicated Sale Price:

[Search for Recent Sales](#)

2024 - Roll Values

Recording Date: 10/12/2007
Land: \$971,075
Improvements: \$1,166,458
Personal Property: \$0
Fixtures: \$0

[Home](#) [Layers](#) [Parcel Details](#)



LA County eGIS | County of Los Angeles, Bureau of Land Management

3/18/2025

Chatsworth Historical Society - Chatsworth Celebrities - John Brandeis

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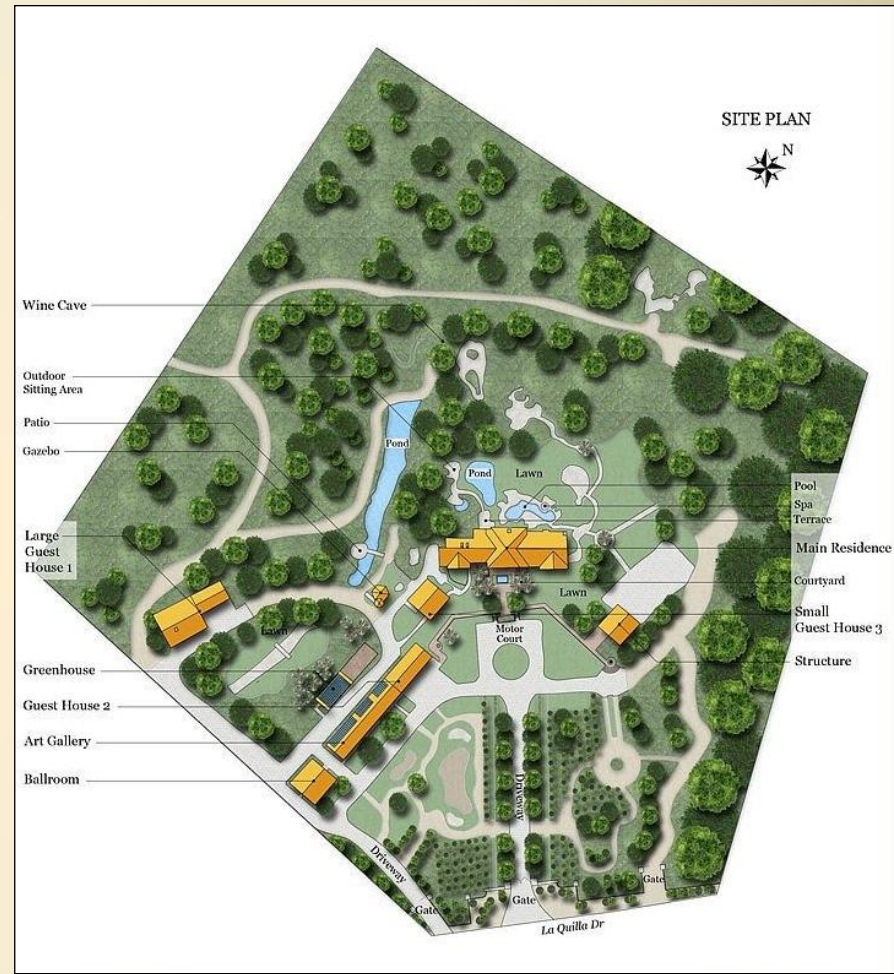
Zillow - 2025 Brandeis Ranch House Site Plan

For Sale - 22637 La Quilla Drive - \$10 million, 11 beds, 15 baths 16 acres, 12,298 sq ft)

12,298 square feet of living space, including a main residence with a spacious basement, three guest bungalows, art gallery, and a grand ballroom. The estate features garage parking for up to 10 cars, a pool, spa, waterfalls, and tranquil koi ponds. A Japanese Garden meanders through the property, enhancing its peaceful ambiance. A historic wine cave, crafted in the 1800s from local stone, combines the past with the present, featuring an artisan-built, illuminated onyx bar. Nearby, a tranquil entertainment area allows you to enjoy the soothing sounds of a waterfall cascading into lotus and water lily-filled ponds.

A lighted tennis court, complete with a stage, viewing pavilion, and guest amenities, adds to its allure.

[Source: Zillow 22637 La Quilla Drive](https://www.zillow.com/homedetails/22637-La-Quilla-Drive-94024/)



Zillow - 2025 Brandeis Ranch Building Photos



Main House Living Room



Art Gallery Building

Zillow - 2025 Brandeis Ranch Building Photos



Ballroom/Dance Pavillion



Wine Cave with
Open Diamond Bar brand
< - >
on the Door

The Brandeis Story

In 1856, at the age of 20, Jonas Brandeis immigrated to New York from Lieben, Bohemia (Austria).

In 1858, locating in Milwaukee, he left two years later to engage in business at Manitowoc, Wisconsin. He began buying furs from the Indians, and the next year opened a small store. He became the first grain buyer in that part of the state.

In 1861 he married Francisca (Fannie) Teweles of Milwaukee, also an immigrant from Bohemia.

They had three sons and a daughter, Arthur, Emil, Sarah and Hugo.

In 1883, the family moved to Omaha and established a wholesale notion house at 1207 Farnum Street.

Two years later, with his three sons as partners, "The Fair" store was established at 13th and Howard, the firm name becomes **J.L. Brandeis & Sons**.

In 1888, a new and larger store was founded at 16th and Douglas, "The Boston Store".

In 1894, the Boston Store burns down, but is rebuilt within one year.

Source: Jonas Brandeis 1903 obituary

AT J. L. BRANDEIS & SON,
506 and 508 South 13th Street.

We will put on sale to-morrow one case double width Wool Cashmere in all the latest shades, only 15c. per yard, worth 30c.; ten pieces more Ladies' Cloth, near two yards wide, at 32c. worth 75c.

Twenty pieces red, all wool twilled Flannel, very wide and heavy, 25c., worth 40c.

We still have about 1,000 Silk Handkerchiefs left which we are selling at 19c., 35c., 40c. and 50c., all worth double.

Great bargains in Dolls and Albums.

Remember every lady visiting our store from now until Christmas is entitled to a bottle of cologne free.

J. L. BRANDEIS & SON,
506 and 508 S 13th St.

"Free cologne for the ladies"
1885-12-23 Omaha World

The Brandeis Story

After Jonas' death in 1903, the three sons, **Arthur, Emil and Hugo** ran the business. They had inherited the biggest department store west of Chicago.

In 1906, the 8-story [J.L. Brandeis and Sons Store Building](#) was built, it is listed now in the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1912, Emil died (age 48) on the sinking of the Titanic.

Hugo died (age 44) 3 months later after ailing for some time of the strain of the great shock of Emil's passing.

Arthur, as the remaining son, inherits the business. His cousin George Brandeis becomes president of the store in 1913.

In 1916, Arthur died (age 52) of complications with appendectomy surgery.

Arthur's son Ervine John Brandeis (age 20) inherits the Brandeis fortune.



E. John Brandeis inherits the Brandeis fortune
1916-06-11 The Omaha Daily News



Google Maps 2025
the 1906 store
J.L. Brandeis & Sons
Today it is luxury
condominiums and apts.

John Brandeis Timeline- 1st wife Madeline Frank

On Jan 28, 1917, at the age of 21, John marries Madeline Frank.

John's 1917 WWI Draft Registration has him living at the Blackstone Hotel in Omaha with his wife. He is the vice president of General Merchandise at JE Brandeis & Sons.

In Nov 1920 John's daughter, and only child, Marie Madeline Brandeis was born.

In April 1921, after 4 years of marriage, Madeline divorces John for being treated cruelly by indifference and occasional harsh words. There was no physical violence. Madeline was awarded an alimony allowance of \$400,000 to be paid annually in \$50,000 amounts.

Two days later a newspaper article says that "friends hope the new baby will unite the Divorced Brandeis Couple"

A 1927 Tabloid article told the story that Madeline became suspicious of her millionaire husband's frequent absences from home, followed him to New York, and after 24 hours filed suit for divorce in San Francisco.



1917-01-29 Ervine John Brandeis marries Madeline Frank Evening_World_Herald

1921-04-28 Marie Brandeis Omaha_Daily_Bee



John Brandeis Timeline- 1st wife Madeline Frank

In 1920, Madeline was making movies in Omaha. She was working with Shoshone Indians, and in the photograph at right, is wearing the feather that marks her as a Honorary Princess.

When she was married to John she asked for a check instead of a bracelet because she wanted to make moving pictures.

She went on to make one reel silent movies, and authored books, mostly centered on the "Children of all Lands" theme.

The link below is from the **Women Film Pioneers** project, and list her biography and filmography.

Scroll to the bottom of the link and watch the Little Indian Weaver made in 1928.

<https://wfpp.columbia.edu/pioneer/ccp-madeline-brandeis/>



Madeline Brandeis



1920-02-02 Madeline Brandeis
Jackson_Evening_News Michigan

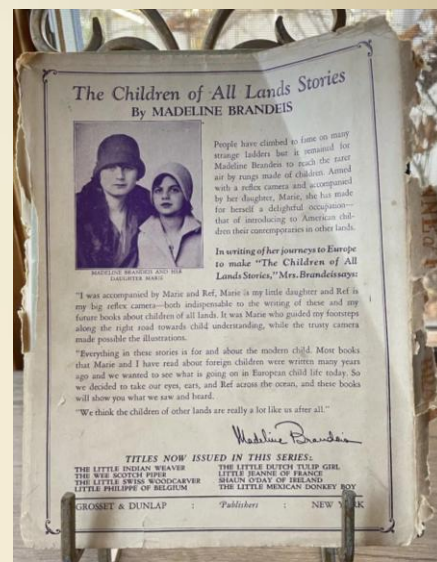


John Brandeis Timeline- 1st wife Madeline Frank

In 1929, Madeline Frank Brandeis is in Europe publishing and filming "The Children of All Lands" stories. Madeline is 32, and her daughter Marie (John Brandeis's only child) is 9 years old.

In 1933, Madeline marries Joseph Sampson, chief of pediatrics at Sacramento Hospital. They are at home in Hollywood and he will establish an office in Los Angeles.

She died in 1937, at the age of 39, as a result of injuries sustained in a car accident that occurred while she and Marie, age 16, were driving to Hollywood from New York.



Sacramento friends of Dr. Joseph Sampson will be interested to hear of his marriage, October 15th, at Yuma, Ariz., to Madeline Brandice of Hollywood. Dr. and Mrs. Sampson are at home in Hollywood and he will establish an office in Los Angeles.

Dr. Sampson, who served for the last six years as chief of pediatrics at the Sacramento Hospital, is a graduate of Stanford University. His father is Dr. Arthur F. Sampson of San Francisco. His bride is known as an author of children's stories.

1933-10-12 Madeline Marries Arthur Sampson
The Sacramento Bee

1929 The Children of All Lands Stories Madeline Brandeis, with daughter Marie



John Brandeis Timeline - 2nd Wife - Emily Marie Ryan

In early May 1922 John marries Emily Marie Ryan. (Mr. Brandeis won't tell exactly where, other than it took place "down east").

"After their marriage they traveled from Chicago to Seattle, and traveled to Alaska on the specially chartered ex-subchaser Silverscreen." A crop of the article at right is below:

Mr. Brandeis was on his fifth trip into the Alaskan country as a huntsman, but his bride was making her first.

Here's the score of the trip:

Mrs. Brandeis.	Mr. Brandeis.
2	Brown Bear 3
0	Black Bear 2
0	Moose 1
2	Cariboo 4
0	Sea Lion 1

The article also states, Brandeis plans to remain in Omaha, and "live in my bungalow over the stores. Of course, I still intend to keep on with my hunting trips, and Mrs. Brandeis is going with me."

1922-10-03 Omaha World Herald

E. John Brandeis, Back From North, Married Five Months

Bride Formerly Mrs. Emily Marie Colman, New York, With Him on Trip—Heroine in Exciting Bear Hunt Incident.

As brown as a nut, and as full of pep as Oscar Pepper himself, E. John Brandeis is home from a hunting trip in Alaska, bringing with him various and sundry heads, hides and pelts of deerskins of the forest—and a beautiful bride.

Mr. and Mrs. Brandeis, who were married in the east early in May, took the Alaskan trip as their hunting moon. Mrs. Brandeis formerly was Mrs. Emily Marie Colman of New York, wife of J. P. Colman, of the J. and J. Colman, Ltd., mustard concern, of London and New York.

Immediately followed their marriage they trekked instanter via Chicago to Seattle, and on the specially chartered ex-subchaser Silverscreen, a swift moving, oil burning craft, the party proceeded north to St.

They kept close to the shores of Alaska up and along the Alutian peninsula, past "The Valley of 10,000 Smokes," which is still smoking from the recent volcanic upheaval there, along the Kenai peninsula, and into the wild country, where they untrapped their high-powered rifles and proceeded to the sport.

Mr. Brandeis was on his fifth trip into the Alaskan country as a huntsman, but his bride was making her first.

Here's the score of the trip:

Mrs. Brandeis.	Mr. Brandeis.
2	Brown Bear 3
0	Black Bear 2
0	Moose 1
2	Cariboo 4
0	Sea Lion 1

Exciting experiences by the score were theirs, although neither were rushed by wild game. Their boat was blown on to the rocks at night in Foyliff Bay in a terrific wild storm, and once more struck the rocks in a big blow along the peninsula, not many miles from the Asiatic mainland.

