

yestermorrow: Llano

an artist's field guide



to Llano, California



Yestermorrow is a platform for cultural innovation, and public engagement created by Antelope Valley artist, educator, and curator Larissa Nickel. It explores feminist geography through site specific research, historical and futuristic narratives, and the museum as artistic practice to activate a heterotopian mirror space for creative intervention and discourse that encourages participatory experiences of place.

larissanickel.com

yestermorrow: Llano

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This digital publication includes photography, graphic design, renderings, maps, and multimedia links to internet sounds and artworks. The guide is produced sustainably to reduce waste and excess transport.

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It is often said that without a sense of the past, we cannot envisage the future. The reverse is also true: without a vision of the future, we cannot construct and access a usable past.

—Carol Duncan, *The Art Museum as Ritual*, 1995



an artist's field guide to Llano, California

Yestermorrow: Llano explores the historical past, contemporary present, and speculative futures of Los Angeles County's unincorporated region of Llano, California. Situating Llano as a creative research laboratory, this interactive guide investigates the narratives, cultural values, and innovations of the High Desert 1918/2018.

Recombining the historical past such as the Llano del Rio Cooperative Colony with a contemporary archive of artwork related to Llano, *Yestermorrow: Llano, An Artist's Field Guide to Llano, California* recollects the progressive, and creative ideology from the rural Mojave desert hinterlands—or exurban outskirts—of Los Angeles.

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE



Through The Looking-Glass illustration by John Tenniel

Rather than assess identity of place through a fixed blueprint, this *Artist's Field Guide to Llano, CA* begins as a loose collection of found objects, spaces, stories, and experiences that activate an artist's lens of connections and networks intended to activate creative intervention, participation, and discourse. It exists as a means for us to re-create a personal or social compass, to journey through the discovery of the world, and to explore an artistic philosophy of the concept of cultural space.

FEMINIST GEOGRAPHY

This guide is an experiment in feminist geography located at the intersection of public policy, new technologies, and embodied life. Can our collective sensory experiences relate the material body to a place that exists but perhaps have never visited except through the senses, connecting us in a cultural social space both tied and unfettered to geography, where the body is itself book, cartography, rhizome, and archive?

Constructing the body as an interactive map or book of interfolding pages, this guide contains sensory experiences that offer a survey into the processes, passions, behaviors and other elements that trace us to Llano, to invent a cartography of place which is:

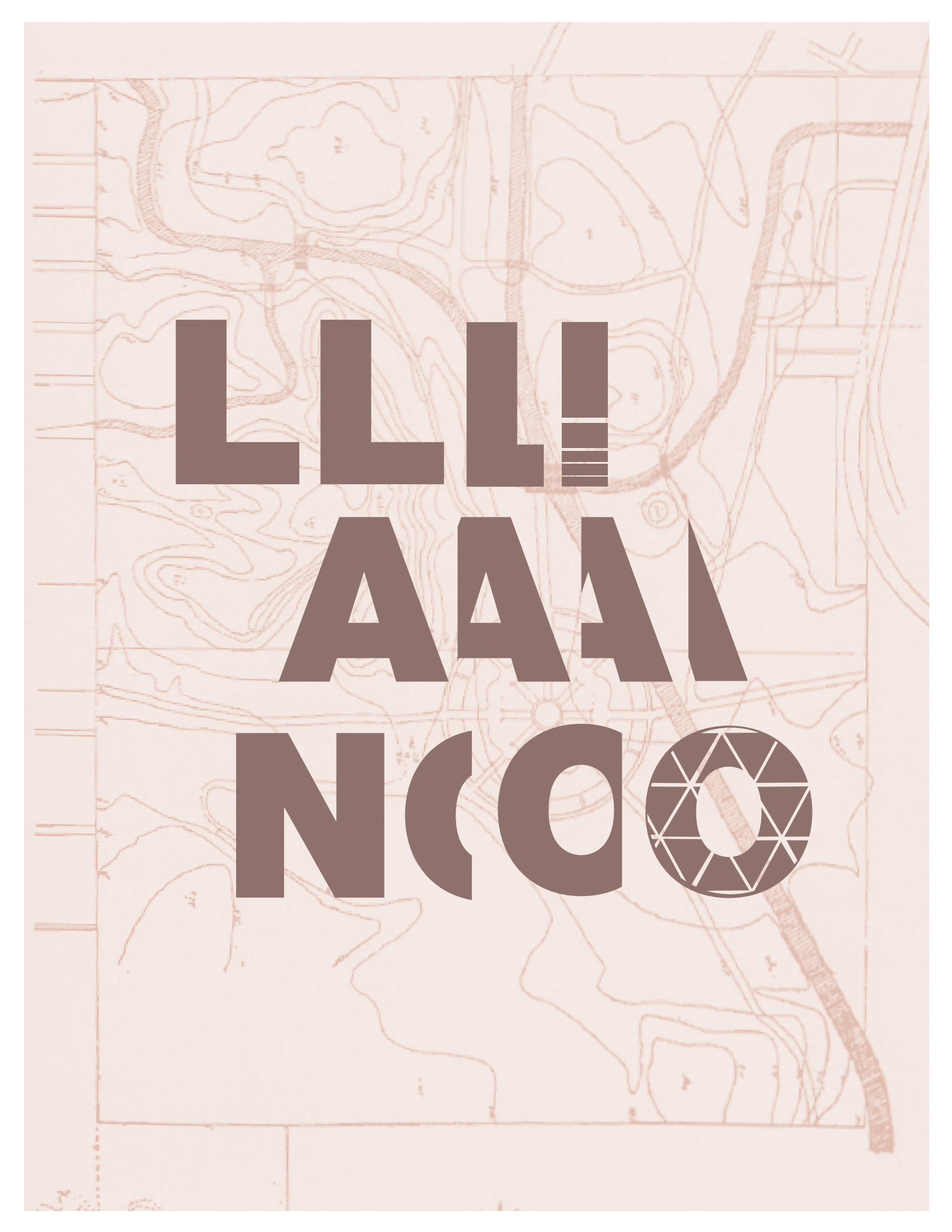
open and connectable in all its dimensions; it is detachable, reversible, susceptible to constant modification. It can be torn, reversed, adapted to any kind of mounting, reworked by an individual, group, or social formation. It can be drawn on the wall, conceived as a work of art, constructed as political action or as a mediation...¹

Throughout the guide are cultural references, historical clippings, prompts, and collaborative activities to activate sensory experiences of Llano. Create perfume, form a book club, make a recipe, and construct your own looking glass connection to this place by drawing, reflecting, meditating, or otherwise envisioning a geographic imagination and aesthetic experience of Llano and its cultural memory, collective present, and social futures or—its yestermorrow.



Drink Me illustration by John Tenniel



A faint, sepia-toned topographic map serves as the background. It features contour lines, a grid, and various geographical features. The text 'LLL! AAA! NCCO' is superimposed in the center.

LLL!
AAA!
NCCO

34°
29'
36"N
117°
47'
16"W

Llano, California
93544

Los Angeles County
Mojave High Desert
Unincorporated



LLANO CALIFORNIA



Silver cholla cactus in the Llano desert



Photograph of the Llano Studio
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

Llano, a Spanish word referencing the level ground or plain, is an unincorporated area in Los Angeles County located southeast of Palmdale in the Mojave Desert region of the greater Antelope Valley. According to the 2010 census, the town at 93544 has a population of 1,259. Pearblossom Highway (State Route 138) runs through the heart of Llano and is its principal street.

Historical narratives of Llano include the Vanyumé considered the desert branch of the Serrano tribe, whose traditional arts included baskets and pottery, and rattles made from gourds filled with seeds.² Early settler colonies seeking affordable land and opportunity included the Sweet and Wilson, Almondale, Quakers, and the Llano del Rio Cooperative Colony which emphasized art, theater, music, design and architecture—and influenced artistic visionaries and colonists Gregory Ain, Alice Constance Austin, Mary Fox, Fred Moore, and Bella Lewitzky.

Llano artistry can be archived through writer Aldous Huxley, musicians Frank Black and the Catholics, and contemporary artists David Hockney, Joel Sternfeld, Jesper Just, Mary Ellen Mark, and the Llano del Rio artist Collective. The high desert locale currently includes wildlife sanctuaries which preserve regional fauna, wildflowers that have inspired numerous California plein air artists, the planned community and golf course of Crystalaire, the Brian Ranch Airport and its “World’s Smallest Air Show,” General Atomics Aeronautical Systems an aeronautical research and fabrication facility, acres of agricultural land, and an ever expanding archive of artists contributing to a network of theoretical and speculative perspective of Llano and its future.

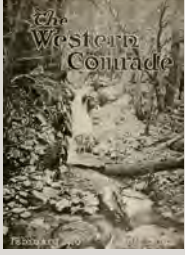
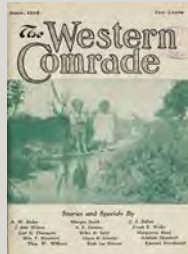
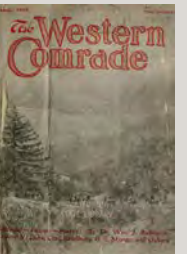
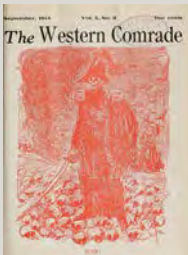


Advertisement for the Bella Lewitzky Dance Company, 1976
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division



Silo and dairy barn stone ruins from the Llano del Rio Cooperative

1913



LLANO DEL RIO COLONY



Llano del Rio landscape
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University



Photograph of group in front of a Joshua tree
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

The best place to view the Los Angeles of the next millennium is from the ruins of its alternative future. —Mike Davis on Llano del Rio, City of Quartz, 1990.

The Llano Del Rio Cooperative Colony planned an alternative communal vision of cooperation and political equality settling just outside of Los Angeles in the Mojave Desert along Pearblossom Highway 138. The Llano colony is documented through its *Western Comrade* magazine, published from 1913 to 1918. The publication advocated for progressive causes and socialist principles with coverage on women's suffrage, labor issues, organizing unions, and the colonies activities and events.

Founded in May of 1914, the Llano Del Rio Cooperative Colony remained in Llano for three years before succumbing to internal and external lawsuits, harassment, critical losses in water and land rights, negativity of socialist ideology, and perceived idealism of communal living. Much of the external hostility toward Llano's rural activity manifested in Los Angeles, often seen in inflammatory newspaper articles attacking the utopian experiment, Job Harriman, and the denial of water rights. In early 1918, many colonists relocated to Louisiana and established the New Llano Colony which lasted until 1937 when a variety of problems including Job Harriman's deteriorating health forced them into bankruptcy.

In spite of the innovative ideas and people that led to the success of the cooperative colony, the remains of Llano del Rio in the Antelope Valley are still subjected to the negative accounts of a never built utopia and socialist failure—a tribute to Ozymandias as Aldous Huxley wrote in *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow*.

A centennial later in 2018, *Yestermorrow: Llano An Artist's Field Guide to Llano, California* intends to propose a more complex and alternative vision of the Llano del Rio Cooperative colony and their contributions to alternative societies. The individuals who left a legacy of innovative and progressive community ideals have provided much to the history of the Antelope Valley, Los Angeles, and America.



Birds eye view of Llano
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

By performing an archive of the artistic contributions of Llano del Rio and its members such as Gregory Ain, Alice Constance Austin, Bella Lewitzky, and the contemporary artists inspired by the ideology of the rural desert location, *Yestermorrow: Llano* considers the past, present, and future of this place as museum—a physical/digital hybrid, a synecdoche or more than the sum of its parts.

del Rio dedicated ate historical landmark

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colony and an ap-
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ber of Valley residents
interested persons from
areas were on hand for
rogram which featured
by Dick Hoegh of the
x Chapter No. 2 of E
pus Vitus, Dr. Knox
on, state historic
ervation officer of the
ornia Office of Historic
ervation and Dr. Spencer
n, professor and chair-
erson, Dept. of History at the
niversity of California,
vine. Also speaking was
arold Mathewson of Palm-
dale, who at 12 years of age
lived with his parents at the
colony.
Mellon spoke about the
colony's founder, Job
a committed civil
dream,



OFFICIALS AT LLANO DEDICATION
Hoegh, Mathewson, Mellon, Olin with plaque

respect for those who toiled at
the colony that he felt the
spirits of those people were
there watching, thankful that
someone remembered.
Olin, who spoke next, em-
phasized the fact that even
though this colony existed
years ago with no resurrection,
utopian ideas are not dead in
America.

"I believe the time will come
when these ideas will be looked
at again," he said.
He pointed out the success of
religious groups like the
close as San
founded

for settlement and I believe the
success of Antelope Valley
agriculture is due partly to the
example set by these
colonists."
It was in 1912 that
Mathewson, then 12 years old,
moved with his family to the
Llano del Rio colony.
Mathewson recalled those
years yesterday as he told of
activities there.
"We had problems, but life
was mostly good here," he
said. "The adults never got in
fights. We had no police
department and there were no
arrests for infringements of the
law."

roof of the hotel
Hoegh, mas
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E CLAMPUS VITUS



Llano dairy barn and silo in the distance
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

The Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus is a fraternal organization dedicated to the study and preservation of the heritage of the American West.

LLANO DEL RIO DEDICATION

California Historical Registered Landmark #933

Master of Ceremonies: Dick Hoegh

Platrix Chapter No. 2

E Clampus Vitus

Speakers: Dr. Knox Mellon

State Historic Preservation Officer

Office of Historic Preservation

Dr. Spencer Olin

Professor of History

University of California Irvine

Clampartist Plaque 42. LLANO DEL RIO COOPERATIVE COLONY, Los Angeles County, CRHL #933,8/611980 "LLANO DEL RIO COOPERATIVE COLONY, (1914-1918). This was the site of the most important non-religious utopian experiment in Western American history. Its founder, Job Harriman was Eugene Deb's running mate in the Presidential Election of 1900. In subsequent years Harriman became an influential socialist leader and in 1911 was almost elected mayor of Los Angeles. At its height in 1916, the colony contained a thousand members and was a flourishing communitarian experiment dedicated to the principle of cooperation rather than competition.

