

# Oakwood Memorial Park Cemetery



1/18/2022

Oakwood Memorial Park and Cemetery Chatsworth

# Oakwood is a Memorial Park, versus a traditional Cemetery

- In 1924, the permits for Oakwood were in the approval process before the City Council.
- The Oakwood Cemetery Syndicate explained that Oakwood would be different from the usual cemetery in many ways.
- Tombstones, monuments and raised graves would be prohibited.
- A Memorial Park would be developed from the natural beauty of the surrounding area enhanced by trees and shrubs.
- Bronze plates placed on concrete would be laid on the ground over the graves.

According to H. B. Stecher of Merrick & Ruddick, agents, the park will be different from the usual cemetery in many ways. Tombstones and raised graves will be prohibited, the idea being to develop a memorial park from the natural beauty enhanced by landscape gardening, rustic ravines, seats and a chapel. In lieu of the usual tombstones and graves, bronze markers placed on concrete and marble slabs will designate the various lots.

1924-09-21 200 acres under beautification  
Los Angeles Times

# Topics to be covered

- 1903 – The 133-acre Miranda Homestead Property land patent is issued. Their adobe is now a flower shop in the Oakwood parking lot
- 1923 – Oakwood Cemetery is purchased by Merrick & Ruddick, real estate subdividers. Their Oakwood Cemetery permit is approved despite protests in 1924.
- 1924 – Oakwood Cemetery Brochure
- 1926 – First Annual Valley-wide Memorial Day Services more than 1,000 people attend
- 1927 – 1<sup>st</sup> Mausoleum built by Frank Knapp
- 1928 – St Francis Dam disaster
- 1930 – Fernando Septimo Lopez Moraga
- 1933 – Oakwood Office, Chapel and Crematorium are built
- 1947 – Oakwood Water Well, now in SSPSHP
- 1965 – The 1903 Pioneer church is moved to Oakwood
- 1970-79 – The Cryonics Society stores 9 bodies in an underground vault at Oakwood
- Homestead families buried at Oakwood
- 14 minute movie - “FAMOUS GRAVE TOUR - Oakwood”

# Miranda's in Chatsworth

- The 1870 Census listed Gabriel and Ignacio Miranda, both 60 years old, in Chatsworth.
- They were living next to Fabricio De la Ossa (Stagecoach swing station) and Alfred Workman (at today's Baden and Lassen, on the 1859 Stagecoach Trail). Workman was a dry land wheat farmer who would live at Shadow Ranch in West Hills, today's Historic-Cultural Monument #9.
- The 1880 Census listed 29 year old Francisco and wife Antonia Miranda next to the De la Ossa Stagecoach Swing Station.

For more on the Mirandas, see

[Chatsworth Hills Homesteaders Part 2.pdf](#)

[Jack and The Beanstalk 1917 Silent Movie in Chatsworth.pdf](#)

# Miranda's in Chatsworth

- The map to the right is today's Google Earth
- The red lines are homesteader boundaries.
- The angled line to the right is Andora/Valley Circle.
- The Stagecoach Trail is the yellow line.
- The location of the 1870/1880 Miranda Adobe (which still exists) is next to a creek and just west of the Stagecoach Trail



# Miranda's in Chatsworth

- This map is a 1928 aerial overlaid on Google Earth.
- The Miranda adobe is circled in yellow.
- Oakwood Cemetery was opened in 1924, and is about half developed.
- The strip of land west and north of the adobe is graded for crops.
- The section north of Oakwood not yet developed has trees planted on it.
- The buildings below Frank Ackerman's name is the [1921 Longview Poultry Ranch](#)

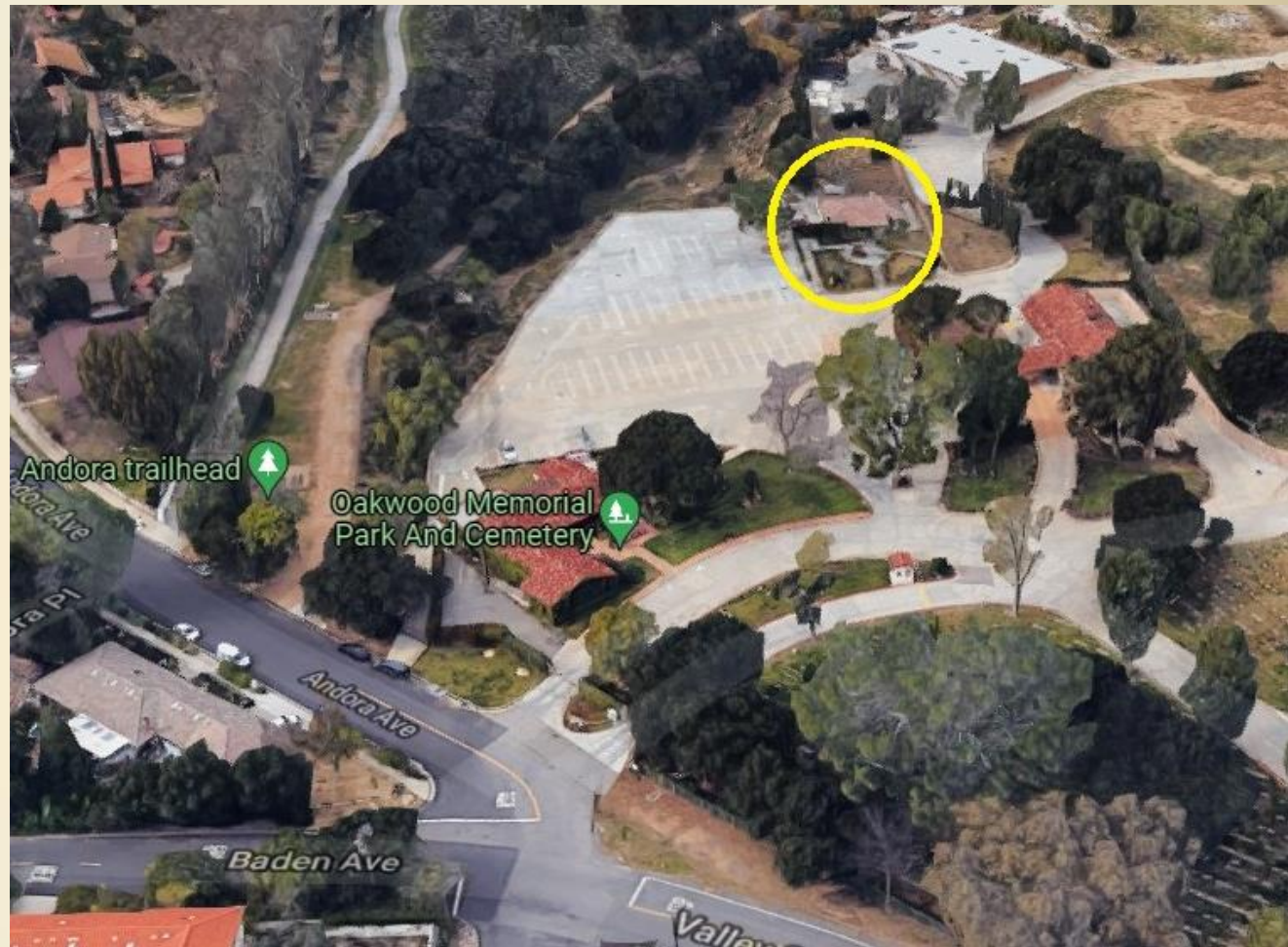




A closer look at the Miranda Ranch 1928 aerial, adobe circled in yellow.

# The Miranda Adobe

- The Google Maps photo to the right shows the Miranda Adobe circled in Yellow.
- It is in the back parking lot of Oakwood Memorial Park.





# The Miranda Adobe

The Miranda Adobe in 2006 from Gerri Mares, Miranda descendant

The wood round in the well says “Miranda House Circa 1870”



# The Miranda Adobe today

- In 2013 the Adobe was converted to a flower shop, and the roof was replaced.
- The original 1870 adobe walls still exist.



# Francisco Miranda (1849-1906)

- Francisco Miranda's marker is in Oakwood Cemetery, Section E
- Also on the marker are his son Antonio and daughter Lupe.

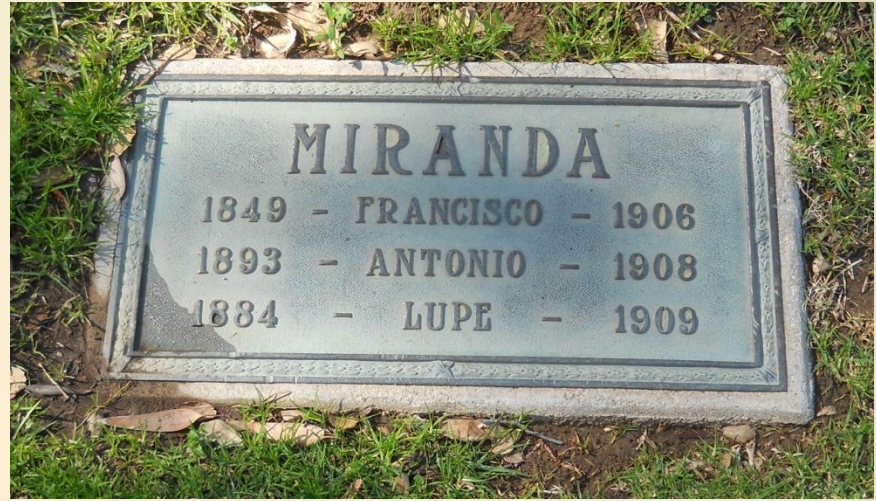


Photo courtesy Kathy Holland, Find A Grave

# Merrick and Ruddick purchase the Miranda Homestead and create Oakwood Cemetery

- In 1923, Merrick and Ruddick, a real estate subdivider, purchased the Miranda Homestead and a portion of the Bannon Homestead, totaling 200 acres.
- As a side note, In 1922, Merrick and Ruddick purchased a 400 acre tract in Benedict Canyon to lay out country estates.
- Chatsworth residents protest when Merrick and Ruddick create the Oakwood Cemetery Syndicate to establish a cemetery in the neighborhood.
- In 1924, N.A. Gray, president of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce, and other citizens protest the permit request.
- Mayor Cryer vetoes the Cemetery Bill. The City Council, over the veto of the mayor, passes the ordinance establishing Oakwood Cemetery near Chatsworth.

## *Council to Hear of Cemetery Protests*

The report of the public welfare committee recommending that the Oakwood Cemetery syndicate be allowed to acquire a burial plot near Chatsworth in the San Fernando valley will come up in the city council again Wednesday. Councilmen Allen and Gregory have signed the report.

Opposed to the project are the Chatsworth chamber of commerce, the associated chambers of commerce of the San Fernando valley, and citizens of the valley.

# Oakwood Cemetery Announcement



**ANNOUNCEMENT**

... our cities grow so fast, these days it is difficult to plan a burial ground on a site that will remain beyond the noise and din of encroaching business. . . .

... permanence and perpetuity are absolutely essential in cemetery property—beautiful Oakwood (only 22 miles from Hollywood) is the one cemetery where permanence is absolutely assured. . . .

... Oakwood cemetery lies in the rugged foothills of the Santa Susanna Mountains, near the pretty town of Chatsworth, in the western end of San Fernando Valley. . . .

... Oakwood is a natural amphitheater. Where, more fittingly should grandeur and beauty reign, than where our loved ones and ourselves shall lie in our last resting place . . . ?

... our better judgment tells us it would be much better to choose a plot in beautiful Oakwood Cemetery—and at this time, especially—for it is new—the choice locations are still available.

Officers:  
403 So. Hill  
634 No. Western Ave.  
516 Security Bank Bldg.  
Glendale

**Oakwood**  
CEMETERY  
MERRICK & RUDDICK  
*Exclusive Agents*

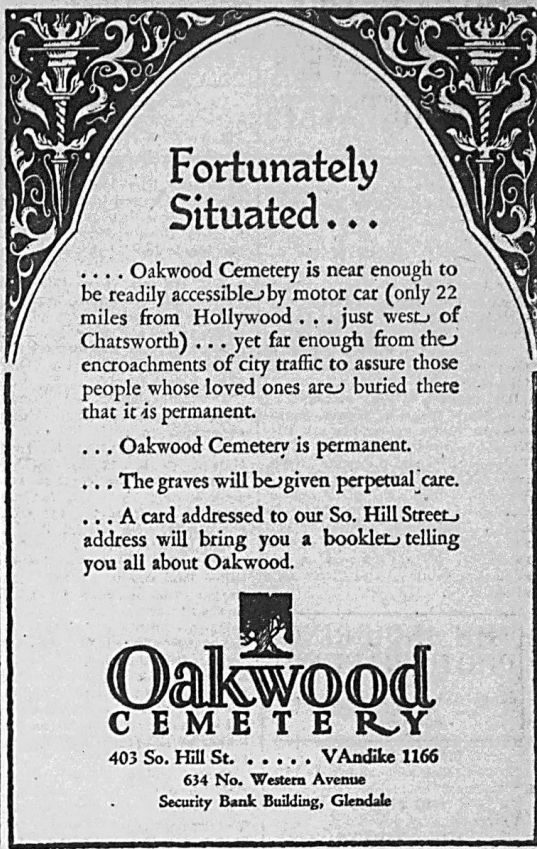
*If interested write  
or call any of our  
offices.*

- Merrick & Ruddick are the Exclusive Agents
- Offices at 403 South Hill Street, Los Angeles

1924-07-15  
Los Angeles  
Times

# 1924 Oakwood Cemetery 16 page Booklet

The advertisement to the right states that  
...A card addressed to our South Hill Street address will bring you a booklet telling you all about Oakwood.




Fortunately  
Situated...

... Oakwood Cemetery is near enough to be readily accessible by motor car (only 22 miles from Hollywood... just west of Chatsworth)... yet far enough from the encroachments of city traffic to assure those people whose loved ones are buried there that it is permanent.

... Oakwood Cemetery is permanent.

... The graves will be given perpetual care.

... A card addressed to our So. Hill Street address will bring you a booklet telling you all about Oakwood.

