

THE

Desert

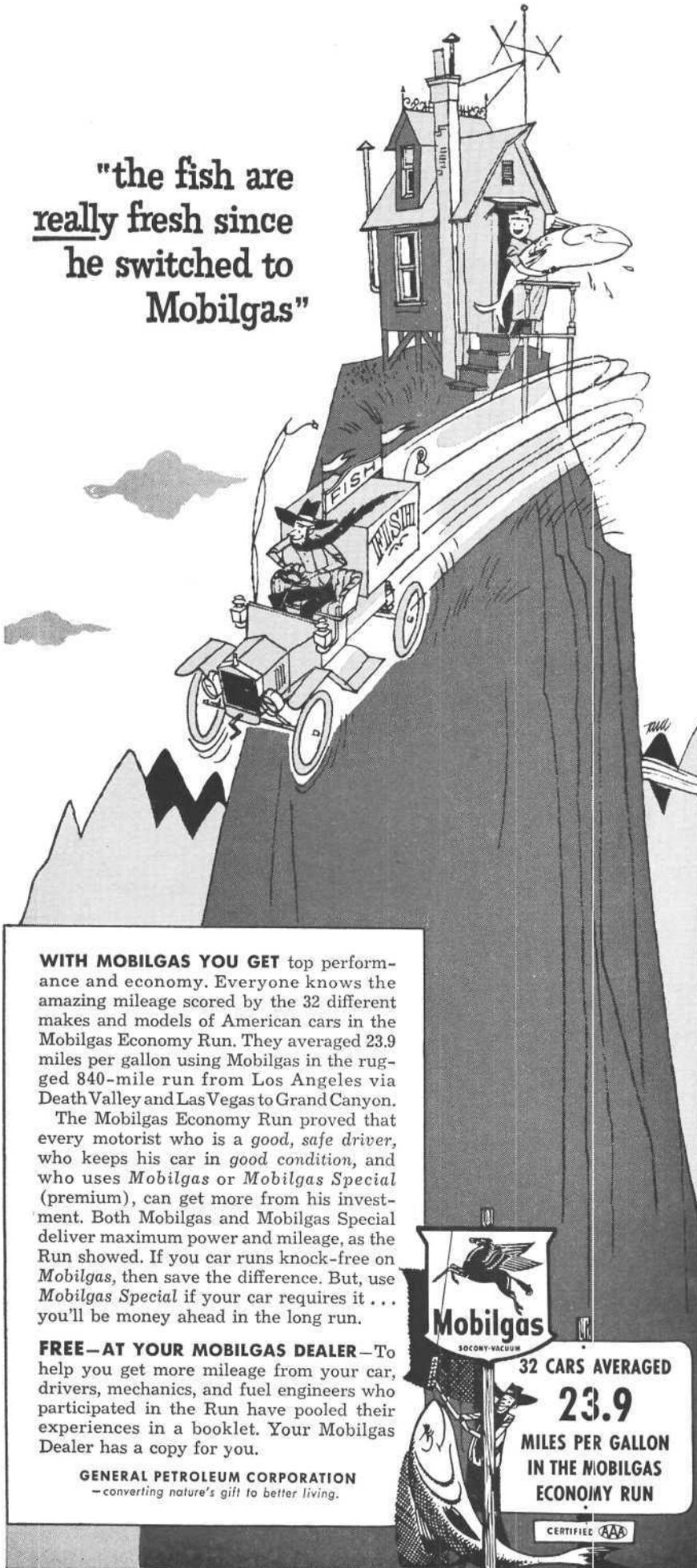
M A G A Z I N E



MAY, 1951

35 CENTS

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May Forecast for Wildflowers

Late March wildflower reports from friends who generously keep *Desert Magazine* posted are similar to those of last month—no mass displays such as had been hoped for.

Along Highway 111 beyond the *Desert Magazine* pueblo, lavender sand verbenas still blossom in sections where irrigation overflow reached them. In the Joshua Tree National Monument the Joshuas are in full bud and should be well opened by the middle of April, remaining to the latter part of the month, according to Frank Givens, park superintendent.

Lovely red plumes are beginning to tip the thorny ocotillo bushes, and will be worth seeing by the middle of April. Mass quantities exist in Ocotillo Valley on the way to Julian, California and along Highway 60-70 leading toward Blythe, California. Others cover the hillside beside the Palms to Pines Highway above Palm Desert.

In the Death Valley area there are a mile or two of primroses and sunflowers in Daylight Pass and a small showing of verbenas in Jubilee Pass, according to T. R. Goodwin, monument superintendent.

The Las Vegas section, Dora Tucker writes, has a few verbenas, encelias and the ever faithful lupine.

Throughout Arizona the story is still no rain with weather mild in the southern part and cool about the Lake Mead Recreational Area. Surprisingly, scarlet mallow, scarlet bugler, poppies, hyacinths, lupine and others of similar character are to be seen near Mesa, reports Julian King. Hedgehog cactus are in bud and will be followed by staghorn. The creosote and greasewood bushes are also putting forth. Some should last well into April, augmented by the saguaro, that giant of the wastelands, ocotillo, palo verde and ironwood. However, generally speaking, the blossoms are scattered and with the exception of cactus, will be extremely limited in most sections.

Since the rain gods of the desert Indians have not seen fit to favor the arid regions this spring, those who follow the wildflower trails with camera and magnifying glass will have to be for the most part, content with cactus blossoms. Much as one misses the colorful carpets, cactus will not disappoint, since no lovelier flower exists than those delicate waxy blossoms in numerous clear shades.

