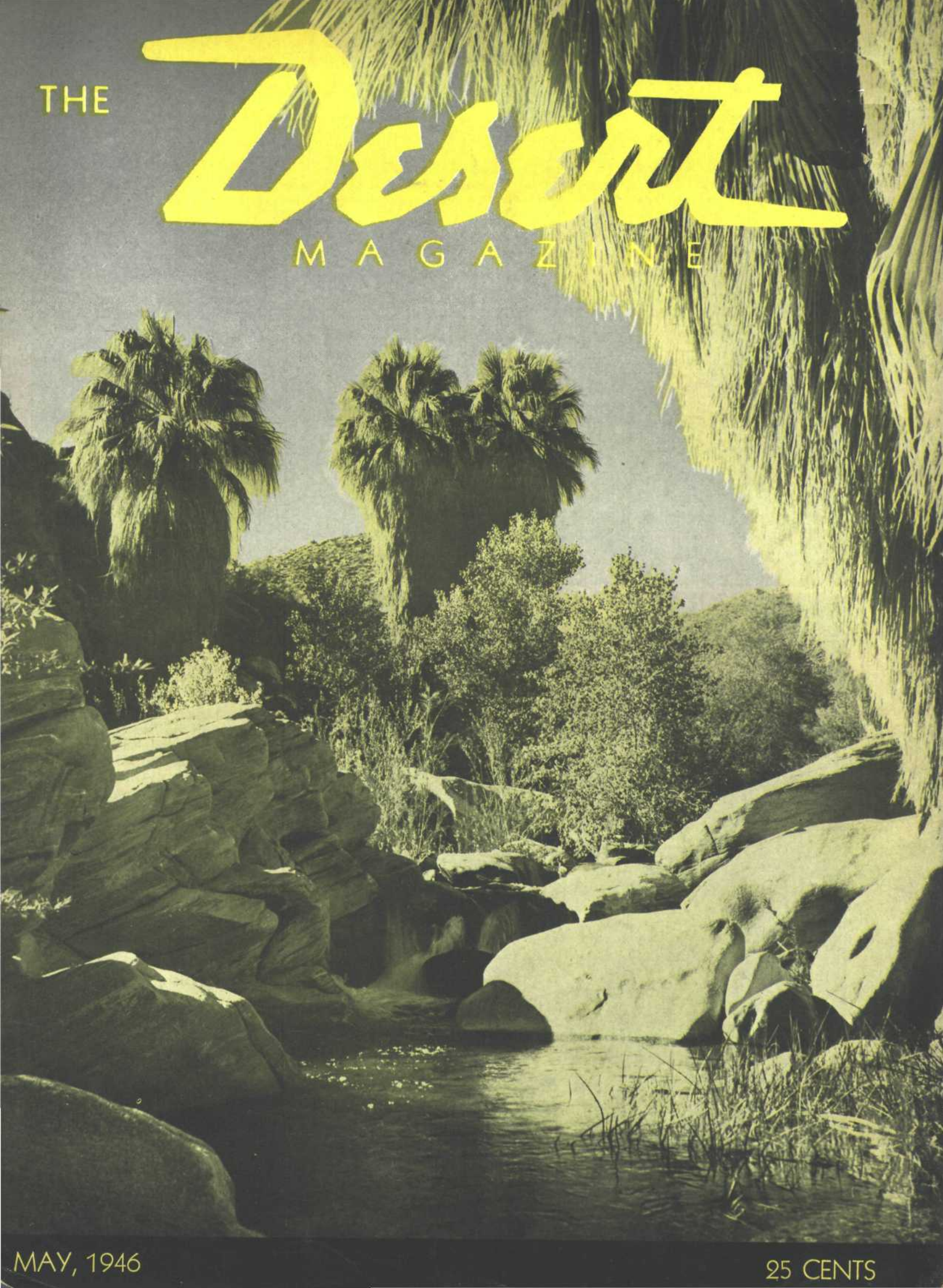


THE

# Desert

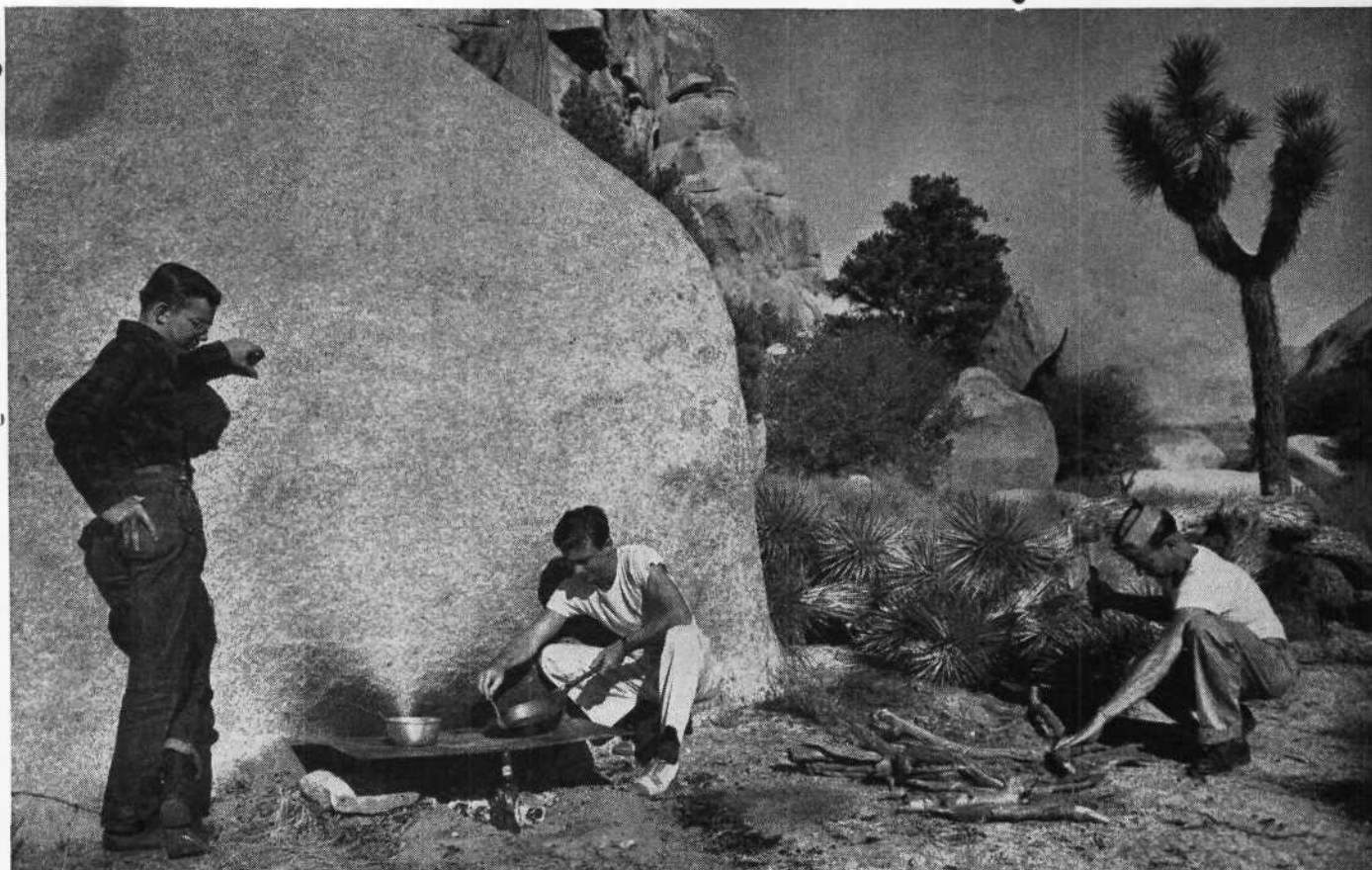
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MAY, 1946

25 CENTS



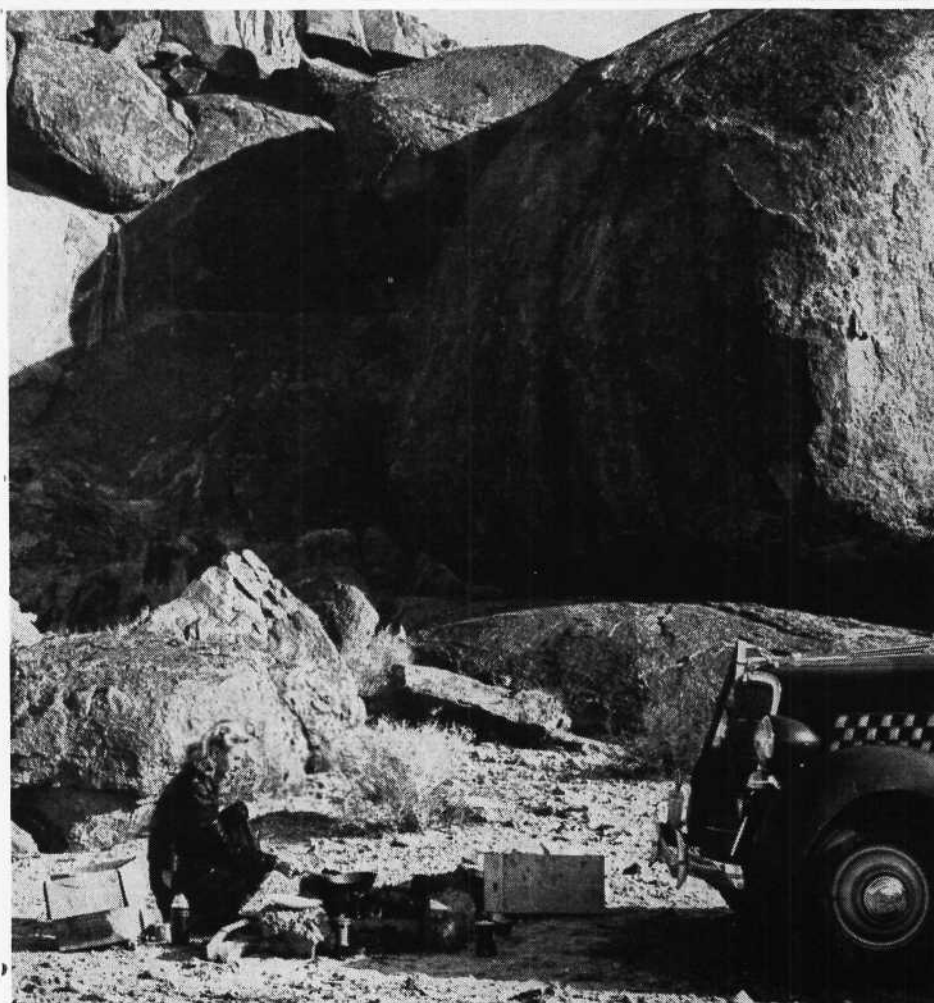


## *Breakfast Time*

Joshua Tree National Monument  
Twentynine Palms, California

By JERRY ANSON

In the March photographic contest, *Camping on the Desert*, first prize of \$10 was awarded Jerry Anson, Los Angeles, California. Photo taken at 9 a. m., exposure 1/100 sec. at f22.



## *Desert Breakfast*

By W. FORD LEHMAN

This camping scene taken at Galway Dry Lake by W. Ford Lehman, San Diego, California, won second prize of \$5 in the March contest. Taken with Kodak Monitor camera, Super XX film, K2 filter. 1/50 sec. at f16, 7:30 a. m.

**May Contest** is open to any desert subject suitable for *Desert Magazine* covers. Special awards are: \$15 for first prize winner, \$10 for second place, and \$5 for each photo accepted for publication. See rules elsewhere in this issue.

# DESERT Close-Ups

• What is probably one of the most significant projects in the history of Western Indians is in its first stages along the lower Colorado river near Parker, Arizona. Last September, 24 Hopi families moved from their barren mesa homes in northern Arizona to establish what is hoped will be the nucleus of a much greater colony of Hopi and other Indian tribes who are finding it impossible to produce sufficient food in their traditional homelands. Dama Langley soon will report to DESERT readers the progress they have made to date.

• Richard Van Valkenburgh is not confining his interest these days to archeology and Indian lore. At Tucson he is editing *The Arizona Nightingale*, lively tabloid about people and things in southern Arizona. There's a little bit of verse, a lot of humor, sprinkled with history, travel notes and miscellaneous news in the personal Western style.

• Lon Garrison, who wrote *Hard Rock Shorty* yarns in DESERT several years and for whom various writers have been pinch hitting, took up his new duties February 20 as assistant to Superintendent Harold C. Bryant, at Grand Canyon national park. He transferred from assistant superintendent position at Glacier national park. Previously he had served at Sequoia and Yosemite national parks, Hopewell Village national historic site. He is a native of Iowa, a graduate of Stanford and has taught school in Alaska. Lon is a free lance writer for outdoor publications.

## DESERT CALENDAR

- May 1—Annual Green Corn Indian festival, San Felipe Pueblo, New Mexico.
- May 3—Green Corn ceremonial, Taos Pueblo, New Mexico.
- May 4—Pioneer May Day, Twentynine Palms, California. Parade, "midway," barbecue, horse events, entertainment.
- May 4-5—Food Fair, Shrine auditorium, Phoenix, Arizona.
- May 4-5—Ramona Outdoor play, Hemet, California. Starts 2:45 p. m. (First performances, April 27-28; last weekend, May 11-12.)
- May 4-June 28—Fifth annual exhibition of gems and jewelry made by members of Los Angeles lapidary society, main art gallery Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park. Daily free admission. Evenings of May 4-5 only, exhibition of lapidary equipment.
- May 8-11—Festival of art and music, Boulder City, Nevada.
- May 18-19—First annual show of Imperial lapidary guild and Imperial Valley gem and mineral society, Legion Hall, El Centro, California.



Volume 9

MAY, 1946

Number 7

<b>COVER</b>	PALM CANYON, near Palm Springs, California. Photo by Hubert A. Lowman, Southgate, California.
<b>PHOTOGRAPHY</b>	Prize winning photos in March contest . . . . . 2
<b>CLOSE-UPS</b>	Notes on Desert features and contributors . . . . . 3
<b>WEAVING ART</b>	Craftsman or Wage Earner—The Navajo Must Choose, by DAMA LANGLEY . . . . . 4
<b>TRUE OF FALSE</b>	A test of your desert knowledge . . . . . 9
<b>FIELD TRIP</b>	Rare Gemstone of the Ancients By JOHN HILTON . . . . . 10
<b>HUMOR</b>	Hard Rock Shorty of Death Valley . . . . . 12
<b>BIOLOGY</b>	Pest of the Range, by HARRY S. SMITH . . . . . 13
<b>PERSONALITY</b>	Benson's Val Kimbrough By MARY MARGARET HUNTINGTON . . . . . 14
<b>HISTORY</b>	When Hawaiians Came to the Utah Desert By CHARLES KELLY . . . . . 17
<b>POETRY</b>	Old Man of the Mojave, and other poems . . . . . 20
<b>ART OF LIVING</b>	Desert Refuge, by MARSHAL SOUTH . . . . . 21
<b>OASIS</b>	By Jalopy Through the 'Sweepings of the World' By RANDALL HENDERSON . . . . . 23
<b>WILDFLOWERS</b>	Notes on May Bloom . . . . . 28
<b>BOTANY</b>	Country Cousins of the Dandelions By MARY BEAL . . . . . 29
<b>LETTERS</b>	Comment from Desert readers . . . . . 30
<b>NEWS</b>	Here and There on the Desert . . . . . 31
<b>HOBBY</b>	Gems and Minerals —Edited by ARTHUR L. EATON . . . . . 37
<b>MINING</b>	Current news briefs . . . . . 44
<b>CRAFT</b>	Amateur Gem Cutter, by LELANDE QUICK . . . . . 45
<b>COMMENT</b>	Just Between You and Me, by the Editor . . . . . 46
<b>BOOKS</b>	Pueblo Indian World, and other reviews . . . . . 47

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*This Navajo girl may spend 240 hours weaving a rug for which she is paid less than \$20. At such a wage she has no hope of raising the living standard of herself or her family.*

THIS, AT  $8\frac{1}{4}$  CENTS AN HOUR, OR THE

## *Craftsman or Wage Earner? --The Navajo Must Choose!*

By DAMA LANGLEY

Production of the Navajo rug may cease. This is the possibility seen by Dama Langley after a careful survey of this unique Indian craft. It is the rug which buys most of the Navajo family's food and clothing. Yet Navajo women receive less than nine cents per hour for their weaving of first quality rugs. The craft today is at a crucial point and its future depends upon the answer to this question: Will the modern Navajo girl—who took her place in the war factory, WAC and nurses' corps and has proved herself capable of taking her place in a postwar world—be willing to go back to weaving rugs at a few cents per hour, or will an appreciative public be willing to pay an adequate wage for the making of a handloomed masterpiece?

FOUR Navajo weavers were ready to erect their looms when I drove to the hogan of Adele's mother. I think I was more excited than anyone in the group, for I had been following with much interest this project initiated by Lorenzo Hubbell. With the idea of improving the weaving of the Navajo in his area, the veteran Indian trader had employed Adele Haspah, finest of the weavers, to superintend their work.

Since the hogan was only a half mile from a government water ditch, Adele had decided that the four looms and her own should be placed in a semi-circle in the





## IS, AT A LIVING WAGE?

*This Navajo girl has proved her ability in modern production, drawing wages undreamed of on her native reservation.*

sparse cedar and piñon forest within speaking distance of the hogan. A temporary shelter of juniper branches was built to protect the workers from the strong winds and serve as sleeping quarters until their rugs were completed. Camp tasks of wood gathering, water carrying and preparation of food were apportioned among the five women.

The simple efficient character of the Na-

**This is the second of two articles in which Dama Langley tells the story of the Navajo rug. In the April issue she described the preliminary steps of preparing the wool for weaving—shearing, washing, carding, spinning and dyeing. This month the actual weaving processes are detailed and five types of Navajo rugs are described.**

vajo loom has been shaped by the mode of Navajo life. Life is hard for these people, living on a 16 million acre reservation which encompasses snowy steppes of the continental divide, empty wastes, red mountains and dry plains. They must travel with the seasons, keeping their flocks ahead of ice-locked winter and escaping drought and dry waterholes in summer. Wherever the Navajo go, the looms and prepared wool go. So each loom has merely top and bottom beams, a supplementary or tension beam, and rawhide rope for lashing it into a frame—an ideal portable device.

Each member of Adele's class had decided upon the size of the rug she wanted to weave, and where she'd swing her loom. If two trees were close enough together to serve as posts between which a top beam could be fastened, well and good. Two of the women could not locate satisfactory trees so they borrowed the hogan's shovel and set posts where they wanted them. All the women worked together getting

their looms in readiness so that all could start the actual weaving at the same time.

The top and bottom loom bars were laid on the ground which had been swept bare with a broom of juniper and piñon twigs.

"Why don't you use your mother's store broom?" I asked Adele.

"Who can tell what *chindee* spirits have been imprisoned in that broom?" Adele answered gravely. "We know only the wind and sun have spoken to our own trees." She continued industriously to sweep grass and twigs toward the west—because the sun travels in that direction and carries darkness before it. Navajo women take their weaving seriously!

Rough side sticks the length of the chosen rug were placed so that the four poles made an elongated square. Since the top and bottom poles were smooth and polished I questioned the roughness of the side sticks, and was told they were to help the loom stringer keep in mind the width of the rug to be woven. Wool would not touch them at any time. The warp yarn, hand spun and twisted, but undyed, was tied at one end of the top beam and passed to the woman sitting beside the bottom beam. She stretched it over the top of the beam and brought it up on the under side. When it went back to the top beam that helper did the same thing, so that the thread formed a figure eight crossing in the middle. This particular rug when finished was to be about six feet long and four and a half wide, but since the warp would "take up" in weaving, the web was made about seven feet long. The entire warp was one continuous thread and when completed the end was tied to the lower beam. Again I asked why the thread wasn't taken to the top beam where it began, but the women said: "This is the way our mothers do it."

With the warp strung on the beams I thought it would be placed in the frame, but the owner took three strands of yarn and wove them in and out among the threads until she had formed a strong border cord, and in some way separated the threads as they would stay throughout the weaving. The bottom was treated the same way, and then these border cords were lashed to the end beams, and the loom swung to a tension beam and lashed there with the cowhide rope. By loosening the rope the web, as the work progressed upward, could be lowered to where the sitting weaver could reach it.

With the looms all swung in place, the women built up their campfire and refreshed themselves with fried bread, coffee and canned tomatoes. The ever-ready pot of mutton stew had not yet been put on the fire. Once it was ready to eat the workers would stop when hungry and dip into the stew. Navajo families keep no set hours for eating. They let nature ring the dinner bell.





*When this mother has packed her rug on her pony and taken it to the trader's, it will buy the family's food and clothing. Although she probably cannot afford the bit of gay velveteen for a blouse, she won't be able to ignore the sight of her little girl pressing her small nose against the candy counter.*

Five distinct types of Navajo rugs would be produced by this group of weavers.

1. *Chinlee Blanket.* This rug warp was for a finished work 5x7 feet. The yarn, including the warp, had been spun four times, and all dyes used were made from natural materials found on the desert. The background was a creamy white, and the pattern which ran crosswise from edge to edge was of a soft rose with touches of golden yellow. Ever so often an uncompromising stripe of black strengthened the colors. Owing to the fineness of the yarn used in this rug, it would require several hours more weaving than those with coarser yarn. On the other hand the

stripes-and-no-border design was easier to weave than those with intricate figures.

Chinlee rugs take their name from the Canyon de Chelly stream where it leaves the canyon at Thunderbird ranch. Chinlee means "The Place Where the Water Comes," or so the Navajo say. Here, at his trading post, Cozy McSparron for the past 30 years has worked unceasingly for the rebirth and betterment of the old-time native dye blankets, and regardless of what honors are given others for this work, he is the one who induced the Indians in that region to go back to their priceless type of rugs. I've seen him spend hours conferring with an old weaver regarding the colors in

her rug, showing her fragments of old blankets retrieved from destruction by collectors. My special interest was centered on this rug which Rosele from the Canyon de Chelly country would weave. Rugs produced in that locality are famous for their silky softness and flexibility. They are fine for use on sleeping porches and as covers for daybeds and couches, as well as in rooms where light modern furniture is used.

2. *Saddle Blanket.* No self respecting Navajo wife or sweetheart allows her man to ride forth without a blanket of her weaving under his saddle. The saddle blanket is approximately 3x5 feet, and is doubled once when placed under the saddle. Sometimes only the end which will show is woven with color and the other half is a solid grey. This is all right when the rug is used only as a saddle blanket but because of its useful size and sturdiness it is favored by housewives to place in service halls and doorways. Then the unmatching ends are rather startling.

The saddle blanket depends upon its color and fanciful firm weave for its charm. Big designs are not used, and it usually is woven in stripes or else with a solid center and small conventional designs in the corners. Gay yarn tassels finish the four corners. Most of the "double weave" done by Navajo women is found in their saddle blankets. The youngest girl in Adele's group chose to make a saddle blanket. Since she spoke no English she followed Adele's words and the motions of her hands with eager puzzled attention, but when the teacher lapsed into their native tongue she literally beamed with enthusiasm. She came from the high Chuska mountains, and this blanket was to be for someone very special. All the women teased her affectionately but they offered advice and help. When Adele and I met in New York a few years later she told me the special friend was one of many Navajo boys in the famous Bushmasters.

3. *Two Grey Hills.* These distinctive rugs using natural colors—black, white, grey and sometimes touches of tan or brown, have become favorites because of their beautiful intricate designs, and because they can be used in almost any home without clashing with other furnishings. The yarn for both the warp and woof of a Two Grey Hills is spun finer and tighter than that used in ordinary rugs. They take their name from the clan whose women produce them.

In the class was a member of the Two Grey Hills weavers, and she planned a rug with dimensions something like 5x7 feet. It would have a complicated design covering the rug at the middle and tapering out towards the ends. I had a sketchbook of Navajo rug designs with me, and as I turned through the pages she sat beside me looking with interest at the various types. The booklet was issued as an advertisement



by one of the best known trading companies and held dozens of pictures. She put out her hand and stopped the turning leaves at an exquisite Two Grey Hills. "Something as that looks will my rug be!" she said. She never looked at the page again because she already knew just how she wanted her finished rug to look. One pays more, as a rule, for a Two Grey Hills rug, but it is money well spent.

4. *The Modern Design Rug.* Eight out of ten rugs offered for sale these days are "typical." This means they are woven from thread heavy enough to withstand hard wear, and that they contain bright colors woven in conventional designs. Also they have borders on all four sides.

The Navajo women invented the scheme for breaking the horizontal line reaching from edge to edge of the work, and they were the first North American Indian weavers to form designs of different colored threads in their weaving. Since the Navajo woman sits before her loom with her feet doubled under her she has to rise and move her sheepskin pad from side to side as she weaves. Sometimes a figured design is woven high above the level of the plain color carried across the loom, and the background color is woven in and around the design. Then when she is ready to move to the other side of the web and make a corresponding design she fills in her background. That makes what the Hopi men weavers like to call a "lazy line"—this faint diagonal line where the joining takes place. To me it adds an appealing human touch to a rug, and in no way mars its appearance or wearing quality. It is a definite way to tell whether a rug was made by a Navajo woman or by a pueblo man weaver.

Adele chose to make a modern rug about  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$  feet in size. She would use red, black, grey and white yarn, the red being made with a dye accepted by the Arts and Crafts board. Her rug would have a figured border. Although the old-time rugs had no borders, fashions change every 50 years or so in Navajoland, and about that long ago it became the accepted thing to frame the weaving in a bordered design.

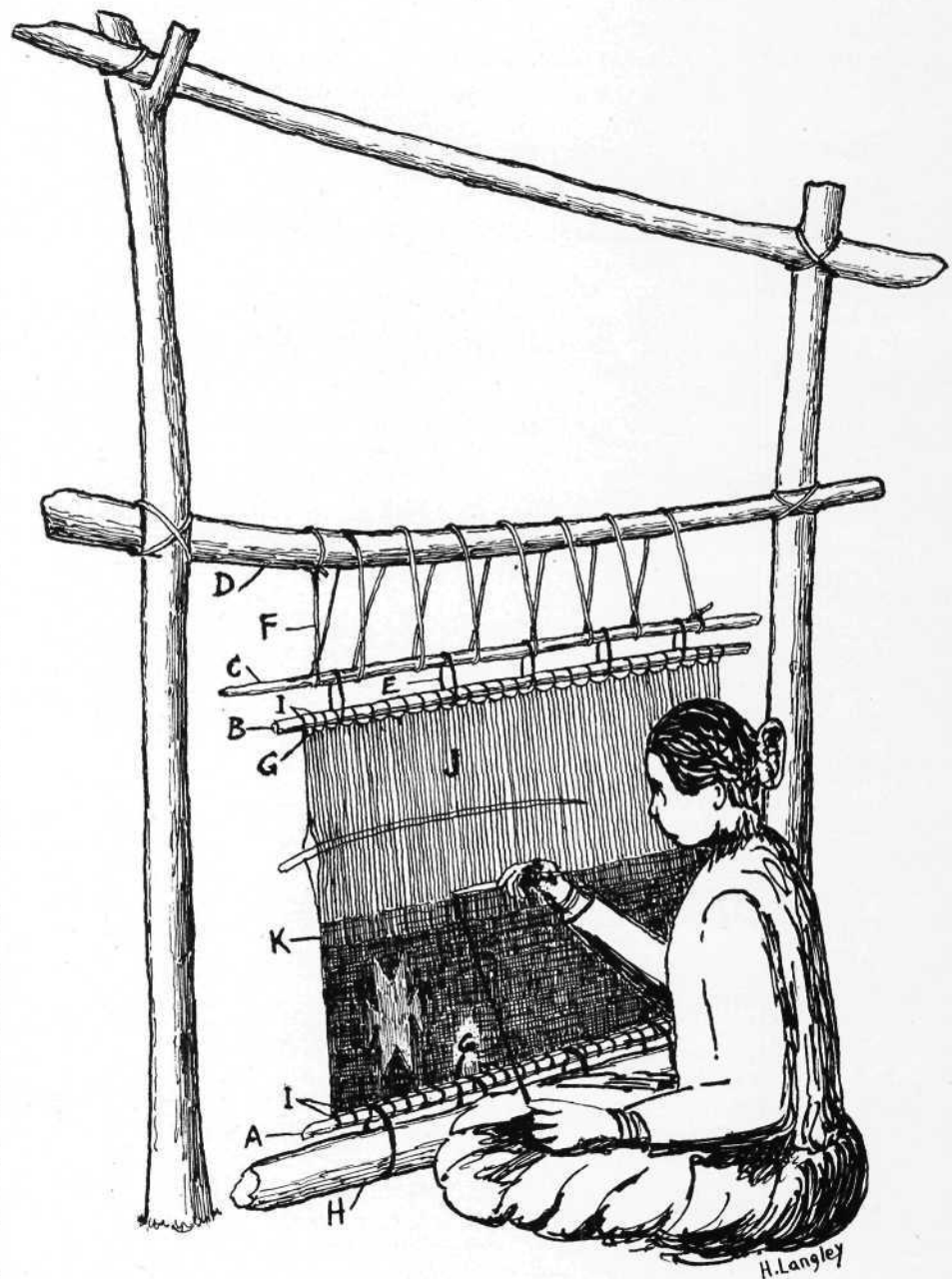
5. *Old Type Navajo Rug.* The oldest weaver in the group talked to Trader Hubbell about the sort of rug she wanted to weave. It must look like the blankets her grandmother wove when she was a small girl, she said. And so she planned one after the manner of the old-time stripes and no border, heavy duty rugs. Her colors had been produced by using commercial dyes, and the rug when completed should be about 4 feet 10 inches by 6 feet, colorful but without figured design to clash with slip covers or drapes.