  
**Oakwood**  
CEMETERY

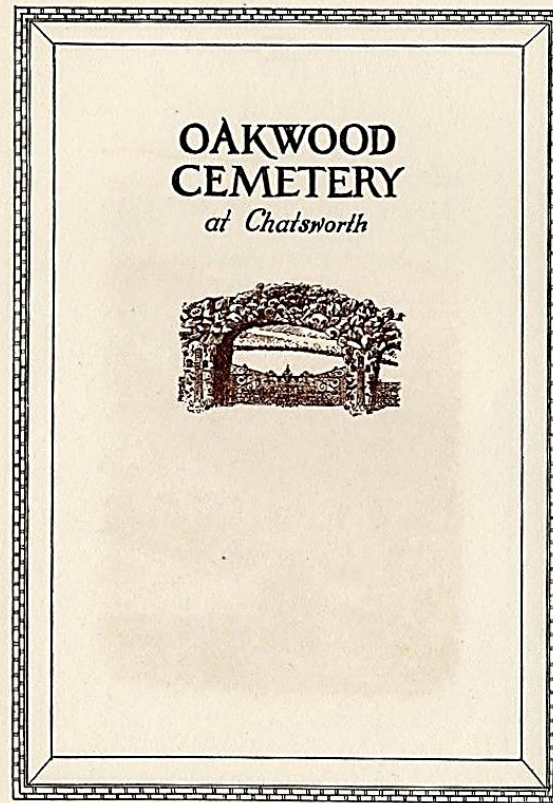
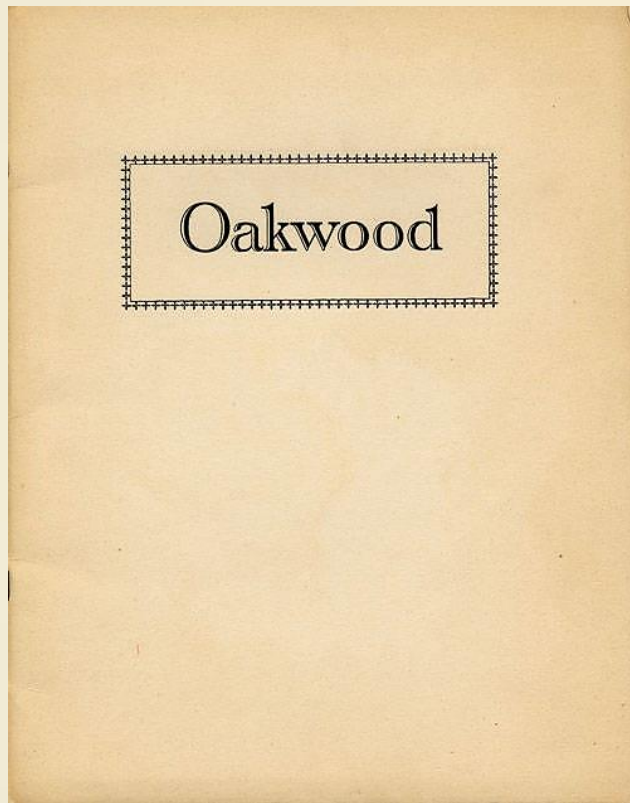
403 So. Hill St. . . . . VAndike 1166  
634 No. Western Avenue  
Security Bank Building, Glendale

1924-07-28  
Los Angeles  
Times

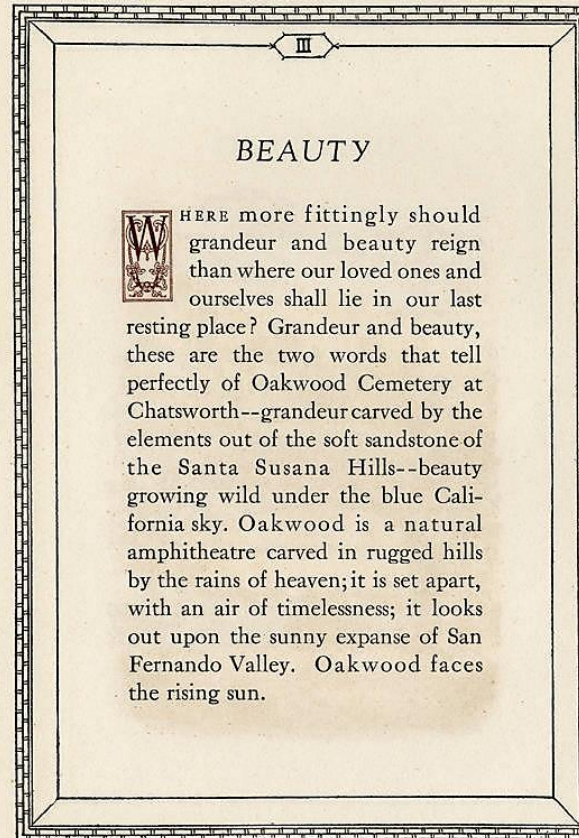
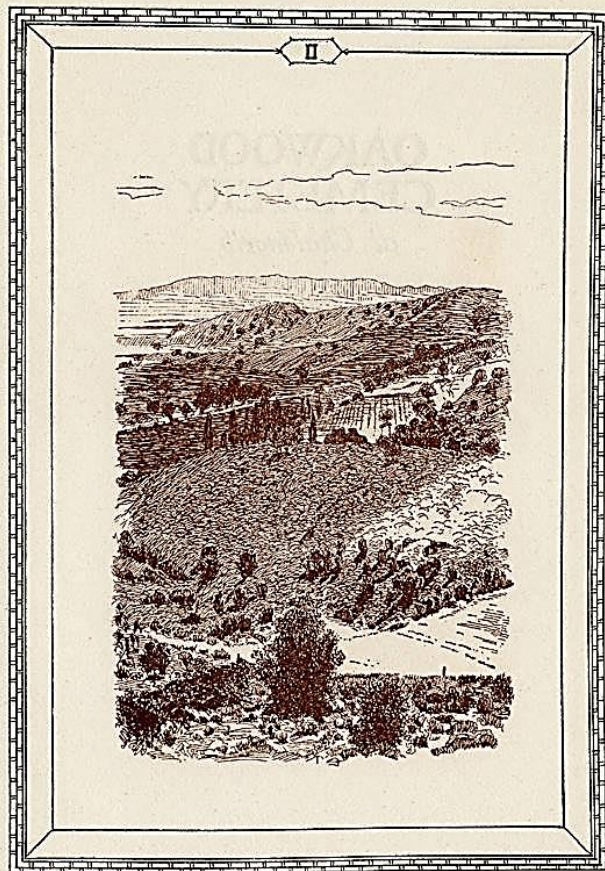
# 1924 Oakwood Cemetery 16 page Booklet

Source:

[CSUN Digital Collections](#)

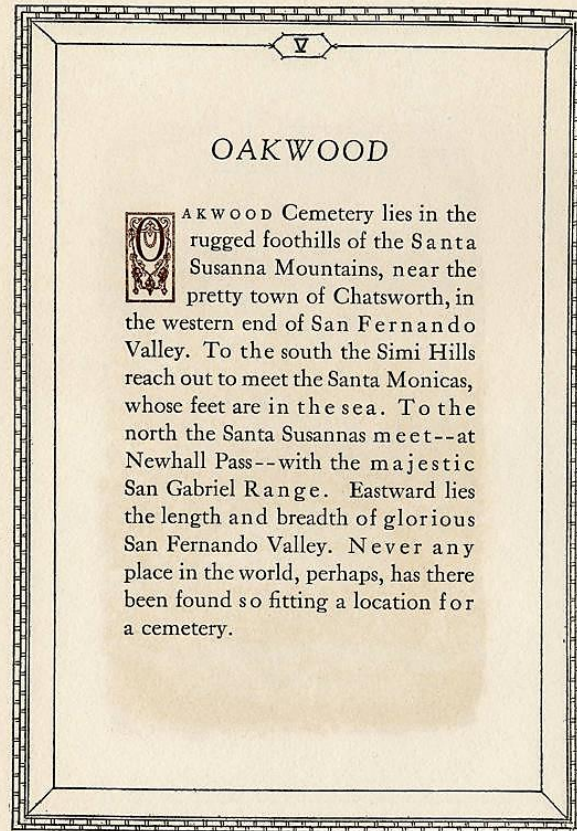
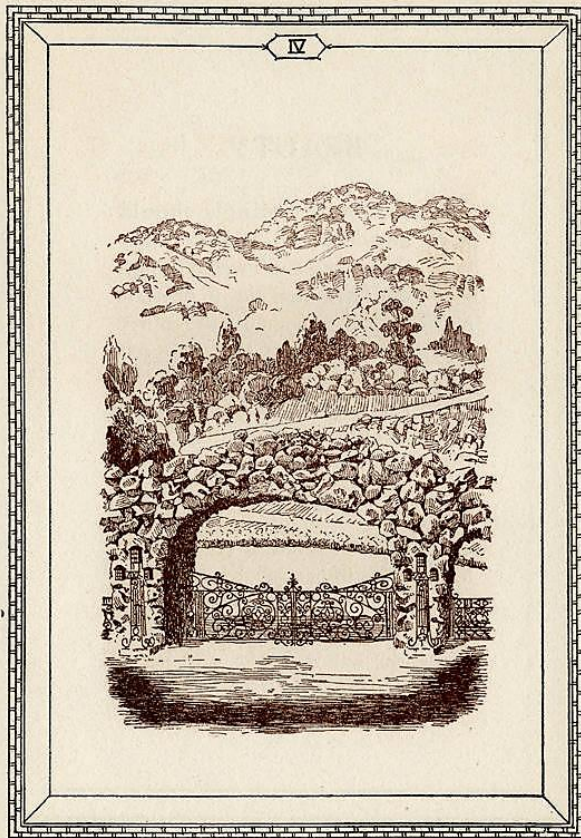


# 1924 Oakwood Cemetery 16 page Booklet





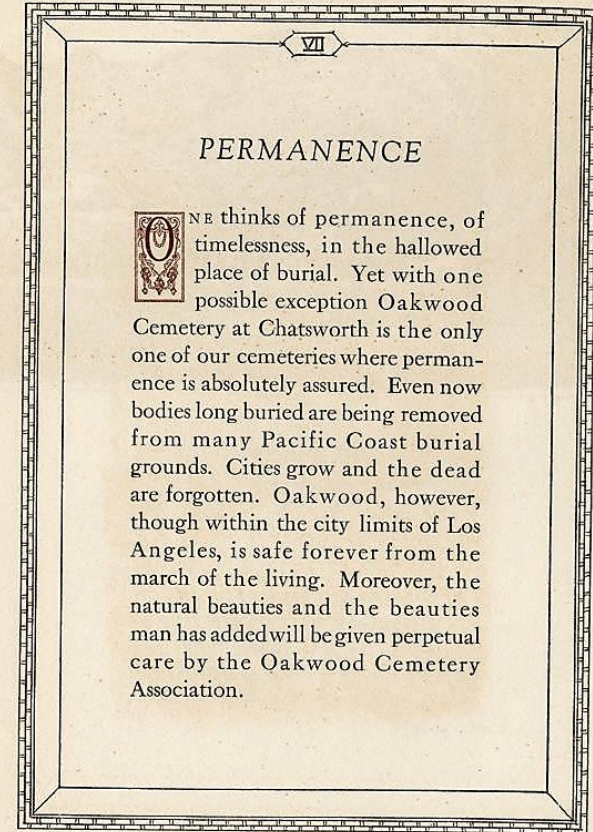
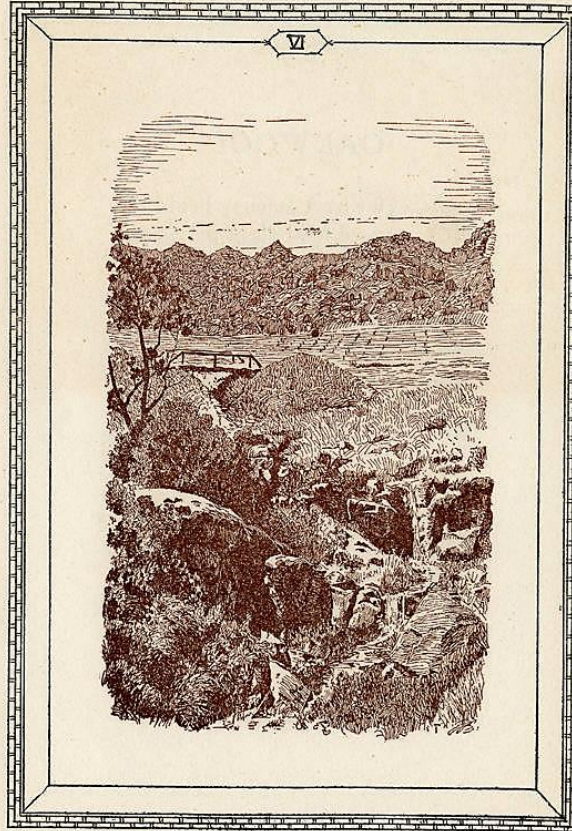
# 1924 Oakwood Cemetery 16 page Booklet



# 1924 Oakwood Cemetery 16 page Booklet

Notice that page 6 shows a bridge over the Miranda Creek at the Miranda Meadow.

As seen in the 1917 Jack and the Beanstalk silent movie video.



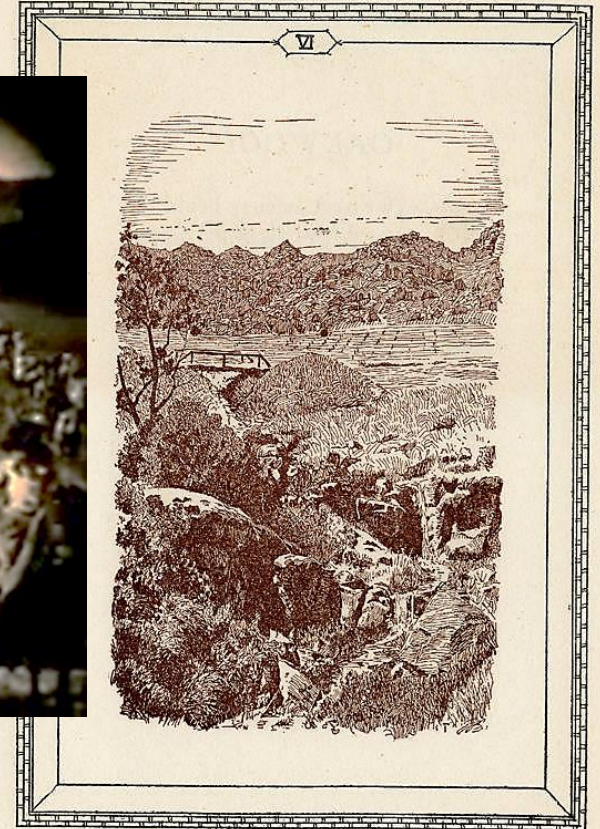
# 1924 Oakwood Cemetery 16 page Booklet

A screenshot of the townsfolk crossing the bridge in the 1917 Silent Movie silent movie “Jack and the Beanstalk”

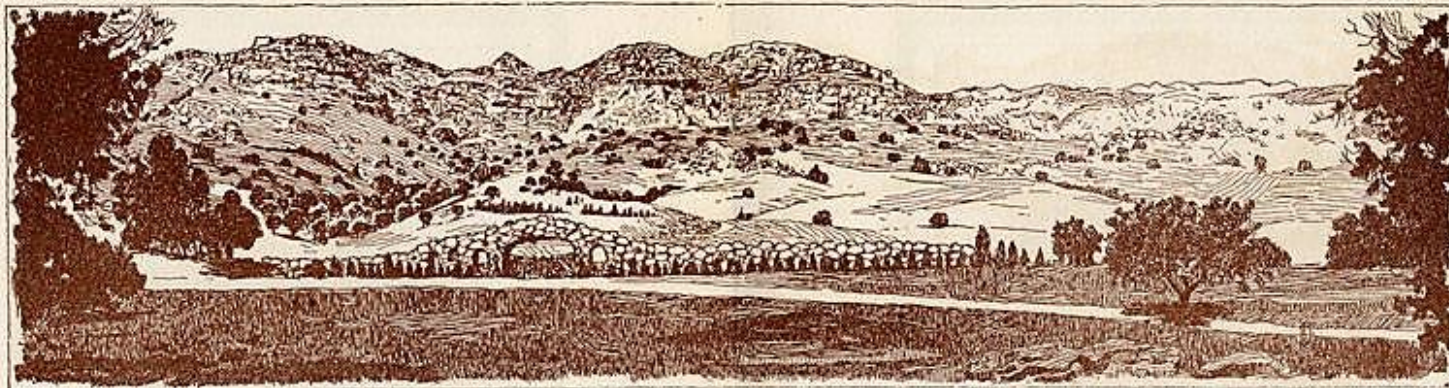


At the 57 second mark of the 16 minute video below

[1917 Jack and the Beanstalk Reel 4 Part 4](#)



