

CURRENT HSCV INFORMATION

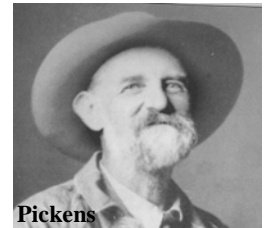
The Legend and Truth of CV Pioneers – Col. Pickens and the Bathey Family

“When the legend becomes fact, print the legend,” is the famous line from the classic Western “The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance,” and it is a philosophy that local historians have often followed. Genealogist Jo Anne Sadler has researched two of our local pioneers to rediscover out the true facts of their lives, and will present her surprising findings. Her facts will be accompanied by commentary from two local historians who have “printed the legend,” Mike Lawler, president of the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley, and filmmaker, John Newcombe, who produced the classic local history movie “Rancho La Canada”.

Colonel Theodore Pickens, a Southerner who fought for the Union in the Civil War, was the first American who lived in CV and his legacy is a reputation as a cantankerous scoundrel, who exploited the land and other settlers, collected his money and moved on...or so the story goes. The true story discovered by Jo Anne Sadler is more complex, and will surprise you. The Bathey Family homesteaded Goss Canyon at the top of Briggs starting in the 1880's, and were fixtures here in the valley until the 1960's... or were they? Hear their life story, and hear the further mysteries their stories reveal. We'll also be viewing previously unseen photos of the Bathey's life in CV in the 1800's, which display the simple and rural, yet cultured life they led.



Bathey family



Pickens

Join us on Monday, July 20th, 7:00 p.m.

At the Center For Spiritual Living

(formerly known as the La Crescenta Church of Religious Science)

Located on the corner of Dunsmore and Santa Carlotta



Rare Dennis Morgan movie in the park and live band music!

at

Two Strike Park

5107 Rosemont Avenue, La Crescenta

Saturday, July 18th, 6:30PM

FREE!



This very rare Dennis Morgan Movie “The Desert Song” has not been seen since it was shown in theaters in 1943! This is a sweeping extravaganza of Arabs versus the Nazis in the North African desert. Dennis Morgan foils the enemy at every turn, all the while serenading his leading lady, Irene Manning. For obscure copyright reasons, this movie has never been released on DVD or shown on TV. We will be showing a privately owned copy, belonging to a friend of the Morgan Family.

Dennis Morgan, a popular film star of the '40s and '50s, was a resident of the Crescenta-Canada area. He was very involved in civic affairs and local charities, and was the driving force in creating the very park we'll be watching this movie in, Two Strike Park. He was considered the unofficial Mayor of CV. Dennis Morgan's family will be there to greet you.

The band is "The Maestros" . . . a group of older gents who play jazz and rag time. The band is scheduled to start at 6:30 pm with the movie to start around 8:30 pm.

People should bring their own chairs, blankets, food & drink (no alcohol). Umbrellas or shadders are an option with the late summer sun. Parks will be supplying a popcorn machine for our use and enjoyment. We have CV Town Council President Steve Pierce, and LA County Parks to thank for this **free event**.



Crescenta Valley Heritage

By Sharon Weisman

June gloom has given way to July heat and the big local land use issues continue to simmer as they work their way through the various processes. Comments are due on the **Draft Environmental Impact Report** for the planned development of the **Verdugo Hills Golf Course** property **July 20**. See: <http://www.gcvoice.org/current-projects/vhgc.htm> for a link to the report and instructions on how to comment.

The **Save the Verdugo Hills Golf Course Committee** was very popular in the **Sunland-Tujunga Fourth of July Parade**, distributing flyers and raising awareness of the potential loss of the facility among the local-resident parade goers. Golfers with some time on their hands could find a local kid (or two or three) at loose ends and provide some one-on-one tutoring on the course. That might help the effort by demonstrating the course's continued viability and could even generate a few next-generation activists.

Meanwhile, **Highway Highland Neighbors** learned the appeal of the **DRB #2** denial of the proposed three-story, nearly fifty foot tall, mixed-use retail/office/medical office building at the **Foothill Lumber** site has been scheduled for the **July 21 Glendale City Council** meeting. The meeting will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers, 613 E. Broadway, Glendale, starting at 6 pm. The agenda will be available a few days before, see: <http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/agenda.asp?OrganizationID=4>. If you can't make the meeting, or don't wish to speak, you can submit comments to the council members via writing to the city hall address above. E-mail contact information is available from the city's website and from the links page of the CV Heritage website, <http://cvheritage.org/elected%20representatives.htm>

The **Glendale City Council** approved the **North Glendale Community Plan Advisory Committee** at their June 23 meeting and we await notice of its forming. It is expected to meet during the summer to try to work out compromise solutions for those areas of the plan where there isn't consensus.

