


# SUMMIT LIFE

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MEET BRUCE KUHN, SUMMIT LIFE'S NEIGHBOR OF THE YEAR

A photograph of Bruce Kuhn, an older man with a mustache and glasses, wearing a pink shirt. He is sitting at a desk in a room with wood-paneled walls. In the foreground, a large, polished brass diving helmet is prominently displayed. The helmet has a circular porthole with a brass grid. Bruce is looking directly at the camera. In the background, a model of a sailboat is visible on the wall, and a ceiling fan is hanging from the ceiling.

In 2014, Woolsey Canyon was voted the most environmentally pristine Canyon in the City and County of Los Angeles. It got that way largely through the efforts of Bruce Kuhn, a former diver for the Sheriff's Department and a 12 year resident of Mountain View, the Summit's neighboring mobile home park.

*Larry LaCom/ Summit Life photo*

# AS A SHERIFF'S DEPUTY, MR. KUHN VOWED TO SERVE AND PROTECT BUT AS A PROMOTER, NOT EVERYTHING HAS GONE AS PLANNED



Bruce Kuhn, third from left, provides gloves to El Camino Real charter high school students at start of November's Woolsey Canyon cleanup. Many of the worker's basic necessities have come from Mr. Kuhn's pocket.

*Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.*

**B**ruce Kuhn is tall and lanky and set in his ways. At 75, he tries his best to control his environment and the comportment of his 18 grandchildren when they visit. The picture window in his living room frames an unobstructed view of Woolsey Canyon with its winding mountain roadway just 50 yards below his patio.

"RRRRRRrrrrrr, bahroom, RRR-Rrrrr," he says, unsuccessfully trying to mimic the sound of the Jake Brakes on the dump trucks that constantly travel to and from the Boeing Test facility at the top of the canyon. He hates the trucks and will spend hours

telling you about alternate routes he's devised for them. If you listen carefully, his arguments have merit.

He also dislikes anything that pollutes the canyon's natural environment, and has spent the last three years and thousands of dollars of his own money to promote its cleanup. "At first, it was like pulling teeth, getting residents from the Mountain View and Summit Parks to volunteer once a month to clean up detritus thrown from the roadways. "The canyon was filled with old car parts, water heaters, sofas and television sets. People still drive up here just to get rid of their junk. They don't give a

damn," he explained. But after a dead body was recovered during a 2013 cleanup, participation nearly doubled. "Go figure," he said.

That participation grew again almost exponentially when Mr. Kuhn hooked-up with the Major League Baseball Action Team at El Camino Real Charter High School in Woodland Hills. MLBAT is an ongoing nationwide effort by major league baseball to engage high school students in community service activities. Last November, Toronto Blue Jay baseball players Kevin Pillar and Rob Rasmussen actively lead more than 100 El Camino MLBAT members in a canyon cleanup that netted the removal of almost 2 ½ tons of trash. Many student members of El Camino's national honor society have also assisted in the cleanups, and in enrolling new freshmen, sophomores and juniors into the program.

Mr. Kuhn worked in his twenties as a certified scuba diver for the California Department of Fish and Game. "It was a different kind of cleanup program in those days," he said. "Part of our investigative duty was to make sure that costal oil rigs weren't destroying the natural marine habitat. We found to our surprise that submerged sections of the rigs actually became underwater reefs, helping marine life develop." For an extra \$100 per month, he moved on to the Sheriff's Marina Del Rey harbor patrol where he eventually headed up the patrol's first underwater search and recovery team.

"We rescued a lot of dogs who blindly chased rabbits over the Marina Del Rey sea wall and into the waters of the unfinished basin where they were trapped without a beach. We also had the gory task of searching for bodies in a 1968 airline crash just off shore of LAX," he explained. "He discovered his P.T. Barnum-like



**LEFT:** Rugged terrain below Woolsey Canyon Road was last resting place of old furniture including sectional couches pictured here. As a result of the cleanups, County Supervisor Michael Antonovich recently voted Woolsey Canyon the most environmentally pristine canyon in the City and County of Los Angeles.