# 1924 Oakwood Cemetery 16 page Booklet



## REQUIEM

*Under the wide and starry sky,  
Dig the grave and let me lie.  
Glad did I live and gladly die,  
And I laid me down with a will.*

*This be the verse you grave for me;  
Here be lies where he longed to be;  
Home is the sailor, home from sea,  
And the hunter home from the hill.*

*—Robert Louis Stevenson*

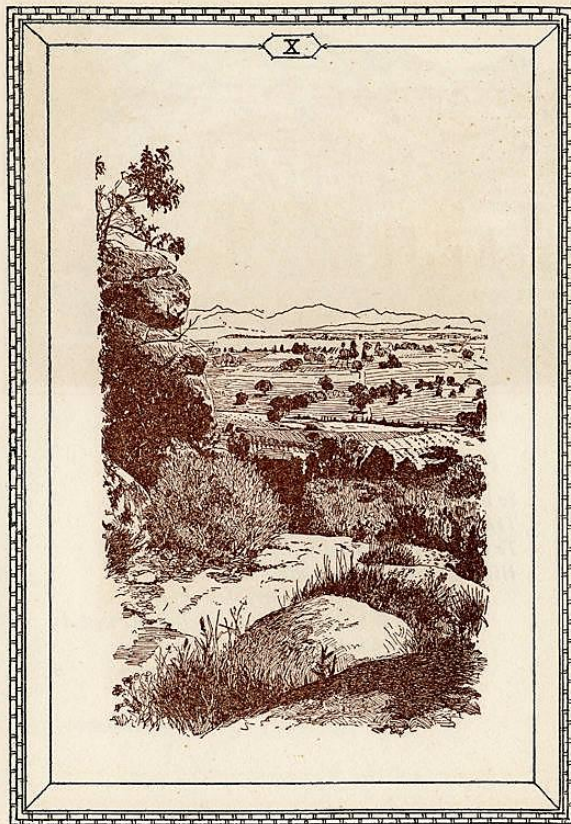
## FRAGMENT FROM THANATOPSIS

*So live, that when thy summons comes to join  
The innumerable caravan, which moves  
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take  
His chamber in the silent halls of death,*

*Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,  
Searched to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed  
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave  
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch  
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.*

*—William Cullen Bryant*

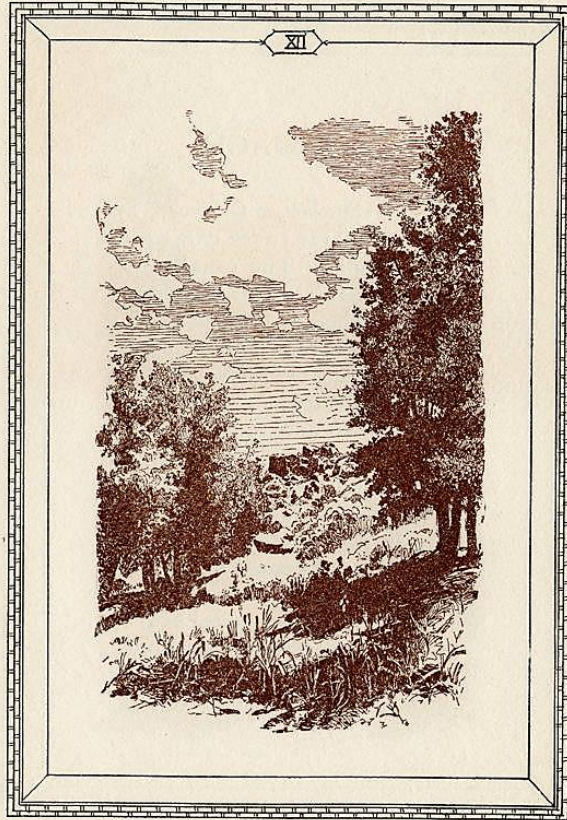
# 1924 Oakwood Cemetery 16 page Booklet



## APPROACH

**T**HE approach to Oakwood, by whatever route chosen, is beautiful. The usual route (easiest from Los Angeles) is through Cahuenga Pass and west on Ventura Boulevard. The roads are wide and smooth. Everyone knows the bright beauty of the San Fernando landscape; but the actual approach to Oakwood, a shaded road from Chatsworth, leads in stately beauty to the very gates of the cemetery. Twenty-two miles from Hollywood, Oakwood is far enough away from the city to be free forever of its hustle and dust; yet it is so located as to be readily reached from any point in the country.

# 1924 Oakwood Cemetery 16 page Booklet

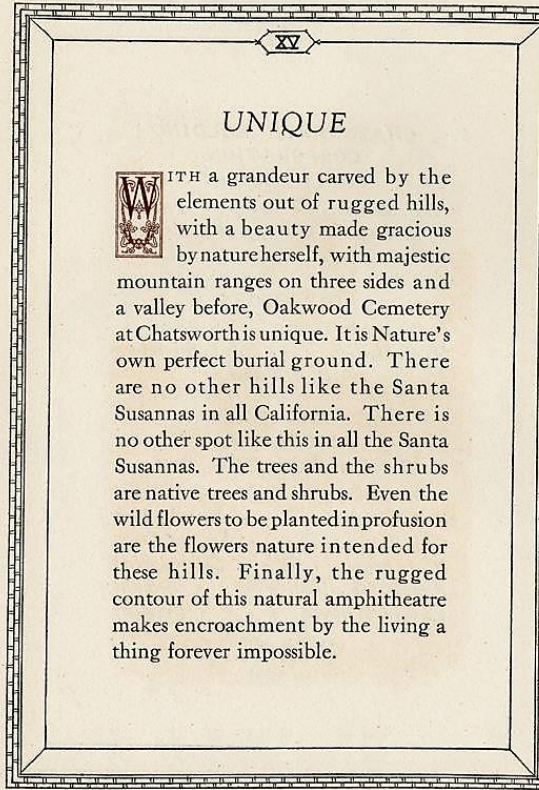
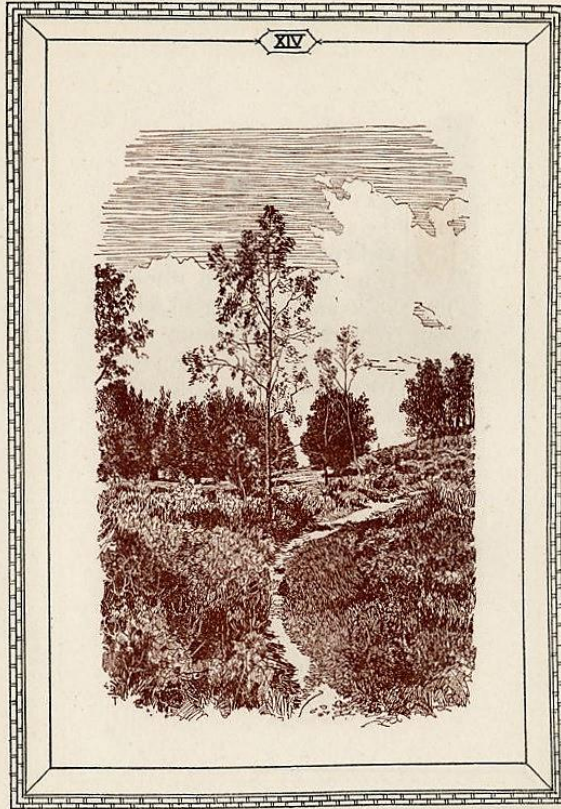


XIII

## MAUSOLEUMS

**G**REAT sandstone boulders lie in the amphitheatre and huge rocks of soft sandstone project from the rounded slopes. These rocks are easily pierced with tools. With their rough beauty and strength of outline, they make perfect natural mausoleums, created long ago by the hardening of the sand of ancient seas. Below these mausoleums, in the great half-circle of the amphitheatre, are the green plots of the burial ground, shaded by native live oaks. Wide roads will wind throughout the grounds, while all the shrubs and trees to be planted by the hand of man will be those of the land itself.

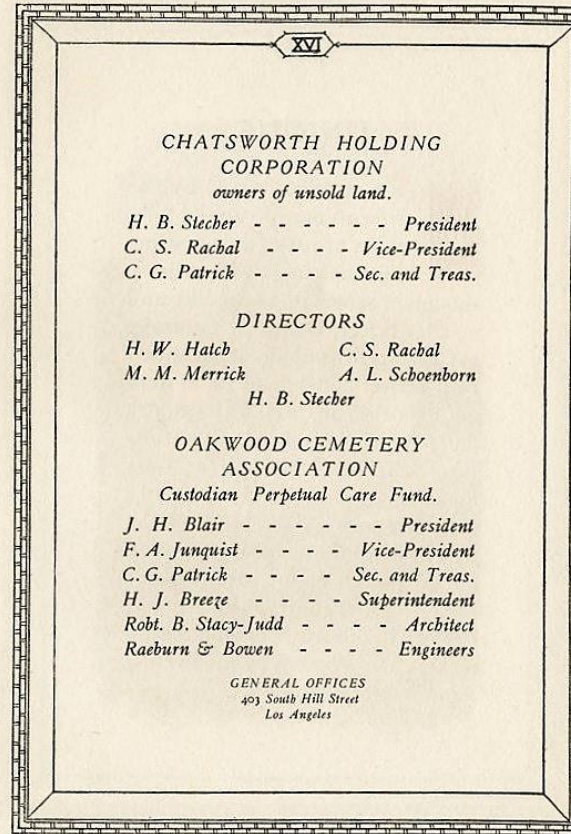
# 1924 Oakwood Cemetery 16 page Booklet



# 1924 Oakwood Cemetery 16 page Booklet

Notice that Robert Stacy-Judd  
is the Architect.

Stacy-Judd was the architect  
for 1927 Twin Lakes, which  
had a Mayan-Aztec theme.



PRESS OF WILL A. KISTLER COMPANY

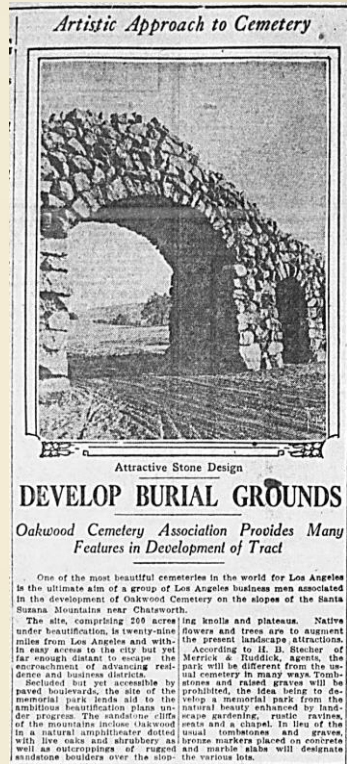


# 1924 Oakwood Cemetery Stone Entrance Archway



According to H. B. Stecher of Merrick & Ruddick, agents, the park will be different from the usual cemetery in many ways. Tombstones and raised graves will be prohibited, the idea being to develop a memorial park from the natural beauty enhanced by landscape gardening, rustic ravines, seats and a chapel. In lieu of the usual tombstones and graves, bronze markers placed on concrete and marble slabs will designate the various lots.

1924-09-21 Artistic Approach to Cemetery built for Oakwood Los Angeles Times



# 1924 Oakwood Cemetery Stone Entrance Archway

From the Schepler  
slide collection

Notice the Miranda  
Adobe at center, and  
crops still in the field



# Oakwood Cemetery Stone Entrance Archway

1927 photo from the SCV Historical Society

William Biscailuz at the Oakwood Cemetery stone pedestrian archway, which was near his home in the Chatsworth foothills in 1880.

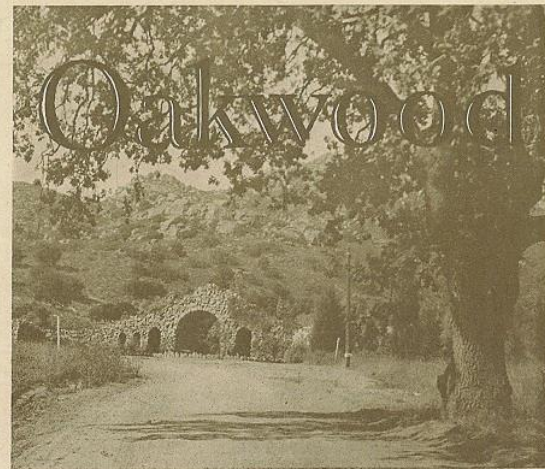
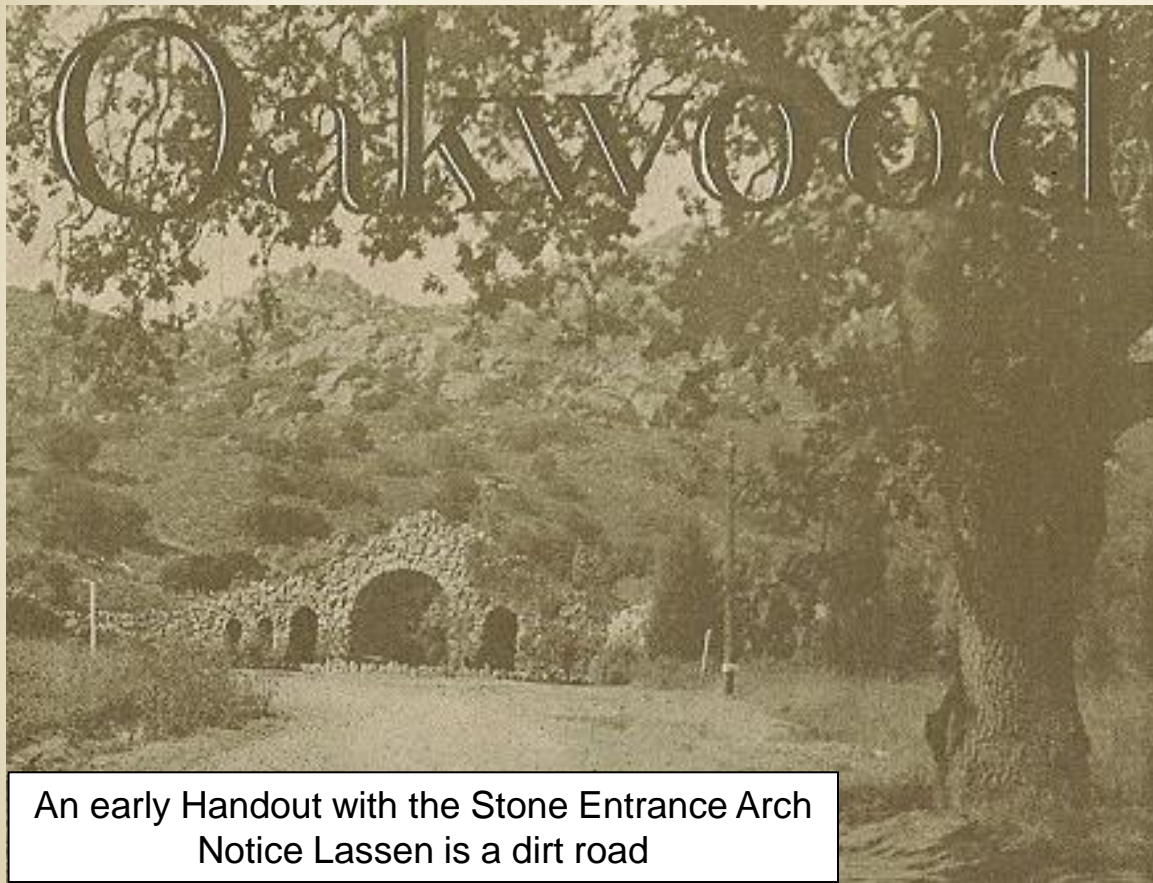
Notice the beginnings of ivy covering the entrance

William's nephew Eugene Biscailuz (1883-1969) became the 27th Sheriff of Los Angeles County, California, serving in that capacity for 26 years, from 1932 to 1958.