Networking with other attendees **June 16** at the **North East Los Angeles Community** meeting on the proposed **710 Tunnel** brought another action to our attention. The **LA Southwest Museum**, LA's oldest museum, may be threatened by the **Autry Museum** expansion planned in **Griffith Park**.

Attendance at the **June 25 710 Tunnel Steering Committee** meeting enabled more networking with local activists. Audience members at both meetings were universally opposed to the tunnel project, even those who live near the current terminus of the 710 freeway. They too fear the proposed massive tunnel will not relieve traffic nor pollution and back more modern, public transportation based solutions. If you feel the money **Cal Trans** has slated for the **710 tunnel** could be better spent on other transportation projects, please let your state representatives know. Links to their websites are also on the **CV Heritage** links page noted above.

During the June 30 meeting of the **LA Board of Referred Powers** to consider the **EIR** for the **Autry** project, **LA City Council Member Jose Huizar**, in whose district the **LA Southwest Museum** lies, proposed a condition on the approval of the **Autry's** requested expansion requiring specific plans for the continued operation of the **LA Southwest Museum**. Residents near the **Southwest**, although still thankful for the 2003 merger of the two facilities which saved the aging **Southwest** and its magnificent collection of **Native American artifacts** from further deterioration, are concerned the **Autry** will concentrate the combined collection in the expanded **Autry** and neglect the original site.

Council Member Huizar will be negotiating with the **Autry National Trust**, operator of the dual-site organization. It is expected to come back to the **Board of Referred Powers** toward the end of July. The **Board of Referred Powers** is a subset of the **LA City Council** formed due to the **CEQA** requirement that some elected body review an EIR. It would be even more cumbersome to have the full 15 member council hear every EIR in the city. See: <http://friendsofthesouthwestmuseum.com/> for details.

"My Hometown Photo Contest" offers another vehicle for communication, plus an opportunity to win \$250. **Glendale** and unincorporated **La Crescenta** and **Montrose** residents are encouraged to submit one color and one black and white photo taken in those neighborhoods. The contest is sponsored by the **Committee for a Clean and Beautiful Glendale**, **Glendale Neighborhood Services**, and **Lexus of Glendale**. Deadline to submit photos is **July 23**. With so many beautiful flowering trees, interesting community events and scenic vistas it will be hard to choose a subject. For details see: http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/cdh/home_town.asp

Submissions will be exhibited at the **"Summer Night on the Plaza"** event July 31 from 6 to 8:30 pm in **Perkins Plaza**, located behind 141 N. Glendale Ave. in the City Hall complex.

Join **Glendale** and the **Foothills** activist community for this festive gathering featuring an impressive food and dessert "taster" from many of **Glendale's** best restaurants and bakeries, live entertainment by the steel drum band, **Trinidadio**, who inspired **Margaret Hammond** to get up and 'trip the light fantastic' at last year's celebration. Also included are an eclectic array of silent auction items and an exhibit of the finalists in the **"My Hometown Photo Contest"**.

Adult tickets are \$15.00 in advance and \$20.00 at the entrance. All proceeds from ticket sales and silent auction items will continue to fund the **Committee for a Clean & Beautiful Glendale's** community beautification and environmental education programs. Ticket holders vote on the photos.

We need to take advantage of all the communication channels we can find, particularly in view of the closing of the **Crescenta Valley Sun** local newspaper. It's wonderful to see our own **Mike Lawler** as the first contestant to be a voice of the **Crescenta Valley** as the **Glendale News Press** embraces us as we mourn the loss of other local voices.

2009 is a critical year for communication in the Crescenta Valley.

(Photo from THE LEDGER – La Crescenta Section, October 1977, in one of their “Looking back in time” editions)



A BIT OF HISTORY REMAINS – With a 160-acre homestead, Charles and Mary Bathey arrived in La Crescenta in 1886 with their children Winifred, Allie, Edith and Herbert. The mountain cabin home has survived all the disasters and pressures of development. Typical of early La Crescenta homes, the land produced crops. Winifred Bathey and Ellie Johnson, right, stayed in the family home until its sale in the 1960s.

Article from THE LEDGER-October 2, 1936

“Old Timers” In Annual Meeting Tell Happenings

The American flag floated above a group of “old timers” gathered at the Bathey place at the end of Briggs avenue on Sunday. The flag had been suspended from a eucalyptus tree planted half a century ago by the former mistress of the estate. Mrs. Bathey had sent to the Agricultural department in Washington for seeds to start a clump of trees now grown to tall, splendid specimens over the period of years.

In this environment a small number of early settlers, who have seen the valley grow from a sparsely settled community to a thriving section dotted with many homes, meets annually to talk about the changes time has wrought.

