

The Historical Society of the **Crescenta Valley Ledger**

Montrose

La Crescenta

Verdugo City

Highway Highlands

La Canada

Flintridge

December 2009

The Newsletter of the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley

Issue 65

CURRENT HSCV INFORMATION



Join us for our annual Christmas Party Potluck.

Our theme will be “Memories of Christmas Past”, and we’ll have tables out to display items that bring back memories of that special Christmas.

We will be serenaded by the very talented Charismatics (Crescenta Valley High School’s top vocal performing group).

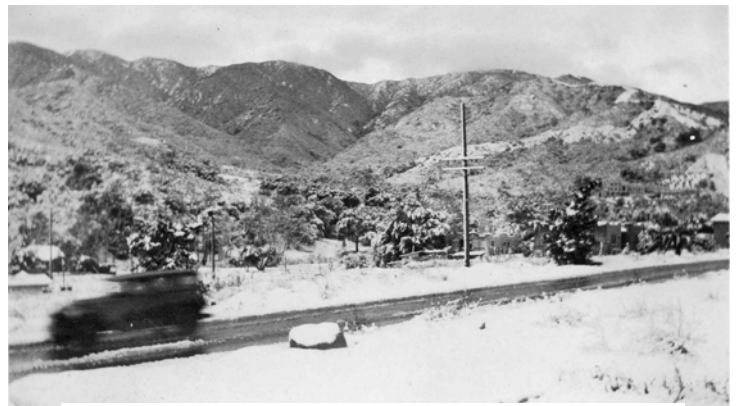
Please bring with you:

- A special toy, decoration, or photo that harkens back to a Christmas from your past.
- as well as a food or dessert to share.

Join us on Monday December 21st, 7:00 p.m. at the La Crescenta Woman’s Club (located on the corner of La Crescenta and Piedmont Avenues).



1932 Snow in Verdugo City, at the corner of Honolulu and Ramsdell



1932 Snow in Verdugo City, looking west across Honolulu at the Whiting Woods area.

In the Present Tense...

by Mike Lawler, HSCV President

As the year closes, I'd like to let you know a little about what's been happening, both good and bad, and what's coming up.

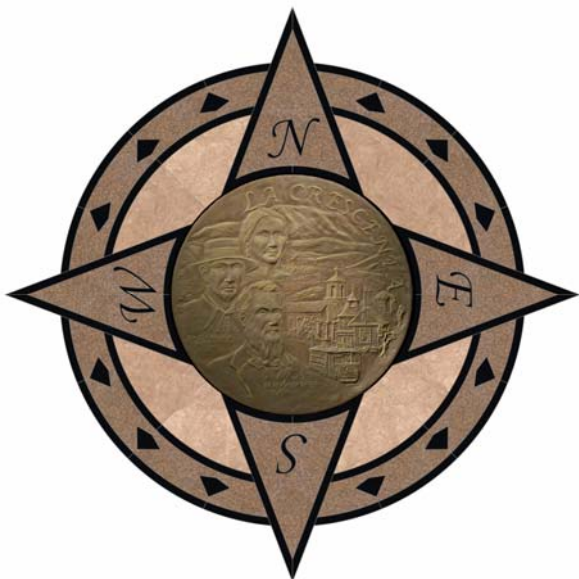
Website Troubles

Those of you that follow us on the web have noticed that our website, stopped getting updated, and then finally went away entirely. Our web host has gone out of business, so we are temporarily grounded from cyberspace. We hope to be back up in just a couple weeks.

La Crescenta Library Floor Plaque

Our beautiful new La Crescenta Library is set to have its "official" opening on Jan. 29th, with a "soft" opening (open to check out books) a couple of weeks before that. On the 29th the HSCV will host a dedication of the floor plaque at 6PM, followed by a big celebration. Should be a huge event! We plan to specially honor our many donors that paid for this piece of art.

My dearest hope is to have reps at the dedication from the families of the three people portrayed on the plaque: Toypurina, Verdugo and Briggs!



Upcoming Programs

County Supervisor Mike Antonovich, a local history buff himself, will be our speaker in January.

For February we were finally able to nail down someone to give us a history of JPL, after several years of trying and missing. Many thanks to HSCV member (and former JPL employee) Jay Holladay for providing the contacts to get this speaker.

