

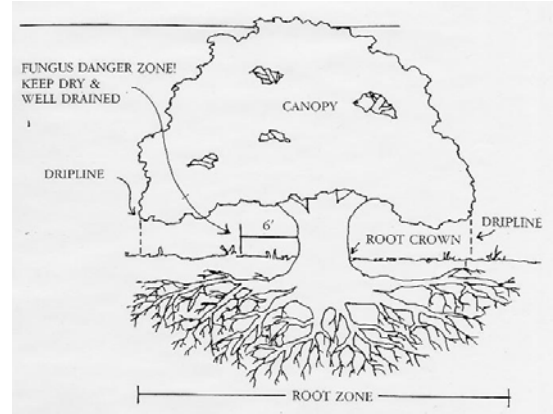
\*\*\*CURRENT HSCV INFORMATION\*\*\*

## Caring for our Heritage Oak Trees



Our native oaks are one of our greatest resources here in the Crescenta Valley. These magnificent trees are protected by law, and caring for and pruning them is tricky. Come to this meeting and learn about the history, ecology, and future of Crescenta Valley's oak trees.

Our presenter Gary Knowlton is a certified arborist and specializes in our local oaks. He is a native of CV, and has been caring for oaks professionally for over 30 years.



**Join us on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 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

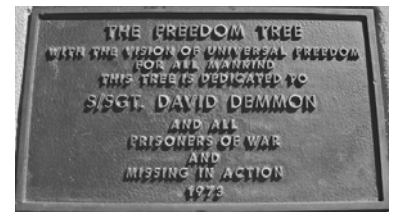
## Join Us For the Plaque Re-Dedication for Sgt. David Demmon



The Historical Society will help to re-dedicate the recently rediscovered David Demmon memorial plaque at Verdugo Hills Hospital. Sgt. David Demmon had been shot down in Viet Nam in 1965. What happened to him after that is lost in the pages of history. Although he had been reported as being a POW, it was never verified, and he never returned home. The plaque had been dedicated originally in 1973 by Demmon's family who lived locally. Sadly, the plaque became overgrown and forgotten, until being rediscovered recently. It has been lovingly remounted by Boy Scout Adam Fletcher. A ceremony is planned with the help of local government officials, the CV High School ROTC, and David Demmon's family. This dedication ceremony promises to be a very moving event, as we respectfully remember one example of the highest costs of war.

**When: Sunday September 20 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Where:** Verdugo Hills Hospital north parking lot  
(1812 Verdugo Blvd., at the intersection of La Tour Way.)



## We need your Pinecrest Flood Photos!

Our program in October will be a historical retrospective of the 1978 Pinecrest flood. Michael Fife (son of HSCV member and Pinecrest resident Kay Fife) will talk about the causes and effects of that flood, but he needs more photos to really make his presentation complete. We hope some of our members can flesh out this collection. If you have some to contribute, please email me at [Lawlerdad@yahoo.com](mailto:Lawlerdad@yahoo.com), or phone me at 818-957-2968.

**I can return your originals after I scan them.**

This program is of particular significance, as the mountains above Pinecrest have just burned and we face yet another year of potential flooding.

# **Crescenta Valley Heritage**

By Sharon Weisman

**September** began in a firestorm. The **San Gabriel Mountains** have burned from one end of the **Crescenta Valley** to the other – taking foliage, wildlife and homes in the **Big Tujunga Canyon** neighborhood of **Vogel Flats**. As we prepare for the fall rains we must take particular care to secure our property against flooding. As we consider whether to reseed and, if so, with what, we must be mindful of long-term sustainability. See: <http://www.bewaterwise.com/fire.html> for information on plants that are not only drought tolerant, but fire resistant too.

There have been predictions of an **El Niño** winter with increased rainfall and given that **Southern California** has chronic drought, capturing and saving as much of the runoff as possible is critical. If you know anyone redoing their landscaping or contemplating a remodel, perhaps you can suggest adding an underground cistern to save rainwater. You can check out a CNN report on **Tree People's** cistern here: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/04/17/gsif.rainwater.solutions/>.