*Photo courtesy of Bruce Kuhn.*

**RIGHT:** Summit mobile home staff member Rodolfo Aguilar help Mountain View homeowner Bruce Kuhn place no dumping signs around perimeter of Woolsey Canyon's Four Horse Turnout.

*Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.*



Newly minted Sheriff's Deputy Bruce Kuhn proudly stands in ranks in front of flagpole. He eventually headed up the Sheriff's underwater search and recovery team at Marina Del Rey.

*Photo courtesy of Bruce Kuhn.*

talents while flying scuba students over to Catalina for diving lessons and soon became involved in travel promotions.

"Thirty years ago I purchased eight aging railroad cars from the county of Los Angeles to promote a train tour through Copper Canyon in Sonora and Chihuahua, Mexico. It didn't take long for Mexican banditos to hold up the train and rob money and jewelry from the passengers, mostly a group of American doctors. At first, the doctors thought the heist was purposely staged. Then they refused reimbursement, saying that the robbery was the absolute highlight of their trip and well worth the cost of what was taken. Go figure," said Mr. Kuhn.

In 1968, he landed the job of his dreams, traveling the world to promote tourism in Micronesia. "While

there are 2,141 islands in Micronesia, only 90 of them are inhabited. "My job was to promote tourism in all of them. I lived on the Island of Saipan, the largest and one of the most beautiful islands in the western Pacific," he said. "The problem was deciding what to do on any given Saturday night. The Island was six miles wide and eleven miles long and driving back and forth was my only recreation. After three years, I was more than ready to come home."

So now Mr. Kuhn lives on a mountain and frequently comes down to warn civic groups, regulatory agencies, and anyone who will listen about pollution dangers yet to come. He makes his case with the zeal of a promoter and the aggressiveness of someone ready to dive in and save you from yourself. ❖

# IN THE LATE 1920'S, THE LAND BELOW THE SUMMIT WAS TOUTED AS "A GREAT HEALTH RESORT"

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS INCLUDED "THERAPEUTIC MINERAL WATERS," \$25 CABINS AND "GOD-GIVEN" AIR

*By Marci Wormser  
Based on information from  
the Chatsworth Historical  
Society*

(This is the last part of a two-part series about the history of the area surrounding the Summit.)

**T**he unequivocal mountain scape and small-town feel of Chatsworth Lake Manor has always been a draw to tourists and settlers alike, from the Chumash Indians who first ranched the land in the mid-1800s to the homesteaders who settled in the area shortly afterward.

And the 1920s were no exception. The same attributes that drew waves of settlers to the area in the 1860s with the passage of the Homestead Act also gave rise to the development of a destination health resort near Chatsworth Lake.

The discovery of "therapeutic springs" in the Manor was the impetus to a new health resort that drew tourists far and wide. It was first mentioned by the L.A. Times in April 1927: "As the result of the discovery of valuable therapeutic qualities in the waters from mineral springs on the Domec Estate, near Chatsworth Lake, plans are being made for the establishment of a great health resort on the outskirts of the city."

According to the Times' article, the water in the area showed "marked mineral content."

"Immediately, plans for development of the estate were changed so as to include a health resort," the article continues. "The estate has been renamed Chatsworth Lake Manor."

During this same period, cabin sites were being sold in the Manor through the P.D. Estate Company for as little as \$25. In addition to the idyllic surroundings, one draw to the



The Minnie Hill Palmer Homestead Acre, located at Chatsworth Park South, includes the Historical Cottage, Gardens and the Virginia Watson Chatsworth Museum.

*Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.*

25-by-70-foot cabin sites was the free sweet spring water that was being piped into the streets.