The plaque was placed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus, Platrix Chapter No.2, on August 6, 1980. (The plaque was located at the site of the hotel on Highway 138.)⁴



Llano hotel and annex including Mary Fox's art studio
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

The 150-pound plaque designating the Llano del Rio site as a California Historical Landmark was stolen two weeks after it was erected, and has not been replaced.⁵

LLANO CALIFORNIA



Job Harriman, Llano del Rio Colony records, 1896-1967
The Huntington Library, San Marino, CA



Llano del Rio Colony ruins, 1917

*It became apparent to me that a people would never abandon their means of livelihood, good or bad, capitalistic or otherwise, until other methods were developed which would promise advantages at least as good as those by which they were living—Job Harriman in *Privileged Son: Otis Chandler and the Rise and Fall of the L.A. Times Dynasty* by Dennis McDougal, 2002.*

WHAT REMAINS OF UTOPIA

The history of Llano, California is notably entwined with the Llano del Rio Cooperative Colony which was a corporate run utopian socialist community founded in May 1914, by Job Harriman, an idealistic lawyer who had run on the first Socialist Party platforms for Vice President in 1900, and mayor of Los Angeles in 1911. The colony's cooperative economic ideals and alternative visions of feminist equity, sustainable ecology, architecture, and communal city living have rendered it's legacy as "the most important non-religious utopian colony in Western American history," which preservationist and scholar Knox Mellon attributed through his research and archival objectives documenting the colony's history.³

The colony was quite progressive, and included one of the country's first Montessori schools, high-quality agricultural production, an artistic and intellectual cultural climate, and innovative social services that included low-cost housing, Social Security, minimum-wage pay, and universal health care.

Despite a number of internal hurdles and external criticism, the Llano colony flourished quickly until a number of setbacks resulted in its relocation to a new site in Louisiana called New Llano in 1918. The remains of the original Llano colony's writings, vision, and geography in the desert combine as a memorial and muse to the history and ideology of greater Los Angeles and beyond.



Photograph of group of children
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University



Walter Millsap Interview, 6



COLLECTIVE IMAGININGS

The symbols, concepts, memory, and speculations of Llano comprise its collective imagination. By means of the Sights and Sounds, Tasteography, Scentography, and elements of Museography, we can architect an experience of place through shared and collaborative histories.



Datura stramonium also known as Jimsonweed, thorn-apple, and moon flower, grows wild in Llano's desert land where it is found along roadsides and throughout the surrounding landscape. A sacred plant used by indigenous tribes for its medicinal and hallucinogenic properties, it can also be fatally toxic making it symbolic of Llano's utopian/dystopian narratives.⁷

The symbols, concepts, memory, and speculations of Llano comprise its collective imagination. By means of the Sights and Sounds, Tasteography, Scentography, and elements of Museography, we can architect an experience of place through shared and collaborative histories.



If there were a symbolic guardian of Antelope Valley art it may well be Don van Vliet (Captain Beefheart). Painter, musician, and AV high school alum, composer David A. Jaffe describes Beefheart's art as Maximalism or that which, "embraces heterogeneity and allows for complex systems of juxtapositions and collisions, in which all outside influences are viewed as potential raw material."⁸

The symbols, concepts, memory, and speculations of Llano comprise its collective imagination. By means of the Sights and Sounds, Tasteography, Scentography, and elements of Museography, we can architect an experience of place through shared and collaborative histories.



Establishing an archive of artists connected to Llano provides data and information that can be stored, retrieved, and then re-generated. This museological archive creates a memory performance in which we can assemble and continually expand Llano's cultural memories and meanings.

Ray Bradbury remarks that, "the past and present are reflected in society, technology, and popular culture, as well as the need for thinkers and imagineers to be the architects of the future."⁹

The symbols, concepts, memory, and speculations of Llano comprise its collective imagination. By means of the Sights and Sounds, Tasteography, Scentography, and elements of Museography, we can architect an experience of place through shared and collaborative histories.



Alice Constance Austin created speculative designs for Llano's future now past. Her imaginings and plans for an alternative communal city serve as an object or looking glass for our narratives of Llano, where infinite futures may bloom.

Richard Kearney explores the imagination and how "the self and the collective mutually constitute each other's identity by receiving each other's stories into their respective histories."¹⁰

The symbols, concepts, memory, and speculations of Llano comprise its collective imagination. By means of the Sights and Sounds, Tasteography, Scentography, and elements of Museography, we can architect an experience of place through shared and collaborative histories.

Llano-Llano
Llano-Llano
Llano-Llano

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

Frank Black and the Catholics, Llano del Rio, 2001

Llano-Llano
Llano-Llano
Llano-Llano

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

Frank Black and the Catholics, Llano del Rio, 2001

Going out to Llano,
Llano del Rio
Try to find utopia
In the stucco grids and the tumbleweeds
You gotta love that Pearblossom
It'll kill you just like possum
Have you been to the rock foundations
Where's it's mostly known just for the speed

Llano-Llano
Llano-Llano
Llano-Llano

Llano-Llano
Llano-Llano
Llano-Llano

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You gotta love that Pearblossom
It'll kill you just like possum
Have you been to the rock foundations
Where's it's mostly known just for the speed

Don van Vliet, aka Captain Beefheart once worked as a door-to-door vacuum cleaner salesman, during which time he sold a vacuum cleaner to the writer Aldous Huxley at his home in Llano, pointing to it and declaring, "Well I assure you sir, this thing sucks."—Rolling Stones Magazine, 1970



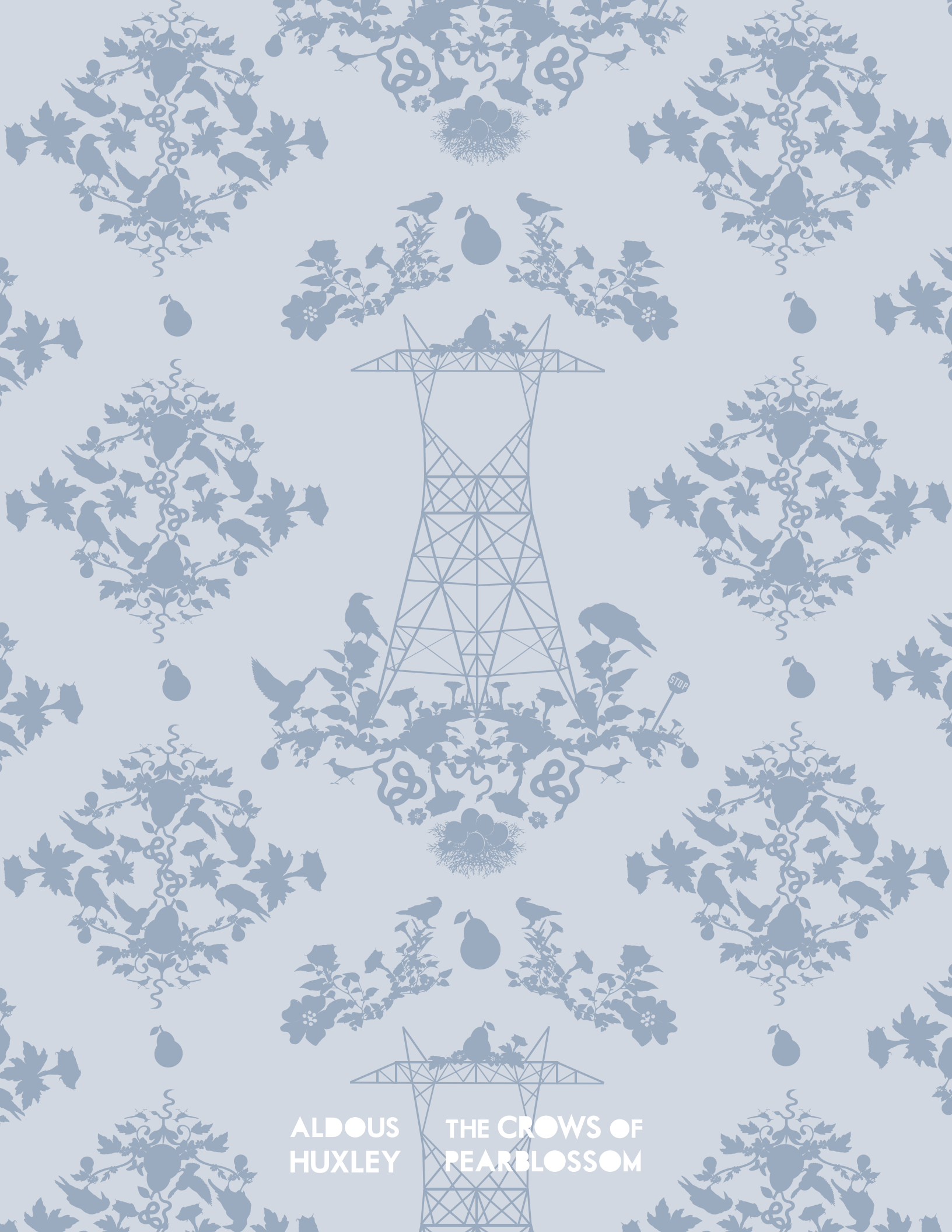
SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

AN ARTIST ARCHIVE

OF LLANO CALIFORNIA

2017

Airwolf: Random Target
Gregory Ain
Alice Constance Austin
Anna Ayeroff
Annie Leibovitz
James Benning
Frank Black & The Catholics
Jeff Cain
Dennis Calaba
Center for Land Use
Interpretation
Jessica Cowley and Lyra
Kilston
Martin Cox
Tom DeLappe
From Dusk to Dawn (1913)
Cheryl Goldsleger
The Happy Wanderers
Jeffrey Hilinger
David Hines
David Hockney
Kate Hoffman
Aidan & Ainsley Hubbard
John Hulsey & Matt H Hays
Aldous Huxley
Christopher Isherwood
Orlando Johnson
Jones Intercable/Hello
Yes this is a Dog
Jesper Just
Glen Knowles
Llano del Rio Collective
Elizabeth Leister
Ken Lee
Bella Lewitzky
Joseph Lewitzky
Mary Ellen Mark
Walter Millsap
Fred Moore
Larissa Nickel
Ruchama Noorda
Steve Nootenboom
Opera del Espacio
Mike Ott
Troy Paiva
Minna Philips
Daniel Pierce
Mai-Thu Perret
Rudd Post
Rattlesnakes and Eggs
Linda Ravenswood
Anne Rowland
Michelle Rozic
Dennis Rudolph
Mark Ruwedel
Bettina Samson
Donna Schuster
Mady Schutzman
Semi Tropic Spiritualists
Silver Snakes
Stacey Spiegel
Joel Sternfeld
SuarezDanceTheatre
Brian Tolle
Tom Explores Los Angeles
Andrezza Valentin and
Guilherme Marcondes
Julia Weiger
Leora Wien
Peiyi Wong
Valerie Zera



ALDOUS
HUXLEY

THE CROWS OF
PEARBLOSSOM

THE LLANO BOOK CLUB

Recent Readable Books



Llano silo and barn,
Llano del Rio Colony records, 1896-1967
The Huntington Library, San Marino, CA



LLANO DEL RIO COLONY HISTORY

Bread and Hyacinths: The Rise and Fall of Utopian Los Angeles by Lionel Rolfe, and Nigey Lennon. Did the 1910 bombing of the Los Angeles Times eventually doom Llano del Rio? The saga between Job Harriman, leading Socialist, and General Harrison Gray Otis, publisher of the Los Angeles Times provides a picture of the colony's struggles in relation to Los Angeles and its powerful press.

America's Communal Utopias edited by Donald E. Pitzer (Robert Hine) What is Fourierism and how did it impact nineteenth-century Americans? This book examines communal utopian movements throughout the course of their development—before, during, and after their communal period.

Two Paths to Utopia: The Hutterites and the Llano Colony by Paul K. Conkin. Why do intentional communities, utopian societies, communes, and similar experiments in living fail? This text compares two colonies the Christian Hutterites described as too religious and lacking in art and culture, and the Llano Colony as too secular, nonconformist, and idealistic.

The Western Comrade colony publication 1913-1918. Written in their own words, the Western Comrade offers the history, and ideals from Llano del Rio's progressive voices, illustrators, and ephemera.

LLANO AND CALIFORNIA

City of Quartz: Excavating the Future in Los Angeles by Mike Davis- Is the best place to view the Los Angeles of the next millennium from the ruins of its alternative future? Davis analyzes Los Angeles as both utopia and dystopia, situating Llano as a looking glass in which we may view LA's future mirrored with startling outcomes.

Inventing the Dream: California through the Progressive Era by Kevin Starr. Who invented the California Dream? Weaving together a personal narrative with the political, economic, social, and cultural symbolic interpretation of Southern California's history and meaning in America, Starr charts the rural imaginative perception and fact as promoted in Sunset magazine.

Farewell, Promised Land: Waking from the California Dream by Robert Dawson, and Gray A. Brechin. How do you kill the golden state? This five-year project of traveling around California documenting the present status of its landscape, traces the contrast between the environment of the past, what it has become, and what the future may hold.

Radical L.A.: From Coxey's Army to the Watts Riots, 1894–1965 by Errol Wayne Stevens. Tracing the city's character and resistance between radicals and the power elite, Steven's summarizes LA Times publisher Harrison Gray Otis and Socialist mayoral candidate Job Harriman's struggle into the civil rights era.

THE LLANO BOOK CLUB

Recent Readable Books



Job Harriman, Llano del Rio Colony records, 1896-1967
The Huntington Library, San Marino, CA



Alice Constance Austin and her Llano colony model
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University



FICTION

The Crows of Pearblossom by Aldous Huxley. Did Aldous Huxley ever write a children's book? Huxley's first and only children's story was written in Llano in 1944. The book introduces the tale of Mr. and Mrs. Crow, an opportunistic Rattlesnake with a habit of stealing and eating their eggs, and a wise Old Owl who devises a plan to trick the snake and keep Mrs. Crow's eggs from being ingested.

Dynamite and Dreams: A Novel Based on the Life of Job Harriman by Robert V. Hine. This historical fiction novel based on the life of Job Harriman, the free speech lawyer and Socialist Party's candidate for mayor of Los Angeles who founded the Llano del Rio Cooperative Colony, retells his story documenting the visions as well as struggles in the fight for transformation.

Desert Boys by Chris McCormick. Does where we come from define us and determine our future? McCormick intertwines growing up in the Antelope Valley desert with coming of age stories that connect identity to the places and ideas where we intersect.

FEMINISM

The Next Step: How to Plan for Beauty, Comfort, and Peace with Great Savings Effectuated by the Reduction of Waste by Alice Constance Austin. What is a woman's role in the domestic social? Articulating a vision of housing designed to reorganize the home and collective space of cities, the Austin Housing Project relates innovative ways that challenge our social and domestic spheres by outlining practical designs that revolutionize ecological, feminist, and collaborative living.