They always harken back to the old days when those visiting the Valley came here by way of Los Angeles avenue which was verily a rocky road. Street names have been changed in the interval. The old inhabitants talked of the first Sunday school held in the Valley in the

covered basement of the house later to be known as the Tosche home. One Sabbath morning, before class could be held, a rattler was killed there.

The majority of those attending went to the school house in the Coulter tract on Michigan avenue.

There was much reminiscing and two old sweethearts met for the first time in forty years.

The two women known fondly as “the Bathey girls” extend yearly the courtesy of their old home for the meetings. The house has not been modernized as it is only used on weekends. Coffee is always cooked on the old range and those attending eat at the long table outdoors.

At the meeting on Sunday, Mrs. Arthur Aiken was appointed secretary-treasurer. Arthur Aiken came here with his father, Dr. Aiken, in the early 1880's. He is always a familiar figure at these reunions.

Mrs. John Erwin (Pett Hunsaker) came to the Valley in 1893 and has had Valley property dating from that time. Mrs. Vernon Hall (Eudoxie Escalle) also claims the Valley as a homeland for many

years. Her husband has also lived here for a long time.

Among those present were: Miss Winnie Bathey and her sister, Allie Bathey Johnson, of Los Angeles; Mr. and Mrs. Sam Merrill (Emily Scherb) of Los Angeles where Mr. Merrill is clerk of the Superior Court. (Mr. Merrill once owned the Bissell ranch.); Dan W. Green, La Canada; Max Green, Glendale postmaster; Mrs. Ann Merrill Foster and nephew of Long Beach; Mrs. Kate Kimball Bell who once lived on the Lawrence estate; Ray Lyans and his wife of La Canada; Mrs. John Verdugo (Rose Englehardt) and her brother Charles Castillo, who once lived on the Baldrige ranch; Mrs. Rose Lyon Munson of Puente; Mrs. Ann Kirby (“Dick” Barclay) of Tujunga, who once owned the old Monte Vista hotel when Sunland was known as Monte Vista; John Correa of Montrose; Pierre Escalle, La Crescenta pioneer and Dr. Dillingham of Los Angeles.

It was decided to build a barbecue on the Bathey place for future reunions. By this proposed improvement one can judge the interest in the meeting.

PICKENS CANYON ONCE HAD FOREST

Herbert Bathey and his wife, Eudoxie, while now residing near Solvang, retain many memories of this area. He remembers when the Landeau brothers were making brick in their brickyard on Main street in downtown Los Angeles. They fired the brick from wood taken from Pickens Canyon, which at that time (1880) was heavily timbered with Big Cone Spruce.

The Landeau's built a little narrow gauge railroad to bring the wood from the canyon to the wagon road. It was destroyed by a flood but in 1892 was rebuilt again by Chester and Arthur Blain, who continued to cut timber until the La Canada Water Co. evicted them around the turn of the century to protect water rights. In looking at Pickens Canyon today, with even the comparatively recent growth of brush and willow destroyed by bulldozers, the fact that a forest flourished there 50 years ago seems strange indeed.

From The Ledger, Progress Edition, 1953

FIRST PICKENS CLAIM

Theodore Pickens, who first homesteaded the Briggs Terrace area and claimed the water flowing from the Pickens Canyon, first began development of a parcel lower in the Valley. After he had painstakingly inched the water up the eastern bank of the Pickens Canyon, he discovered that his proposed homestead lay within the Rancho La Canada land grant. He then moved farther up the canyon, filing claim to what is now Briggs Terrace. His abandoned site was on the eastern bank of the wash, but no record exists of the exact spot.

Printing date is unknown

CHAS. T. BATHEY

Possibly the Charles Theodore Bathey homestead at the top of Briggs Ave. was the best known of all the homesteads. That grant entitled Mr. Bathey to 160 acres. The family home state had been Michigan and on their way westward they passed the smoldering blaze of the great Chicago fire.

The family had reached Los Angeles in 1880 and six years later Charles, his wife Mary, and children, Winifred, Allie, Edith and Herbert left their Los Angeles for their mountain home. All were packed with their worldly goods into two lumber wagons. The trek took eight hours.

A two story rustic home, cabin type, was built. An orchard with many kinds of fruit was planted. Also ornamental trees: pines, cedars, jacarandas. All thrived despite the rocky soil. Inquisitive mountain peaks seemed to come close to view what was happening.

Was it a decade ago that Herbert Bathey married Eudoxie Escalle Hall, daughter of a La Crescenta Old Timer? The couple has a ranch near Solvang. Dame rumor has it the old Bathey ranch has been sold.