Plaques in the Works

Speaking of plaques and donors, three historical plaques we have been working on should come to fruition in the first part of 2010:

- Indian Springs – As part of the remodeling of the Indian Springs Shopping Center, the owner is providing a spot for a plaque describing the Indian Springs Resort.
- Hindenburg Park – A Boy Scout is putting together a plaque commemorating Hindenburg Park, the former German cultural center that is now the west side of CV Park.
- Dunsmore – “The Walls of Dunsmore” is being paid for by the city of Glendale. This plaque will talk about the beautiful folk-art walls that are there, and their creator Milton Hofert.

We could use some help!

There are several jobs in the HSCV that could use some volunteer help. Our Executive Board does all the legal stuff and balances the books, and my wife Pam does the newsletter, but there are a few other jobs that come up from time-to-time. We've recently had members Jay Holladay volunteer to coordinate our Rockhaven cleanup efforts, and Sue Kilpatrick will be coordinating the library plaque dedication.

Other jobs that need a home are:

- Oral History Coordinator – We've got a lot of old-timers in CV with stories to tell! I've got a little digital recorder, so we just need someone that can them line up and take the time to do the interviews.
- Publication Person – We've got lots of little books on CV History just waiting to be put together, but we need someone who's good at desktop publishing to craft them into shape to be sent to print.
- We can always use more hands with our monthly Rockhaven clean-up efforts. It's all about mops and brooms for a couple of hours on a Saturday or Sunday.

If you'd like to help, shoot me an email at Lawlerdad@Yahoo.com or call us at 957-2968.

Another Arcadia Book Coming.... CV Then and Now

Robert Newcombe and I are putting the finishing touches on this one. It should be out in a couple of months.



Crescenta Valley Heritage

By Sharon Weisman

It's hard to believe the first decade of the Twenty-first Century is drawing to a close. 2010 comes with the ongoing fight to keep the **710 Extension** project from dumping unwanted traffic into the **Crescenta Valley**. Many concerned groups and individuals are continuing with efforts to divert scarce transportation funds from the 710 Tunnel study and subsequent related boondoggles into sustainable solutions like encouraging bicycling and walking, mass rapid transit, and freight onto rail.

The next step in the **Verdugo Hills Golf Course** preservation struggle is the response from the **Los Angeles Planning Department** to all of our comments, expected no sooner than February 2010 and perhaps several months later. If you are still displaying one of the bright yellow, savethegolfcourse signs, please return it to **VOICE** or bring it in and store it until **VOICE** calls for them to be displayed again. You can check the latest status on savethegolfcourse.org

The developer who wished to build a three-story, nearly 50' tall commercial project at the former **Foothill Lumber** location has sued the city. It may take a year for that case to work its way through the procedures to trial and meanwhile the **North Glendale Community Plan Advisory Committee** has finished meeting. The **Glendale Planning** staff is organizing the comments gathered and drafting modifications to the City Charter and

ordinances. It is hoped all this community and government effort will result in zoning, ordinances and policies that guide property owners to propose projects the neighbors welcome.

A positive sign in this direction occurred during one of the **North Glendale Community Plan Advisory Committee** meetings when a developer came to ask for opinions on a senior citizen housing project he was considering for the city parking lot south of the businesses on **Honolulu** and **Market Street**. The public parking would be replaced via spots in the building's underground facility. This is the same plan recently approved for the **Hyatt Place Glendale** to be constructed at **Wilson** and **Central** where a surface parking lot now sits.

While there wasn't universal support for the project in that some committee members suggested the area a few blocks west on Honolulu where similar housing exists or the much larger lot to the north would be a better location for such a project, it's just wonderful that a developer asks the residents first before risking his capital.

Not only are there recent changes in the make up of the **Crescenta Valley Water District Board** and the **Crescenta Valley Town Council**, **Glendale** has implemented changes in their boards and commissions. Now each council member nominates an individual and the entire council votes on the nomination. My husband **Bill Weisman** was reappointed to the **Transportation and Parking Commission** and former **Glendale Historical Society President Arlene Vidor** as well as our own **Michael**

Morgan are now on the **Historic Preservation Commission**. With commissioners directly reflecting the will of the council members the city should enjoy even better coordination among the various initiatives going on around the city.

Cooperation with adjacent jurisdictions has already resulted in a bicycle lane planned for Foothill Blvd. from **La Canada-Flintridge** at least to **Lowell** – through the unincorporated and **Glendale** portions of **La Crescenta**. The city of **Los Angeles** is currently updating their bicycle plan as is **Glendale**, as part of the **LA Bicycle Coalition** coordinated **Safe and Healthy Streets** plan to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety. See: <http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/planning/safeandhealthystreets.asp> for details.

