



EAGLE ROCK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer, 2022

Verdugo: A Family Story

Verdugo Road, Verdugo Hills, Verdugo Adobe, these are places that sound familiar to most Angelenos. But what are the origins of these named places? What can we learn and what do we know as a fact? From 1784 when Jose Maria Verdugo was given permission to farm the king of Spain's land west of the San Gabriel Mission and east of San Fernando, to his retirement in 1794 when he was permitted to live on the land; to his ownership of the land after the Mexican Revolution; to the family's ownership under

American law and the sale of the land for debt in 1871; one family, the Verdugos, dominated our part of Southern California.

Did the Verdugo family stay or vanish? Did they prosper? Did they continue to play a role in the development of our community? Where are they now? These questions will be answered by our speaker, Don Urquidez, a family member and authority on the family's history.

JOIN US on Sunday August 7th at 1pm when we welcome Don as our virtual presenter in lieu

of our Ice Cream Social; again postponed due to the Covid closure of the Center for the Arts and our concerns for our extended family. This will be a fascinating exploration of the Verdugo family's history and continuing legacy in Southern California. Feel free to attend the virtual presentation with your own bowl or cone of ice cream to enjoy as we all listen to the presentation together! A link will be available on our website and will be sent to all on our mailing list.

Please continue to visit our website www.eaglerockhistory.org, the California Digital Newspaper Project at www.cdnc.ucr.edu for your research needs, and of course, contact us anytime at webmaster@eaglerockhistory.org with questions! In the meantime.....

****SEE YOU ON THE 7TH!!!****

**VERDUGO: A FAMILY STORY
WITH DON URQUIDEZ
SUNDAY AUGUST 7, 1:00**



THE CATILINA VERDUGO ADOBE

**EAGLE ROCK
VALLEY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE EAGLEROCKHISTORY.ORG

President's Message

Hello, Eagle Rock!

Thank you, ERVHS Members, for your continued support. Summer means BBQs, vacations and family get togethers. For many, it also means the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society's Ice Cream Sundae. Unfortunately, our normal venue, the Center for the Arts Eagle Rock, has not yet received the "okay" to have events inside yet, so we decided to do a virtual event again. Eating ice cream is optional but encouraged.

Conduct your own research with these simple tips

We receive a somewhat steady stream of requests to look up information about the history of a house or other property. For our members, we do our best with limited resources to look up properties in our data archives. However, there are some ways that you can sleuth on your own. In the April 2021 issue, I highlighted some resources that you can use to do just that. But what if you want to go further and find out who the people were who lived in your house? What did they do for a living? Were they in any local activities? How many children did they have? Were they well-respected in the community?

Searching tips for the California Digital Newspaper Collection

These can be hard questions to answer, but you may get lucky in the California Digital Newspaper Collection – CDNC (<https://cdnc.ucr.edu>). Greatly assisted by the support of our members, in that online collection, there are currently issues of the Eagle Rock Sentinel 1910 - 1937 (missing 1920-2), and some more issues 1957 - 1968, with three issues from the 1980s. There's also issues of the Eagle Rock Advertiser 1928 – 1935.

Searching the entire CDNC vs browsing to just one newspaper

Using the search field at the CDNC home page will search all of the newspapers that are stored there. That is sometimes useful, but usually you will want to view a particular newspaper. Click on the Browse by title link, then Eagle Rock Sentinel. You can now search for something only in the Eagle Rock

Sentinel. You can narrow your search by a particular date range or even a single issue.

Search tips for the CDNC

The CDNC site does have a few ways to narrow or broaden your search.

If you are looking for articles about College View or Eagle Rock Blvd, you should enclose those in double quotes to keep the two words together, so "Eagle Rock Blvd".

Read the President's Corner in the next newsletter for advanced CDNC search techniques! That's all for now – I hope to see you at our virtual Ice Cream Sundae, Sunday August 7th, 2022!

QR CODE

Scan to access our website with your phone.