While color in the Navajo scheme of things has an all important significance, the most exhaustive research fails to prove that design has any religious or tribal

meaning. It is true that certain things are avoided in weaving, most of which have to do with animals, zigzag lightning because of its death dealing frequency, and designs which require circles. In the beginning all weaving was to create fabrics designed for warmth and protection. As weavers became more skillful the primitive urge of all womankind to make something beautiful with their hands, animated their vision, and this vision is fulfilled in the Navajo rug. The inherent love of wild stark beauty lies deep in every Navajo, and the weaver finds ample inspiration when she lifts her eyes across the valleys to the mountains surrounding her hogan. Or she may find design in the branches of wind-tortured trees against the sun or moon; shadows of stone spires on sand

dunes, or in thunderheads rising behind the hills on a hot summer day. Form and movement of sullen snow laden clouds suggest pictures to her. Many of the softer woven rugs seem to incorporate tracks of the small desert animals in sand and snow. Rainbows arch themselves across the sky but they, like clouds, are reduced to cubes by the weaver.

Oriental rugs woven on British machines and directed by Ottoman skill are bewilderingly intricate. Navajo rugs are restful because their designs are so simple and uncrowded. On first being introduced to Navajo rugs the buyer may be struck by the amount of red used in them. This color is favored by the weaver, not because of its vividness, but because red signifies sunlight, without which life for mankind



Loom for Navajo rug. A—Lower loom bar. B—Upper loom bar. C—Tension beam. D—Upper beam. E—Suspension cords. F—Tension cord. G—Loom strings. H—Lower beam. I—Border cord. J—Warp. K—Selvage cords.



would end. It denotes warmth and growth and health. White, always present in a rug, even if it is twisted with black to form grey, represents the east where light is born. Blue is for the cloudless south, and yellow speaks of the west's sunsets. Black, after the amused weavers could control their giggles, I was told denotes maleness, strength and a ruling power. Black is for the north whence comes the harsh enduring cold and the great dull colored clouds bearing snow. All of those colors would appear in the rugs being woven.

Each weaver has her own special weaving implements which she uses and treasures during her life. When she is dead they are destroyed by fire, together with her unfinished work should a rug still be in the loom. Each has a batten stick about 24 inches long and three inches wide, with one edge shaped into coarse teeth. She also has a short paddle shaped tool, with teeth, used to tamp design threads into place.

Different colors of yarn are wound loosely on flat bits of bone or wood and usually are piled in a basket made by some other Indian tribe. With the aid of the weaver's fingers the woof yarn is pushed between the warp threads and then tamped down with the batten stick. The warp fastened to the bottom beam is taut and hard to separate, but with the aid of the batten stick the yarn can be inserted. By means of a heald, which is a polished stick swung from the top beam and inserted between the warp threads above the figure eight formed in stringing, the crossed warp threads are thrown back and forth.

Adele stressed the importance of having a rug's pattern well balanced and placed in relation to the center. Since the weaver works from memory only, with no yard stick and no scaled pattern, it is marvelous how well she manages to gauge the spacing. The rug is woven from the bottom up. When the work reaches an inconvenient height she unlashes the tension beam and lowers the warp. The completed weaving is folded and tightly sewn to the bottom beam. Often the thread marks can be seen after the rug has been in continuous use.

A true lover of Navajo weaving will delight in the small inaccuracies found in a rug. Over a period of months, when I chanced to be sitting in a room carpeted with a seemingly perfect Two Grey Hills, I searched the black and white design for the flaw I knew was cunningly concealed. At long last, by the method of elimination I found a serried cloud with four steps forming the height instead of the three steps employed in half a hundred similar clouds. This weaver, carrying out the superstition of her weaving ancestors, made sure her rug was not perfect, else for her it would have been her last rug. Her rug would have reached perfection, and the gods of a primitive people are jealous gods. In a bordered rug close searching almost

invariably will disclose a grey, or the background color thread reaching on through the black or red border to the very edge of the web. This is the path by which *chindee* spirits pass out of the weaving. By making this bridge the weaver has not confined herself within the borders.

There are so many types of rugs from which to select, one must use individual taste in buying. Whatever size is chosen, the thing to insist upon is quality. This task is being made much easier for the uninitiated buyer by the Navajo themselves. Realizing that the finest workmanship in any of their arts must be maintained in order to keep the industry alive, they have formed guilds in each tribe to pass on handicrafts offered for sale. The Navajo rug, in order to merit a tag from the guild, must be of good color, well spun and dyed wool, firmly and smoothly woven, and the rug must lie flat without curled edges. It must have wool warp, and maintain an even width from one end to the other. When buying a Navajo rug, unless you are familiar with these points, it is best to deal with an established trader on the reservation, or buy from a reputable firm handling Indian goods. A rug inspected and passed by the tribal guild will bear a ticket of approval, or one which says: "Certified Indian Enterprise, Navajo Arts & Crafts Guild." The red symbol of the guild is a registered trademark. The ticket will tell the name of the worker, the object or type of article, the size and the price. Each ticket is given a number. With this guide no buyer can go wrong.

A Navajo rug is almost indestructible as far as wear is concerned. They are easily cleaned with a vacuum cleaner, but if one becomes badly soiled it should be dry cleaned. They should not be shaken as that stretches the warp threads and results in a misshapen rug. If small ones are to be washed at home use luke warm water and mild soap flakes. Dry them as quickly as possible without artificial heat. Ordinary precautions protect them from moths.

I am not so much concerned with the buyer of a Navajo rug being misguided, as I am with the fact that there will be few or no Navajo rugs for sale unless the American people wake to the fact that this, their unique native craft, must die out unless something is done to keep it going. Even Indians must eat. They must have clothes and buy food for their children, and they cannot continue to do this unless an appreciative public is willing to pay a fair price for the material and time put into a Navajo rug.

As I watched the development of these rugs I began to figure out in hours the time which goes into the making of each one. Adele, under my instruction, had kept a labored memorandum of the time used in actual preparation of the yarn, measuring the time by a battered Big Ben alarm clock

I carried in my camp equipment, and which I left with her. I suspected that part of her time was consumed in efforts to defend this clock from the covetous advances of her mother's ten year old son. I couldn't pronounce his name, but I dubbed him "Ben," and solved the problem by telling him if he would keep his fingers off I would give him the clock for his very own just as soon as the last rug was out of the loom. The scheme worked, and while he graciously permitted the women to look at the clock when necessary, he guarded it jealously.

The looms were strung ready for the first woof thread when the August moon was in the last quarter, and the last one was removed from the frame when September's moon was round and golden as the pumpkins ripening near a sheltering cliff. Since the entire time of the weavers was given to their work it was comparatively easy to clock time spent in actual weaving, and from Adele's records I could estimate time spent in preparing the wool. But there was no way to estimate the hours and days and weeks involved in caring for the flocks, herding, dipping, shearing and selecting suitable wool. But beginning with the actual work we arrived at these figures for each weaver:

	HOURS
Picking and fluffing wool in preparation for carding .....	3
Carding wool ready for spinning .....	10
Spinning wool ready for washing .....	30
Digging yucca root and preparing suds .....	5
Carrying water from government project ½ mile away .....	4
Washing and drying wool .....	4
Preparing and using dyes and winding wool into balls .....	24
Stringing warp and setting up loom .....	8
Actual weaving time .....	147
Removing rug and finishing ends .....	5
Total time .....	240

A member of the Arts and Crafts board was at the hogan the day the rugs were taken from the looms and the ends finished. The last few rows of weaving are the most difficult owing to the shortness of space in which to work, and these threads were pushed through on slim slotted sticks of wood.

The rugs were appraised as follows:

Adele's .....	\$22.00
Rosele's .....	22.00
Two Grey Hills .....	30.00
Old Type .....	17.00
Saddle Blanket .....	8.00
	<hr/>
	\$99.00

Figure it out for yourself. These were specially good rugs, commanding highest prices, yet each woman worked 240 hours



for a little less than \$20. That figure does not include the value of the wool used.

Will the modern Navajo girl, who worked beside her white sister in the war factory, WAC ranks or nurse's corps be willing to weave rugs with all the labor involved, supplying all materials including her knowledge and skill—for the sum of 51½ cents a pound for the finished product? That amount is what the Indian Service says the average rug delivered to the trading post brought to its weaver during the years just before the war. Wool totaling 750,000 pounds was woven into rugs and the amount received for these rugs was \$385,000.

Many Navajo families have no other source of income. When a Navajo mother finishes a rug she ropes and saddles her horse, ties the rug on, takes her baby on his carrying board in her lap and puts the slightly older child behind her. She rides from three to ten miles to the trader's, where the rug is examined, weighed and priced. The offer seldom is declined. Then knowing what she has to spend, the weaver begins her careful shopping. Coffee always, and flour and lard and baking powder. If there's enough due her she adds a little sugar, and perhaps a few yards of cloth. Only on very special occasions can a weaver afford to buy the 2½ yards of gay velveteen needed for a blouse. That comes when the lambs are sold to keep the flock within legal count. No mother can ignore the sight of her children pressing their small noses against the candy counter, and a few pieces of candy are bought.

Most families manage to have small plantings of corn and beans and pumpkins, and they trade for dried peaches from other tribes. But the rug buys most of the food and clothing of the Navajo family.

If you have a Navajo rug, treasure it. Soon they may be very difficult to find unless we encourage and protect the art.

## INDIAN TRADERS SET STANDARDS STAMP FOR SILVER

United Indian Traders association, with a membership extending over seven Southwestern states, has announced its code of standards for genuine hand-made Navajo and Pueblo Indian jewelry and prepared to license use of its stamp and mark on silver so that quality hand work may be identified by purchasers.

The mark which will be used to designate genuine Navajo and Pueblo jewelry consists of the initials of the association, UITA, with an arrowhead breaking the letters in the center and followed by a number designating the member who applied the mark or stamp.

Licenses for the use of the trademark stamp will be issued to members of the association who have control over the production of the jewelry articles they market, and to others who apply for membership

## TRUE OR FALSE

Don't take this True or False puzzle too seriously—it is no crime to miss a few of 'em. But every Desert reader should take the test. If you get a high score it feeds your ego, and if you miss a lot of them that doesn't mean you are dumb—it merely means you still have a lot to learn about this old world. Ten is an average score. Fifteen is excellent, and any score over that is super. The answers are on page 42.

- 1—Coyotes will never attack a human being. True..... False.....
- 2—Ironwood is too hard to burn well. True..... False.....
- 3—The Great Salt Lake is below sea level. True..... False.....
- 4—Roosevelt dam is in the Salt river. True..... False.....
- 5—The state flower of Arizona is the Saguaro. True..... False.....
- 6—Translated to English, *agua caliente* means cold water. True..... False.....
- 7—The route of the Kearny Army of the West was by way of Yuma, Arizona. True..... False.....
- 8—Death Valley was given its name by Death Valley Scotty. True..... False.....
- 9—The Bullion mountains are on the Mojave desert of California. True..... False.....
- 10—The color of the agave or mescal blossom is yellow. True..... False.....
- 11—Frijoles canyon is a tributary of the Colorado river. True..... False.....
- 12—To reach Desert Center, California, you would travel on Highway 60. True..... False.....
- 13—Malachite and chrysocolla sometimes come from the same mine. True..... False.....
- 14—Jacob's lake is near the north rim of Grand Canyon. True..... False.....
- 15—Asbestos comes from a tree that grows on the desert. True..... False.....
- 16—Peccaries run wild on the desert of southern Arizona. True..... False.....
- 17—Gold is never found in quartz formation. True..... False.....
- 18—The meteor which is believed to have caused Meteor crater in northern Arizona has been definitely located far beneath the surface. True..... False.....
- 19—Mexican pesos are generally used by the Navajo Indians for their silverwork. True..... False.....
- 20—Stock raising is the main industry of the White Mountain Apache Indians. True..... False.....

in the association and use of the stamp on the same basis.

In detail, Navajo and Pueblo hand-made silver objects to merit the association stamp of genuineness must meet the following specifications:

1—Silver of nine hundred fineness (coin) or better shall be used only in the following forms: squares or slugs; scrap; sheet; round, half-round, square and triangle wire. Solder of lesser fineness and in any form is permitted. Findings, such as pin stems, catches, joints, ear wires, tie holders, spring rings, jump rings, clips, clasps, chain, etc., may be made mechanically of any metal by Indians or others.

2—Dies used are to be entirely hand made by Navajo or Pueblo Indian craftsmen using no tool more mechanical than hand tools and vise.

3—Dies are to be applied to the object only by Navajo or Pueblo craftsmen with

the aid of nothing more than their hand tools.

4—All applique elements of the ornament are to be entirely hand made by Navajo or Pueblo Indians.

5—Turquoise and other stones used must be genuine stones, uncolored and untreated by any artificial means. Stones used may be cut and polished by Indians or others without restriction as to method or equipment used.

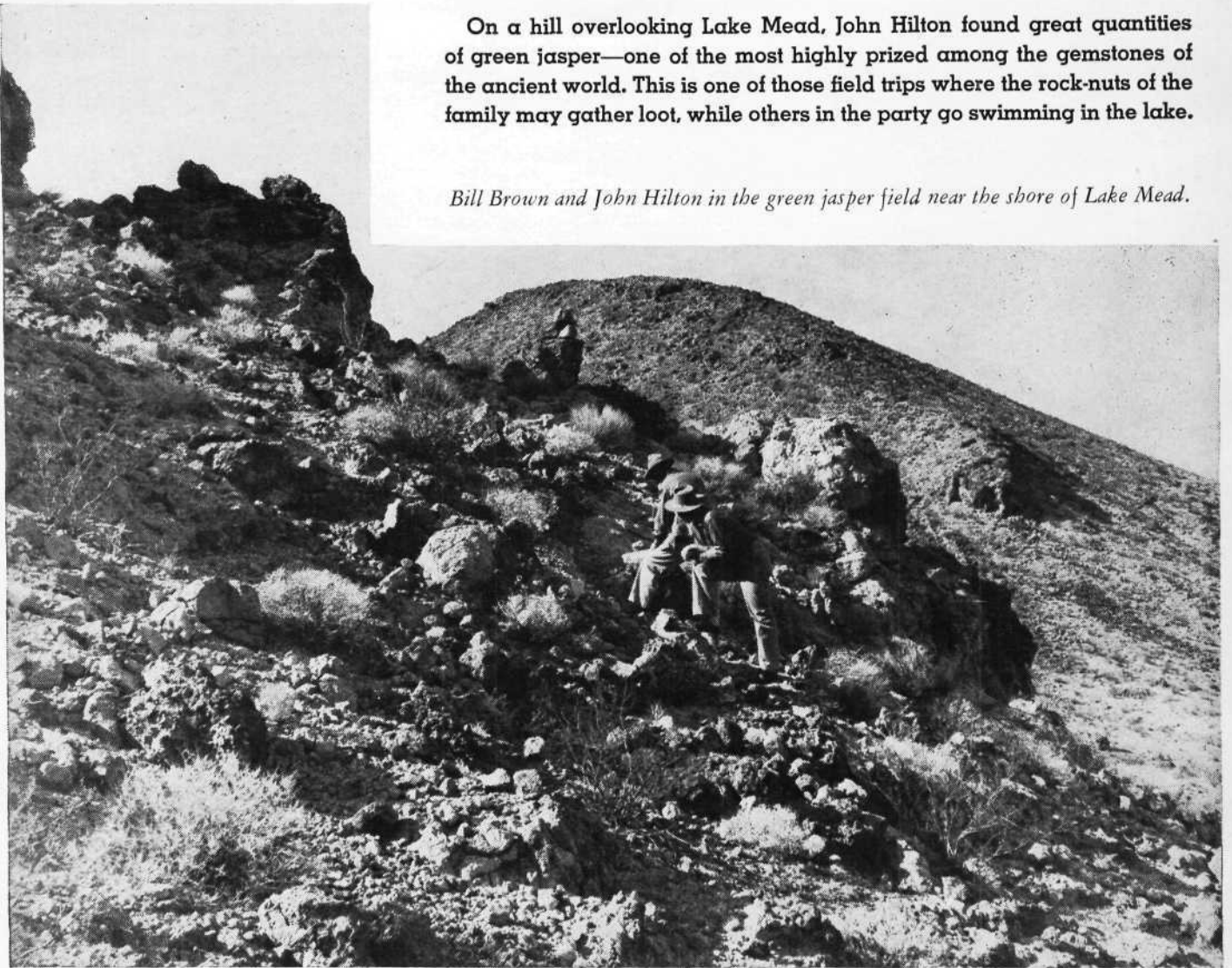
6—Casting only by the sandstone mould method is permissible where the Navajo or Pueblo craftsman carves out the mold which is entirely hand made aided only by simple hand tools.

7—After the manufacture of an object is completed by a Navajo or Pueblo craftsman within these regulations, it may be cleaned, buffed and polished by Indians or others without restriction as to methods or equipment used.



On a hill overlooking Lake Mead, John Hilton found great quantities of green jasper—one of the most highly prized among the gemstones of the ancient world. This is one of those field trips where the rock-nuts of the family may gather loot, while others in the party go swimming in the lake.

*Bill Brown and John Hilton in the green jasper field near the shore of Lake Mead.*



## *Rare Gemstone of the Ancients*

By JOHN HILTON

Photos by Harlow Jones

**W**HEN Harlow Jones and I arrived at Las Vegas, Nevada, we went to the chamber of commerce to ask about gem locations in that area. Ruth Lusch, director of publicity for Las Vegas, admitted she did not know a thing about mineral fields. But she is a very efficient person. She dropped what she was doing and began telephoning.

Eventually she gave us a clue that led to one of the most interesting fields I have visited. A regular meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern Nevada was

to be held that evening at the high school, she told us, and we would be welcome visitors at the gathering.

It was at the high school that night that we met William M. Brown, president of the society. Desert Magazine readers are indebted to Bill Brown for the field trip information in this issue of Desert—and for more field trips to come later from that area. We found a typical welcome from the rockhounds we met that evening. They told us about enough mineral fields to wear out a set of automobile tires—and

then made us honorary members of their club (complete with handsome membership cards).

Anyone who has examined a collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts will remember such items as scarabs, figurines, or earrings carved from green jasper. This material was considered very fine by the Egyptians, judging from the delicate workmanship they lavished upon it. Green jasper must have been quite a rarity in those days as it has been found only in the tombs of the aristocrats and princes.

Today green jasper is no longer the rare and expensive gem known to the Egyptians. If one of the ancient gem hunters had wandered as far as the present vicinity of Las Vegas he would have acquired untold riches—for on a sun-drenched hill not far from the Nevada city is enough green jasper to have made earrings for the entire population, including the slaves.

It was to this field that Bill Brown took us. We started early in the morning, and we soon found that we had a top-notch guide. Brown is a mining engineer turned rockhound. He spent five years as a scout

for a mining corporation in this area and later was with the bureau of reclamation. He helped install the seismographs which measure the delicate earth movements caused by Lake Mead's weight on the earth's crust. During the war he was electrical superintendent at the plant of the Manganese ore company, so he really knows the region.

Now he has decided to quit working for someone else as an engineer and become a desert lapidarist on his own. He thinks that it will make him as much income in the long run and be a lot more fun.

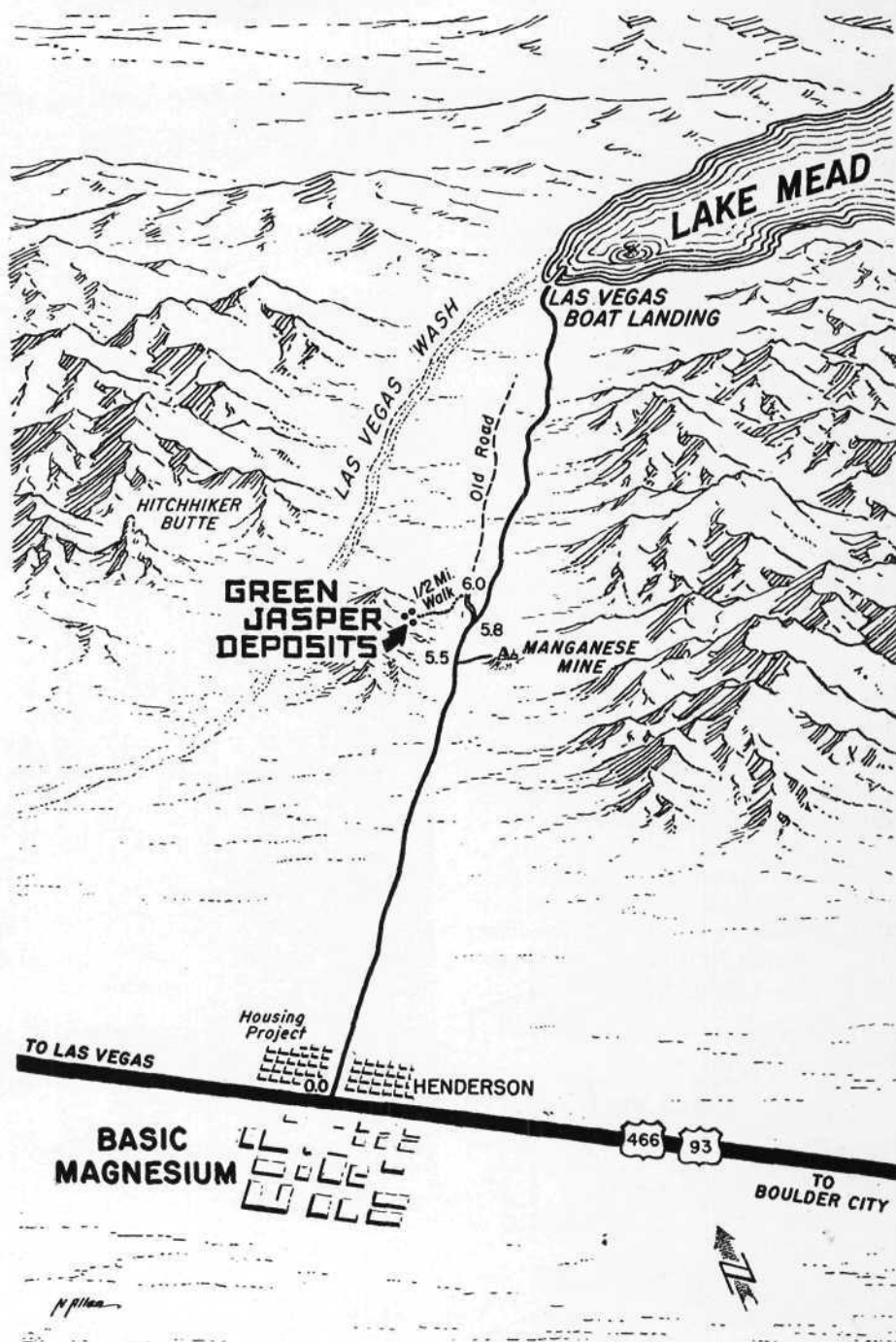
We drove out the road toward Boulder City and turned left at the settlement of Henderson (one of the housing projects for Basic Magnesium). A good paved road leads from this point down Vegas wash to the Vegas boat landing and past the Manganese ore company's huge plant. Important ore was processed in this plant during the war. Around it were some of the mines that furnished part of that ore. Brown explained that much of the high coloring in the hills in this region is due to manganese. In some instances this ore gives interesting color and markings to the local gems.

Just past the manganese plant we turned off the main highway to the old roadbed and stopped our car. The hill we were facing looked about the same as the rest of the surrounding country, but we knew appearances can be very deceiving when it comes to hunting gems.

Bill pointed out a monument high on the hill and explained that he and a friend had filed on these deposits so that they would not be claimed by commercial collectors who might keep the amateur rockhounds out. They have other claims which they intend to work for rarer and more saleable material, but they are willing that Desert Magazine readers visit this claim and help themselves to reasonable quantities. The one thing he did ask was that collectors stop by his place (which is easily located in Las Vegas) and register in his guest book so that he can get an idea as to how many are interested enough to make such a trip. "Then too," he continued, "I like to talk to rockhounds and swap specimens and this is a good chance to get acquainted with some new ones."

Along the base of the hill he pointed out where he had found some amethyst vugs in the granite, but our hunting failed to turn up any new ones. Later he showed us some at his home, picked up at this spot. They were well worth hunting for, but I guess he and Doctor Park have found all that were on the surface.

Farther up the hillside we began to pick up pieces of what I considered good quality green jasper. Our guide just laughed and predicted that we would throw them away when we reached the real deposit.



He was right. When we neared the monument on the hill we came upon outcrops of jasper that would have gladdened the heart of any lapidarist of ancient Egypt, and I am sure will delight many an amateur who follows our footsteps. There is excellent material here for all the collectors who care to visit the area, unless some of them come with trucks. We photographed one large nodule of fine material that Brown had partially uncovered but hadn't moved yet. I estimate it will weigh about 400 pounds—all good cutting material.

From the top of the hill Lake Mead stretches its blue arms into the many colored canyons and desert washes. It is a sight that never fails to give me a thrill. This lake is the largest man-made body of

water on earth. Certainly one of the most interesting and beautiful. Here is another of those trips where if some members of the family don't care to gather rocks they may go fishing, boating or swimming.

Desert plant lovers will be pleased to hear that here on this hillside, sometimes growing between the gems are a few individuals of the rather rare cactus *Sclerocactus whipplei*. This plant is easily overlooked except when its brilliant flowers advertise its whereabouts. One of the reasons this and its cousin *S. polyancistrus* have become so scarce is the temptation they present collectors when in bloom. We hope the Desert Magazine readers will remember that here is a genus of cacti extremely hard to raise in cultivation for any length of time, and so scarce even in its



type locality as to be threatened with extinction if collecting continues. These plants should be in bloom about the time this article appears in print. Let's remember the sign Desert Steve Ragsdale has near Santa Rosa Peak: "ENJOY BUT DON'T DESTROY."

We walked down the hill discussing the various items that can be cut from the fine grained, good-colored green jasper. Brown has friends who have made excellent spheres from the material. It seems made to order for bookends or carvings, for the pieces can be picked almost to order.

The one thing we all agreed upon was that we were happy some enterprising modern Egyptian hadn't gotten hold of the property in time to turn out thousands more of the fake scarabs that were offered to our G.I.'s in North Africa. As it was, they sold more of those imitation green pottery trinkets to our armed forces than the ancient population of Egypt ever owned.

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#### Lands Restored to Entry . . .

Over 37,000,000 acres of public land, withdrawn from homestead entry by presidential order last September to protect U. S. rights to radioactive minerals, are open to entry again. Since not all radioactive minerals are now regarded as fissionable, the withdrawal order in the future will apply only to lands containing thorium, uranium and certain other elements.

## Sez Hard Rock Shorty of Death Valley



"Yeah, ol' Pisgah Bill is always a thinkin' of some new-fangled scheme fer makin' money," Hard Rock Shorty mumbled, half to himself, and partly for the benefit of the dude riding club which had just stopped at Inferno store for a round of iced cokes.

"Take fer instance, that time he started his bull snake farm. Some feller from the east was out here and he wuz tellin' Bill what a fine market there wuz fer snake hides. Said they make ladies' purses and belts and a lot o' things to sell to the dudes.

"Well, Bill got all het up over the idea. He talked about it fer weeks, and after that every time he saw a big snake he'd lasso it and bring it back to camp. Soon had a big pen of 'em out behind his cabin.

"But snakes has to be fed, and it got so's Bill spent most of his time out gatherin' lizards and rats and gophers to feed 'em. Then one day he got another idea. Instead o' bringin' the rodents to the snake pit, Bill thought it would be easier to build one o' them portable pens and move the snakes from one gopher village to the next, and let them ketch their own grub. Movin' the snakes 'd be no trouble, he said. He'd just herd 'em along like the Hopi Indians do at a snake dance.

"Well, Bill got the pen built, and when the big day come he ast every-

body in camp to give 'im a hand—sorta drafted us fer duty as snake wranglers. Gave us each a stick with some feathers on the end of it, and told us to be keerful not to bruise the hides, cuz they wuz worth a lot o' money.

"I guess the idea was all right, but just about the time we got that herd o' crawlin' reptiles headed out across the desert toward the first prairie-dog town, one o' them big army airplanes cum over and dived down at us like a giant buzzard. Them snakes started goin' in all directions and by the time that flyin' machine wuz gone there wasn't a bull snake, 'r any other kind of a snake on top of the ground.

"Bill looked kinda flabbergasted, and said he reckoned he'd better go back to minin'."