For more on Biscailuz, see our  
[July 2021 Newsletter](#)



# Oakwood Cemetery Stone Entrance Archway



## A NATURAL MEMORIAL PARK

Never to Be Disturbed by City's Encroachment

**O**AKWOOD CEMETERY lies in a great, natural amphitheatre, surrounded on three sides by the picturesque sandstone cliffs of Chatsworth. Here in quiet grandeur, sequestered from the noise and confusion of commerce, and removed from the city's encroachment is Nature's own burial park—a protected resting place.

By reason of its remote location, those who own family lots here need never concern themselves that residential or business development will endanger their holdings. Oakwood is on the western slope of San Fernando Valley, at the end of Lassen avenue, and just beyond the town of Chatsworth.

SAFE FOREVER FROM THE MARCH OF THE LIVING

An early Handout with the Stone Entrance Arch  
Notice Lassen is a dirt road

# Oakwood Cemetery Stone Entrance Archway

Crop of  
An early Handout  
with Stone  
Entrance Arch

Photo facing west

Notice Lassen is a  
dirt road



# Oakwood Cemetery Stone Entrance Archway

Circa 1950's  
Entrance Arch  
covered in ivy

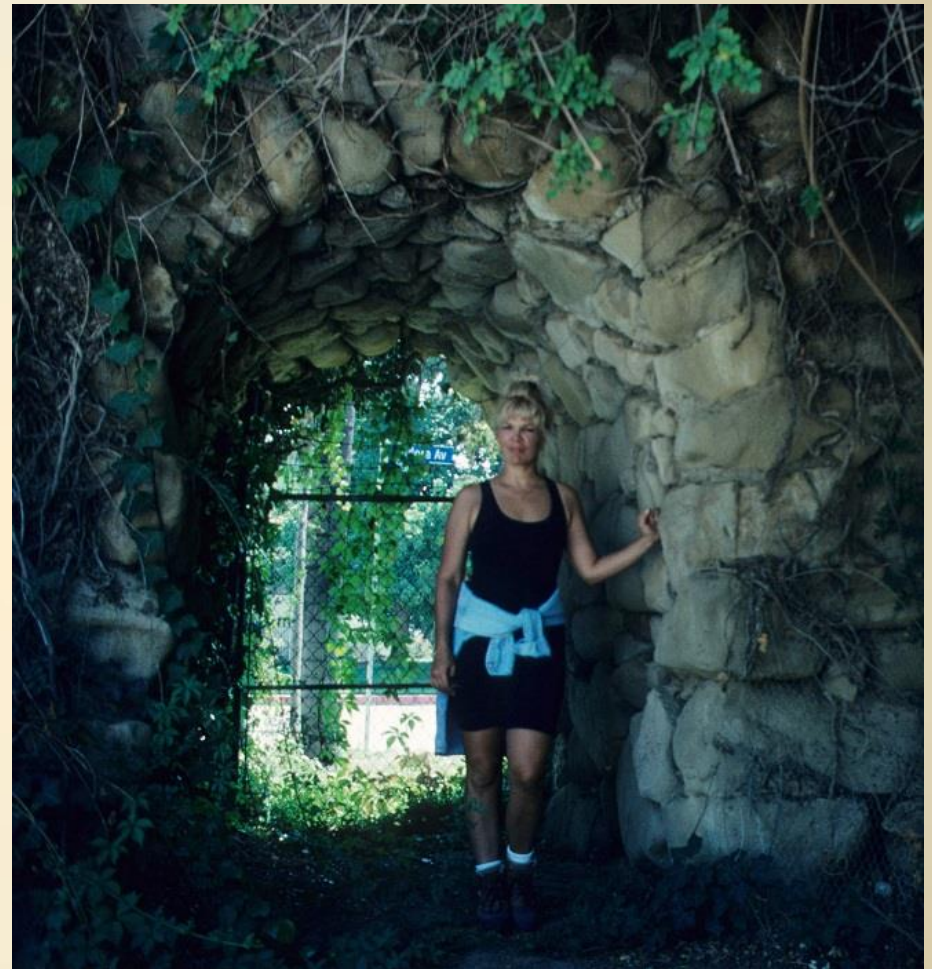
[LAPL Valley  
Times  
Collection](#)



# Oakwood Cemetery Stone Entrance Archway

Mary Knight at pedestrian  
walkway arch, 1993

Photo courtesy Albert Knight



# Oakwood Cemetery Entrance Today

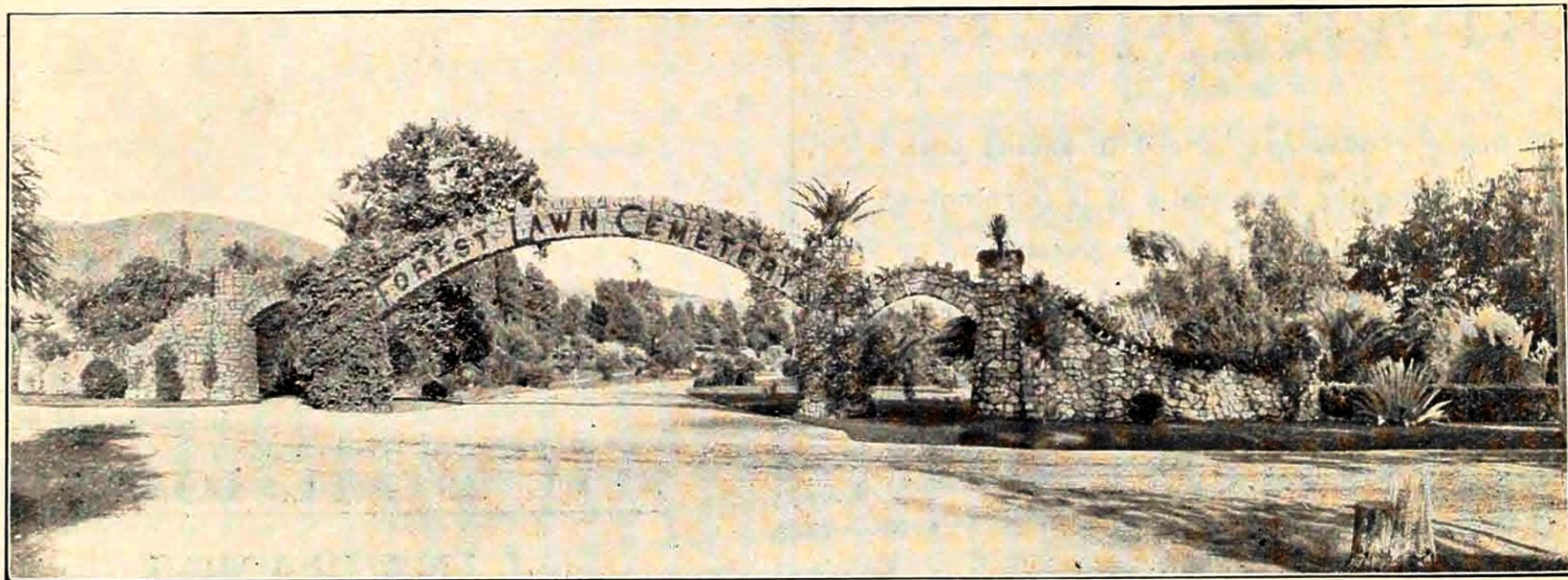
The archway was almost entirely destroyed in the Jan 17, 1994 Northridge earthquake.

What little remained was soon demolished, and the entrance was redone.





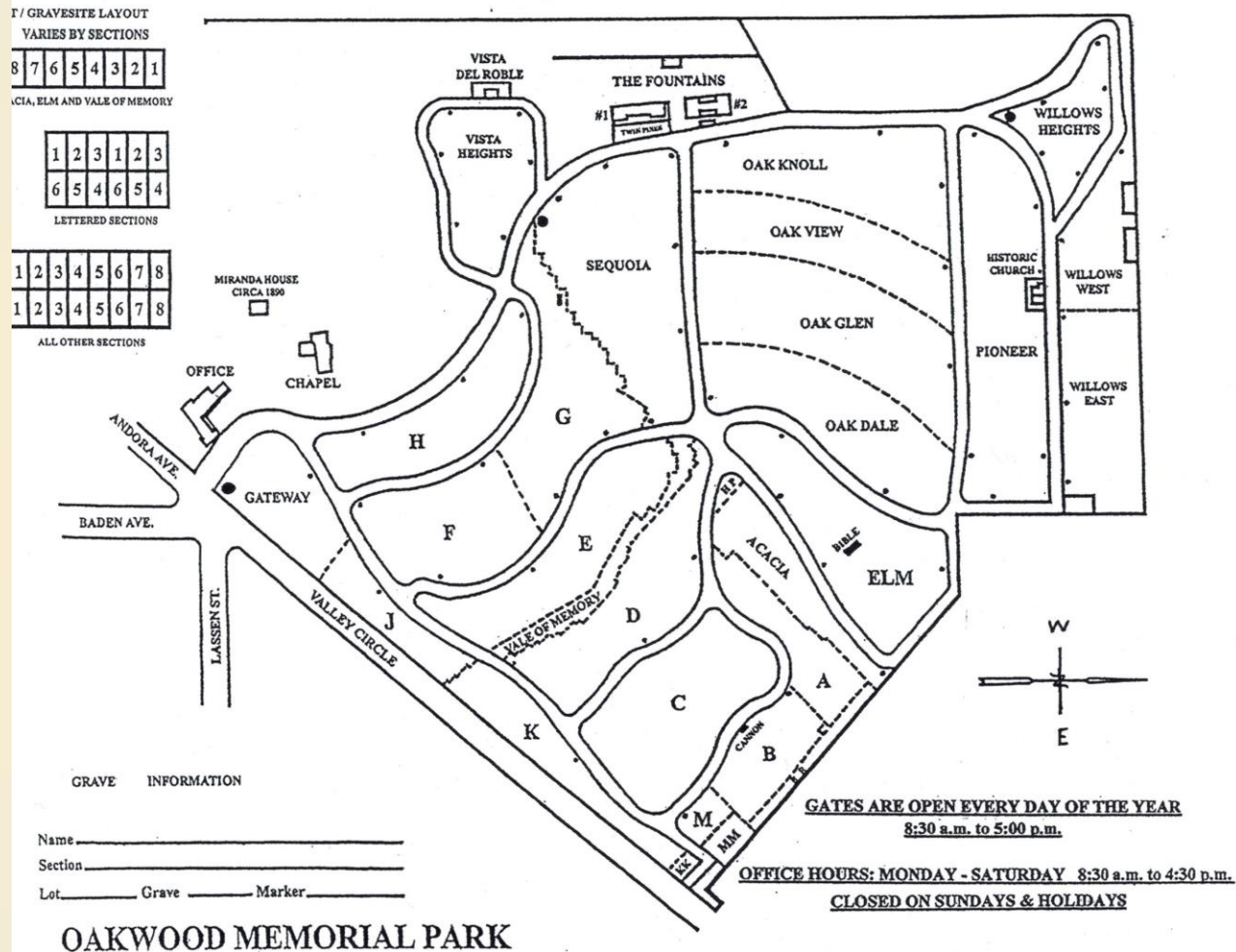
## Other Los Angeles Cemetery Archways



As an Aside, the 1906 Forest Lawn Cemetery in Tropic (now Glendale) had a stone archway in a 1907 advertisement. The photo above was taken in 1912, source: Paul Ayers - Facebook  
Today the entrance has iron gates, the archway is gone.

# Oakwood Memorial Park Map

Note that the map is facing with West at the top.



# 1926 Memorial Day Ceremonies

- The first annual Valley-wide Memorial Day services brought more than a thousand persons to Oakwood Cemetery last Sunday afternoon.
- There was an impressive speaking and musical program, with selections from the Owensmouth High School band, the Chatsworth quartet and songs by local talent.
- N.A. Gray, pioneer resident of the west end, was one of the speakers. A song by Miss Gladys and Mrs. Myrtle Gray Gilliman provide another feature of the program.
- The Memorial Day services will become an annual valley-wide affair at Oakwood Ceremony.

1926-06-04  
Van Nuys News

## MEMORIAL DAY AT OAKWOOD CEMETERY

The first annual Valley-wide Memorial Day services brought more than a thousand persons to Oakwood Cemetery last Sunday afternoon for an impressive speaking and musical program, including selections by the Owensmouth High School band, the Chatsworth quartet and songs by local talent, together with sermons by San Fernando pastors.

The rugged Chatsworth hills lent dignity to the occasion and hundreds of those who attended the services spent the afternoon, after the services, strolling through the rocky canyons which form a part of the cemetery's beauty.

Rev. David Farquharson of Van Nuys; Rev. Clyde P. Medcalf of Owensmouth, and Rev. George Bourgaize of Chatsworth, delivered brief sermons during the afternoon. N. A. Gray, former president of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce, and pioneer resident of the West end, was another of the speakers. A song by Miss Gladys Gray and Mrs. Myrtle Gray Gilliman of Chatsworth provided another feature of the program. The entire Owensmouth High School band under the direction of H. L. Fiscus played a number of selections and provided an outstanding part of the afternoon ceremony.

The Memorial Day services will become an annual valley-wide affair at Oakwood Cemetery, according to H. J. Breeze, who was in charge of the program.

# 1926 Memorial Day Ceremonies

The first annual Valley-wide Memorial Day services brought more than a thousand persons to Oakwood Cemetery last Sunday afternoon for an impressive speaking and musical program, including selections by the Owensmouth High School band, the Chatsworth quartet and songs by local talent, together with sermons by San Fernando pastors.

The rugged Chatsworth hills lent dignity to the occasion and hundreds of those who attended the services spent the afternoon, after the services, strolling through the rocky canyons which form a part of the cemetery's beauty.

Rev. David Farquharson of Van

sermons during the afternoon. N. A. Gray, former president of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce, and pioneer resident of the West end, was another of the speakers. A song by Miss Gladys Gray and Mrs. Myrtle Gray Gilliman of Chatsworth provided another feature of the program. The entire Owensmouth High School band under the direction of H. L. Fiscus played a number of selections and provided an outstanding part of the afternoon ceremony.

The Memorial Day services will become an annual valley-wide affair at Oakwood Cemetery, according to H. J. Breeze, who was in charge of the program.

1926-06-04  
Van Nuys News

## MEMORIAL DAY AT OAKWOOD CEMETERY

The first annual Valley-wide Memorial Day services brought more than a thousand persons to Oakwood Cemetery last Sunday afternoon for an impressive speaking and musical program, including selections by the Owensmouth High School band, the Chatsworth quartet and songs by local talent, together with sermons by San Fernando pastors.

