

## Ismael D. Sanchez, Adobe builder (1894 - 1967) (1)

As a skilled mason, Ismael Derrick Sanchez did it all-- adobe, concrete, flagstone and other construction material. Born in 1894, Ismael grew up in the vicinity of Safford, Arizona where adobe was commonly used construction material. His father, Abel, who eventually remarried was a successful farmer involved in regional agricultural politics. He and his wife were among the first families to convert to the area's newly founded Spanish speaking Seventh-day Adventist congregation. (2) Ismael did not continue to farm, but at a young age was destined to be an apostolic minister for the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Along the way, a ministry did not often pay the bills, so Ismael learned the trade of masonry and adobe construction. Ismael married and started a family in the early 1920s. Based on the 1930 U.S. Census records, he and his young family had lived in California and moved back to Arizona to his father's ranch.

Serial	Name	Relationship	Age	Sex	Mar	Yrs	Days	Place of Birth	Place of Birth
7	Sanchez	Head	35	M	W	18	18	New Mexico	New Mex
	Adel	Wife	24	F	M	26	26	Mexico	Mexico
	Angelita	Daughter	15	F	S			Arizona	New Mex
	Ismael	Son	9	M	S			Arizona	New Mex
	Adel	Son	7	M	S			Arizona	New Mex
	Pedro	Son	7	M	S			Arizona	New Mex
	Benjamin	Son	7	M	S			Arizona	New Mex
	Della	Daughter	19	F	M	19	19	New Mexico	Mexico
	Rose	Daughter	8	F	S			Arizona	Arizona
	Matthias	Daughter	5	F	S			California	Arizona
	Kenneth	Son	2	M	S			Mexico	Arizona

U.S. Federal Census 1930 Family Search.com

Sometime after, Ismael moved back to California again to Fair Oaks, in the outlying area of Sacramento to establish his trade in masonry. In the 1940 U.S. Census, Ismael is listed as a self-employed contractor specializing in adobe home construction.

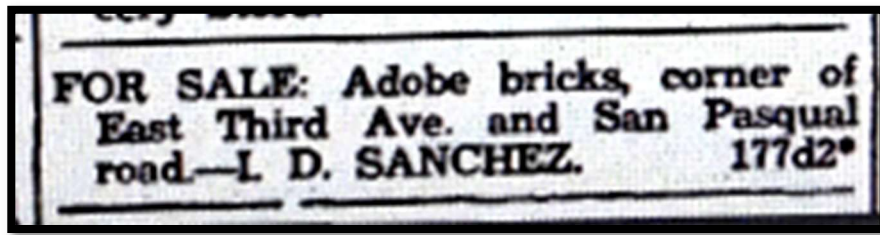
**ADOBES Made By Contract. Also Building put up. Ismael D. Sanchez, P. O. Box 271, FAIR OAKS, CALIF.**

Sacramento Bee, 07-08-1936. Newspapers.com



**Model adobe home built for Charles Paxton, developer and owner, 1948. Adobe work by Ismael Sanchez and family, 2608 S Escondido Blvd, Escondido, CA. Photo courtesy of Larry Paxton, Escondido.**

Michael Bagstad said his grandfather built adobes prior to Weir Bros. Adobe Construction Co. establishing their business in Escondido. His brother Wayne recalled that his grandfather and uncles made their own adobe block. He clearly remembers that the forms looked like ladders. Handmade brick were not uncommon as long as regulations were followed for adding emulsified asphalt. At times, Ismael recruited family members for construction projects. The team consisted of Michael's dad, Alvin Bagstad and two uncles; Ken Sanchez, and Adolf Bautista.



**Daily Times Advocate March, 1946**

The Sanchez family took on several masonry projects around Escondido. Among the work they had undertaken was construction for the Houghtelins. Abram Houghtelin was the famed builder of the iconic Escondido Teepee\*. His son, John owned an adobe home adjacent to the Teepee and developed lemon groves in the surrounding area. Other projects contracted around Escondido were the "old" Lopez market located on Grand and 2nd, the "old" Nelson Ranch in San Pasqual, and concrete work for Beven, and Montiel. Michael Bagstad recalled that in the late 1940's, his grandfather contracted some adobe work, possibly a jail, near Nordahl and Mission Road in San Marcos. Apparently the finances ran out and the project was never finished. Michael remembers it was torn down in the 1950's. Before moving permanently to Fresno, Ismael Sanchez built the Dixon house on Valley Center Road, for Bernice Dixon.

Michael and his brother Wayne fondly remember spending summer with their grandfather in Fresno. Later in life, Ismael remarried and started another family. He passed away at age 73 in Mexico City in 1967, and was buried in Fresno. In addition to his first family, he left behind a widow, a young daughter and another child on the way.