*Hilton estimates that 10 per cent of the rock on this hillside is green jasper.*

Desert Magazine is grateful to Harry S. Smith, professor of entomology at the University of California's experiment station at Riverside, California, for a letter outlining the experiments now being conducted for the control of pest cactus through the importation of certain feeder insects. Concern has been expressed in some quarters that the insects might get out of control and extend their depredations to species of cacti not in the pest class. To clarify this situation, Professor Smith's letter is reprinted on this page.

## Pest of the Range

By HARRY S. SMITH



Picture taken near Pomona, California, where *Opuntia littoralis* is spreading over the hills and destroying large areas of cattle range.

I HAVE read your editorial in the Desert Magazine for March in which you express some fear regarding our project on introduction of insects for control of pest cactus *Opuntia littoralis* in Southern California. Since this question has arisen in other quarters and since in the absence of complete information on the subject, it is only natural that lovers of cactus should feel some concern about such activities, I thought you might like to have more detailed information.

There are two principal reasons which seem to us to justify the attempt to control this pest. One is, of course, that *Opuntia littoralis* is taking a great deal of range land in Southern California, particularly on the Channel Islands, reducing the carrying capacity of the ranges as much as 25 to 50 per cent, and is continually spreading. The other is that the fruits of *Opuntia* are hosts of the Mediterranean fruit fly. If this pest, which is so destructive in the Hawaiian islands, should ever be discovered here it is certain that the State of California would undertake to exterminate it as was done in Florida. Such a campaign would require the removal of all host fruits, including the fruits of *Opuntia*, and it would cost the taxpayers millions of dollars. The cost of such a campaign would be very materially lessened if the pest *Opuntia* could be greatly reduced in abundance. These two reasons we feel justify an attempt to control this species of cactus providing a method can be developed which does not cost more than the land is worth. The only possibility of doing this seems to be the biological method: that is, by bringing in insects which feed upon it, as was done in Australia, where over 30 million acres of land was reclaimed and resettled after it had been completely overrun by related species of *Opuntia*. As a result of this Australian demonstration, biological control of weeds, particularly on range lands, has become a well established practice in various parts of the world.

Such work would not be possible were it not for the fact that many insects are very restricted in their food habits and will starve if not associated with the proper host plant. Many species of insects can develop on a single species of plant only. Others may be restricted to a single genus or group such as is represented by *Opuntia*. And still others feed only on the members of the family Cactaceae. The problem biologists have to solve in such biological control work is to determine by field study and by starvation tests in the insectary, which species of insects are re-

stricted to the particular weed pest, or at any rate, which species starve on plants that it is desired to preserve.

In the present project, since we are not bringing in insects from another continent, we have relied on the very extensive and thorough tests conducted by Australian and American entomologists during the period when the Australian Prickly Pear commission did their extensive work in the Southwest, where their studies covered a period of over 10 years. The four species of insects brought into California are those which were determined by studies to be restricted to certain species of the genus *Opuntia*.

I am not very optimistic about the success of this experiment, since the introduced insects come from both a different climate and from different species of *Opuntia*, but the trial has been very inexpensive and so it seems well worthwhile. I feel sure, however, that even though the experiment does not result in control of the pest cactus, it will at any rate do no harm, because of the very restricted food habit of the insects.

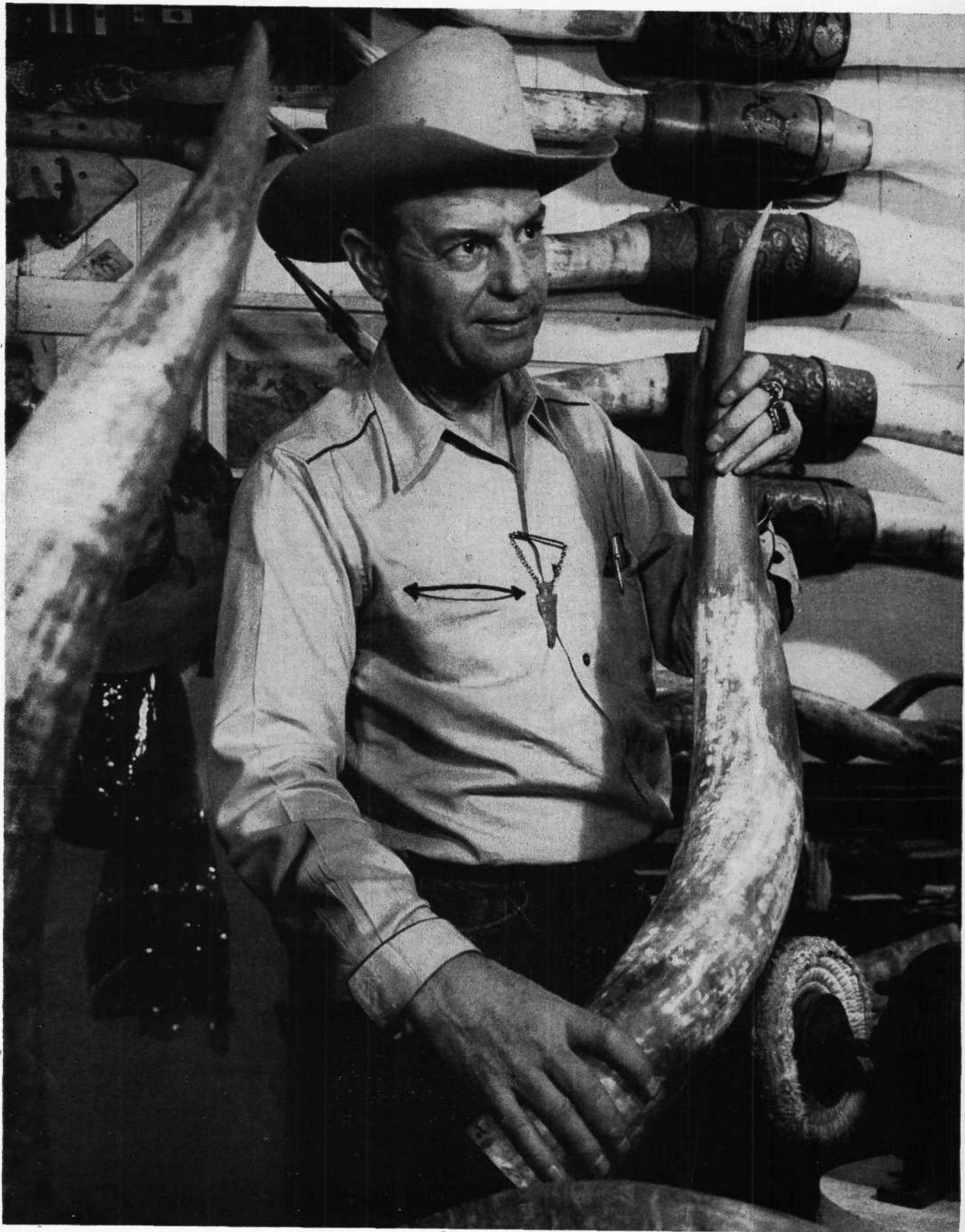
While these particular insects were obtained in Texas, the same species occur in Arizona, so that if they had the capacity to develop on saguaro or beavertail this fact would have been observed during the very extensive studies of the last 20 years.

I am in thorough accord with your statement that "we don't want those cactus-chewing insects invading the great natural gardens of cacti on the desert side of the mountains. No one would ever want to destroy a beavertail after seeing the beauty of its blossom." I yield to no one when it comes to preservation of our wild plant and animal life, and in the maintenance of primitive areas in their natural state. I hold membership in the Wilderness Society, the Grassland Research Foundation, the Ecological Society of America, and the Andreas Canyon Club. All these organizations are active in the preservation of plant and animal life under natural conditions, and I try in a small way to contribute to this program. However, when plants like *Opuntia littoralis* become pests because of a disturbance of natural conditions by man, such as overgrazing, and crowd out most of the other vegetation, we are not preserving natural conditions, but on the contrary are permitting them to be destroyed. If by the introduction of these insects we could bring about a successful biological control, we would then be restoring the vegetative covering to something approaching its condition before the advent of man, since insects never exterminate their host plants.



# Benson's Val Kimbrough . . .

*The mayor of Benson spends many hours in his workshop where one of his hobbies is the polishing and mounting of the horns of the Texas longhorn. The high polish is attained on the buffer shown in this picture.*



**T**HERE were a half-dozen of them—bright faced, excited youngsters, racing purposefully down Benson's main street, freed from school for the rest of the day. And if you had stopped any of them and asked him where he was going, he would have told you enthusiastically that he was rushing to take a history lesson—an American history lesson.

Only he wouldn't have said it in quite that way. He would have panted:

"I'm going down to the barber shop and see Val."

Val Kimbrough is the mayor of Benson, Arizona. He is also its best barber, the owner of its only museum, an inveterate hobbyist, an authority on Indian culture, a fascinating lecturer and one of the West's most interesting personalities.

When he invited me to sit in on one of his sessions with Benson's youngest generation, I was more than glad to accept. I had once taught American history in the public schools for a year, and this eagerly sought instruction in the subject was something I wanted to see.

Val had promised to show some of the boys how to make an arrowhead, and as they crowded into his combined barber shop, museum, and workshop, he was assembling the tools he needed.

Pushing his sombrero back from his forehead, Val said quietly: "Old Dave told me once that the Indians used deer horns when they made their arrowheads, but he couldn't remember just how they went about it." (Old Dave needed an introduction to the class. He was a Chickasaw Indian—a friend of Val's when he was growing up—who had passed on all he could remember of Indian lore and legend to Val. Val, in turn, was passing it on to everyone who was interested.)

"I spent a lot of time in trying to find out just what they did with the horn, and when I finally figured out the secret, I was surprised at how simple it was."

He picked up a section of deer horn, composed of the center section and two prongs. The sharp points of the horn had been cut off, leaving two stubby ends. The center part and one prong assured a firm grip, and the second prong, held between the thumb and forefinger, acted as the chipping implement.

One of the boys handed Val a piece of flint, and he started shaping it. Holding the flint firmly on a board, he carefully flaked off small pieces, first on one side and then on the other. "The deer horn, you see, is hard enough to force the chip to break away, and still not so hard that it slips away from the chip."

All the boys wanted to try their hand at it, of course. Val is an archer—he always hunts with a bow and arrow, and the boys often go with him—and they were plan-

**He is the town's mayor, its leading barber, and he has so many hobbies you'll wonder how he finds time to make a living—but somehow he does all these things and still has a few hours every week to spend with the youngsters in his community, and pass along to them the lore accumulated in a rich full life in the Southwest. The man we're writing about is Val Kimbrough of Benson, Arizona—a westerner of whom the West is proud.**

By MARY MARGARET HUNTINGTON

ning to use their own arrowheads on the next trip. While they experimented with the flint and deer horn, Val talked to a succession of visitors.

He explained that he couldn't lecture to the Boy Scouts on Monday. There was a council meeting that he had to preside over. (Val is justifiably proud that Benson is a progressive little city, and that he has served 14 years on the city council—six of them as mayor.) But he would be glad to talk to the boys on Friday. What would they like for him to talk about?

The next visitor was a tourist who had stopped in Benson to see Val's museum. It has well over 4000 pieces—Indian and pioneer relics, a large collection of nearly-priceless guns, and many remnants of the Old West, each with a fascinating story. As he described the past of an old musket or explained the making and origin of the Indian pottery, the boys listened. This was real, live, exciting history, and they absorbed it avidly. When the visitor admired



*Archeology is one of Val Kimbrough's hobbies, and he is adept at restoring broken pottery found in the old Indian ruins.*

the array of mounted Texas longhorns on the wall, they all smiled. They knew how proud Val is of the mighty horns he polishes and mounts. He announced that he was going to work on a pair of the horns shortly. Would the visitor like to stay around and watch?

A westerner by birth, breeding and temperament, Val not only lives a western life, but he makes an effort to preserve the lore of the Old West by transmitting it to the westerners of tomorrow.

Born in Texas in the 1890's, Val Kimbrough grew up on a ranch, and like many other western youngsters cannot remember when he learned to ride. The Kimbroughs moved into Indian territory when Val was seven, and there he met old Dave Owen, a full-blooded Chickasaw Indian who lived a mile from the Kimbrough ranch.

For 11 years the most familiar sight in that part of the country was a hawkbilled Indian, with small black eyes and bright red cheeks, accompanied by a wiry little boy with snapping black eyes. They tramped and hunted, talked and lived the life of the Indians who claimed the whole out of doors for their home.

Val never forgot the things Uncle Dave told and taught him. He not only remembers them, but he practices them and feels a deep obligation to perpetuate them in the minds of the youngsters he knows. He and Uncle Dave were inseparable, and even yet most of his stories start with a reference to his Indian friend.

"Uncle Dave said that the Indians could predict weather from ant hills. If the winter was going to be dry, the ants would build a large sharp cone at the top of the hill to funnel all the moisture into the food storage place. If the winter was going to be wet, there would be no cone.

"Uncle Dave knew all about animal calls. Did you know that jay birds act as guards and warn all the wild life by screaming at the approach of strangers? And that old buck deer generally travel with a young companion, forcing the young buck to go ahead and scout the country?"

"Dave and I always hunted with arrows made from old barrel hoops, shot from dogwood bows."

Comment on some pen-and-ink sketches of rodeo performers brought forth the information that Val had followed the rodeos, in the manner of nearly every boy who grows up on a western ranch.

Starting as a summer pastime, he soon became a top rodeo performer, and was confident of his ability even when he drew Snip at the 1918 Bromide, Oklahoma, rodeo. Snip was an outlaw with a mean trick of rearing and falling backward as soon as he came out of the chute. Val was prepared for him when they left the chute, but Snip changed his routine this time. Waiting un-





*Val Kimbrough is half Cherokee, and he is an expert with the weapon of his Indian ancestors—the bow and arrow.*

til Val had stuck through a little pitching and bucking, Snip suddenly went up and over. Val was under him—his neck broken.

Eight months later, Val was still in the hospital, but his insatiable curiosity and his chafing against the inactivity of convalescence had found an outlet. He had spent hours in the hospital barber shop, and by the time he was well, had learned the trade. Early in 1923 he decided to move farther westward. Through Texas, New Mexico and Colorado, he and his brother traveled in a Model T Ford. Waking up one morning in Benson, they looked around and decided, "This place looks good. It looks just right."

And it still does to Val. He worked in the local barber shop until he was able to buy out the owners. Then he sent for the

collection of relics he had been accumulating over the years, put them up in his shop, and settled down to becoming Benson's first citizen.

As the apprentice arrowsmiths finished their work, they helped Val to get out his horn-working equipment. I asked him where the longhorns came from—the animals are nearly extinct now from breeding and from inroads made by Hollywood on the herds for movies—and he said they came from another Texan.

A friend of Val's father, Joe Burnett, had collected the horns as the Texas longhorns disappeared from their colorful niche in Texas history. Val admired them greatly, and when Joe died, he acquired them.

Val has mounted most of the 50 pairs

of horns that Joe gave him, and the process is an interesting one. Using simple tools, many of which he made himself, he turns the battered horns into things of beauty. He first scrapes off the top layers. This leaves the horn clean and smooth and brings out the patterns of dark and light spots.

Next he smooths the horns with sandpaper, and puts a high polish on them with an electric buffer. Before he begins the buffing he rubs on the horns an abrasive substance—much like the old fashioned powder women once used when they buffed their nails—and after the rubbing by machine, the old horns take on a splendid sheen.

Val has the manual training classes at the Benson high school make the cores on which the horns are mounted. The cores are round blocks of wood about the width of the steer's head and tapered at each end, and onto them he fits the horns.

The thing that makes Val's horns different and more attractive than those made by others, however, is the unusual leather work with which he covers the wooden cores. Val tools the leather himself in patterns of horses, desert landscapes or flowers, wraps them around the wood and finishes them on the ends with strips of leather. And with the painstaking care that goes into the horns and the handsome leather finish, his Texas longhorns are indeed striking.

A few of the horns he sells—their brilliant polish and the artistry of the leather tooling brings a fancy price—but for the most part, he feels about his horns as he does about the rest of the things in his museum. They are his hobby and the product of many years of his life, and he just does not want to part with them. He says that he would not take \$50,000 for his collection, but as a matter of fact, he wouldn't sell it for any price, because it gives him an opportunity to meet the kind of people he likes.

His days are full: running his barber-shop, guiding the progress of his busy little city, preaching the doctrine of having a hobby. He lectures at civic meetings, talks to the many people who stop in to see his museum, and still has time to spend at least one-quarter of the year poking around in the nearby desert, finding museum pieces and shooting his bow and arrow. And of all his activities, he most enjoys talking to a group of young westerners, passing on to them the great heritage that belongs to those who live in the frontier country.

Generously he gives of his time and energy—not for nothing, but for the deep satisfaction it gives him to make real and vivid to youth the story of the magnificent courage and faith that brought their ancestors to the West.



*All that remains of Iosepa, ghost town of Skull valley, where a colony of Hawaiian converts to the Mormon faith found it impossible to make the desert bloom.*

# When Hawaiians Came to the Utah Desert

**In most instances, the ghost towns of the West are grim reminders of a mining boom that collapsed, or an ore vein that played out. But in Skull valley, Utah, are to be found the tragic remains of a community of farmers — of Pacific islanders who were converted to the Mormon faith and who fought against impossible odds to establish new homes on the American desert. Here is one of the strangest ghost town stories in the annals of the West.**

By CHARLES KELLY

THE FIRST real desert trip my wife and I ever made was to Skull valley, just west of Great Salt Lake in Utah. That was, of course, many years ago. We had just purchased our first Model T Ford and wanted to see what it would do. Having lived in Salt Lake City only a short time we were unfamiliar with the surrounding country, but had somehow heard of a place called Skull valley. The name intrigued us and so we selected that place as the object of our first exploratory trip.

We were told to follow the old Lincoln highway, first transcontinental road across Utah, which passed through Skull valley. It was marked at wide intervals with the old familiar yellow signs so we had no great difficulty in finding our way. At best it was only a narrow track in the sagebrush, barely distinguishable from numerous trails made by sheep wagons. After driving 70 miles we crossed the Stansbury mountains, stopped to let the steaming radiator cool, and looked down into Skull valley. It was a moment never to be forgotten.

Below us lay the wildest stretch of desert we ever had seen. At that point it was about 10 miles wide, bounded on the west

by the Cedar mountains, but extending north and south as far as the eye could reach. In that wide sea of sand, stunted greasewood and shadscale, unrelieved by tree or stream, we could discern no sign of human habitation. Its apparent desolation seemed to warrant its name, since anyone crossing it, we thought, would certainly be running a race with death.

"Will you hand me those field glasses?" I asked Harriette after we had studied the scene several minutes. "There seems to be a tiny patch of green out in the middle of the valley. Maybe it's a spring."

"There must be a house down there," I told her. "I can see the tops of some lombardy poplars. But who on earth would want to live in a place like this?"

Following the road which ambled down the mountain, cut by innumerable gullies, we arrived at what appeared to be a small settlement—the Orr ranch. A little lake surrounded by trees made it a real oasis in the desert, a famous stopping place on the most dangerous section of the old Lincoln highway. We were welcomed by Dan Orr and his brothers, Will and Hamilton.

From Dan, spokesman for the trio, we

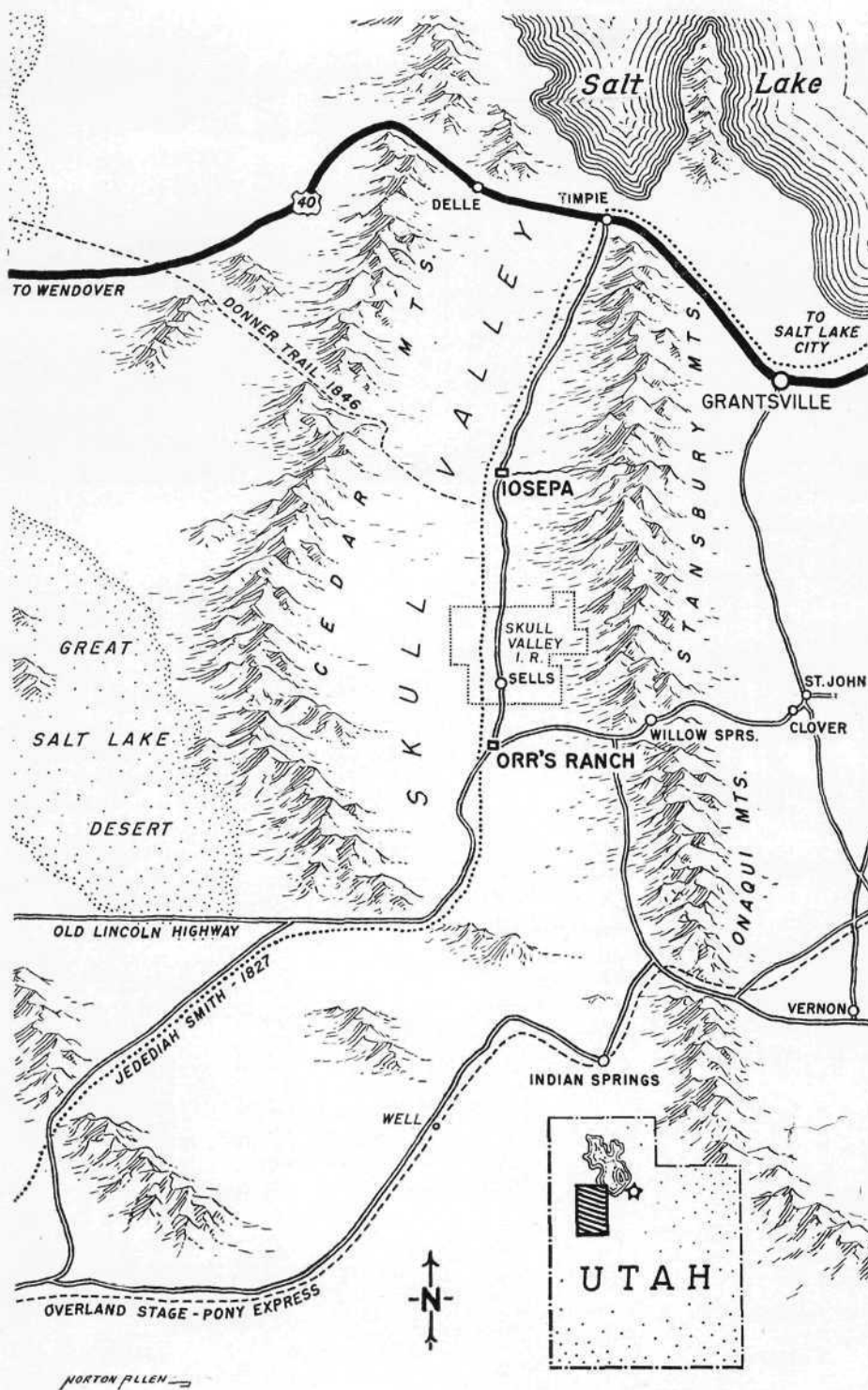
learned some of the history of Skull valley and were so fascinated by the place we returned again and again, eventually resulting in a book. We were told that the first white man to see Skull valley was the trapper Jedediah Smith. He nearly lost his life while crossing it on his return from California in 1827. In 1846 the Donner party camped at one of its springs to cut grass for their oxen before attempting the Great Salt desert just over the western ridge. Some '49ers also used this route to reach California. The Pony Express galloped across Skull valley, where Matthew Orr, father of the Orr brothers, kept a station. Later the Overland stage used this same route.

After it was discontinued in 1869, Matthew Orr started a cattle ranch in the valley. In those days it had been a good stock range and not nearly as barren as when we first looked down into it. Finally the Lincoln highway, following old trails across the continent, had been opened to automobile travel. Altogether the place had a most interesting history, but the strangest story connected with that history concerns the old settlement of Iosepa.

As early as 1844 missionaries of the Mormon church, led by Addison Pratt, were sent to the Sandwich Islands to bring their gospel to the natives. From that time on it became a favorite missionary field, since Mormon elders, like other white men, found the south sea islands delightful and their inhabitants friendly. Thousands of converts were made.

In course of time about 50 converts from the Hawaiian islands were induced to come to Salt Lake City, fountainhead of their new religion. These immigrants, however, soon tired of city life and asked for land of their own where they could live together as a group. By that time most agricultural land already had been settled and there was some difficulty in finding a suitable location.





Eventually church authorities selected a site for the new colony, purchasing 960 acres of land. It was—you guessed it—in Skull valley! On August 28, 1889, 46 Hawaiian converts were moved to the site of their new home and the infant settlement named Iosepa (pronounced Yo-seppa), Hawaiian for Joseph, after their prophet Joseph Smith.

This location was near the base of the Stansbury mountains about 18 miles from the upper (north) end of Skull valley. A small stream now called Kanaka creek was brought from the mountains for irrigation, while below the settlement were several springs and some swampy ground provid-

ing a limited amount of poor pasture for stock. Houses were constructed, a combined school and church building erected and a store opened. Streets were laid out and a water system installed. When a bishop was appointed to manage the project the Hawaiians were ready to demonstrate their ability to provide for themselves in this strange land.

Imagine the contrast between Hawaii, former home of these people, and Skull valley, their new settlement. According to song and story the south sea islands contained everything delightful to humans, whether brown or white. Soil was productive, rainfall plentiful, vegetation rich and

fruitful, climate perfect and living easy. In Skull valley the soil was poor, vegetation scant, climate extreme and rainfall almost zero. Not a tree relieved the monotonous landscape. There scarcely was shade for a horned toad in summer. In winter icy blasts swept the valley constantly. Only a half dozen of the hardiest Mormon pioneers had been able to make a living there and then only by back-breaking labor. A more unsuitable location for these happy, easy-going Kanakas could not have been found in the whole state of Utah.

Encouraged by their leaders and somewhat fortified by their religion, these people put in long hours of hard labor in an effort to get their colony on a productive basis. Cattle were purchased, some land seeded to alfalfa, and other acres irrigated for garden use. But there never was enough water, and gardens withered in the hot blasts of summer. There were no wild fruits to be had for the picking, no fish from the sea, no surf to swim in, no exotic flowers for their hair. The view of dusty desert and dingy mountains unrelieved by a touch of green was depressing to a people accustomed to abundant rainfall and luxuriant vegetation.

Within the next five or six years more colonists were brought to Iosepa so that at one time its population numbered over a hundred. It is reported that in one good year the project sold cattle, hay and grain to the value of \$20,000. Social life in the town was more lively than in any other small settlement in Utah. Dan Orr recalls how he and other young men of Skull valley used to ride horseback 20 or 30 miles to dance with the attractive Hawaiian girls or attend concerts of Hawaiian music. Some kind of entertainment always could be found at Iosepa.

By all accounts the people of this unique colony were industrious and did their best to make a success. But their constitutions were not suited to the rigorous climate and constant labor. Soon sickness of various kinds began to take toll and a small cemetery was started at the foot of the mountain a mile east of town. Then, in 1896, several persons were found to have developed the dread disease of leprosy. At first these lepers spent much time lying in the black mud of two warm springs below town, hoping this treatment would be of some benefit. Later they were quarantined in a small building at the mouth of a canyon where they remained until death relieved their sufferings. As disease reduced their numbers the people lost heart and finally, in 1916, when the Mormon church built a temple in Hawaii, the survivors returned happily to their native land.

In October, 1945, we visited Iosepa, the ghost town of Skull valley, with Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Young and Rod Korn, to get photographs for this story. We found the old administration building being used for a ranch headquarters. Two or three



*A few of the headstones in Iosepa cemetery have survived the passing years.*

original Hawaiian homes still remain in a state of decay, while the two "leper springs" have been fenced in. Crossing a slope east of the ranch house, now completely reclaimed by sagebrush, we stumbled upon numerous foundations and old cellars, the site of former homes. Here and there were rows of carefully placed stones where a walk had been built from a home to the street. Rising slightly above its surrounding desert growth we came upon the

foundations of the old schoolhouse, also used as church and dance hall. We kicked up bits of broken bottles turned purple in the desert sun. Our greatest surprise was to find a line of water hydrants still standing upright in the sagebrush, marking the town's main street. Many cottonwoods had been planted for shade but only their dead stumps remained.

A young man at the ranch house pointed out some white specks near the mountain which he said were tombstones in the Kanaka cemetery. No burials had been made there since 1916 and no road led to it, so we hiked through the brush to photograph some of the markers. This cemetery, now unattended, once had been neatly enclosed, but the fence had fallen down. An iron fence surrounded one grave while others had been fenced with pickets. There were several marble headstones, but most graves were unmarked. There must have been altogether nearly a hundred, indicating that few survivors ever returned to their beloved islands. Most deaths occurred in the 90's, and the latest readable date was 1910. The inscription on one headstone read:

J. W. KALILEINAMOKU

*Hanau ma ka la*

27 Oct. 1837 Ma Hilo

*Hawaii*

*Make ma Josepa*

*Skull Valley, Utah*

Julai 21, 1890

Near the mouth of a canyon south of the cemetery stood a small house where, we were told, lived the last Kanaka of Iosepa, who was working a small mining claim in the mountains. Unfortunately this man was not at home at the time of our visit. There are still a few Hawaiian Mormons living in Salt Lake City and vicinity, but no other settlement ever was attempted.