The rugged Chatsworth hills lent dignity to the occasion and hundreds of those who attended the services spent the afternoon, after the services, strolling through the rocky canyons which form a part of the cemetery's beauty.

Rev. David Farquharson of Van Nuys; Rev. Clyde P. Medcalf of Owensmouth, and Rev. George Bourgaize of Chatsworth, delivered brief sermons during the afternoon. N. A. Gray, former president of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce, and pioneer resident of the West end, was another of the speakers. A song by Miss Gladys Gray and Mrs. Myrtle Gray Gilliman of Chatsworth provided another feature of the program. The entire Owensmouth High School band under the direction of H. L. Fiscus played a number of selections and provided an outstanding part of the afternoon ceremony.

The Memorial Day services will become an annual valley-wide affair at Oakwood Cemetery, according to H. J. Breeze, who was in charge of the program.

# 1927 Memorial Day Ceremonies

- Several thousand persons attended the largest gathering of the kind in the history of the Valley.
- More than 500 members of various patriotic bodies in the Valley marched in the parade, and formed a great square around the flagpole and field artillery piece that marks the veterans' section at Oakwood.
- There was a scattering of flowers from the sky from an airplane.
- Eight Civil War (1861-1865) veterans marched in the parade.
- Mark Brennan, Spanish-American War (1898) veteran, was grand marshal of the day.

PAGE TWO  
*Hero Dead of Nation Honored by Valley's Citizens in Elaborate Memorial Day Ceremonies at Oakwood Cemetery at Chatsworth*



Picture of San Fernando Valley Memorial Day exercises at Oakwood Cemetery near Chatsworth. Upper left—Marched veterans followed by Spanish War Veterans and American Legion. Upper right—Baldie B. Fabian, commander. Middle, Mrs. Stenwell, volunteer, widow of Mexican War veteran (center); Mark A. Brennan, grand marshal of the day, center; Mrs. G. W. Smith, wife of Van Nuys and Chatsworth, and auxiliary organizations of U. S. A. B. United Spanish War Veterans, and American Legion. Below—Left, Orangevale High School band; right, Boy Scouts of America, led by McKinley Hans Trippe No. 31.

Several thousand persons paid tribute to the nation's soldiers from the sky by Lieutenant Richard J. Ingalls, past commander of the Van Nuys post, American Legion. Eight Civil War veterans marched in the parade at the veterans' section at Oakwood.

Outstanding feature of the occasion was the scattering of flowers from the sky by Lieutenant Richard J. Ingalls, past commander of the Van Nuys post, American Legion. The sixty-piece Van Nuys-Orangevale High School band led the parade and played patriotic music during the exercises.

Mark A. Brennan, Spanish War veteran, was grand marshal of the day, and was assisted by a staff of Legionnaires, Boy Scouts and Grand Army men.

Along with United Spanish War Veterans, American Legion, Boy Scouts of America, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Girl Scouts of Van Nuys and Chatsworth, the Legion organization rendered patriotic songs as part of the program.

Mark A. Brennan, Spanish War veteran, was grand marshal of the day, and was assisted by a staff of Legionnaires, Boy Scouts and Grand Army men.

Note: The artillery piece and flagpole are in section B

1927-06-03  
 Van Nuys News

# 1927 Memorial Day Ceremonies

1927-06-03 Memorial Day Article  
Van Nuys News  
Article Text below

Pictures of San Fernando Valley Memorial Day exercises at Oakwood Cemetery near Chatsworth. Upper left—Massed colors followed by Spanish War Veterans and American Legion. Upper right—Rollin B. Phipps, commander (left), Mrs. Elizabeth Schlotman, widow of Mexican War veteran (center), Mark A. Brennan, grand marshal of the day (right). Group pictures, left to right—Center, Girl Scouts of Van Nuys and Chatsworth, and auxiliary organizations of G. A. R., United Spanish War Veterans, and American Legion. Below—Left, Owensmouth High School band; right, Boy Scouts of America, led by McKinley Home Troop No. 20.

Several thousand persons paid tribute to the nation's soldier dead at the annual San Fernando Valley Memorial Day exercises at Oakwood Cemetery Monday afternoon, the largest gathering of the kind in the history of the Valley.

More than 500 members of various patriotic bodies in the Valley marched in the parade and formed a great square around the flagpole and field artillery piece that marks the veterans' section at Oakwood.

Outstanding feature of the occasion was the scattering of flowers from the sky by Lieutenant Richter of the Aero Corporation of America. The sixty-piece Van Nuys-Owensmouth High School band led the parade and played patriotic music during the exercises.

J. P. Inglis, past commander of the Van Nuys post, American Legion; Tom C. Galbraith, past department commander, United

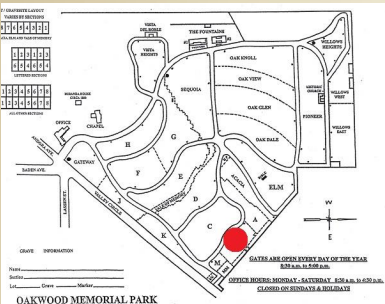
Spanish War Veterans, and Burton L. Smith, state editor of the Los Angeles Times, made stirring patriotic addresses, dwelling upon the ideals on which the great American republic is founded, denouncing the insidious effects of I. W. W. organizations and anarchistic tendencies, and urging better citizenship among the living of the present generation.

Eight Civil War veterans marched in the parade at the cemetery

along with United Spanish War veterans, American Legion, Boy Scouts of America, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Girl Scouts of Van Nuys and Chatsworth, the latter organization rendering patriotic songs as part of the program.

Mark A. Brennan, Spanish War veteran, was grand marshal of the day, and was assisted by a staff of Legionnaires, Boy Scouts and Grand Army men.

# 1928 Memorial Day Ceremonies



- Legion Auxiliary Women approaching the veterans section of the cemetery, with **World War** cannon which guards the graves in foreground.
- Map at upper left has location highlighted in red, Section B.

**Thongs Pay Tribute to Fallen Heroes of Nation on Memorial Day**

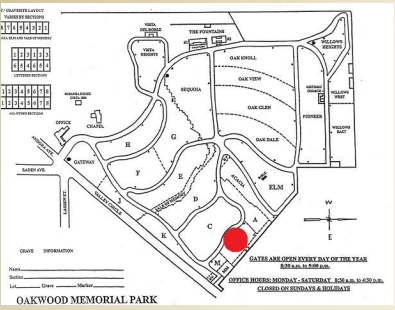
Scene at Oakwood Cemetery where San Francisco Valley residents officially honored the dead. Upper left—Legion Auxiliary women approaching the veterans' section of the cemetery, with World War cannon which guards the graves in the foreground. Upper right—Eugene Kelly, San Francisco, driving caisson, with the absent hero's name inscribed on it in gold. Middle—Mrs. J. H. Stewart, San Francisco, driving caisson, with the absent hero's name inscribed on it in gold. Lower left—Mrs. J. H. Stewart, San Francisco, driving caisson, with the absent hero's name inscribed on it in gold. Lower right—Mrs. J. H. Stewart, San Francisco, driving caisson, with the absent hero's name inscribed on it in gold.

**SCHOOL CADETS IN ANNUAL COMPETITION**  
Trophies Awarded for Best Performance  
Members of Van Nuys High School cadet corps were out in force at the annual Best Cadet Competition on the occasion of the presentation of nominations and acceptance of the graduating students of the R. O. U. S. High School, Van Nuys, California, on the occasion of the presentation of nominations and acceptance of the graduating students of the R. O. U. S. High School, Van Nuys, California, on the occasion of the presentation of nominations and acceptance of the graduating students of the R. O. U. S. High School, Van Nuys, California.

**Rock-Topped Peaks Look Down on Hero Graves as Airplanes Strew Flowers at Memorial Services**  
MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES were held at Oakwood Cemetery on the morning of May 30, 1928, with a program of music and oration. The services were held at Oakwood Cemetery on the morning of May 30, 1928, with a program of music and oration.

**GAS CO. PLANT WILL REMAIN IN VAN NUYS**  
North Hollywood Move Rumor Blasted  
It is G. S. Shroyer, district manager of the Southern California Gas Co., who says in a statement today that there is no possibility of any move of the gas company to other than North Hollywood.

1928-06-01 Van Nuys News & Valley Green Sheet



- The cannon today, notice the wheels are gone.





# 1928 Memorial Day Ceremonies

Spanish-American war veterans' gun salute to the dead.

Theodore Roosevelt wrote a book in 1899 ["The Rough Riders"](#) and his charge up San Juan Hill.



**Throng Pay Tribute to Fallen Heros of Nation on Memorial Day**

Scene at Oakwood Cemetery where San Francisco Valley residents officially honored the dead. Upper left—A legion auxiliary makes approaching the "veteran" section of the cemetery, with World War veterans which stands by others in the foreground. Upper right—A group of boys, including a young boy, standing with the altar. Middle left—A group of boys, including a young boy, standing with the altar. Middle right—A group of boys, including a young boy, standing with the altar. Lower left—A group of boys, including a young boy, standing with the altar. Lower right—A group of boys, including a young boy, standing with the altar.

**SCHOOL CADETS IN ANNUAL COMPETITION**

Trophies Awarded for Best Performance

Members of Van Nuys High School cadet corps were out in force at the annual field meet on the occasion of the presentation of decorations and medals to the graduating students of the R. O. U. S. Club. Col. E. W. Clark, professor of military tactics and leader in the annual field meet, made the presentation.

Presenting these decorations, the cadet unit put on a competitive drill for two other clubs. Several officers of Van Nuys created a perpetual trophy in the first place, presented by Lieutenant Wilkins, which was held over for a memorial composed of J. E. Phillips.

**Rock-Topped Peaks Look Down on Hero Graves as Airplanes Strew Flowers at Memorial Services**

COMING to the hero dead of three wars, hundreds of residents of Van Nuys gathered at Oakwood Cemetery here Saturday at a solemn, but joyous, observance. There beneath the rugged peaks of the Sierras that the Santa Monica Peak Memorial Day

**GAS CO. PLANT WILL REMAIN IN VAN NUYS**

North Hollywood Move Rumor Blasted

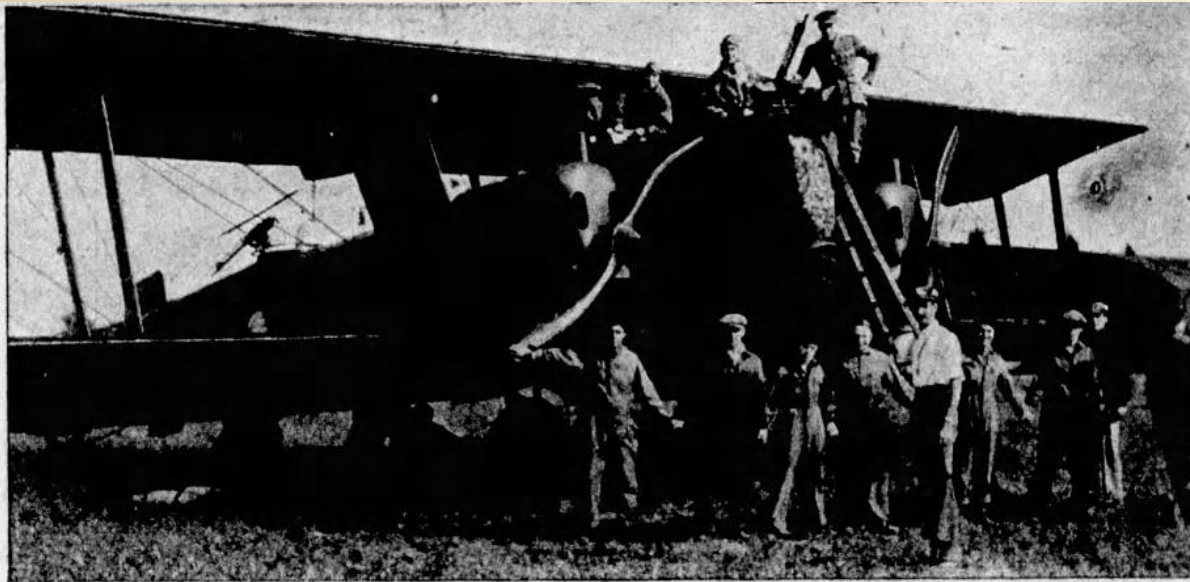
It is G. S. Shroy, district manager of the Southern California Gas Co., who offers in Granada, today look on as to actually stop that there is any intention on the part of the gas company to either move their Van Nuys of Granada office and plant to North Hollywood, rumored in an article published in the North Hollywood news and widely copied a week ago.

"It is a very common rumor," Shroy said, "and I can't find out how it started. Several years ago when we were talking about the purchase of a business office in North Hollywood, we purchased a lot on Hollywood boulevard, because what was then called the North Hollywood station building had been included in a parcel that had been the intention of the gas company to build an office building and an electric plant. But we have not done any of these things and we are not going to do any of these things."

**1928-06-01 Van Nuys News & Valley Green Sheet**

2. G. S. Shroy had all extra van Nuys plants ending March 21. From the station of the strength and determination of (Oakland on Page Two) suggestion.

# 1928 Memorial Day Ceremonies



**Throng Pay Tribute to Fallen Heroes of Nation on Memorial Day**  
 Women of Oakwood Cemetery where Van Nuys Valley residents officially honored the dead. Upper left—A legion auxiliary women approaching the "victims" section of the cemetery with World War crosses which decorate the graves in the foreground. Upper right—Van Nuys Legionnaires, including president, Mr. DeWitt, with the absent Mrs. Van Nuys, right. A. Murray just (right), and Mrs. DeWitt. At left in second row of Veterans is Robert A. Murray, commander of Veterans' Legion, United States. Mrs. Murray, descending a grave. Center is Frank, veteran, being aided by others in the crowd. At right, in foreground, a group of Veterans' Legion members are gathered at the end of the day, before the microphone. At the bottom in view of the take-off of the great Gotha bomber from Caddo Field, just before the huge assembly fire was the cemetery, showing flowers on the graves.



**SCHOOL CADETS IN ANNUAL COMPETITION**  
 Trophies Awarded for Best Performance



**GAS CO. PLANT WILL REMAIN IN VAN NUYS**  
 North Hollywood Move Rumor Blasted

Members of Van Nuys High School cadets held were out in force at the annual Best Memory on the occasion of the presentation of decorations and medals to the graduating students of the R. O. C. Club. Col. E. W. Clark, professor of military tactics and leader in the annual best school, made the presentation.

Presenting these emblems the cadets used just on a competitive drill for two other clubs. Several officers of Van Nuys created a perpetual trophy in the first place.

It is reported that the graduates of Van Nuys created a perpetual trophy in the first place. It is reported that the graduates of Van Nuys created a perpetual trophy in the first place.

It is reported that the graduates of Van Nuys created a perpetual trophy in the first place.

## 1928-06-01 Van Nuys News & Valley Green Sheet

2. G. Citizens had all extra van... of those awarded, for is significant... of the strength and determination... (Continued on Page Two)

- View of the takeoff of the great Gotha bomber from Caddo Field, just before the huge airship flew over the cemetery, strewing flowers on the graves.
- Note: The Gotha bomber was a German biplane that carried out strategic bombing missions over England in World War I. Caddo Field is today's Sepulveda Dam Basin.