The Grand Domestic Revolution: A History of Feminist Designs for American Homes, Neighborhoods, and Cities by Dolores Hayden. Llano's Alice Constance Austin is included in this reevaluation of women who developed the innovative plans and visionary strategies of what Hayden calls "material feminism" revolutionizing the American home and creating community services.

Women and Planning: Creating Gendered Realities by Clara H. Greed. Is city planning gendered? This history and analysis of women and the planning movement covers eugenics, colonialism, artistic, utopian and religious movements, and the occult to question gendered patterns of space.

Embodied Utopias: Gender, Social Change and the Modern Metropolis edited by Amy Bingaman, Lise Sanders, Rebecca Zorach. These essays on the late nineteenth and early twentieth century's utopian projects argue for an embodied approach to the future to change the spaces of cities and virtual landscapes asking, can we use utopia?

THE LLANO BOOK CLUB

Recent Readable Books



MEDICAL ATTENTION at Llano is a social service and is free to Llano residents. Eventually this department will take in every school of healing.

Medical office, Western Comrade



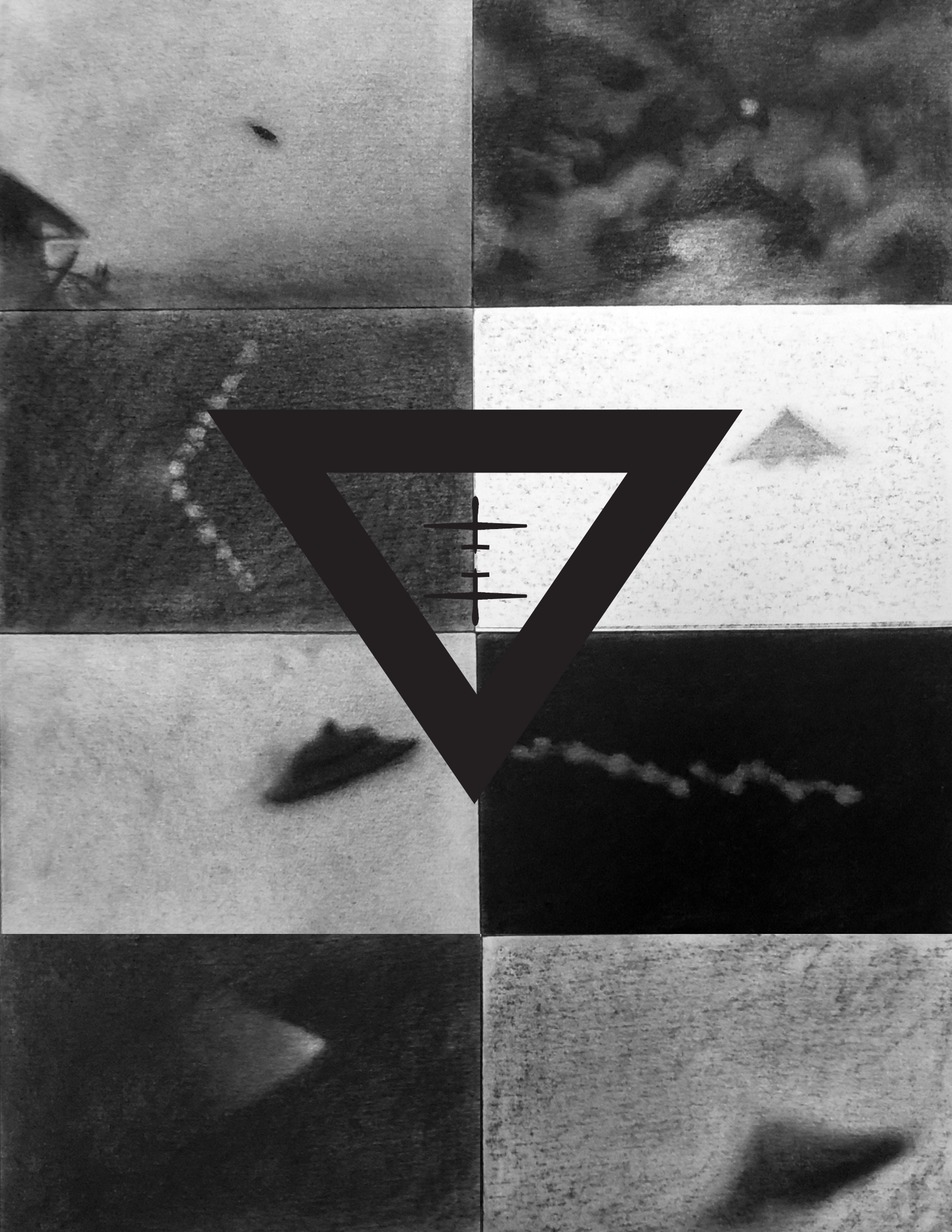
FAMOUS LLANO RESIDENTS

Gregory Ain: the Modern Home as Social Commentary by Anthony Denzer, Thomas S. Hines. How did Ain's socialist upbringing influence his architecture and housing projects? Ain argued that "architecture is a social art" that should serve the "common people," outlining architecture's role in shaping how we might live and build our communities.

Why move?: A conversation about dance with Bella Lewitzky by Yvonne McClung. Bella Lewitzky was born in 1916 at the Llano del Rio colony. A modern dance performer, choreographer, teacher and artistic advocate, she distinguished herself as champion of artists rights providing health care to company dancers year round, and standing for freedom of expression in overturning the NEA obscenity act in 1991.

Legendary Locals of the Antelope Valley by Norma Gurba. Most legendary locals of the Antelope Valley never experienced fame during their lifetimes, but have demonstrated impacts and accomplishments established in their aspirations, determination, and often historically overlooked success. This book brings forth a variety of narratives worthy of further expansion into the historical impact of the Antelope Valley.

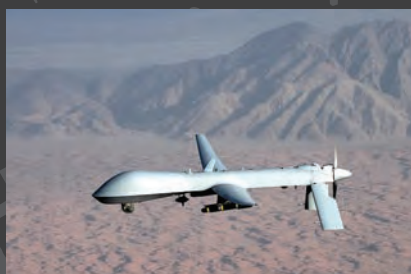
A Desert Reckoning: A Town Sheriff, a Mojave Hermit, and the Biggest Manhunt in Modern California History by Deanne Stillman. Pearblossom Highway also known as Deputy Sheriff Stephen Sorensen Memorial Hwy in honor of the Deputy shot and killed after he responded to a trespassing call at approximately 1330 hours near Highway 138.



FLYING OBJECTS



Brian Ranch Airport "World's Smallest" Air Show



MQ-1 Predator unmanned aircraft, U.S. Air Force photo, Lt. Col. Leslie Pratt, 2008

"Small glowing spheres have been reported to approach curious onlookers at night. It is thought that these glowing objects might be some type of monitoring device. The maneuvering abilities of these spheres defy explanation."¹¹

The Antelope Valley—often referred to as the Aerospace Valley—is host to space and flight dreams both large and small. General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. is located in Llano at the site of the old Gray Butte Airport, southwest of El Mirage dry lake. They develop advanced aerospace technology including the remotely piloted Predator drone. The test site and its secrecy activate imaginative wonderings of the strange technology and advanced applications being developed at the dark of night or flown in broad daylight. Llano, with its experimental flight facilities and proximity to Palmdale, is a space where UFO's are real.

The Llano del Rio colony also experimented with test flight capability with an airplane built around an old Model T motor. After a failed test run, the plane mysteriously burned to the ground. Today, the private Crystal Airport hosts sky views of the desert and mountains including the archaeological remains of the Llano colony.

Llano's Brian Ranch Airport hosts the "World's Smallest" Air Show every year around Memorial Day weekend. The air show features ultralight and radio controlled aircraft, aviation displays, sky divers, rocket demonstrations, a car show, children's activities, and cherry picking at the orchard.¹² From the smallest to the largest, Llano's flight capacity encompasses a variety of business and entertainment industries.

Past/Present/Future

TASTEGRAPHY

The Spirits of Llano- "Since our organization in this place gone four months ago, our almond trees have fulfilled the noble promises which at that time they, -aye. Peaches have matured that were deemed worthy to represent Southern California in her grand exhibit at Atlanta.

Apricots unrivalled in flavor and color; pears and apples of gigantic size and firm grain and flavor, and prunes and raisins sweeter than any which lower altitudes with damper atmosphere can produce.

The alfalfa fields, too, have shown a marvellous product of choicest hay. Our grain farmers everywhere: they have been selling wheat for less than the cost of production." Western Comrade, 1916

Past/Present/Future

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ANTELOPE VALLEY AGRICULTURE



CAN LLANO GARDENS GROW VEGETABLES? Here is the best answer to the question that we know of—and these were not specially selected, either. As to quality, it cannot be surpassed anywhere. This year's production is expected to vastly surpass that of last year in every way.

Can Llano Gardens Grow Vegetables?
The Western Comrade

Thirty miles to the northwest of Los Angeles, and just over the Sierra Madre range, lies the largest valley in Southern California. Not only the largest, but in some respects the least known, although now it gives splendid prospects of development—in fact, is enjoying an improvement boom of no mean pretensions.

A thick blanket of chaparral covers the ground, consisting of sage and thorn brush, cacti and the giant yucca palm, while along the foothills in close companionship with the juniper and the greasewood. The wild almond, olive, cherry and plum indicate with prophetic exactitude the future use of these vast plains. In the spring time the Antelope Valley is carpeted with flowers of every description, which, with the miles upon miles of growing grain make a sight beautiful to behold. In summer and fall the country assumes the conventional brown of California, only relieved now and then by an occasional patch of alfalfa or orchard of almonds or prunes.

The wild almond and olive are found in the foothills of this valley, thus showing this soil and climate to be their native element. Apricots, grapes, apples, nectarines and other deciduous fruits do equally well with the almonds.

The productions of the Antelope Valley cover a wide range of diversity. All the grains thrive there without irrigation and the yield is enormous. Only a few years ago not an acre of this vast territory had been touched by the plow; today the grain fields cover an area twenty miles long by four wide. The quality cannot be excelled anywhere, and at the New Orleans exposition wheat from this valley took the first award. Where water can be had for irrigation alfalfa is a staple product, and return from three to seven crops per season. All deciduous fruit finds a congenial home there—the vine apple, pear, cherry and prune bearing bounteously. Antelope Valley carried off another prize at the World's Columbian exposition at Chicago by capturing the first premium on prunes. The olive thrives in all sections of the valley, and the trees are clean and bright.



Bird's-eye view of pear orchards looking north, Llano del Rio, 1917
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

Altogether the Antelope Valley gives excellent prospects for the future, and it is only a question of time and water when its broad acres will be occupied by a thrifty and prosperous people, and its productions go forth in great quantities to add to the richness of Southern California.

EXCERPT

"The Antelope Valley." The Los Angeles Herald, April 22, 1896. Published: Page 16, California Digital Newspaper Collection, Retrieved September 20, 2017 cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&d=LAH18960422.2.40

THE SPIRITS OF LLANO

Drink Me! Based on Llano's map, agriculture, and historical stories of place, try making these recipes for tonics, elixirs and juices that invoke the past narratives of Llano through your sense of taste.

The Three Sisters



Utopia



Quaker 1895



The Almondale



Sweet Settler



Desert Relief



Pearblossom Hwy



BeLeninade



The Crystallaire



Ozymandias' Tomorrow

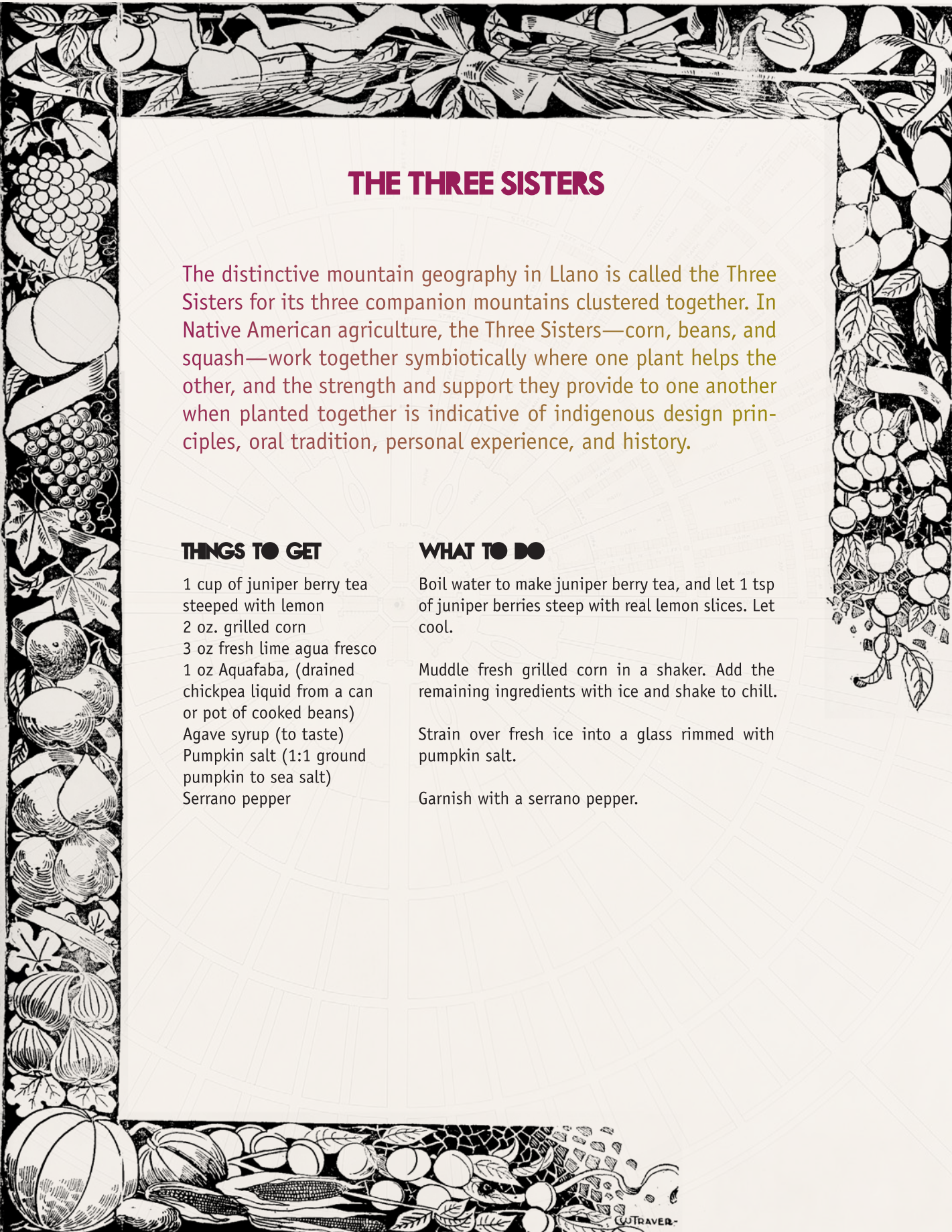


400 F.A. Russell
Surveyed by U.S. Geological Survey
Surveyed in 1910.
2141235122
MAPS PRE-1945 TOPO CA LLANO 1930
PCL MAP

Scale 1:50,000
1 Mile
1000 Feet
Contour interval 5 feet
Datum is mean sea level

282
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
INFORMATION PUBLISHED BY LOS ANGELES COUNTY, 1930
1935

LLANO, CALIF.
Edition of 1935



THE THREE SISTERS

The distinctive mountain geography in Llano is called the Three Sisters for its three companion mountains clustered together. In Native American agriculture, the Three Sisters—corn, beans, and squash—work together symbiotically where one plant helps the other, and the strength and support they provide to one another when planted together is indicative of indigenous design principles, oral tradition, personal experience, and history.