DESERT CALENDAR

- May 1 — Fiesta and Spring Corn Dance, San Felipe, New Mexico.
- May 1-6—Fiesta de Mayo with parade, Nogales, Arizona.
- May 3—Ceremonial Races, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Santa Cruz Day Corn Dance, Taos, New Mexico.
- May 3-5—Southeastern Utah Junior Livestock Show, Ferron, Utah.
- May 5—Cinco de Mayo, Mexican patriotic observance, Tucson, Arizona.
- May 5—All day auto-caravan through Joshua tree National Monument, start from Palm Springs Desert Museum, 9:00 a.m., bring lunch and water.
- May 5-6 — Sierra Club overnight camping trip to Indian Cove on northern edge Joshua Tree National Monument, California.
- May 5-27—Annual wildflower show, nearly 2000 varieties displayed, Community Hall, Julian, California.
- May 6—Nineteenth Annual Spring Festival, 22 miles east of Lancaster, Hi Vista, California.
- May 6 — Public pilgrimage to old Spanish homes, Mesilla, New Mexico.
- May 10-13 — Elks' Helderado and Rodeo, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- May 12—Final guest lecture of season by Edmund C. Jaeger, noted desert author, entitled "Desert Miscellanies," 8:00 p.m., Palm Springs Museum.
- May 15—Observatory open for First Quarter moon, Tucson, Arizona.
- May 15-30 — Bear Hunting Season, Arizona.
- May 18-20 — Annual Calico Days celebration, sponsored American Legion Post 797, Calico Guest Ranch, Yermo, California.
- May 22—Observatory open for viewing full moon, Tucson, Arizona.
- May 24-26—Unitah Basin Livestock Show, Vernal, Utah.
- May 26-27 — Sierra Club overnight camping trip to New York and Ivanpah Mountains, California.
- May 26-28—Fiesta of San Felipe de Neri, Old Town Plaza, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- May 26-July 5—All New Mexico Art Show, Old Town Plaza, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- May 30-31—D. U. P. Stake Memorial Day celebration, Fillmore, Utah.
- May 30-June 2—Annual Elks' Rodeo, Carlsbad, New Mexico.
- May — Exhibition of southwestern paintings by H. Arden Edwards, Southwest Museum, Highland Park, California.
- May—Week end chuck wagon breakfasts in the desert by automobile, horseback, hay-wagon or tally-ho, Palm Springs, California.



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Dropping from the rim of Marble Gorge at 350 feet a minute. There has been no accident to passenger or crew member.

Drill Crew in Marble Gorge

Deep within the 2500-foot walls of Colorado River's Marble Gorge a little crew of men from the Bureau of Reclamation has been engaged for many months in preliminary drilling to determine if the site is suitable for a 290-foot dam. This is one of the most inaccessible damsites along the Colorado River—but Uncle Sam found a way to get his men and supplies down over the precipitous canyon walls.

By JOYCE ROCKWOOD MUENCH
Photographs by Josef Muench

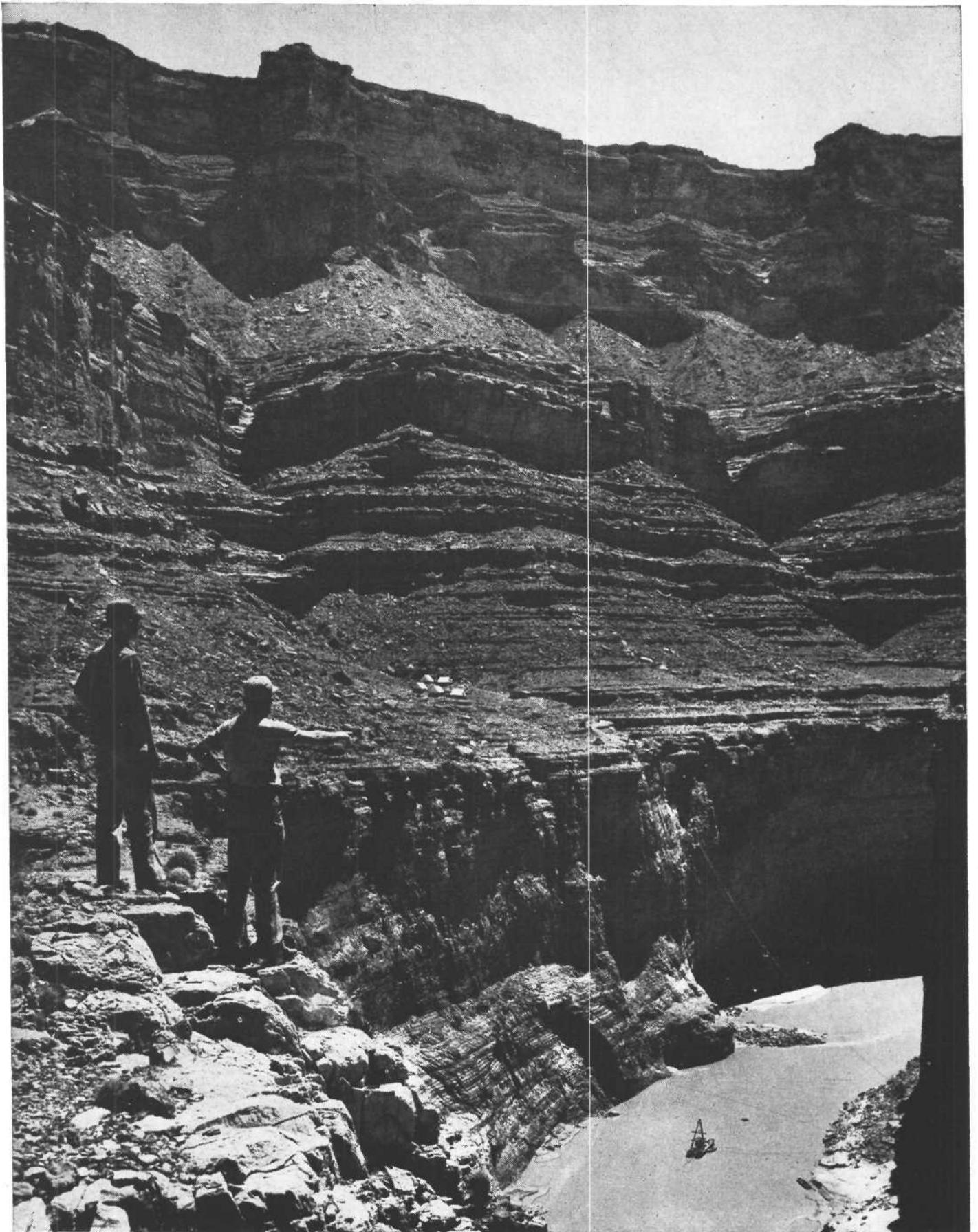
PEERING OVER the edge of Marble Canyon, we could see the small squares of the tent-camp, 2200 feet below us. The tiny ant-like figures down there were Reclamation Bureau men, taking the measure of the Colorado for another dam, their only contact with the outside world, a thread of cable stretching

upward to the steel tripod beside us. The setting was tremendous. Rugged canyon walls swooped downward, decorated by thousands of centuries of weathering. Each passing age had left its mark in definite layers on the rock, and the inner gorge of marble, tinted red from its overlying beds, drew the eye inescapably to the wandering

finger of the river deep in the shadows.