To one who likes the desert Skull valley is a fascinating place. But nature never



*Margaret Young discovers an old water hydrant—a relic of better days in the Iosepa colony.*

intended it to be anything but a desert. Even the lowly Goshute Indians who once inhabited it were hard put to keep themselves alive. The contrast between Hawaii and Skull valley was much too great to be overcome by people transplanted from the south seas. They died, I think, mostly of heartbreak. The desert is now trying to hide the remains of their tragic efforts.

*Margaret and Gardner Young visit the cemetery where the hopes of Skull valley colonists were buried with their remains.*







Photo by Cal Godshall.

### TWILIGHT CLOUDS

By R. G. BEIDLEMAN  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Paint the clouds . . .  
Paint them over the sea and over the land  
With the sweep of a brush in an unseen hand.  
Paint the clouds from a palette of sunset and  
dawn  
Tinted colors and hues 'till the twilight is gone.  
Paint the clouds . . .

### DESERT HOLLY

By DEAN T. SMITH  
Twentynine Palms, California

Fairy of the wasteland  
Such you seem to me  
Child of drouth and sunshine  
How came you to be?

What gives you survival  
Through the searing heat  
Lacking rain or dewdrop  
Or moisture at your feet?

Feathery crinkly foliage,  
To graceful greys attune  
You fit your own surroundings  
In crevice or in dune.

Dainty Desert Holly  
Rooted in the sand,  
I'd love you on my mantel  
But I'll leave you where you stand.

### DESERT NIGHTFALL

By MADELEINE FOCHAUX  
Los Angeles, California

The valley fills with evening and the light  
Lifts to the loftier rims. Blue shadows crawl  
In rising tides upon the mountain wall  
Where cobalt canyons vein the sloping height.  
The contours of the dunes are blurred to sight  
Like women's sleeping forms beneath a shawl.  
The hush of somnolence envelops all,  
As rose-lit ridges dim with coming night.

And when the sun's effulgent glories fail,  
Low-swinging stars reach down audaciously  
To touch the peaks, grown purple in the cold.  
A lone prospector leaves the darkened trail  
To spread his blanket by a Joshua tree  
And dream of long tomorrows, bright with gold.

### FAIRY CROSSES

By KATHARINE BUOY  
Portland, Oregon

In far-off places fairy rings are found.  
Minute brown stones shaped like the holy cross  
Lie scattered underneath a green reredos.  
These symbols mark each region sacred ground,  
For once, the story goes, a muffled sound  
Of tears fell on the soft wood-scented moss  
Where fairies learned about the world's great  
loss—  
The Crucifixion on Golgotha's mound.

In tiny crosses tears were crystallized,  
Mementos of those hours of dread despair;  
In mystical repute their worth transcends  
Unnumbered talismans that love has prized . . .  
Strung on a rosary they form a prayer,  
So legendary truth with fancy blends.

### SPRING LYRIC

By GRACE PARSONS HARMON  
Los Angeles, California

A desert Spring! There are no words  
For such a lovely thing;  
There is no brush can paint its charm,  
Its magic blossoming!

But, kin to that rare ecstasy,  
A meadowlark can sing!

### DESERT MAGIC

By ANNA DE VORA  
Highland Park, Illinois

The Desert is no gay, exotic siren,  
Who lures us on with coy, coquettish wiles.  
Nor yet, does she endeavor to entice us,  
With courtesies, and suave come-hither smiles.

No! Rather, she seems hostile and forbidding,  
Dispelling all illusions of romance.  
Her sullen sands, and crags and thorny cactus  
Repel intruders seeking to advance.

But—for those, undaunted by such barriers,  
Who love her, despite her stark austerity,  
When sunset radiance deepens into twilight,  
With queenly grace and calm serenity,  
She conjures forth her royal-purple veiling,  
To prove—just how alluring she can be!

## Old Man of the Mojave

By WALTER L. DIXON  
Burbank, California

He stands alone, like a little old man  
With arms and legs askew.  
His silhouette against moonlit sky  
Gives off a ghostly hue.  
Says he never a word as he stands alone,  
And never utters a sigh.  
He looks and looks and looks at me each  
Night as I pass by.  
He's a scary sight in the pale moonlight,  
But he wouldn't hurt a flea.  
We're friends we are, and I know him well  
From seeing him every night.  
He's as crooked as a dog's hind leg, still  
He's honest as can be.  
He's an old, old man by the side of the road.  
My friend the Joshua Tree.

### APPRECIATION

By J. E. KYLE  
Tucson, Arizona

God built a chasm, wondrous to behold,  
Worn through the granite by a river's flow  
Till, from the brink, the torrent viewed below  
Seemed like a tiny streamlet of white gold.  
Then people came and camped along the rim,  
Stared down and uttered bright inanities  
And yawned and shivered in the twilight breeze,  
Then left to satisfy some other whim.  
But one there was who came and stood and  
gazed,  
Watched the rich sunset crimson turn to gold,  
Saw scarlet streamers slowly growing cold  
And purple change to silver, stood amazed  
To see a castle rising in the air,  
Felt a great calm and knew that God was there.

### HASSAYAMPA WATERS

By WHEELER FORD NEWMAN  
San Pedro, California

Beneath tall cottonwoods I watched it glide—  
The river with the legendary tide  
Possessing alchemy to make of him  
Kneeling to drink upon that sandy brim  
A one who seemingly has lost the power  
To speak the truth to others from that hour.  
This legend may be true—and yet the gleam  
Of scattered starlight in that desert stream!  
And silver-dust the eager ripples seek  
Between the sandbars, as beyond the peak  
Of Wickenburg the full moon glows, to change  
The brooding aspect of the Vulture range,  
The spectral washes and dim mesas where  
The coyote haunts the flats of prickly-pear!  
O Hassayampa waters, fateful stream,  
Could not your tide be quickened by a dream  
Of such calm beauty and divine desire  
That he who drinks beholds the truth entire  
Yet, fearful of the ridicule of men  
Who mock all things that lie beyond their ken,  
Endeavors to guard his revelation by  
Fantastic story and embroidered lie?  
O desert stars and moon, at least you know  
The nature of the spell within that flow!

### CREED OF THE DESERT

By JUNE LEMERT PAXTON  
Yucca Valley, California

Night brings a field mouse out to play,  
And visit with his neighbor.  
Of course he gathers in his food,  
And mixes fun with labor.

In their desert home the South family live congenially with a variety of animal friends—pack-rats and tortoises, lizards and snakes, and even a "hydrophobia" skunk. They also have visitors who, though too shy to associate with humans in daytime, make nocturnal raids on tidbits intended for the dump. Such a visitor was the little grey fox which Marshal tells about this month.

# Desert Refuge

By MARSHAL SOUTH

**W**ARM days and the drift of drowsy wandering winds along shimmering dry washes fringed by yuccas and creosotes and the bright green of stunted catsclaw. All the desert sleeps in the sun, wrapped in a veil of turquoise and shadowy indigo that is flecked here and there with the gleam of flowers. Forgotten are all the bleak days and the thin whining winds. The hummingbirds are back. The eager sap that pulses in the new flower shoots of the mesquits lifts their tall green wands higher and higher toward the cloudless sky.

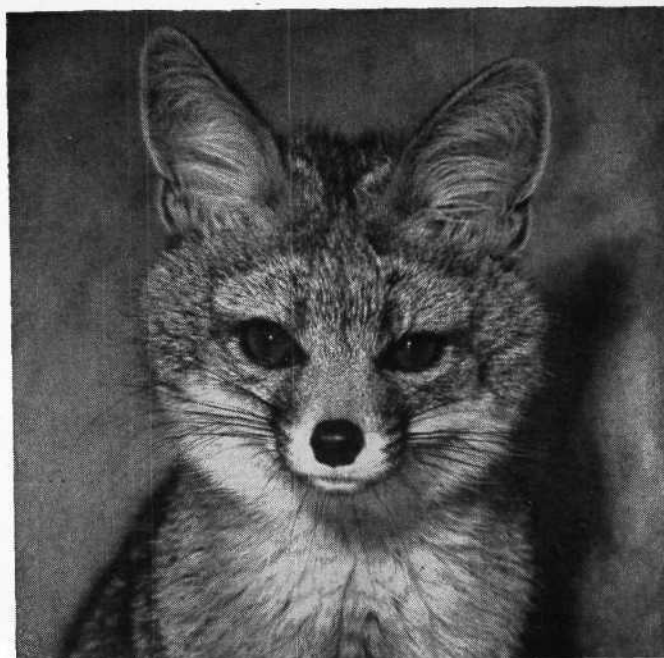
Every spring we marvel at the mesquits. The fact that we have watched their sprouting over a stretch of many years does not lessen the thrill. If anything time has increased it. For now we know many things about mesquite of which in the beginning we were ignorant. The mesquite—the agave or century plant—is a remarkable organism. It has so many virtues it is in a class by itself. It has been our chief standby so long that whenever we find ourselves in a district in which the mesquits do not flourish, we feel more than a little inconvenienced. When sandal cords break on tramping trips, we have been accustomed to make repairs simply by stripping a length of stout fibers—furnished with an excellent attached natural needle—from the nearest mesquite. So, when there are no mesquits, it is disconcerting. Also they would be missed for light building poles, for brushes of many varieties and a host of other purposes for which the mesquite stands ready to supply the primitive desert dweller.

There are several varieties of mesquits. The one which bristles the landscape on Ghost Mountain and vicinity is the Desert Agave. Not a large plant, as sizes go, but the area over which it grows in our neighborhood, is the largest, for its variety, in the United States. One of the most appealing things about our agaves is their food value. For, roasted in the proper manner, the young flower shoots and hearts are delicious. But there are two other angles of interest, which always have impressed us.

First, is the tenacity with which the plant clings to life. Against its efforts to flower and produce seeds, thereby guaranteeing the continuance of the life-cycle of its species, every force of the desert seems to be arrayed. Its enemies display cunning of a high order in outwitting the defense of needle-sharp spines. It is one of the tragic sights of the wastelands to see a majestic flower stalk, the sole supreme effort of perhaps 20 years of growth-fight against heat and drouth, cut down just before the breaking out of its flower buds, by the industrious gnawings of some sweet-toothed rat or squirrel.

I have seen stalks that have been gnawed through to all but a mere wisp of outer rind continue the fight. Unable to stand, and fallen by their own weight, they somehow hang onto life. They turn back, and up, upon themselves, forming grotesque figure-eights and other weird knots, until they can lift their summits once more toward the sun. From the contorted ruin of what once was a proud, lusty stalk, they finally fling forth their banner of yellow flowers.

They will do more than this. I have seen stalks whose budding tips have been completely severed, send out from the edges of the ragged stump fresh flower buds in a queer, struggling ring.



California grey fox. Photo by G. E. Kirkpatrick.

And those buds, handicapped and stunted though they were, came to successful flowers and seeds. Sometimes the plant, seemingly in a frenzy of desperation, accomplishes things that are little short of miracles.

The other characteristic of the mesquite plant which always has struck us forcibly is that, in its life-cycle, it typifies the civilizations which man, from time to time, builds. They start feebly. For a long period there is little sign of growth or expansion. Then, bit by bit, they become larger, better organized. Defended behind the ramparts of spines they come finally to lusty power. Then, in one wild burst of effort they fling forth to the world a final flowering of glory. After which they swiftly die. Worms gnaw at their hearts. They crash into oblivion, and their decaying bones form the soil from which arise their successors.

The little grey desert fox, who for some time has done us the honor to include our domicile in his regular circuit, came again last night to see what pickings were to be found. In the still night hours I was aroused by the stealthy clinking of metal. Looking through the window I saw our visitor in the moonlight, industriously going through a collection of tin cans that had been assembled for removal to our dump. Though he looked my way and I am certain he knew he was being watched, he betrayed no concern.

He was very systematic, going through each can as though it were a single problem. Several cans which had held milk came in for special effort. He seemed very fond of milk. Though the cans had been opened in the usual manner, by punching two small holes in the tops, he upended them so that he could catch in his tongue the few drops of liquid which they still contained. Sometimes a can would slip from his paws and go rolling away. At such times he would bound gracefully after it—a soft, soundless grey wraith, almost invisible even in the moonlight. After a while he would come back, appearing to be licking his lips, and start pawing for another can. When he had been through the whole bunch and was satisfied that this stopping place held nothing further for the night, he lifted his head, gave a final glance at my window, and trotted away.

He was a quiet, fascinating little fellow, reminding one more of a shadow than a creature of flesh and blood. It is impossible to imagine him raising a racket like our friends the packrats. Or fussing about with self-important swaggerings like the little spotted skunk who has condescended to adopt us. "Jimmy," as he is called, has lots of assurance but not good manners. He was



making such a disturbance prancing around in the porch the other night I went out with a bit of food as a bribe. For some reason he was offended at my appearance. After glowering at me from his temporary vantage point upon the lid of a water barrel, he retired into a crevice behind a cupboard, scuffling and scratching vigorously. But he could not resist the bribe. After I had called him several times he came out in his best masked-bandit manner, sniffed the tidbit, grabbed it from my fingers and retired to his hide-out. As a rule, though, Jimmy is very sociable—almost too much so. When we meet him on evenings in the porch he scampers around our bare ankles like an amiable kitten, the beautiful plume of his tail giving him a background like a cascade.

Our porch, which is Jimmy's stamping ground, is an outrage to the neat and orderly arrangement of any refined person. In it—in addition to screen-wire coolers for food—we keep miscellaneous piles of sticks and dead branches and bits of dry cactus intended for fuel and an assortment of old boxes, mud nests of mason wasps, chairs and benches, picks, rakes, axes, crowbars, wood saws, lanterns and water barrels. In addition there is, in one corner, a large packrat's nest, with all the trimmings of sticks and junk which are so dear to a packrat's heart. The overflow from the nest, consisting mostly of dead, dry cottonwood leaves, spills artistically over a great deal of the porch floor in a formation which geologists refer to as "a perfect alluvial fan." We never have the heart to hurt our friend's feelings by sweeping it out. Besides, what's the use? He would only lug it back.

There are two other packrats' nests on the porch. One is up under the eaves—a sort of penthouse dwelling. The other is on the lid of a water barrel. To this one the builder has added tin cans and odds and ends of the children's discarded playthings. At one time Jimmy the skunk used to come into the porch and stamp around among the litter of dry leaves, making a rustly, scattery sound, and scare the daylight out of the packrats, who

barred themselves up in the innermost rooms of their fortress and swore venomously at him. (And if you think a packrat cannot swear you are in for a terrible shock sometime.) But lately the family has lived together more peacefully. Jimmy takes fewer malicious leaps into the leaf heaps. And the rats swear in a softer voice.

Oh yes, there is another packrat living in the porch. He's the fellow who must have been reading about the hanging gardens of Babylon. At any rate he has his nest inside an old saucepan which hangs, top in, from a nail in the wall. There is just room, between the top edge of the pan and the wall, for an active rat to wriggle in. The "nest," just like that of a very neat bird, is constructed entirely of ropeyarn . . . Yes, we like the general arrangement of our back porch. And we wouldn't want it any other way. Of course, other people might react differently.

A friend stopped me some time back, on one of my periodic visits to "civilization," and asked me if I were really happy living out in the desert. "Don't you ever feel," she said, "that you and your family are *missing* something?"

"Yes," I agreed. "I think we are. Transportation strikes, for instance. And newspaper scare heads. And jazz. And nervous prostration. And other things."

"No," she said. "I didn't mean that. But isn't there anything you'd like?"

And I said yes to that too. But when I started to tell her several of the things I'd like—especially things I'd like to see done—she stopped me again.

"Oh, but that's politics. I didn't mean that either. What I meant was Happiness. Opportunity. Money. Couldn't you do better for yourself somewhere else?"

And to that I had to say no. Of course I couldn't say it so briefly. I had to explain that it was all a matter of viewpoint. That, as far as I was concerned, I had found Happiness and Opportunity. And that, as to money, it depended upon the value which you place upon money—whether you command it or it commands you. And that there can be more enjoyment derived from spending a nickel or a quarter, if you spend it with a contented heart, than can be obtained by many a man who reckons his income and his spending by thousands of dollars—being harassed the whole time by the devils of worry and uncertainty. I pointed out that times hadn't changed so much from that period in which was written: "Better a meal of herbs, where love is, than a fatted ox and hatred withal." We had quite a long talk. And my friend went away feeling, I think, that sympathy for my "underprivileged lot" was entirely wasted.

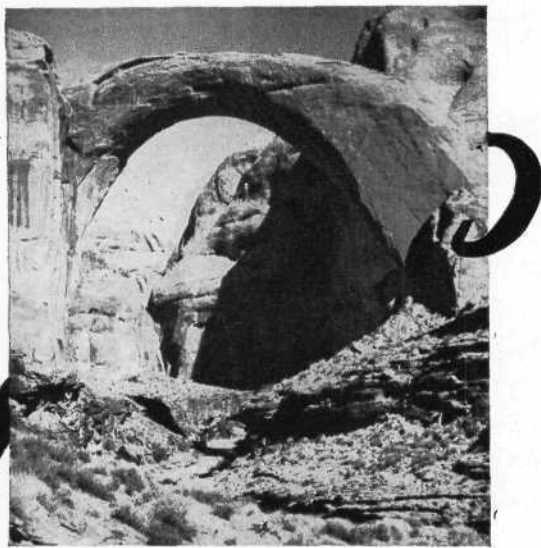
Rudyard is shouting loudly for assistance. The perpetual motion machine which he has invented from some old cogs, springs and rubber bands, has stopped. This is a fearsome invention, which, as the advertisements say, "must be seen to be appreciated." Briefly the idea is that if one rubber band revolves the flywheel half a revolution, and you have another rubber band and some springs and cogs adjusted so that they will take over and revolve the wheel the rest of the way, so that it will engage with the tension of the first rubber band again, then why in tunket won't the wheel keep on going round and round *ad infinitum*?

I'm sure I don't know. But it won't. And that is what Rudyard is so mad about. He demands the services of a "specialist."

#### THE LITTLE THING

*Do faithfully the little thing  
That comes to you each day,  
The duty small that seems to cling  
To each one on the Way,  
The little tasks that must be done  
And none but you can do,  
Thus shall you grow from sun to sun  
And blessings shall accrue.*

—Tanya South



## Capture the Rainbow

IN 1946

. . . take the thrilling trip on mule back down Rainbow Trail 'mid colorful scenes so vivid no artist could portray . . . to the most spectacular of all national monuments . . . RAINBOW BRIDGE. Rest at picturesque RAINBOW LODGE, backed by the breathtaking span of Navajo Mountain . . . where comfortable lodging, excellent food and hospitality are, as before, directed by Bill and Mrs. Wilson.

WRITE BILL WILSON, TONALEA, ARIZONA, FOR RATES  
AND A BROCHURE DESCRIBING "THE RAINBOW."



*Average speed 1½ miles an hour. Irtis Ward explores ahead while Arles Adams guides the jalopy through and over boulders which cloudburst storms have deposited in Coyote canyon.*

## *By Jalopy Through the 'Sweepings of the World'*

Penetrating the heart of Anza Desert State park by a route no car had been able to travel for ten years, Randall Henderson brings to Desert readers this month a report on one of the least known among the palm canyons of Southern California. This region was once the home of a tribe of jumping Indians—but the redskins have long since disappeared, and today it remains a place of rare scenic beauty for those who have the hardihood to explore its hidden recesses.

By RANDALL HENDERSON

**W**HEN Father Pedro Font traversed Coyote canyon in December, 1775, he was not impressed either by the scenery or the Indians he found there.

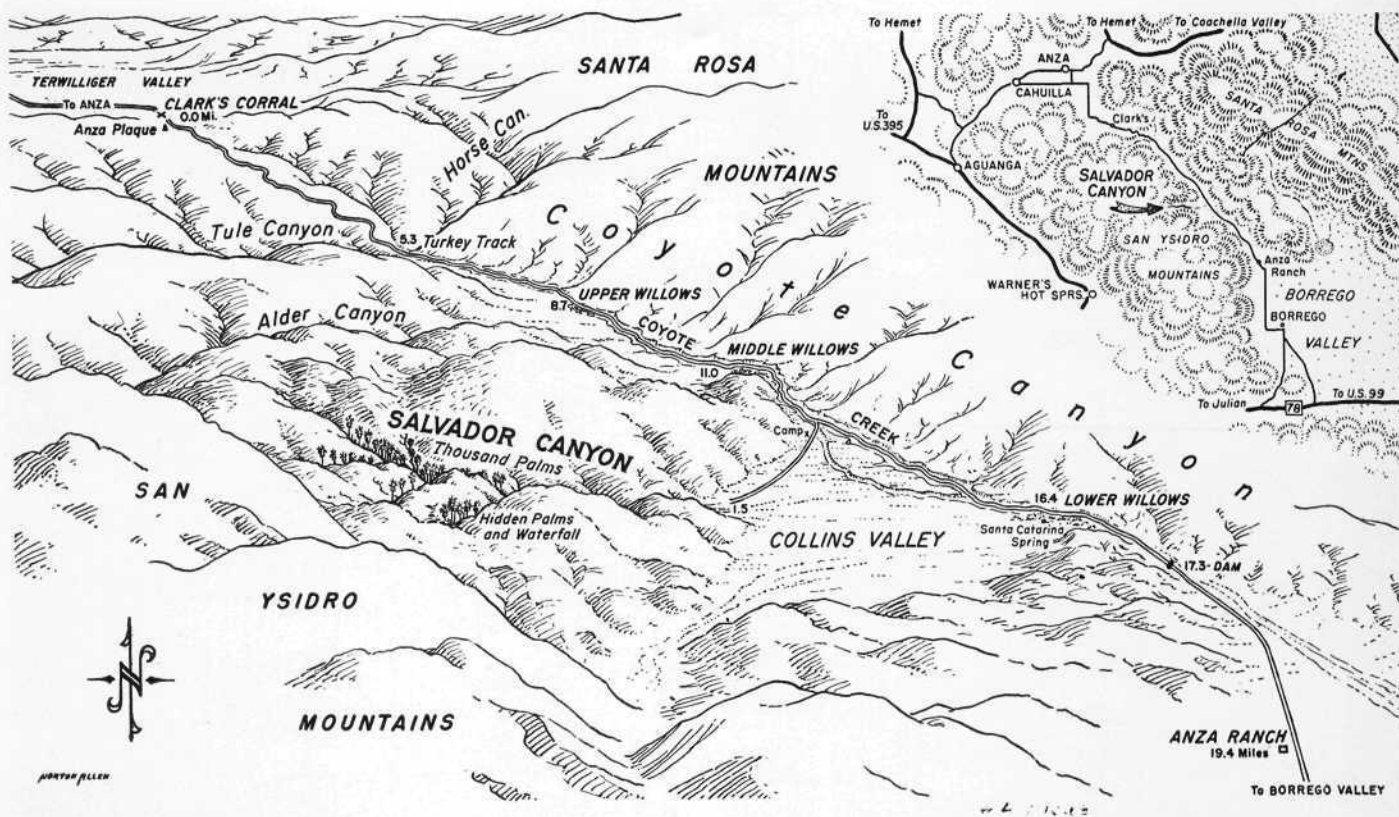
Of the landscape, he wrote in his diary: "This canyon is formed by various high and very rocky hills, or better, by great mountains of rock, boulders and smaller stones which look as if they had been brought and piled up here like the sweepings of the world . . . The road in places is somewhat broken and grown with shrubs or brush and a little *hediondilla* (creosote bush), for since this shrub is of evil augury, it is not lacking in these salty and worthless lands."

Nor were the Indians more friendly than the landscape. The padre described them: "The Indians came out of their grottoes as if they were angry, motioning to us with the hand that we must not go forward, talking in jargon with great rapidity, slapping their thighs, jumping like wild goats and with similar movements . . . One especially, who must have been some little chief, as soon as he saw us, began to talk with great rapidity, shouting and agitated as if angry, and as if he did not wish us to pass through his lands, and jerking himself to pieces with blows on his thighs, and with jumps, leaps and gestures. The women did not show themselves, but the men were unarmed, ugly, emaciated, disheveled, and dirty like all those who live in this sierra . . . The clothing of the men is nakedness; the women wear little skirts made of mescal or from the skins of deer."

Those were the impressions recorded 171 years ago when Captain Juan Bautista de Anza's first colony of California settlers, on their tortuous journey from Tubac in what is now southern Arizona to Monterey, spent a cold wet Christmas eve in Coyote canyon.

The Indians have long since departed from this rugged canyon. The road mentioned by Fray Font was only an Indian trail, since no wheeled vehicle had ever passed that way, and it too is gone—lost in the churning avalanche of sand and rock which flood torrents have brought down this canyon many times since that day.





Captain de Anza and Fray Font, responsible for the lives of 240 companions and over 1000 head of horses, mules and cattle, had neither the time nor incentive to explore the areas adjacent to their route. Had they done so they would have found in the tributary canyons flowing into Coyote, streams of cool sweet water lined with majestic palm trees, spreading sycamores, and great natural gardens of a thousand botanical species most of which, in season, bear gorgeous blossom and fill the air with fragrance.

A later generation of men, impressed with the charm of these tributary canyons, took steps to preserve them for the benefit of all the human family. The "sweepings of the world" have become part of the Anza Desert State park.

Those palms were the lure which first took me to Coyote canyon 12 years ago. At that time there was a passable road up the canyon, used by cattlemen and prospectors. Wilson McKenney and I spent two days there—our time being about equally divided between discovering palm trees and digging our jalopy out of the sand and mire along the route.

Soon after that trip, Coyote canyon became impassable to motor travel. The willow trees which thrive in the moist soil around Santa Catarina spring simply took possession of the entire canyon in that sector. Like the jungle in Africa, they encroached upon the little-used road until it became impenetrable. No car has ever been able to traverse the full length of Coyote canyon for eight or ten years. Arles Adams and I attempted it a year ago—and finally had to discard our jalopy in favor of horses loaned to us by Lawrence Way, foreman of Anza ranch. (Desert Magazine, July '45.)

But there is one palm tributary to Coyote creek which Arles and I have long wanted to explore. It appears on the maps as Thousand palms canyon, not to be confused with another Thousand palms canyon in the hills northwest of Indio, California. Hulbert Burroughs and Charles Shelton photographed this area for Desert Magazine in the summer of 1941—but their's was a backpack trip and they lacked the time fully to explore Thousand palms.

Having been turned back by the Willows at Santa Catarina spring on our previous visit to this area, Arles and I decided this

year to try the upper approach, coming in from Clark's ranch at the point where Anza and his party had climbed out of the gorge. Years ago the CCC built a fairly passable road down that grade to the floor of the canyon at this point.

In our stripped-down V-8, equipped with oversize tires, we left the Clark ranch before noon on a Saturday late in February. As a third passenger we had Irtis Ward, whose best recommendation for the trip was that he had lived most of his life on a Kansas wheat ranch and knew how to handle a crowbar. The crowbar was Arles' idea—and we would never have gotten through without it.

At its upper end, Coyote canyon splits into three separate arroyos, with Horse canyon going off into the hills to the north, Tule canyon to the south, and Nance canyon between. The junction of the three channels is known to old-timers in the area as the "turkey track."

It was rough going down the grade from the ranch corral. No work had been done on the road for years, and the rains had rutted and scoured it until it wasn't a fit trail for a burro. Bumping and skidding down that grade we wondered if we would ever get the car back to the top. There wasn't much said about it at the time, but Arles and I were thinking of a possible alternative.