"I can't get much of a kick out of hunting bears any more," declared Mr. Brandeis, who since boyhood has been an inveterate hunter. "Bears are yellow, they won't stand against a man."

Plan to Remain Here. About the marriage Mr. Brandeis won't tell just where it happened other than it took place "down east." "We are going to make Omaha our home and live in my bungalow over the stores. I am going to stay

weather to find a safe harbor upon our arrival in the bear country. The only entrance to a harbor there proved to be a cove bordering a small island, and was ticklish business. The seas here are apparently still uncharted by our government, and the only map available then was one made by the Russians, when they owned Alaska years ago.

"Consequently our first event was to land on the rocks. We were soon out of this predicament, however, after several hours, only to have the ship blown on the beach after anchoring in the small cove. After much inconvenience on the part of everyone due to this unexpected predicament the ship was again floated; but as these experiences are only incidents that happen on similar expeditions, I will relate our luck at bear hunting.

"Not being able to locate any natives to pack our paraphernalia to a suitable camp site, we decided to carry our own packs and "Siwash" it. Siwash in this sense means that you do without everything, excepting, of course, what a person would absolutely need.

"On her first brown bear hunt, Mrs. Brandeis, by this time more popularly known as "Mickey", gave a splendid demonstration of her skill and ability as a marksman when she killed a huge female bear with a single shot at 100 yards. At another time, Mickey playfully coaxed a male bear to pose before the movie camera, by tapping him not too gently with a couple of well placed bullets meant to cripple him. When the bear was about to charge, her guide became nervous and tried to wrest the gun from her to finish the big brute, but the little girl, showing that stirling quality so much admired in the typical American sportswoman, never for an instant lost her nerve. She calmly and surety took aim and killed the bear with a single well-placed shot. She, naturally was quite enthused over her luck and we were just as proud to know that "our little Mickey" was such a splendid big game hunter. I was lucky enough to get three bears. In obtaining my male specimen, I got him with a running shot at

Brandeis and Bride on Hunting Trip



SAYS FLIER SACRIFICES HIS FAMILY FOR AVIATION
Application for a reduction of temporary alimony from \$150 to \$75 per month was made yesterday by Auld Nielson, aviator, whose wife, Mrs. Emma Nielson is suing for divorce. Nielson said he had been unable to earn money as an aviator to pay alimony, but said he would continue in the work for the good of the science.
Counsel for Mrs. Nielson charged that Nielson was "sacrificing his wife and three children in the name of aviation," and suggested that Nielson get a regular job.
It was charged that Nielson has paid his wife at the rate of about \$40 a month instead of the amount the court ordered him to pay nearly a year ago.

At top, right, are Mr. and Mrs. E. John Brandeis, photographed on the "Silverscreen" on which they went to Alaska on a hunting trip. Inset, Mrs. Brandeis, formerly Mrs. Emily Marie Colman of New York, who was married to Mr. Brandeis last May. She is 22 years old. News of the wedding came out yesterday with their arrival in Omaha.

John Brandeis Timeline - 2nd Wife - Emily Marie Ryan

In October 1923 "they return from several months in the jungles of east Africa, where they shot wild animals with high-powered rifles and then "shot" them with moving picture cameras. Mr. Brandeis bagged two lions and his young wife bagged three."

1923-10-14 Omaha Daily Bee

Nine days after the article at far right, John Brandeis was sued for divorce by Emily Marie on charges of extreme cruelty.

The article at right states that "John was kind while hunting, but once back in civilization, he seemed to take on the nature of the wild beasts he hunted, and his manner towards her became overbearing and he treated her with almost unbelievable cruelty."

After 17 months of marriage, Brandeis made no defense, and he is said to be out of the city. Her alimony is \$8,000 a year, with another settlement of \$250,000 in cash made out of court.

1923-11-27 Lincoln Evening Journal

WAS KIND WHILE HUNTING

Mrs. E. John Brandeis Granted Divorce and \$8,000 a Year Alimony.

OMAHA, Nov. 27.—While they were hunting big game in the African jungles and in Alaska, with death lurking on every hand, her husband treated her with consideration, Mrs. Emily Marie Colman Brandeis said in her divorce hearing against E. John Brandeis, multimillionaire Omaha merchant and big game hunter.

But once back to civilization, he seemed to take on the nature of the wild beasts he hunted and his manner towards her became overbearing and he treated her with almost unbelievable cruelty, she charged.

Brandeis' change in his sentiments toward her came shortly after they had returned from Africa and were living in their painted bungalow on the roof of the Brandeis stores.

Brandeis made no defense and Judge L. B. Day granted Mrs. Brandeis a divorce.

Her alimony was announced as \$8,000 a year, but it is reported another property settlement giving her \$250,000 in cash was made out of court.

Her maiden name of Ryan was also restored. The decree will not be signed until a transcript of the evidence is made.

The Brandeis' met and were married while on a big game hunt in Alaska. Mrs. Brandeis, is the di-

vised wife of J. Colman, New York and London exporter. Brandeis recently was divorced from Madeline Frank Brandeis, a member of a prominent San Francisco family. Mrs. Brandeis appeared in court accompanied only by a maid. Brandeis was represented by counsel. He is said to be out of the city.



John Brandeis Timeline - 3rd Wife - Claire Blavette

In Sept 1927, John (age 32) marries Claire Blavette (age 20) in Paris.

Photo descriptions from the detailed article at right:

- 1 - Madeline Frank of San Francisco
- 2 - The hunting room in the Brandeis home on top of the Brandeis store building in Omaha
- 3 - An inside of the Brandeis bungalow
- 4 - On top of the ten-story Brandeis building
- 5 - His latest wife, Claire Blavette
- 6 - John Brandeis
- 7 - Mrs. Brandeis #2, Emily Marie Ryan

1927-10-30 Kansas_City_Journal



John Brandeis Timeline - 3rd Wife - Claire Blavette

In Sept 1927, John (age 32) marries Claire Blavette (age 20) in Paris.

Excerpts from the detailed article at right:

"A spoiled kid" That is the appraisal of E. John Brandeis places upon himself. He is quoted by Omahans as having said so, frankly. "When I asked for a dime, they gave me a dollar", says E. John, referring to parental indulgence showered upon him in his boyhood days.

And how E. John is spending that wealth is why his name is getting into newspaper Sunday supplements all over this nation. It isn't so much how much money he spends to get into matrimony as what it costs him to get out that makes his case interesting.

He does not bother the store with personal supervision, delegating that authority to his cousin, George Brandeis, who became president of the Brandeis store in 1913.

When there is a charity drive or a public subscription of any kind, it is taken for granted that the Brandeis people will head the list. They help every church in Omaha and give away much in private charity or benevolence. No Brandeis was ever accused of being a four-flusher. They are what they are, fairly and squarely. And that, perhaps, is one of the reasons why all Omaha is tolerant in judgement of E. John Brandeis and his escapades, and why when his name is assailed defenders are numerous.

1927-10-30 Kansas City Journal



John Brandeis Timeline - 3rd Wife - Claire Blavette

Two months after their marriage a tabloid article is published.

Another Bride for the Multi-Millionaire "Bad Boy". And now the heir to \$15 million says He'll "Behave" - After two wives divorce him.

The Africa hunting trip story with Emily is modified:

The bride said that living in such a wild country during their trip had bad effects on her husband... At the end of six weeks as the result of a quarrel, he had her tied to a tree, and ordered the natives to torture her.

HER HONEYMOON.

"Savages danced around her and drew lots to see which should snatch the next garment from her quivering body. Her husband laughed and went away to shoot game."

MOTHER OF HIS ONE CHILD.
The First Mrs. Brandeis, Above, Divorced Him After Ten Years. Daughter Was Born to Her. Never Seen.

1927-11-20 Canton OH Repository p54

The Repository Magazine Section

Another Bride for the Multi-Millionaire

And Now the Heir to \$15,000,000 Says "Bad Boy" He'll "Behave" - After Two Wives Divorced Him






SECOND BRIDE.
Mrs. E. John Brandeis, No. 2, Murray, Republican in the Party Abroad His Youth and Reported in the Jungles of Africa.

HER HONEYMOON.
"Savages danced around her and drew lots to see which should snatch the next garment from her quivering body. Her husband laughed and went away to shoot game."

HER HONEYMOON.
The bride said that living in such a wild country during their trip had bad effects on her husband... At the end of six weeks as the result of a quarrel, he had her tied to a tree, and ordered the natives to torture her.

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PRESENT BRIDE.
The First Mrs. E. John Brandeis, Formerly Mrs. Clara Moore Ogden, is known as a French beauty as a French beauty in Cannes.

The trip to Africa was to be a honeymoon for Brandeis and his second bride. They arrived at Unsoot and went for into the jungle, accompanied by his one other white man, a bodyguard named Colter, whom Brandeis had known in the past.

The bride said that living in such a wild country during their trip had bad effects on her husband. He wanted her to do things she wouldn't do, the said, and when she refused he beat her.

The climate came at the end of six weeks. At the party, Mrs. Brandeis, her husband had her tied to a tree and ordered the natives to paint themselves in hideous war-painting and shout and dance about her, torturing her.

While this was going on, Brandeis, her husband, laughed.

Her husband had his savings war on the floor of their elaborate residence on the beach.

Six months later the second Mrs. Brandeis said that living in such a wild country during their trip had bad effects on her husband. He wanted her to do things she wouldn't do, the said, and when she refused he beat her.

John and Claire move to Beverly Hills

Estate in Beverly Hills Purchased - Big-Game Hunter Improves Foothill Dwelling

A \$100,000 home. One of the features of the 11-room Andalusian house is the game room, with inch-thick plank floors, hand-hewn beams, volcanic rock fireplace and massive antique furniture.

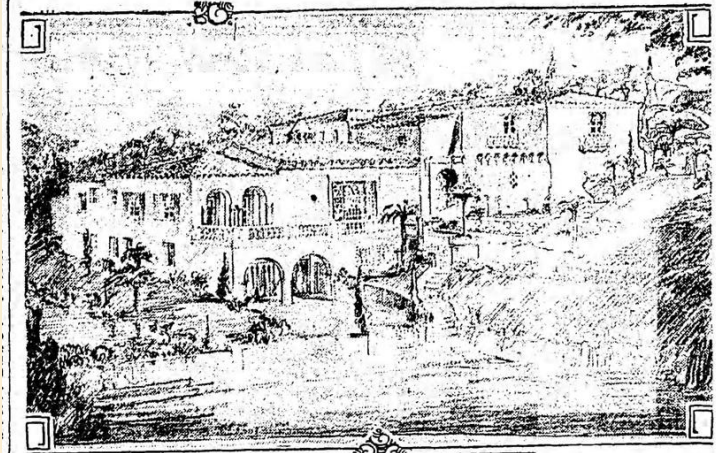
Improvements include a championship size tennis court, large swimming pool, bathhouse, increased garage facilities, and the landscaping of an adjoining site which has been acquired.

In the 1930 Census, John and Claire are living at 1152 Sunset Blvd at Sierra Alta Way with two servants.

1929-06-09 LATimes

ESTATE IN BEVERLY HILLS PURCHASED

Big-Game Hunter Improves Foothill Dwelling



Home of E. John Brandeis

E. JOHN BRANDEIS, globe trotter, big-game hunter, polo player and owner of the J. L. Brandeis & Son Department Store and Brandeis Theater in Omaha, Neb., has purchased, through the Jack Moss Company of Beverly Hills a \$100,000 home in the foothills of Beverly Hills.

One of the novel features of the eleven-room Andalusian house is the game room, executed in old-fashioned European style, with inch-thick random-laid plank floors, heavy hand-hewn beams, volcanic rock fireplace and massive antique furniture.

Extensive improvements are being made by Moss & Vandegrift Company, contractors, subsidiary of the Jack Moss Company. These include a championship size tennis court, large swimming pool, bathhouse, increased garage facilities, and the landscaping of an adjoining site which Mr. Brandeis also has acquired.

BUILDING OF FUTURE TO BE VISIONED

Montreal Convention Will Discuss Many Questions at Annual Meeting

Will the office building of the future soar to heights hitherto unknown? Will its base spread over many city blocks? Will the streets and sidewalks about it be of many levels? What transportation facilities will serve the man and woman who will people the building?

An attempt to answer these questions will be made by Clarence T. Coley, operating manager of the "world's largest office building"—the Equitable Building of New York City—at the annual convention of

Figures Show Trend Favors Apartments

The trend toward apartment-house dwelling in American cities continues at an increasing pace, it is found from an examination of the newest available data made by the research department of Greengbaum Sons Investment Company.

Nearly two-thirds of all new residential accommodations provided in 257 cities of the country during 1928 was of the apartment type, the figures reveal. Of the total number of families housed in new quarters during the year 85 per cent were accommodated in multi-family or two-family dwellings, and only 35 per cent in single dwellings.

In 1927 the proportions were 82 per cent in apartments and 38 per cent in single dwellings.

John buys the Johnson homestead in the Chatsworth foothills

In July 1929, John purchases the Johnson homestead of 140 acres in Chatsworth

The Palatial Estate will cost a Half Million. It will become one of the show places of California and is under construction.