# 1928 Memorial Day Ceremonies

Words from page 1  
of the Memorial Day  
Article

1928-06-01 Van Nuys  
News & Valley Green  
Sheet

## *Rock-Topped Peaks Look Down on Hero Graves as Airplanes Strew Flowers at Memorial Services*

**H**ONORING the hero dead of three wars, hundreds of residents of San Fernando Valley gathered at Oakwood Cemetery near Chatsworth at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. There beneath the rock-topped peaks of the foothills that line Santa Susana Pass, Memorial Day once again brought memories of other days, and there in the shimmering rays of an afternoon sun, tribute was paid to those who died that this country might live and preserve its standing among the nations of the world. No more attractive and the whirr of engines came faintly almost alluring spot than Oakwood from the distance, then in a moment there zoomed and dipped over Oakwood, six monster planes. Off into the distance they proceeded, then returned and from the cockpit of each plane bouquets of flowers were strewn from the air over the resting places of heroes, and the very power of those planes fairly vibrated through the veins of those assembled, for it signified the strength and determination of

In the midst of the ceremonies

this nation's citizenry to carry on.

In the planes flew a number of wartime pilots, some of them now noted in the commercial field. These were Frank Tommick, Frank Clark, Roy Wilson, Harry Crandall, Jack Rand, Al Wilson, Ben Lyons, Captain Roscoe Turner, Harry Reynolds, Harry Terry and Burton Steere.

The Valley's official observance of Memorial Day opened with a parade of veteran organizations from the northwestern corner of Oakwood Cemetery to the Spanish-American War Veterans plat, where the Van Nuys-Owensmouth High School Band waited their coming and where a bandstand and speakers platform had been provided. Muffled drums beat in sombre cadence as the veterans and their auxiliaries advanced, followed by school children, representative of the coming generation—those who must die if there be another war.

As the Stars and Stripes were hoisted on the towering flagpole in  
(Continued on Page Two)

# 1928 Memorial Day Ceremonies

Words from  
page 2 of the  
Memorial Day  
Article

1928-06-01 Van  
Nuys News &  
Valley Green  
Sheet

## HONOR SOLDIER DEAD ON MEMORIAL DAY

(Continued from Page One)

front of the veterans' plot, Donald Crawford played "To the Colors." Then, under the direction of Harley L. Fiscus, the combined high school band played "The Star Spangled Banner," while old and young stood with bared heads and uniformed soldiers of that great flag sprang to attention. Pledge of allegiance to the flag followed, the large audience joining in the words.

Rev. Clyde P. Ketchum, pastor of the Owensmouth Community church, pronounced the invocation, acting in the capacity of chaplain of the day.

General orders for the first Memorial Day, in 1868, were read by John Lloyd, of the Spanish Vets.

Mark A. Brennan, commander, Fernando Valley Camp, United Spanish War Veterans, spoke next. Following his remarks, Van Nuys American Legion Post quartet, composed of E. M. Stannard, Dr. Merle Catterlin, Walker Thompson and Peter Mortenson, sang "Tenting Tonight," and even as they sang, the airplane squadron from Caddo Field zoomed overhead, dropping floral tributes to the dead beneath the sod.

"Lincoln's Gettysburg Address" was read by Clyde R. Webb, adjutant of the day. Words of greeting were extended by Mrs. C. A. Humphreys, recently of the San Fernando Valley chapter. Daughters of the American Revolution.

### Children Participate

Grade school children's part in the program, which occurred at this point, met with favor. Units from Sepulveda, Zelzah and Owensmouth schools gave marching drills. Elaine Wilson recited "Abraham Lincoln"; Gordon Hall recited "I Want to Lead the Band," and at the conclusion, he led the high school boys while they played "America"; Duncan Hall recited "When Grandpa Wears His Uniform," and Hazel Myers and Malcolm Sears also gave readings. The Hall boys and Master Sears are pupils of Mrs. Farah Fay Hall of Van Nuys branch, Hollywood Conservatory of Music and Arts.

Addresses of the day were by A. C. Munson, senior vice commander of the United Spanish War Veterans in California; Thomas Galbraith, past department commander; Captain J. P. Inglis, past commander of Van Nuys Post, American Legion; and Dr. Walter F. Dexter, president of Whittier College.

The public address system amplifier from Freeman Lang studio with Charles L. Rush in charge, was used during the program, adding greatly to the ability of the audience to hear each speaker distinctly.

### America's Crises

"Sweeping across the American continent in a brief span of years, our American civilization has met three or four great crises—the wars that have disturbed and interrupted this onward march of progress, and which have made the continuation of the march possible.

"These crises have been met by men, the greatest, the most heroic in the annals of our history—men to whom we can never repay the debt we owe, be they living or dead."

Then Dr. Dexter advanced his plea for a small amount of appreciation of America's war heroes, declaring that only in the carrying on of the principles of right and justice for which they fought can the present and future generations repay the debts of the past.

### Urges World Good Will

"Only through the cultivation of a philosophy of life which will make future struggles and wars unnecessary, will we be able to pay back our debt to the heroes who have fallen that right, justice, liberty and peace under law might reign. Development of that philosophy is challenging American civilization today. It means the creation in the minds of our people of a profound appreciation of the attributes of other men and in our nation and its statesmen of the same appreciation of other nations.

"Learn to appreciate the suc-

# 1928 Memorial Day Ceremonies

Words from  
page 2 of the  
Memorial Day  
Article  
continued

1928-06-01 Van  
Nuys News &  
Valley Green  
Sheet

live together and share each others joys as well as each others sorrows. Then," concluded the speaker, "world peace will be well on its way to accomplishment."

Planting of a memorial tree in honor of the memory of Aaron J. Ely, his wife and two children, who were lost in the St. Francis flood disaster, with the American Legion of Van Nuys and Owensmouth and the Legion Auxiliaries participating in the ceremony, concluded the formal program of the afternoon.

Hard by the cannon which stands sentinel over the veterans' section of the cemetery, they planted a sapling live oak and at the base of the tree they placed this inscription in bronze:

## "IN MEMORIAM

"To the memory of our beloved Comrade Aaron J. Ely, his wife, Margaret Coleman Ely, and their two sons, who were lost to us in the St. Francis dam disaster, March 13, 1928, this tree is planted by Van Nuys Post, American Legion, No. 193, and Auxilliary of the American Legion."

Surrounding the memorial plate were inscribed the emblems of the Legion, the Auxilliary, and the Masonic order.

## Tree Is Planted

Ernest D. Gibson, past commander of the Legion, and relative of the Elys, let slip into the pit at the base of the memorial tree the first shovelful of earth. Mrs. Earl C. Beach, president of the Van Nuys Auxilliary, threw in the second shovelful, while Commander E. M. Stannard of the Legion acted as master of ceremonies.

A firing squad, composed of Spanish-American War veterans, discharged a salute to departed comrades while spectators placed flowers on the graves of loved ones, and when the bugler of the day sent forth "taps" and the last note was fading away, there came back to the audience from those hills the echo and re-echo of the bugler's

# 1962 & 1964 Memorial Day Services



From the Frank Enderle  
photo collection



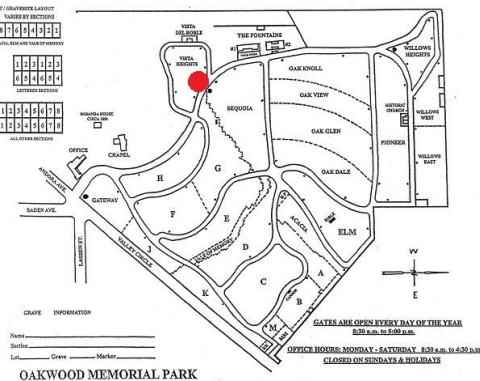
# 1927 1st Mausoleum in Oakwood Cemetery

- A Sept. 1926 Oakwood article mentioned that seven or eight sections were practically finished. And one section has been set aside where private mausoleums may be erected.
- A Dec. 1926 article announced “Mayan Tomb First Mausoleum to Adorn Slopes of Oakwood”. Frank Knapp (at right), Owensmouth sculptor and stone mason, will build the Mausoleum from the native sandstone rock that forms steep cliffs on three sides of the property.



# 1927 1st Mausoleum in Oakwood Cemetery

The Mausoleum (red circle to left) was in Vista Heights



- Frank Knapp designed the Mausoleum after the Mayan style of architecture.
- The mausoleum will contain six air tight steel crypts.

Note that Robert Stacy-Judd is the Architect for the Oakwood Cemetery Association.

And Stacy-Judd was the architect for 1927 Twin Lakes, which had a Mayan-Aztec theme.





A Circa 1969  
photo of the  
1927 Mausoleum



A 1969 construction photo of the “Twin Pines” Mausoleum at Oakwood, with the 1927 Mausoleum at upper left under an oak tree.

Photo from the Enderle collection

For more on this story visit our [Feb. 2021 newsletter](#)



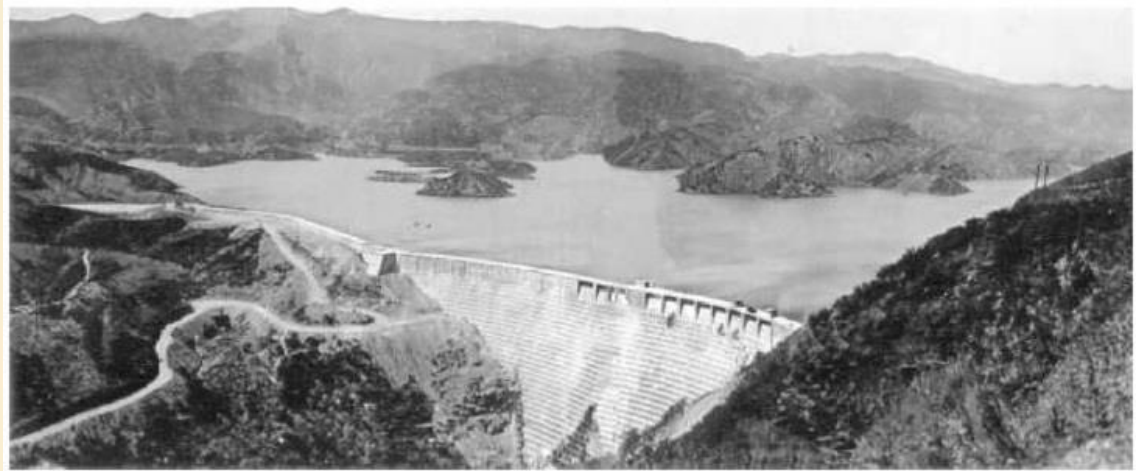
Frank Sr., Maria, and other members of the Knapp family  
are interred at Oakwood Memorial Park



Additional Frank Knapp family and Owensmouth History can be found at  
[Knapp Family - Owensmouth and West Valley History.pdf](#)

# 1928 St. Francis Dam Disaster

- 1913 - Mulholland completes construction of the 233-mile-long Los Angeles Aqueduct from the Owens Valley to the San Fernando Valley.
- 1917 - The Los Angeles Aqueduct seeks to build a holding reservoir to regulate flow, provide hydroelectric power, and storage in case of disruption to the aqueduct system.
- 1923 – Los Angeles and Owens Valley experience water shortages.
- 1924 – Construction of the St. Francis dam begins (above today's Santa Clarita)
- 1926 – Water begins to fill the reservoir
- March 7, 1928 – The reservoir is filled to just 3 inches below the spillway.





- March 12, midnight, 1928 – The dam fails, sending a 100-ft high wall of water down the canyon. It takes 5 hours and 27 minutes to travel 54 miles from the dam site through the Santa Clara river to the ocean at Ventura.
- It is later determined that the eastern abutment was anchored to an ancient landslide, that gave way once saturated with water.

For more on water history in Los Angeles and the St. Francis Dam Disaster  
[St. Francis Dam Disaster: An Extended Timeline](#)

# 1928 St. Francis Dam Disaster

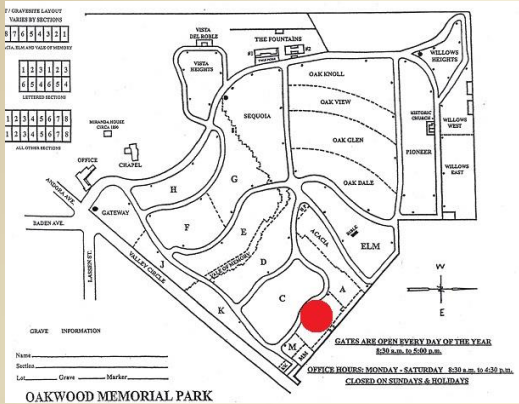
- 411 People were killed in the flood.
- Dispersed throughout the flood zone, 173 victims are interred in six cemeteries; half of these graves remain unmarked.
- Another 135 victims are buried in 58 cemeteries around Southern California and across the United States. 31 victims are buried at Oakwood Cemetery. This includes at least 8 families and their children.
- As many as 117 individuals remain missing to this day.

At right, the Pike, Price  
and Halen Families at  
Oakwood

Memorialization and Memory of the St. Francis Dam Disaster of 1928  
[2014 - St Francis Dam Disaster of 1928 - Ann Stansell Academia.edu](http://AnnStansellAcademia.edu)



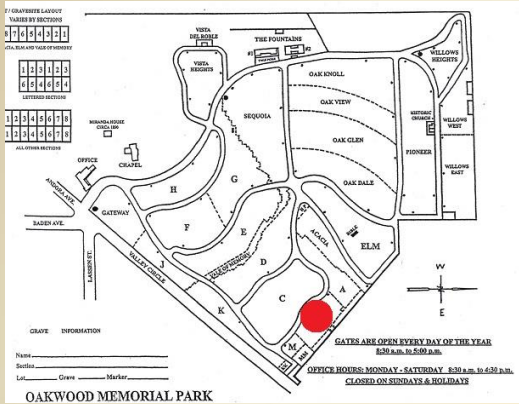
# St Francis Dam Memorial



In Memoriam the St Francis  
Dam Disaster 1928

Area B Next to the Cannon

# St Francis Dam Memorial



In Memoriam the St Francis Dam Disaster 1928  
Area B Next to the Cannon





# Septimo Moraga (1844-1930)

- Septimo was interviewed in 1929 when he was 85 years old, and told the story of Chatsworth's founding.
- He was born at Mission San Fernando and was said to be the last surviving native who was born at the mission.
- "Water was a precious possession and it was only natural that the Indians and the first Spanish settlers should make their homes near a water supply."
- He discussed "Las Pilitas" or "the small fountains", which were springs in the foothills near the 1859 Stagecoach Way Station above today's Oakwood Cemetery.

1929-02-15  
The\_Van\_Nuys\_News

## CHATSWORTH BUILT BY ENGLISH GROUP

### Was Originally a Stage Coach Stop

From the oldest surviving member of the old Mission Indian tribe that used to inhabit this region before the advent of the white man comes a story of the early days in that part of San Fernando Valley now known as Chatsworth.

Septimo, son of Rojerio, is the only Indian now alive who dwelt at San Fernando Mission under the regime of the padres. Here is the story that he and other early settlers have handed down:

Water was a precious possession and it was only natural that the Indians and the first Spanish settlers should make their homes near a water supply. That part of the Chatsworth Hills now known as Oakwood Cemetery was called "Las Pilitas" or "the small fountains," because of several springs that bubbled from clefts in the sandstone rock.

