

- 1896 February 1: Thresie Luella Schafer born in Lura, Minnesota.
(celebrated birthday on January 19)
- 1908 Family moved to a homestead in Tagus, North Dakota.
- 1912 Married Theodore Grinolds (1859-1931) in Easton, N.D. — children born (All in Tagus, N.D.)
- 1913 March 12: Earl Elton Grinolds (1913-1969), son.
- 1914 November 19: Raymond Elton Grinolds (1914-1967), son.
- 1916 September 20: Frank Monroe Grinolds (1916-1969), son.
- 1918 September 10: Velma "Sis" Kathryn Grinolds (Breen) (1918-1954), daughter.
- 1920 May 10: Othea "Babe" May Grinolds (Eiter, Krieger) (1920-), daughter.
- 1925 February 16: Florence "Mickey" Isabelle Grinolds (Madison) (1925-1964), daughter.
- 1926 November 4: Hubert "Gene" Eugene Grinolds (1926-1974), son.
- 1929 Sister Hattie Schafer (Hanson) (1888-1986) moves to CA.
- c. early 1930's Leaves Theodore Grinolds with the seven children and moves to Minot, North Dakota.
- 1935 Actively involved in politics (Nature of involvement unknown).
Pencil collection begins during this time upon receiving pencils commemorating North Dakota Governors
Langor and Maddock.
- late 1930's Moves to Seattle, Washington.
- 1942 Works for Boeing Corporation in Seattle Washington as a parts assembler.
- 1946 Prisbrey and youngest daughter Mickie decide to "hit the road", leaving Washington to Santa
Susanna (later Simi Valley), CA; Sister Hattie lived there since 1930.
February 26: Acquires deed to Alamo Street property in Santa Susanna (Simi Valley) where she
builds a cement block house. Sells house to pay for bills related to her stomach ulcer surgery. Works at
Sunkist packing house where Hattie is employed for the following 24 years. Son Frank had lived in Simi
Valley since 1947, until at least 1959. Mickey (Florence) visited/ moved with Tressa and leaves area
"several months" later (In 1959 Mickey is in Seattle, Washington).
- 1947 November 30: Marries Albert Prisbrey in Yuma, Arizona. Yuma was 50 miles from her daughter
Othea's home in Calexico, CA, and it's likely that this marriage was in conjunction with a visit to her
daughter's. Arizona does not have many pre-marital requirements, making a marriage a simpler process.
Her new husband Al had helped her complete her Simi Valley cement block house.
- 1954 Death of oldest daughter, Velma "Sis"
- 1955 March 16: Tressa and Al purchase lot at 4595 Cochran St. with money left after paying for
stomach surgery bills. Lot is 1/3 acre located in the Kadota Fig Farm area. They live in small wood trailer
on property. Tressa babysits grandchildren. (Conformed 2 of Frank's 5 children- Tim & Gary).
- Bottle village begins this same year with Prisbreys need for a space to keep her pencil collection and her
desire to keep the dust and stench of the turkey farm next door away from her. Because of economic
concerns Prisbrey uses bottles placed in mortar to construct a small shed for her pencil collection, and
using the same method she makes a wall on the properties west side. Prisbrey has also stated her reason
for building Bottle Village was "to make her land pay". The structures at Bottle Village were made over the
following years:

1955: west side bottle wall, First Pencil House, Shot House (Bottle House),
 Trailer Enclosure, the Pond, Rumpus Room.
 1956: the Little Hut (Cabana),
 1957: Secret Storage, Cleopatre's Bedroom (Old Room); north side property wall,
 Round House, Shell House.
 1958: Dolls House (Parade of Dolls, Home for the Little Mothers)
 1959: (circa): Second Pencil House (Card House), School House
 1960: Waterfall, Third Pencil House
 -- Chapel and Meditation Room are constructed by 1960.
 1962: Viewing Room
 1965: Easter Basket

1959 February 5: Outdoor Advertising Display permit issued to Bottle Village for Prisbrey to post Bottle Village related signage. Suggests that Bottle Village was well on its way to becoming a roadside attraction. Had two sons Gene and Frank in area. Gene lived in Moorpark with three children, Nancy, Peggy, and Candice (live in Washington as of 1989). Son Frank lived in Simi Valley with wife Edna and had five children: Tim, Gary, Greg, Frankie, Shellie.

1964 Death of daughter Florence (Mickey) Isabelle Madison (b. 1925) 39 years

1967 Death of son Raymond Elton Grinolds (b.1914) 53 years.

1968 February 9: Death of Husband Albert (Al) Prisbrey (b.1905). 62, dies after driving his car off the Santa Susanna Pass- an elevated and twisting rural road. .