For more than a year, the squat group of tents and house trailers had sat on the rim, living quarters for the crew making preliminary investigations to determine a site for the proposed Marble Gorge dam. A small spot in the desert landscape, 21 miles over Navajo lands from U. S. Highway 89 at Cedar Ridge trading post and 100 from the nearest railhead at Flagstaff, it is the focal point for a battle front in the 200 years' war with the great river.

Machinery and equipment brought by men is dwarfed against the overwhelming size of the canyon they seek to subdue. A trail hacked from the rocks down Twenty-Nine Mile Can-



Marble Gorge dams site in the Colorado River above Grand Canyon. The gorge is 2500 feet deep at this point and men and supplies are lowered to the river on a double relay of cable, the first being a vertical drop of 2200 feet to the camp shown in the center of the picture. From this point another cable drops 350 feet to the edge of the river where borings are going on.

yon leads to another outpost of tents, set on a narrow ledge, 350 feet above the water. But before the real work of probing could begin, an aerial staircase was needed, flung from the plateau into the gorge. So the world's longest unsupported cable was installed, 3800 feet of steel rope one and three eighths inches thick. Fastened only at the upper 20-foot structural steel tower and again to a lower anchor block and fitted with a freight cage, it cuts travel time to the canyon bottom from eight hours on the trail to a breathless fifteen minutes.

There were six in our party, come to see this wonder, ride down the cable and view the proposed dam site: Red Baron from Detroit, Irene Johnson of Cliff Dwellers Lodge, my photographer husband, our 14-year old son, David, and myself.

The hoist man assured us that the heavy strands of metal were strong enough to carry a 2000 pounds load, so we needn't worry about our combined weights taxing it. He pointed out the 40-foot system of take up blocks to allow for the expansion and contraction natural in this changeable desert climate.

Yes, of course, it had been dangerous work installing it, with men clinging to the cliff face to drill in the rock, setting the rollers to ease the cable over rock ground, and even pulling the cable down after thinner strands of wire. But there had been no accident to workmen or to visitors in all the months. And every hour spent in the construction had saved days of trail work and made it possible for the drill rigs and steel pontoons to be let down. They could never have been transported on burro back.

When we stepped into the cage and felt it push off into space I expected to be frightened. But there was so much to see and the sensation of flying was so delightful there was no room left for fear. Gravity seemed suspended for our special benefit and the walls grew like bean-stalks, millions of years passing in close review. At one place we hovered 700 feet above the rocks and we could see our shadows, just as birds may, skimming across the irregular surface. All too soon the cage was settling beside a platform and we were being welcomed by the camp foreman, Bert Lucas.

Now another drop opened below us and we were soon swinging on a shorter cableway, 700 feet through the air, across the stream and down to the sandy shore. Here we had reached the spot which had been picked for intensive study by the Reclamation Bureau. The selection was made only after the entire 65 mile length of the canyon rim had been searched.

Even though the exact location of the proposed dam is still uncertain, proportions for it have been fixed. It will stand 365 feet above bedrock and 290 above the water, with a power plant capable of producing about 360,000 kilowatts, and a reservoir extending up canyon to the proposed Glen Canyon Dam. When the entire project of taming the Colorado is complete, this will be one of the necessary check reins, fitting neatly into the patterns to make use of every single drop of water, for power or irrigation, in the 2000 mile length of the Colorado. Many factors will enter into the decision as to when the dam may be constructed but whenever and wherever it stands, the necessary field work to blue prints or concrete pouring, is moving steadily ahead.

I found that with only a small stretch of imagination, I could see the great white bulk of the dam, set solidly in the Redwall formation of the inner gorge.

The "marble" for which the canyon is named is a sandstone, massive and compact, light gray when freshly broken but colored by red shales of the Supai formation above it. You've probably seen the same conspicuous red cliffs in the Grand Canyon. They always stand in the same relative position, a bulky 500 feet thick. Here, the top layers have been scraped off by erosion and the lower ones lie below the river, showing only about 350 feet. Redwall was laid down two hundred million years ago when huge amphibians ruled the earth.

In this new age, when man has taken over, the formations are being probed by diamond drills to find the depth and condition of bedrock, how much gravel lies in the river's throat and whether the canyon walls will bear the weight of a great dam. One of the drill rigs rides on steel pontoons, anchored midstream by wire cables reaching to either wall, and another on the north shore, both bringing up a procession of cores from each foot of rock interior. The sections, a few inches long and about two in diameter are marked for their source by the engineer but the date of birth can be read in the fossils they contain. Boxes of the cores form a continual parade from way down in Marble Canyon to the Denver office of the Bureau of Reclamation for study.

We began to wonder how many men it had taken to perform the miracles we saw about us—surely an army! Bert Lucas told us it was only a handful, 16 to 20 in the usual crew. They work for two 40-hour weeks or a ten day period followed with four days off. Al Love, labor foreman, Bill Gardner, geologist, Danny Daley and