With more people out walking and riding bikes, plus all the dirt hauling trucks keeping the flood control basins ready to halt the predicted debris flows, please be extra careful driving in our little valley.

As you can see, there is much to do to maintain our **Crescenta Valley** quality of life and there are too few of us working it. If you find yourself wondering what to talk about at some business, family, civic or organization holiday get together during the next few weeks, why not bring up some of the groups mentioned in these columns? They could all use some more volunteers and donations.

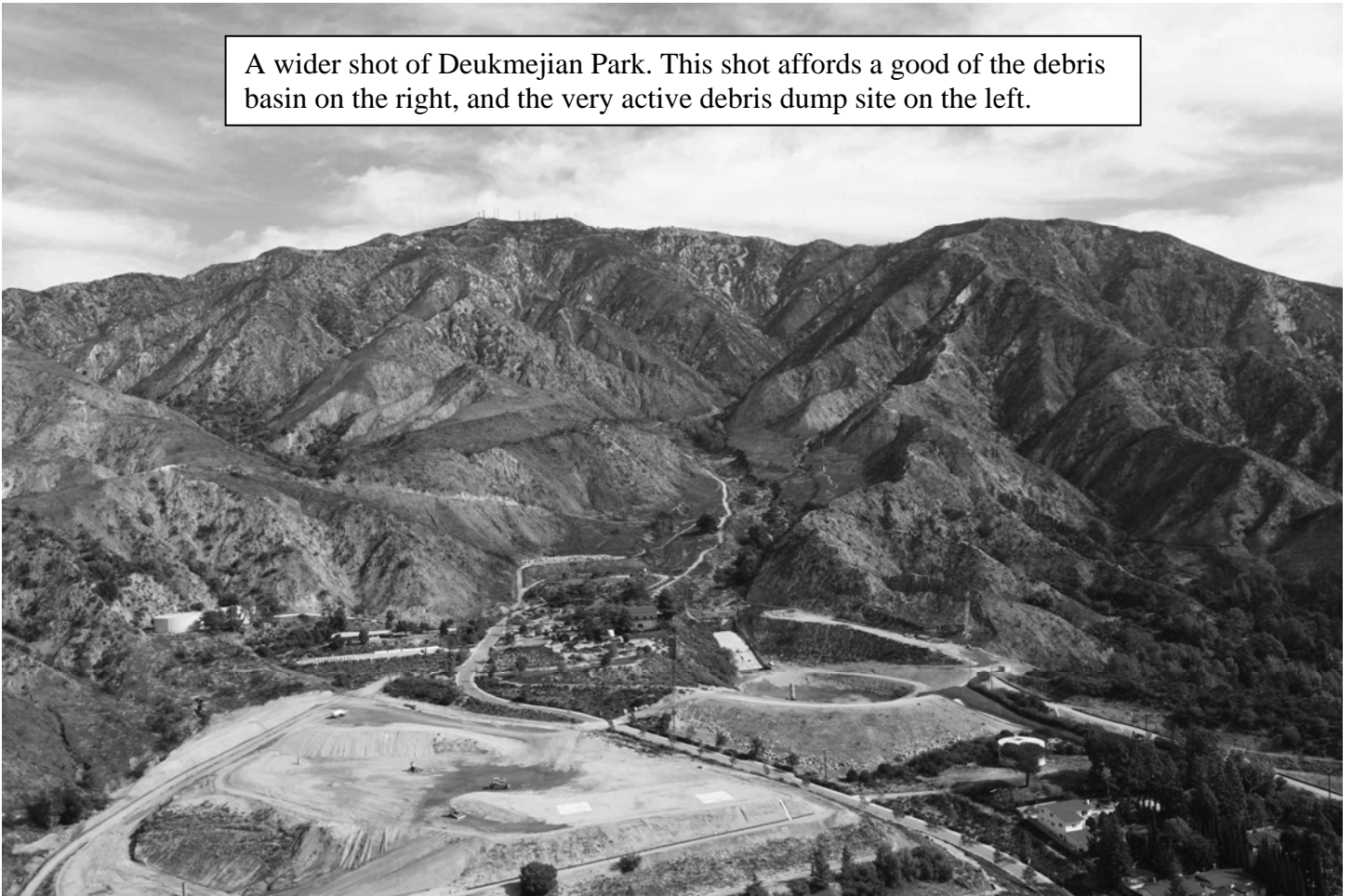
I hope you enjoy the holiday season and 2010 finds you happy and invigorated.