1969 September 6: Son Frank Monroe Grinolds (b.1916).dies at Bottle Village, 53 years old.
 November 13: Death of son Earl Elton Grinolds (b.1913) 56 years.

1971 September 22: Tressa Prisbrey lists Bottle Village with Gribin-Von Dyl Realtors... asking price \$24, 950, down payment, \$10,000. The purpose of selling Bottle Village is so that she may go to Grants Pass, Oregon to take care of dying son Gene Grinolds.

1972 February: Cancels listing.

June 19: Lists property with Carlson- LaCarre Realty... asking price \$11,500. Down payment \$1,500. Listing info, "This is the Bottle Village that everyone saw on Ralph Story's Program... priced to sell! Owner must leave area.

July 1: Sold to Morton H. Pastor, purchase price \$11,600. "Property known as Bottle Village to include any and all artifacts except personal property, all structures and their contents to be included. Subject to approval by City of Simi valley to retain original unique characteristics in present condition. Caretaker to be allowed to reside in existing trailer."

July 14: Escrow papers filed... " All existing contents and artifacts now on subject property are to be included in this transaction, excepting seller will take all of pencil collection, approximately 20 dolls and approximately 25 bottles."

c.late 1972: Grandma leaves Bottle Village for Portland to care for ailing son Gene. Grandson Gary Grinolds lives at Bottle Village at least part of the time Grandma is gone.

1974 Son Hubert (Gene) Grinolds (b.1926) dies of cancer, 48 years.

Grandma returns to Bottle Village to live as caretaker. Resumes giving tours and begins to obtain serious artistic notoriety in largr part due to Seymour Rosen.

1973-1981 Grandma's work featured in major exhibitions, two of which traveled to Europe.
 1973: "Garbage is Beautiful" USIA-- Seymour Rosen, Curator.
 1973: 20th Century Folk Art; Hemphill Collection (In house slide show and lecture by Seymour Rosen)

- 1974-1976: "Naives and Visionaries", sponsored by the NEA and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis
- 1976 Bottle Village on exhibit at Woman's Building, Los Angeles which includes photographs and an on-site installation.
- 1976 "In Celebration of Ourselves", sponsored by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, features a variety of self taught and outsider artists. Curated by Seymour Rosen.
- 1979-1981: "America Now: A Look at the Arts in the '70s" sponsored by the International Communication Agency, travels to Yugoslavia, Hungary and Romania. Co-Curated by Seymour Rosen.
- 1975 She is befriended by then still in high school, Jeff Wack. Wack becomes her "manager", in Prisbrey's words.
- 1978 Wack and Seymour Rosen become instrumental in promoting her work, obtaining landmark status, and later forming a support group.
- Through a California Arts Council Grant to the Preservation Organization SPACES, a preservation assesmant was made of the Village by Don and Sharon Howlett, restorers of the Fred Smith environment in Phillips, Wisconsin.
- 1979 Preserve Bottle Village Committee, a 501(c)3 Organization, is formed. The original Board consists of: Jeff Wack, Ginger Gherardi, Murray Harris, Mike Sedell.....
- Bottle Village becomes Ventura County Cultural Landmark #52
- 1980 Jeff Wack writes a successful \$4,300 NEA grant to fund the building of the "Bottle Wall" at the Simi Valley library. NO NO
- 1981(?) Property is sold from Sky Tynsky to Ollie Phillips, who evicts Prisbrey off the property with plans to demolish the site and recycle the bottles. Bottle Village becomes State of California Cultural Landmark #939, one of nine folk art environments on this thematic nomination written by Seymour Rosen SPACES.
- 1982 Release of Visions of Paradise, "Grandma Prisbrey's Bottle Village" by Irving Light and Allie Saraf. This film would win a Red Ribbon Award at the International Film Festival. Next year, Light and Saraf would win an Oscar for best documentary film.
- Property owner Ollie Phillips dies while cleaning his gun.
- August: Jim Wilson, Editor-in-Chief of Glass Magazine, begins negotiations on the purchase of Bottle Village. December: Publication development Inc., an Oregon based corporation headed by Jim Wilson, purchased Bottle Village for \$64,625. The banking terms included a \$36,500 final payment, due November of 1984. If loan default occurred, property was to be reverted back to Phillips Enterprises Inc.
- Even though Wilson was sympathtic to Prisbrey's return, Prisbrey has left the property for good, residing in San Francisco. Her health had been failing from the Ollie Phillips ordeal, and as the result of having a stroke. Over the next nine years, Bottle Village would be occupied by a rotating door of people living in the trailer and overseing the property.
- 1983 PBVC Director David Kaplan writes to the International Olympic Committee proposing that Bottle Village be a selected destination within the Los Angeles Olympics tour guide. The IOC approves, but the City of Simi Valley does not. The City of Simi Valley would write PBVC a letter stating that Bottle Village cannot be in the Los Angeles Olympics tour guide because it is unsafe, and there fore should be closed. The City would later use this year as the official year that Bottle Village was no longer open to the public.
- 1984 January: Wilson's corporation had a poor year in 1983. Preserve Bottle Village Committee was asked to take over the loan, which was not financially feasible. Payments ceased to be made at this point. August: Preserve Bottle Village finds out for first time that nine payments not been made. Loan about to go into foreclosure.
- 1986 January 13: death. Hattie Hanson (b.1888) 97 years.
- July: Bank of A. Levy gift deeds Bottle Village to the Preserve Bottle Village Committee
- October: California State Assembly Certificate of Recognition for Grandma Prisbrey.