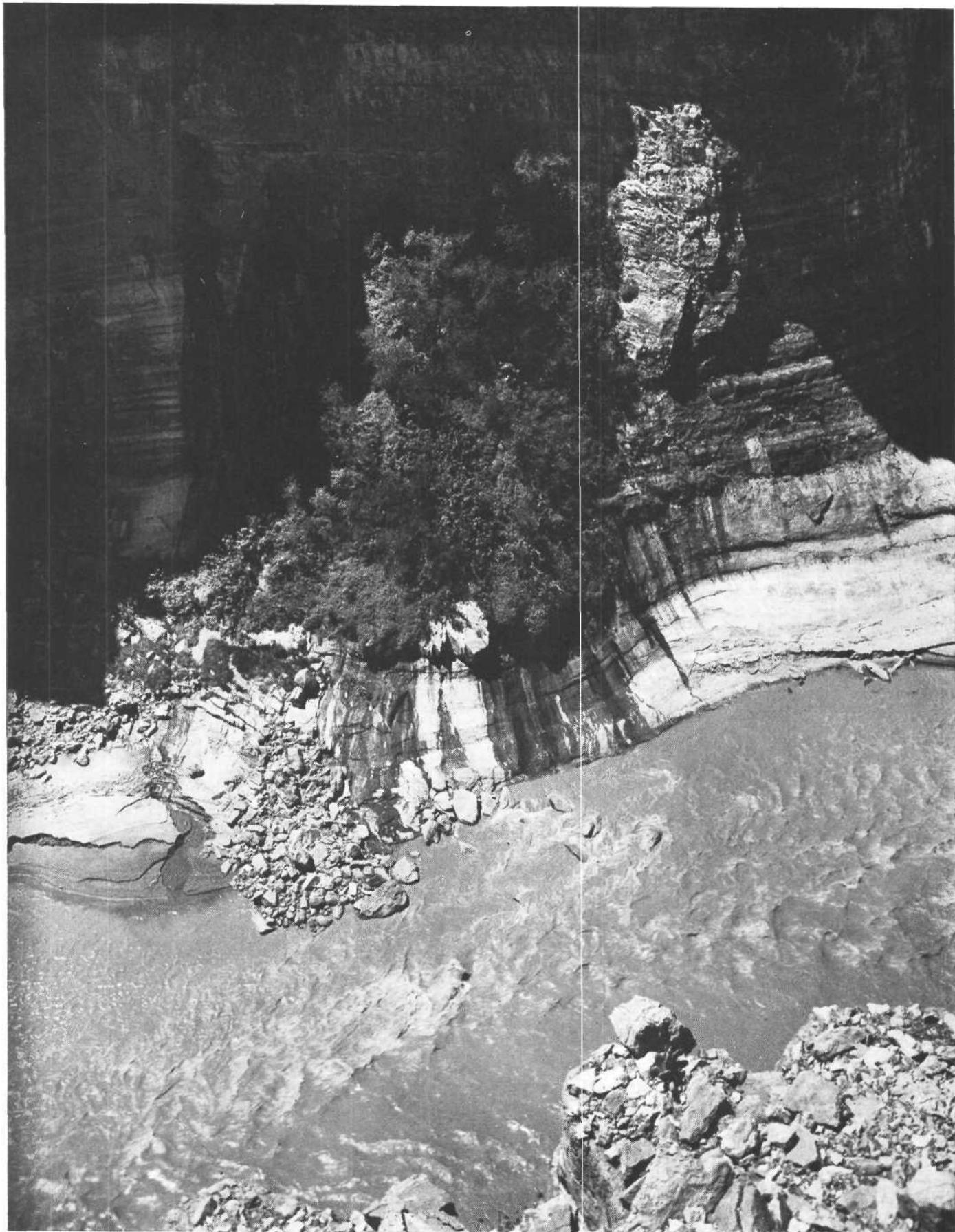
Earl Corey hoistmen, Fred and "Red," the cooks, drillers, and engineers, are welded together by Bert into a smoothly working team. They seem to enjoy the vigorous life and I found myself thinking they looked like Greek warriors, bronzed by the sun and very fit. Some of them were shirtless but hatted, and a grin appeared to be standard equipment even though the temperature in the canyon is always ten degrees higher than on the rim and it may reach 119 degrees in summer. Nights, they assured us, were cooler, but there were apt to be mosquitos.

We photographed the men as well as the gaunt canyon walls, the cable web, the river rushing by and the rig floating on it. Then darkening skies urged us up to the ledge and aboard the freight cage to swing skyward. We were about halfway up when the skies opened and drenched us with icy water. The shower lasted only until we were wet all the way through and then moved southward in a solid phalanx of black, cutting off our retreat over the Reservation road which we had expected to take us to a six o'clock dinner date at Cliff Dwellers Lodge.

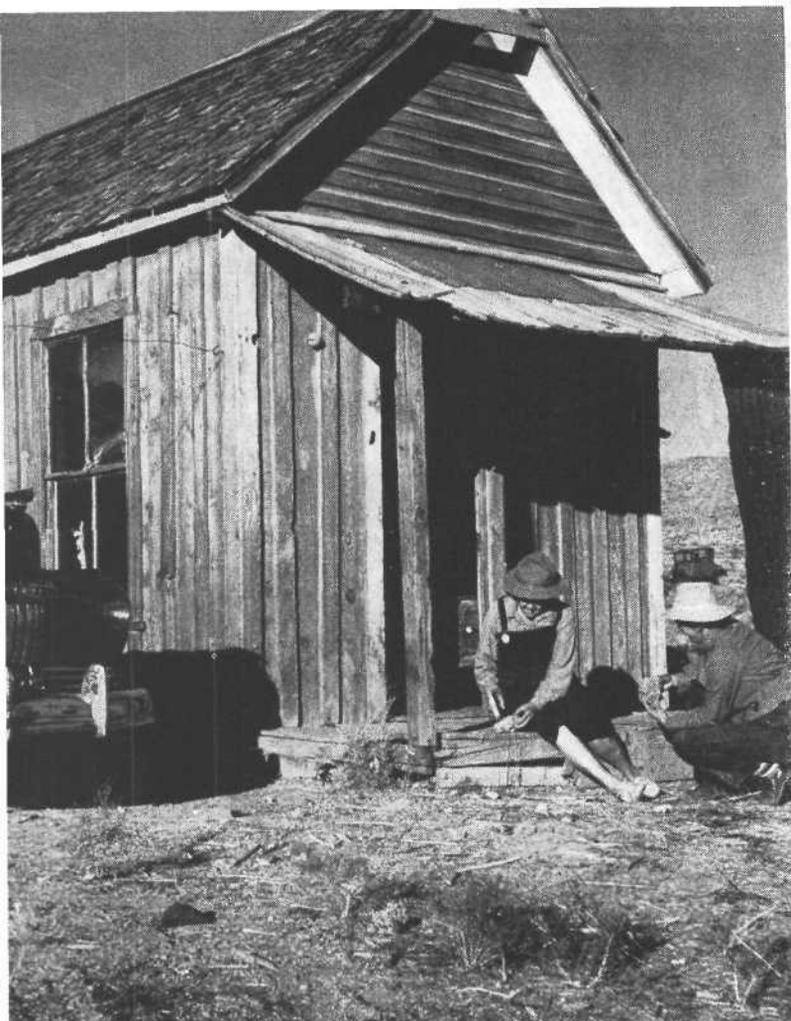
"You couldn't possibly make it in your car," Al Love told us. "Not even four wheeled jobs would be able to reach Cedar Ridge tonight."

So we stayed for dinner and had a glimpse of what life is like for a Reclamation crew in the field. Several of us sat out under the stars and talked about the building of dams and the men who build them. The conversation turned to this crew and their families in Phoenix, Flagstaff, or a more distant place. The men look forward to the weekend when they can go home. Not every Reclamation camp is as remote as Marble Canyon and there are times when the men live at home. But they are often called away, being soldiers in the service of their country, in the long war against the Colorado. Their eyes are on the future and they think in terms of an expanded vision. The day of triumph will come long after they, as individuals, have stepped out of the battle line, but they share in the coming victory.