THINGS TO GET

1 cup of juniper berry tea steeped with lemon
2 oz. grilled corn
3 oz fresh lime agua fresco
1 oz Aquafaba, (drained chickpea liquid from a can or pot of cooked beans)
Agave syrup (to taste)
Pumpkin salt (1:1 ground pumpkin to sea salt)
Serrano pepper

WHAT TO DO

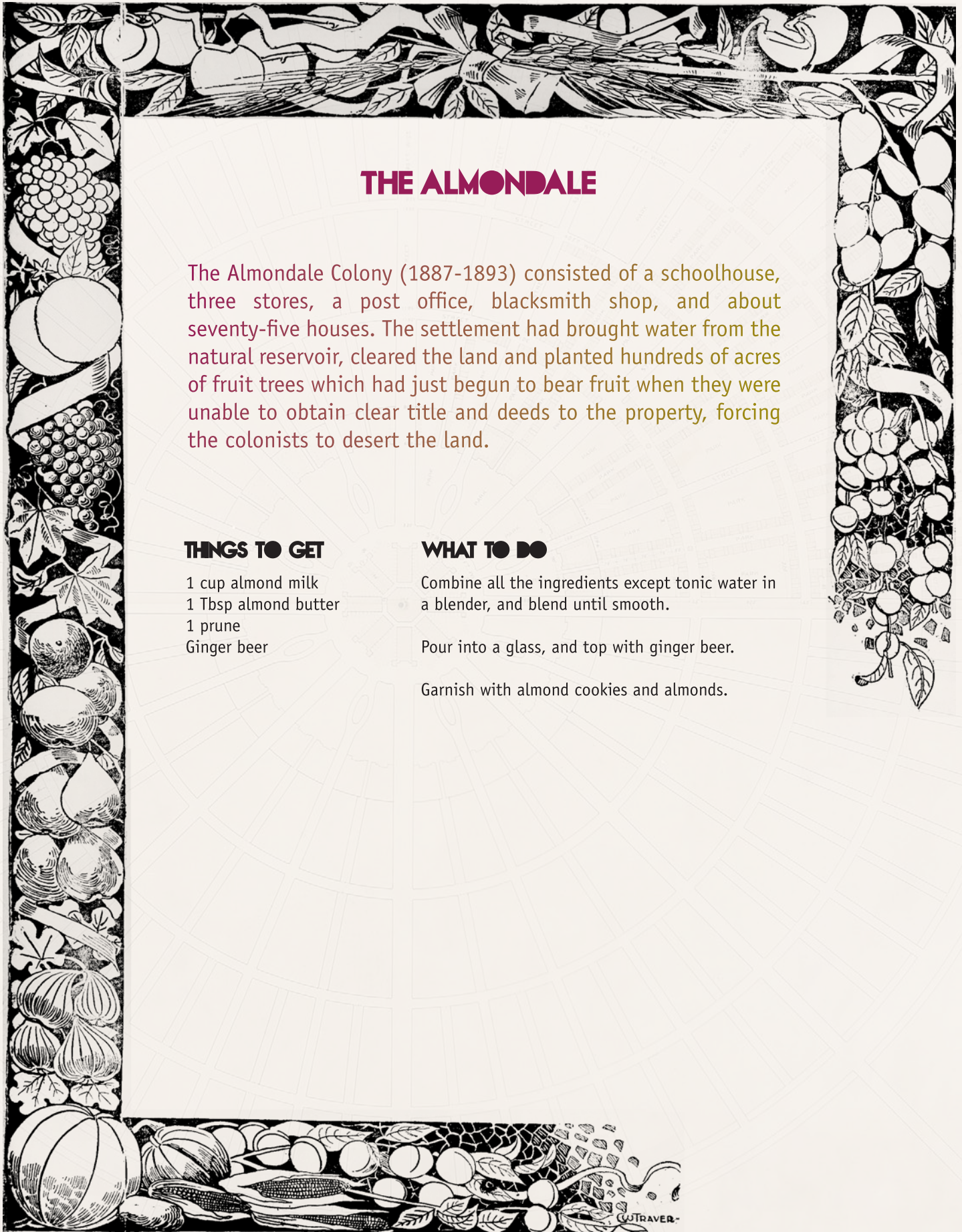
Boil water to make juniper berry tea, and let 1 tsp of juniper berries steep with real lemon slices. Let cool.

Muddle fresh grilled corn in a shaker. Add the remaining ingredients with ice and shake to chill.

Strain over fresh ice into a glass rimmed with pumpkin salt.

Garnish with a serrano pepper.

Antelope Valley agriculture illustration from the Los Angeles Herald April 22, 1896



THE ALMONDALE

The Almondale Colony (1887-1893) consisted of a schoolhouse, three stores, a post office, blacksmith shop, and about seventy-five houses. The settlement had brought water from the natural reservoir, cleared the land and planted hundreds of acres of fruit trees which had just begun to bear fruit when they were unable to obtain clear title and deeds to the property, forcing the colonists to desert the land.

THINGS TO GET

1 cup almond milk
1 Tbsp almond butter
1 prune
Ginger beer

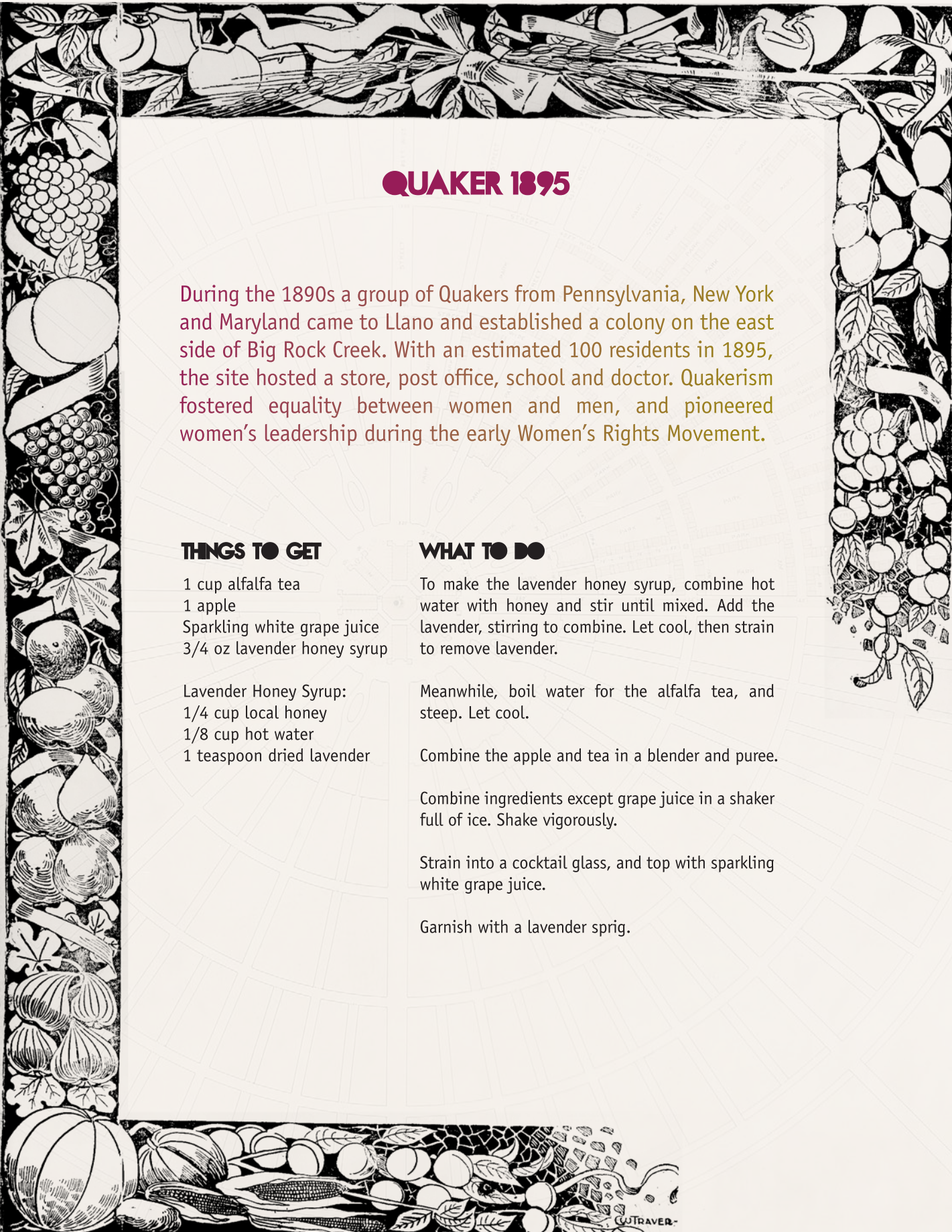
WHAT TO DO

Combine all the ingredients except tonic water in a blender, and blend until smooth.

Pour into a glass, and top with ginger beer.

Garnish with almond cookies and almonds.

Antelope Valley agriculture illustration from the Los Angeles Herald April 22, 1896



QUAKER 1895

During the 1890s a group of Quakers from Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland came to Llano and established a colony on the east side of Big Rock Creek. With an estimated 100 residents in 1895, the site hosted a store, post office, school and doctor. Quakerism fostered equality between women and men, and pioneered women's leadership during the early Women's Rights Movement.

THINGS TO GET

1 cup alfalfa tea
1 apple
Sparkling white grape juice
3/4 oz lavender honey syrup

Lavender Honey Syrup:
1/4 cup local honey
1/8 cup hot water
1 teaspoon dried lavender

WHAT TO DO

To make the lavender honey syrup, combine hot water with honey and stir until mixed. Add the lavender, stirring to combine. Let cool, then strain to remove lavender.

Meanwhile, boil water for the alfalfa tea, and steep. Let cool.

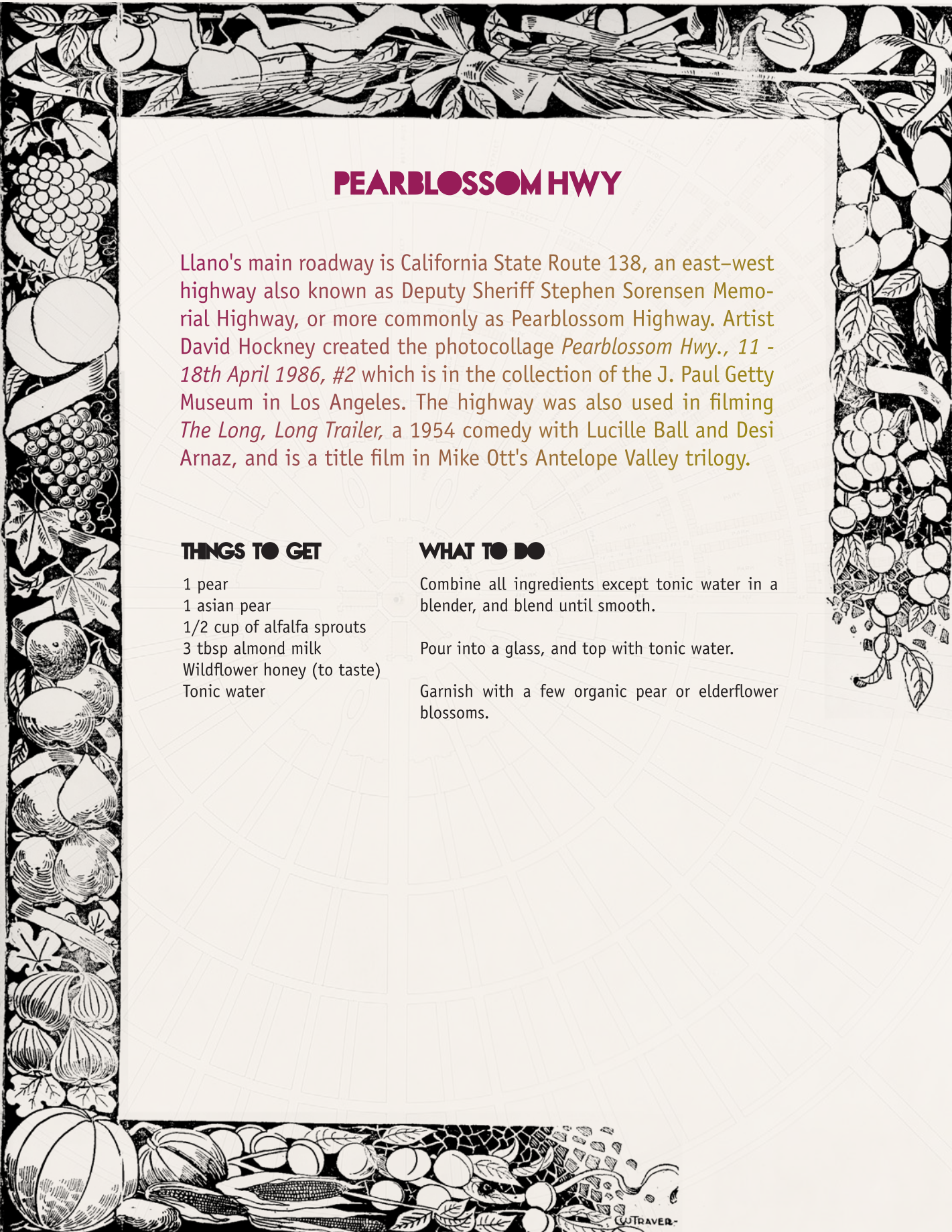
Combine the apple and tea in a blender and puree.