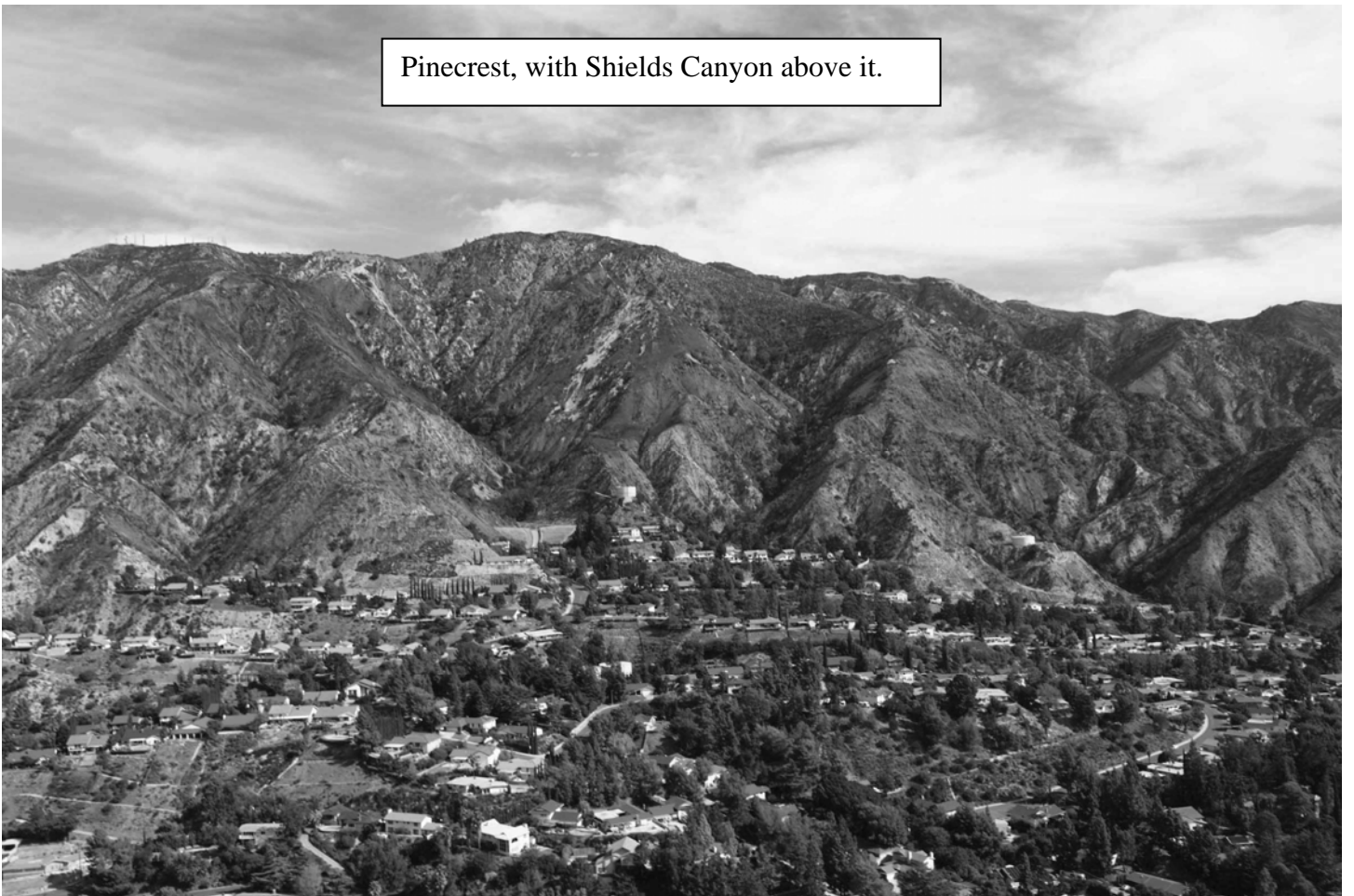
Last summer was dramatic to say the least! The historic Station Fire raged over the San Gabriels, burning off the thick brush, and exposing geologic and historic features that had not been seen for many decades. With that in mind, the HSCV has paid a professional photographer to capture aerial shots of the newly exposed landscape for our archives, and to share with Glendale and the County. Helicopter time was donated by CV Town Councilman and pilot Steve Goldsworthy. In the next few pages are a small sample of the dramatic landscape we live in.

