

Robert Owen Browne, 91, of Oak View, died Tuesday at St. John's Regional Center after a brief illness.

Mr. Browne was born June 21, 1902, in Denver, CO, and was a 37-year county resident, having previously lived in San Fernando and Long Beach, CA, Salt Creek, WY, and Denver, CO.

He is survived by Malinda, his beloved wife of 67 years, his devoted daughter, Billie, and her husband Robert Wilkinson, his grandchildren, Michael and his wife, Anne, Robert, and Richard, and his nephews Clipper and Jimmy.

Mr. Browne graduated from Regis College in Denver, CO, with a degree in chemistry. After settling in California in 1927 he worked for Standard Oil until his retirement in 1966.

Mr. Browne was a long time activist in the preservation and recording of archaeological sites in Ventura County. He was instrumental in the founding of the Ojai Valley Museum, the Albinger Archaeological Museum and the Archaeological Society of Ventura County. He was also the recipient of numerous local awards and was honored in 1989 by The Conference of California Historical Societies for distinguished contributions to California History.

His love and respect for Native cultures took him on extensive trips throughout the Southwest and Mexico. In 1966 he was chosen to study with Dr. Louis Leakey in Kenya, Africa.

He will be remembered by those who loved him for his story telling and sense of humor.

A memorial service will be at 10:00 a.m., Friday, at Clausen Funeral Home, Ojai.

Memorial donations may be made to the Ojai Valley Museum.

Arrangements are under the direction of Clausen Funeral Home, Ojai.