One brochure ad from that era called on prospective buyers to "take the family up where it's always cool" so they can spend their vacation and "idle" hours on a cabin site "where the cool, pure, God-given air, the hunting, hiking and numerous other outdoor sports will send [them] back to [their] everyday life better men, women and children."

Prior to the cabin sales, Charles and Cora Woolsey, the namesakes of Woolsey Canyon Road, first recorded their homestead in 1904. Charles, 35, and Cora, 34, lived north of the

Woolsey Canyon creek near today's Rocky Mesa Place Road.

The 1910 Chatsworth census lists Charles as a farmer and their neighbor as Henry Egliston. By 1920, the Woolseys moved to La Crescenta and took up chicken ranching with Egliston.

Two years prior to the couple's move, the completion of the Chatsworth Lake/Reservoir gave rise to the following several decades of dynamic development of the Manor area. The Reservoir, completed in 1918, was in service from 1919-1969.

Credit for the development of the Lake Manor subdivisions, however, can be given to Floyd Berry, who, in

## A Brief History of Chatsworth

From the Chatsworth Historical Society Archives

- 1769** Padre Juan Crespi, along with Spanish soldiers, entered the Valley for the first time.
- 1797** Mission San Fernando Rey de Espana was founded. Travelers passed through the Santa Susana Pass to Simi House and on to Mission San Buenaventura.
- 1859** The State of California contracted work to be done on the Stagecoach Trail to be used for carrying mail. It was completed in 1861, and became known as the "Devils Slide" due to its steep descent.
- 1862** The Homestead Act encouraged Western migration by providing settlers 160 acres of public land.
- 1870** The first English-speaking people, Ann and Neils Johnson, settled in the area.
- 1880** The Santa Susana School was established.
- 1888** A subdivision map for a town called Chatsworth Park was filed with the L.A. County Recorder's Office.
- 1893** Railroad service begins. The first depot and the Chatsworth Hotel are located at the northeast corner of Marilla and Topanga Canyon Blvd.
- 1895** The Chatsworth Grade Road is built to carry wagonloads from Chatsworth to Simi Valley through a winding gradual grade. A more direct route, on the north side of Santa Susana Creek, later became known as the Santa Susana Pass.
- 1898** Construction of tunnels through the Chatsworth and Simi mountains begins. After six years of construction, a series of three tunnels connect the railroad line from Simi to Chatsworth.
- 1915** Residents vote to become part of the City of Los Angeles.
- 1918** The Chatsworth Lake/Reservoir is completed. It was in service from 1919-1969.
- 1979** The 118 Freeway was completed, making the trip from Chatsworth to Simi a five-minute journey.

the mid-1920s set up his surveyor's equipment in a tent on the site that is now the Chatsworth Lake Manor Chapel. Working around the clock – at night he worked under the light of kerosene lanterns – he supervised the plotting and laying out of all the Manor roads and subdivisions. His real estate office, which also doubled as his residence, was located at what is now the Log Cabin Mercantile Co.

The last century also saw a large expansion of the neighboring Chatsworth communities, with the development of schools, churches and businesses. The development followed the inception of railroad service in 1893 and the building of a winding grade road to carry wagonloads from the city to Simi Valley in 1895.

Many celebrities have called Chatsworth home over the years,

including Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, who owned a five-acre ranch on the southwest corner of Devonshire and Corbin.

Roy Rogers and Dale Evans moved to the city in 1951 and filmed the famous "Roy Rogers Show" at the Double R Ranch. Rogers served as the honorary mayor of Chatsworth in 1958. ❖



In their historical cottage located on the Homestead Acre, the James and Rhoda Hill family used many of the display items at left. Rock formation shown at right behind the Cottage was determined to be a leaching basin likely used by Native American tribes who originally lived in the Valley.

*Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.*

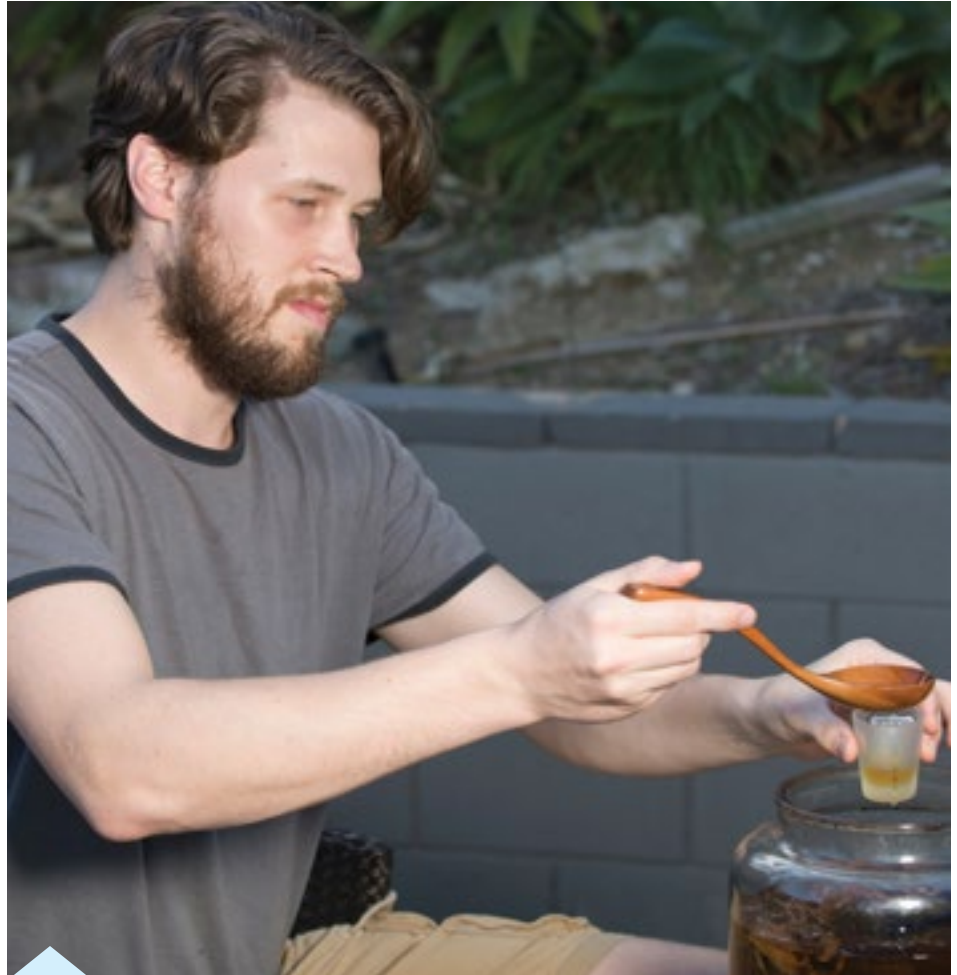
# THE HERBALIST IS IN

**WITH THE EQUIVALENCY OF FOUR YEARS OF MEDICAL SCHOOL AND SEVEN YEARS OF HELPING PATIENTS, HERBALIST ERIC GRANT WILL TELL YOU WHAT MANY M.D.'S WON'T; CHINESE MEDICINE COMPLIMENTS WESTERN MEDICINE AND IS FAR LESS EXPENSIVE**

**W**hen someone falls from a cliff or is hit by a car, they're frequently saved by HEROIC MEASURES, a term that implies the timely use of costly, technologically advanced Western medical procedures and devices. Traditional Chinese medicine is often dull by comparison, involving herbs that in some cases have been on earth longer than man.

So let's assume that the surgery is over. A half dozen machines have been used to pull you back from the brink and stabilize you. Soon a physical therapist will begin to work with you and introduce you to herbs that will help you rebuild bone and muscle. The cost of the machines and the hospital stay will boggle your mind while the cost of the herbal medications can be counted in pennies. And yet in most cases, the herbs will be as clinically important and as complimentary to your recovery as the machines that stabilized you. That's because only herbs when taken over time can support healthy function even in the presence of chronic conditions by fortifying damaged bones and muscles, lungs and kidneys.