Combine ingredients except grape juice in a shaker full of ice. Shake vigorously.

Strain into a cocktail glass, and top with sparkling white grape juice.

Garnish with a lavender sprig.

Antelope Valley agriculture illustration from the Los Angeles Herald April 22, 1896



PEARBLOSSOM HWY

Llano's main roadway is California State Route 138, an east-west highway also known as Deputy Sheriff Stephen Sorensen Memorial Highway, or more commonly as Pearblossom Highway. Artist David Hockney created the photocollage *Pearblossom Hwy., 11 - 18th April 1986, #2* which is in the collection of the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. The highway was also used in filming *The Long, Long Trailer*, a 1954 comedy with Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, and is a title film in Mike Ott's Antelope Valley trilogy.

THINGS TO GET

- 1 pear
- 1 asian pear
- 1/2 cup of alfalfa sprouts
- 3 tbsp almond milk
- Wildflower honey (to taste)
- Tonic water

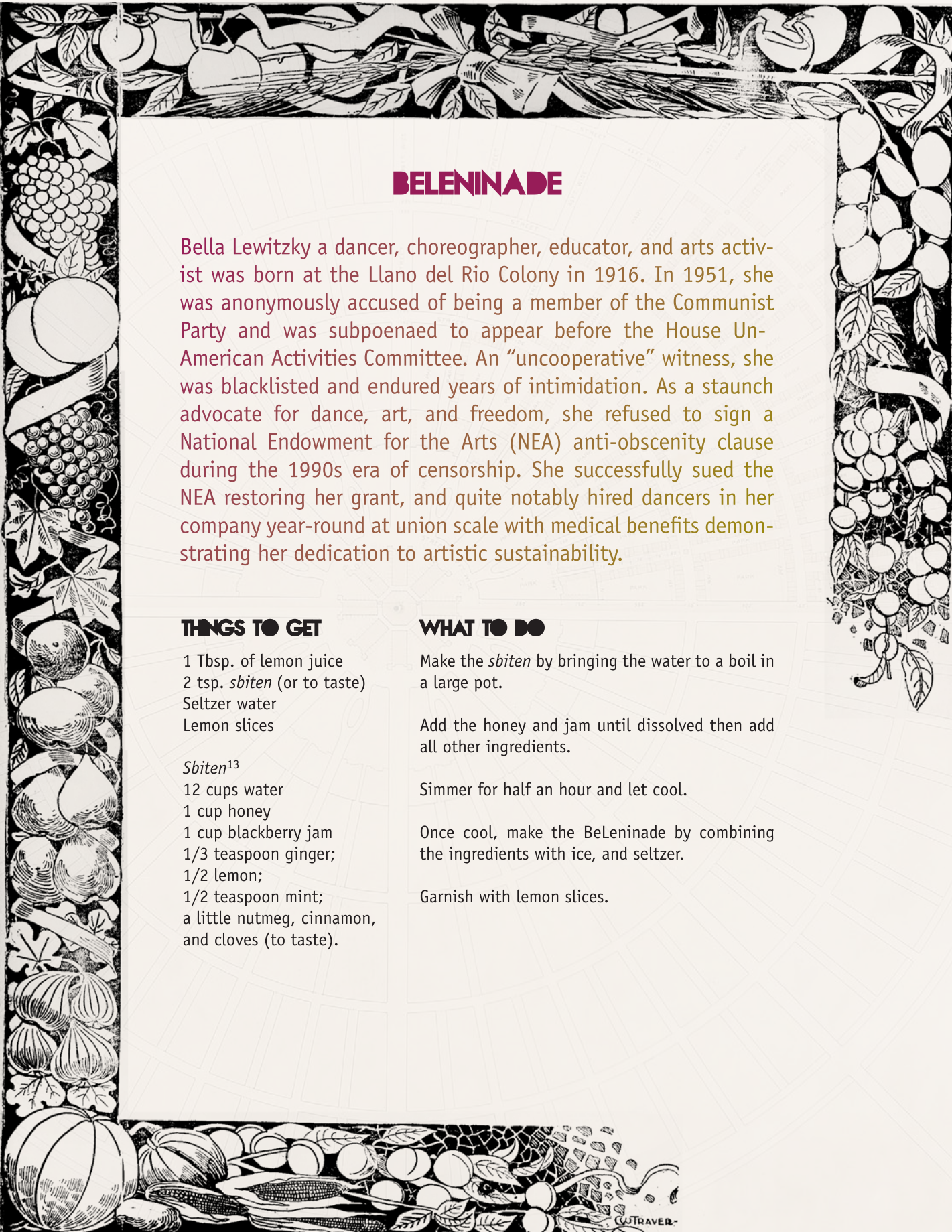
WHAT TO DO

Combine all ingredients except tonic water in a blender, and blend until smooth.

Pour into a glass, and top with tonic water.

Garnish with a few organic pear or elderflower blossoms.

Antelope Valley agriculture illustration from the Los Angeles Herald April 22, 1896



BELENINADE

Bella Lewitzky a dancer, choreographer, educator, and arts activist was born at the Llano del Rio Colony in 1916. In 1951, she was anonymously accused of being a member of the Communist Party and was subpoenaed to appear before the House Un-American Activities Committee. An “uncooperative” witness, she was blacklisted and endured years of intimidation. As a staunch advocate for dance, art, and freedom, she refused to sign a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) anti-obscenity clause during the 1990s era of censorship. She successfully sued the NEA restoring her grant, and quite notably hired dancers in her company year-round at union scale with medical benefits demonstrating her dedication to artistic sustainability.

THINGS TO GET

1 Tbsp. of lemon juice
2 tsp. *sbiten* (or to taste)
Seltzer water
Lemon slices

*Sbiten*¹³

12 cups water
1 cup honey
1 cup blackberry jam
1/3 teaspoon ginger;
1/2 lemon;
1/2 teaspoon mint;
a little nutmeg, cinnamon,
and cloves (to taste).

WHAT TO DO

Make the *sbiten* by bringing the water to a boil in a large pot.

Add the honey and jam until dissolved then add all other ingredients.

Simmer for half an hour and let cool.

Once cool, make the Beleninade by combining the ingredients with ice, and seltzer.

Garnish with lemon slices.

Antelope Valley agriculture illustration from the Los Angeles Herald April 22, 1896



SWEET SETTLER

The grand Jury filed an indictment against H. P. Sweet and others, charging them with using the United States mails for conducting a land scheme with intent to defraud. "The 'Plat of the Farm, Field and Fireside Colony, Almondale and Llano, on the Rio del Llano, Los Angeles County, Cal,'" was offered for sale at \$15 per acre, with promise to deliver a deed of property conveying perfect title, and claiming that said land was in an irrigation district which owned enough water to irrigate all said land. The indictment claims that the defendants could not convey a perfect title, nor any title at all, and it further claims that there was not sufficient water, as pretended by representations in the circular."¹⁴

THINGS TO GET

1 pound peaches, plums, cherries or other assorted stone fruit
1 cup sugar
1 cup water
1 cup cider vinegar.
Seltzer water

WHAT TO DO

Combine the equal parts sugar and water in a medium saucepan over low heat to make a simple syrup. Stir until the sugar is completely dissolved.

Add your sliced fruit and bring to a low simmer. Simmer until the fruit begins to combine with the syrup. Stir in the vinegar and bring the mixture back to a simmer.

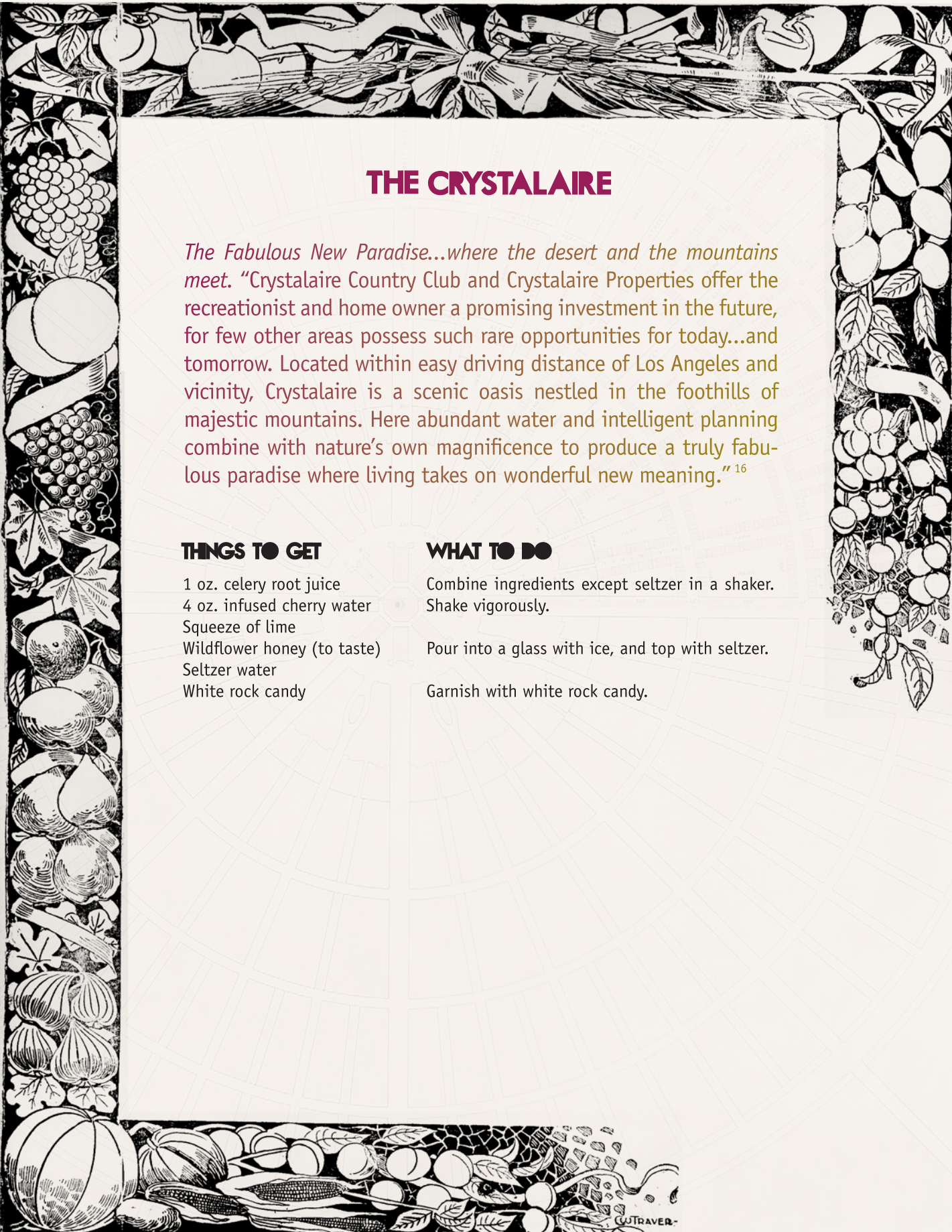
Strain and separate the fruit. Pour the liquid shrub into a jar, and store in the fridge. Yields about 3 cups of shrub syrup.¹⁵

Muddle some fresh peach in a shaker.

Add a splash of stone fruit shrub and shake with ice.

Strain into an ice-filled glass and top with seltzer.

Garnish with a fresh sage leaf.



THE CRYSTALAIRE

*The Fabulous New Paradise...where the desert and the mountains meet. "Crystalaire Country Club and Crystalaire Properties offer the recreationist and home owner a promising investment in the future, for few other areas possess such rare opportunities for today...and tomorrow. Located within easy driving distance of Los Angeles and vicinity, Crystalaire is a scenic oasis nestled in the foothills of majestic mountains. Here abundant water and intelligent planning combine with nature's own magnificence to produce a truly fabulous paradise where living takes on wonderful new meaning."*¹⁶

THINGS TO GET

- 1 oz. celery root juice
- 4 oz. infused cherry water
- Squeeze of lime
- Wildflower honey (to taste)
- Seltzer water
- White rock candy

WHAT TO DO

- Combine ingredients except seltzer in a shaker. Shake vigorously.

- Pour into a glass with ice, and top with seltzer.

- Garnish with white rock candy.