The objectives of the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society

- to preserve, clarify through research and to perpetuate the history of Eagle Rock Valley
- to make this history available to students, researchers, libraries and all interested persons
- to preserve and protect our local landmarks, especially the Eagle Rock

Membership is open to all who would further these objectives

Public Archive Hours 10 to 12 every Saturday
at the Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock
2225 Colorado Blvd. Eagle Rock CA 90041
for information call 323-257-1357

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Visit our website at:
eaglerockhistory.org

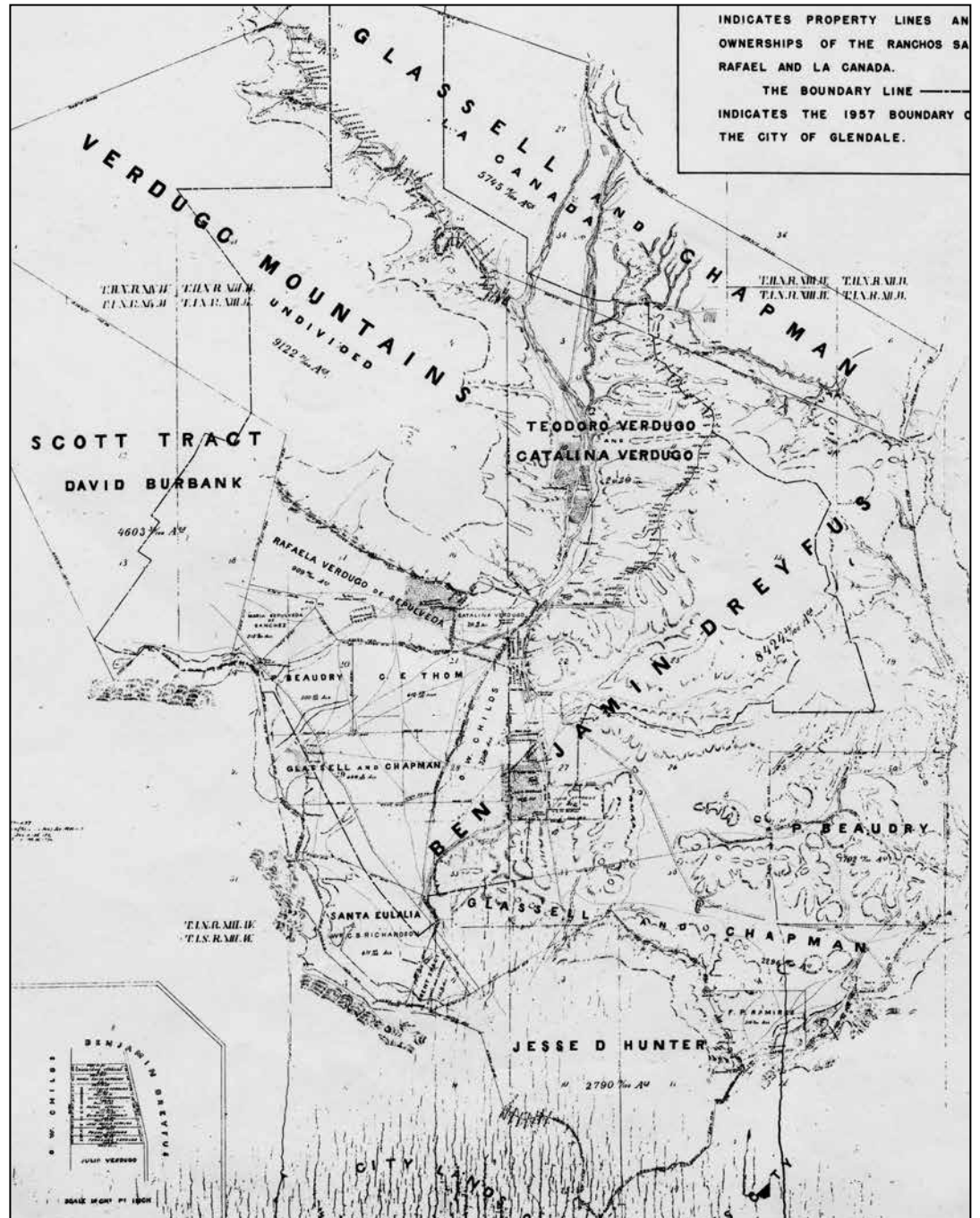
If your mailing label dates before 2022, it's time to renew your membership. Please take a moment and mail your check now. A dues form and envelope are included with this newsletter.

Thanks, We depend on you

The “Great Partition”

of the Rancho San Rafael and Rancho La Canada

As can be seen, most of the land in these parcels was deeded to Anglo Americans with no relation to the Verdugo family. Catalina Verdugo retained the largest family share as she was not party to the loan that Julio Verdugo, her brother and co-heir had taken on the property. Some substantial portions remained in the family or with family relations as they were sold previously or were not financially encumbered as was much of the Rancho San Raphael. The detail in the lower left shows an enclave of family members above a tract which still belonged to Julio Verdugo, on what is now Verdugo Road. Present day Eagle Rock to the right of this enclave was divided among Benjamin Dreyfus, Prudent Beaudry, and Glassell and Chapman.