In a few months this site with its stirring activity will be deserted and another one investigated. The cables will swing at Mile 39.5 (figured from Mile "0" at Lees Ferry) the longer one 300 feet shorter but over a still steeper drop and the lower one 500 feet longer than at present. The same gigantic walls will shut them in and the same kind of problems test their skill and vigor. The battle front will be pushed on, one step closer to the building of a dam in the mighty maw of Marble Canyon, one more strong link in harness for the Colorado River.



Vasey's Paradise—where a great stream of mineralized water gushes from the wall of Marble Canyon a mile above the proposed damsite. This lovely sidewall oasis was named by John Wesley Powell in honor of Dr. George W. Vasey, botanist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.



Dora Tucker and the author examining some of the silver ore specimens found in the abandoned cabin which was used as their temporary home in Goldpoint.



Nevada State Senator Harry Wiley and Mrs. Wiley in front of their small general store, gasoline station and postoffice in the ghost camp of Goldpoint.

Forgotten Ghost of Gold Mountain

With a Nevada state senator as guide, Nell Murbarger followed a rocky road which led to a group of ghost mining camps so long deserted that their existence has almost been forgotten. Here is the story of a camp which 80 years ago was producing rich ore—but today has only its memories.

By NELL MURBARGER
Photographs by the author
Map by Norton Allen

JUST TO BE rolling along a Nevada highway in May had been grand enough; but once we had exchanged that smooth ribbon of pavement for the dusty little desert road, we felt that we really had Adventure by the forelock.

It was a morning specially designed for adventuring. Along the western horizon stretched the 14,000-foot range of the White Mountains, pine forested and laced by a hundred sparkling

streams. Viewed through the clear air their snowy summits seemed incredibly close; yet, for all they had in common with the land we were crossing, they might have been the peaks of another planet.

Here in Lida Valley were neither brooks nor trees, but only desert—pure and unadulterated. Heat lay upon the flat like a fleecy blanket. Even the scattered Joshuas seemed strangely somnolent. There was no

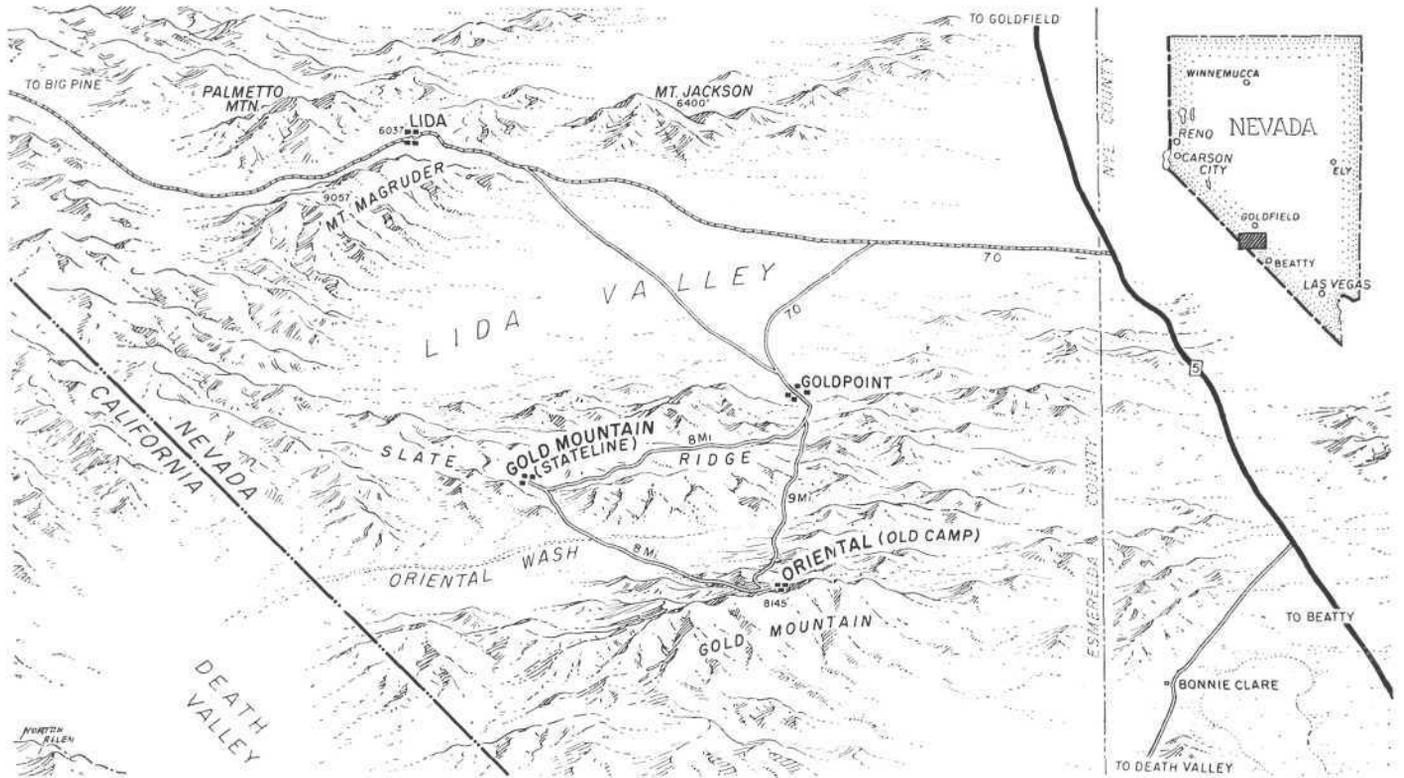
audible sound—not so much as the rustle of a creosote leaf—and every visible movement seemed to be encompassed in one fluttering sparrow hawk.

Thirty-five miles to the southwest spread the forbidding outskirts of Death Valley, separated from us only by the dark bulwark of the Slate Range and Gold Mountain. Somewhere in those rough hills lay our destination—two ghost towns so long deserted that their one-time existence has been nearly forgotten!

It was Harry Wiley, of Goldpoint, Nevada state senator from Esmeralda county, who first told me of these towns.

"If you can arrange your itinerary to include Goldpoint," he had written, "I'll show you a couple of old boom camps so little known that their history never has been recorded . . ."

If Harry's previous acquaintance had included many chronic ghost towners like Dora Tucker and me, he wouldn't have worried about the itinerary. Our 25 years of gypsying around together have left us with definite aversion for anything resembling a time table, and the only schedule we ever attempted to follow was sure to have



a major operation on its first day, and by the second day, scuttled altogether.

By return mail I had assured Harry that no itinerary would keep us away from Goldpoint and the promised ghost towns.