Antelope Valley agriculture illustration from the Los Angeles Herald April 22, 1896



DESERT RELIEF

Desert Relief, California was listed as a historical settlement on United States Geological Survey maps as of 1934. A Desert Relief service station and general merchandise store was run by Lydia and Fred Nixon, providing travelers a certain amount of reprieve as they purchased gas, goods or simply passed through Llano on a road trip.¹⁷

THINGS TO GET

1 cup carrot juice
1 cup apricot juice
Strawberry kombucha
(chilled)

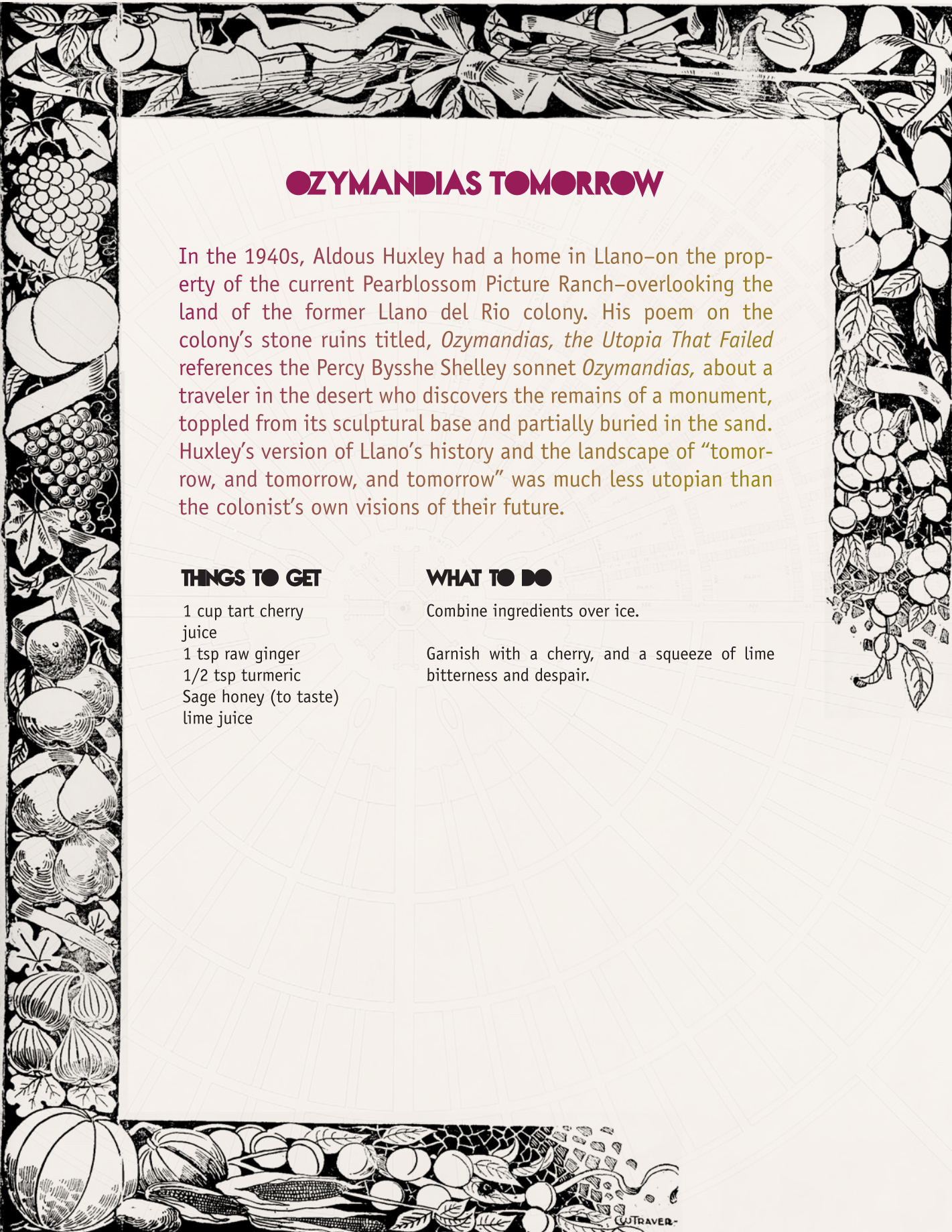
WHAT TO DO

Combine carrot and apricot juice in a shaker with ice.

Shake vigorously. Strain into a cocktail glass, and top with strawberry kombucha.

Garnish with a fresh strawberry.

Antelope Valley agriculture illustration from the Los Angeles Herald April 22, 1896

A detailed black and white illustration of various agricultural products, including grapes, pomegranates, lemons, and corn, arranged in a decorative border around the text.

OZYMANDIAS TOMORROW

In the 1940s, Aldous Huxley had a home in Llano—on the property of the current Pearblossom Picture Ranch—overlooking the land of the former Llano del Rio colony. His poem on the colony's stone ruins titled, *Ozymandias, the Utopia That Failed* references the Percy Bysshe Shelley sonnet *Ozymandias*, about a traveler in the desert who discovers the remains of a monument, toppled from its sculptural base and partially buried in the sand. Huxley's version of Llano's history and the landscape of "tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow" was much less utopian than the colonist's own visions of their future.

THINGS TO GET

1 cup tart cherry juice
1 tsp raw ginger
1/2 tsp turmeric
Sage honey (to taste)
lime juice

WHAT TO DO

Combine ingredients over ice.

Garnish with a cherry, and a squeeze of lime bitterness and despair.

Antelope Valley agriculture illustration from the Los Angeles Herald April 22, 1896

UTOPIA

"A strong demand is reported for farm lands in the fertile Antelope Valley, the proximity of that region to Los Angeles. Its fine water supply and the exceptional quality of its soil making small farms most profitable."¹⁸

Antelope Valley Is Denied L. A. Water

The public service commission has denied the petition of the Antelope Valley chamber of commerce to have Los Angeles aqueduct water placed upon thousands of acres of land in the Antelope valley. It was decided the policy of the city in refusing water supplies to sections not annexed or whose locations are not in line for annexation should not be changed.

Los Angeles Herald, Number 204, 27 June 1917

THINGS TO GET

1 cup fresh water

WHAT TO DO

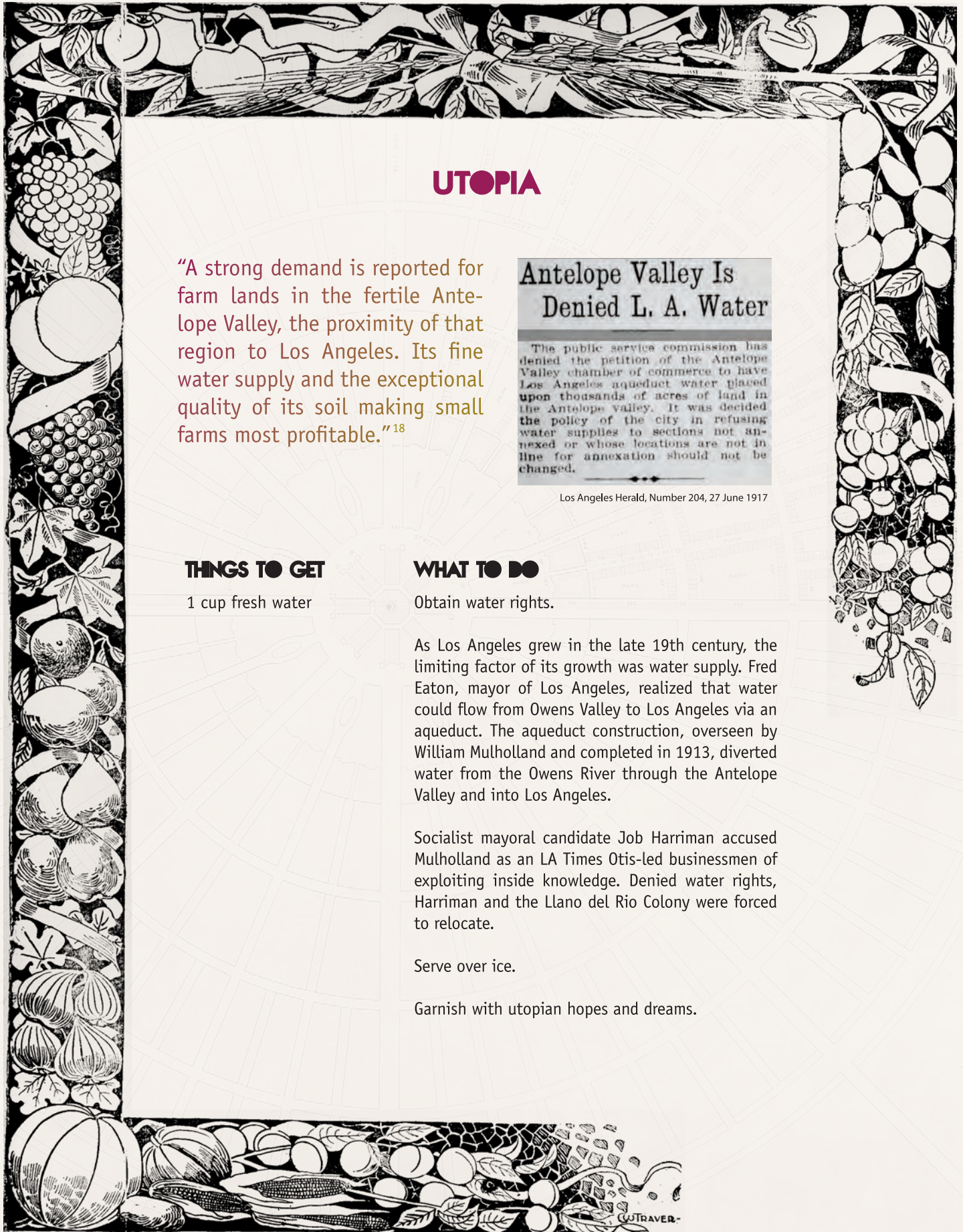
Obtain water rights.

As Los Angeles grew in the late 19th century, the limiting factor of its growth was water supply. Fred Eaton, mayor of Los Angeles, realized that water could flow from Owens Valley to Los Angeles via an aqueduct. The aqueduct construction, overseen by William Mulholland and completed in 1913, diverted water from the Owens River through the Antelope Valley and into Los Angeles.

Socialist mayoral candidate Job Harriman accused Mulholland as an LA Times Otis-led businessmen of exploiting inside knowledge. Denied water rights, Harriman and the Llano del Rio Colony were forced to relocate.

Serve over ice.

Garnish with utopian hopes and dreams.



Antelope Valley agriculture illustration from the Los Angeles Herald April 22, 1896

Wildflowers & Agriculture

SCENTOGRAPHY

Ethnobotany is the study of how people of a particular culture and region use native plants. Plants can provide food, medicine, shelter, dyes, fibers, oils, resins, gums, soaps, waxes, and can improve mood or evoke a memory.

The Vanyume ate acorns, agave, prickly pears, and Yucca blossoms. Plants such as datura, were also used in ceremonial or spiritual rituals.

Essential oils are produced in various parts of a plant including the flower, seeds, bark, root, leaves, resin, or wood and can be responsible for the distinctive odor of a plant.

Wildflowers & Agriculture

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WILDFLOWERS

WILDFLOWERS



Desert wildflower seed mixture created by the Theodore Payne Foundation:

Abronia villosa, (Sand Verbena)
Baileya multiradiata, (Desert Marigold)
Castilleja exserta, (Ornate Owl's Clover)
Eschscholzia californica, (California Poppy)
Lasthenia californica, (Goldfields)
Phacelia distans
Stipa hymenoides
Phacelia campanularia, (Desert Blue Bells)
Salvia columbariae, (Chia)
Sphaeralcea ambigua, (Desert Mallow)

When I first came to California, what impressed me perhaps more than anything else was the wonderful native flora. But as the years went by it was with deep regret that I saw the wild flowers so rapidly disappearing from the landscape. I made up my mind that I would try to do something to awaken a greater interest in native flora. Thus it was that I began to specialize in the growing of wild flowers and native plants. I collected seed of a few kinds of wild flowers, grew them and offered seed for sale.—Theodore Payne His Own Words: A Voice of California Native Plants, 2004

The annual spring wildflowers in the Los Angeles Mojave desert offer visitors and artists a creative opportunity to capture beautiful images of the native habitat. The High Desert landscape can display its hills and valleys blanketed in color, but is also host to rattlesnakes awakened from hibernation in the warm months of March and April.

Theodore Payne Wildlife Sanctuary
223rd Street East & Avenue U
Llano, CA 93544

The Theodore Payne Wildlife Sanctuary is named after Theodore Payne a Quaker, and botanist who migrated from England to California in 1893. His foundation promotes the understanding and preservation of California native flora by propagating plants for use by the general public through educational programs related to the horticulture, and botany of the flora, with the display of botanical art depicting an archive and display of native plants.

The 320 acre sanctuary in Llano was dedicated in January of 1961, and supports Joshua trees, creosote bush scrub, and is home to the ladder-backed woodpecker. It also provides hiking opportunities and is a natural

backdrop for photographers, painters and artists to depict California's native flora.