The estate will be known as the Open Diamond Bar Rancho. It comprises 140 acres and will include many buildings. Early California architecture is predominant, the building being of the low, rambling type with adobe walls, heavy handhewn timbers and handmade clay tile roofs.

Other improvements are a champion-size tennis court, large polo field, swimming pool and bath house, dance pavilion, handball court, croquet court. A miniature lake will be stocked with fish and equipped for canoeing.

The two-story living room will be covered with heads and skins of sharpu, Dras sheep, ovis ammon, lions, tigers, leopard, rhinoceroses, etc. shot by Mr. Brandeis in Africa, India and Tibet, on his big-game hunting expeditions.

1929-07-09 The Van Nuys News

FOOTHILL HOME TO COST HALF MILLION

PLAN PALATIAL ESTATE FOR BRANDEIS

Tennis Courts, Pool, Dance Pavillion Features In Elaborate Program

A \$500,000 estate, which, it is declared, will become one of the show places of California, is under construction in the foothills of the Santa Susana Mountains for E. John Brandeis, Beverly Hills millionaire sportsman. Moss and Vandegrift, contractors, are erecting the mansion on plans prepared by Don Uhl, architect.

The estate will be known as the Open Diamond Bar Rancho. It comprises 140 acres and will include many buildings. Early California architecture is predominant, the buildings being of the low, rambling type with adobe walls, heavy handhewn timbers and handmade clay tile roofs.

Other improvements are a championship-size tennis court, large polo field, swimming pool and bath house, dance pavilion, handball court, croquet court, teahouse, tiled power house and a substantial-size bridge. A miniature lake will be stocked with fish and equipped for canoeing.

Suggestive of olden, golden days is the main residence, 128 feet long, with its broken roof levels and four-foot thick walls. Every room in the house has its own rock, open fireplace for burning logs, the one in the living-room being built of heavy volcanic rock and of Babylonian proportions. Another unique feature of the two-story living-room is the walls and mahogany plank floors, which will be covered with the heads and skins of sharpu, Dras sheep, ovis ammon, lions, tigers, leopard, rhinoceroses, etc., shot by Mr. Brandeis in Africa, India and Tibet, on his big-game hunting expeditions.

John Brandeis plays polo in Los Angeles

Some dates and articles relating to polo mentioning Brandeis:

1929-06-22 LATimes - EJ Brandeis, fast-improving local polo star, will lead the Saddle and Sirloin quartet on the Saddle Clubs field Sunday (near today's [LAPD Mounted Police Unit](#) east of Griffith Park)

1930-01-27 LATimes - Brandeis led the scoring for Hollywood at the grand opening of the polo grounds on Ventura Blvd.

1930-05-18 LATimes - Will Rogers Jr. plays position 1 and Brandeis position 4 for the Uplifters' Polo Club at the Beverly Boulevard grounds. (Note: Will Rogers Sr. died in a plane accident with Wiley Post in 1935)

1931-03-08 LATimes - Hal Roach is No. 2 and John Brandeis is Back (No. 4) on the Reds team playing polo at the Uplifters field this afternoon (today's [Rustic Canyon Recreation Center](#))

1932-07-04 LATimes - At a polo match at the Riviera Country club, Hal Roach Snowy Baker and Brandeis star. Brandeis filled in as a substitute for the Arizona team at the No. 2 position and scored three goals.


1933-09-29 LATimes - John Brandeis of the Riviera Country Club accuses Morgan Flowers, polo player, for attacking him and beating him with fists, causing a fractured nose, the loss of seven teeth, and other injuries.

1932-07-04 LATimes

**RIVIERA TRIPS
ARIZONA FOUR**

*Roach, Baker, Brandeis Star
in 10-9 Polo Clash*

With members of the Australian Olympic Games teams present as the guests of Snowy Baker, who still rates as the premier athletic hero of the fans from Down Under, the Riviera Country Club quartet defeated the University of Arizona four, 10 to 9, in a spectacular polo clash yesterday on the victors' field.



**JOHN
BRANDEIS**

Vic Smith, one of the Arizonaans scheduled to arrive here yesterday morning, failed to show up, so John Brandeis, wealthy Omaha sportsman, filled in at No. 2 position. Brandeis scored three goals and played such a fine game that it is rumored he will be offered a scholarship and induced to continue his college and polo education at Arizona.

Hal Roach, riding in action for the first time his new fleet-footed pony from Chile, scored four goals to tie with Baker for scoring honors. Morgan Flowers played a fine game at back for the victors. Line-ups:

Riviera (10)	Arizona (9)
Roach (4)	No. 1 Drill (3)
Williams (2)	No. 2 Brandeis (3)
Baker (4)	No. 3 Brown (2)
Flowers	Back Wilson (1)

Riviera 1 4 1 1 2 1 0 0—10
 Arizona 1 0 3 1 2 1 1 0—9

Neil McCarthy, referee; Hush Drury and Dick Smith, umpires; Mrs. A. M. Chaffey, timekeeper.

John Brandeis Trophy Room at the Open Diamond Bar Rancho

A 1931 article discusses his collection of hunting trophies, including 54 heads, housed in his beautiful Spanish-style ranch house near Santa Susana Pass.

Specimens include tiger, lion, rhinoceros, Kodiak and grizzly bear, moose, a dozen species of goat and sheep, elk, leopard, zebra, antelope, and others.

Two gun cases containing 22 guns and rifles ranging in caliber from .22 to the .577 Wesley-Richards elephant gun. John mentions that you can only shoot an elephant that carries more than 100 pounds of ivory, so he has only "shot" elephants with a motion picture camera.

Brandeis rates two goals as a polo player and is known in every country where the game is played.

He keeps a string of polo ponies on his de luxe ranch and spends much of his time in the saddle and with the mallet.

FEROCITY OF ANIMALS EXAGGERATED, ASSERTS NOTED BIG-GAME HUNTER



John Brandeis in His Trophy Room. Brandeis is examining the head and skin of one of the largest tigers ever bagged. On the wall are other trophies of the hunt.

1931-04-20 LATimes

Without any intention of dimming the glory that hovers above the big-game hunter the world over, let it be said that no wild animal willingly enters into conflict with man or assumes the aggressive in any way under ordinary conditions. On the contrary, the most powerful of the wild beasts—the tiger, the lion, the rhinoceros and the elephant—will make every effort to avoid man, except in the rare instances of the man-eating tigers of India, Siam and Ceylon, and the man-eating lions of Africa. This is the authority of John Brandeis, big-game hunter and polo player, now a resident of Hollywood.

Brandeis speaks from experience gleaned in the jungles of Africa and India, the mountain heights of Kashmir, the tundra of Alaska and the game haunts of the United States and Canada. He is officially credited with the second largest tiger ever killed and boasts the third largest private collection of game heads and trophies in the United States.

"Every wild animal fears man," he says. "Only when he is cornered or wounded or harassed beyond limit of his patience will the most ferocious attack, except in isolated instances. Most wild animals will beat a precipitous retreat upon sighting or catching the taint of man. The big cats depart the scene with dignity, as do the grizzly and Kodiak bears, but the majority of wild animals slink away or charge blindly for cover.

"Much has been said and written of the ferocity of the rhinoceros. I have shot him with both rifle and motion-picture camera and it has been my observation that his mad charges are simply attempts to get away from the man taint. He can see only a few feet and charges blindly. Anything that gets in his way is out of luck, but I am firmly convinced that he is retreating rather than attacking."

In his collection of fifty-four heads, housed in a beautiful Spanish-style ranch house near Santa Susana Pass, are specimens of tiger, lion, rhinoceros, Kodiak and grizzly bear, moose, a dozen species of goat and sheep, elk, leopard, zebra,

(Continued on Page 2, Column 4)

ANIMALS MEEK, SAYS HUNTER

(Continued from First Page)

antelope (including the smallest and largest specimens to be found in Africa) and other species. One of the goat heads he obtained in the Himalyas at an altitude of 21,000 feet.

Brandeis obtained his giant tiger in India on Friday, the 13th inst., after having kept vigil in a crow's nest for thirteen days. The beast measures just two inches under the record tiger killed by an Indian Maharajah.

In the large Spanish living-room of the Brandeis ranch-house, where two-score splendid heads snarl down or placidly stare from the walls, are two gun cases containing twenty-two guns and rifles ranging in caliber from .22 to the .577 Wesley-Richards elephant gun. The total number in the house reaches thirty.

"Have I ever shot an elephant?" he countered in reply to the question. "No, not with a gun. In British East Africa, the greatest game country in the world, it is against the law to shoot an elephant that does not carry 100 pounds of ivory. I shot at close range a herd of thirty-six with the motion-picture camera, but none boasted more than thirty-five pounds of ivory, according to my head man."

Brandeis rates two goals as a polo player and is known in every country where the game is played. Prior to his hunting trip into Kashmir he took a polo team to Germany on which the two Hoppings, father and son, the latter of whom was on the international team last year, played. He keeps a string of polo ponies on his de luxe ranch and spends much of his time in the saddle and with the mallet.

John Brandeis photo at the Open Diamond Bar Rancho

Per the 1932 article at right....

A Dream Ranch - water flows down from natural springs on the place into trout pools.

Wild deer from half a dozen different countries roam the mountain canyons of the ranch.

No Tenderfoot - Brandeis has a large fortune but is not the parlor type. As a young boy he worked for several years on a big cattle ranch in the Jackson Hole country and knows what it means to hunt lost cattle in a blizzard.

He is a captain in the Remount Service of the US Army Reserve.

He has hunted wild game where there was wild game to be found and his house is largely furnished with trophies.

Note: This is the only photograph we have found of the Brandeis Ranch, featuring John Brandeis and Claire Blavette, his 3rd wife.



1932 John and Claire at the ranch -
from the Jerry England archives

1932-06-28 LATimes

A DREAM RANCH
John Brandeis, the polo player, has the most beautiful ranch I have seen in California—the "Open Diamond Bar"—near Chatsworth Park.

With an ample fortune to help him, he has turned a California canyon into a little Garden of Eden. Water flows down from natural springs on the place into trout pools. Wild deer from half a dozen different countries roam the mountain canyons of the ranch. His ranch house is a little dream of Mexico. The best of all that he has not dolled it up to the point where the wild flavor has been lost.

NO TENDERFOOT
I am glad to see these old ranches falling into the hands of western men who know and appreciate them.

Brandeis has a large fortune; but he is not the parlor type. As a young boy he worked for seven years on a big cattle ranch in the Jackson Hole country and knows what it means to hunt lost cattle in a blizzard. He is a captain in the Remount Service of the United States Army Reserve.

He has hunted wild game where there was wild game to be found and his house is largely furnished with trophies—rhinoceroses and lions from Africa, huge tigers from the jungles of Bengal, mountain sheep shot on the plateaus of Tibet where your lungs have to fight the thin air of 20,000 feet altitude.

Activities at the Ranch

1932 - for the Olympic Games at the Coliseum, the equestrian team of 120 guests enjoyed a barbecue and dip in the plunge at the Brandeis Open Diamond Bar ranch in Chatsworth.

1934 - Barbecue, tennis and swimming for the Riviera Country Riding Club at the Brandeis Ranch.

1937 - Film folk enjoy a House Party at the ranch back of Chatsworth last weekend. Sunday morning, a horseback ride through John's private game preserve revealed animals imported from all over the world.

Kaibab deer from Utah, twisted horn black-buck deer from India, white deer from Russia.

A picturesque western street tucks itself away on the hill below the lodge and typifies the genial hospitality of the West that pervades the entire ranch.

3/18/2025

Equestrian Team Enjoys Ranch Outing

Maj.-Gen. and Mrs. Guy V. Henry and members of the equestrian team, together with officers detailed for Olympiad service and their wives, were guests of Capt. E. John Brandeis, Sunday night, at his Open Diamond Bar ranch near Chatsworth. There were 120 guests who enjoyed a barbecue and dip in the plunge.

A musical program was given by the Uplifters' Club orchestra with songs by "Jimmie" Jackson.

1932-08-08 LATimes

BARBECUE GIVEN FOR RIDING CLUB

Following one of their regular morning rides, members of the Riviera Country Riding Club motored to the John Brandeis ranch at Chatsworth recently, where they were his guests at a barbecue luncheon, after which tennis and swimming were enjoyed.

1934-06-16 LATimes

FILM FOLK TASTE REAL CALIFORNIA HOSPITALITY AT RANCHO HOUSE PARTY

John Brandeis Shows Southland Guests Game Preserve Modeled After Early Day Hacienda

BY AILEENE PARKS

The greatest California pastime of sun basking was made more than pleasant with John Brandeis pouring forth his genial hospitality to a group of friends at his beautiful ranch back of Chatsworth last week-end.

Don Alvarado and Roland Drew vied with their host and Marjorie Gordon for honors on the tennis court and later at bridge. Sizzling barbecued chickens "fresh off the griddle" were devoured under the oak trees in the barranca for supper.

Sunday morning a horseback ride through John's private game preserve revealed animals imported from all over the world. These were Kaibab deer from Utah, black-buck deer with twisted horns from India, white deer from Russia and a pair of antelope from the Pitchfork ranch in Wyoming that Owner Charles Belden, good friend of John, shipped out by plane.

A picturesque western street tucks itself away on the hill below the lodge and typifies the genial hospitality of the West that pervades the entire ranch.