Seven miles on the graveled Lida road brought us to a fork where we turned left on a semi-improved dirt road. Another seven miles—all upgrade—and we were rolling through the main street of that mile-high mining camp which has served as Senator Harry's headquarters for nearly 50 years.

Important mineral discoveries made here in the forepart of this century had resulted in the founding of this camp which was known as Hornsilver until 1929, when its present name was adopted. A contemporary of such spectacular boom camps as Rhyolite, Bullfrog, Fairview and Wonder, this stubborn old settlement has continued to muddle through while the sites of her one-time rivals have reverted to desert.

That two world wars and other vicissitudes have left her hold on life rather shaky, is evidenced by the rows of dilapidated false-front buildings which flank her dusty streets. Almost without exception they are empty buildings. Many of the headframes visible on surrounding hillsides are standing over silent mine shafts and ghostly dumps.

Where 2000 persons once lived, we found but two remaining business

houses—one a small "clubroom" and bar; the other, a pocket-sized general store, gasoline station and postoffice operated by Harry and Mrs. Wiley.

After tendering us the sort of welcome that a promoter might reserve for potential investors, Harry climbed into the front seat with Dora and me, and leaving Mrs. W. to cope with the assorted commerce of Goldpoint, we headed off into the range.

Following a twisting course, but bearing in a southwesterly direction, the little-traveled desert trail labored up steep ridges, skirted rocky canyons, clung to one-way curves and wallowed across dry washes. Branch trails led away to either side and other trails intersected and crossed. Occasionally the main route divided, only to rejoin itself a few hundred yards beyond.

"Bear to your left," Harry would say. "You'll miss a bad stretch of sand . . ." or "Take the right fork—it's not so rocky." Between giving road instructions he told us something of the places we were about to visit.

"Like Goldpoint," he said, "both of these old camps are known by two names. Folks like myself, whose personal knowledge of them reaches back only 40 or 50 years, are inclined to refer to the earlier settlement as Old Camp and the newer as Stateline, for the Stateline mine. During their actual years of activity, however, they were known as Oriental and Gold Moun-

tain, and mining reports of the 1870's and '80's invariably refer to them under these names.

"I must confess," he went on, "I have no personal knowledge of these camps when they were operating. All I know about them is what I have been told by Doug Robinson. I wish Doug could have been here to give you the story, but he's probation officer of Inyo County now and doesn't get back to his old Nevada stamping grounds very often. Both Doug and his sister, Mrs. Laura Bulmer, of Reno, were born at Gold Mountain. So far as is known, they're the survivors of all those who lived here when these were operating camps. Doug and I have been close friends since 1905 and I've heard him tell so often of the early days in these two towns that sometimes it seems almost as though I have lived there myself . . ."

As our trail bumped onward through the desert hills, Harry unfolded the basic story.

Original strike in the area, he told us, had been made about 1866 by Thomas Shaw, following which the Gold Mountain mining district was organized in '68. Little outside attention was centered on the area until 1871 when Shaw began development of his rich Oriental mine. By this time there were in production several other mines including the Stateline, Dusty Bob and Nova Zembla.

"By 1872," said Harry, "Gold Mountain was a lively camp with



weekly pony express service from the nearest railway point, which was Battle Mountain, about 250 miles to the north. The rider, who handled the southern half of this route from Austin to Gold Mountain, stayed overnight twice weekly at San Antone station, then the home of Doug's mother, Mrs. Alice Robinson."

Beginning about 1875, Gold Mountain had come in for much newspaper publicity in which the Stateline mine was represented as one of the truly great mines of that day. Ore from the Oriental likewise was showing some fabulous assays. In Uncle Sam's *Seventh Annual Report of Mineral Resources West of the Rocky Mountains*, published in 1875, it was stated that selected specimens from the Oriental showed a gold and silver content of \$1370.79 per ton, while nine unselected samples from the same mine averaged \$169.19 per ton in silver and \$13.47 in gold. The same report credited the Nova Zembla with ore averaging \$302.87 to the ton, and the Good Templar, \$233.55. Samples from 50 different claims in the Gold Mountain district were said to average \$150 to the ton.

"Sale of stock," said Harry, "was being pushed throughout the East, especially in New York, and a long period of prosperity was predicted for the camp."

At this point in the chronicle we were approaching the summit of a rocky ridge when we caught our first sight of stone ruins. For the most part these tumbled buildings consisted of little more than foundations, or the fronts of hillside dugouts. Occasionally there appeared a roofless wall as high as a man's head, and here and there a stone chimney stood guard over the site of a vanished house.

Well trained as a ghost town, the car seemed to halt of its own volition as we reached the most concentrated portion of the ruins.

"This is it!" said Harry. "This is the business section of Gold Mountain. That chimney and backwall, yonder, are all that remain of Dennis Reme-



Above — The massive fireplace and oven is about all that remains of Dennis Remeset's former bakery at Gold Mountain, Nevada.

Below — Around the base of a rocky knoll, a mile west of Gold Mountain, this fort was built as protection if Indians should attack. The double-faced, earth-filled wall averages six feet in height and is 225 feet long.



Empty store buildings and Joshua trees line the streets of Goldpoint, Nevada, former boomtown.

set's bakery, and that excavation across the street was the basement of Tallman & Squires' general store, which also housed the postoffice. The store closed about 1884 but the postoffice continued to function for another five or six years. By the way," he added, "I forgot to speak about it as we came up the ravine, but those first ruins we passed marked the former site of Chinatown. The Chinese did laundry work and cooking, or whatever common labor came to hand."

As we, in imagination, strove to recreate the old town, we wandered over its site, pausing now and again to pick up a square-cut iron nail, a piece of desert-purple glass, or some other fragmentary souvenir of bygone days.

In the earlier years of the camp, according to Harry, water was quite a problem, most of it being hauled from a spring at Old Camp and sold

at seven cents a gallon. In the late '70's the Gold Mountain Mining Company had started erecting a 40-stamp mill and steam hoist, and for water to operate it had laid 15 miles of pipeline from Mt. Magruder and Tule Canyon to Gold Mountain. The pipe first installed proved too light to withstand the pressure in the valley between the springs and the mill and had to be replaced; but with completion of the line in 1882 the town obtained its water from the mining company.

While pioneering conditions at Gold Mountain were not so rigorous as in some other parts of the West, life there was not easy. The nearest doctor was at Candelaria, 85 miles away; and not even at Candelaria was there a dentist. The Robinsons owned the town's only pair of dental forceps and when the torture of a throbbing tooth

at last exceeded the anticipated pain of its removal, the molar was extracted.