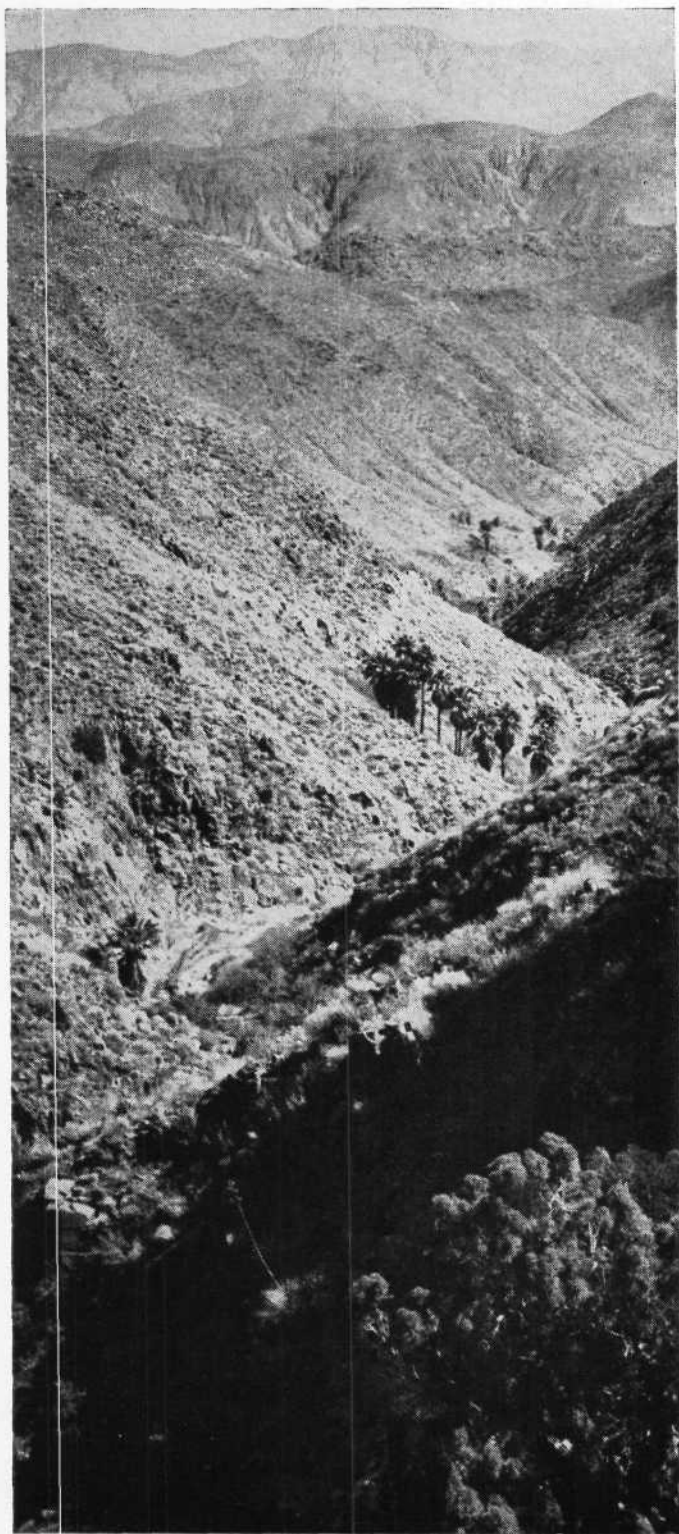
We knew that a mighty cloudburst torrent—one of those record-breakers which visit every desert canyon at long intervals—perhaps 10 or 25 or 50 years—had raged down Coyote canyon last August. We knew it had destroyed part of the Anza ranch irrigation system below Santa Catarina spring. We wondered if that torrent had been powerful enough to uproot the trees and cut a channel through the willow forest at Santa Catarina. By the time we reached the bottom of the grade we knew we were going to explore that possibility before attempting the five-mile climb back up to Clark's ranch.

Twelve years ago the wide floor of Coyote canyon was fairly level. The old road zigged and zagged back and forth across the bottom and crossed the stream many times. But we found a changed Coyote canyon today. The deluge last summer was no ordinary storm. It had gouged out a secondary channel from three to 12 feet deep in the floor of Coyote. This new channel

closed in on us immediately below the turkey track. We had no alternative route. We were boxed in by vertical walls of sand and boulders. There was no climbing out for detours.

And so we bounced along downstream, stopping frequently to pry huge boulders out of the way, filling in channels, exploring ahead to discover the most passable route, hoping always that no obstacle would appear that could not be overcome by shovels and jacks and the crowbar—and manpower. The jalopy behaved beautifully. On such a trip you can learn to love an old wreck

*Looking downstream in Salvador canyon from the top of the 60-foot waterfall. There are 302 palms in this canyon, and 58 in a fork which branches to the left just below the main palm group shown in this picture.*



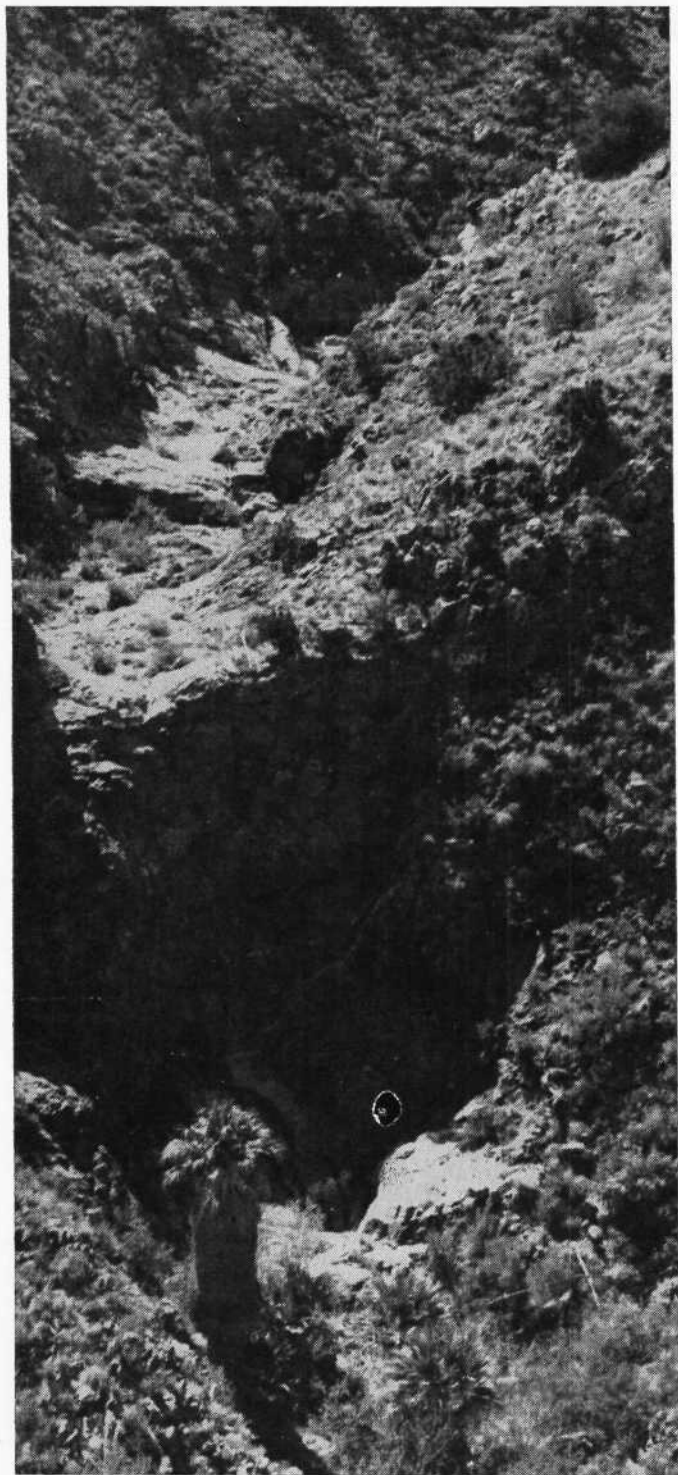
*These palms, perhaps 150 years old, show the slender form of the *Washingtonia filifera* found in some of the desert canyons.*

like that. More than once we were hung up on boulders and had to get out the jacks and pile in rocks to give footing to the spinning wheels. Arles at the wheel, took the car between rocky portals that scraped the fenders on both sides.

But traversing Coyote canyon was merely incidental to the main purpose of our trip. We had come to explore Thousand palms canyon. Just before dusk a side channel branched off to the south and gave us an opportunity to climb out in the direction of Thousand palms tributary. The auxiliary channel was dry and shallow, and we followed it a short distance and then made camp for the night. There was plenty of driftwood for the campfire and it was a perfect camp—with one exception. The Desert Magazine reporter had forgotten part of the cooking utensils. But the Kansas farmer saved the day. He showed us how expertly eggs and hotcakes could be flipped over with the blunt end of a machete—which we had brought along for a possible attack on the willows.

Next morning we followed the base of the mountain to a point on the bajada opposite Thousand palms canyon. We were in





"Rounding a sharp curve we faced a 60-foot dry waterfall." The climb to the top was by way of a chute on the left.

Collins valley, which merely is a wide bulge in the floor of Coyote canyon. From the distance, Thousand palms is not a conspicuous canyon. There are neither palm trees nor other landmarks to distinguish it from a score of other side-canyons in the area.

The elevation at the entrance is 1500 feet. Leaving the car we hiked over boulders and coarse rubble for a mile before we reached the first trickle of water—the point where Thousand palms creek disappeared in the sand. Occasionally a dead palm trunk was seen lodged among the rocks—the debris of some ancient flood. A mile and a half from the car we saw the first palms, just an occasional young tree. But far up in a side canyon

coming in from the south the sun was glistening on the fronds of what appeared to be a sizable oasis.

However, we continued up the main canyon, with palms increasing in both size and number as we climbed higher. There were waterfalls which had to be detoured, but the going generally was not as rough as in a score of other palm canyons described in previous issues of *Desert*. We passed another tributary coming in from the south, and could see a few palms high up in that channel also.

At  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from our starting point the main canyon forked, with a good stream of water coming down both branches. I do not know which of the two forks should be considered the main canyon above this point, but we decided to explore both of them. We continued up the left branch but our way was soon blocked by a jungle of mesquite, catsclaw and arrowweed and we were forced up on a precipitous sidehill, where toe-and-hand climbing was necessary. It was rough going, but the air was scented with wild apricot in blossom. It is a delicious aroma.

In another half mile the floor of the canyon had cleared and we dropped down to better footing. Here we saw a number of aged palms—tall slender trees whose skirts long ago had been burned but whose tops were still a healthy green. Nature had planted them above the floor of the canyon—hence their survival of the storm floods through the 125 or 150 years they have been growing.

The walls had now closed in until the floor of the canyon was only 12 or 15 feet wide in places. Then, rounding a sharp turn, we faced a dry waterfall 60 feet in height. Its face was almost vertical but we found a chute going up one side that could be scaled, and eventually reached the top. Beyond this point we found one lone palm, growing at an altitude of 2810 feet.

We continued up the canyon some distance, passing the uppermost of the springs which feed the creek in this canyon. When it became evident that we were beyond the range of the palms we rested in the shade of a boulder and compared notes.

It was too early for many species of wildflowers to be in blossom, but we had seen an occasional encelia and many chuparasas in bloom. The most colorful display was the wild apricots which grew plentifully on the slopes. They were covered with white flowers—and bees. I do not know whether it is the fault of the bees, or just what flaw there is in the fertilization of wild apricot blossom, but hardly one in a hundred of these flowers ever produces an apricot—and it is not very palatable fruit at that.

Two botanical specimens seen on this trip will remain long in memory. One was a bellflower phacelia, growing in a handful of dirt lodged in a boulder at the point where we turned back. There is no richer color on earth than the royal purple of the bell-shaped blossom of this graceful little plant. The other specimen—a sword fern with fronds 18 inches long was growing in a shaded nook beside the creek. I have seen myriads of ferns on the desert—the maidenhair that often clings to the shaded face of a waterfall, and many species of dwarfed desert ferns—but in all the years I have tramped these desert canyons, this was the first sword type I have found—just a lone specimen in Thousand palms canyon.

From this point we climbed over a ridge and down into the headwaters of the right fork of the main canyon. In this branch we counted 58 palms, making a total of 360 Washingtonias in the main canyon with its two forks.

There is a considerable variation in the types of Washington palms found in different areas, as Dr. L. H. Bailey of Cornell university confirms in his monograph on this genus. At various times botanical authorities have classified five species—*W. filifera*, *robusta*, *gracilis*, *sonorae* and *arizonica*. After years of study Dr. Bailey concluded that the species classifications should be reduced to two—*filifera* and *robusta*. The *filifera* is the native palm of Southern California and the Kofa mountain locality in western Arizona. *Robusta* is a native of Sonora, Mexico. It is the tall slender tree used so widely for landscaping in Los Angeles and other southwestern cities.



*These palms, perhaps 100 years old, have escaped the destructive power of storm floods because Nature planted them on the sidehill.*

But *filifera*, generally with a much thicker trunk, also grows quite spindly in some of the oases, and this characteristic is especially noticeable in Thousand palms canyon.

At the foot of one of the waterfalls we ate lunch, while a canyon wren flitted overhead from rock to rock and paid for its dinner of crumbs by an occasional outburst of song. The trilling reverse-scale of the canyon wren is one of the most delightful theme songs of the desert.

Arles and I are not too happy over the naming of this canyon. I do not know who first gave it the term "Thousand palms" but as a descriptive title it is far from accurate. Making liberal allowance for the palms in the tributary canyons, it is doubtful if there are 500 Washingtonias in the entire canyon system. I can

name a half dozen canyons in Southern California with a greater number.

Also, there is another Thousand palms canyon—Paul Wilhelm's oasis in the Indio hills 50 miles to the north. This place is well known to travelers, while the Thousand palms canyon in Anza park has been little publicised and seldom visited. As Anza park becomes more accessible confusion in these place names is inevitable.

Arles and I offer the suggestion that the Anza park oasis be named Salvador canyon—honoring California's first white baby, born in a tent less than five miles away at Upper Willows spring when Captain de Anza's colonists camped there on Christmas eve in 1775.

*Where last summer's flood cut a swath through the Lower Willows at Santa Catarina spring—otherwise the journey through Coyote canyon would not have been possible.*





Salvador Ygnacio Linares was the name given when Father Font christened the newcomer. His parents were Ygnacio and Gertrudis Rivas Linares. Salvador and his mother were hardy pioneers, for on the second day after his arrival he and his mother continued on horseback with the Anza caravan.

It was early afternoon when we returned to the car again, and we lost no time in resuming our journey. We did not know yet whether we could get through the willows at Santa Catarina spring, but the only alternative was to retrace our route up that boulder-strewn canyon, a trip that would be more difficult than on the previous day because the grade would be against us.

The cloudburst of the previous August had given us plenty of trouble. Perhaps it had also given us one good break—a clean swath through the forest of willow, which would enable us to complete our traverse of the entire canyon. Anyway, we were unanimous in our decision to make the effort.

We retraced our route back to the stream, and found the going rougher than it had been on the previous day. The fall in the lower canyon is not as great as above, and the current had piled up ridges of boulders like glacial moraines. Once we had to build a road and dig our way out of the channel for a long detour.

The sun was low when we reached the critical point in our journey—the willow forest. But our spirits rose to the high point of our adventure when we found a clean 20-foot channel cut through the jungle. The flood had uprooted hundreds of trees. Some of them were still clinging to the caved banks by a shred of root. We maneuvered the car through without difficulty—and then found more and bigger boulders below. But Nature had removed the toughest obstacle of all and we pushed and pried our way a mile downstream to where the Anza ranch owners had built a low diversion dam as a temporary method of restoring their water supply after the flood had carried away part of their big pipe line to Santa Catarina spring. We climbed out of the channel to the first road we had seen in 30 hours.

Our actual working time coming down the main Coyote channel was a little over eight hours—our average speed 1½ miles an hour.

Large acreages in Borrego valley are being cleared and leveled by vegetable growing concerns for winter crops. As a result of their need for a road to market, impetus is being given a movement for the construction of a highway down Coyote canyon—above the flood water mark. This road would follow roughly the route taken by Anza when he crossed the sierra to the coastal plain near Riverside.

Southern California's vacationists also have a stake in such a road. It will make accessible one of the most fascinating areas in Anza desert park, including Coyote, Indian, Cougar, Sheep and Salvador canyons. The jumping Indians of Fray Font's day are no longer there, but the scenic splendor of the region which was once their home, is far beyond anything the good padre could have imagined when he described this area as the "sweepings of the world."

#### NOTES ON WILDFLOWER BLOOM FOR MAY

**PALM SPRINGS**—Commonest flowers blooming in April in the Palm Springs region were: chuparosa, desert lavender, creosote, desert paintbrush, bush pentstemon, encelia, phacelia, lemonade berry, goatnut, deer weed, wild buckwheat, deerhorn, beavertail and barrel cactus, sand verbena, mountain lilac. Joshua trees were blooming along the road to Twentynine Palms. Best areas for bloom during May will be in canyons and slopes.

**NEVADA**—In vicinity of Boulder City, park officials expected a good display of flowers during Easter vacation. Among the commonest are sand verbena, several kinds of evening primrose, encelia, lupine and desert dandelion. Among those expected later (these should be blooming in May) are purple phacelias, chicory, mallows (orange and pink) and yellow senna. Also various cacti and ocotillo. More than 600 varieties are known in this area, and many of them should be in bloom during May.

# \$64,233,169.00

REPRESENTS THE 1945 CROP AND LIVESTOCK VALUATION TOTAL OF THE AREA SERVED BY IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT IN IMPERIAL COUNTY . . .

(Statistics Compiled by Agricultural Commissioner B. A. Harrigan)

Included in this Record-Breaking Total are 15 Items Exceeding One Million Dollars—

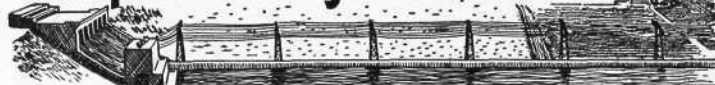
Alfalfa .....	\$11,848,335.00
Lettuce .....	9,163,440.00
Cattle .....	7,666,726.00
Cantaloupes .....	5,850,720.00
Carrots .....	5,501,130.00
Flax .....	4,230,720.00
Sugar Beets .....	2,105,000.00
Dairy Products and Market Milk .....	1,430,396.00
Tomatoes .....	1,418,040.00
Sheep .....	1,283,656.00
Ice .....	1,252,500.00
Honey Dew Melons .....	1,202,625.00
Cattle (Dairy) .....	1,135,500.00
Barley .....	1,070,055.00
Citrus Fruits .....	1,025,750.00

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# Country Cousins of the Dandelions

By MARY BEAL

**A**MONG the next of kin to the Dandelions are two species which merit special attention. The Chicory tribe, to which they all belong, has no members more attractive than these two sunny flowers. They usually are called Dandelions by the casual visitor to the desert areas where they grow, but they are not found in multitudes as are their more gregarious cousins. Although they weave no great carpets of glowing gold, this does not mean they are aloof or shyly retiring. They merely lead a quiet stay-at-home life in the country.

The most noticeable of the "country cousins" likes plenty of room to stretch out its branching stems. Here and there it creates individual patches of bright yellow whose brilliance is a lure to passers-by. Botanically it is known as

*Calycoseris parryi*

Its species name honors Dr. C. C. Parry, one of the botanists of the United States-Mexican Boundary Survey, whose interest in the plants discovered on that expedition led him to make many subsequent collecting trips into the Southwest. The genus name is derived from the Greek words for cup (*kalux*), referring to the shallow cup at the summit of the achene, and *seris*, the name of a cichoriaceous plant.

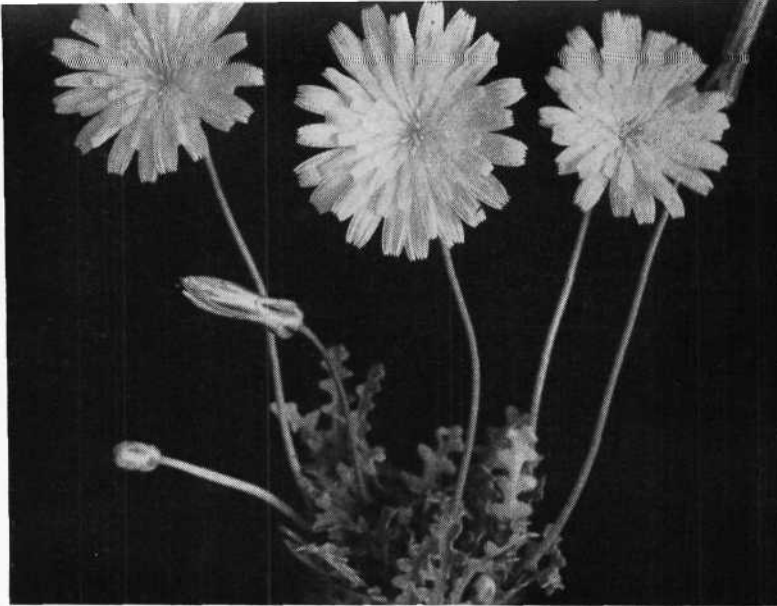
The plant averages 6 to 12 inches in height, usually with several branching stems from the base, which reach out a foot or more, even up to 2 feet under very favorable conditions, generously adorned with radiant blossoms. The leaves are divided into very slender, widely spaced lobes, growing mostly on the lower parts, while the upper leaves are tiny and bract-like. The upper parts, especially the flower-stems and involucre, are dotted with dark, tack-shaped glands. This latter characteristic has earned it the common name of Yellow Tack-Stem.

The sunny flower-heads are 1 to 1½ inches across, their eyes a clear bright yellow. The bristles of the copious white pappus are joined at the base, an intriguing circlet of silky fluff when the wind lifts it from the tiny cup at the tip of the achene's beak.

It adds sparkle to sandy plains and mesas of the Colorado desert, the central and eastern Mojave and Inyo deserts, Arizona, southern Utah and Nevada, usually in April and May.

*Calycoseris wrightii* is very similar to the above, but the tack-shaped glands are pale and the flower rays are white, streaked or spotted on the underside with rose-pink, the whole ligule turning rose-colored or purplish as it ages. From March to May it takes an attractive part in embroidering the tapestries of blossom on Arizona mesas, plains and rocky slopes up to 4000 feet. Less commonly it graces similar areas from Utah to northern Mexico, through Nevada and the California deserts, and as far east as Texas.

It too was named for an early collector in the West, Charles Wright (1811-1885). Wright was a young surveyor and teacher, who first collected plants in Texas and sent specimens to Asa Gray. Many of the plants he discovered when he accompanied United States troops from San Antonio to El Paso in 1849, proved to be hitherto unknown species. He was botanist with the North Pacific Exploring and Surveying expedition from 1853 to 1856. He collected in central California in 1855 and 1856.



*Scale-bud, or Anisocoma acaulis, is a charming little cousin of the desert Dandelion. Photo by Mary Beal.*

*Anisocoma acaulis*

This charming little annual, sometimes called Scale-bud, also produces no breath-taking sweeps of glorious color but is so lovely in every way that its delicate grace would ornament any garden. The herbage is smooth, a pale grey-green, veiled with a bloom, the fleshy, pinnately-lobed or toothed leaves 2 to 4 inches long, arranged in a basal rosette. From this lacy base rise the naked flower scapes, 3 to 6 inches, infrequently up to a foot in height, each one crowned by a single pale-yellow flower-head, usually an inch and a half across, the rays often tinged pink on the back. The silvery-white bracts of the long, very slender involucre are striped down the center with green or brown. The densely hairy achenes are tipped by a glistening white pappus of plumose bristles of two lengths, arranged in lopsided fashion, the long bristles on one side and the short ones on the opposite side. Because these two sets of pappus bristles are unlike, the botanists compounded its genus name from the Greek *anisos* (unequal) and *kome* (tuft of hair). Its species name is from the Latin, meaning stemless.

It is found rather commonly on mesas, sandy plains, mountain slopes and washes of the Mojave and Inyo deserts from 2000 to 7000 feet altitude, from March to June, according to elevation. Less frequently it favors southern Nevada and northwestern Arizona.

I'm glad that it has homesteaded a sandy strip within reach of my footsteps, around Daggett in the Mojave, for the sight of it always is one of the most welcome smiles of the desert spring.

## RARE MIDGET PARASITE PLANT DISCOVERED IN COLORADO DESERT

The "midget" of the desert, *Pilostyles thurberi*, which Jerry Laudermilk wrote about in *Desert*, June, 1945, and which at that time had been reported only from a restricted area in Arizona, was discovered in a new location January 30, 1946. Eva M. Wilson, El Centro, found this tiny parasitic plant growing on its usual host, Indigo bush, 30 miles west of El Centro, California. Identification was verified by Stanford university. The plants first appear like thickly scattered blackish pepper on stems and lower branches of the Indigo bush. These are the tiny flower buds of the "midget" which have just broken through the bark. They soon develop into a colony of minute brown flowers like crumbs of burnt toast. Laudermilk suggests there are probably many undiscovered *Pilostyles* localities waiting for someone who knows what to look for.



# LETTERS...

## The Colorado Desert . . .

Lordsburg, New Mexico

Dear Sirs:

I have asked so many people and none knew where the "Colorado desert" is located. Why not draw a map in some forthcoming issue showing where it is, and how large an area it covers.

MRS. A. H. McDANIEL

*We'll be running such a map sooner or later. For your information in the meantime, the Colorado desert, so named by W. P. Blake in 1853, is defined approximately as that part of the lower Colorado river watershed in California south of the Little San Bernardino and Chuckawalla mountain ranges. The Imperial or Salton basin occupies the greater part of this area.*

—Editor

## How Joshuas Got Their Name . . .

Kingsport, Tennessee

Mr. Henderson:

Desert Magazine is a real treat for those of us who live in far-away places, especially some of the names used out there in the Southwest—"Desert Rat," "Rockhound" and "Joshua Tree."

Did some prospector camp under those trees named Joshua, or were they named after the great General Joshua of biblical history, who made both the sun and moon stand still all night while he defeated his enemies? We read that he hung the five kings on five trees, and I can imagine he may have named them Joshua trees.

But the name hardly would have come this far from Palestine, so it probably is of modern origin. They surely are of much importance or they would not be kept under government supervision.

Please enlighten us readers on this subject.

DR. J. H. HURST

*Dear Doctor: Joshua trees were given their common name by a band of Mormon colonists under the leadership of Elisha Hunt in 1851. They were crossing the Mojave desert en-route from Utah to San Bernardino, California. It was approaching summer and a bank of clouds rolled overhead, tempering the sultry air, as they approached a forest of Joshua trees. The leader exclaimed, "Look brethren! the sky no longer is like brazen brass. God has sent the clouds. It is as if the sun stood still—as Joshua commanded. These green trees are lifting their arms to heaven in supplication. We shall call them Joshua trees! Soon we will reach the Promised Land!"—R.H.*

## Report on Rattlesnakes . . .

Death Valley, California

Dear Desert Mag:

Since Elmo Proctor has been neglecting his job, will you permit me to substitute as a critic of Desert?

Your comment on the danger from rattlesnakes sounds like a rank amateur. I do not know just how much danger there is of being hit by a meteor, but I do know I have been routed out of bed three times by rattlers. They were coiled up on the covers, and it isn't a pleasant experience. In the late 'nineties most of the cowboys in the Tonto basin country used large hair ropes around their beds to keep the rattlers away.

Yours with best wishes.

R. M. WIMMER

*Okay, friend Wimmer, but we amateurs long ago learned that the idea of a hair rope to keep rattlers off the bed comes from the same school of voodoo as the old superstition that if you fed white leghorns yellow corn their feathers would turn yellow.—R.H.*

## Tale of a Centipede . . .

Banning, California

Yanko Henderson:

Long time ago I lived where there were real centipedes, not these common little things you write about. If they were not seven or eight inches long we paid no attention to them.

We had a leghorn rooster that got the pip, or was disappointed in love, or something. Anyway his comb was a sort of sickly yellow and he had no pep. I was thinking of shooting him to put him out of his misery—but wasn't sure he was worth wastin' a .22 cartridge on.

But one day Mrs. Pierce called me out in the yard, and there was the sick rooster in mortal battle with the daddy of all centipedes. He would wrap himself around the rooster's head, then the leghorn would claw him off and start peckin' at him. Mrs. Pierce thought I ought to do something about it, but I just told her the rooster was having some fun, and I would kill the winner.

I won't go into the battle round by round, but the rooster finally won the fight, and ate the victim. After that I didn't have the heart to kill the leghorn. Next day he was out in the yard with the reddest comb and the cockiest strut you ever saw, and crowin' as if he had killed a whole den of rattlesnakes.

JIM PIERCE

## Indian Cradleboard . . .

Fallon, Nevada

Dear Mr. Henderson:

Glancing over the April copy of Desert I saw the query, "Can anyone tell us the name of the cradleboard used by Indians to carry papooses?"

A few years ago Gladys Rowley, who writes the column "Reno Revue" in the Nevada State Journal, asked the same question and was flooded with answers. Bill Powers of Reno, whose knowledge of Nevada Indians and their language is extensive, informed the column that both the Pahutes and the Shoshones called the snug little home in which the papoose travels on its mother's back a *hoob*. Another informant said the word was *hoob*, but pronounced like *hoop*, as though it had three o's in it.

Still another quoted Chalfant's *Story of Inyo*, chapter on home life of the Pahutes: "The infant Pahute was cradled in a wickerwork contrivance called a *huva* or *heuba*, with a tree fork as a foundation."

One informant explained how to tell the sex of *hoobed* babies. Certain tribes decorate the cover or hood with a diamond shaped figure for girls, a half diamond for boys.

One reader wrote, "Our local Indians call it a *burkus*. That is the name used by many western and midwestern tribes."

MRS. BEN HICKS

## Cradleboard Made Flat Heads . . .

Rowood, Arizona

Dear Editor:

I read the inquiry in your magazine about the name of the papoose carrying cradle. You did not state what language you wanted it in, so I am giving it to you in Papago. The Papagos call it *vool-coot*, meaning bandaged cradle. When I was a boy the Papagos made the cradles out of small twigs of the willow that grew along the rivers. You can tell the approximate age of an old Indian by feeling the back of his head. If the skull is flat, the Indian belonged to the age of the carrying cradle.

THOMAS CHILDS

## The Mojave Had a Name, Also . . .

San Bernardino, California

Dear Mr. Henderson:

Tucked away in an inconspicuous corner of the April Desert was a request for information regarding the Indian word for cradleboard.

Well, naturally every Indian language has its own word, but I can give you the Mojave word. It is *hu-ma-ra pa-va-vai*. *Hu-ma-ra* means baby, *hu-ma-ra keen-ya* is baby boy, and *hu-ma-ra cheen-ya* is baby girl.