"If that's the case, why doesn't medicine put more emphasis on the healing power of these herbs?" you might logically ask. "Where's the money in that?" answers Eric Grant, L.Ac, a Summit resident and senior herbalist at an established Los Angeles herbal company. "I've heard a lot of medical doctors say that they were actually dissuaded against preventive medicine in medical school because if they introduce a patient to inexpensive medication that can be taken successfully at



Herbalist Eric Grant gets ready to taste his own herbal medicine. He believes that only herbs taken over time can fully reverse chronic conditions.

*Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.*

home, there is little reason for the patient to return to that medical practice." Mr. Grant explained.

"Like everyone else in America, physicians work in a free market economy," the herbalist pointed out. "That doesn't mean, for example, that many M.D.'s on an individual level wouldn't love to see their diabetic patients eating right, exercising right and using less medication. But what's financially better for their practice, a patient who is on a form of insulin for

life or a patient who is diet controlled by herbs with their blood sugar stable for the next twenty year?"

Summit Life interviewed two medical doctors for their views on this subject, one in private practice and one at Kaiser Permanente in Woodland Hills. Both were familiar with herbs and both readily explained that they would not hesitate to use and recommend herbs that had been fully clinically tested for efficacy and fully... (Continues on Page 8)

## COMMON GARDEN HERBS



JASMINE is an aphrodisiac, good for the heart.



MINT helps the liver and also relieves headaches.



ALOE is good for burns and wounds and can be used internally as a laxative.

*Photo Panel by Larry LaCom*



LAVENDER helps relieve stress, tension and pain.



ROSEMARY is traditionally considered to be good for digestion and memory among other things.

## TRANSFORMER FAILURE SHUTS DOWN PARK POWER GRID

**T**ransformer repair and replacement are key costs in a Summit power grid overhaul that is set for completion this April, according to Philip Miller, Summit co-owner.

The overhaul was necessitated by a series of park electrical failures during the past month that intermittently affected most of the Summit's 203 homes. "We thank our residents for their patience during these outages and we apologize for the

inconveniences they've caused," Mr. Miller said. Free hotel accommodations were offered to residents who experienced the longest downtimes.

The Summit power grid consists of electric cables linked to a series of transformers designed to step-down high voltage current supplied by Southern California Edison. Many small communities in SCE's service territory have experienced similar blackouts and brownouts. ❖



Large mushroom is centerpiece of herbal mix prepared by Herbalist Eric Grant for his wife, Khená. The broth was designed to improve her body tone and function after delivery of their third child. "It stinks," she said, "but it really works." *Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.*

described in the medical literature.

And that's part of the problem," said Mr. Grant. Much of the herbal research literature comes from China, and U.S. doctors seldom care to translate or read Mandarin.

The other half of the problem is pharmacology. Many of the drug companies are only interested in products that can be patented. That's simply because enormous R&D costs demand a true monopoly on drugs finally brought to market. Since there is no way to patent the chemical content of naturally occurring substances such as herbs, they are largely ignored and not promoted to the medical community.

"My teachers would often say that in standard medicine, there's a tendency to see the doctor as fighting a battle against disease or pathology and that the patient is simply the battlefield," Mr. Grant emphasized. "Now anybody remotely familiar with warfare and the history of warfare will tell you that the battlefield gets trashed whether you win or not. And that's essentially what happens when you're working with various disorders. In Chinese medicine, the view is that the practitioner is the general and the patient is the infantry. In that scenario, the general may give the marching orders but the patient has to do the work." Free consultations with Mr. Grant's firm are available by going to [www.dragonherbs.com](http://www.dragonherbs.com). ❖

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# SUMMIT LIFE

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