From a series of handwritten notes,
presumably taken by Grace Carpenter,
interviewing Herbert Bathey,
(year is unknown)

- **Editors note: These notes are regarding the lumber operations that took place in Mullally canyon above Pickens canyon in the 1889s.**
Named Mullally canyon – for Mullally brickyard, Blaine boys ran 1 ½ railroad from Briggs barn –used to call to chow with triangle and engine bell.
- **Editors note: This note is regarding Gould Castle which was at the top of Ocean View.**
2200 feet –the Castle Del Crescenta—a delightful place—perfect view of the Valley and ocean—14 miles to L.A., 5 miles to Verdugo park—Hofferman attached the furniture of castle—took it away—wonderful rugs—solid cherry furniture in pink room—according to room colors
- **Editors note: This is probably referring to the bridge over the Arroyo Seco.**
Bridge—wagon bridge—not walking, footbridge—taken out in 1913 or 14
- Ladies Shakespearian club—organized 1886—Professor and Mrs. W. C. White, Dr. and Mrs. Vassett, Mrs. B. B. Briggs, Miss Keeler, Mrs. Holly, Anna and Carrie Holly—all ladies read and discussed Shakespeare and Browning at regular meetings—Professor White was proofreader for Lew Wallace who wrote Ben Hur—Wabash College professor 20 years
- Young peoples' group—dramatic and entertainment—had a paper—weekly—editor read paper at meetings—Wally Williams was one editor—programs had ads from hotels in Pasadena
- School program—piano solo by S. S. Hall—recitation “Guilty or Not Guilty” by Edith Hall
- Foothill and La Crescenta—5 acre plot—Dr. Briggs gave for park—had crescent shaped pond and fountain, 10 foot long—park was 10 town lots—cleared—pepper trees
- Beaudry—originally supplied water to L.A.—irrigation channel from river—first water pipes owned by him
- Mrs. Henderson was the gal in Whiting canyon who raised goats **Editors note: there is a Henderson Canyon in the Verdugos**
- Mrs. Gould (of Gould Castle-Ed.) died in Glendale
- Charlie and Walter Fraley—cows from New Mexico—herded in Valley—1894—drove from Las Vegas, New Mexico.

NOTES FROM HERBERT BATHEY

Editors note: These are probably notes from the interviews of Grace Carpenter with pioneer residents, as she recorded oral histories for special editions of *The Ledger*. Keep in mind, as you are reading, that they were written probably in the '60s, so some things stated as still being here may have been lost quite some time ago.

Only squatter that ever lived in the Valley, lived on the edge of the Arroyo Seco. Was here prior to the government survey of 1865-68.

Theodore Pickens homesteaded the land in Pickens Canyon in 1870's. Law required a house 10 by 14 (It still stands on Terrace.), one window and one door. Pickens first settled on the Castle property, before he realized that he was on Mexican Grant Land. Elliot cut the granite for the Gould Castle.

In 1888-89, a bigger flood than the 1933-34 flood. Water level 15-20 foot high in Pickens. Could hear the rumble for mile. 100 inch rainfall in winter.

Indians; Mortar and pestle plowed up by Herbert. Father had found two Mexican axes, used them as wedges. Herbert has old whip saw, probably the oldest in California. Mexican origin. Has what were probably Mex stirrups as handles. Father found.

Wind—blew top leaves from oak trees (Live Oaks). Blew the La Crescenta hotel down—it never burned. It was at La Crescenta and Foothill. Killed a Mrs. Arnold and her daughter. A baby lying between them was saved. The building would have stood if someone hadn't opened the front door. 90 mph wind. December 14, 1887, night. Aiken home had roof blown off, and family lived under roof. Hotel was two story. Mr. and Mrs. Willy, daughters Beth, Anna and Daisy living there were not hurt. At school, there were 32 kids before storm, but the enrollment dropped to 6 and 8, including George Cryer, later mayor of L.A. Present hotel was built by Willey and Darrell in 1888. Much larger.

Mrs. Mary Foster Sherb first woman married here.

Builders used to put rock in walls to weigh house down.

Charles T. Bathey, father of the present residents, arrived in La Crescenta in 1881, where he worked for Lanterman. He lived at the head of La Canada Boulevard. Took stock into the kitchen when a blizzard struck—two horses and four cows. Later was the Sargeant and Hays place.

Bathey place. Pre-empted (Dictionary. Pre-empt, to establish first claim to, purchase. To take possession in advance of others.) ...no homestead. Paid Govt. for the land. Have a gov't patent for land. Price also pre-empted the Shields place. Bathey, 158 acres plus, raised the orchards from seed. Planted red gum and sugar gum. First introduced in country. Mother,

Drawing
by
Winnie
Bathey,
1900



Mary Bathey, got the seeds from the state department and planted. Oranges from seed, and budded from the Carnahan orchards and from Briggs place.

