

Bottle Village

You haven't seen Simi til...

Residents, new and old alike of the Simi Valley-Moorpark area haven't completed their get-acquainted tour of the area until they visit Grandma Prisbrey's Bottle Village at 4945 Cochran St.

Although the walkways and little bottle houses are easily visible from the street, the passer-by doesn't get a real feel for the small community unless he steps out and takes one of "Grandma's" tours.

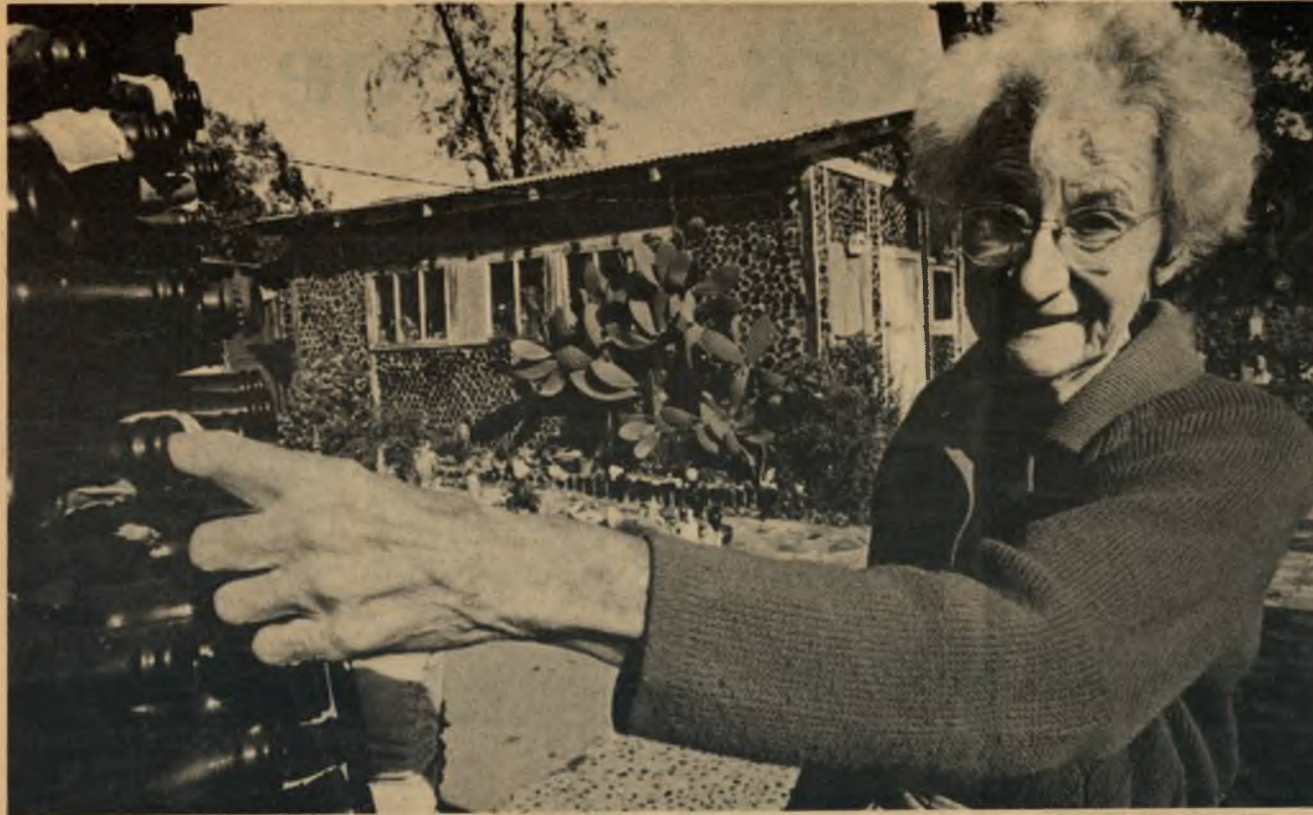
Headlights and empty milk of magnesia bottles are cemented together into walls forming wishing wells and waterfalls and Grandma would almost dare any visitor to try to guess how many bottles and mirrors she gathered

from the dumps to create her work of art.

There are collections of dolls and pencils, also collected from dumping grounds and given to Grandma by former visitors.

The proprietor and chief tour guide, Mrs. Tressa "Grandma" Prisbrey, has lived on the property in a little trailer for nearly 20 years. In that time she has slowly built her 13-building community which has received recognition from the Women's Building in Los Angeles, honored by radio station KMPC and been written up in several art and art-related magazines.

The Automobile Club of Southern California also includes the village on its list of sights to see in the Southern California area.



BOTTLED BY GRANDMA: Mrs. Tressa "Grandma" Prisbrey is the 80-year-old creator and caretaker of Grandma's Bottle Village on Cochran Street, just east of Tapo Street. Grandma began putting the village of bottle houses, mosaic sidewalks, wishing wells and leaning towers together two decades ago and hasn't

stopped yet. The village, proclaimed as an outstanding example of American folk art and written up in several international magazines, is also on the Automobile Club of Southern California's list of places to see. For more about it, see related story, this page. (Enterprise photo by John Jenkins)