"But it wasn't painless dentistry!" laughed Harry. "Doug Robinson's son, at Boulder City, still owns those pioneer pullers!"

All material for the big mill, hoist, and water system, was hauled in from Wadsworth, near Reno, by "long line" —12 to 16-horse teams. Freight rates were exorbitantly high. By 1881 a man named Cluggage was operating a stageline from Belmont to Gold Mountain by way of San Antone, Columbus, Silver Peak and Lida. About 1882, the Carson and Colorado railroad was extended to Candelaria, and mail and passengers arrived at Gold Mountain via twice-weekly stages from that point. Mail for Old Camp (Oriental) was dropped at Gold Mountain and transported to its destination by horseback courier.

Shortly after inauguration of stage-line service from Candelaria, Mrs. Robinson assumed charge of the Gold Mountain stage station and operated it until 1890, providing travelers with sleeping accommodations and meals at 50 cents each.

"And those were real he-man meals!" said Harry. "None of your 'Blue Plate Specials.' I've heard Doug tell about Sam Piper bringing prime dressed beef from his ranch in Fish Lake Valley and selling it for a nickel a pound! Other wagon peddlers, from Owens Valley, in California, brought in pork and poultry, eggs, fresh fruit, honey and vegetables."

According to Harry, the worst time they had at Gold Mountain was during the winter of 1889-90 when all the roads were blocked by snow and for four months no wagons or pack animals could make it through to the camp. The store was completely sold out of food. Greater hardship might have resulted but for the fact that many Indians in the vicinity were virtually starving and would haul flour over the mountains on hand sleds on a 50-50 basis—one sack for the hauler and one for the purchaser.

Relations between Indians and whites of that locality had not always been so amicable. In 1868 a couple of miners had been killed by Indians in Oriental Wash, two miles from Gold Mountain; and the area suffered periodic Indian scares. The first time an attack was threatened, every person in camp scurried for cover in one of the mine tunnels. When it was realized that this was not the most commendable safety measure—since one or two members of the attacking force could effectually block all escape from the tunnel until its inhabitants had succumbed to thirst or starvation—the camp built a stone fort around a nearby knoll.

"Want to see that fort?" asked Harry. "It's still standing!"

Piling into the car, we headed down the wash toward a rocky knoll a mile to the west. It was not a large knoll but as a means of repelling Indian attack, it must have been ideal. With its summit commanding an unobstructed view over several thousand acres of surrounding territory, it would have been impossible for an enemy to approach the place unseen.

Further protection was afforded by a massive breastwork which half encircled the base of the hill. Built as a double rock wall, with center filling of earth, we found its average width to be three to five feet, its greatest inside height about six feet, and its length 225 feet. Between the wall and

the hill behind it there was adequate room for all of Gold Mountain's frontier defenders, as well as their women and children.

Examining the place, we saw dead Joshua trunks along the top of the wall. Further inspection revealed that the trunks had not rotted and fallen in that position, but had been hewn by axe. The only conclusion we could draw was that the trunk sections had been cut and placed there at the time the fort was built—doubtless as a means of affording additional protection and to provide firing loopholes, which were lacking in the rock portion of the wall. Smaller breastworks, on the shoulder of the knoll and near its summit, likewise were topped with Joshua butts—many of them firm and stout despite the 80-odd years which must have elapsed since they were cut.

Returning to Gold Mountain proper, we visited the mill foundations, shaft, and caved stope of the old Stateline mine—said to have been one of the first mines patented in the State of Nevada. With the sun already dropping toward the hills on the west and still another ghost town to be covered before nightfall, we drew the curtain on Gold Mountain and headed across wide Oriental Wash toward Old Camp.

"If you were to follow this wash to its mouth," said Harry, "you would come out at Sand Springs, in the northern part of Death Valley. Doug tells some great tales about the old burro prospectors of Death Valley region who used to come up Oriental Wash to Gold Mountain for supplies. For the most part, he says, they were hunting the Lost Breyfogle mine, but some, like Old Man Beatty, were just looking for anything they could find.

"Jake Staininger, who cultivated an acre-or-so of ground where Death Valley Scotty's two-million-dollar castle now stands, always tried to make it to Gold Mountain for Christmas. One year he arrived five days late because he had forgotten to cut the notches on his 'time stick.' When he learned that Christmas was over for another year, the old man was sore as a boiled owl!"

For several miles we had been climbing steadily up a stiff grade and were entering the lower fringe of the juniper belt when Harry pointed off to the right where a small spot of brilliant green stood out vividly against the more sombre tones of the distant hillside.

"See that green speck? That's the only cottonwood tree for miles around! There's a spring near the tree and many years ago a fellow named B. F. Leete ran a small mill there. It quit operating about 1888."

Another mile of upgrade brought us to the pinyons and the outlying ruins of Oriental, situated just under 8000 feet elevation. Due to its greater age or briefer period of occupancy, we found here far less evidence of a former town than at Gold Mountain. Except for the roofless walls and fireplace of the original Robinson home and the Oriental postoffice, Harry was unable to identify any of the rock ruins which dotted the pine and cedar-grown hillside and lined the canyon to the west. For the most part they appeared to have been dwellings.

At the junction of the road and the canyon, sits an old steam engine in apparently sound condition. According to our guide, this engine was installed some time prior to 1871, and was used to power an arrastre, now vanished, but originally located only a few yards to the southeast. The primitive-type mill was operated until 1900, largely on ore brought down the mountainside by pack mules.

As we left Old Camp and headed back across the hills to Goldpoint and supper, Dora asked the inevitable question, "What killed the camps?"

Harry shrugged. "The usual thing! The ore which was to be so rich didn't hold up to assay figures. The stamp mill at Gold Mountain was as good as anyone knew how to build in those days but milling processes were crude and half the values were lost. On top of this, there was prolonged litigation. Doug's father, H. H. Robinson, who was postmaster and kept the store at Gold Mountain, was put in as receiver of the Stateline property from time to time between 1883 and 1886, and between 1886 and 1890 had full charge of the mine and its workings.

"During the eight-year period from 1882 to 1890, the mill operated a total of only three years, with many starts and stops. In 1890 the property was sold and the Robinsons moved away. Finally the water pipeline was pulled and the camp abandoned . . .

"And I guess that's about all there is to the tale," said Esmeralda's Senator Wiley as we topped the last ridge and looked out over the darkening expanse of Lida Valley which lay like a quiet sea at the foot of the grade. To the west, the high range was silhouetted blackly against the flaming splash of sunset, and a few windows in the weathered frame buildings of Goldpoint already showed the friendly glow of coal oil lamps.