I cannot give you the exact meaning of *pava-vai* but quite evidently it means holder, carrier, or container.

CHARLES BATTYE

# HERE AND THERE... on the Desert

## ARIZONA

### Vets Have Priority on Arizona Land

COOLIDGE—About 5000 acres of Arizona land is included in the approximately 600,000 acres of federally owned property on which house of representatives has decided war veterans shall have preference purchase rights. Property is known as Casa Grande Farms, Inc., near here. It is held by the agriculture department as a rural resettlement project.

### Wetherill Memorial Planned . . .

FLAGSTAFF—A monument to John and Louisa Wade Wetherill will be erected on a hilltop overlooking their former home at Kayenta, according to plans disclosed by Dr. Harold S. Colton, treasurer of the Wetherill Memorial fund now being raised. Donors to the fund have suggested a large natural boulder bearing a bronze plaque. Committeemen working with Dr. Colton include Dr. Emil W. Haury of Arizona state museum, Dr. Clyde Kluckhohn of Harvard, James Swinnerton the artist, and Harry C. James of Altadena, California.

### Hotel Has Jail Accommodations . . .

TOMBSTONE—Historic old courthouse, built here in 1882, soon will be reconverted into a modern hotel by Albert Kazal, representing interests in Douglas. Under terms of the 25 year lease, exterior appearance of building is to be preserved. However, no announcement was made about a new jail, so the lessee has a private jail on his hands.

### Picket Post to Be Guest House . . .

SUPERIOR—Picket Post House, desert mansion of the late Col. William Boyce Thompson of Chicago, adjoining Southwest Arboretum near here, has been purchased by Walter A. Franklin, who plans to operate it as a guest ranch. Thompson, mining tycoon, started construction on his home in 1923, and soon after planned the arboretum which extends over an 1100 acre area in the Pinal foothills. Aims of arboretum are "research, investigation and experimentation in agriculture, horticulture, biology, botany, arboriculture and other scientific subjects."

### Desert Colors Captured and Named

TUCSON—From the deserts and mountains and from crumbling adobe walls come "native" colors to help make Tucson "the most attractive city in the nation." This is the aim of Tucson Regional Plan, Inc., a cooperative city-county group which is influencing architecture and landscaping of southern Arizona. It recently issued a color card as a guide for painting homes. The dozen shades, originated by Dale Nichols, artist, and Harry Bacal, paint chemist, included palo verde blossom yellow, cielo blue, saguaro green, tierra brown, Castilian pink.

### More Pack Mules at Rainbow . . .

CAMERON—Rainbow lodge, closed the past three years, was reopened April 1 with an added string of 30 pack-mules and four additional wrangler guides to serve visitors on the 14-mile scenic trail from the lodge to Rainbow bridge this season, according to Barry Goldwater. Katherine and Bill Wilson, operating the lodge, state that the 35-mile road from Inscription House trading post to the lodge is in better condition than in years. A new trading post and more cottages are to be built at the lodge this season.

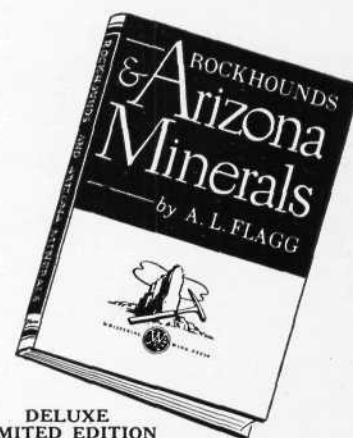
### H. B. Farmer Asks Gila Appropriation

YUMA—Gila reclamation project, east of here, is one of the first which can be developed for war veterans. This was the statement of Hugo B. Farmer, representing Gila Project association of Yuma county, in March before house appropriations committee which was considering a \$2,000,000 appropriation for the 150,000 acre project. Farmer said that due to the fact there are no engineering problems involved and a large part of the canal system is already constructed, this area could be developed rapidly to provide homes and farmlands for nearly 100 veterans. About 70,000 acres of the project is public land.

## 2000 Trek for Treasure . . .

APACHE JUNCTION—The ghost of Jacob Walz may or may not have been stalking around his Superstition Mountain haunts on St. Patrick's day. If it was he must have been amazed to see what he started. More than 2000 men, women and children motored to the mountain range, made base camp then tramped the rugged mountains which are believed by many to conceal the Lost Dutchman mine. Their guides were gaily-clad members of the Phoenix Dons Club, sponsors of the annual trek. This year's trek was the first since prewar days. Treasure hunters came from 14 states and seven foreign countries—England, Sweden, Denmark, Australia, Cuba, Ireland and Canada.

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A Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and President of both the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineral Societies and the Mineralogical Society of Arizona, Mr. Flagg has been a "Rockhound" for half a century, forty of which have been devoted to the minerals of Arizona.

In this fascinating new book, of which only a limited edition has been printed, Mr. Flagg presents in five parts a wealth of constructive facts and information that will be invaluable to both the novice and the experienced "Rockhound."

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**29 PALMS  
INN**



# THE DESERT TRADING POST

Classified advertising in this section costs 7 cents a word, \$1.00 minimum per issue

## MISCELLANEOUS

**DESARTATIONS:** Reckon the reason we can't not git no black pepper er tapioky is 'cuz the Folkses that grow the stuff hez found a way t' make likker outen it, like they did sugar. The DesArt Shop at 329 College St., Santa Fe, is gittin' lots o' repeat biz from y'u desert photograffists which is jist swell fer them an' me too, also. Azzever youm, Art of the Desert.

**MIDDLE AGED** active man wishes to make occupational and living adjustment from city over to the desert. Caretaker or wage earning responsible work. No objection to depth or distance or small town in desert country. J. A. Cooney, 1157 So. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles 6, Calif.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Visit the fine collection at the Mission Mineral Mart (formerly El Dan Dora Rock Shop) when you come to San Diego. Rare minerals, Petrified wood, Gem materials. Mineralite Agency for San Diego County. A Fluorescence Laboratory with beautiful and instructive display. Full information on San Diego County's fabulous back-country, Mission Mineral Mart, 818 Ft. Stockton Drive, San Diego 3, Calif.

**INDIAN BEADED Belts.** Typical Western Craft. Handmade in California. Wear with slacks or riding breeches. Beautiful bead strips mounted on fine leather belts. 3/4 inch belts \$4.25. 1 inch belts \$4.75. Give waist measure and width wanted. Shipped C.O.D. or postpaid if remittance accompanies order. Dealer inquiries welcomed. Send orders to Will-Kraft Industries, 4416 Georgia St., San Diego 3, California.

**WE ARE AGAIN RECEIVING** real hand-hammered Indian jewelry from the reservation all made by top silversmiths. For our rock customers we have bought another collection of rock, making this one of the largest collections of rocks and minerals in this part of the country. Our collection of rugs, baskets and jewelry is still large despite the shortage. Come in and see us. Daniels Indian Trading Post, 401 W. Foothill Blvd., Fontana, Calif.

**INDIAN RELICS:** 4 very fine ancient Indian arrowheads \$1.00. 4 very fine bird arrowheads \$1.00. 10 nice perfect arrowheads \$1.00. Stone tomahawk \$1.00. 2 flint skinning knives \$1.00. 10 arrowheads from 10 different states \$1.00. 10 arrowheads of 10 different materials \$1.00. 2 nice spearheads \$1.00. 4 small spearheads \$1.00. 5 stone net sinkers \$1.00. 5 stone line sinkers \$1.00. 2 fine flint chisels \$1.00. 4 finely made duck bill scrapers \$1.00. 10 stemmed scrapers \$1.00. 5 rare round hide scrapers \$1.00. 5 small finely made knife blades \$1.00. 2 stemmed hoes \$1.00. 4 fine drills \$1.00. 5 fine awls \$1.00. Rare ceremonial flint \$1.00. 4 sawedged arrowheads \$1.00. 4 odd shaped arrowheads \$1.00. 4 fine drill pointed arrowheads \$1.00. 4 flying bird arrowheads \$1.00. All of the above 23 offers for \$20.00. Fine Stone Celts or ungrooved Axes, 50c, 75c \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00 each according to size. Finely made grooved axes \$3.00 to \$17.00. 100 assorted Sea Shells \$10.00. Location where found given. 20 slightly damaged arrowheads of good grade \$1.00. 100 rough and damaged arrowheads \$3.00. List free. Lear's, Box 569, Galveston, Texas.

**HANDICRAFT PRODUCTS** of Alaska Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos—ivory ornaments, dolls, moccasins, baskets, bear hides, others. Northwest Indian Novelties, 2186 N. W. Glisan, Portland 10, Oregon.

**HAVE THE SHELLS** your son or husband brought home from the South Pacific made into something useful, beautiful, lasting. I make them into brooches or earrings at a reasonable price. Write to me. Mrs. Philip Stalker, P. O. Box 900, Walla Walla, Wash.

**ATTENTION FOSSIL COLLECTORS!** Our new 1946 price lists have just arrived from the printers. Mail us your name and address for free copy. Omaha Scientific Supply Company, Box 1750, Omaha 4, Nebr.

**HAND WROUGHT COPPER,** in all types of metal arts for the home. Many desert gems cut and polished or rough. Inlays for the fireplace and barbecue. Send for a list of our special items. Valley Crafts Shop, 14135 Oxnard St., Van Nuys, Calif.

**CACTI AND SUCCULENTS**—From the deserts of the world. Don-Rita brand. By appointment only. Write us your needs and we will try to help you. Michael-Donnelly Cacti Gardens, 334 Lowell St., Daly City, Calif.

## BOOKS — MAGAZINES

**READY MARCH 15th:** "Lost Mines of the Old West" by Howard D. Clark in collaboration with Ray Hetherington. Original pen and ink sketches by Cedric W. Wiadas. Featuring the lost "Peg Leg" along with 24 other famous lost mine stories. See your nearest book dealer or order direct from distributor. Price \$1.10 postpaid. Western Book and Magazine Shop, 331 1/2 So. Hill St., Los Angeles 13, California.

**WILL TRADE** 250 page cook-book for any two copies "Arizona Highways." Hellar, P. O. Box 2507, Los Angeles 53, Calif.

**BOOKS**—(Out of print, scarce, new, old books) quickly supplied. Send wants. Hellar, P. O. Box 2507, Los Angeles 53, Calif.

**PRIZE** for every reader. Send dime for copy of Continental Congress News, 587 West 55th Street, Los Angeles 37, California.

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**GOLD PANNING FOR PROFIT.** Healthy, fascinating occupation. Beginners' big instruction book, blueprints, photograph—\$1.00. Desert Jim, 208 Delmar, Vallejo, California.

**ARIZONA HIGHWAYS,** Deserts, National Geographic, other magazines, bought, sold, traded. John Wesley Davis, 1611 1/2 Donaldson St., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

**BOOKS OF THE SOUTHWEST.** For outstanding titles on the desert country—Travel, History, Desert Plants and Animals, Gems and Minerals, Indians, Juvenile — write Desert Crafts Shop, 636 State St., El Centro, Calif. Free catalog.

## Leave Your Plane at Home . . .

**PHOENIX**—Only oldfashioned hunting methods will be tolerated by Arizona game and fish commission. In March all game rangers were notified that it is illegal to "take, hunt or pursue any wild animal by means of aircraft or airplane."

Plans for a permanent camp for use of motion picture companies on location in picturesque Oak Creek canyon, south of Flagstaff, were announced in March by Anderson Boarding and Supply company of Phoenix and Los Angeles.

Dr. Daniel Boone Herring, 72, soldier, policeman, clergyman, author, lecturer, died March 13 at a veterans' hospital in Tucson.

First all-Indian post of the Department of Arizona was chartered by American Legion recently, when Navajo Post No. 342 of Window Rock, was formed.

Douglas chamber of commerce and mines estimates population of Douglas at 13,000 and that of its trading area at 45,000.

L. S. Cates, New York City, president Phelps Dodge Mining corporation, has leased the 1000 acre P-M ranch, 25 miles north of Nogales.

Cmdr. W. C. Lefebvre, of Phoenix, took over duties of state highway engineer April 1, after having served in the navy since December, 1942. He is former city engineer of Tucson, Pima county engineer and city manager of Phoenix, and was state highway engineer from 1924 to 1929.

The Inselsic Survey Foundation of New York has completed a nationwide housing survey which shows that Arizona is the hardest state in the country in which to rent a house or apartment.

## LIVESTOCK

**URGENT:** Want to buy two burros, preferably from general vicinity of Yosemite National Park. Address Box E, Desert Magazine.

**KARAKULS.** Producers of Persian Lamb fur are easy to raise and adapted to the desert which is their native home. For further information write Addis Kelley, 4637 E. 52 Place, Maywood, California.

## REAL ESTATE

**DISCHARGED SOLDIER** will sell mining claim on Colorado River, fishing, hunting, well water, shade. Highway crosses claim. Address Box 517, Calipatria, Calif.

For Imperial Valley Farms—

W. E. HANCOCK

"The Farm Land Man"

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## CALIFORNIA

### "Then the Ground Opened" . . .

**INDEPENDENCE** — Residents of Inyo-Mono area were jolted out of sleep March 22 by a series of sharp earthquakes which rocked lower end of the valley and resulted in a break in Los Angeles aqueduct 70 miles south of Lone Pine. Damage to aqueduct, in section between Nine Mile and No Name canyons, was caused when boulders crashed down mountainside into the open canal. Water surged over edge of the dirt bank in two spots, cutting a channel as it gushed out. When it had reached U. S. 395, some five miles to the east, it had spread into a small river some 20 feet wide and hub-deep across the road. Jesse R. Smith, Lone Pine photographer, abandoned efforts to photograph damage when the ground began to open under his feet. He was watching tilting of the ground on a sidehill when, he said, "Suddenly with a wrench, the ground began to split open. I looked down and saw a widening crack forming on the spot where I was standing. That was when I left." Earthquake shocks in neighborhood of Owens valley may be expected for the next several months, C. F. Richter, professor of astronomy at California Institute of Technology, declared. Last major earthquake in this area, he said, was in 1872. Fault line, which extends through the southern part of the valley, is clearly visible in some sections where the land suddenly drops some 15 to 20 feet. Two spots just north of Lone Pine are particularly noticeable.

### To Submit Tramway Bids . . .

**PALM SPRINGS**—Three engineering firms are expected to submit bids soon for the construction of the San Jacinto mountain tramway, according to Earl Coffman, head of the group in charge of the project. Fifteen months' time will be required to complete the project, which has been authorized by California legislation.

### DESERT SOUVENIR

A four-color picture suitable for framing shows the Covered Wagon Train of '68 crossing the desert; now on display at Knott's Berry Place, Highway 39, two miles from Buena Park out of Los Angeles 22 miles. This remarkable oil painting 20x60 feet took over one year to complete. A copy will be mailed you together with the special souvenir edition of our Western Magazine jam-packed with original drawings and pictures and complete description of Ghost Town and Knott's Berry Place. Both will be mailed with current issue of our 36-page magazine for 25 cents postpaid in the U.S.A. Thousands have already viewed this great work of art and acclaim it a wonderful contribution to the history of the West. Admission is without charge whether you stay for the chicken dinner and boysenberry pie or not. Send 25 cents for all three: picture, souvenir and current issue to Ghost Town News, Buena Park, California.

### Date Dealer Buys Travertine . . .

**INDIO**—Twelve hundred acres including Travertine Point, prominent landmark 23 miles south of Indio on Highway 99, recently was purchased from George Crosby of Duluth, Minnesota by Russell Nicoll, owner of Valerie Jean date shop at Valerie Corner. The new owner will preserve, as a perpetual Easter sunrise shrine, Sunrise Hill on Travertine, site of past Coachella Valley Easter services.

### Site Chosen for Patton Park . . .

**INDIO**—G. Stanley Wilson, Riverside architect, has been commissioned by the Highway 60 Association to prepare plans for the proposed 320-acre memorial park planned in tribute to Gen. George S. Patton at the site of old Camp Young on the Riverside county desert where Patton trained the third armored division. Native desert materials are to be used in any construction work undertaken.

### Smoke Tree Land Sold . . .

**TWENTYNINE PALMS**—Sale of entire real estate holdings of Pacific Coast Land company and J. I. Sklar, to a group of local business men and one Los Angeles associate was announced in March. Buyers are Leonard P. Wikoff, Edward J. Kenney, Earl H. Nicholes and Ralph W. Schneider, local men, and Mrs. Anne Honn of Los Angeles. Transfer includes over 200 lots in various subdivisions and nearly a section of undeveloped acreage, all in Smoke Tree district. Acreage comprises nearly a mile of frontage on Twenty-nine Palms highway, lying south and north of the road, and extending through to the Two-Mile road. New owners will maintain a Los Angeles sales office. Development hereafter will be known as Smoke Tree Lands.

### Propose Tunnel Through Lagunas . . .

**CALEXICO** — A proposed 33-mile highway and railroad tunnel through Laguna mountains which would shorten distance from Imperial Valley to San Diego by 26 miles could be built for \$80,000,000 and could be self-liquidating by means of toll charges, according to H. A. Hansen, Long Beach engineer. Hansen described the plan before the San Diego-Imperial-Yuma council at Westmorland late in March. Tunnel would provide for 4-lane automobile highway, double track railroad and an aqueduct to carry Colorado river water to San Diego.

W. G. Thayer, Needles, in March received award from Field and Stream magazine for catching one of ten largest bass caught in northern area of United States—a 9 lb. 3 oz. big mouth black bass at Lake Havasu.

New census count gives Palm Springs population of 7157, as compared with 3434 in 1940.

## NOW DON'T LOSE YOUR BEARINGS



Many of the Wide Open Spaces were closed for the duration.

During the war car owners were just car owners—about all they could do with the car was to own it.

Motors were powerless for want of gasoline and wheels were tireless for lack of rubber.

The poor motorist had to confine his touring to weaving in and out of over-stuffed parking lots.



But this year he plans to get away from the city's form-fitting traffic.

He's going to head for the fish and game country to welfare himself among the scenery.

Trouble is, when he starts traveling unfamiliar roads, he's liable to get himself awful lost.

So, to help the roving motorist keep his bearings, Shell Touring Service is replenishing its maps and material.

This famous guide service has overhauled its directives and is putting all its steering gear in order.



But there's another way the out-of-practice wayfarer can lose his bearings on his roamin' holiday.

If not properly oiled, the motor bearings might stop, lock or loosen.

In fact, a whole Shelllubrication job should be as much a part of trip preparation as laying out the itinerary.

And while the prospective tourist has his car in the Service Station for Shelllubrication, he can pick up his road maps—or he can get an entire routing just for the asking.

—BUD LANDIS



Los Angeles bureau of power and light plans to construct five buildings at a cost of \$100,000 on property east of Beacon Tavern, Barstow, it was reported March 28.

Up to March 1, winter travel in Death Valley country was on par with that of 1942. At that date more than 100,000 visitors had come to valley; most resorts were booked to capacity through April.

**PALM VILLAGE**  
*Desert Homes*



A secluded community of homes for a select clientele; highly developed, landscaped and with all utilities; surrounded by desert with mountain views on all sides. Here's healthful desert sunshine at its best; just 12 miles south-east of Palm Springs on Rt. 111.

HOMESITES from \$795 to \$3000  
FULLGROWN CITRUS ACREAGE  
AND DATE GARDENS Available

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THE SANDALS THAT MADE MEXICO FAMOUS ARE HERE AGAIN

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**\$3.45**  
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Sizes for everyone—men, women, children. Children's sizes \$2.25

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ pairs Huaraches  
Foot outlines enclosed, sizes \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

**The OLD MEXICO SHOP**  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Beautiful Murray canyon, between Andreas and Palm canyons in San Jacinto mountain, will be opened by construction of Los Compadres Trail next fall, according to plans of Desert Riders of Palm Springs.

Officers of California Date Growers association elected at Indio in March include: Wm. W. Cook, president-general manager; H. L. Cavanagh, vice-president; Mrs. E. V. Gillespie, treasurer; Mrs. Hazel M. Burns, secretary.

First 1945-46 pool payment of United Date Growers association totaled \$603,985.90.

Lone Pine Stampede association, headed by Stampede president R. B. Spainhower, was all set for its annual celebration to take place April 27-28.

Bill Keyes, colorful desert character convicted of manslaughter in slaying of Worth Bagley near Twentynine Palms in 1943, will apply to Gov. Warren for a pardon, it was reported in March.

A group of 20 county civic leaders followed the old Anza route through Coyote canyon early in March using army scout cars. Following a route blazed by a Desert Magazine expedition two weeks previous the group made the trip in four hours, 45 minutes.

## NEVADA

### Snow Runoff Below Normal . . .

BOULDER CITY—Reports from U. S. weather bureau at Denver, made on basis of snow pack in Rocky mountain watershed March 1, indicate the inflow of Colorado river into Lake Mead during the April-to-July runoff period will not exceed 6,800,000 acre feet. This is 25 per cent below average of the past 25 years. Deficiencies in the various tributary sheds range from 16 per cent below normal on Green river to 58 per cent on the San Juan. Rains during March and April would affect these figures favorably.

### Plan Expansion for Mead Guests . . .

BOULDER CITY—Program of expansion for Boulder Dam Tours, which has operated on Lake Mead since its formation behind Boulder dam, was to be presented to national park service officials late in March, according to Guy D. Edwards, superintendent Boulder dam recreational area. Much of the development on the lake depends upon congressional appropriation, Edwards said, as some of the expansion is dependent on availability of roads in the section, which would have to be constructed by national park service.

### Whipple Caves Sold . . .

PIOCHE—Whipple caves, 60 miles south of Ely in White River valley, have been sold to Ernest R. and Laura Y. Woolley by J. L. Whipple, the latter announced in March. Caves are said to exceed Lehman caves both in size and scenic attraction. Some 3000 feet of the series of chambers have been explored. Stalagmites and stalactites form an underground wonderland. One stalagmite is said to be 50 feet high, others ring with musical tones when struck. There is ice cold water within the caves.

### You Have to Be a Real Farmer . . .

BOULDER CITY—Some of the reasons applicants for federal reclamation lands are turned down were explained here in March by Ian A. Briggs, chief of division of land use and settlement, bureau of reclamation. In his files are 10 applications for every piece of land available, he said. "At least half of the applicants would be harmed if they were given the land. They wouldn't be fitted to take it over and make it produce. Some of them couldn't become accustomed to the desert and wouldn't like it, others would know nothing and couldn't learn about irrigation and there are others among them that just are not qualified for farming." Briggs cited the Yuma mesa project as an example of "making the grass grow green in the middle of the desert." "This sandy mesa could be bought a few years ago by picking up tax titles at 50 cents an acre. Following the pre-development work done there by the bureau land now is selling at \$60 an acre."

## TOP O' TH' PINES SUMMER RESORT

Clean Cabins in the Cool Pines  
Reasonable Weekly and Monthly Rates

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## NON-RATIONED . . .

## Basketball, Bowling, Baseball SHOES

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

## Park Museum Reopens . . .

BOULDER CITY — National Park Service museum opened here in March after being closed for three years. Museum, featuring flora, fauna, archeology and geology of the area, is located on New Mexico avenue at foot of Avenue F, is open daily 8 a. m. until noon and 1 p. m. until 5 p. m.

## Start Davis Dam Road . . .

LAS VEGAS—Work was to start immediately on construction of highway to Davis dam, it was revealed in March by State Highway Engineer Robert A. Allen. Announcement followed awarding of contract to Westbrook and Pope company, Sacramento, who submitted low bid of \$422,096.05.

Vic Johnson of Las Vegas in March assumed managership of Riddle Scenic Tours of Yellow Cab company, including supervision over operations in southern Nevada and Death Valley.

Construction of 120 room resort hotel, to cost approximately \$1,250,000 is under way on the Los Angeles highway about two miles south of Las Vegas, it was announced in March.

Construction on Winnemucca's \$500,000 bus depot and hotel was started March 25, it was reported.

Major Max Fleischman has added a new gift of three animal life dioramas to the five he previously had presented Nevada state museum, at Carson City.

## SCOTTY'S DESERT RESORT

Modern Housekeeping Cabins

On Highway 78—35 miles east of Julian. Land by plane on dry lake by Highway.

For Reservations Phone . . .

M. W. Scott, Ocotillo, through El Centro, California, Exchange

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- INFANTS' AND CHILDREN'S WEAR
- LADIES' READY-TO-WEAR
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- FINE LINENS

## CUSTER'S

206 W. TENTH STREET PHONE 246  
LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA  
THE HEART OF ANTELOPE VALLEY  
RILLA CUSTER GALEN CUSTER

Frank T. Crowe, 63, famed engineer who built Boulder dam and 18 other western reclamation and power projects, died February 28 while on his way to inspect still another dam on Sacramento river near Redding, California.

## NEW MEXICO

### Find "Parents" for Ranch Boys . . .

ALBUQUERQUE — A "father and mother" have been found for the Flying BR, as the New Mexico Boys Ranch home will be called. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Jackson Gordon of Mountainair were chosen as an ideal couple to direct the 2000 acre ranch for "problem" boys on the east bank of the Rio Grande in northern Socorro county. Mrs. Gordon is a specialist in home economics, wood working, weaving, painting and drawing, first aid, clay modeling and household budgeting. Gordon has had a wide range of experience including ranch foreman, superintendent of schools, district conservationist. He is a qualified carpenter, electrician, plumber. As soon as housing is obtained steps will be taken to establish boys in the ranch home.

### Bomb Town Booms . . .

LOS ALAMOS—Plans for construction of 300 to 500 permanent residences at Los Alamos atomic bomb project this spring and summer and laying of a \$75,000 water line to the project site from artesian wells in the Rio Grande valley near San Ildefonso were announced in March by Lieut. Col. W. A. Stevens, commander of Los Alamos military post. New water system for this town of approximately 5000 is already under construction, and to meet temporary housing needs the first of 100 prefabricated houses are being set up here. Stevens said privately owned concerns such as drug stores and groceries will be given full business privileges. All stores, however, will operate under government concessions. Stevens said firms could obtain concession-bidding forms from his office.

### Highway Contracts Let . . .

SANTA FE—Public roads administration has approved awarding of two highway construction contracts totaling more than \$500,000, state highway engineer Fred G. Healy reported in March. Included is construction on state highway 92 between Elida and Dora in Roosevelt county, and U. S. 54 between Carrizozo and Tularosa.

### Social Security Asked for Navajo . . .

GALLUP—Extension of state and federal social security to Navajo tribesmen was asked of government agencies in March by United Indian Traders association. A resolution adopted by the traders called for all necessary steps to "correct this neglect and discrimination."

## Zuñi Katchinas Conduct Rites . . .

ZUNI—Sixty Zuñi Indian boys, ranging in age from five to nine, were conducted through mysterious and colorful rites of the Zuñi Indian whipping ritual in March. The ceremony, scheduled to start on the day of the third full moon after the winter solstice, is to protect the boys from evil spirits, or in case of death to insure eternal life with the Katchinas. Whipping was administered by 18 members of the Katchina cult into whose mysteries the boys will be initiated at a later date. The Katchinas were beautifully masked and costumed, their horns painted turquoise blue. Tortoiseshell rattles were strapped to the calves of their legs. The Mudheads assisted them.

## WILD FLOWER SEEDS

Attractive SOUVENIR GIFT package

1 packet 20 varieties

1 packet each 3 rare varieties

ALSO: Beautiful 4 1/2 x 5 1/2 hand colored photo of floral landscape, nice for framing, 6 views available—mailed to you in plain package for re-mailing—postpaid \$1.00.

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lots of fun at

**LAS VEGAS**  
NEVADA



Here, in America's newest luxury playland, you'll find every kind of sport to entertain you. There's good fishing, boating and swimming at Boulder Dam all year 'round. There's sun-drenched desert to ride and golf in, ghost towns to explore, and a gorgeous mountain to climb. And at your resort hotel you'll find all sorts of entertainment—from floor shows to swimming pools—from glittering casinos to night barbecue rides. Yes, a sunny dry climate and a warm Western greeting await you at this modern frontier town!

LAKE'S FULL  
OF BASS, TOO



For information and rates  
write to Chamber of Commerce,  
Las Vegas, Nevada



### Aim to Improve Highway 80 . . .

DEMING—Southwestern New Mexico Highway association, organized here recently, set as their No. 1 project the improving of Highway 80 between Las Cruces and Lordsburg. Fletcher C. Bowman of Deming is president.

## SCENIC GUIDES THE KEY TO WESTERN TRAVEL

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
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- PICTURES that capture the scenic beauty.
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### No Conviction—No Pay . . .

RUIDOSO—This little southern New Mexico mountain resort is off to a running start for postwar modernization as an incorporated village, but clings tightly to its old west tradition. On the modern side, they're installing street lights, extending telephone service; they've completed hangar and runway for new airport and built road to the old golf course. They're even going to have a paved road and probably a ski course. But Old West tradition will be preserved when it comes to names—and law and order. Frank Ivy, former Texas ranger, is village marshal, and George Seele is village police judge. Village dads, determined to uphold Law and Order, decided to pay Judge Seele no salary but allow him instead \$1 for each conviction. Acquittals are worth nothing.

