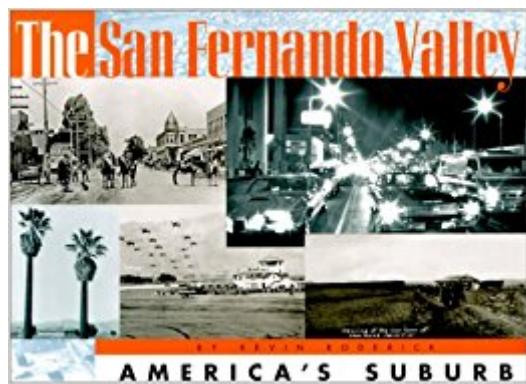


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# The San Fernando Valley: America's Suburb



## **Synopsis**

A journalist and native son of the San Fernando Valley, arguably America's quintessential suburb, returns to his old neighborhoods and discovers a long, rich history filled with the sort of lore and traditions that make a place a home.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Kevin Roderick came to the subject of the San Fernando Valley both as a curious journalist and as a product himself of the suburbs. He grew up in Northridge, roaming the tracts of newly minted neighborhoods that came into being in the 1950s and 1960s. After attending James Monroe High School and studying the craft of journalism at California State University, Northridge, he went to work for the Los Angeles Times as a cub reporter covering the Valley. His career path steered him into other reporting endeavors and the newspaper's senior editor ranks, but the untold stories of the Valley always beckoned. Roderick is currently the Los Angeles bureau chief for The Industry Standard magazine and lives in Santa Monica, Calif.

Can a book of social history be a page-turner? In the case of The San Fernando Valley, yes it can. If you live anywhere near LA, or are planning to move there, and have the least interest in social history, this book is a must. Filled with interesting lore and explanations of how The Valley came to be the way it is, Roderick takes the Mitchener route, i.e, from geologic time to last Thursday (or thereabouts) to tell the Valley's story. Good photos, both historic and contemporary, support and

enrich the writing.

My personal history and experiences starts during the early fifty's when I was only three years old. Myself and my two younger sisters moved to the valley with our parents winning a bid on one of two homes built on the hills of Woodland Hills. The house was one of two homes built in 1951 but never sold. All the winding streets and neighborhood roads were just graded dirt surfaces up and down the hills. No Ventura freeway (101) through the valley yet but remember it being built dividing the beautiful agricultural fields on the valley floor. The equestrian ranch owned by the Jack Warner family of Warner Brothers Studios fame was also divided by the construction of the freeway. As I progressed through the LA public school system new schools were feverishly being built to accommodate the huge group of baby boomers coming through. I had a new school campus after first grade at Woodland Hills Elementary school until junior high (Parkman Jr. High) and then high school (William Howard Taft Senior High School).

Fascinating book about the history of the San Fernando Valley.

Very well laid out and a fun read for anyone living in the San Fernando Valley. Contains a lot of very interesting history and is presented in an easy to read manner despite the great detail presented.

As someone who was born and raised in the valley, this book is a great look at the history of the San Fernando Valley from the pioneers who settled it on to modern day. Contains many wonderful photos as well. A fine read for anyone living here who would like to discover a little of it's past and for those of us born and raised here it is an essential look back on the place we call home. Much of the photos will make you say "I remember that!" It did for me upon seeing Lucy and Desi in their home which was located at Devonshire and Tampa and is now a gated housing complex. I grew up in the Porter Ranch area and that home and land are always part of my memories of the area.

Very enjoyable. I grew up in the west end of the San Fernando Valley; Van Nuys to Canoga Park. A good friend's grandfather was William Paul Whitsett. She would tell me interesting stories about him. It saddens me to see the condition of the Valley now. I remember the orange groves and horse ranches, but now nothing but houses, houses, houses. Can't go home again, but this book takes me back to a better time and place.

I enjoyed the book so much that I called a friend to read favorite passages aloud, and I sent him the book when I finished it. Recommended to all current and past residents, or anyone interested in this specialized topic of SoCal history.

This book is a treasure of photos from the Valley I remember and before my time. My Dad loved it as well.

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