Cement pipe. Machine made—no seams. Put cement in hopper (Chinese carried cement), and pushed handles like handcar. The thing squirted ahead two inches each stroke. No joints. Ran from Goss canyon to Earl place on Fairmount. Earl place was between Briggs and Rosemont from Foothill to Cleaves place. Dr. Briggs used tin pipe.

Bathey father brushed off the land near Briggs and Rosemont.

Three graves in La Canada. Can't locate. Millie Glore, 3, was buried in Valley on Childs or Dunks place. 3 or 4 graves there. Now lost. Remember funeral.

No graded roads in Valley when they first came. Just wagon trails. All high brush.

Deer thick. 9-10 season. Shoot anything. Herbert shot 13 quail with one barrel. Father hit 10 with one barrel. Wild blackberries in Shields canyon. Trout in stream along Verdugos. Lions--saw one two years ago in canyon. Ray Bathey killed one with a .22 with one shot, Father tracked and found dead. Herbert shot one years ago. Bear seen in 1914 on Utley place. Chased through the Valley.

Dr. Dillingham, father and Herbert in 1896 saw fire that burned for months in back country. Packed around.

Claude Faithful was an Englishman who went hunting with Herbert and Father. Saw a bear and cubs, and ran away (bear the other way). He slid over the Hoyt Falls. 85 foot drop. Was tracked over them. Not hurt (the Englishman) steps 20 feet apart.

Mr. Bathey given \$25 to lay out Briggs from Montrose to Terrace. All men worked out poll tax, donated extra time.

Herbert. Capt in U.S. Signal Corps and Infantry. On Mex border 1916. In 15 years. Private to Capt. 1903 to Nat'l Guard. Missed Spanish War. Met MacArthur in 1910. He was popular with men and officers

Herbert Bathey, Ellie M. Bathey Johnson, Miss Winifred Bathey.

Editors note: Ellie M. Bathey Johnson is often seen written as Allie.

MORE NOTES FROM HERBERT BATHEY

Editors note: More notes assumed to be of Grace Carpenter in her recording of pioneer residents for special editions of The Ledger. Again, keep in mind the significant amount of time that has passed since these interviews, and some places stated as still here may not be so.

One head (buck) hanging in the living room, was taken in Flintridge.

Ray and Edith, younger Bathey kids, rode to school on burros, to La Crescenta. Ray died in 1903 of appendicitis.

One daughter was 30 years a teacher in Los Angeles schools. Taught manual training.

Shields was General James E. Shields, a gentleman; dressed to ride to the mailbox.

Father Bathey (Charles T.) to L.A. in August 1873, from Michigan, when he arrived to follow his fiancée, whose parents moved here. They were engaged. Some of mother's people came here as early as 1850. Mother's name was Mary Good, and her mother was named Goode, distant cousins.

Herbert was a contractor in L.A. with his father.

Herbert, Ellie M. Bathey Johnson and Winifred Bathey were born in what is now Boyle Heights.

There were no graded roads north of the San Fernando Road, where the "3 mile house" was located at Verdugo and S.F. There was dust and sand to there, and mud from there on. Over the hills along Verdugo road was adobe, bottomless mud when wet (Fletcher) as far as the Verdugo Canyon, where wild grapes grew in abundance. Quail would feed on the grapes (junction of Verdugo and Glendale north). There was a towering sycamore near the junction, where the grapes covered from top to bottom. (This was where the reservoir is now.) The tree was 70 feet high and was covered with training grapes. People camped under the tree, and it was known as the "Camping Tree". The bottom of the branches were 40 feet across, and the place was a resting spot for horses. The grapes grew as far north as where El Rito is today.

Then later the Verdugos rented 200 acres to a group of Chinese (20) who raised the vegetables for the entire city of L.A. and ran 11 wagons each day into the city and one into the Valley.

Then the road paralleled an old willow fence made by the Spaniards. It was made of willows laced together and later taking root. Then the road crossed the creek (came up the east bank as far as the Bullock place) then crossed the creek and went up the west band to the present bridge site. There it crossed and forked, with one trail going to Monte Vista (Tujunga-Sunland) and other to La Canada,

Drawing
By
Winnie
Bathey,
1900



winding up thru the hills behind Tuppers' place and above Indian Springs. It was known as the "Rocky Pass", and was very rough. (There was no springs at Indian Springs.)

Coming the other way, the road crossed the Arroyo on a continuation of Foothill, and can now be seen where it ascends the east bank. Running west, it followed the general route of Michigan avenue.

When the Arroyo Seco was running after a winter rain, it was practically impossible to cross the stream. Herbert remembers his dad driving a 4-horse team across the river with a heavy load, when the water was so high the wavelets rolled over the horses' backs.

There was no Pasadena at all in the old days. Herb remembers the first store in the village, and the coming of the Sante Fe that boomed the city.