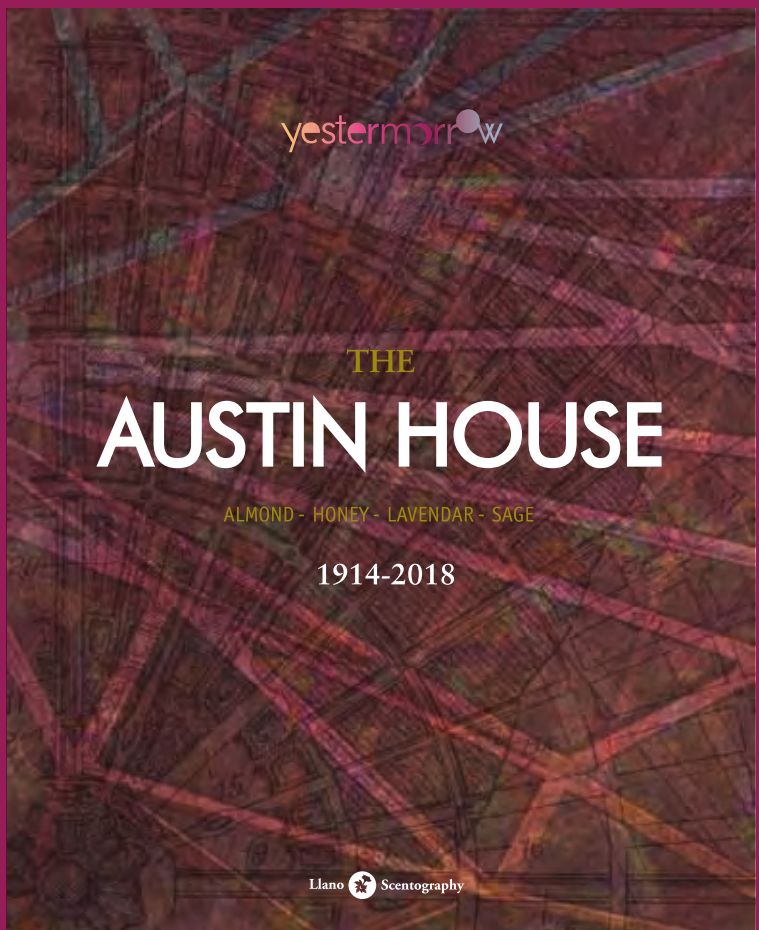
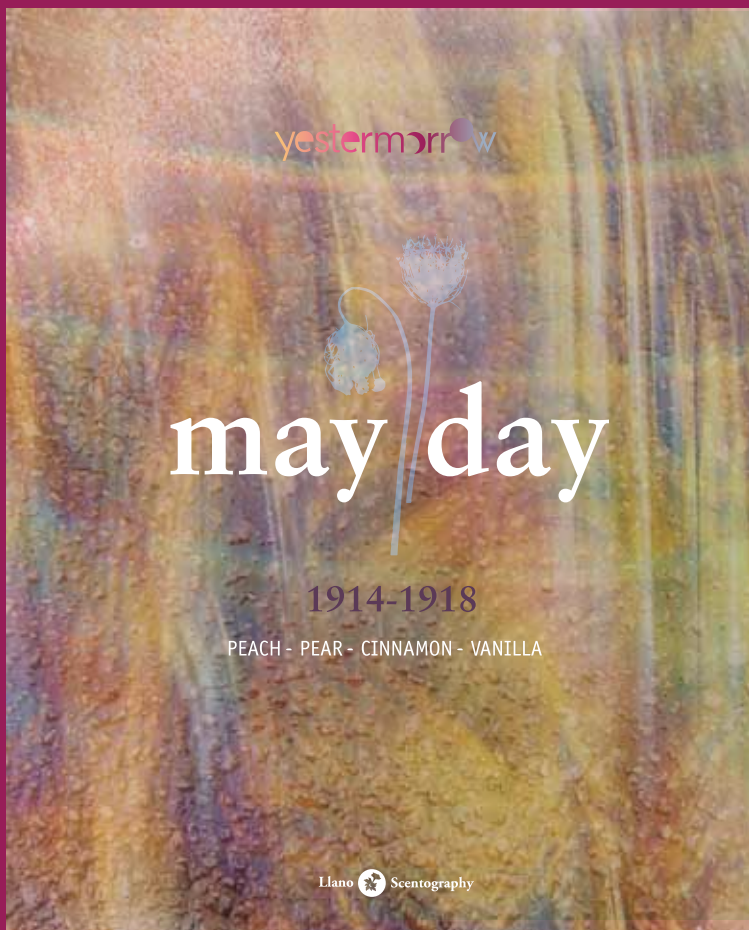
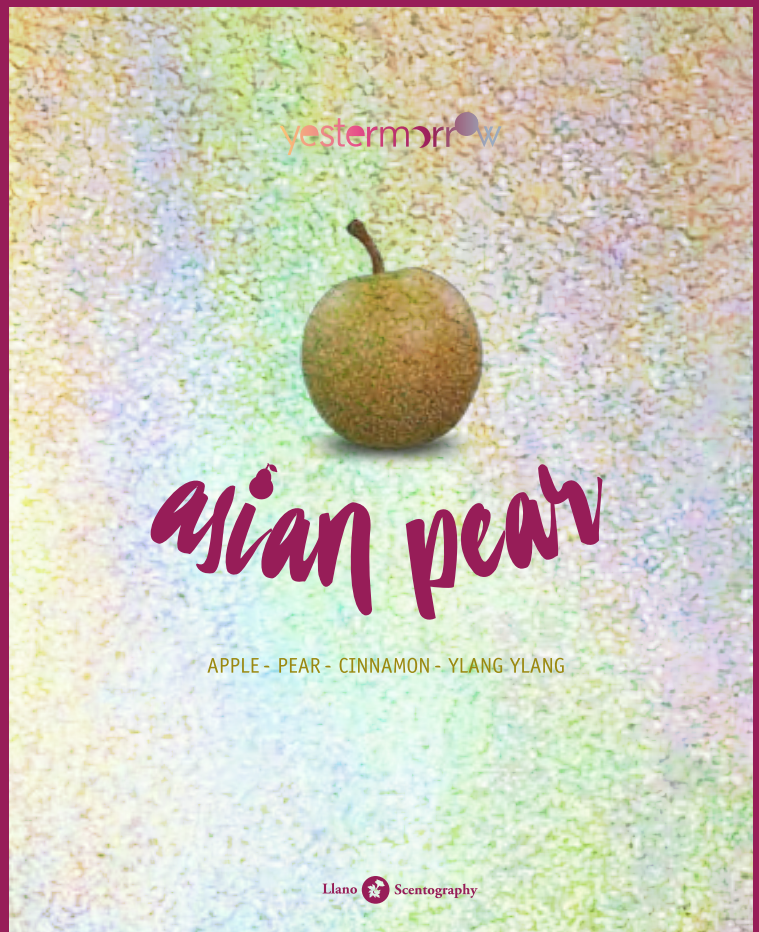
Mescal Wildlife Sanctuary
223 Street and Hwy 138
Llano, CA 93544

Mescal Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains featuring a unique diversity of plants and wildlife. As a unique combination of Joshua Tree Woodland and Juniper Woodland, the sanctuary is home to a large Silver Cholla cactus which when backlit by the sun captures the light with a deceptively angelic glow.

Blalock Wildlife Sanctuary
14101 Valyermo Road, East Avenue W
Pearblossom, CA 93553

Blalock Wildlife Sanctuary is named after Lorena and Richard Blalock, who donated 140 acres to Los Angeles County to preserve the open space and rural atmosphere of the foothill communities. The Blalock sanctuary contains some of the most diverse plant and natural wildlife in the Antelope Valley.

Information courtesy of the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation.



the brush gang 1914 / 2018

LILY - JUNIPER - SAGE

After the Llano del Rio colony's initial success, factions and divisions began to appear including the internal creation of the Brush Gang, a consortium of members who met by moonlight in the surrounding brush of juniper, sage, and Joshua trees to discuss opposition and perceived unfairness in collective activities.¹⁹

The discontent and other circumstances of lawsuits, water rights, and land struggles ultimately resulted in the relocation of the colony from California to a new site in Louisiana called New Llano where the colony remained until 1937, leaving the ruins and remains of Llano's vision hidden in brush of the California desert.

Smell Llano by making your own perfume! Start with the basic perfume recipe that follows, then combine lily, juniper and sage notes to experience the Brush Gang.

Llano  Scentography



APPLE - PEAR - CINNAMON - YLANG YLANG

Orchards of pears were successfully planted as an agricultural product in and around Llano which also inspired the naming of its central road—Pearblossom Highway.

Historically, as water rights and farming costs shifted, the Bartlett pear and other varieties were replaced by the Asian pear as it is a hardier plant capable of weathering desert fluctuations in temperature and humidity, while fetching a higher price in the marketplace making it more economical.

Smell Llano by making your own perfume! Start with the basic perfume recipe that follows, then combine apple, pear, cinnamon, and ylang ylang notes to experience the Asian Pear.

Llano  Scentography



1914-1918

PEACH - PEAR - CINNAMON - VANILLA

The Llano del Rio Colony was founded on May 1, 1914. Coinciding with May Day and International Workers' Day, the Socialist colony celebrated each anniversary with an annual spring festival that included a parade, may pole, musical and theatrical performances.

The collective activities brought colonists together in revelry and community gatherings while acknowledging the plight of laborers and working classes after the Chicago Haymarket Affair in 1886.²⁰

Smell Llano by making your own perfume! Start with the basic perfume recipe that follows, then combine peach, pear, cinnamon, and vanilla notes to experience May Day.

Llano  Scentography

THE AUSTIN HOUSE 1914-2018

ALMOND - HONEY - LAVENDAR - SAGE

Alice Constance Austin's plans for Llano included a redesign of the domestic interior of the home, and its ecological and social connection to a communal city. Known as the Austin Housing Project, she would eventually emphasize the adaptability of the plans to function at numerous different sites, climates, and economic systems.

After it became apparent that Llano lacked the capital to build the project, Austin and colonist Walter Millsap "began to collect a mailing list of interested people and for a time we thought Henry Huntington was going to supply a desirable tract of land and work with us. He was busy at the time planning the Huntington Library and lost interest in the project. The fact was that he was talked out of it by some conservative associates."²¹

Smell Llano by making your own perfume! Start with the basic perfume recipe, then combine almond, honey, lavender, and sage notes to experience the Austin House.

Llano  Scentography

BASIC PERFUME RECIPE

Smell Llano by making your own perfume! Scents have the ability to evoke emotions, influence moods, and flood our brain with memories of a distinct event or location that we associate with a certain fragrance. Using Llano's ecology and agriculture, the geography of Llano becomes its scentography through the creation of perfume recipes and aromatherapy to experience place through your sense of smell.



The Brush Gang, The Austin House, May Day, and The Asian Pear

THINGS TO GET

- 2 tbsp fractionated coconut oil
- 6 tbsp 100- to 190-proof alcohol
- 2.5 tbsp distilled water
- 30 drops of essential oils (at least 1 of each: base, middle, and top notes)
- Coffee filter
- Funnel
- Clean colored glass containers

WHAT TO DO

Pour 2 tbsp of fractionated coconut oil into a glass bottle. Add your essential oils of approximately 30 drops in total, starting with the base notes, then middle notes, and finally top notes. An ideal ratio is 20% base, 50% middle, and 30% top.

Add the alcohol. Shut the lid and allow the perfume to cure for at least 48 hours. You can leave it for up to 6 weeks, which is when the scent will be at its strongest.

Once you're happy with the scent, add 2 tbsp distilled water to your perfume. Shake the bottle vigorously for 1 minute to ensure that the contents are well blended.

Using a funnel and coffee filter to remove any kind of sediment, pour your perfume into a clean, colored glass bottle and label it with the name and date.²²

EXCERPT

Adapted from "How to Make Perfume" wikiHow: to do Anything, Accessed June 1, 2017, <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Perfume>

Curiouser, curiouser

ALICE

Alice Constance Austin the early feminist architect of the Llano del Rio colony, articulated an artistic vision and design of life in a feminist, socialist city in her 1935 book, *The Next Step: How to Plan for Beauty, Comfort, and Peace with Great Savings Effected by the Reduction of Waste.*

Lewis Carroll's character Alice is always becoming with movements that are shifts, non-static and time defying and confusing. As a model or map, she traverses depths, connections, flows and levels—both up and out without separation—even moving backwards, never assigned a side of the looking glass.

Heterotopia. Llano-Llano.

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Heterotopia. Llano-Llano.

Fig. 5

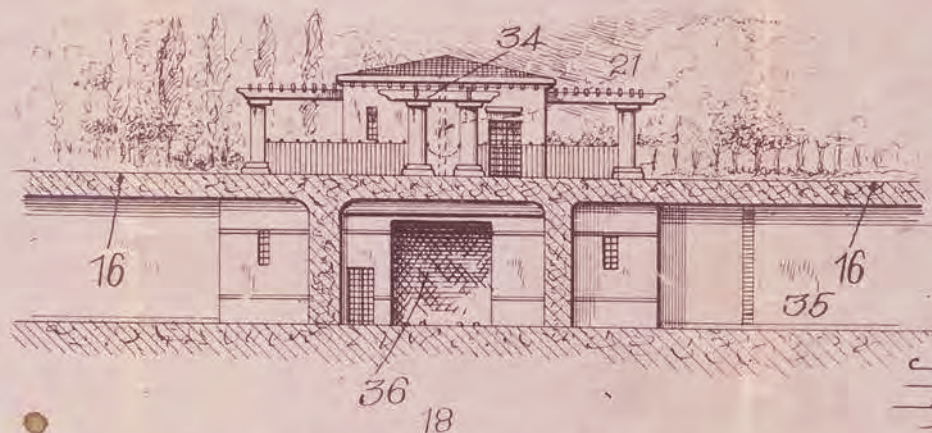
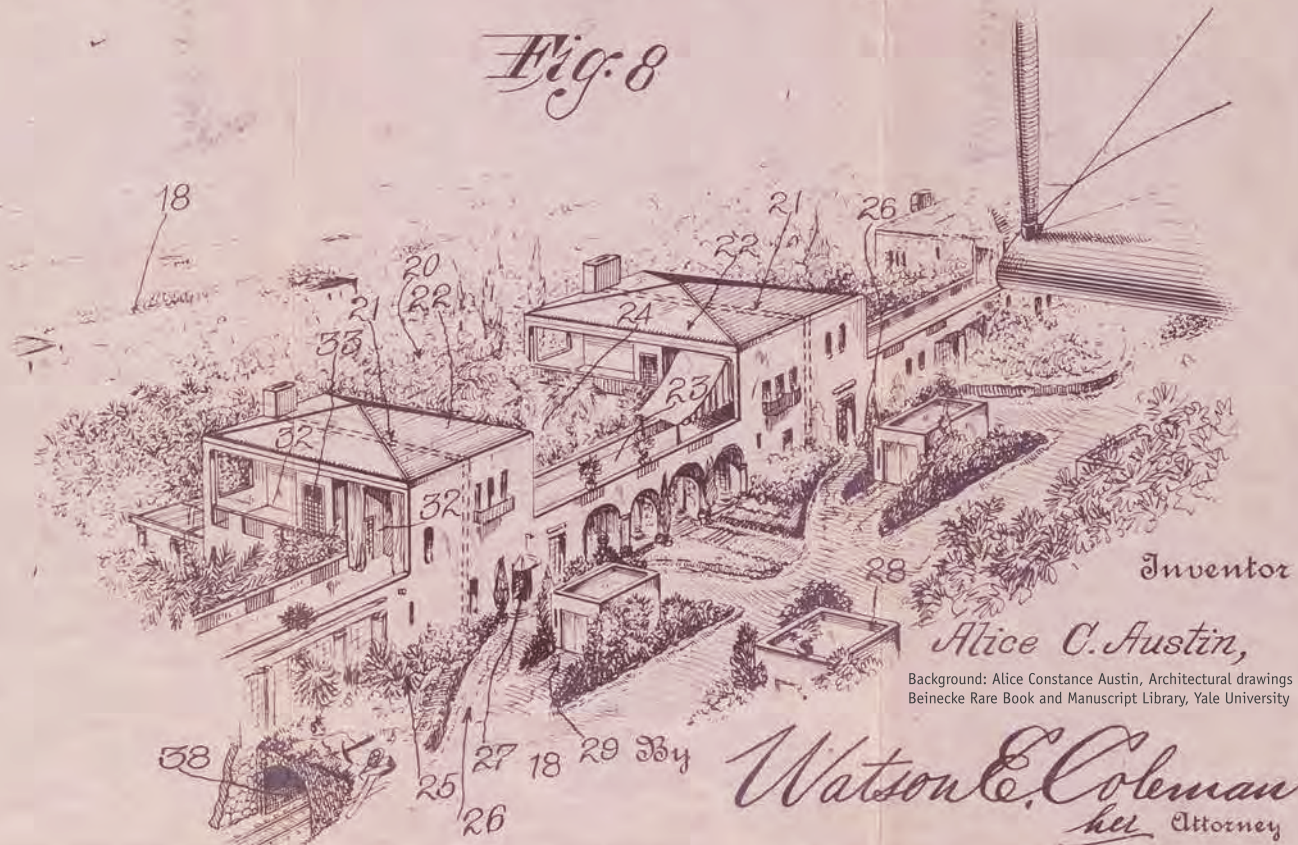


Fig. 4



ALICE

Fig. 8



Inventor

Alice C. Austin,

Background: Alice Constance Austin, Architectural drawings
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

Watson E. Coleman
her Attorney

ALICE CONSTANCE AUSTIN

*We never tell the story whole because a life isn't a story; it's a whole Milky Way of events and we are forever picking out constellations from it to fit who and where we are. —Rebecca Solnit, *The Faraway Nearby*, 2013*



Mary Fox, *Alice Constance Austin*, Plaque, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

The 19th century saw feminists such as Harriet Beecher Stowe, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and Llano's city planner and architect Alice Constance Austin proposing innovative and ambitious ideas that would socialize women's labor and transform the spatial design and material culture of American homes, neighborhoods and cities. These early feminists imagined multifunctional and multidisciplinary solutions that would alter the political, social, conceptual, and architectural ideas of cities, technology, homes, economics, and sustainability.