1937-04-25 LATimes
Note: John Brandeis and
Marjorie Gordon are on
the tennis court

Another Trophy at the Ranch

1938 - Brandeis brings a Bison on to the Open Diamond Bar Ranch.

He trucked the Bison high into the hills where a group of hunters were to hide in the crags of the hills.

But two hours of prodding couldn't remove the Bison from the truck.

In desperation, Brandeis shot the Bison on the truck.

The head of the "Chatsworth-captured" bison is being carefully mounted.

Big, Bad Bison Slain in Valley

**The Real McCoy, Too!
Now Chatsworth Can
Do Some Boasting**

CHATSWORTH, Jan. 8. — "There's bison in them thar mountings," old timers here can now point out with pride as they show visitors the rim of the San Fernando Valley.

For John Brandeis, millionaire sportsman, shot one. And it was the real McCoy.

IMPORTED VARIETY

Bored with it all, the sportsman imported a bison from Montana. The consideration for the rapidly-decreasing species was not mentioned. Arriving here via rail and truck, the bison was to have been released on Brandeis's Open Diamond Bar Ranch in the Chatsworth Hills.

It didn't seem right to release the shaggy animal in a fence-enclosed pasture, so Brandeis put an element of chance into the hunt. He trucked the beast high into the hills where a party of snappily-attired hunters were to hie into the crags.

But the bison was miscued.

BISON GOES SISSY

He'd gone sissy and liked to ride in the truck. Two hours of careful prodding failed to move him.

In desperation, witnesses insist, Brandeis shot the bison on the truck. And the head of a "Chatsworth-captured" bison is being carefully mounted.

1938-01-09 LATimes

John Brandeis and Claire have marital issues

In mid-1932, after almost 5 years of marriage, Claire sues John for divorce charging mental cruelty, and John sues Claire for divorce for addressing him in "vile and obscene language".

Per a 1937-12-22 LA Times article, this divorce action was dismissed before a trial when they became reconciled.

**Millionaire Named
Defendant by Wife
in Divorce Battle**

LOS ANGELES, June 7. — (A.P.) — For the third time in ten years, E. John Brandeis, who inherited a \$15,000,000 department store fortune, was a defendant today in a divorce suit. Mental cruelty is charged in a brief petition filed by his wife, the former Mlle. Claire Blavette, Paris. They were married in 1929. Mrs. Brandeis is now reported to be in France.

Brandeis married his present wife shortly after he had settled \$1,250,000 on his second wife after their divorce. He was reported to have paid his first wife \$500,000 when they were divorced. A property settlement with the present Mrs. Brandeis has been effected, attorneys for Brandeis stated.

1932-06-07 Claire sues John Brandeis for divorce - Long Beach Press Telegram

**Brandeis, Heir to
Wealth, Sues Wife**

Charging that his wife addressed him in "vile and obscene" language, sometimes in the presence of others, E. John Brandeis, heir to an Omaha department store fortune, yesterday had on file a suit for divorce against the former Clair Blavette, whom he married in Paris in 1927.

Mrs. Brandeis is Brandeis third wife.

1932-06-08 Brandeis sues Claire for divorce - LA Daily News

John Brandeis and Claire have their divorce in 1938 after 11 years of marriage

As early as May 1935, Marjorie Gordon, an aspiring actress, is seen at a polo event with John.

On January 10, 1938, Claire describes how she was trapped in Paris for 5 years because Brandeis refused to approve her passport.

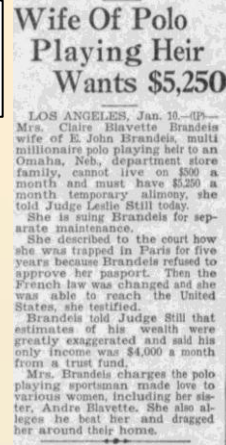
And on Jan 19, the entire polo team of the Riviera Country Club was hailed to court as witnesses.

On April 5, Claire names **Marjorie Gordon** as her rival, asserting her husband maintained Miss Gordon in luxury at a home in Westwood and at his Chatsworth Ranch.

In September 1938, Claire is awarded a divorce from John.



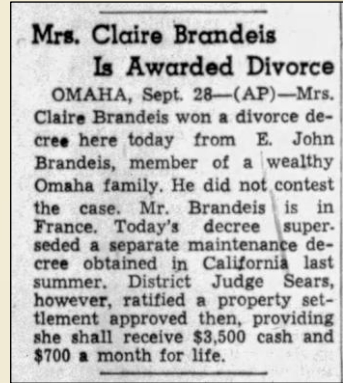
1938-01-10
The Modesto
Bee CA



1938-01-19
Marysville CA



1938-04-05 Pomona
Progress Bulletin
Note: Marjorie Gordon is described as a film actress



1938-09-28 The Lincoln Star

Marjorie Gordon marries John Brandeis (1948 or before)

The 1938 article at right discusses John's marriage challenges, headlining that 3 women couldn't tame him. The last line of the article reads: **But according to latest reports, he is even now intent on divorcing Claire in Omaha, and giving Marjorie Gordon a chance to succeed where so many have failed.**

We couldn't find a marriage date, but Marjorie is listed in the 1948 voting records and 1950 census as Marjorie Brandeis, living at 227 Tigertail Road in Brentwood. Society columns mention that the Brandeises live at Tigertail Road in Brentwood, in addition to the Open Diamond Bar Ranch in Chatsworth.

Marjorie Brandeis (1909-1993) is buried at Forest Lawn, Glendale, next to E. John Brandeis (1895-1974) in the Garden of Remembrance.

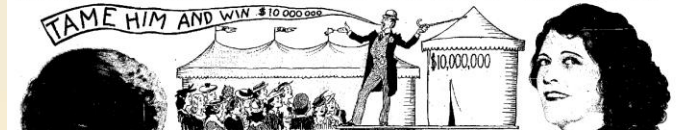
The only photo we have of Marjorie is from a 1958 newspaper article.



MR. AND MRS. John Brandeis of Bel-Air and Omaha, who also have 500-acre ranch in Chatsworth, return from a ride with MGM Producer Edmund Grainger, on right. Photo by Joan Winchell

1938-08-07 San Antonio Light

3 Women Couldn't Tame Him - Even for \$10,000,000



TAME HIM AND WIN \$10,000,000

That's What Two Wives of Rich and Adventurous Mr. Brandeis Admitted When They Got Divorces and Alimony As Part of the Reward for Trying — Now Wife No. 3 Gives Up and She Also Is Given a Consolation Prize

That's what two wives of rich and adventurous Mr. Brandeis admitted when they got divorces and alimony as part of the reward for trying — now wife no. 3 gives up and she also is given a consolation prize.

Wife No. 3, Claire Brandeis, who has just won \$100,000 in the contest, is shown in the center. To her right is the woman who won the prize, Mrs. Brandeis, and to her left is the woman who won the prize, Mrs. Brandeis.

Wife No. 3, Claire Brandeis, who has just won \$100,000 in the contest, is shown in the center. To her right is the woman who won the prize, Mrs. Brandeis, and to her left is the woman who won the prize, Mrs. Brandeis.

Wife No. 3, Claire Brandeis, who has just won \$100,000 in the contest, is shown in the center. To her right is the woman who won the prize, Mrs. Brandeis, and to her left is the woman who won the prize, Mrs. Brandeis.

Movies made at the Brandeis Ranch - 1935 to 1949

Chatsworth Movie Historian Jerry England has posted on his blog, a-drifting-cowboy.blogspot.com quite a bit about filming on the Brandeis Ranch. Jerry summarizes E. John Brandeis as follows:

"EJB was a forceful, energetic businessman with a penchant for outdoor sports, including tennis, polo, and big game hunting. He traveled in elite social circles, rubbing elbows with movie stars and politicians alike. When he wasn't at his Chatsworth ranch or in Omaha on business, he was often on hunting expeditions in India, Africa, Alaska, or some other exotic place."

Chatsworth Movie Historian Dennis Liff had also posted on his blog, iversonmovieranch.blogspot.com, filming at the Brandeis Movie Ranch. His most recent post is about a Gatorade commercial filmed in 2020 in Todd Gurley's backyard on Hialeah Way.

Some films mentioned:

1936 The Singing Cowboy (Gene Autry) on [Prime Video](#)

1937 Law of the Ranger (Hickeyville, the western town on today's Hialeah Way)

1938 [The Terror of Tiny Town](#)

1939 Outlaws Paradise

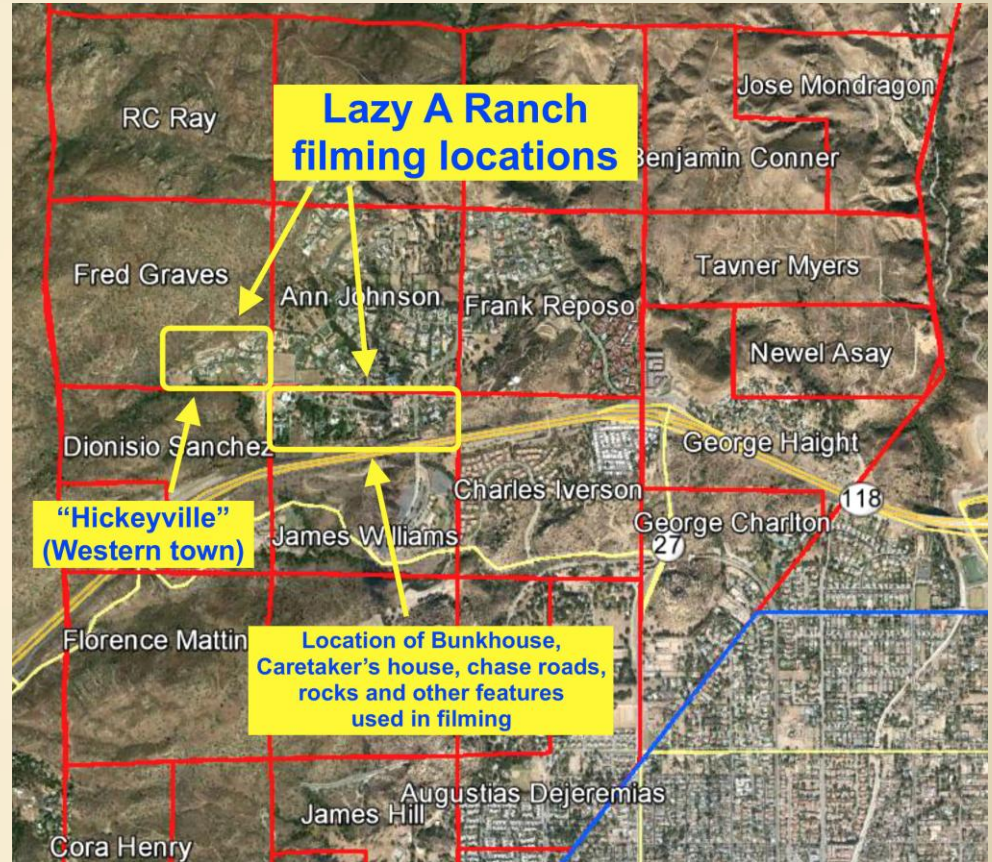
1949 The Last Bandit (caretaker house)

Movies made at the Brandeis Ranch - 1935 to 1949

Dennis Liff has done some recent research, and noticed that the studio documents referred to the Lazy A Ranch, not the Brandeis Ranch.

Dennis made the map at right, identifying the movie filming locations. Brandeis no doubt had delegated the filming projects to someone else, as he was often out of town as discussed previously.

Coming up next, a 4-minute clip of movies made at Brandeis by Jerry England.



A four-minute
clip of movies
made at
Brandeis, by
Jerry England.

3/18/2025

Meanwhile, back at the Ranch, Marian Marsh is inaugurated honorary mayor of Chatsworth

1939 - The Chatsworth Womens Club stages a barbecue for honorary mayor Marian Marsh

Inauguration ceremonies for the new official were held today at an elaborate barbecue on the Open Diamond Bar Ranch of John Brandeis, to which many celebrities were invited.

Chatsworth resident Lionel Barrymore did the installation honors.

Chatsworth Club Plans Barbecue

Chatsworth Women's club will stage a barbecue next Saturday from 2 to 6 p. m., at the Open Diamond Bar ranch of John Brandeis. Tennis, swimming and the barbecue will be features. Marian Marsh will be inducted as honorary mayor of Chatsworth at the event. Lionel Barrymore, veteran Chatsworth resident, will install Miss Marsh. Paul Kelly is in charge of the barbecue.

Mayor Fletcher Bowron has been invited to attend, and the escort for the new honorary mayor will include Al Jolson, Hugh Herbert, Andy Devine, Richard Arlen, Bob Burns, Glénda Farrell and Robert Young.

Committee in charge includes Mrs. Annette Hughes, general chairman; Mmes. Frank Hagerman and Robert See; Miss Helen La Grange; Messrs. Fred Vickers, Russell McElvain, William Serron, Ralph Frank, Paul Kelly, Bernard Karmen and John Brandeis.

1939-06-21
LA Daily_News



1939-06-25 LATimes

Marian Marsh Inaugurated as 'Mayor' of Chatsworth

CHATSORTH, June 24.—Open Diamond Bar Ranch of John Brandeis, to which many celebrities were invited. But Miss Marsh wasn't there all of the time. She was out looking her town over and paying friendly visits to the Joneses and the Smiths, who couldn't leave their chickens or their children to attend her party.