It was there that Senor Vicente de la Osa brought his wife, Dona Rita, and some of the old timers still call it de la Osa rancho. They developed the springs and lived on the rugged slope overlooking the Valley, and the rancho became a stage coach station where horses were changed before the long, tortuous trip over the Santa Susanna grade.

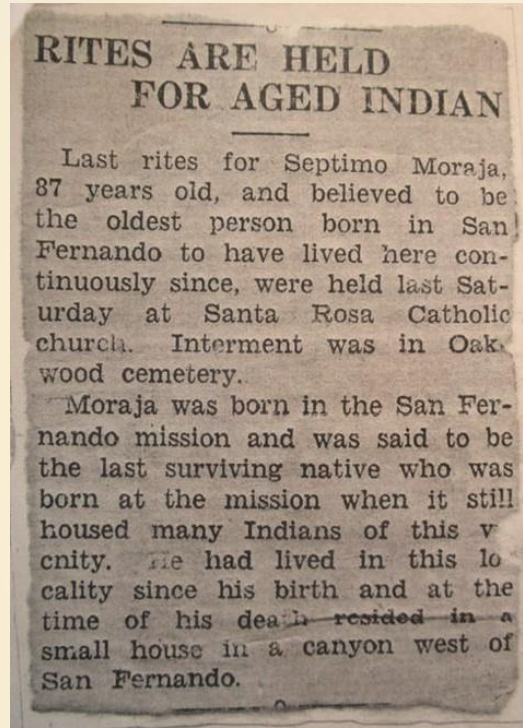
Ramon Jaramillo, so the story goes, was the first owner of the land where the town of Chatsworth now stands. In a later period it was the Miranda family that settled west of the townsite and it was from them that property was purchased for Oakwood Cemetery.

Then came the building of the railroad and the founding of the town of Chatsworth Park by a group of Englishmen. Devonshire and other typically English street names are marks left by these English developers.

As years went by residents dropped the last part of the name for convenience, and the town is now known as Chatsworth.

# Septimo Moraga (1844-1930)

- Septimo Moraga is buried as Fernando S. Moraga in Section A (the oldest section).
- Septimo was interviewed in 1916 by the linguist and ethnographer John P. Harrington
- He was Harrington's most knowledgeable consultant regarding Fernandeano placenames for rancherías and many other sites.



Sétimo López is discussed on page 24,28 etc. in the 2006 [“Ethnohistoric Overview for the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park”](#) by John Johnson.



Sétimo Moraga López in 1916  
*Harrington Papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution, 91-31239.*

# 1933 Office, Chapel and Crematorium Built

- A new Administrative Building was completed this week, offices to be moved from Los Angeles to Oakwood.
- The new Chapel, when finished, will be available for religious services, sacred musicales and weddings, as well as funerals.
- Note: a musicale is a musical gathering or concert, typically small and informal.

1933-07-13  
Van Nuys News

## Chapel Planned for Oakwood Cemetery at Chatsworth



Architect's drawing of new Oakwood chapel, which is under construction this week. The new structure will be finished the latter part of September, and will be available for weddings, sacred musicales and religious observances, as well as funerals.

# 1933 Office, Chapel and Crematorium Built

Words from  
the article

1933-07-13  
Van Nuys News

Construction of a chapel, columbarium and crematory at Oakwood Memorial Park near Chatsworth—the first structure of its kind in San Fernando Valley—is under way today and will be finished the latter part of September, Peter B. Stern, secretary-treasurer of the recently re-organized Oakwood Cemetery association announced this week.

Building of the new chapel, which will be of mission architecture, follows the completion this week of a new structure to house the administrative offices of Oakwood, which will immediately be moved to the Valley from Los Angeles, where they have always been located.

The new Oakwood chapel, when finished, will be available for religious observances, sacred musicales and weddings, as well as funerals. Plans are under consideration to present a number of Sunday afternoon programs of religious music in the new chapel, under the sponsorship of Valley organizations.

The completion of the administration building and start of work on the chapel resulted from the recent re-organization of the board of directors of Oakwood, and the election of Charles F. Stern, former president of the Pacific Southwest Trust and Savings Bank as president, and Peter B. Stern as secretary-treasurer of the association.

# 1933 Office, Chapel and Crematorium Built



The Chapel Today



# Water Well history at Oakwood

A Dec 1927 Van Nuys News article discusses a new 12 feet in diameter well at a depth of 50 feet.

In conjunction with a 12-inch well drilled some time ago (a Miranda well?)

## CEMETERY TO DRILL WATER WELL AT SITE

Construction of a well, twelve feet in diameter, with concrete side walls, has been undertaken at Oakwood Cemetery at Chatsworth and in conjunction with a twelve-inch well drilled some time ago, will furnish water for more than twenty acres of lawn that has been planted in the beautification program.

Oakwood Cemetery is inside the city limits of Los Angeles and the two wells supplement the city water supply.

The new well is down twenty feet and will be drilled to a depth of more than 50 feet.

A Nov 1928 Van Nuys News article announces a second well for a new unit under development

## Survey New Unit for Oakwood Cemetery

With the surveys under way for a new unit comprising hundreds of family plots, operations will immediately begin on a new well to augment the water supply at Oakwood Memorial Park near Chatsworth, Charles E. Rachel, president of the Cemetery Association announced yesterday.

It is the second well to be drilled at Oakwood and will furnish water for the new unit, soon to be beautified.

Oakwood's first well, sunk through solid rock to a depth of 59 feet, produced abundant water, practically eliminating the necessity of the city supply used during the earlier stages of the cemetery's development.

The laying out of the new unit and the announcement of plans for another well are the beginning of an extensive development program soon to be under way, Mr. Rachel said.

# 1947 – The Oakwood Water Well, now in the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park

- As you hike up the Andora Trailhead, you will notice the Water Tank on the crest of the hill above Oakwood.
- Along the trail is a well head and water pipe.
- The water well was drilled by Frank Enderle of Oakwood in 1947.

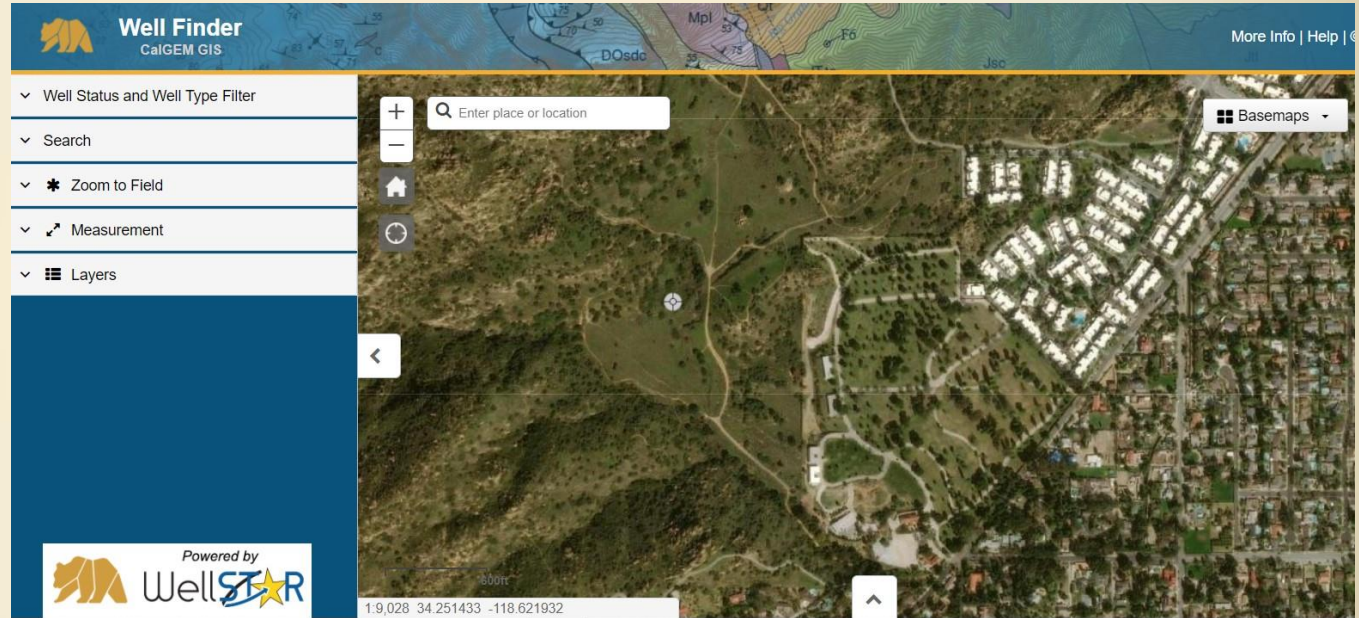
Current photo viewing east.  
Oakwood Water Tank circled in blue,  
1947 Frank Enderle  
Oakwood well circled in yellow.



# 1947 – The Oakwood Water Well, now in the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park

The 11 page Well Record file on the history of the Lassen No. 1 Well can be found at the [California Well Finder](#)

Originally drilled to a depth 1,402 ft. as an oil and gas well, it was developed into a water well.

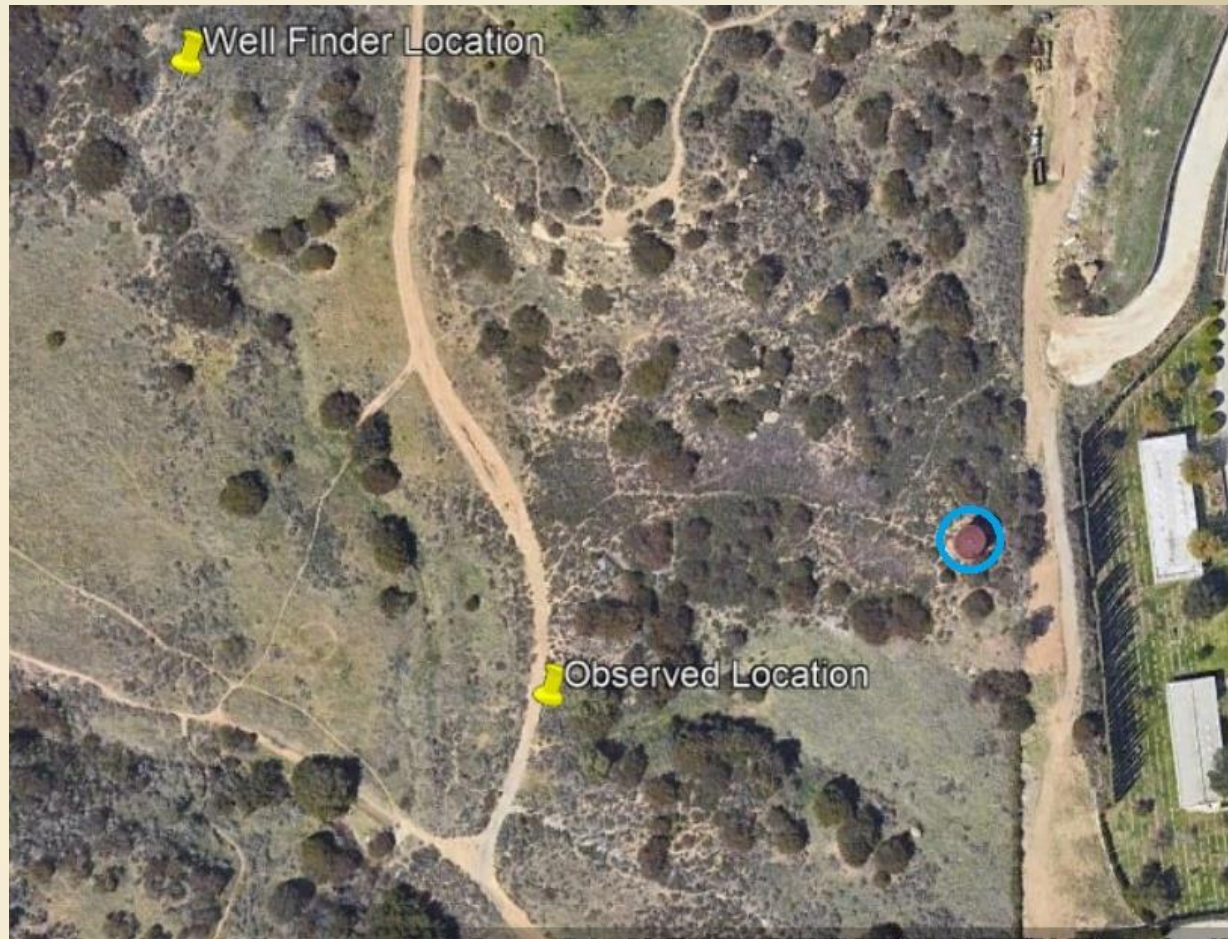




# 1947 – The Oakwood Water Well, now in the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park

A site visit determined the well location at a slightly different spot than the Well Finder location.

Water tank circled in blue



# 1964 Original 1933 Office building is expanded

From the Frank  
Enderle  
Collection



# 1964 Original 1933 Office building is expanded

From the Frank  
Enderle  
Collection



# 1964 Original 1933 Office building is expanded

From the Frank  
Enderle  
Collection



# 1964 Original 1933 Office building is expanded

From the Frank  
Enderle  
Collection



# The 1903 Pioneer Church is moved to Oakwood in 1965

- Originally the Chatsworth Community Church, located at 10051 Topanga Canyon Blvd.
- The Church was built in 1903 with volunteer labor.
- In 1965, it was moved to Oakwood Memorial Park. It is L.A. Historic-Cultural Monument #14.
- Church services continue every Sunday at 10 am.



# The 1903 Pioneer Church is moved to Oakwood in 1965

- Wednesday, January 27, 1965
- The Church rolls out on to Topanga to start the two day journey on back roads, across fields and creeks to Oakwood Cemetery.
- For more information on the history of the church, see our presentation at

[The Chatsworth Pioneer Church.pdf](#)



# The 1903 Pioneer Church is moved to Oakwood in 1965

- Picture taken in 1965 looking west, from the Sage Ranch in Chatsworth at 10151 Farralone Avenue, between Devonshire and Lassen Streets and bordered by the Oakwood Cemetery.
- The horse and cattle ranch had irrigated pasture and alfalfa. Movie star horses were boarded on the ranch including horses belonging to The Lone Ranger, Hoot Gibson, Ken Maynard, Gene Autry, etc.
- Roy Rogers and Dale Evans were neighbors.





# Huell Howser Interview with Virginia Watson

There is a 2003, 6 minute  
video of Huell Howser  
interviewing Virginia Watson  
about the Pioneer Church, from  
the Huell Howser show  
“Chatsworth”

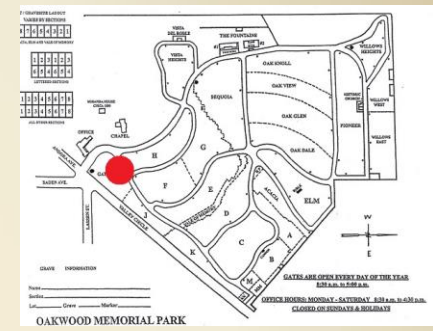
[2003 Huell Howser Chatsworth  
Pioneer Church clip](#)

Huell and Virginia are with  
Father Anthony Rasch and  
Linda and Andre van der Valk





# Vietnam War Memorial 1971



In Memoriam to those  
 Chatsworth Servicemen  
 who lost their lives in the  
 Vietnam War

Dedicated by the  
 Chatsworth Rotary Club  
 May 31, 1971

Gateway Area,  
 Oakwood entrance  
 visible in photo at right.