**Photos from Michael Bagstad include this narrative about his grandfather:**

*Grandpa in Goshen, California south of Fresno around the early to mid 1950's. This is what he wore to work with hat and long sleeved shirt always protecting himself from the heavy sunlight usually prevalent in this area. The pockets he wore were for chalk, levels, and tools of his masonry trade.*

*Whether he was working brick, flagstone or other concrete related structures, he was always very meticulous that it was done right. One of the lessons in life I learned from my granddad was whatever job or trade you choose, always take your time and do it right the first time. This photo [to the right], taken by my mom in the late 1950's (Fresno, California) shows the care and pride he took in whatever he did.*

1. Information was provided by grandsons, Michael Bagstad and Wayne Bagstad who grew up in San Pasqual Valley where for several years, their grandfather lived with them. In regards to their sister, Michael noted that her given name was Erayna Marie, but somehow mom used to sing her *Twinkle Little Star* and the name stuck. She changed her name legally to Twinky. (Notes: Alexa Clausen 04-25-2019 from Michael Bagstad for the Escondido History Center - adobehometour.com).

2. "The North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated the 100th year Anniversary of the founding of the first Hispanic Adventist Church in Safford and Sanchez, Arizona. The first Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church was organized in 1899 in Sanchez, when Abel and Adiel Sanchez and other members of the family were baptized in the Gila River by Pastor Marcial Serna." Toni Williams / Eastern Arizona Courier / February 17, 1999

3. The SDA evangelistic work in California founded in the Bay area, expanded into Sacramento and the surrounding areas in 1872. Very shortly, the ministry grew to the central part of the state, into

the San Joaquin Valley from there, Moses J. Church brought the first Seventh-day Adventist minister to Fresno to build the very first Adventist church in Central California.

John B. Judson, who had accepted the Adventist message in the northern part of the state, and had become an ordained minister, moved his family down to the southern part of California in 1874. He established himself in the San Pasqual Valley area and he was put in charge of that district.

<https://pauc.adventistfaith.org/our-history>

THE SAN DIEGO UNION: SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 17, 1934

## Towering 'Tepee' on High Hill Near Escondido Tells Uncompleted Story of Sheep Owner's Novel Inspiration

Idaho Stockman Planned It As Luxurious Enlargement Of Northern Range Shack; Now It's an Empty Cone.

By WILLIAM L. WRIGHT

"That funny, large concrete wigwam over near Escondido, on a high hill near the San Pasqual road" has aroused a deal of curiosity in these parts—and it has inspired more than its share of rumors, most of them haywire.

The tepee is not concrete at all, except for its ground floor and foundation. It began, almost by accident, to be one of the southwest's "most unique" residences, but it is unfinished business as it stands there today.

A. L. Houghtelin, Idaho sheep and cattle man, sold out most of his business interests around Twin Falls and points north, and bought some 83 acres of citrus land around Escondido. A part of it was this pointed hill—the Houghtelins call it Ramonacita—that rears its head 1000 feet above sea level and 300 feet above the surrounding country.

"Bed Tepee" On Big Scale

Preparing for a future home there, he put in huge terraces for swimming pool, garden and outbuildings. The terraces were held by concrete walls. The walls required a lot of lumber for forms and when the walls were finished Houghtelin had the used lumber on his hands.

"I'll build a tepee to live in!" said Houghtelin. Tepees were familiar to him through contact with Indians in the old days, and his own herders still use small "bed tepees" out in the sheep camps. Moreover the hill was so sharply pointed that a tepee would almost continue the natural lines.

With the help of his son and workmen, Houghtelin resumed active life and built his wigwam. It stands 50 feet high above its base, which is 60 feet in diameter, and it's built of the old form lumber

John Houghtelin's adobe home (1) near Escondido contrasts with his father's "wigwam" nearby. 2—A. L. Houghtelin's 50-foot wigwam. 3—Orange grove and wigwam on their hill, Ramonacita. 4—Doorway of tepee, showing roofing-paper construction.

road a few months ago, and stole almost everything stored in the tepee. Evidently they were just breaking down the wall to remove an electric refrigerator that wouldn't go through the broken doors, when daylight approached. Now the Houghtelins keep a cable locked across the driveway.

So the tepee is unfinished business—except as a rumor foundry.

**Additional sources:** Archives.org- Escondido phone directories; Ancestry.com search courtesy of Valorie McClelland; Daily Times Advocate, Escondido Public Library; Familysearch.com; Genealogybank.com, and Newspapers.com.