SPECULATIVE DESIGN

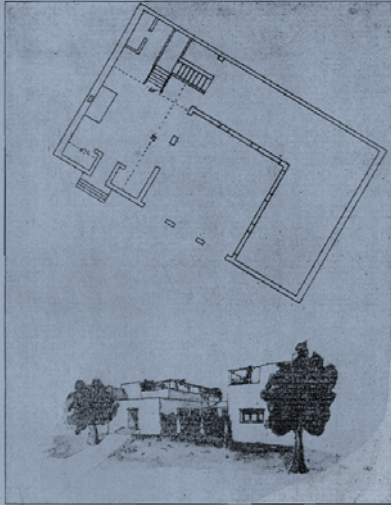
Alice Constance Austin's designs for Llano del Rio envisioned an alternative city layout that would streamline the domestic tasks of women, create an ecological garden city, and reduce waste through communal living and collaborative designs. The Austin House architecture and its cooperative city space critiqued the design, layout, and social aspects of the domestic interior to reorganize gendered work, and invented emergent systems of value for ecologies, logistics, governance, and living.

Her designs included the practical infrastructure and technology for designs which have still not been realized—a centennial later. "Austin has been viewed as a minor figure in American communitarian history, a marginal participant whose theoretical contribution has been largely forgotten. Yet because [Austin] advocated housing designed to reorganize 'women's' work, [she] represents a level of innovation which has still not been achieved in American residential construction today."²³



Alice Constance Austin and her Austin House model of the Llano del Rio colony Western Comrade

KITCHENLESS KITCHENS



Alice Constance Austin, Floor Plan and Schematic
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

THE SOCIALIST CITY

Devices for minimizing the labor of housekeeping are an important part of the general conception of the Socialist city. The frightfully wasteful process by which women throw away their time and strength and money in a continuous struggle to deal with a ridiculously haphazard equipment in the ordinary home is one of the great and useless extravagances of the present system.

In our model city modern schools, with their athletics and supervised playgrounds, will relieve the mother of all duties except the purely maternal ones of loving counsel, comfort and never-failing refuge in the stress of human failings and disasters. The central kitchens will remove the hatefully monotonous drudgery of cooking three meals a day, three hundred and sixty-five days in the year, and washing the dishes. A few improvements, such as stationary tubs, are in general use in the better class of homes in many progressive communities.

Electricity will contribute its thousand conveniences — lighting, heating, power for vacuum-cleaning and sewing machines, egg-beaters, irons and who knows what devices the morrow may bring forth in this age of miracles. "Built-in" furniture solves the problem of unnecessary labor. Beds that can be swung this way or that with a touch, and bookcases and sideboards that are part of the wall finish, all mean economy of strength and time and the achieving of real sanitary conditions. In the good old times the more difficult details of cleaning were often deferred by a desperately overworked housewife to a semi-annual cyclonic disruption of the home.

The window curtain is another household scourge. Good housekeepers — poor martyrs! — keep up a perpetual round of washing and stretching and pressing, under which the delicate fabrics quickly succumb and have to be expensively replaced.

In the Socialist City the home will no longer be a Procrustian bed to which each feminine personality must be made to conform by whatever maiming or fatal spiritual or intellectual oppression, but a peaceful and beautiful environment in which she will have leisure to pursue her duties as wife and mother, which are now usually neglected in the overwhelming press of cooking and cleaning. She will also have time in the intervals of her rightful occupations, or when they are unfortunately denied her, for the activities which are personal expressions, her individual contribution to the welfare of the community.

EXCERPT

Alice Constance Austin, "Building a Socialist City," *The Western Comrade* 4, no. 6 (October 1916):17.

LOOKING GLASS SENSORIUM



Alice Constance Austin, Architectural model of Llano del Rio
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

SPECULATIVE FUTURES

Art-based research emphasizes the role of the imaginative intellect in creating, criticizing, and constructing knowledge. In considering alternative future and scenarios of places such as Llano, Alice figures as a juxtaposition, connection, and context of the backwards historical planes, and future engagements which can inform our technological, ecological, social, political, and economic experiences.

AND TOMORROW ALICE

...what if:

- 👁️ Kitchens were kitchenless?
- 👁️ Llano was a Garden City?
- 👁️ Predator drones were huggable?
- 👁️ Utopia existed in Llano?
- 👁️ Education and ecology were our organs?
- 👁️ Plants were institutions?
- 👁️ Our cities were sense hybrids?

AND yestermorrow ALICE

...where do infinite futures bloom?

Can you
Imagine...

An art gallery enclosing

- 👁️ a museum, enclosing
- 👁️ a library, enclosing
- 👁️ a university, enclosing
- 👁️ a theater.²⁴

Llano, California can be seen as an evolving network or model which traverses depths, defined by connections and flows of a surface of numerous levels and directions which aren't static in time and can stop and move backwards or forwards in the memories and experiences of people and land.

Artistic and cultural spaces like Llano function in relation to all spaces that exist outside of them. They map a heterotopic space that is unlike any other space that acts as microcosms reflecting larger patterns, networks, or social orders.

This guide explored several of the values and innovations from the overlooked places and narratives of the Antelope Valley, to serve as a looking glass reflection for us and Los Angeles—to encourage us to constantly become our yestermorrows.

By early 1918, the Llano del Rio Cooperative Colony had moved from California to a defunct lumber mill in Vernon Parish, Louisiana to form the New Llano Cooperative. The colony continued to thrive at its new location until it was forced to declare bankruptcy in 1937. In spite of its twenty-seven years of success, the Llano colony was written off as a failure like many other utopian communities. In the experimental spirit that drove the colonists to create New Llano, this game of utopography seeks to again build new worlds for old.

Utopography was coined by H. G. Wells in 1906 to describe that the central activity of sociology ought to be “the projection and criticism of ideal societies.” The Llano colony story can be viewed as both a visualization, and critique of our world. With this game, utopography is about the recreation of social dreams, the interactions of space and temporal narratives, and the actual processes of working within and through the environment of the present – for example, exploring the architecture, city planning, and social renewal of Llano’s past, present, and future.

Let’s Play

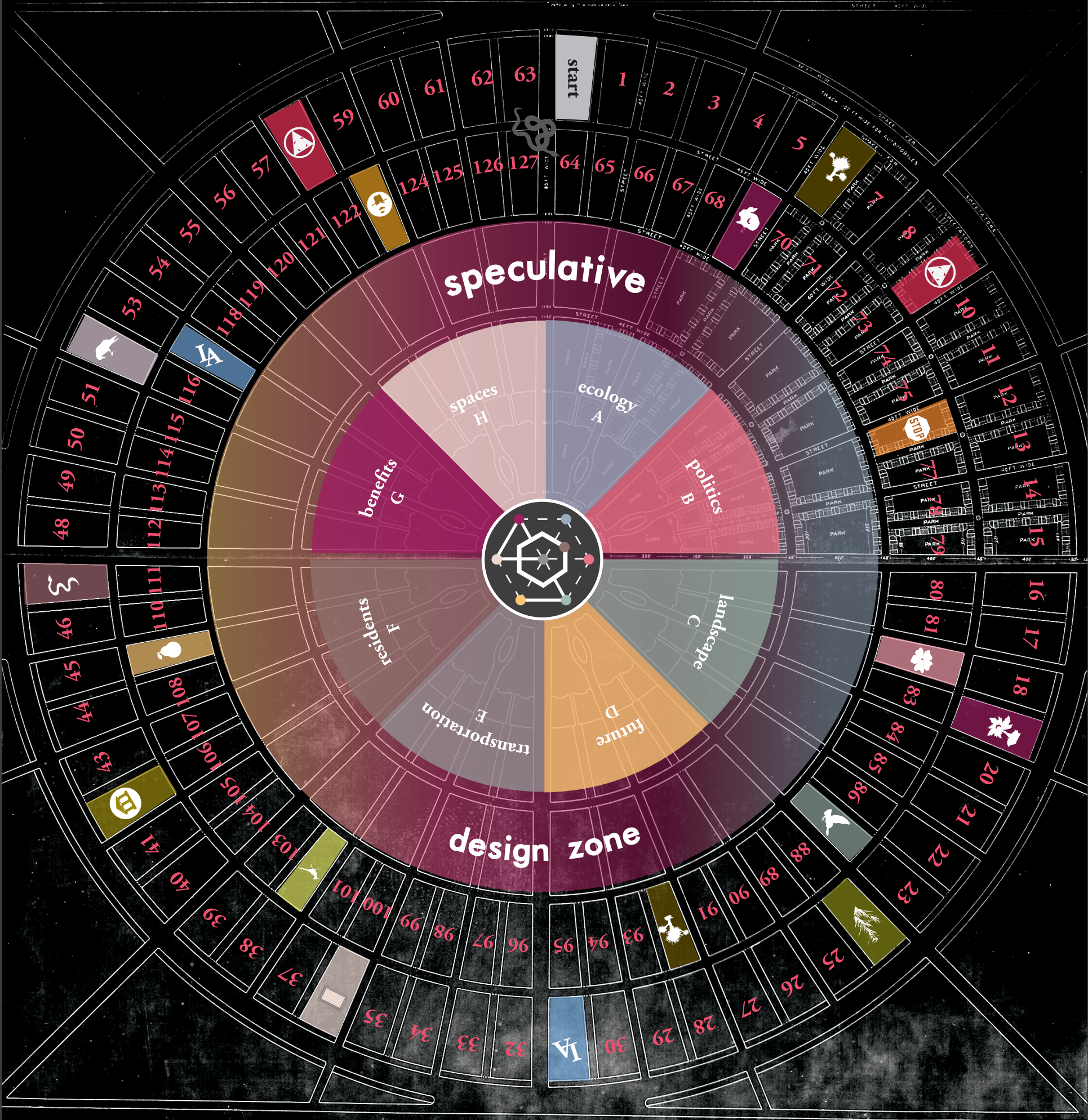
Number of players: Two or more
Equipment: Gameboard, 2 dice, Playing piece, Drawing or collage paper, art supplies.

To start: Each player chooses a distinct object or color of playing piece to represent them, and places it on the start field. Each player then rolls the two dice, and the highest roll determines who will play first. Turns move clockwise following the numbered fields.

Some fields have special hazards or benefits for players who land on them. On each turn, a player rolls the two dice and advances their playing piece along the circle by as many fields as the sum of the two dice. The player must deal with any situation on the space of which they land. The special fields are described on the other side of the board.

The Speculative Design Zone:

Once you’ve entered the zone, each player progresses one field each turn by rolling a single dice to reveal what conditions your new Llano utopia will contain. Write down the description from the list on the right which corresponds to the number you roll. After completing your trip through the zone, draw or collage your speculative New Llano design.



The Special Fields:

- Cooperation! You formed a collective, so take the next step and roll again.
- Internal dissension from the Brush Gang means you cannot square the circle. Go back to the beginning and start over.
- The pesky snake ate your egg. Move back 6.
- Congratulations! You outsmarted the snake. Move forward 5 steps.
- That’s a raven not a crow. Lose 1 turn.
- You’re listening to *Ice Cream for Crow* by Captain Beefheart! Get creative and move to the design zone.
- Congratulations! You built an Austin House. Take another turn.
- Los Angeles denied your water rights. Lose two turns.
- Dear Comrade, you bought stock! Welcome to the colony. Swap positions with another player if you would like.
- You’ve arrived at the hotel. Its food and drink makes you sleepy, and you lose 1 turn.
- You built a Montessori school! Run ahead 10 steps.
- It’s May Day! Take a dance around the maypole for labor rights, and move ahead 3.
- You harvested alfalfa! Make some alfalfa beer and move forward 4.
- Your historical landmark was stolen, Go back 12.
- You were photographed by David Hockney! Celebrate the Getty Museum’s acquisition of *Pearblossom Hwy., 11 - 18th April 1986, #2* and take another turn.
- You planted an orchard! Enjoy your home grown pie while you cruise down the road 5 steps.

The Speculative Design Zone:

- A-Ecology:** 1-Low light, 2-Infestation, 3-Garden city, 4-Low humidity 5-High temperature 6-Intense winds
- B-Politics:** 1-Democracy, 2-Socialism, 3-Monarchy, 4-Dictatorship, 5-Agrarian, 6-Anarchy
- C-Landscape:** 1-Desert, 2-Forest, 3-Cliff dwelling, 4-Island, 5-Underwater, 6-Outer-space
- D-Future:** 1-Forgotten, 2-Myth or legend, 3-Utopia, 4-Dystopia, 5-Buried, 6-Pillaged
- E-Transportation:** 1-Walk, 2-Bike, 3-Train, 4-Car, 5-Underground tunnel, 6-Teleportation
- F-Residents:** 1-Doctor, 2-Artist, 3-Farmer, 4-Baker, 5-Teacher 6-Scientist
- G-Benefits:** 1-Equal rights, 2-Labor laws, 3-Universal healthcare, 4-Free education 5-Low minimum wage 6-No pension
- H-Spaces:** 1-Theater, 2-Library, 3-Communal kitchen, 5-Museum, 5-Aquarium, 6-Park



NOTES

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"our children today are all quasars, galaxies, black holes, laser discs, and rocket-submarines built to submerge and swim in Jupiter's soups. The architecture of the future is the substance of their dreams, fed by some of the best-wishing artists, authors and architects"—Ray Bradbury, *Yestermorrow: Obvious Answers to Impossible Futures*, 1993



yestermorrow

where infinite futures bloom...