Water is a key to fire fighting and there's an upcoming opportunity to exercise your voice on how water is managed in the **Crescenta Valley Water District**. The board elections are **November 3**, see <http://www.cvwd.com/Default.aspx> for more information. Three of the five slots are in contention this year.

In order to help those in the **CVWD** service area decide which three candidates deserve their vote, the **Crescenta Valley Community Association** is devoting their September meeting to a candidate forum. The meeting is Wednesday, September 23, starting at 7 pm and will be held in the **Dunsmore Park** Community Room, 4700 Dunsmore Ave., La Crescenta. Please spread the word to anyone in the **CVWD** service area.

The August 29 walking tours and the August 31 meeting of the **North Glendale Community Plan Advisory Committee** were canceled due to the **Station Fire**. The process is getting back

on track and you can continue to share your thoughts on the issue with Alan Loomis, Principal Urban Designer, at [aloomis@ci.glendale.ca.us](mailto:aloomis@ci.glendale.ca.us) or Laura Stotler at [lstotler@ci.glendale.ca.us](mailto:lstotler@ci.glendale.ca.us), Telephone number: 818-548-2140. For more information check with the city's website, it's updated frequently. <http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/planning/NorthGlendaleCommunityPlanAdvisoryCommittee.asp>

Residents in the region are becoming more aware of the **710 Extension** issue. The **Burbank** city council voted to wait and see while the **Glendale** council, with **MTA Chair Ara Najarian** taking the lead, and **Laura Friedman, John Drayman, and Mayor Frank Quintero** enthusiastically joining in, voted to oppose any extension, tunnel or surface route. Discussion emphasized the need to have a 21<sup>st</sup> century transportation solution involving mass rapid transit giving people more options and increasing the use of rail for freight. **Dave Weaver** voiced opinions similar to Burbank's council – it's just a study so let it proceed. See <http://www.710gap.com/#> for the pro-development side of the issue, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stopthe710/> for a discussion involving those opposed.

Much like the new spring growth will sprout from the **Station Fire** ashes, a new weekly publication debuted September 4, filling the void left by the demise of the **Crescenta Valley Sun**. **Robin Goldsworthy** is editing the **Crescenta Valley Weekly**. See: <http://www.crescentavalleweekly.com/> for the local news and information on how to subscribe.

**Deukmejian Wilderness Park** remains closed due to the **Station Fire** but you can still help **Glendale Parks & Recreation** care for the seedlings in the Experimental Forest.

The next opportunity, copied from the **Parks, Recreation, & Community Service** section of **Glendale's** website, is **Saturday, September 27, 2009**, from 9:00 am. – 12:00 pm. Meet at La Tuna Canyon/Hostetter Fire Road off the 210 Freeway. We will carpool from the meeting place on the Fire Road to the Forest location. Bring drinking water, gloves and gardening tools and wear sturdy shoes, pants, sweaters, a hat and sun block. Space is limited; please R.S.V.P. to reserve your spot. All ages and abilities are welcome. For information, call: Dave Moreno at (818) 572-7487. Let your friends, neighbors, and family know about this excellent opportunity to introduce young people to volunteering in a magnificent location. The trees they care for

may grow up to shelter an overnight campground for local youngsters, maybe even their own. Let's think long-term.

We continue to await word on the **Verdugo Hills Golf Course** project **DEIR**.



This land is worth preserving!!!

Future generations in the Crescenta Valley deserve to have this open space as much as we do. It's expensive to fight a campaign like this, and our local conservation group **VOICE** has shouldered the financial responsibility. Any contribution is much appreciated! Please take this opportunity to support saving our open space! send donations to "Save the Golf Course" P.O. Box 273, Montrose, CA 91021

## Members Remember...

By DorothyAbercrombie

At this time in my life I am going through memories in pictures of John's and my life together—for almost 55 years!