El Morro national monument, it was announced in March, will have \$106,000 spent for improvements under three year \$3,000,000 New Mexico park improvement program.

New Mexico farmers this year are expected to plant almost 95,000 trees and shrubs to establish windbreaks and for streambank erosion control. Trees, most popular of them the Chinese elm, are supplied by soil conservation districts.

Rio Grande Project crop value for 1945 was \$21,834,706, almost half a million gain over previous year. Bureau of Reclamation project covers area from Caballo reservoir in New Mexico to Hudspeth county line below El Paso, Texas.

## UTAH

### Centennial Gets Grant . . .

SALT LAKE CITY—Funds totaling \$150,000 were made available to Utah's centennial commission by Gov. Herbert B. Maw in March. Pageant committee was authorized to proceed with plans for parades to be conducted between May 15 and Oct. 15, 1947, official dates of the centennial, although due to seasonal conditions some events probably will be held before official opening of the centennial. Daughters of Utah Pioneers, state association, has been named the official agency to select a centennial queen.

### Timpanogos Runoff Below Normal . . .

LEHI—Water content on Timpanogos mountain watershed March 1 was the lowest since 1939, Calvin Walker, U. S. weather bureau observer, reported. Measurements made early in January indicated "above normal" water conditions, but a dry January and February completely reversed the picture. At Timpanogos national monument camp grounds, instruments recorded a precipitation of eight inches but all snow had melted.

### Chinese Studies Utah Irrigation . . .

LOGAN — China and Utah have so much in common a Chinese scientist is studying this region to aid in rehabilitating his homeland. Hsu Shuh-haw, member of Chinese supply commission and former associate professor at Hupeh Provincial Agricultural college, in March was visiting Utah under guidance of Dr. O. W. Israelson, professor of irrigation and drainage at Utah state agricultural college, to learn principles he can adapt in China. Chinese government is training 160 agriculturists in the United States. Before the war, China started large reclamation projects in northwest China, Mr. Hsu said. The projects are being resumed and the Chinese students now being trained will aid in these developments. Mr. Hsu planned to continue his observation in Arizona and Oregon.

Edwin Evans, 86, native Utahn, died at his home in Venice, California, in March. He was president of Utah Art institute 12 years, head of University of Utah art department 22 years.

Brigham City has scheduled its annual Peach Days for September 6-7.

Logan chamber of commerce has announced summer schedule of horseback trail rides, to extend from May to September.

# Prizes for Desert Covers

May is the month when the Desert Magazine staff will select many of the cover pictures to be used during the ensuing year. In order to bring out the best photographs available for cover purposes substantial cash awards are to be made to successful entrants—\$15.00 for first place winner, \$10.00 for second place, and \$5.00 each for all non-prize winning entries accepted for publication.

The contest is open to all photographers. Of course the subjects must be of the desert country, but there is a wide range of possibilities—landscapes, wildlife, personalities, rock formations, botany, Indians, canyons, dunes—anything that lives or occurs on the desert.

Here are the specifications:

Glossy vertical prints 9x12 or larger, black and white only.

Entries must be in Desert Magazine office by May 20, 1946.

Prints will be returned only when postage is enclosed.

Each photo should be labeled as to subject, time and place.

Judges will be selected from Desert's editorial staff, and awards will be made immediately after the close of the contest.

ADDRESS ALL ENTRIES TO PHOTO EDITOR, DESERT MAGAZINE

THE *Desert* MAGAZINE  
EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

# GEMS AND MINERALS

ARTHUR L. EATON, Editor

## IMPERIAL CLUBS SET FIRST ANNUAL SHOW FOR MAY 18-19

Imperial lapidary guild and Imperial Valley gem and mineral society plan a joint gem and mineral exhibit May 18-19 in American Legion hall, El Centro, California. Doors will be open 1-9 p. m. Saturday and 1-6 p. m. Sunday. Leo DeCelles and Sam Robinson are co-chairmen representing each club. Most committee heads have been appointed and are working enthusiastically to make the show a success. This will be the first exhibit in Imperial Valley.

All mineral societies or individuals are invited to exhibit. They are asked to inform Mrs. Grace Huffman, secretary, 1125 Main street, El Centro, how much space they will need for display purposes. This is an all-amateur show; no commercial exhibits will be placed. Grab bags will be available containing specimens ranging in price from ten cents to one dollar.

Unless weather is unusual mid-May should prove a pleasant time to visit Imperial Valley. It is hoped adequate housing will be available but at that season camping will be comfortable.

Following committee chairmen have been appointed by Robinson and DeCelles: Lloyd Richardson, Sam Robinson—registration; Sam Payson, Chuck Holtzer—fluorescents; George Moore, L. G. Bealeal, Leon Miller—floor managers; Ira Huffman—wiring; C. K. Patton—show cases; Eva Wilson, Louise Eaton—publicity; A. L. Eaton—circulating advisor; Mrs. L. G. Bealeal, Mrs. Laura DeCelles—Desert Magazine; Harold Flood, Mildred Richardson—grab bags.

Dealers in lapidary equipment are invited to exhibit.

## NEW MINNESOTA CLUB HOLDS FIRST EXHIBITION IN APRIL

Minnesota mineral club, an organization formed in the Twin Cities last December, scheduled its first annual exhibit of members' collections and lapidary work, April 14, at Curtis hotel, Minneapolis, from 1 to 9 p. m.

This new club is extremely active, with a growing list of members from all parts of Minnesota. As of March 17, there were 65 members, nearly all of whom attend the monthly meetings. Any interested person visiting Minneapolis from other clubs will be welcomed, according to B. G. Dahlberg, publicity director, 3537 Oakland avenue, Minneapolis 7, Minnesota.

### Dolomite-Calcite Test

Several persons have inquired by mail for a simple test to distinguish calcite (calcium carbonate) from dolomite (calcium magnesium carbonate). Both effervesce in dilute hydrochloric acid, but dolomite does not react with the cold acid. Cold acid, dropped on calcite effervesces at once, but it is necessary to heat the acid to nearly 100 degrees to get a reaction with dolomite. Simplest way is to powder a small amount of the suspected dolomite, place it in a test tube or glass, and pour the acid on it. If it is dolomite, cold acid does not react, while the warm acid does so at once.

## NEW SOCIETY STRESSES LAPIDARY EDUCATION AIMS

An ambitious program has been set by San Fernando valley's newest cultural group, the Western Lapidary and Jewelry society, which held its first regular meeting March 27 at Roscoe Recreation center.

Aims of the society, as set forth in Article II of the society's constitution, include the collecting and study of precious and semi-precious stones and gems; disseminate knowledge of cutting, polishing and engraving of precious and semiprecious stones; disseminate knowledge of art of jewelry making; provide special classes of instruction in lapidary and jewelry arts for the physically handicapped and for junior members; provide opportunity for exhibition and exchange of gems and jewelry; encourage social relations among members and the exchange of ideas regarding lapidary and jewelry subjects.

The society's educational program has been designed to include detailed instruction covering every step of the jeweler's art. Beginners will experience no difficulty in learning to cut and polish gems, and to set them in jewel mounts.

Special attention will be given to the physically handicapped, many of whom in veterans hospitals have taken up lapidary work as a hobby only to find it is becoming a remunerative vocation. At Birmingham hospital, Cash Ferguson, acting president of the society, taught lapidary work for a year and a half, assisted by his wife Melba who taught the boys how to make jewelry. If demand warrants, classes for the physically handicapped and for juniors will be organized throughout the valley.

All persons interested in gems and jewelry, whether novice or expert, are cordially invited to attend meetings, which are held fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p. m. in Roscoe Recreational center, on Vineland just south of San Fernando road.



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**ROCK COLLECTORS — ATTENTION!** Send me your address and I will notify you, when in your city, with the Trailer Rock Store. The Rockologist (Chuckwalla Slim), 1152 So. 2nd Ave., Arcadia, Calif.

**FANCY JASPER:** Have Jasper in many colors, some plain, others mottled, flowered and banded. Assorted \$1.00 per pound. A. L. Ogilvie, Barstow, California.

**CRYSTAL MOUND Superior Selenite Crystals.** Choice select cabinet specimens \$1.00 to \$3.00 each, postpaid, depending on size, quality and shipping charges. Cutter slabs of transparent crystals suitable for fluorescent light covers. Also inner slabs for aquariums through which fish and water life can be displayed very pleasingly. These slabs are especially selected and vary in size from 1 to 3 feet long and from 3 to 8 inches wide. Exact sizes cannot be furnished. Price 40c per lb. plus postage. Crystal Mound, Box 142, Hurricane, Utah.

**BEGINNER'S SPECIAL:** Thirty-five showy, labeled Minerals, boxed for mailing. Contains many rare specimens. Average 1x1 inch. Bargain at \$3.75 postpaid. THOMPSON'S STUDIO, 385 West Second Street, Pomona, California.

**"OWL DOPPING WAX"**—and now home from the war, a new different, DOPPING WAX. Special formula. Is not greasy, lasts longer—holds your gems for that final mirror finish in any climate. Per lb. \$1.00 plus postage. Send for sample. L. E. Perry, 111 N. Chester Avenue, Pasadena 4, California.

**SOMETHING NEW AND DIFFERENT—**Deep Purple and Amethyst colored stones. Cutting material \$25 lb., \$7.50 ¼ lb., \$1 for Cutting sample. Vein run specimens—75c lb. Money refunded if not desired. The American Fluorspar Group, Inc., Santa Fe and Hot Springs, New Mexico.

**STERLING SILVER** ladies' and men's ring mounts, reasonably priced. Satisfaction guaranteed. Send for bulletin. Fremont Gem Shop, 3408 Fremont Ave., Seattle 3, Wash.

**TEXAS JASPER-AGATE:** As the original collector and advertiser of agate of this district, I found it extremely difficult to interest collectors. Today, it is in great demand. It was the superior quality and beauty of the jasper-agate that has made "Texas Agate" supreme. We now have a limited quantity of select quality from a new location in beautifully pictured, mossy, and flowered types in brilliant varied colored combinations of golden browns, carnelian and vermilion reds, blues and rich purples. 1 lb. assortment—\$2.50. Others \$3.60; \$6.00 and \$9.00 per lb., including tax, according to size and quality. Discounts allowed on quantity orders. FRANK DUNCAN AND DAUGHTER, Box 63, Terlingua, Texas.

**MINERAL SETS—24 Colorful Minerals** (identified) in 1x1 compartments—Postage paid, \$3.50. Prospector's Set of 50 Minerals (identified) in 1x1 compartments in cloth reinforced sturdy cartons, Postage paid \$5.75 Elliott's Gem Shop, 26 Jergins Arcade, Long Beach 2, Calif.

**I WILL BE READY** to resume silver and gold work at my new location in BEAVER, UTAH, soon after the first of April. Beaver is on U. S. Highway 91, so be sure to stop and see us when you travel that way. Cabochon mountings in 10K gold or sterling silver, made to fit your stones. Ladies sterling rings from \$3.00—10K gold from \$7.50 depending on amount of gold used. Men's sterling rings from \$3.50—10K gold from \$9.00. Prompt service, satisfaction guaranteed. Your correspondence invited. K. K. Brown, Beaver, Utah (formerly Castle Rock, Washington).

**BARGAIN ASSORTMENT NO. 6—**One cutting chrysocolla slab enough for 8 or 10 cabochons. 1 slab flowering obsidian. 1 pound cutting jasper. 1 slab lovely banded onyx to polish or make 15 or 20 cabochons. 6 petrified wood slabs with moss. 1 sawed nodule ready to sand and polish. ½ pound Yermo palm. Enough turquoise to make 8 or 10 cabochons. One Virgin Valley fire opal. 6 rough Ceylon sapphires, small. All for \$3.00 plus postage on 6 pounds. West Coast Mineral Co., Post Office Box 331, La Habra, California.

**A LIMITED QUANTITY** of black Petrified Wood. This wood is hard and will cut gem stones of jet black with a high luster. \$2.00 per pound, transportation prepaid. Address orders to V. C. Hague, 600 W. Hill St., Gallup, New Mexico.

**ATTENTION TOURIST:** When passing through Modesto, California, do stop and see the Ken-Dor Rock Roost at 419 South Franklin St. We Buy, Sell or Trade Mineral Specimens. Visitors are always WELCOME.

**WE ARE OFFERING** banded Rhyolite from the famous Nevada Wonderstone mine, for sale in two varieties. The gem stone variety is widely used by lapidaries for making jewelry, bookends and miscellaneous ornamental items. The building stone variety is now being used by contractors and home owners for fireplaces and building facings, patios, stepping stones, fish ponds, swimming pools and flower garden arrangements. There is no stone in the world that has more lines of assorted colors and designs than Nevada Wonderstone. Write for prices. State item desired. Carroll L. Perkins, Box 1128, Tonopah, Nev.

**PETRIFIED WOOD:** Twigs in bog from Saddle Mt. Sliced and slabbed, 50 sq. in. \$2.50 postpaid in U. S., taxes included. 1 piece polished. Gilbert Morgan, Smyrna, Washington.

**DIAMOND SAW OUTFITS.** Heavy duty, 14 inch blade, new \$100.00. Also a 20 inch outfit with lateral feed, used, \$150.00. A. E. Davies, P. O. Box 93, Alamo, California.

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**WHOLESALE ONLY:** Lazulite, Agate Wood, Nevada Agate, Nevada Variscite, Obsidian, black, Obsidian, black and red. Amygdaloids, Carnelian, Travertine, Death Valley Onyx, Lone Mt. Onyx, Paymaster Onyx, Death Valley Curly, Box 495, Goldfield, Nev.

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**JUST RECEIVED** a lot of fine Amazonite crystals from eastern Colorado. A few clusters but mostly singles. \$10c to \$1.00. Colorado Gem Co., Bayfield, Colo.

**ROCK COLLECTORS ATTENTION.** When you visit the Desert this spring look for the ROCKOLOGIST, one mile east of Cathedral City, California.

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**WANTED: TO BUY,** sell and exchange specimens outstandingly rare and beautiful. Sam Parker, 2160 East Van Buren, Phoenix, Ariz.

**INDIAN RELICS,** Curios, Coins, Minerals, Books, Old Buttons, Old Glass, Old West Photos, Weapons, Catalogue 5c. Lemley Antique Store, Osborne, Kansas.

**BARGAIN BUNDLES**—Assorted rough cutting material—Agates, Jasper, Geodes, Variscite, Turquoise, Chrysocolla, Petrified Wood, Obsidian, etc., 5 lbs. \$3.50, 10 lbs. \$6.00, 20 lbs. \$10.00. Assorted sawed cutting material—20 sq. in. \$3.50, 50 sq. in. \$7.00, 100 sq. in. \$12.00. Agate, Jasper, Chrysocolla, Variscite, Turquoise, Wood, Rhodonite, Obsidian, Opal, etc. Please include postage. Send for price list of cutting material, minerals, specimens, jewelry, etc. John L. James, Tonopah, Nevada.

## AMONG THE ROCK HUNTERS

A new lapidary group was organized March 2 in Glendale, California, for the people in that area by Leland Quick of Desert Magazine. Thirty-five persons, with the help of several members of Los Angeles lapidary society, formed nucleus of the new organization which will reach full status as a society soon. Interested persons in the Glendale area may send their names to Dan White, chairman, 4621 West Avenue 41, Los Angeles, and they will be notified of later meetings.

Kern county mineral society planned a field trip to Boron March 3.



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The Colorado Gem Co., Bayfield, Colo.

A new group interested in lapidary will be organized in the Beverly Hills area soon. Persons interested should send their names to Leland Quick in care of Desert Magazine, El Centro, California.

Another new society, the Lodi gem and mineral club, was organized when on March 17 a group met in Lodi, California. The following officers were elected: John Schafer, president; Mrs. Fred S. Wolfe, vice-president; Dorothy Bowen, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Ann Schafer, reporter. Members of program committee are F. D. Boone, Jean Pryor and J. A. Ward. Regular meeting place will be the Lodi high school building, and the club will meet third Wednesday of the month.

San Jose lapidary society planned a joint field trip with East Bay mineral society to Pescadero April 14. Objects: to hunt beach agates and enjoy an old-fashioned swapping bee.

Each member of Gem Stone Collectors of Utah, Salt Lake City, at the March 21 meeting, introduced himself, told how far he had progressed and spoke of his specific interest in rock collecting and cutting. A field trip to collect agate was planned for March 31. Immediately following each meeting, a miniature rock market place is set up where members can buy, sell or swap materials.

Jerry Lauder milk was guest speaker at March meeting of Pomona Valley mineral club held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. James Kryder, Claremont. He discussed the Rosamond formation in Mojave desert and explained the formation and coloring of jasper. The group meets second Tuesdays at Pomona junior college, Pomona, California.

Ernest Chapman talked on Australian rocks and minerals at March 5 meeting of Orange Belt mineralogical society. He had a display of beautiful material to illustrate his lecture. Meeting was in social hall, San Bernardino junior college with 75 members and guests present. H. Carpenter won attendance prize.

Dr. Dean S. Carder of the coast and geodetic survey spoke before Mineralogical Society of Southern Nevada March 19. Dr. Carder is in charge of the seismological laboratory which studies earth disturbances in Boulder Dam project area. Dr. G. C. Baldwin of the national park service showed a color-sound film, *Jungle Quest* for the Great Stone Heads. All who are interested in earth sciences are invited to attend meetings, or they may write Secretary Paul Mercer, Box 925, Boulder City.

Those who are planning displays at Mineralogical Society of Southern California convention June 14-16 are reminded to communicate with the secretary, Miss Betty Holt, 233 E. Glenarm street, Pasadena, 5.

A successful field trip to Pope creek, about 60 miles from Sacramento, was enjoyed by 30 members of Sacramento mineral society and their guests March 24. They found interesting specimens of jasper with color ranging from deep crimson to brown, yellow and shaded green. George Winslow was leader.

Ernest Chapman of Mineralogical Society of Southern California talked on mineral and crystal cavities of New Jersey zeolite locality at March meeting of San Fernando Valley mineral and gem society. He displayed some rare and unusual types of zeolites and pseudomorphs. New members Mr. and Mrs. John Clark exhibited some of their work consisting of cabochons, bookends and novelty lamps. Field trip was to Cajon pass, San Bernardino county, for rhodonite, piemontite and actinolite.

## ANNOUNCING . . .

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Send for approval assortment of slabbed material: Only \$1.00 deposit. First 50 mail order customers one slice free.

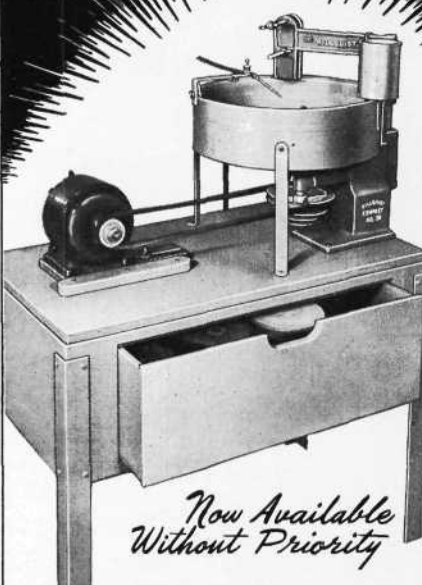
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**WRITE TODAY FOR OUR NEW FREE CATALOG.** It shows you the four simple steps in making a cabochon . . . tells you how to lap specimens . . . how to make spheres . . . and how to cut a faceted gem stone. **SEND NOW!** This 32-page catalog is chockful of helpful information on the lapidary art.

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Copies of the full report, "Fluorescence Test for Uranium," are available from the Bureau of Mines, Office of Mineral Reports, Washington, D. C.

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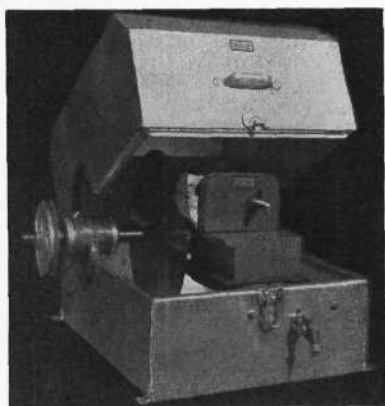
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Robert Cartter, at March 20 meeting of Searles Lake gem and mineral society, Trona, showed color slides which he took while serving in army both in the States and in Alaska. It was announced the '49er party earned \$2214 for Searles Valley war chest. Special display of minerals found in vicinity of Calico showed members what they could expect to find on March 22-24 field trip. Next trip was planned for Death Valley April 27-28.

East Bay mineral society announces that Mr. Henley, a San Francisco member, has given lapidary training to youngsters in summer camps for several years, and that there are openings in this field this year. Anyone wishing further information may write San Francisco Boys Club, Mr. Newbauer, director, 21st and Alabama streets, San Francisco.

Richard Noyes, formerly of chemistry department at Cal Tech, spoke on atomic energy at March 21 meeting of Los Angeles mineralogical society. The new term for atomic energy and related subject matter, he said, is Nucleonics.

Sequoia mineral society, at March 5 meeting held in Parlier high school, enjoyed moving pictures of Indian cliff dwellings, Yellowstone national park, Yosemite, the fair at Treasure Island, Lake Louise and Banff national park, shown by Dan Chamberlain of Fresno. Elmer Geese and Frank Dodson reported on their trip to Blythe, the latter showing samples of materials found on the trip.

Dr. James Hillier, of RCA laboratories, Princeton, New Jersey, told of the infinite possibilities of the electron microscope in finding new knowledge of minerals, when he spoke before New Jersey mineralogical society at Plainfield public library March 5. Dr. Hillier is the designer of the first commercial electron microscope in America.

Selma Union High School lapidary class, second of its kind in the United States, is now six years old and more than 50 people are availing themselves of the opportunity of expert instruction and use of the fine equipment available. Gates Burrell is in charge of the lapidary class and Mrs. Eleanor Lehfeldt gives instruction in silversmithing.

Marquette Geologists association, Chicago, at the March 2 meeting, heard Prof. Frank Fleener of Joliet, speak on uranium minerals and atomic power. Dr. John R. Ball of Northwestern university continued his "Short Talks on Geology."

A large approval shipment of specimens from the mercury mines of Terlingua, Texas, was shown at February and March meetings of Texas mineral society, Dallas. Many of the specimens were bought by members for their collections.

H. C. Loesche, U. S. bureau of mines, presented talking motion pictures on mining at March meeting of Yavapai gem and mineral society, Prescott, Arizona. They included the story of copper, from mining to minting and fabrication of factories; and mineral resources and scenic wonders of Arizona.

Mineralogical Society of Arizona, Phoenix, planned a field trip April 14 to an opalite-geode locality southwest of Superior, to be led by Ben Humphreys.

New York mineralogical club has invited New Jersey mineralogical society to cooperate in preparing a book giving details of all mineral localities within 50 miles of New York. The president has appointed Dr. A. C. Hawkins, L. Morgan, Dr. S. S. Cole, E. Blank, J. Coleman and P. Falcone as a committee to proceed with the project.

Captain B. J. Chromy, who has been doing government work in connection with atomic bomb development at University of California, was scheduled to speak at April 4 meeting of East Bay mineral society, Berkeley, on the atomic bomb and radio-active minerals.

Wyoming jade and Tehachapi agate are the main attractions now in the Parlier, California, lapidary class. A new trimming saw and drill are recent additions to class equipment.

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8-inch	5.50	14-inch	11.00
10-inch	6.80	16-inch	13.75

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6" 100 & 180		
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6 x 1 -inch	2.40	2.60
8 x 1 -inch	3.60	3.90
10 x 1 -inch	5.00	5.00
10 x 1 1/2-inch	7.00	7.50
12 x 1 -inch	6.75	7.25
12 x 1 1/2-inch	9.60	10.40
12 x 2 -inch	12.30	13.30

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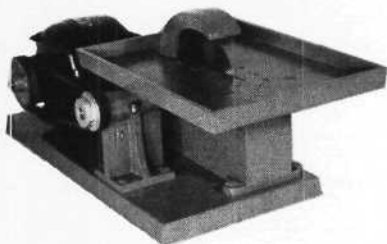
6 x 1	\$ 0.75
8 x 1	0.25
8 x 1 1/2	8.50
8 x 2	11.00
10 x 1	11.00
10 x 2	16.90
12 x 2	24.40

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Imperial lapidary guild at its March 15 meeting at the home of L. G. Beale, El Centro, entertained Mr. and Mrs. John Greb and Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Brown, prominent Seattle collectors. The guests displayed excellent plume agate in large nodules and gave entertaining talks on plume-collecting in Oregon and Texas.



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## Cogitations . . .

### Of a Rockhound

By LOUISE EATON

Nacher shure put plenty uv extra space in field trip territory. Yu gotta tramp over a lot uv country rock before yu find good specimens—an' sumtimz it's a long hike frum yur auto to th' place where yu begins to hunt. Tho uv course no rockhoun ever walks over hill or vale where therz enny thing that resembles rox without givin' th' groun a close scrutiny just to see if by chance there may be at least one good specimen.

A nuther nice feacher about rock shows is that yu meets in person folks yu've read about or whoz names yu've seen in rok magazines. What they looks like surprises yu sumtimz too. People yu've pictured as young turns out to be greybearded (no rockhoun ever really grows old). Short wuns are tall and even sum with Dr. for a handle proves to be wimmen.

Irma Clark of Redlands spoke on iris agate and displayed beautiful pieces from her collection at March 13 meeting of Long Beach mineral society. Roy Wagoner, field trip chairman, reported on a recent trip which 25 members took to Chocolate mountain area. It was announced there are now 120 members in the society. Next field trip was scheduled for Bicycle lake, where chalcedony and agate in all colors are found.

Leland Quick and James Hilton (*Lost Horizon* and *Goodbye Mr. Chips*) conducted an all day program for Los Angeles Ebell club March 27. Quick spoke on Gems of California and displayed his collection. More than 400 persons attended.

Los Angeles lapidary society's March 4 meeting was one of the most successful ever held. Following dinner, at the Police Academy, 174 members and guests enjoyed the famous collection of thin section gem materials of William Pitts, nationally known as the dean of lapidaries, and honorary curator of gems and minerals at California academy of sciences at San Francisco. Charles Knowlton of Fullerton displayed about 80 varieties of his famous garnet collection accompanied by an interesting lecture on garnets.

Members of Mineralogical Society of Southern California at April 2 meeting were privileged to hear Bill Sanborn talk on the Mammoth mine at Tiger, Arizona, which has produced some rare and beautiful minerals. Field trip area for discussion was Greenhorn mountains, Kern county. Mr. Rodekohr told about the mines and minerals to be found there.

March meeting of Seattle Gem Collectors was devoted mainly to election of officers: Ralph Gustafson, president; Mr. Allen, vice-president; Mrs. Claude W. Cox, secretary; J. W. Fields, treasurer; G. I. Canfield, new board director. L. D. Leader spoke briefly about his recent trip to Mexico and the Southwest, and members of the lapidary class had their most interesting specimens on display.

Ralph T. Salisbury, a mining engineer who recently has opened a rock and lapidary shop in San Diego, California, says he will be glad to give information to rockhounds and collectors at all times. His shop, the Mission Mineral Mart, is located at 818 Ft. Stockton drive, San Diego 3, California.



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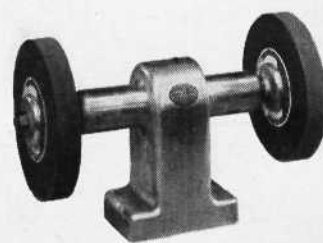
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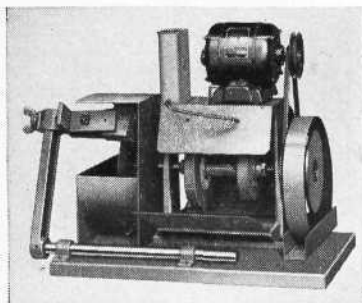
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Bert Van Cleve of Owens-Illinois glass company, San Francisco, showed his film Sand and Flame and spoke on modern advances in the glass industry before an interested group of 125 at March meeting of Monterey Bay mineral society. Mrs. H. M. Samuelson of Salinas again donated a polished specimen moss agate which was awarded to John Grau, Salinas. A sapphire sent from Missouri by Scriber was awarded to A. L. Jarvis, Watsonville, who presented it to Dr. K. W. Blaylock. The group voted that 20 per cent of any sales made at meetings by outsiders go to the treasury, and 10 per cent of member sales.

Joint meeting of Searles Lake gem and mineral club and Los Angeles mineralogical society in February included field trips, tour of Trona plant and Searles lake, and a banquet. One field trip was made at night to Ophir mine where good fluorescent specimens were obtained. Jack Streeter, president of Mineralogical Society of Southern California talked at the banquet about his trip to South America. He described a hill of iron in Brazil, a five ton quartz crystal, a seven inch tourmaline and diamonds in the rough. Earl Coleman showed Pan-American airways color film, Wings over Latin America.

Approximately 80 members and guests of East Bay mineral society, Berkeley, California, enjoyed a field trip to Winters, March 17. The party gathered at Recreation park, on Putah creek where red-buds were in full bloom. After lunch everyone took to the creekbeds and came back laden with jasper and chert. Picks of all kinds were in action during the day—garden picks, ice picks, prospectors picks, and tooth-picks.