BARBECUE INAUGURAL

For Miss Marsh has gone community-minded. In less than five months she has not only been chosen honorary Mayor of her new home, Chatsworth, but she also has been unanimously acclaimed a "swell neighbor," which is about the best tribute folks around here pay.

Inauguration ceremonies for the new official were held today at an elaborate barbecue on the

While Lionel Barrymore was doing the honors at her inaugural and Paul Kelly, the actor-farmer, was slicing off juicy slabs of barbecued beef to appease the appetites of the stars, socialites and civic lights amassed at the ranch, the diminutive actress was learning how to take care of chickens when they get the bumble-foot, and what to do when old Jack Frost sneaks into your citrus grove, come winter.

COUNTY BUILDING PROGRAM BROAD

FIRST-HAND INFORMATION

VENTURA, June 24.—The proposed construction of an addition to the Courthouse, a new juvenile home, a series of bridges and improvements at the County Hospital will add \$228,100 to the 1939-40 county budget, the County Auditor's office reported today.

The Courthouse addition went into the budget at a proposed cost of \$35,000. Planned for construction as a part of the main building next to the Assessor's office, the annex would house a law library.

Supervisors set aside a \$20,000 item for the Juvenile Detention Home. Several proposed new

A story about Brandeis from Gene Herst

A story from 1946, from Gene Hurst. The full story is in the [November 2015 Smoke Signal](#), page 7.

Excerpts: My Dad took the job of handy-man and Mom became the cook at the Brandeis main house shortly after Wolverton died. This is where my book ended.

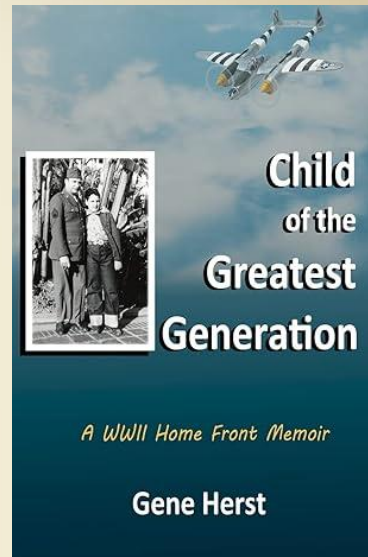
I remember he drove around the ranch in a surplus Army Jeep.

One day, when Mr. Brandeis and his lady friend were gone for a few days, my dad took me for a tour of the main house. If you can picture a mansion combined with a natural history museum, you'll have a reasonable visual. There were trophy heads of game animals on all of the walls, including in the bathrooms.

Part of the ranch had a large section of land set aside for Mr. Brandeis's private game reserve. Included within the compound was a rustic log cabin. The roof of the cabin had antlers and animal skulls strewn about. The cabin's interior was rather cozy. There was a stone fireplace, a gun rack, and Indian blankets on the bed and window. I remembered the cabin because it made quite an impression on me (Gene was 13 at the time).

Dad told me that when Brandeis felt in the mood to hunt, but didn't want to go out of town, he occupied the cabin, and pursued his own game animals.

There are other stories of Lucy and Desi Arnaz and picking oranges in Chatsworth in his book, [Child of the Greatest Generation](#)



1950's LA Times Society columns

1950-08-23 - Skylarking - From what we've heard, Marge and John must be a pretty ferocious couple. Strike 1 against Brandeises: They just returned from an African safari on which they shot and dragged off everything in sight, including an elephant. Strike 2 Their house is on Tigertail Road in Brentwood.

1953-05-07 - Skylarking - Marge and John were among guests at a Bel-Air estate, also including Dolly and Hal Roach Jr. After dinner the guests viewed colored movies of David May's recent African safari.

1953-11-10 - Skylarking - Marge (Mrs. John) Brandeis attended an African safari themed party at the Santa Monica estate of Paquita and Maurice Machris. Guests included Mary (Mrs. Bob) Cummings and Lois (Mrs. Art) Linkletter.



1950-08-23 LATimes

1958 visit at the Ranch

Suburbs Can Be Heavenly by Joan Winchell

We spent the day in Chatsworth visiting Marge and John Brandeis on their not-so-modest 500-acre ranch.

Brandeis collects high-powered rifles, zebra-skinned couches and photos of yesteryear's polo pals like Spencer Tracy, Walt Disney and Will Rogers.

The Brandeises had a schedule arranged for us -- 10am horseback, noon, Martinis, 1pm luncheon, 2pm siesta, 4pm tennis, 6pm more Martinis, 7pm dinner, 8pm bridge or gin rummy, 10pm go home.

In retrospect, it was all fun, and such a welcome diversion from the rigors of city life.

Note the photo of John Brandeis, Marge, and MGM Producer Edmund Grainger, on horseback.

1958-05-08 LATimes

JOAN WINCHELL

Suburbs Can Be Heavenly

CHATSWORTH—A corner of heaven. A corner of Los Angeles, our city of many faces.

WHERE the mountains meet the marigolds. Where the zoom-zoom of city life melts into oblivion.

WHERE you discover sky instead of skyscrapers, space instead of claustrophobia, and know how Shakespeare could have found "tongues in trees, books in running brooks, sermons in stones and good in everything."

WE SPENT the day in Chatsworth the other day, visiting Marge and John Brandeis on their not-so-modest 500-acre ranch.

"WHAT DO you grow?" we asked the dapper Mr. Brandeis on arriving for the day's fun shins. "Older," he twinkled back. "No, I mean what do you raise?" we tried again. "Cain," he came back with an I-dare-you-to-trap-me grin.

IT WAS OBVIOUS that straight questions were sil-

ly to a man who's spent a lifetime getting a kick out of it. Probably everybody's supposed to know that John Brandeis has been around the world 17 times and probably they're supposed to act nonchalant when they see a herd of Corsican wild sheep, Indian black buck and Russian white deer romping around his sprawling estate.

BRANDEIS also collects odd-shaped hats, high-powered rifles, zebra-skinned couches and oodles of photos of yesteryear's polo pals like Spencer Tracy, Walt Disney, Russ Havenstrite, Will Rogers and former Times's Columnist Harry Carr.

BUT his favorite collection apparently is week-end guests. We were included with MGM Producer Edmund Grainger, Oilonaire Mort Kline (natty in a maroon blazer with navy pocket handkerchief), Mrs. Kline (in an oatmeal sheath with pumpkin accessories), and the John Hessells (she

Turn to Page 3, Column 1



MR. AND MRS. John Brandeis of Bel-Air and Omaha, who also have 500-acre ranch in Chatsworth, return from a ride with MGM Producer Edmund Grainger, on right. Times photo by Joan Winchell

JOAN WINCHELL

Continued from First Page

switching from a white lace tennis dress to a pink striped chemise).

GRADUATES cum laude of the school that believes that wasting time is a waste of time, the Brandeises had a schedule arranged for us — 10 a.m., horseback riding; noon, Martinis; 1 p.m., luncheon; 2 p.m., siesta; 4 p.m., tennis; 6 p.m., more Martinis; 7 p.m., dinner; 8 p.m., bridge or gin rummy; 10 p.m., go home.

NEEDLESS to say, all were delighted with the siesta session. But none more than this out-of-condition pencil pusher who used the time to tub-soak from the horse aches before working on a tennis elbow during the next round.

BUT, in retrospect, it was all great fun. And such a welcome diversion from the

rigors of city life. After all, it's not every day you take time to listen to the wind in the pines, and count the lillacs on the mountain side, and mill around with casual people who laugh easily and converse amiably . . .

ABOUT the Russian ballet, the Carnival in Rio, a Japanese art school on Beverly Blvd., the John McNabbs' cruise to the Galapagos Islands, whether a Rolls-Royce is superior to a Mercedes and how the critics cheered Eddie Grainger's latest effort, "Sheepman," with Glenn Ford.

THE HESSELLS, of course, explained why children should go to Tactoloma kindergarten in Brentwood, and grownups auto-buy-now in El Segundo.

THE KLINES, who repeated the tale (and it's

worth repeating) about how Reese Milner paid off a \$20,000 bet to Tex Feldman on the Taft-Eisenhower nomination.

BUT the most enlightening discussion of them all, however, started during the peacock course at luncheon and lasted through the after-dinner Courvoisiers. It started when someone started to muse, "Isn't it curious the way everybody's talking about a recession?"

Benhams Greet Son, Fifth Child

Mrs. George Monroe Sidenberg Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Benham, all of Santa Barbara, are welcoming a new grandson who is the child of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert R. Benham Jr. (Phyllis Sidenberg) of Bakersfield.

Also greeting the newcomer are his brothers and sisters, Mark, Herbert III, Pamela and Hope.

1962 Wild Game Abounds at Chatsworth Ranch

The Open Diamond Bar Ranch is a gigantic compound for Corsican mouflon sheep, Indian blackbuck, European white fallow deer, sika bucks, Tule elk, and Thompson's gazelle.

E. John Brandeis, of Omaha, Neb., and Chatsworth, surveys his 525-acre ranch where exotic animals from all the world run loose.

A Corsican mouflon ram, with eyesight seven times stronger than a human's, climbed atop a boulder and stared down at the men on horseback.

Brandeis is one of the directors of Friends of the Zoo. He was with Maurice Machris, also a big game hunter and conservationist.

1962-08-12 LA Times



RANCH OWNER—E. John Brandeis, of Omaha, Neb., and Chatsworth, surveys his 525-acre ranch where exotic animals from all the world run loose. Times photo

Wild Game Abounds at Chatsworth Ranch

Open Diamond Bar Is Gigantic Compound for Corsican Wild Sheep, Other Animals

BY DEWEY LINZE

Sun devils wiggle dance he would have to trace through the rocks, and aid to Russia for a trophy Corsican mouflon ram, with ram.

eyesight seven times stronger than a human's, climbed atop a boulder and stared down at the men on horseback.

"Now he's a young one," said E. John Brandeis, former polo champion and big game hunter. "But don't you worry — he saw us a lot quicker than we saw him."

Brandeis, one of the directors of Friends of the Zoo, squinted his eyes. "He's sure a pretty one," he said.

Maurice Machris, also a big-game hunter and a conservationist, shifted his weight into one stirrup.

"There are some bigger ones up there. The only time you can see them well in the rocks is when they're silhouetted against the sky."

The Open Diamond Bar was established in 1929. "The pen for game was built by a Mexican, a German and myself," says Brandeis. "Since then, we've had many exotic animals here, including the speedy little Thompson's gazelle from East Africa."

Friends of the Zoo formed to manage an Elysian Park

4 Sec. C—SUN., AUG. 12, 1962 Los Angeles Times

Herd of 12 in View

Then, with intense scanning, came a sight that not many eyes in the world have enjoyed — a herd of 12 mouflon, from kids a few weeks old to old rams with horns almost in full curl.

They were there, in the only home they know — the rocks of Brandeis' Open Diamond Bar ranch in Chatsworth.

"I've been here since 1929," Brandeis said. "I've always wanted a picture of one of the large rams standing on a boulder and against the sky. Maybe one of these days I'll be lucky enough to get one of those photographs."

Gigantic Compound

Brandeis' Open Diamond Bar ranch is a paradox. It really is a gigantic compound for the mouflon, Indian blackbuck, European white fallow deer and sika bucks, which have lured and eluded hunters everywhere.

In fact, the only domestic animals on the Open Diamond Bar range are horses and a donkey which Brandeis keeps around at his "mountain canary."

Brandeis, who has been on safari to Africa six times, has shot big game in both hemispheres. The only sheep he hasn't bagged is the famous Ovis Poli, and now he's not too sure he wants it.



ELK HERD—The Open Diamond Bar Ranch boasts one of the few private herds of Tule elk in California. Times photo

zoo for Los Angeles, a project which since has collapsed, relied upon Brandeis' knowledge of big game.

Africa Traveler

"He has been to Africa three times more than I," said Machris of his companion. "He has gone to great expense to obtain his knowledge about animals, and much of it has been from personal observation."

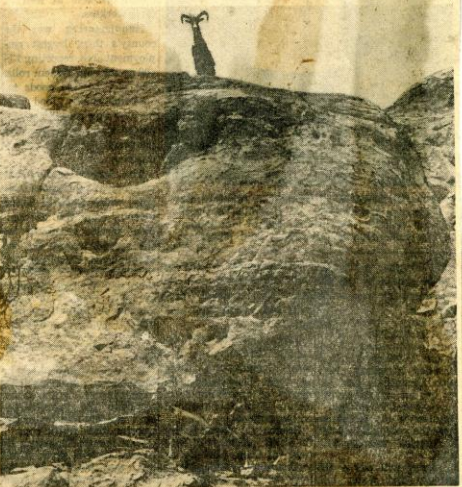
"The mouflon, extremely wary, hide in the rocks, but there is always one ram on lookout. They are rather small animals, but the rams have large, horned heads.

The white fallow deer are white and twice the size of the mouflon. They are extremely cautious, and they will stand motionless in the sage brush and grasswood to keep from being seen.

Only Darting Shadows

Brandeis' sika bucks and Indian blackbucks are speedy, and frequently they are only darting shadows.

The animals are free to roam over Brandeis' 525-acre ranch, and while they are far from the home of their origin, the rocks of the Open Diamond Bar ranch in Chatsworth has made life easier than they ever would have had it in India, Japan, Corsica and Russia.