I came across this picture of two of our four children playing in the snow in December 1965, right on our own front lawn. There was almost enough snow for them to throw snowballs at each other.

In 1949 I was going to Glendale College, and there was a really big snow that year. All the students, including me, were having snowball fights!



# Plaques and More Plaques!

Our August '09 issue of the newsletter, which highlighted many of the historical plaques in the valley, was very well received. In that issue, we said we were sure there were plaques we had missed, and sure enough, we found plenty of those! In this issue, we cover many of those plaques, plus we solve some of the mysteries surrounding some of our last issue's plaques.

Once again, if you have any info about the plaques we've listed here, or about ones that we've missed, you can e-mail me at [lawlerdad@yahoo.com](mailto:lawlerdad@yahoo.com), or send a note to HSCV, c/o 2717 Altura Ave. La Crescenta, 91214.

## Plaque Mysteries Solved

Here are the "mysteries solved" from the plaques that we knew little about in our last newsletter. Thank you very much to members Denise Hoveland and Joanne Sadler for digging up the background on these.



At the Center for Spiritual Living (formerly the Church of Religious Science), there is a very small plaque commemorating the death of an Ensign Richard Brice Wilkie in 1941. Ensign Wilkie is the son of William Wilkie, one of the founders, along with the Chaffee's, of the local Church of Religious Science. Ensign Wilkie was assigned to the supply ship USS Medusa based in San Pedro, when he sustained a spinal injury while on duty. He died after a lingering illness. The USS Medusa later won fame for being present at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack, lending aid to the stricken fleet, and serving throughout the Pacific Campaign. Ensign Wilkie is buried at the military cemetery in San Diego.

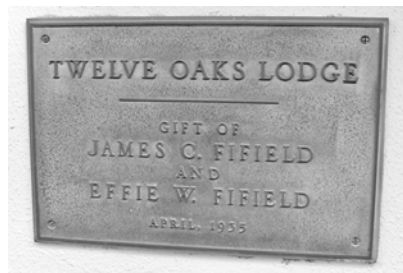
'20s and '30s. Mr. Fifield had made his fortune as the publisher of "The American Bar," a reference publication of legal firms. He had been touched by the plight of an elderly friend who was left homeless in her old age, and so set up a trust to will his home to the "Sunshine Society," a non-sectarian group that would provide a haven for the aged.

After James's death, Effie carried out his wishes, building more buildings onto the estate, and forming a board of trustees. That board read like a who's who of the local leaders of the '30s including Haakon Berg, Bernard Anawalt, Lee Merritt, and Grace Oberbeck. The board was considered unusual at that time in that women made up about half the board membership.

Management of the home has passed through many hands over the years, but has remained true to its original charter.

Commissioner at Ellis Island in New York just after the turn of the century, coming to California in 1909 to make a fortune in oil. Emory graduated from Hollywood High, and was an architecture student when WWI broke out. Emory volunteered to the Air Corps, training as a pilot. He was assigned as a bomber pilot flying out of Padua, Italy under the command of future mayor of New York Fiorello La Guardia. Flying day and night bombing missions against the Austrian front was grueling in the icy-cold open cockpit aircraft of that day. He survived a hit by anti-aircraft fire on one mission and received a commendation for saving his crew. He survived the war, but not without contracting a devastating case of pneumonia. He returned to California, but never fully recovered, finally dying two years later.

The Watchorns were grief-stricken, and dedicated electric chimes to their son at St. Lukes, due to their association with Seymour Thomas, and in Redlands where they owned a summer home. In 1932 they also dedicated to their son an Abraham Lincoln Memorial Shrine at the main library in Redlands. This facility holds a significant library of Civil War documents and houses a museum of Lincoln memorabilia, the only one west of the Mississippi. Emory's death was aggravated by the War Department's refusal to recognize his death as war related, a conflict that the Watchorn family fought until their deaths.