The Goose Lake meteorite, one of the largest ever found in California, was the subject of Prof. Earle G. Linsley's talk at March 7 meeting of East Bay mineral society. The speaker is professor of astronomy at Chabot observatory, with the Oakland schools and Mills college. At the second March meeting, W. E. McKittrick, geologist for Shell Oil company spoke on minerals and igneous activity.

We regret to hear of the death, February 11, of Mrs. Louise Iverson, secretary of San Fernando mineral and gem society, as result of injuries received in an auto accident.

## ANSWERS TO TRUE OF FALSE

Questions are on page 9

- 1—False. When rabid, coyotes will sometimes attack humans.
- 2—False. Dead ironwood makes an excellent campfire.
- 3—False. Salt Lake is approximately 4000 feet above sea level.
- 4—True. 5—True.
- 6—False. *Agua caliente* means hot water.
- 7—True.
- 8—False. Death Valley was given its name by the Manly party.
- 9—True. 10—True.
- 11—False. Frijoles canyon is in the Banderier national monument in New Mexico.
- 12—True. 13—True. 14—True.
- 15—False. Asbestos is a mineral that comes from the ground.
- 16—True.
- 17—False. Quartz often bears gold.
- 18—False. The meteoric mass has never been located.
- 19—False. Indians now use bar and wire silver.
- 20—True.

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The Story of Diamonds, by Austin Mercer .....\$1.25  
Famous Diamonds of the World, by R. M. Shipley .....\$1.00  
Dictionary of Gems and Gemology, by R. M. Shipley .....\$5.50  
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A beautifully appointed dinner, attended by 138 members and guests, marked seventh annual celebration of Sacramento mineral society March 1 at Coca Cola club rooms. Highlight of the varied program was an illustrated talk on the Orinoco, "river that runs two ways," by C. P. Holdredge, official geologist and photographer of a party of engineers sent to South America in 1943 by the war department to survey possibilities of using that river as a route for transportation of rubber out of the area. Distinguished guest of the evening was Dr. Vincent P. Gianella, department of geology, Mackay school of mines, Reno, Nevada, who presented the society with a large specimen of orpiment and realgar from his state.

Mrs. M. E. Pratt, El Centro, California, on her first field trip, picked up an uninteresting looking bit of agate which, when cut and polished, turned out to be rainbow sagenite. A medium sized cabochon was appraised by an experienced rockhound "worth \$20 of anybody's money." Beginner's luck!

Clarence Wadsworth, oldtimer of Searles Lake district, passed away March 2. He had mined in the hills east of Searles Lake, prospected throughout the desert, finally settling in his Summit diggings.

Mojave Desert gem and mineral society, Barstow, at its March meeting, installed the following officers: Ray Langworthy, president; Earnest McMichael, first vice-president; John Loffler, second vice-president; Cecil Goar, Box 133, Barstow, secretary-treasurer. Board of directors: Oscar Waters, George Fink, Kenneth Jackson, Walter Lauterbach and William Gabriel.

A collection of gem and mineral materials, most of them native to immediate vicinity of Blythe, has been made a permanent display in lobby of Citizens First National Trust and Savings bank, Blythe, California. Materials on display are owned by members of Desert gem and mineral society.

Mrs. Virginia Tasker Kent, teacher of art metalwork at Minneapolis Miller vocational high school was to speak to Minnesota mineral club April 13 on design in handmade jewelry. Mrs. Kent, after graduating from universities of Minnesota and Wisconsin, took postgraduate work in Vienna in jewelry making.

Plans for Los Angeles lapidary society show in Los Angeles county museum May 4-June 28 are reaching final stages, under direction of Fred Rugg and his assistants. The nine competitive classes with many sub-classes will bring out the best stones produced by members. In addition there will be about 60 cases for general display not in competition. On May 4 and 5 lapidary machines will be in operation, demonstrating various stages in fashioning of stones.

Dr. Robert I. Jaffee of Battelle Memorial institute describes germanium as a rare element which can now be used profitably. It is produced in New Jersey and Missouri as a by-product with cadmium from the zinc ores. It is a crystalline grey-white metal similar to silicon or tin. It is rare; only about one ton per year is produced as a by-product of zinc ore.

Several members of Imperial Valley gem and mineral society recently have found specimens of uranium ores. The first, found in 1942 by members of Holtville union high school mineralogy class, was identified at that time. More recently, Sam Robinson, Alton Hoyt and others have found larger quantities. University of Arizona made the identification.

Membership of Monterey Bay mineral society had grown to 68 by February 11, reports Mrs. A. W. Flippin, secretary.

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**Ceylon Red Garnets**—\$5.00 per dozen.

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**Rare Chrysocolla**—\$10.00 per 100 carat lot.

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**Rare Green Garnets**—\$5.00 per carat.

**Moss Agates**—\$6.00 to \$12.00 per dozen.

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# Mines and Mining . .

## Salt Lake City, Utah . . .

The Geneva Steel works in Utah, war-time plant which has been the center of much speculation since V-J day, is to be sold by the War Assets corporation about May 1, members of the Western States council were told at their March meeting here. It is reported that Henry Kaiser and "at least one other bidder" are interested in acquiring the property.

## Searchlight, Nevada . . .

George Emberling, veteran prospector, has filed suit in the Las Vegas district court making claim to much of the Searchlight townsite by virtue of having staked out the "Grand Central Lode" in 1939. Not satisfied with mineral rights, Emberling also asks "surface rights" and since his "claim" includes hotels, grocery stores, taverns and public utility properties he is asking that the owners of these improvements make an accounting for all leases and rentals. Property owners have raised a defense fund to fight the suit.

## Boulder City, Nevada . . .

Problems involved in the utilization of low grade ores are occupying much of the attention of the U. S. laboratory here. Experiments are being conducted with titanium in an effort to lower the present cost of \$5.00 a pound, according to Dr. R. S. Dean. Chromium, electrolytic magnesium and cobalt also are being subjected to experimental work designed to make available increased supplies of metal from deposits which in the past have been regarded as too low grade to be mined profitably.

## Las Vegas, Nevada . . .

A number of Nevada mines are seeking men, both miners and muckers, according to L. E. Black of the U. S. Employment service here, and employment in this field offers a possible solution to the housing problem of many veterans and others. Most of the mines have housing facilities for both married and single men.

## Goldfield, Nevada . . .

Gold Point mining syndicate is now operating its Golden Eagle property adjoining the Ohio Mines corporation ground 35 miles south of here. The ore, silver-gold with lead, is to be milled seven miles away at the Nevada Gold (State Line) plant. Golden Eagle originally was in the old Silver King group, located by "Black Dick" Richards and Charles Howard. Later it was acquired by the D'Arcy interests, then by the late Fred Ashman of Goldfield. President of the syndicate is Roy E. Daugherty of Hawthorne.

## Elko, Nevada . . .

A gold-silver strike at the old Mountain City camp is reported by the Knowles brothers who have driven a 600-foot tunnel below any previous workings in the property. The operators state that samples from the exposed face assayed 2.02 ounces gold, value \$70.70, 732.20 ounces silver worth \$519.86, lead 14.1 per cent worth \$26.09—total value \$616.65 a ton. The property was discovered in 1869 by Jesse Cope, and is now owned by Davidson brothers of Mountain City who gave a long-term lease to the Knowles.

## Trona, California . . .

When war-time investigations disclosed that 90.79 per cent of the capital stock of American Potash & Chemical company was German owned, the U. S. Alien Property Custodian took possession. On March 28, the Custodian announced the sale of his holdings—478,194 shares, to an eastern banking syndicate whose high bid was \$32.29 a share, or a total of \$15,440,884. It is reported that the syndicate will immediately offer the stock for resale at \$35 a share, with employees of the company being given an opportunity to share in the ownership.

## Lone Pine, California . . .

Full scale operations were scheduled to be started April 1 at U. S. Vanadium's Pine Creek property, according to Arch Boyd, superintendent. Both underground and open pit work is to be carried on, and an additional 200 miners are to be employed.

## Washington, D. C. . . .

Either the ceiling prices of 12 cents a pound for copper, 6.5 cents for lead and 8.25 cents for zinc must be raised, or the federal government will have to subsidize the mining of these metals, according to the report of a sub-committee of the Senate's Small Business committee. A bill to provide \$50,000,000 for premiums to producers of the three metals has been introduced by Representative Leo E. Allen of Illinois.

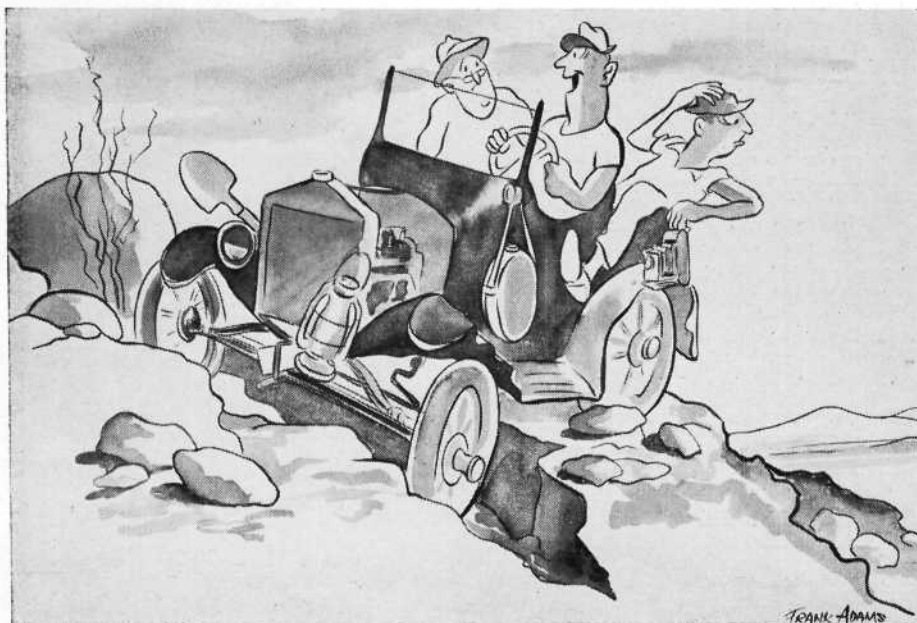
## Hot Springs, New Mexico . . .

Gem quality fluorspar that resembles amethyst in color is now being mined in the American Fluorspar group of properties near here. It is said to test 97.70 pure fluorspar and occurs in crystal form. For lack of an established name, it is being called Andreasite for the San Andreas mountains near where it is found. The owners report they have been offered \$60 a pound for the best crystals.

The Arizona Mining Journal, founded 26 years ago by Charles F. Willis, has been sold to the Miller Freeman Publications, Inc., of San Francisco. The new owners plan to consolidate the Journal with the Mining World, to be published from Phoenix.

Blue Gem turquoise mine, located 36 miles north of Tonopah, has been purchased by Bert King and associates, formerly of New Mexico. Former owner of the property was Lee Hand.

E. A. Adams of Niland, California, has sold the Broken Hills property in Riverside county northeast of Niland to H. H. McGinnis of Los Angeles.



"It's really a swell short cut, if I can only find it!"

# AMATEUR GEM CUTTER

polishing equipment. Leland Quick, who conducts this department, is former president of Los Angeles Lapidary society. He will be glad to answer questions in connection with your lapidary work. Queries should be addressed to Desert Magazine, El Centro, Calif.

By LELANDE QUICK

The sincerest flattery I can offer the always enjoyable and useful Rocks and Minerals magazine is to imitate a clever puzzle feature Peter Zodiac published in the February, 1946, issue. In an excerpt from a soldier's diary, written by an anonymous member of the Thomas Rock and Mineral club of Philadelphia, ten mineral names were well hidden. I puzzled over it a full hour and could get only eight of the names.

Determined to get even, I spent the rest of the evening making a similar puzzle containing the names of 14 gem materials. If you have half the fun solving it as I had in assembling this puzzle, you are going to enjoy yourself for a few minutes, perhaps an hour or—perhaps you won't solve it at all. The gem names will appear here next month. Here it is; see what you can do with it.

## THE TWO GREEKS

### A Gem of a Tale

Ovar and Petos, ancient Greek architects, were often at odds over structural details. On a donkey trip to Palomar Ovar is cited as having said that a mansard roof needed a keystone. "But," said Petos, "Keystones are for arches only. An overlap is sufficient for strength in a roof. However, I am berating you in vain for you came of a poor master and the fault is not yours entirely." "Now then," said Ovar, "It is not proper I do think for you to berate my master whom you knew not. Rub your eyes of their own motives before you pick one out of mine." As they came to the city Petos was jettisoned from his mount as they passed through a gate too narrow for both. He knocked over a fruit vendor's stall at the city wall and as he reached forth to grasp in elegant gestures a pear, lest his donkey trample it, Ovar derided him by saying, "Ha, me! Thy stomach is *thy* master still, I see!"

I have no quarrel with folks who prefer to call the lapidary art a hobby. Hobby or art or craft or what you will, it is a great satisfaction to create something rather than be just a collector. With the increasing leisure time that the American people are securing for themselves through shorter working hours, some hobby or art form should be developed as a matter of mental, spiritual and physical health.

Although the most energetic people on the face of the earth when it comes to producing, we are the laziest people when it comes to employing leisure time for personal enjoyment. Instead of indulging in healthful sports, we sit on benches as spectators and watch others play. We do not attempt to entertain ourselves or each other, but "kill time" in movie houses having people entertain us in pictures we really do not care to see most of the time. We think that education stops when we get a high school or college diploma instead of continuing our education to the grave as they do in Denmark where everyone voluntarily goes to school as long as life lasts. This is not my idea; it is the picture that other nations have of us and that many Americans acknowledge. This foreign view is exaggerated, of course, for we do know how to do something besides make money. But individuals predominate who have a real problem in marshalling their leisure into something satisfying.

All of this is a prelude to saying that gem

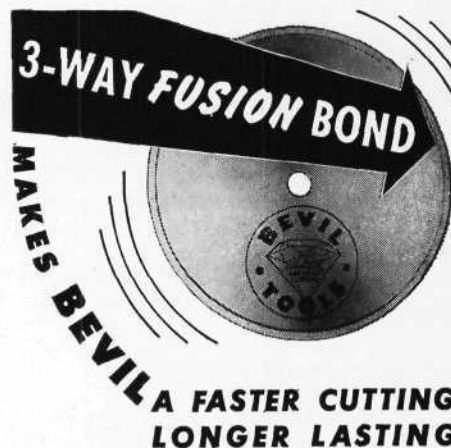
cutting again is being presented as an art form and not as a hobby by the Los Angeles Museum of Science, History and Art. The Fifth Annual Exhibition of Gems and Jewelry presented by the Los Angeles Lapidary society will be presented in the main art gallery and rotunda of the museum beginning Saturday, May 4, continuing through June 28. Last year the museum authorities lifted gem cutting out of the hobby class when they invited the exhibit and achieved the highest record of attendance for any event ever held at the museum. This year the exhibit, under the chairmanship of Fred Rugg, moves into the main art gallery of the museum and becomes the most important and largest gem and jewelry exhibit ever presented anywhere. Be it art or hobby, this exhibition will hold interest for everyone and it will be a grand free treat to be enjoyed, not in just a cursory visit but in several visits for contemplative study.

For those who are curious about lapidary procedure there will be a separate room with working lap wheels, diamond saws, grinding heads and polishing wheels operated by society members. This exhibit will be open only on Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5 however, but it will be open in the evening hours on those days with entrance from the famous rose gardens in Exposition Park. The rest of the exhibit, until June 28, will be at regular museum hours. There also will be an educational exhibit on display for the duration of the showing. This will include magazines and books relative to gem cutting with pictures of former exhibitions and society activities of the Los Angeles Lapidary society.

If you are looking for the great blessing of doing something with your hands; if you are looking for a hobby; if you want to "express yourself;" if you want to combine a hobby and quiet study and combine that again with the great outdoors in the third largest gem bearing area in the world you should visit this exhibition to see what gem cutting offers. Or, if you merely want to "kill an afternoon" I can recommend the exhibition as a means of painlessly using the shortest afternoon one could spend. I defy anyone to be bored, as many people are with other art forms. This art is too easily understood and appreciated to be boring.

During the gem exhibition, I will list on this page in the July issue all gem and lapidary societies with the secretaries' names and addresses and times and places of meetings. There are 18 such societies known to me and a new society will be organized in Beverly Hills, California, meanwhile. Drop me a postal if you are interested in associating with the Beverly Hills group. Secretaries of groups that have not notified me should do so if they want their organization listed.

I am sure that all gem groups with the exception of the Los Angeles Lapidary society (with a closed membership because it is now too large) will welcome interested persons to their ranks. About half of the groups have been organized in the past year, and many more will be organized in the next year. It now seems to be the predominating tendency to include the word "gem" in the titles of new mineralogical groups, and one new society has included the word "jewelry." I noticed too, that a society recently made a happy choice in the words "excursion committee" instead of "field trip" committee, a much more inclusive term.



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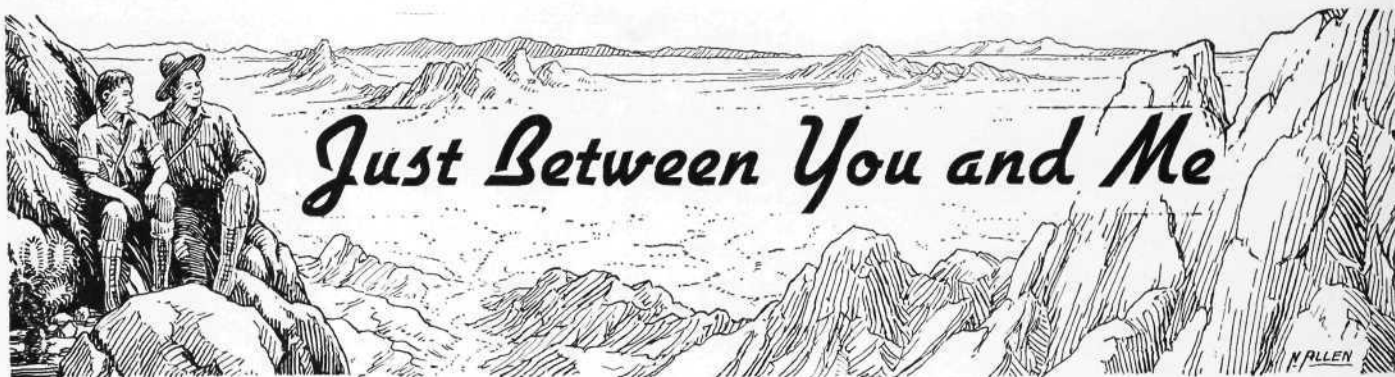
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By RANDALL HENDERSON

**I** SPENT an evening recently with Elmer E. Dunn who lives alone in a little cabin in the Santa Rosa mountains. Elmer and I got along fine together despite the fact that we are miles apart when it comes to questions of economics and politics. He cooked dinner on a wood stove stoked with manzanita cut from his homestead and then with a kerosene lamp for light we argued until midnight.

Elmer is an old-time mining man who writes long articles for the newspapers. One of his pet peeves is the Joshua Tree national monument. Like most of those in the mining game, he thinks the monument should be opened to prospectors.

The controversy over the status of the monument has been brought to a focus by H.R. 4703, introduced by Congressman Harry R. Sheppard of San Bernardino.

The Joshua tree monument contains 838,258 acres, and the Sheppard bill would reduce this area by 310,000 acres, excluding from the present boundaries most of the mineralized areas including the old Dale mining region and the iron deposits in the Eagle mountains. The measure would add 30,000 acres of non-mineralized land, and would provide a fund of \$210,000 for the purchase by the Park Service of privately owned lands within the monument, most of them belonging to the Southern Pacific railroad.

This measure has the endorsement of the National Park service and a majority of those who are interested in the preservation of the monument as a scenic and recreational park for Southern California.

But the mining men, for the most part are not satisfied. They want all bans on mining removed, so they can go in and gopher the park at random. They are opposing the Sheppard bill because they want all or nothing.

In my opinion, by their uncompromising attitude, the mining fraternity is defeating its own best interests. If Joshua national monument is restored to the status of public lands I can foresee such a stampede of jackrabbit homesteaders to that area as has not been witnessed since the 5-acre-tract law was enacted. Of course homesteader's claims would be subject to mineral rights, but a prospector records his filing in the county while a homesteader gets his rights through the district federal land office. The result would be endless trouble and litigation.

The Sheppard bill impresses me as being a happy compromise by which all interests stand to gain, and it is to be hoped that conservation-minded Americans will lend their influence for its passage.

And if the controversy eventually is solved in that manner, I suspect that my friend Elmer Dunn will be as well pleased with the outcome as I will be—for after all, despite his horse-and-buggy-day prejudices, Elmer is a reasonable sort of a fellow.

\* \* \*

The Joshua park controversy merely is a local phase of a broad issue which every American citizen must face. It is important because it goes to the roots of our American way of life. The time has passed when any and every citizen may regard it as his in-

alienable right to go out and slash down the forests, overgraze the range, tear up the earth for minerals and drain the fertility from the topsoil for his own profit without regard for the welfare of the national community as a whole.

Elmer Dunn and his kind are clinging desperately to the old way. They may win today or tomorrow. But eventually they must lose. For America's natural resources have been diminishing at an appalling rate—and a later generation is going to fight even more desperately than the mining fraternity is now fighting, for an economy in which they will share in the distribution of these dwindling resources.

\* \* \*

My friend Harry Oliver of Thousand Palms, California, is building a 'dobe house, a quaint little replica of an old Spanish mission. Harry has a formula I can recommend to those who aspire to live to a ripe old age. He calls it his "20-year plan."

It is very simple. The first day he makes 10 adobe bricks—good bricks with just the right amount of adobe and gravel in them. It takes three days for the bricks to cure and Harry spends the three days in contemplation of his handiwork. On the fifth day he carefully lays the bricks in the wall. Then he is ready to start work the following day on the next 10 bricks. And thus the cycle continues.

Not a very speedy way to build a house perhaps—but Harry's theory is that too much speed is taking all the fun out of life for a majority of Americans. And perhaps he has something there.

\* \* \*

Another desert neighbor with a 20-year plan is Cabot Yerxa, one of the old-timers in the Desert Hot springs section of Coachella valley. Cabot recently brought a Texas bride to his desert homestead, and now they are building a combination dwelling and art studio up in a gully at the foot of the Little San Bernardino mountains. Cabot has been gathering materials for that studio for the last 15 years. He has lumber and chicken wire and bolts and sash scattered all over the landscape. But slowly, a stick at a time, Cabot is putting his house together and it is going to be a work of art when finished—which will be in about 20 years if he stays on the job and doesn't go galavantin' around with his easel and paint brushes as these artists are prone to do.

\* \* \*

But Harry Oliver and Cabot Yerxa are speed demons compared with Paul Wilhelm at Thousand Palms oasis. Paul already has been on the job 20 years—and his grand plans for the development of a super-resort at the oasis are still in the dream stage. At the present rate of progress Paul will need at least a hundred years to convert his poetical ideas into cement and wood and window-panes.

But don't get me wrong. I envy those fellows—Harry and Cabot and Paul. Somehow, they have found a way to detour all the zip and bustle and worry that keep the rest of us in a state of demoralization. They are healthy and happy in doing the things they want to do. As far as I am concerned, it all adds up to this—we need more poets and artists in this old world, and less chamber of commerce secretaries and super-salesmen.



## NEW HANDBOOK DESCRIBES WORLD OF PUEBLO INDIAN

In the sixth volume published by University of New Mexico and School of American Research in Handbooks of Archaeological History series, Edgar L. Hewett and Bertha P. Dutton describe the Pueblo Indian world which lies in a 75 mile wide strip along the Rio Grande between Taos and Isleta, New Mexico.

Primary aim of *THE PUEBLO INDIAN WORLD* is well stated in the subtitle, "Studies in the Natural History of the Rio Grande Valley in Relation to Pueblo Indian Culture." Both the Pueblos' relation to their geographical environment and to one another are portrayed through their origin legends, their place names, uses of wild plants, preparation of foods, their agriculture and their attitudes toward animals familiar to them.

Second part of the Handbook is a view of the Pueblo world as seen by the first white men to explore that area, especially as described by Castañeda, Coronado and Benavides.

Two significant chapters, included in the appendix, are written by John P. Harrington, ethnologist with Smithsonian institution, who announces here for the first time his discovery that "all the Pueblo stocks are related to one another by having had a common origin and source." He accordingly has adopted a new classification of the Rio Grande tribes. Also in the appendix is a list of scientific and common names of flora and fauna of the Pueblo world.

Much of the material presented here comes from earlier reports which have been edited and supplemented to make it available in non-technical form to a wider reading public. Major credit for research upon which the work is based is given Dr. Harrington, formerly on School of American Research staff.

Photos, maps, drawings, biblio., index. 176 pp. \$4.00.

## THE WORLD BEFORE THE DAWN OF MAN

Some of us have seen dinosaur skeletons in museums, others have seen tracks of dinosaurs in remote desert areas, and many more are acquainted with Alley Oop's favorite mount "Dinny." But not many of us know much more about the strange reptile that disappeared from the earth millions of years before man lived (despite Alley and his cave dwelling friends).

There is now available for the first time a popular guide on fossil amphibians and reptiles, with particular attention to the dinosaurs. It is *THE DINOSAUR BOOK*, by Edwin H. Colbert, published by American Museum of Natural History, New York, as Handbook 14 in Man and Nature series. The author, in tracing the evolution of dinosaurs and their relatives, also has hold how they lived with other animals existing at the time and he has described the world as it must have been many millions of years ago when these cold-blooded reptiles lived.

Although dinosaurs are extinct now, and have been for some 60 million years, they were highly successful, having survived for many millions of years. The author has traced the evolution of their fish ancestors, whose life began more than 340 million years ago, through the culmination of dinosaur life, to their modern day survivors—the crocodiles, lizards, snakes and turtles.

Both the author's style and the distinguished illustration make such a scientific subject interesting to the layman. Besides photos and charts, the book is illustrated with many drawings, chiefly the work of John C. Germann, which show restorations of the animals, as they are believed to have appeared in life.

How and where dinosaur remains are found, value of fossil study, and stories of the pioneer students of dinosaurs are chapters which provide an interesting background to a study of the reptiles themselves.

156 double-column pages, 8x11 inches. 1945.

## BOOK BRIEFS

Newest contribution to Death Valley literature is that of Major George Palmer Putnam, whose book *Death Valley and Its Country* will be released in a few months by Duell, Sloan and Pearce. There are chapters on desert gem stones, geology, flora, fauna, history and interesting characters of Death Valley. Much of his material was obtained from desert old-timers and rockhounds.

Another booklet on Indian Silverwork of the Southwest is *Band Bracelets: Embossed*, published by Laboratory of Anthropology, Santa Fe, as Bulletin 19 of the General Series. Origin of this unusual type of silverwork has not been determined. Includes photos of 28 examples, with notes by H. P. Mera.

Winner of first prize in current O. Henry Memorial prize short story collection published annually by Doubleday Doran and company is "The Wind and the Snow of Winter," story with Nevada mining town setting written by Walter Van Tilburg Clark, University of Nevada graduate and son of Dr. Walter E. Clark, former president of the university. Clark also is author of two novels, *Ox-Bow Incident* and *City of Trembling Leaves*.

Experiences of a game warden are told in *When the Dogs Barked 'Treed'* by Elliott Barker, New Mexico state game warden. Chapters include lion hunting, game animal habits, relations of predators to their prey and hunting episodes. Scheduled for April publication by University of New Mexico Press.

Jack O'Connor's latest book, *Hunting in the Southwest*, treats of both big and small game in the American Southwest and the northern states of Mexico. He gives his personal hunting experiences from Utah to Sinaloa and records his opinion on a number of controversial phases. Any sportsman should enjoy his tales of deer and desert bighorn, of bear, mountain lion and javelina, of quail, dove, whitewing and wild turkey. Illustrated. Published 1945 by Alfred A. Knopf Inc. \$4.00.

*Pottery Making in an Indian Pueblo* is a unique production of the School of American Research, Santa Fe, New Mexico. This is an 18-minute documentary film in full kodachrome showing the entire process of Indian pottery making, from the gathering of the clay to the final phases of decorating and firing. Juanita and Antonio Pena are the potters whose work John Wallace has photographed at their home in San Ildefonso Pueblo, New Mexico. Throughout the film each step is narrated in detail by Dr. Edgar L. Hewett, internationally known archeologist and educator. \$125.00.

Harvard University in 1945 published as a paper of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, Emil Haury's *The Excavation of Los Muertos and Neighboring Ruins in the Salt River Valley, Southern Arizona*. This paper is based on one phase of the Hemenway Southwestern Archaeological Expedition of 1887-88, the pioneer expedition which laid the foundation for future scientific exploration in the Southwest, the expedition which was organized and led by Frank Hamilton Cushing (although Fewkes continued when Cushing became too ill), and for which Adolph Bandelier served as historian. Haury gives a resume and interpretation of the findings on the Hohokam culture in the Salt River valley. Illustrated with maps of ruins and canals, with photos and plates.





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