1987 Helen Dennert becomes President of the Preserve Bottle Village Committee. For the next four years the survival of Bottle Village is a two woman operation with Dennert and Joanne Johnson shouldering the large majority of responsibility. Both would eventually resign due to health concerns.

1988 October 5: Death of Tressa "Grandma" Prisbrey, age 92, at nursing home outside San Francisco. A reporter who spoke with her the day before stated to PBVC that she had said, "I'm going home to my Bottle Village." Prisbrey is buried at Oakwood Memorial Park in Chatsworth, CA.

1991 Caretaker and PBVC President Janice Wilson moves on-site and has continued residency.

1992 "Raw Vision: The International Journal of Intuitive and Visionary Art" debuts and Bottle Village is mentioned in the first issue.

1994 January 17: The magnitude 6.9 Northridge earthquake strikes, epicentered eight miles from Bottle Village, and causing severe on-site damage. An rebuilding team is assembled consisting of Structural Engineer Bud Goldstone, and Conseravtionist Zuleyma Aguirre of Watts Towers, Photographer Marvin Rand, Collections Expert Mo Shannon of MOCA, and Architect Al Okuma.

1994- 1996: Overseen by Daniel Paul, PBVC and the rebuilding team works with FEMA for three years toward the final approval of \$483,000 in FEMA money on November 13, 1996.

1995 "Gardens of Revelation" by John Beardsley. Bottle Village featured prominently.
-- "Visions from the Left Coast: California Self Taught Artists". Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum. Ginny Brush and Fran Pucinelli, Curators.

1996 October 25: Daniel Paul's National Register of Historic Places application for Bottle Village is approved- the ninth folk art environment on the National Register, the first by a woman.
-- Release of Raw Creation by John Maizels. Bottle Village and SPACES discussed.

1997 January 7: Local Congressman Elton Gallegly submits House Bill HR 175: "No federal funds may be allocated for the repair of damages caused by the Northridge Earthquake."

January- March: Numerous local and many national press pieces on the battle between Gallegly and Bottle Village, including coverage by CNN, NPR, Gamma Liaison, People magazine, New York Times, and ABC World News Tonight- The Fleecing of America.

March 14: FEMA decides to rescind grant money, citing 44 CFR 206.226(i)(2): "Facilities that were not in active use at the time of the disaster are not eligible except in those instances where only temporarily inoperative for repairs of remodeling, or where use by the applicant was firmly established in an approved budget or the owner can demonstrate to FEMA's satisfaction an intent to begin use within a reasonable time."

May 27: Preserve Bottle Village files an appeal to FEMA's decision, citing that Bottle Village was opened with the City of Simi Valley's tacit approval at the time of the Northridge Earthquake. PBVC cites numerous press articles regarding special events, checks that the City of Simi valley accepted to let parties film on-site, and letters from former Simi Valley City council members stating that they were aware that Bottle Village was open. The appeal still gets rejected, and individuals in OES (Office of Emergency Services) and FEMA admit that FEMA's decision was political.

1999 January: School of the Pacific Islands Founadation and it's President, Larry Janss, donates a \$22,140 to pay many years of back taxes/ accumulated interest as well as a landscape maintenance project.

-- Bottle Village is partially standing, and PBVC speaks with Private Foundations about rebuilding funds

Daniel Paul, Project Coordinator.

Prisbrey, Bottle Village archive and documentation project.

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