Twelve Oaks Lodge has a plaque at the front entrance that notes it as being a gift of James and Effie Fifield in 1935.

Here's the story behind that: The Fifields had a beautiful 13 room home among the oaks in La Crescenta in the



The plaque dedicating the Watchorn Chimes at St. Lukes has a fascinating story behind it.

Emory Watchorn was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Watchorn. Robert Watchorn was a prominent man, serving as the Immigration



## Sister Elsie Well



This plaque is mounted on the guardrail for a well in the front courtyard of the Foothills Retirement Care Home. It dates back to when the structure was a small hotel, and this well and plaque would have served as a minor tourist attraction.

The Little Landers Historical Society of Tujunga has wrestled with the legitimacy of this well as a historical site as claimed by the

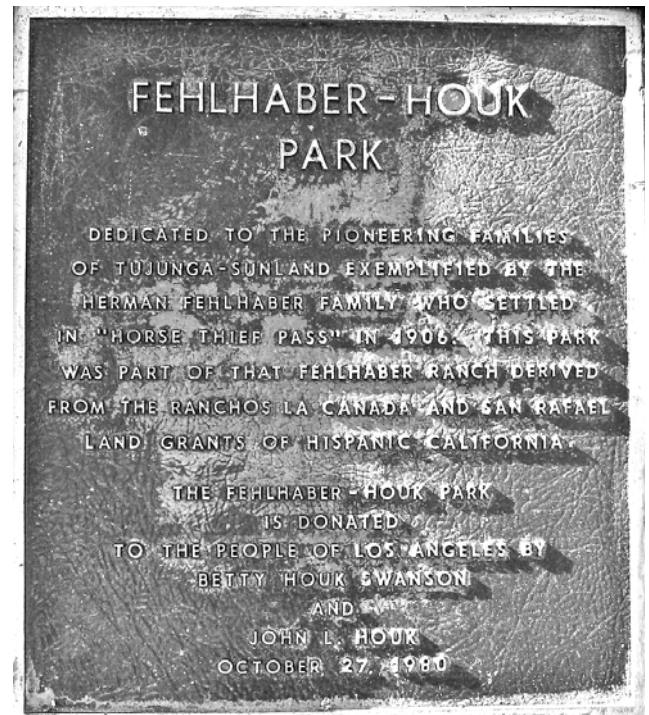


plaque, and with the larger legend of Sister Elsie: A Catholic nun, Sister Elsie, was purported to have run an Indian orphanage near or on this site. Mt. Lukens used to be known as Sister Elsie Peak. Little Landers Historical Society has never proved or disproved the legend, so it remains highly uncertain. This is plaque is located on Saint Estaban between Tujunga Canyon Blvd. and Haines Canyon

## Fehlhaber-Houk Park



Fehlhaber-Houk Park is geographically in the Crescenta Valley, but true to our messed up civic boundaries, is a Los Angeles City Park. In 1980, the Houk family, descendants of the pioneering Fehlhaber family, donated a portion of their property for this park. The plaque, imbedded on a boulder at the edge of the park, describes the history of the Fehlhaber family. The park is located at Elmhurst Drive and Tujunga Canyon Blvd.



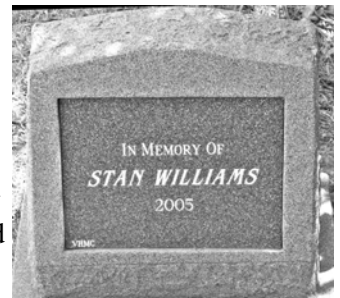
## Verdugo Hills Golf Course



Verdugo Hills Golf Course is located at intersection of La Tuna Cyn., Tujunga Cyn. Blvd. and Honolulu.

Thanks to Danette Erickson for letting us know about the many plaques (of which we've shown only a couple) scattered through the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. We don't know about the people these plaques and stones are memorializing, but we can only assume that they were placed by the grieving families of dedicated golfers now deceased, perhaps at the holes that were their favorites.