Road came to Lanterman's and then down through the Rock Pass. There were trails leading up through the brushlands later, to the Dunks, Beckley's, Hays and other places. Hays Canyon had a wagon-box for a reservoir.

Ketcham kids, Ike and Grace. Grace shot herself in the foot trying to shoot a coyote.

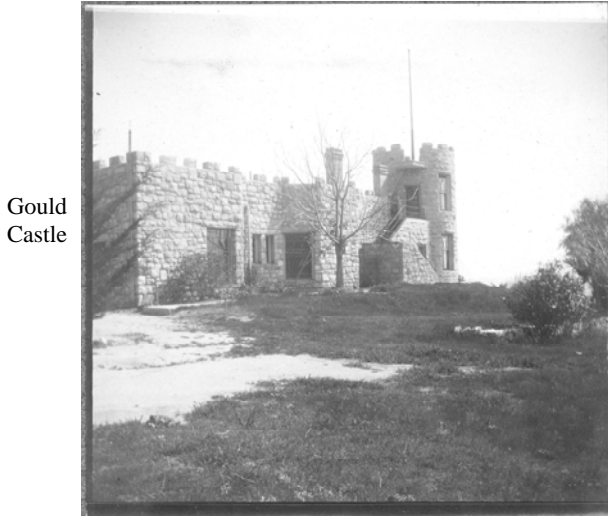
The land was gradually cleared of the old, high grease brush that covered the Valley, as crews of whites, chinks, and Mexes and others cut it for fuel. There was a large wood market on Los Angeles street between 1st and Aliso.

Saw... the old saw is about 5'4" in length, and has 137 teeth, each about 1/2" high. The handles were made, perhaps of what appears to be Spanish stirrups. It is a ripsaw. HAND FORGED, used for sawing planks, and had a big handle set at each end. Father found it in "Old Man Canyon" (so called because of an old man who resided there. He was a real character, chopping wood for a living.) The canyon divides Bathey place and Shields place. Was perhaps used by the Spaniards, who used Indians to rip the lumber. Herbert found an old pine stump high in the hills that had healed over.

The Batheys found also three 6-pound axes, which they used for wedges for splitting timber. They were dug from the ground. They had been hand formed. Had a 6" bit.

GOULD CASTLE

Bathey father was formen on the Castle bldg. A man named Elliot cut the granite for the castle. He was from New Mexico, and had been in the British navy at one time. Was a petty officer and deserted in New York harbor, hidden by American sailors. He worked his way west, fighting Indians, and killing buffalo. Hw was a miner in New Mexico and was in Colorado for gold rush. He had been a buffalo hide hunter.



Gould Castle

Escalé (Gus?) laid up the dry walls around the castle. No names for masons of the castle. Masons boarded and slept on grounds. There were 6 Chinese who got sand and gravel in bottom of Pickens Wash. There was a cable car that ascended the cliff. The cable was spooled at the top on a "wim" (capstan) and hauled the 100 yards of cable in. The site of the cable was a little way above the old barn, and until recently some of the track was lying at the top. The wim was operated by horse power. White men mixed the mortar, raised rock with a pulley. The rock was split with "feathers" and wedges placed in small holes about 4" apart on the surface of likely rocks, wherever they found likely rocks. Many of the rocks were found on the Escalé place on Briggs.

The castle was complete in 1892. Eugene H. Gould built the castle for his wife May I. Gould, who designed it after a Spanish castle. She was a good artist. Footprints of the Gould children are still in the pavements west side of the castle. Kids were Winsten, Theodore, and Dorothy.

Winnie Bathey has the pitch on all these places as she was with the Title Guarantee and Trust for 27 ½ years in engineering department.

Batheys lived on place in 1896. It was all finished, beautifully furnished.

Edgar (?) Cohen got the place 185 acres on trust deed. He had been a school chum of Gould.

Had a lead roof, which stretched in heat and weighed. Was replaced with a tin roof, which rusted. Then paper was installed. No fat to the tales of looting on the castle grounds. The floors rotted out over period of time as there was no

ventilation from underneath. Bathey wanted to put ventilation, but Mrs. Gould wanted none, as it wasn't like the Spanish castle to have ports. Spanish castle had dirt floors.

Below the cottage, orchards stretched to the Grant line. These orchard were watered by a complete system of pipes (all put in by Bathey). It was in this orchard the youthful Herbert Bathey plowed up a mortar and pestle, and found the outline of a wigwam in the canyon. Shatters tales that there were no Indians in the Valley.

Father once took the census of Valley, 1889-90, and the govt. didn't believe because there had been no deaths in ten years.

Father laid out and put orchards and Chinese dug holes and planted the trees. When Gould went broke he sold all the pipe in the orchards to Knight Water Co. of La Canada, along with water rights in Gould canyon. Cohen tried to hijack water with a 1300 foot tunnel that supplies the place now. Original spa was in the canyon. All the orchards died without water, except the olives. Some of these were sold by a later caretaker, and many were burned in fire of 1933.