Deukmejian Wilderness Park, with Dunsmore Canyon in the background.

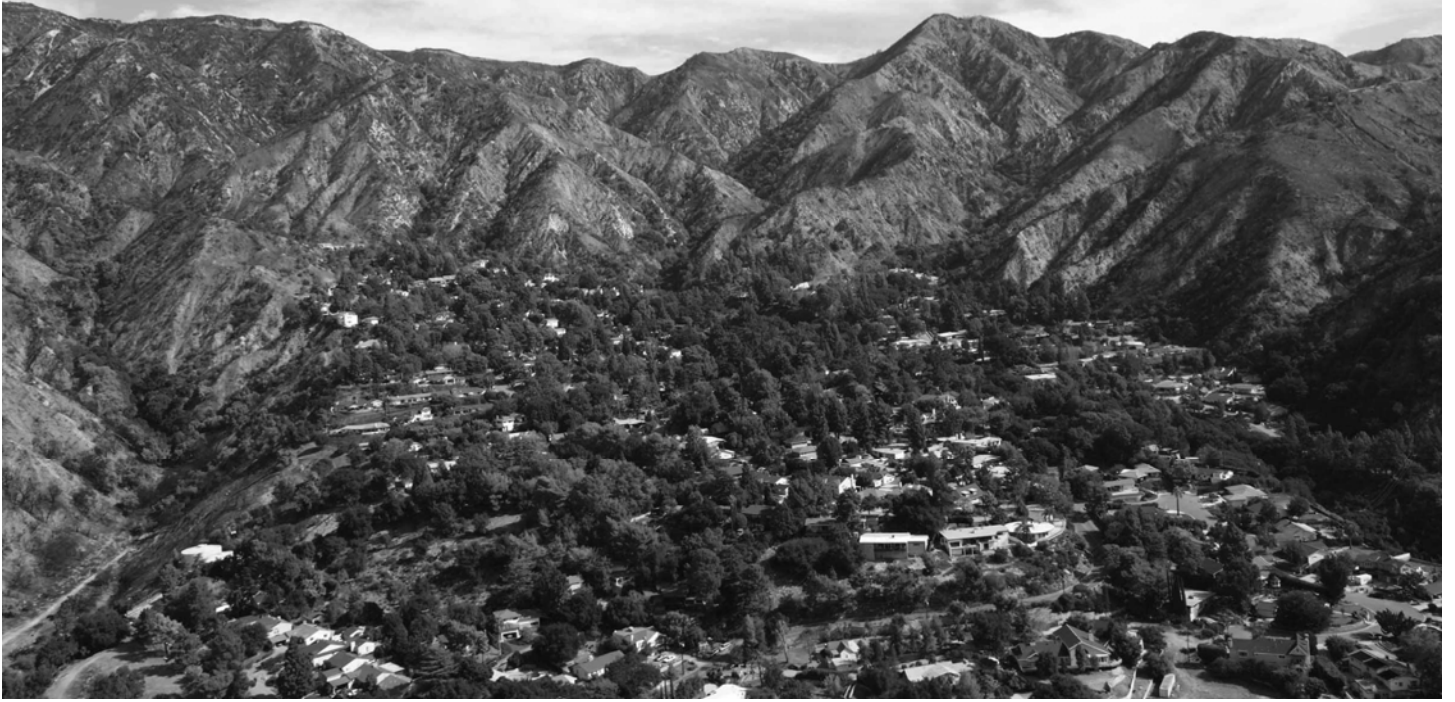
A wider shot of Deukmejian Park. This shot affords a good of the debris basin on the right, and the very active debris dump site on the left.