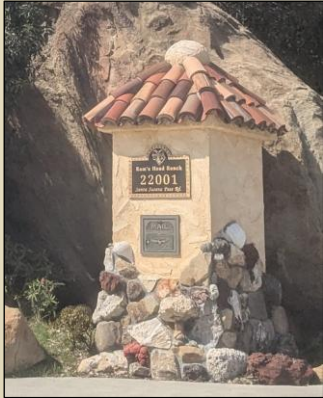


RAM ON ROCK—A young mouflon ram stands on a rock overlooking the Open Diamond Bar Ranch in Chatsworth. The rest of the ram's family watches below. Times photo

Today's statue at Rams Head Ranch

You may have noticed the beautiful Ram Bronze statue on Santa Susana Pass Road.

This was placed by Randy Mineo who owns Rams Head Ranch to remind us of the amazing sheep that used to roam these hills during the Brandeis era.



A Ram watches from overhead at
Ram's Head Ranch
22001 Santa Susana Pass Rd

1965 Celebrity Women raise funds

Only Make-Believe -
Celebrity women are not preparing for a safari, but are dramatizing their search for furs for the 8th annual Glamour Clothes Sale.

The event raises funds to support three homes for girls in need of assistance and rehabilitation.

Celebrity women include Mmes. Clark Gable, Ronald Reagan, John Brandeis and Alfred Bloomingdale.

A fashion show tea to preview the clothes will be held March 31 at the Beverly Hills Hotel.



ONLY MAKE-BELIEVE—Mmes. Mortimer W. Hall, Franklyn Phillips and Clark Gable, from left, are not preparing for a safari. They are dramatizing their search for furs for the 8th annual Glamour Clothes Sale to be given by The Colleagues. Times photo

Colleagues: Big Name Hunt for Charity in Style Jungle

BY KIM BLAIR
Times Staff Writer

Since their formation in 1950 members of The Colleagues have distinguished themselves as formidable huntresses.

Their search is not for game, however, but for fashionable attire for their annual Glamour Clothes Sale.

They persuade designers and manufacturers to donate new clothes and their friends to give top-drawer furs, millinery, jewelry, suits and evening gowns from personal wardrobes.

Support of Homes

Last year the group netted more than \$60,000 from the Glamour Clothes Sale with proceeds going to support The Colleagues' three homes for girls in need of assistance and rehabilitation. The homes are located on S. New Hampshire Ave.

The sale this year will

be held from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. May 12 at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium.

A cocktail party in honor of the designers and manufacturers contributing will be held March 1 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Reese Milner of Beverly Hills.

The Colleagues, with their affiliated group Les Amies, are planning a fashion show tea to preview the clothes on March 31 at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

Three new members of

The Colleagues, Mmes. Mark Miller, Kenneth Simpson and William Hayes, will be welcomed by the group at the next meeting Feb. 24 in the home of Mrs. Alfred Bloomingdale of Holmby Hills, whose co-hostess will be Mrs. Gwynn Robinson.

Mrs. Lewis Lohman, president of the group, has appointed Mmes. Charles Wick and Harold Hoag co-chairmen for the Glamour Clothes Sale.

Assistants Named

Assisting them are Mrs. Homer Toberman, founder of the group, and Mmes. Bloomingdale, Milner, John Twist, Robert Meyer Jr., William Hawks, Philip Reed, Dominick Dunne, Tevis Morrow, John Brandeis, William Hinkle and Mortimer W. Hall.

More are Mmes. Franklyn Phillips; Clark Gable, Earle Jorgensen, William Wilson, William L. Perera, Arnold Kirkeby, Byron

Please Turn to Pg. 2, Col. 1

TODAY IN PART IV

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BIG NAME

Continued from First Page

Vandegrift, Paul Trousdale, Ronald Reagan, Ray Milland, Howard Keck, David Hurst, Horace Martin, Charles Hornburg and Voltaire Perkins.

Others on the committee are Mmes. Welton Becket, Frank Clark Jr., Robert B. Owen, William Rowland Moore, Maxson Smith, John Stillman, Halliburton Stevens, Robert Bell and Roger Converse.

1965-02-05 LATimes

1965 Society Puts Its Brand on Western Style Party

Exotic animals - goats from Africa, black deer from India, white deer from Russia and mouflon sheep from Corsica - range the pastures of John and Marjorie Brandeis' Open Diamond Bar Ranch.

Saturday night it was a preserve for people who came to wish Jean and Paul Trousdale, and John and Marjorie Brandeis, happy anniversary.

Guests in western attire dined on pit-barbecued steaks, baked beans, cheeses and drank California wine.

A caller lured cowboys and their ladies over a trail to a glen for square dancing. The hosts and others including Mrs. Clark Gable and the Art Linkletters proved quite agile.

For those not dancing there were plenty of diversions - viewing the hosts polo trophies in the ranch house, gathering in the stone ratskeller and wine room equipped with old presses and barrels.

Others at the party were the Ronald Reagans, Hugh O'Brian, Maurice and Paquita Machrio and others.

Art and Lois Linkletter
at the barbecue pit -
1965-09-21 LA Times

Society Puts Its Brand on Western Style Party

BY ANN SONNE
Times Staff Writer
Exotic animals—goats from Africa, black deer from India, white deer from Russia and mouflon sheep from Corsica—range the pastures of John and Marjorie Brandeis' Open Diamond Bar Ranch.
Saturday night it was a preserve for people who came to wish Jean and Paul Trousdale happy anniversary. But they settled for congratulating Jean as Paul is recovering from pneumonia.

It was also the hosts' anniversary and for the occasion they gave a party reminiscent of the golden days of the dons.
Diners in western attire dined on pit-barbecued steaks, baked beans, cheeses and drank California wine while savoring fragrances from fruit trees and cedars washed by the rain earlier in the day.

A caller lured cowboys and their ladies over a trail to a glen for square dancing where the hosts and Norma and John Bowles, the Robert Bell, Mrs. Clark Gable with Robert Kaye and the Art Linkletters proved quite agile.

For those with more modern tastes there was a Watusi band which resulted in sore ankles for at least one person. Lee Andersen found dancing in cowboy boots can have painful aftereffects. She ate with Eric Skipsey.

More at the party were the Jack Tyler, the Howard Kecks, the Homer Tobermans, the MacDonaid Carey, the William Williams, the Alfred Blomminghals, the William Smoots, the Bob Forward, Gen. and Mrs. Clarence Sloop, Dr. and Mrs. Hugo Kirsten and the George Fontana.

For those not dancing there was plenty of diversion—viewing the hosts' polo trophies in the ranch house, gathering in the stone ratskeller and wine room equipped with old presses and barrels.
Among these were the Ronald Reagans, the Mortimer Klines, the Charles Lockmans, the Gordon Gulbersons, Hugh O'Brian, Mrs. Monty Fisher, the Delmer Davis, Helen and John McNabb.

More were the Voltaire Perkinson, Alice Rand with Ed Fickett, Rosalie and Orm McCartney, Patty and Dr. Richard Barton and Maurice and Paquita Machrio.



ABLE STANDBY—Art Linkletter is alerted to rescue his wife should her conjuring fail at the barbecue pit. It didn't and all ended well at party given by Mr. and Mrs. John Brandeis at Open Diamond Bar Ranch for Mr. Paul Trousdale.
Times Photo by SAKET CHAKR

The Sept 1970 Clampitt Fire consumes the Open Diamond Bar Ranch

During the fire, all of the buildings - including the ranch house, barn, garage, service buildings and workers quarters, were destroyed (source: 1977-07-24 LA Times article)

It required a massive, \$750,000 reconstruction project to rebuild the Open Diamond Bar Ranch.

The only structures not destroyed by the fires are a wine cave, built of native stone in the early 30's, a swimming pool, tennis court, and a pond fed by a natural stream.

The house was rebuilt in 1971, and still exists at 22637 La Quilla Drive, 12,000 sq ft, 11 beds and 15 baths on 16 acres. [For sale today for \\$10 million](#)

George Spahn, 81, the blind owner of the Spahn Movie Ranch 1970-09-28 San Bernardino County Sun



Spahn Ranch Victim of Fire

George C. Spahn, owner of the movie ranch bearing his name, sits amid debris left by fire that destroyed it Saturday. The ranch was the home of

Charles Manson and his followers at the time of the Sharon Tate murders. It was swept by one of fires ravaging Southern California. (Story A—1)

The Sept 1970 Clampitt Fire impact to neighborhood

Rose Marie "Mimi" Couch lived at a home off of Johnson Motorway, just north of the Brandeis Ranch. It was also destroyed in the Clampitt fire; some unique foundations remain today.

Rose Marie was an aspiring actress in 1949, she was 47 years old in 1970.

Researcher and historian Dean Fields learned from Mimi's niece Rita that Mimi was a real estate broker in the San Fernando Valley beginning in the late 1950's, early 60's and had her last office on Lake Manor Drive in Chatsworth.

During the fire Rita's brother "drove through the fire down from the ranch to help others below with evacuation of horses."

Today the property is owned by the MRCA (Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority).



RANG THE BELL
Here's an ex-model girl who's gonna cause many a male head to flutter. Formerly in the mail department at the several International Studios, Rose Marie Couch is now the road to stardom. She's the great-granddaughter of actress Johnson, and Mrs. Lois Torrance.

Rose Marie Couch
June 1949



2016 photo of foundations of Rose Marie Couch's house
Just above Homesteader Brooks Miller
[34°17'35.92\"N 118°37'22.85\"W](https://www.google.com/maps/place/34°17'35.92\)
Source: Dean Fields, [Hiking with Dean](#)

E. John Brandeis died in 1974 at the age of 79.

Speaking at his services in Omaha, Rev. Reinhart said it was difficult to "capture the spirit of this man". Brandeis believed that the "God-given pleasures of this world are to be enjoyed with zest."

Father Reinhart also described Brandeis as a contentious business man that showed "a fatherly concern for the large family of Brandeis employees".

John left behind an estate valued at \$12.7 million. Half of this fortune was directed to the E. John Brandeis foundation, which later became the Alan and Marcia Baer Foundation, ensuring that his wealth continued to benefit charitable causes.

Brandeis Stores Owner Services Set In Omaha

Omaha (AP) — Services for E. John Brandeis, 79, owner and president of the J. L. Brandeis stores, are scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Westside Chapel of the John A. Gentleman Mortuary.

Burial will be in the Forest, Lawn Cemetery in Glendale, Calif. Brandeis died at a hospital in Los Angeles, Calif. Saturday morning.

He was the only grandson of the founder of the Brandeis organization and the last of the founder's descendants with the Brandeis name.

Brandeis was the grandson of Jonas L. Brandeis, founder of the store 83 years ago.

He was elected president of the firm in 1948. At that time the company operated only one store in downtown Omaha.

The firm now operates 10 stores in Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, Columbus and Bellevue.

Associates have said Brandeis believed ownership of the organization should remain in Omaha. They said they expected that when he died, control would pass to the Omaha team that has made the day-to-day decisions with Alan Baer, his nephew, expected to assume principal leadership.

A native of Omaha, Brandeis was graduated from Omaha Central and attended Cornell College for one year.

He was an Army veteran of both world wars, and retired from the Army as a Lt. Col.

Until last September, he played tennis or rode horseback and took up jogging in his 70's.

Over 800 Persons Attend Rite for E. John Brandeis

More than 800 persons attended funeral services Wednesday for E. John Brandeis, and heard the owner and president of the J.L. Brandeis Stores described as a man who found a special strength in nature and through nature "found his God."

The Rev. Carl Reinert, S.J., speaking at services at the John A. Gentleman Westside Chapel, said it was difficult to "capture the spirit of this man."

Brandeis believed, Father Reinert said, that the "God-given pleasures of this world are to be enjoyed with zest."

Father Reinert also described Brandeis as a conscientious businessman and said that he showed a "fatherly concern for the large family of Brandeis employees."

Rabbi Sidney Brooks of Temple Israel also officiated at the ceremonies and said that from Brandeis "others can learn much about showing concern for others."

Brandeis died Saturday in a Los Angeles hospital. He was 79 and had been president of Brandeis since 1948.

Burial will be in the Forest, Lawn Cemetery in Glendale, Calif. He was the only grandson of the founder of the Brandeis organization and the last of the founder's descendants with the Brandeis name.

Survivors include his widow, Marjorie, two grandchildren and a nephew.

Pallbearers were Helmuth Dahlke, Edgar L. DeMaranville, John D. Diesing, John J. Hawk, Salvatore J. Marchese, Lester K. Marcus, Victor J. Mason, George Meuse, Raphael Powers and Alfred Sauvageau.

Brandeis Left \$12.7 Million

Department store owner and sportsman E. John Brandeis left nearly half of his \$12.7-million estate to a charitable foundation.

The remainder was left to his wife, two grandchildren, a nephew and a person listed as "G. Gray."

A total of \$6,105,313 was left to the E. John Brandeis Foundation, Inc., a charitable foundation which he established. Interest earned from the bequest and from other assets of the foundation will be distributed to various organizations.

Brandeis, who died in August 1974, left \$1,115,000 to his wife, Madeline, of Los Angeles, according to probate documents filed in Douglas County Court.