As many of you know, this local golf course is being proposed for destruction to build hundreds of homes. These plaques were not mentioned on the developer's EIR anywhere, and were it not for Danette's sharp eye, would most likely have been thrown in a dumpster. They have now been brought to the attention of the developer and the City of LA.





## Crescenta Valley High School



This is now the front portion of Crescenta Valley High School--the "old section" which was built in 1932 as La Crescenta Junior High and later renamed Anderson Clark Junior High. The original structure was brick, but it was later plastered over. A news article from 1932 sent to us by Denise Hoveland describes the dedication of a cornerstone for this school. Sealed into the cornerstone was a large iron box containing "a complete history of the valley written by Fred Cooper, copies of newspapers carrying the account of the affair, and a parchment scroll bearing the names of members of the board of education, teachers of the school, and the architect's name." Where's the cornerstone now? It's probably buried below grade, which originally was much lower. Located on Community Ave. between Ramsdell and Glenwood.

Also in front of CV High School, to the left of the front doors and at the base of the tree, is this plaque dedicated to the memory of Beverly Gaffney, who, based on her age at death (18), must have been a student there. Do any of our members remember Beverly Gaffney?



## Holy Gate Church



Holy Gate Church, located on the NW corner of La Crescenta and Montrose, occupies the building that once housed the La Crescenta Masonic Lodge. When this Korean-American church bought the building in 1999, they placed a dedication plaque out front. Being that it was a Masonic Hall, is there a dedication cornerstone somewhere along the foundation now hidden under stucco?



## American Legion Hall



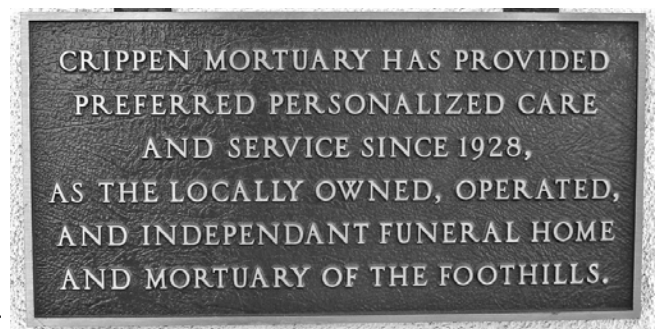
This plaque to Tom and Josephine Bonetto is inside the American Legion Hall on the south wall. It recognizes the Bonetto family for donating the land the American Legion Hall was rebuilt on after the devastating '34 Flood. This is the same building that was the epicenter of the deaths from the '34 Flood. This structure was originally built at Fairway and Rosemont, and took a glancing blow from the flashflood. Twelve people died in this building during that disaster, but in the hard economic times of the '30s (or perhaps just more practical and prudent times), the Hall was patched up and moved to this site on La Crescenta and Manhattan Avenues.



## Crippen Mortuary



Crippen Mortuary, located at Honolulu and Glenwood, is a fixture in the valley, and one of the oldest businesses still here. They have placed this plaque right next to their front door as a testament to their stability.



## Glendale Sports Complex



Baseball Field #2 in the Glendale Sports Complex was named for Ruth Dodson in 2000. Ruth was active in the Glendale community, serving as a Parks Commissioner, and was active in Glendale Beautiful, Glendale Rose Float Association and the Days of Verdugo Association. She was married to Glendale Fire Captain Bill Dodson. The Sports Complex is located at the top of Fern Drive.



## Cañada Blvd. Bridge over Verdugo Wash



This view looking up Canada Blvd just north of Glendale College was obviously taken during the recent Station Fire. The bridge crossing Verdugo Creek at this point was built in 1938 by the Engineer Department of the War Department, what we now know as the Army Corps of Engineers. Interestingly, this bridge was destroyed in our famous flood of New Years 1934, rebuilt soon after by the WPA, then destroyed again in the 1938 floods, and rebuilt immediately with the bridge we still use today.