# Cryonics at Oakwood 1970-1979

- Cryonics (from Greek: kryos meaning 'cold') is the low-temperature freezing and storage of human remains, with the speculative hope that resurrection may be possible in the future.
- In 1970 Robert Nelson purchased an underground crypt at Oakwood Cemetery where he placed the first of several capsules.
- Over the years additional capsules were added accommodating 9 individuals. The Capsules were to be refilled with liquid nitrogen every three months.

# Cryonics at Oakwood 1970-1979

- In January 1967, The Cryonics Society of California (CSC) froze a cancer victim's body for future revival.
- Robert Nelson, president of CSC, said it was the first experiment of its kind on a human.
- Liquid nitrogen vapors are keeping the body at 196 degrees below zero inside a metal capsule in a Phoenix laboratory.

## Cancer Victim's Body Frozen for Future Revival Experiment

BY DAVE LARSEN  
Times Staff Writer

The body of a retired college professor who died of lung cancer in Glendale a week ago has been frozen in the hope that he may be revived at some future time when a cure for the disease is found.

Liquid nitrogen vapors are keeping the body of James H. Bedford at 196 degrees below zero inside a metal capsule in a Phoenix laboratory.

The physician who was at Bedford's bedside when he died described Wednesday for The Times how he carried out the unusual request of the 73-year-old former professor of psychology that he be refrigerated after death.

Dr. B. Renault Able of Inglewood, general practitioner and member of the County Medical Assn., said he went to 2060 Eleanor Drive, Glendale, shortly before noon on Jan. 12. This is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Vest, the nurses who had been attending the ailing Bedford.

### Knew Cancer Was Terminal

Bedford, realizing his cancer was terminal, had approached the Cryonics Society of California, an organization which was formed here three months ago to, in the words of its president, "educate the public in the science of freezing biological matter at extremely low temperatures."

"We are not in the business of freezing bodies, but nobody would cooperate in seeing that the man's wishes were carried out," said Robert Nelson, the society's president.

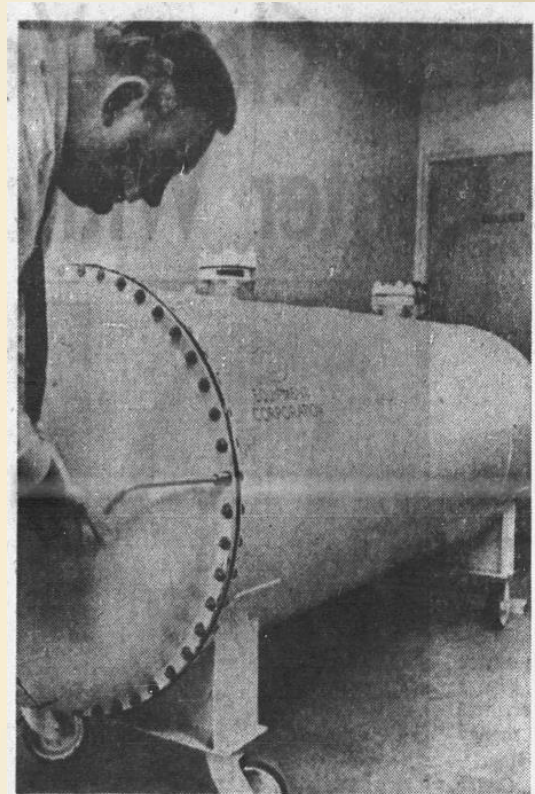
Bedford, shortly after speaking his last words—"I'm feeling better"—died at 1:15 p.m.

Dr. Able pronounced him dead. Then the physician, assisted by another doctor and Cryonics' director of research, began what Nelson said was the first experiment of its kind on a human.

Heparin was injected into Bedford's veins to prevent coagulation, after which a mechanical "iron

Please Turn to Page 2, Col. 1

1967-01-19 Los Angeles Times



**IMMORTALITY CAPSULE** — The frozen body of a Glendale man is being kept in this capsule in Phoenix for revival when a cure for the disease is found.

© Wirephoto

# Cryonics at Oakwood 1970-1979

At the 1969 Cryonics Conference, Robert Nelson distributed a brochure of the “Artistic Renderings” of the proposed Chatsworth facility, seen below.

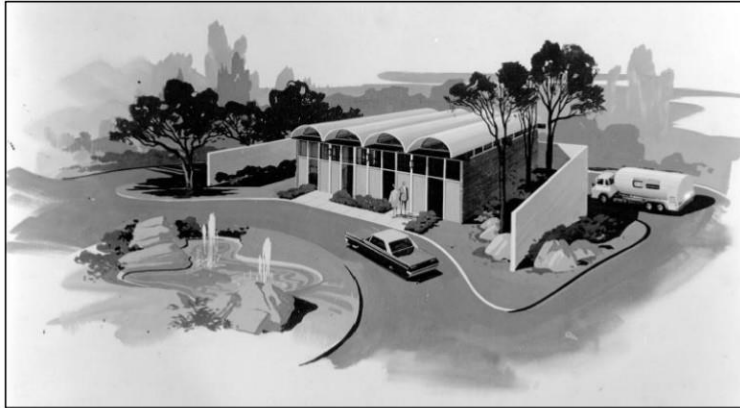


Figure 24. Artistic rendering of the entrance to the CSC “permanent storage facility” at Chatsworth, circulated by Nelson at the 1969 Cryonics Conference.

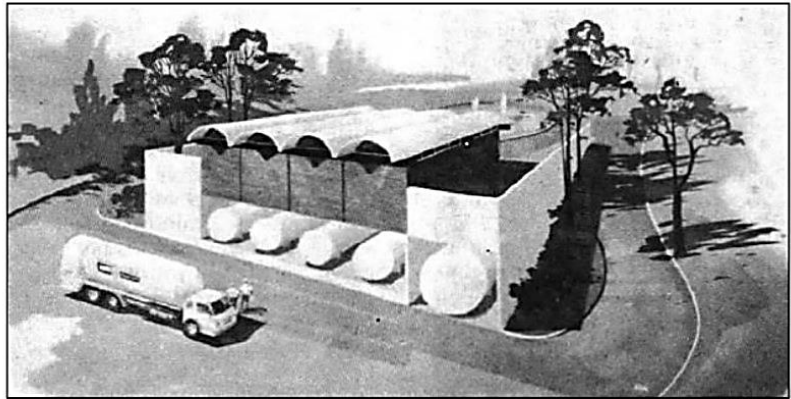


Figure 25. Artistic rendering of the back of the CSC “permanent storage facility” at Chatsworth, circulated by Nelson at the 1969 Cryonics Conference.

**What was actually constructed:** An underground concrete chamber, 20’ long, 10’ wide, 12’ deep, with a steel-paneled roof and a hatch for access.

It was never equipped to supply the electricity required to draw and maintain the cryo-capsule’s circulation of the liquid nitrogen that was considered necessary. The hatch was used to replenish liquid nitrogen every three months. Source: [Cryonics SHOFFSTALL-DISSERTATION-2016](#)

# Cryonics at Oakwood 1970-1979

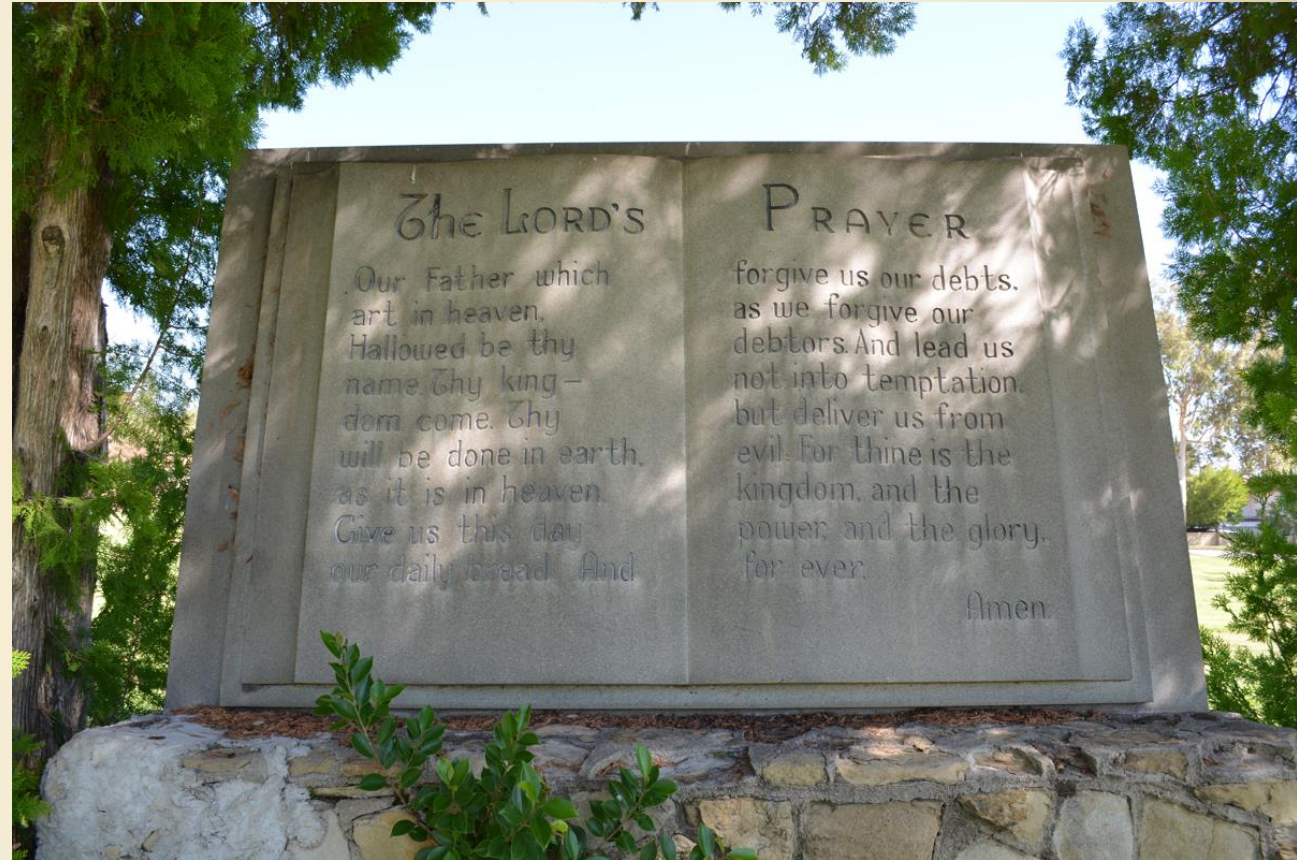
- Over time, nitrogen replenishment failed due to lack of funds and maintenance.
- By March of 1979, Robert Nelson locked the vault and walked away from the venture.
- On the Friday before June 10, 1979, David Walker of the Valley News and a camera crew from a local CBS television affiliate entered the abandoned chamber at Oakwood and found it in disarray.
- By June of 1981, Robert Nelson had been convicted of fraud.

Editor's Note dispelling a rumor: The story goes that Walt Disney had said he was interested in cryonic suspension, but was unable to make arrangements before he died in 1966. Source: [Cryonics SHOFFSTALL-DISSERTATION-2016](#)

# Monuments in the Park



The Bible is in  
“Elm” Section



# Monuments in the Park

IN LOVING MEMORY  
Wishing Wells  
Section  
"Willows East"





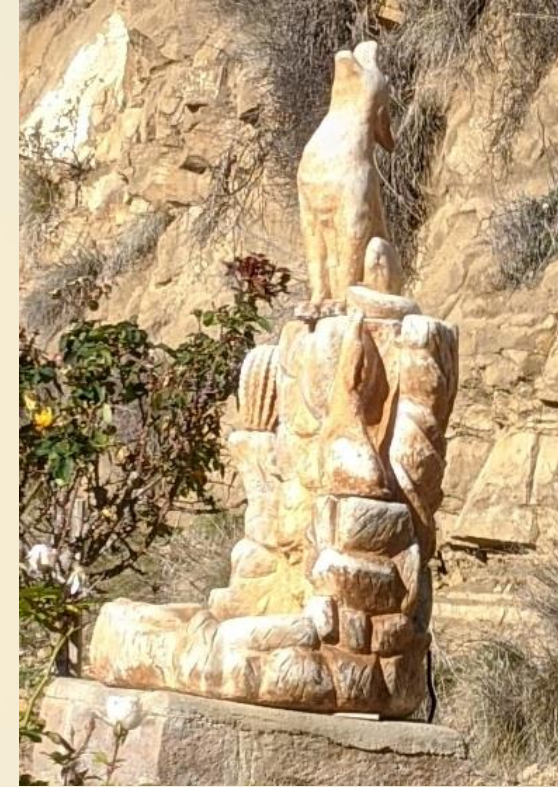
# Monuments in the Park



IN LOVING MEMORY  
Miner and Dancer  
Section "Willows West"



# Monuments in the Park



IN LOVING MEMORY  
Pouring Water and Coyote  
Section "Willows West"

# Monuments in the Park

IN LOVING  
MEMORY  
Eagle in  
Section "Willow  
Heights"



# Monuments in the Park



IN LOVING  
MEMORY  
Children in  
Section  
"Sequoia"



# Homesteader Burials at Oakwood

- James Hill died in 1923 and is buried at Evergreen Cemetery as is his wife Rhoda who died in 1935. **Minnie Hill Palmer and her husband Alfred** are buried at Oakwood.
- Niels (1832-1915) and Ann Johnson (1845-1920) are buried at Angeles Rosedale Cemetery. Many of their children including **Emma and Fred Graves** are buried at Oakwood.
- **Francisco Miranda** and two children are buried at Oakwood but other family members are at Calvary Cemetery in Los Angeles and other locations.
- **James Richard Williams (1853-1931) and his wife Caroline Wagman (1854- 1948)** are buried at Oakwood. His son James Richard Williams Jr and his wife Nellie are also buried at Oakwood.
- **Augusta and Carl Iverson** are buried at Oakwood Cemetery as are other members of their family.

Next... A 16 minute  
video

Available on  
YouTube as

“FAMOUS GRAVE  
TOUR - Oakwood”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hg6D0x-7BO0&t=481s>

Note: right-click the  
link above to open in  
new tab





Oakwood considers burial locations and information to be available only on a need to know basis, as it wishes to protect the privacy of its residents.

However, there are organizations such as Find a Grave, with genealogists who post relevant information to honor loved ones and provide research information for their ancestry. Usually a head stone photo is included.



Link below to Oakwood, not all burials are listed.

[Search Memorials in Oakwood Memorial Park](#)



# Sources/Acknowledgements

- [2014 - St Francis Dam Disaster of 1928 - Ann Stansell Academia.edu](#)
- [1947 Oakwood Water Well – Ca Well Finder](#)
- [UC Santa Barbara Aerial Photographs – FrameFinder](#)
- [Cryonics Shoffstall-Dissertation includes Oakwood Chatsworth](#)
- Transcript notes from 2015 interview with Orrin Sage by Albert Knight
- Knapp Family photographs
- Frank Enderle Photograph collection (1957-1972)
- 16 Minute You-Tube video “FAMOUS GRAVE TOUR – Oakwood” copyright Hollywood Graveyard.
  
- Prepared by Ann and Ray Vincent, January 2022