His nephew, Alan Baer, who succeeded Brandeis as president of J. L. Brandeis & Sons, Inc., received \$1,523,583.

Brandeis left \$10,000 each to his two grandchildren, Russell Ehrman of Mill Valley, Calif., and Madeline Ehrman of the American Embassy at Bangkok, Thailand.

They are the children of Brandeis' only child, Madeline Marie Ehrman, who died in 1973.

"G. Gray" was left \$476,130. An attorney for the estate, Thomas McCusker, declined to identify the person. John Diesing, an executor of the estate, said the person was a friend of Brandeis and does not live in Omaha.

The valuation of the estate was listed in probate documents as \$12,742,248.

When the Brandeis will was filed in County Court in late 1975, it listed accounts at two Omaha banks and one California bank, stock shares in J. L. Brandeis & Sons, Inc., the Omaha National Corp. and the Hollywood Turf Club and unspecified real estate in Douglas County and Los Angeles County, Calif.

The estate paid a state inheritance tax of \$223,722 late in 1975, but an order signed by County Judge Robert McGowan allowed a \$50,000 refund to the estate.

The inventory filed in County Court showed the estate paid federal taxes of \$1,074,950 and debts of \$1,707,334.

Records also indicate that the estate paid administrative costs of \$706,871.

Conservationists, Developers Fight over a Ranch

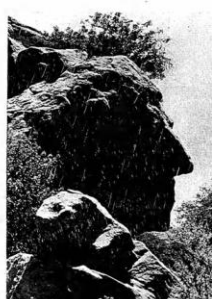
An emergency request for state park funds of \$2.5 million was made (and later denied).

The article discusses the expected sale this month to Eugene Kilmer, following county approval of a proposed subdivision of more than 160 acres of the ranch flatland.

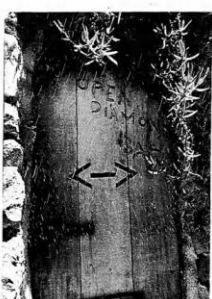
After the Sept 1970 fire, all of the buildings are only 6 years old as a result of a \$750,000 reconstruction project by Brandeis.

The activities of Brandeis were seldom publicized and only a few residents even knew of his existence in the community. His love for the hunt was so great that he imported wild goats and exotic animals to roam the craggy ridges around the ranch.

1977-07-24 LA Times



NATURALLY IT'S GOOD—Natural rock formation on Open Diamond Bar Ranch overlooks George Washington. The site was destroyed by fire and restored by late owner E. John Brandeis.



BETTER BACKS—Down to view after all ranch comes ranch. Friends of Santa Susana Mountains suggest buildings be used as cultural center and for park storage and headquarters.



DOOL WATER—Stream fed by springs with meadows through canyon of the ranch on Brandeis property. Vegetation is split both by overhead wiring system. Footpaths cross cross stream.

Conservationists, Developers Fight Over a Ranch

By MARTHA L. WILLIAMS

CHATSWORTH—They mean a reconstruction of a ranch which was lost in a 1970 fire and now is a ruin. They are fighting to turn the land into a reserve for people. One side wants the major preserved as a public park, while the other wants to subdivide the land into private, low-density residential units.

The battle is over the remaining 160 acres of the Open Diamond Bar Ranch, a 1,000-acre parcel owned by Eugene Kilmer, a San Francisco businessman who bought the ranch in 1970. The ranch was the central home of E. John Brandeis, a world-famous polo player, aviator and heir to the Pillsbury & Co. Department Store fortune.

Emergency legislation has been introduced in Sacramento by Assemblyman Robert S. Baker, D-Cos. to allow an estimated \$2.5 million to state park land in private hands.

—See Page 1, Col. 1



TRAIL'S END—Part of landscaped canyon, Open Diamond Bar Ranch includes ranch buildings. The Chatsworth developer who hopes to lay the ranch out as a private estate.



SADDLE UP—Three saddle horses which were used by Brandeis for daily rides through the craggy mountain foothills still roam Open Diamond Bar.



HIGH AND DRY—This old, rusted pump in the well house was the first used to pump water for the Brandeis ranch. The well has been abandoned.



Limits Sought on Airport's Noise Levels

By PAT ANDERSON

The city of Los Angeles wants 100-foot-tall noise barriers in a certain operating—

but with a lot to its case. The problem goes beyond just the noise barrier. The city of Los Angeles has a lot to its case. The problem goes beyond just the noise barrier. The city of Los Angeles has a lot to its case. The problem goes beyond just the noise barrier.

—See Page 1, Col. 1

Conservationists Fight for Ranch

Continued from First Page

share the ranch for inclusion in the proposed Santa Susana Mountains State Park.

Members of Friends of the Santa Susana Mountains, a nonprofit organization which has worked for years to preserve the proposed parkland from developers, say the ranch property would be an integral element in a park network.

They suggested the expansive ranch home could be utilized as a public nature and cultural center for the park, as well as the surrounding outbuildings, for park storage and headquarters.

The group also proposes that the large, grassy meadows, with buildings and native oaks would be an ideal family picnic and camping area as well as a staging ground for nature hikes and equestrian trail rides.

Despite the parkland proposals, the ranch is expected to be sold this month to Chatsworth developer Eugene Kilmer, following county approval of a proposed subdivision of more than 160 acres of the ranch's flatland.

Under Kilmer's proposal, the main ranch house and the surrounding 22 acres of orchards, landscaping, ponds, tennis court, pool and natural stream would be preserved as a single private dwelling. Most of the remaining flatland would be subdivided into 57 county estate parcels of 2.3 acres each.

Despite the antiquity of the ranch, all of the buildings—including the ranch house, barn, garage, service buildings and worker's quarters—are only six years old as the result of a massive, \$750,000 reconstruction project undertaken by Brandeis after total destruction of the ranch in the devastating fires of September, 1970.

The only structures not destroyed by the fires are a wine cave, built of native stone in the early 1890s, a swimming pool, tennis court and a pond fed by a natural stream.

One of the most picturesque features of the property is a Fennel-like stream bed that meanders through a narrow canyon bordered by towering trees, ferns, ivy and water lilies that Brandeis named "Canyon of the Bears." The stream is lined with a well-maintained foot path and cross-crossed with numerous wooden bridges.

A man of obvious means, Brandeis led a life-long project to blend the natural beauty of his ranch into a private paradise. A full-time staff of



HEAR YE—Bell from San Gabriel Mission, hung outside house-keeper's cottage, summoned hands at Open Diamond Bar ranch.

seven workers maintained the grounds and cut miles of riding trails through the hills to accommodate Brandeis' daily rides.

Until his death in 1974 at the age of 79, Brandeis made a daily routine of riding, swimming and playing tennis. He was an avid hunter and the living room of his home is filled with trophies from his hunts—all collected since the 1970 fire.

The windows in the 2,225-square-foot living room are pasted with pictures of Brandeis and his friends on safaris and playing polo. His playing partners included such enthusiasts as Will Rogers, James Stewart, Robert Stack and Big Boy Williams.

Except for electricity and telephone service, the ranch is completely self-sufficient. Water is supplied from several natural springs and fully utilized through a series of recirculating pumps. Even the natural stream was dammed at its lower end by Brandeis, who was unwilling to share his water with neighbors farther downstream.

The unusual rocky formations that dot the ranch include one that resembles a skull, and another chiseled by nature in the shape of George Washington's profile. Both formations are included in parcels that would be subdivided into private lots.

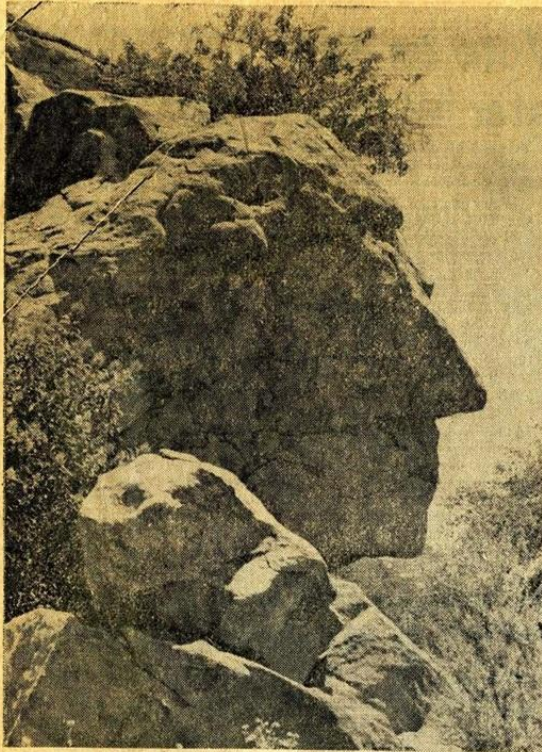
The activities of Brandeis were seldom publicized and only a few residents even knew of his existence in the community. His love for the hunt was so great that he imported wild goats and exotic animals to roam the craggy ridges around the ranch.

He reportedly was prone to sporadic displays of temper and was somewhat distrustful toward those about him. While his ranch house living room is massive, the dining room is small, accommodating only a few guests so that Brandeis could keep a watch on them.

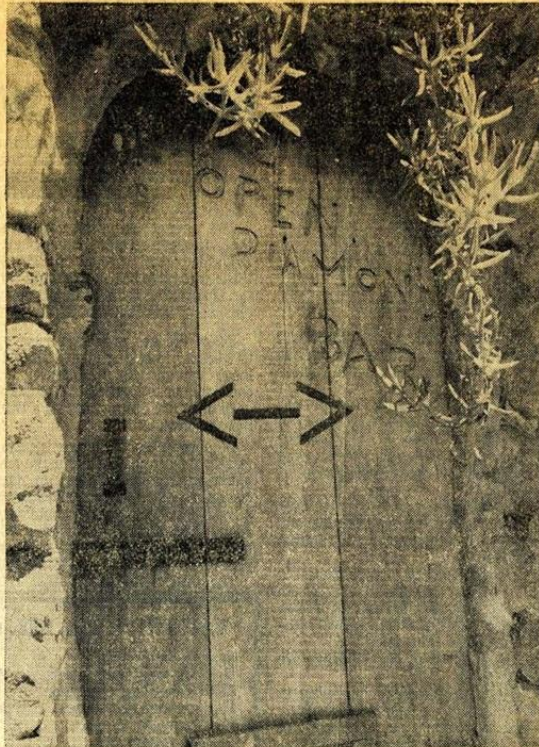
One time, Brandeis reportedly paid to have a buffalo trucked a great distance to his ranch, then shot the beast when workers were unable to unload it from the truck.

The unusual rocky formations that dot the ranch include one that resembles a skull, and another chiseled by nature in the shape of George Washington's profile. Both formations are included in parcels that would be subdivided into private lots.

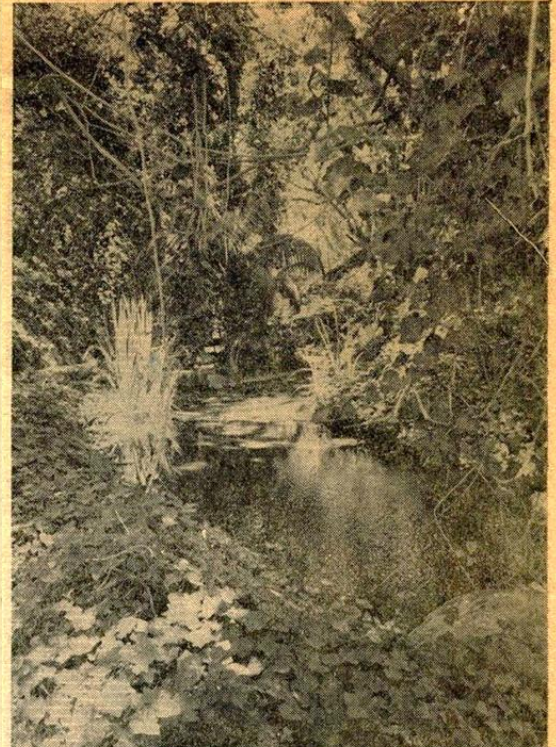
Conservationists, Developers Fight over a Ranch



NATURALLY IT'S GEORGE—Natural rock formation on Open Diamond Bar Ranch resembles George Washington. The chin was destroyed by vandals but restored by late owner, E. John Brandeis.



ENTER BACCHUS—Door to wine cellar at ranch carries ranch brand. Friends of Santa Susana Mountains suggest buildings be used as cultural center and for park storage and headquarters.



COOL WATERS—Stream fed by artesian wells meanders through "Canyon of the Ferns" on Brandeis property. Vegetation is kept lush by overhead watering system. Footbridges criss-cross stream.

1977-07-24 LA Times

Conservationists, Developers Fight over a Ranch

Conservationists, Developers Fight Over a Ranch

BY MARTHA L. WILLMAN
Times Staff Writer

CHATSWORTH—Fifty years ago, a multimillionaire Nebraska sportsman looked at a \$25-acre oak and boulder-decorated valley here and saw it as a retreat from people.

Today, two factions are fighting to turn the land into a retreat for people. One side wants the valley preserved as a public parkland, while the other hopes to subdivide the land into private, picturesque country estates.

The battle is over the remaining 490 acres of the Open Diamond Bar Ranch, a little-publicized paradise nestled in the foothills of the Santa Susana Mountains at the north end of Iverson Road.