## Lanterman Freeway



This is the onramp to the 2 Freeway at Holly Drive looking north. This hard to find plaque is located on the cement wall just to the right of the onramp. The plaque, placed in 1978, names this freeway the Frank Lanterman Freeway in recognition of State Assemblyman Lanterman, of the pioneering Lanterman Family of La Canada. If you ever want to confuse someone, just tell them to get on the Lanterman Freeway!



## Top of Wildwood Canyon Trail

This is actually a remnant of a plaque. A beautiful stone pilaster for this nicely mounted plaque stands at the meeting of these two trails (Wildwood Canyon and Verdugo Motorway, near the Experimental Forest), and is angled to apparently tell the viewer something about Burbank. I say apparently because the signage was plastic, and completely melted off in the fire they had up here 4 years ago. No one I've spoken to knows what it once said. I think it's probably owned by the City of Burbank.



## Tongva Peak



This plaque commemorates the naming of Tongva Peak in the Verdugo Mountains in 2003. Civic leader, Richard Toyon, spent several years doing the groundwork to have this previously unnamed peak in the Verdugos officially named for the local Indians of our area. In the above photo we see a Glendale Park Ranger unveiling the plaque mounted on a boulder, as a

leader of the Tongvas looks on during the ceremony on the peak in 2003.



## Verdugo Mountains “Experimental Forest” area

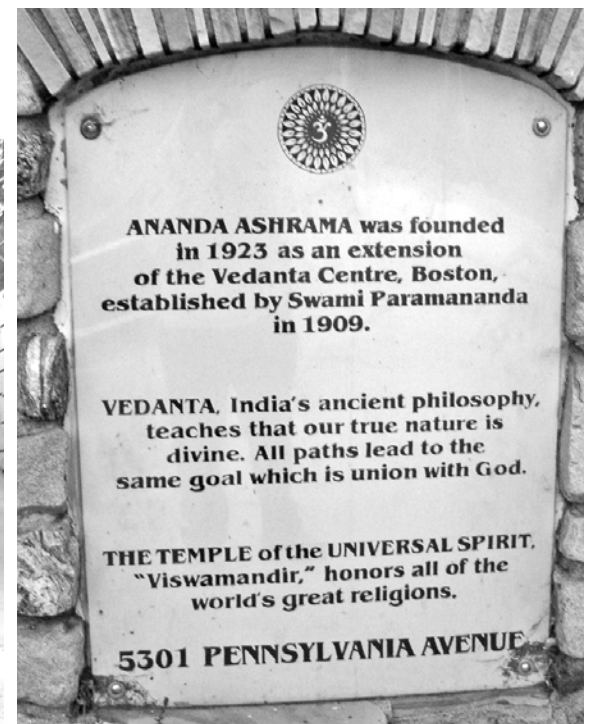


This small brass plaque is the most obscure plaque yet found! I located it accidentally when recently volunteered to water the newly planted trees up in the Verdugos, for the City of Glendale. I was far off the normal trails looking for any seedlings that might have been missed, when I came across this tree stump with a small brass plaque crudely screwed onto the flat of the cut. It memorializes a young man by the name of



Hector, born in '63 and died in '02, and poetically states that his voice will ring through these canyons forever. It's near a good overlook to Glendale/Burbank, so this must have been some favorite getaway spot for this young man, placed here by loved-ones to remember him.

## Ananda Ashrama



Ananda Ashrama has a large plaque on the outside of their entry gates that explains some of their history and the basic philosophy of their religion. It is located at the top of Pennsylvania Ave.



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

# Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley

Presents:

## Caring For Our Heritage Oak Trees

**Monday, September 21st, 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: lawlrmom@yahoo.com



Station Fire destruction is framed by the surviving old Oak Tree above the barn at Deukmejian Park. Photo-City of Glendale.

***Travel with us as  
we...***

***Visit More of our  
Valley's Plaques***

Our September Newsletter will  
feature more plaques of the  
Crescenta Valley

**(beginning with page 4)**