For a while the Goulds lived in the small ranch house, trying to hold onto their place. They were broke, but finally moved back to the north. Bathey met one later.

The Soledad road from L.A. to Soledad, was known as the Allison road, went as far as the divide between Big Tujunga and Arroyo Seco. The Crest follows this route today.

Tubercio Vasquez and Greek George were working the territory in those days, and the Bathey father followed them up the Arroyo Seco one time until dark, trying to find how to get over the falls; the bandit had a way, using it to elude posses. Father knew Vasquez well. Said the bandito was a good pistol shot, ambidextrous—either hand. He was a ladies man, and bought cream for his gals. He had plenty—a ladies man. Father had first dairy in L.A. on Slauson. Rented land from Billy Workman, pioneer mayor of L.A., for a pasture. Was later on the other side of the river, and part of Hollywood.



Bathey orchard

La Canada Literary Guild

Here are a few verses written by George Crane, editor of the Crescenta Literary Society, in commemoration of an attendance of eight of Crescenta young people to the La Canada Literary Society the evening of November 30, 1894. (Editors note: George Crane was nephew of Dr. Briggs, as per previous Herbert Bathey notes.)

The young people were George Crane, Emily Scherb, Lottie Pettit, Matie Williams, Will Williams, Allie Bathey, Winifred Bathey, and Herbert Bathey, driven over to La Canada in Mr. Bathey's father's spring wagon.

To the La Canada literary
Eight of us did go,
To hear the nasal secretary
Read the minutes rather slow.

Four little girls began to sing
A piece about a blister,
That made the house with applause ring;
Ah! If I only had a sister.

A speaking was the next on the program,
By Velix or his twin;
And this is the way it ran
Something about the earth or sin.

Miss Hunsaker a solo sang,
Which made La Crescenta sorrow;
For loud Canada's voices rang
For our home talent to borrow.

The fireworks came with their light
Also with their smell,
To show two little girls in white,
Our girls can't swing so well.

Then there came a pantomime
Behind the curtain white;
Where the boy kicked the lion
Between us and the light.

The quartet gave us a beautiful song
Accompanied by the organ,
How Mary and Martha had just gone long,
And a Negro in the sorgum.

Then Mr. Whitney a lecture gave free
To them who around him sat,
How that dancing should not be
In a pubic place like that.

Then we were treated to a surprise
With its popcorn and candies,
When the chairman did arise
And thank the Canada dandies.

La Crescenta Proud of Its Relic Post Office

LA CRESCENTA—The area's first post office, the one used back in 1888, is still intact here.

To find it, however, you have to look inside the storage closet in the 3300 Foothill Blvd. of George R. Austin, current postmaster.

"It's a relic alright," says Austin. "Not really much to look at. But we're kind of proud of it."

La Crescenta's 1888 post office is 32 inches wide, 48 inches high and nine inches thick. It has 48 glass-enclosed call boxes, a slot for letters and a 9 x 15 inch window with three vertical bars in it. Its wooden frame is pine and oak.

"I imagine it was the easiest post office in the world to move," Austin says. "All you had to do was pick it up and carry it off to where you wanted it."

First Started

Local history notes the first post office here started on July 23, 1888, in Arthur and Anna Holly's general store.

On that date "the post office was brought in, set up on the counter next to the horehound candy I suppose, and it was official—La Crescenta had a post office."

Austin says no one will ever know how many stamps were sold that first day or the first two months for that matter.

"Alfred P. Wilson, the first postmaster here, neglected to note sales in his ledger during that period. Maybe he just didn't keep track or hadn't got hold of a ledger book."

"His ledger doesn't start to record business until October. He sold 20 cents worth that month. He had a big month in December, \$8.64 in stamp sales. Usual Christmas rush," Austin says.

Mrs. Winnifred Bathey, now of 2377 Shields Ave., recalls the first post office in the store located then where a market presently operates on the southeast corner at the intersection of Foothill Blvd. and La Crescenta Ave.

"There were about 12 families in the area," she reflects. "They used the post office and so did a few scattered residents over the divide where Tujunga is today."

"I was about 8 years old at the time. We used to stop by the store, pick up mail on the way home from La Crescenta School and bring home the news."

"Sometimes during floody days, the postman, bringing mail up into the foothills in his horse-drawn buggy from Tropico (now south Glendale) didn't make it. He would be swamped just south of where Montrose is and never make it up with the mail. It seemed somebody was always rescuing him in the late afternoon when it rained hard."

Austin says the old post office is still used as an exhibition piece at old-time community celebrations in these foothills.