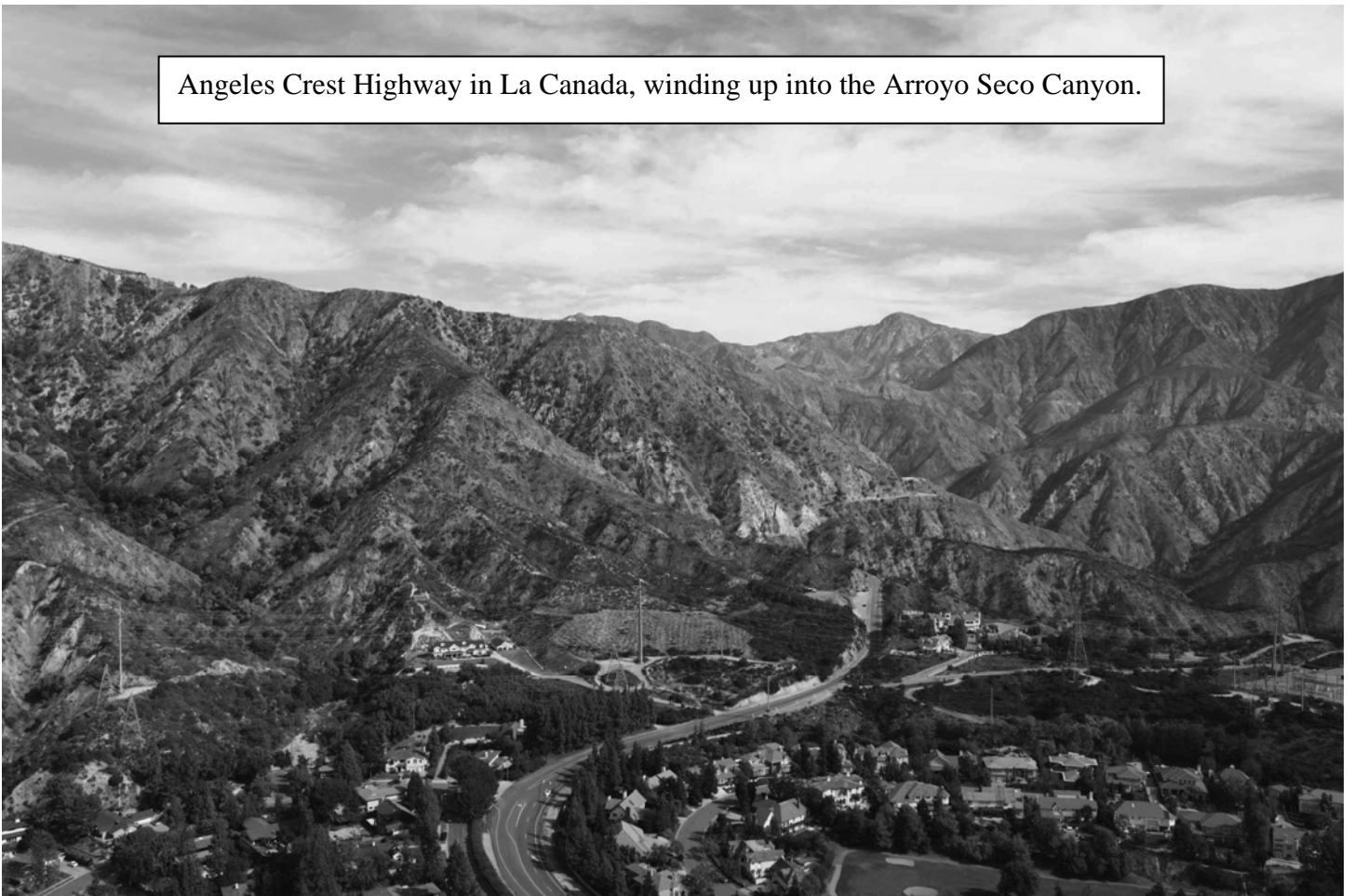
Pinecrest, with Shields Canyon above it.