Our Town, Our History

Family Photos

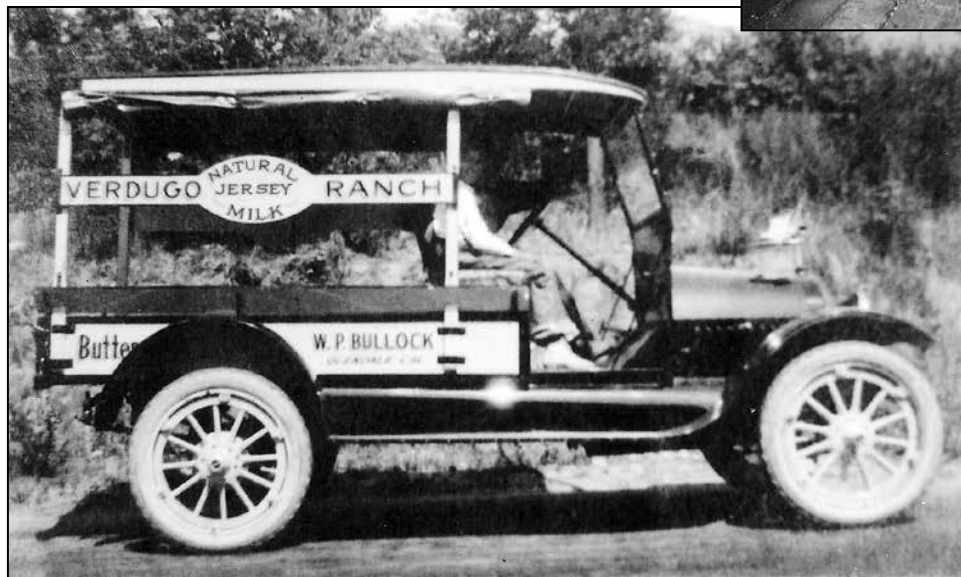
As is often the case in archives, though we know that all of these photos are in the Glendale Public Libraries' Special Collections, when they were copied their origin and who was in them was absent or not written down. We hope to find out more at our meeting.



This group photo was taken in 1925 and titled "Three Generations of Verdugos".



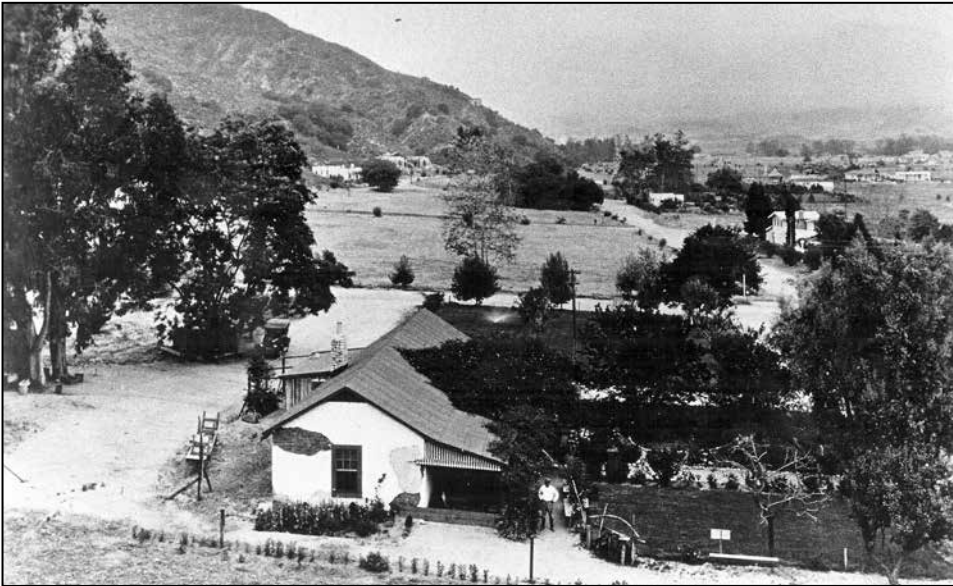
This photo of Dora Verdugo (Bullock) was taken in 1932 at an unknown location.



We know nothing about this ranch or its location.