PROUD BUILDERS—Standing in the alfalfa field they planted, in the background the low ranch home they built, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bathey survey with pride their accomplishments of the last five years in the Santa Ynez Valley.

Couple at 81 and 70 Build Own Ranch House

SANTA YNEZ—Dec. 21—Herbert Bathey, 81, and his wife Eudoxie, 70, who live on a 30-acre ranch near here, are a couple of young-at-heart modern-day pioneers.

The Batheys came here five years ago from La Crescenta to embark on a homebuilding and ranch-development program when most people are thinking of retiring.

Bathey is a retired building contractor and is a native of Los Angeles. His wife was born on the west side of France in the High Alps. She came to this country and to La Crescenta at the age of 7.

Accomplishments Cited

Since moving to the Santa Ynez Valley, the couple have built a 1700-square-foot pumicestone block ranch house, developed 25 acres into alfalfa, maintained a family vegetable garden and orchard, retained a dual interest in bees and for extracurricular activity, Mrs. Bathey has found time to write and paint.

With little outside help, the couple built their home, designed by Mrs. Bathey, from start to finish. Working side by side, the couple set in place more than 7000 bricks of 11½ pounds each for the building project.

They worked together, too, in creating the house's floor-to-ceiling living room fireplace containing a variety of rock specimens which the Batheys say "recall many pleasant memories."

The rocks, which came from Twentynine Palms, Point Sal, Cachuma, the Santa Maria River bed and near-by Santa Ynez Valley hills, were split by Mrs. Bathey and set in position by her husband.

New Experience

Neither had any experience in the job of house construction. Although Bathey had been a building contractor, he explains that he never did any of the work himself. The ranch home project was a new experience for them both.

The Batheys are apparently thriving on their new life here. "We try to do everything together and have fun doing it," she declared.

At times, Mrs. Bathey helps move the sprinkler irrigation pipe in the alfalfa field. In other instances they work together in caring for their vegetable garden and fruit orchard.

Mrs. Bathey, who bakes her own bread, canned 98 quarts of youngberries and boysenberries from the garden crop the past season.

Another interest shared by the Batheys is their bees. Both have worked with bees most of their lives and at one time Mrs. Bathey was one of the largest commercial bee operators in the La Crescenta area.

Mrs. Bathey is now in the midst of completing a book called "I Found Life Among the Bees." It is the story of her life and relates the effect bees had on her in recovering from a long illness.

Previously she has written "Crystal Christmas on the Desert." After completing the story of her life, she plans to embark on her third book. This will relate the experiences of the couple in pioneering on their ranch here and the building of their home together.



AT THE WHEEL—Herbert Bathey, 81, takes the wheel of his tractor as he continues to develop the Santa Ynez Valley ranch which he and his wife have operated for the last five years. Together, they also constructed their own pumice block home.



BEEKEEPER — In bee togs, Mrs. Bathey inspects honeycomb from one of the hives on the Batheys' Santa Ynez Valley ranch. Bee smoker quiets bees.

Editors note: Herbert Bathey lived to be 99 years old. He died in 1976, in Santa Ynez.

Eudoxie Bathey lived to be 101 years old. She died in 1986, also in Santa Ynez.

Edith Bathey Gibbs is mentioned as still living in La Crescenta, in an obituary for Winifred Bathey, July 9, 1967.



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

Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley

Presents:

The Legend and Truth of CV Pioneers – Col. Pickens and the Bathey Family

Monday, July 20th, 7:00 PM

At the Center for Spiritual Living

(Formerly known as the La Crescenta Church of Religious Science)

Located on the corner of Dunsmore and Santa Carlotta

Please check your mailing label for accuracy.

Remember:

*****2009 MEMBERSHIPS RUN FROM MARCH 2009 TO MARCH 2010*****

***THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!***

Questions or changes?

Call Pam: (818) 957-2968



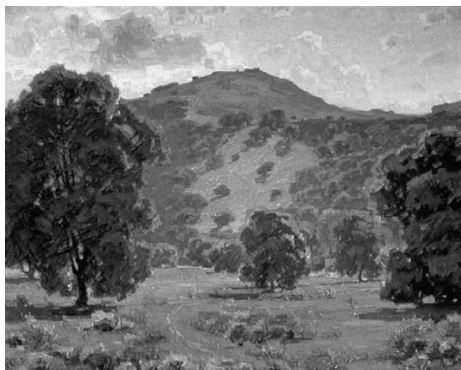
We're always interested...

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: lawlermom@yahoo.com



William Wendt, *Along the Arroyo Seco*, 1912, oil on canvas

***Travel back in time
to...***

Early La Crescenta

Our July Newsletter will feature a selection of oral history notes and article from The Ledger and Los Angeles Times, as noted

(beginning with page 3)