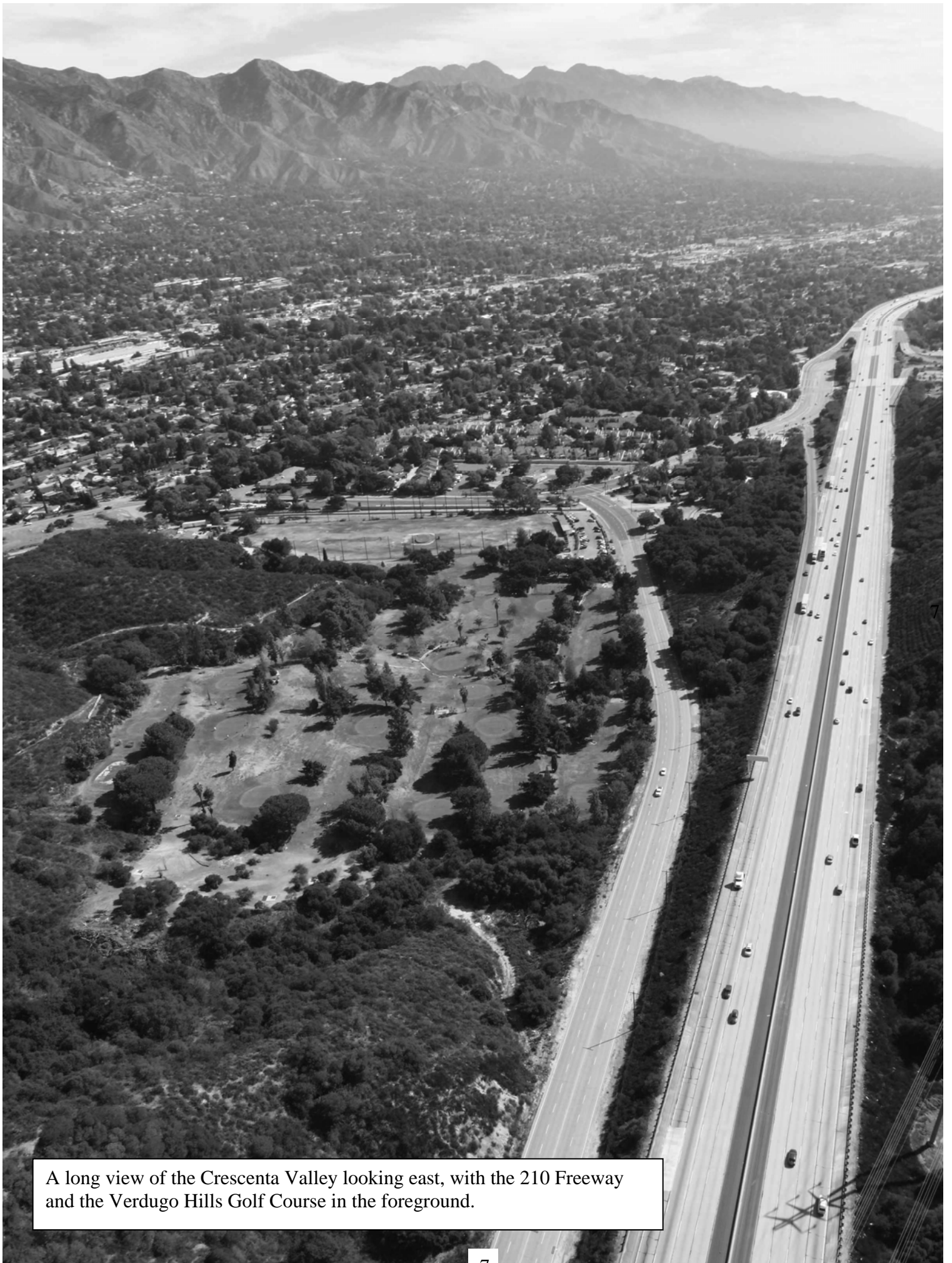


Briggs Terrace, Goss Canyon on the left, and Pickens Canyon on the right.



Angeles Crest Highway in La Canada, winding up into the Arroyo Seco Canyon.





A long view of the Crescenta Valley looking east, with the 210 Freeway and the Verdugo Hills Golf Course in the foreground.



Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley
c/o 2717 Altura Ave.
La Crescenta, CA 91214

Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley

Presents:

Annual Christmas Party Potluck At La Crescenta Woman's Club Plus, some good old memories



Monday, December 21st, 7:00 PM

At the La Crescenta Woman's Club located on the corner of La Crescenta and Piedmont Avenues

Please check your mailing label for accuracy.

Remember:

2008 MEMBERSHIPS RUN FROM MARCH 2009 TO MARCH 2009

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Questions or changes?
Call Pam: (818) 957-2968



We're always interested...

We love to hear your recollections about Crescenta Valley from times past. Share your stories with us, please! Let us share your memories with our members.

Mail: 2717 Altura Ave.

La Crescenta, CA 91214

e-mail to: lawlermom@yahoo.com



Soar above the valley...

Post Station Fire Aerial Photos

Our December Newsletter will
feature aerial photos of the
burn areas,
beginning with page 4