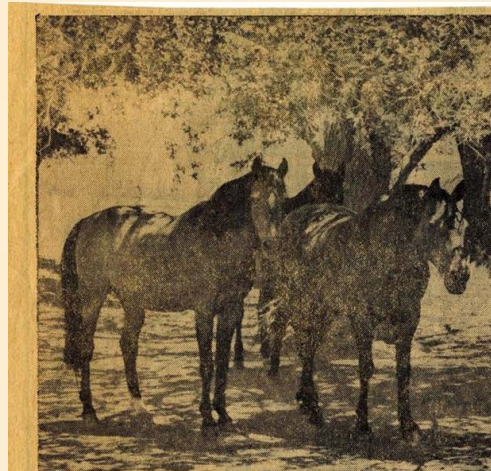
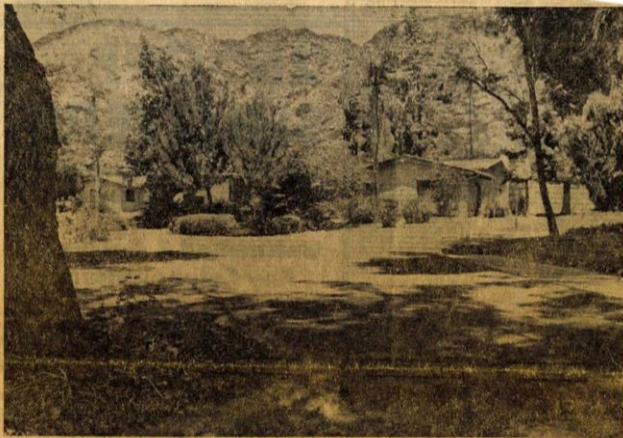
For almost a half century, the ranch was the retreat home of E. John Brandeis, a world-traveling polo player, sportsman and heir to the Brandeis & Sons Department Store chain in Nebraska.

Emergency legislation has been introduced in Sacramento by Assemblyman Robert C. Cline (R-Northridge) to obtain an estimated \$2.5 million in state park funds to purchase the ranch.

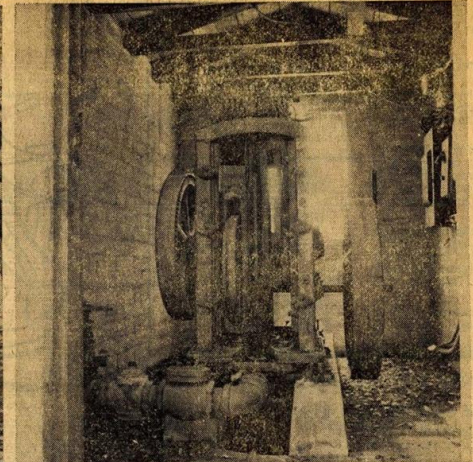
TRAIL'S END—Portion of landscaped grounds at Open Bar includes ranch buildings. The Chatsworth developer

who hopes to buy the ranch proposes preserving main ranch house and 22 surrounding acres as private estate.

Times photos by Martha L. Willman



SADDLE UP—Three saddle horses which were used by Brandeis for daily rides through the craggy mountain foothills still roam Open Diamond Bar.



HIGH AND DRY—This old, retired pump in the well house was the first used to pump water for the Brandeis ranch. The well has been abandoned.

1977-07-24 LA Times

Chatsworth Ranch to be New Estates

Eugene Kilmer lives at the old Roy Rogers ranch, and bought the Brandeis ranch in 1977.

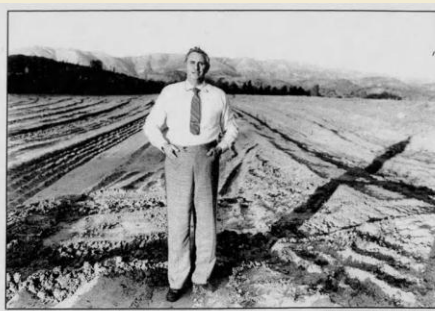
"I intend this to be the Bel-Air of the Valley."

"One thing it won't have, though, is a place for horses. We want horses stabled far enough away so we are spared the flies" Kilmer said.

Reflecting its past, it will be called "Indian Springs Estates". "With its three natural springs, this is the garden spot of the world"

Kilmer said that E. John Brandeis died from complications of his wounds about three years after being gored by a water buffalo.

1984-12-02 LA Times



Eugene Kilmer likes space, rocks and trees. So he bought a 500-acre Chatsworth ranch in 1977. Now he is developing it into estate-sized

lots. He also plans to construct homes designed by Taliesin Associated Architects of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Scottsdale.

Chatsworth Ranch to Be New Estates

Frank Lloyd Wright Designs, Bing Crosby House Being Considered

By RUTH RYON,
Times Staff Writer

Roy Rogers' old Chatsworth ranch wasn't big enough for Eugene Kilmer, who bought the cowboy star's 110-acre spread about 15 years ago and has lived there until now.

Raised in New Mexico, Kilmer liked the wide open spaces, rocks and trees.

And so, in 1977, he bought a 500-acre ranch nearby. Now he's developing it.

Horrors, you say, imagining thousands of housing units on the pristine hills where the Chumash Indians used to hunt?

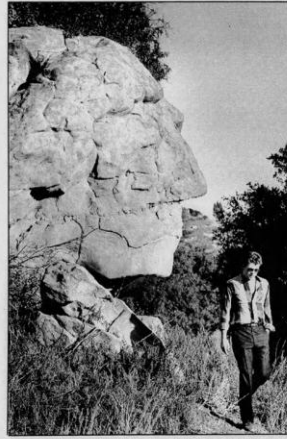
Envisions 125 Houses
Kilmer doesn't have bumper-to-bumper houses or even condominiums in mind.

Instead, he envisions about 125 large homes sprinkled over the ranch on two-to-15-acre parcels that he will sell, starting with 56 two- and four-acre sites for \$225,000 to \$500,000 each.

He also plans to build, for sale, five to 15 homes designed by Taliesin Associated Architects of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation in Scottsdale, Ariz.

One of the two expected to be under construction in 30 to 90 days was designed by the master himself, though he died in 1959. As Roger Coor, one of the architects in the firm, explained it, "There are some Frank Lloyd Wright designs in the archives that have not been used, and if we think one of these designs is appropriate and fits the site, we will consider it."

Kilmer hopes other architects selected by buyers will emulate



Mark Kilmer, working with his father to develop the 500-acre Times Ranch in Chatsworth, hikes by a rock formation that resembles an Indian. "I think we should use it as our trademark," he said.

Wright's designs, which Coor called "timeless." An architectural committee will review all plans "so there will be continuity and balance," he said. Among the 16 prospective buyers, who have already put down \$2,000 each in deposits, the smallest house anyone is talking about building is 5,600 square feet, according to Don Frabastio, who is handling sales.

When the houses are completed,

they'll all have private drives winding 200 to 300 feet from the streets, he said. "You won't even be able to see the houses from the street." Yet there will be plenty of room for swimming pools, tennis courts and, he added, "privacy beyond that." The community will also have a 24-hour guard gate.

One thing it won't have, though, is a place for horses. There are

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Continued From Page 1
traits in the adjacent mountains, and a new equestrian center is planned in the neighborhood, but homeowners will not be allowed to board horses on their properties.

"We want horses stabled far enough away so we are spared the flies," Kilmer said.

"I intend this to be the Bel-Air of the Valley."

Reflecting its past, it will be called "Indian Springs Estates."

To help give it an estates air, Kilmer was trying to acquire and relocate Bing Crosby's former Holmby Hills house, which Kilmer estimates to be about 18,000 square feet in size.

"It's so big that to be moved, it would have to be cut into about 14 pieces," Don Frabastio, who is handling sales at Indian Springs Estates, said.

Because of the distance and other considerations, it appeared to be impossible to move the house to Indian Springs Estates or Kilmer's other ranch, but as of last week, he was still trying to figure out a way for it to be relocated, reconstructed and sold.

Bought From Brandeis Estate
"I'd live in it myself," Kilmer said, "but I don't know what I would do with all that space."

Kilmer, 59, is divorced and has two grown sons, Val, 23, who is an actor and appeared in the film "Top Secret," and Mark, 24, who aspires to become a motion picture director but is currently working with his father on developing the ranch.

Mark lives in a cottage built on the property for the caretaker of former ranch owner E. John Brandeis, multimillionaire polo player and big-game hunter who died from his wounds, said Kilmer, about three years after being gored by a water buffalo.

"I bought the ranch from the Brandeis estate," Kilmer explained. In 1921, Brandeis (son of Omaha, Neb.) put together the ranch from seven separate properties, he added.

The caretaker's house and a larger, 5,000-to-6,000-square-foot one for Brandeis were rebuilt in 1971 after a fire swept through the ranch and Malibu.

Roy Rogers House to Be Sold

"I'll live in the ranch house on about 12 acres," Kilmer said of the home that has been vacant since Brandeis died and still bears traces of its former owner. (Photos of him from the '30s, posing with some polo players, a felled elephant and other game, are mounted in the double-paned windows of the living room.)

After the first of the year, he plans to market the 6,000-square-foot Roy Rogers house and its 1,900-square-foot guest house for \$1.1 million and sell the rest of that ranch as lots or acreage so he can spend more of his time at Indian Springs Estates.

He wants to stay close to it because he loves the land, he says, and he wants to be sure that things are done right.

"He's not really a developer," Frabastio said. "He would build thousands of condos here otherwise. On the 150 acres in the first phase, he could have built at least 600 houses. Even the engineers wanted him to do one-acre parcels, but he didn't want to. He wanted to do something really outstanding instead."

About 20 years ago, Kilmer built a 37-home project in Huntington Beach, but he has spent most of his life running businesses in manufacturing rivets for the aircraft industry and selling electronic parts. He just sold a company that specializes in the sale of aircraft parts.

"But I've always liked real estate," he said. He owns four industrial buildings as well as the two ranches.

It is the property at Indian Springs Estates, however, that he claims to love best.

"I almost envy the Indians, who spent their summers here," he said. "With its three natural springs, this is the garden spot of the world."

Big, Humorous, Gentle

Like the backdrop for a western film, it has rolling hills dotted with natural rock formations and oak trees—500 to 1,000 of them by his calculation. "And I plan to plant another 1,000," he said. "They give you a real sense of roots." He laughed.

A big (6 feet 4 inches) but seemingly gentle man, Kilmer resembles Douglas Fairbanks, and he has a sense of humor that his son Mark appears to have inherited.

"You must see our Indian," he said. "I think we should use it for our trademark."

After a drive and a hike, a boulder with some vegetation on top loomed into view.

"See," he motioned toward the rock, which looked like the profile of a man.

Then, he chuckled. "When did you plant the Mohawk, dad?"

Indian Springs Estates, at 12111 Iverson Road, off Santa Susana Pass Road and west of Topanga Canyon Boulevard, is open daily from 10 a.m. to dusk.

Chatsworth Ranch to be New Estates

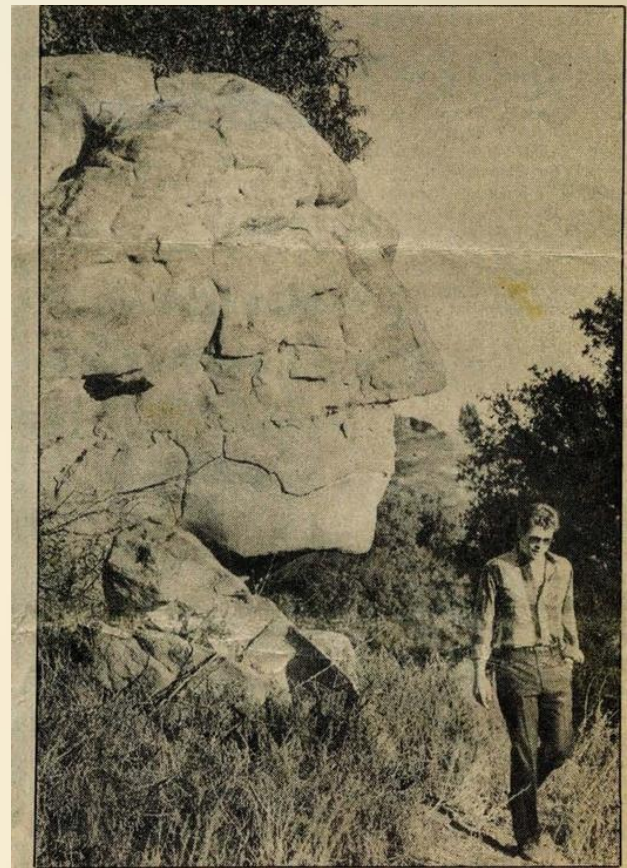


BOB CHAMBERLIN / Los Angeles Times

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Mark Kilmer, working with his father to develop the 500-acre ranch in Chatsworth, hikes by a rock formation that resembles an Indian. "I think we should use it as our trademark," he said.

Ervin John Brandeis Headstone
Forest Lawn Cemetery
1895-1974 (79 years)

"If you can make one heap of all your winnings,
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss."
"You'll be a Man, my son."



("If" was first published in 1910 by Rudyard Kipling, a four-stanza poem written as a father's advice to his son, emphasizing resilience, integrity, and emotional balance)

Sources and Acknowledgements

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