Our Town, Our History

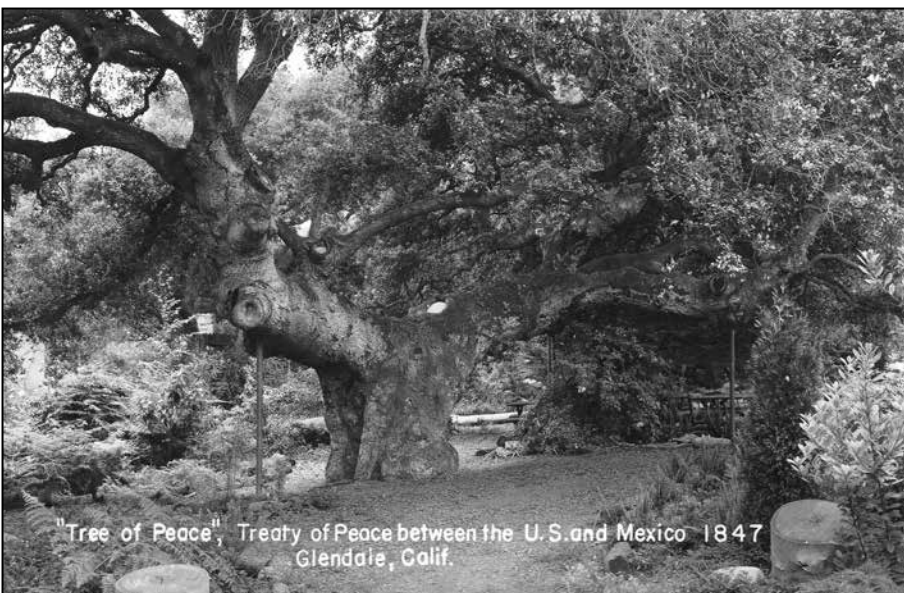
The most prominent physical remainder of the Rancho is the Catalina Verdugo Adobe, a Glendale City Park, located at 2211 Bonita Drive west of Verdugo Road.



This aerial photo shows the adobe in 1925 in a still-rural Verdugo valley. It was privately owned at the time. The building is believed to have been built in 1828 for Catalina Verdugo, who was blind, by Jose Maria Verdugo's grandson, Theodoro. (Glendale Public Library Special Collections)

The adobe as it appeared around 1950. At that time, it was owned by Dr. Ernest Bashor who was very generous in giving tours and public events at what was then their family home.

This postcard was widely distributed by the family. (ERVHS)



The companion postcard shows the "Tree of Peace". American Lieutenant Colonel Fremont sent a messenger to Andres Pico commander of the Californio forces which were camped at the adobe. Jose de Jesus Pico, Andres' nephew, spared from execution, was sent as a good will gesture indicating that Fremont was willing to accept the Californio's surrender. The treaty finalizing the surrender was signed at the Campo De Cahuenga two days later. (ERVHS)



**VERDUGO: A FAMILY STORY
WITH DON URQUIDEZ
SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2022, 1:00
ERVHS ANNIVERSARY BANQUET
CELEBRATING 61 HISTORIC YEARS
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022 6:00
A SURPRISE FOR THE NEW YEAR
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 7:00**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Membership Category:

☐ Individual \$20 ☐ Business \$35 ☐ **New**
☐ Family \$25 ☐ Life \$300 ☐ **Renewal**

Will you help with the ongoing activities of the ERVHS ?

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Archives ☐ Newsletter ☐ Oral history
☐ Meetings ☐ Fundraising ☐ E-mail me
☐ Publicity ☐ Displays to help

Other _____

Clip and mail to : **ERVHS**
c/o Center for the Arts
2225 Colorado Blvd.
Eagle Rock, CA 90041

Date _____

Member's Corner

Alexis Spraic & Nick Coles



It took two special pairs of eyes to see the potential of an historic home buried in layers of past, poor remodeling decisions. Determined to find a home they could rescue in a walking friendly neighborhood, in a housing market dominated by developers wasn't going to be easy, but Alexis and Nick defied the odds and found their home in 2019. Built in 1911, their farmhouse was the family home of C. C. Miller, a farmer transplanted from Iowa, who also ran his business, the Eagle Rock Sanitary Dairy, on the property. Although many of the original details were gone or buried, Alexis and Nick were able to unearth or replicate architectural elements drawn from photos and research.

Alexis is hoping to make their story less of a 'defying the odds' one for new buyers. She recently joined the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council's Land Use & Planning Committee hoping to keep the community informed and to protect Eagle Rock's unique setting. As a 4th generation Angeleno from a family who values history and community deeply, she is doing her part. "We all have agency," she told me and we "can't be passive" if we want to see our community thrive.

Both Alexis and Nick value the ability to walk their daughter to school and local shops to connect her to the neighborhood directly and not just from the windows of a car. "Eagle Rock picked us," she told me and we are in debt that it did!

—Katie Taylor