"It will be dark in thirty minutes," said the Senator. "You'd better grab one of those empty cabins down there and stay all night."

It sounded like a very good idea.



Gilbert, Nevada's latest ghost town, sleeps in the sun. It once had 800 residents and a weekly newspaper.

Gem Hunt on a Ghost Town Trail

By HAROLD O. WEIGHT
 Photographs by the author
 Map by Norton Allen

One of the last of the Nevada gold strikes was made in 1924 in the Monte Cristo Mountains. It was while enroute to the ghost of this old camp 29 miles from Tonopah that Harold and Lucile Weight, following a rock collector's hunch, discovered a field where obsidian nodules could be gathered by the hatful. Here is an interesting lesson in the geology of obsidian and its relation to that much-in-demand insulation material known as perlite.

WHEN EVA Wilson, Lucile and I headed into the vivid volcanic Monte Cristo Mountains of Nevada last September, our primary purpose was to visit the ghost town of Gilbert, which lies in the heart of that colorful range. That old camp held particular interest for us in that the discovery of gold there by the Gilbert brothers in 1924 set off Nevada's last real mining rush, and Gilbert was the last substantial boom camp in the state.

We left Highway 6 and 95 less than 1½ miles beyond the ruins of the milling town of Millers and 14.2 miles northwest of Tonopah, turning right onto the big playa there. The turnoff was indicated by a wooden arrow beside the highway with the name "An-jax" on it. The road we followed had a number of chuckholes when dry and would be thoroughly unsatisfactory when wet.

This lower end of the Great Smoky Valley is spider-webbed with a variety of roads and trails—some of them dating to freighting days of half a century ago. But from our maps we knew the one we wanted was heading

for a natural gateway in the east face of the Monte Cristos.

As we approached them from the southeast, the Monte Cristos were brilliantly colored — wide irregular bandings of orange accented in black with grey and ashy areas above and below, and what appeared to be the remnants of black and reddish lava flows.

While we were hunting a ghost town, we were keeping our rockhound eyes wide open too. Beautiful material—a great variety of it—has come from these mountains. And rocks came into the picture just as we passed the picturesque portals into the Monte Cristos. It was only a faint auto trail angling to the right. But somehow that trail looked like a rockhound road—or at least a road that rockhounds should investigate.

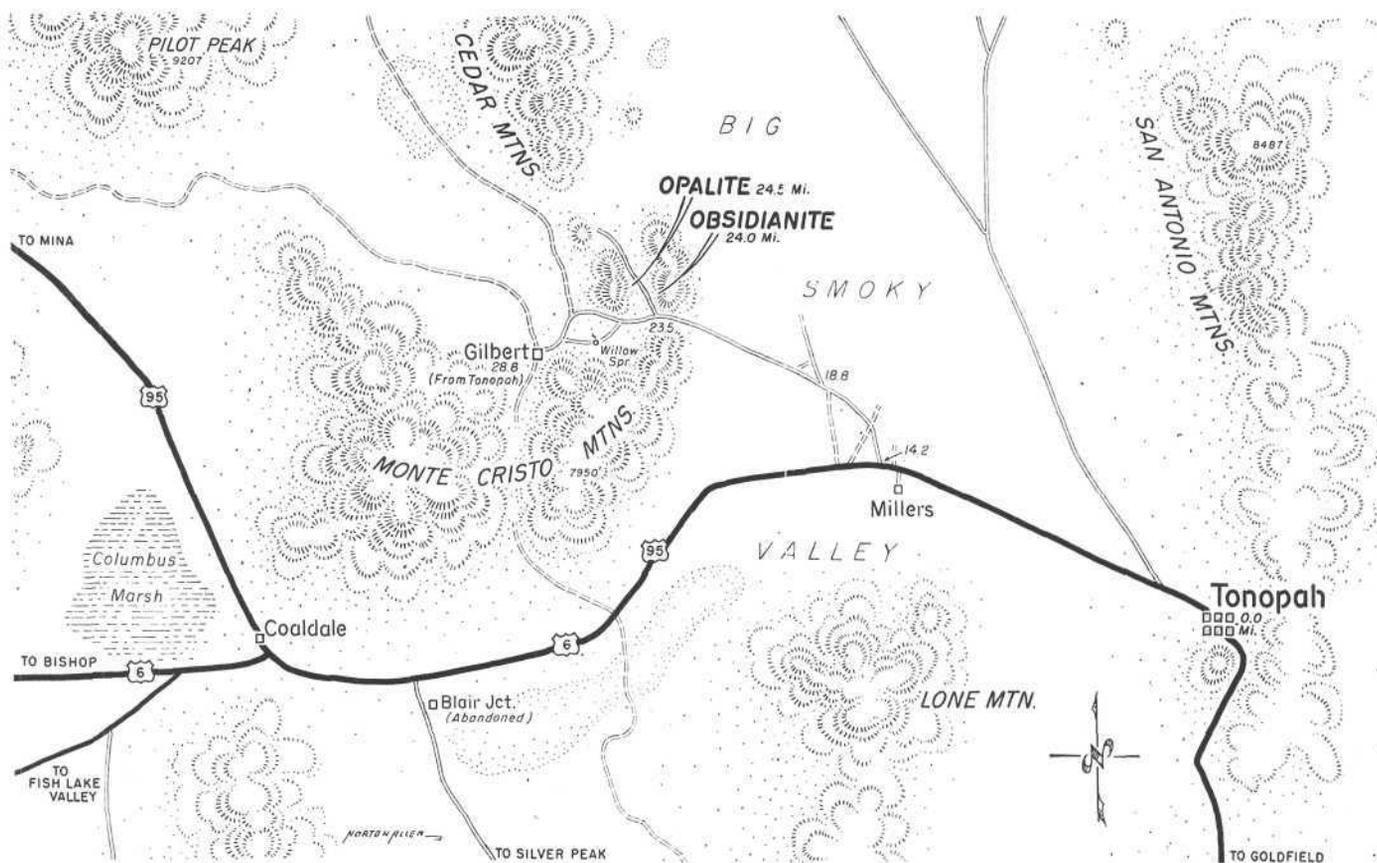
We consulted a moment, and the ghost town lost. I turned onto the sandy trail. Half a mile farther it branched again, the right fork heading directly toward the towering volcanic mountain beside us. That branch couldn't go far, and it seemed a good

place to find out what the makers of the trail were looking for or had found. We left the truck to investigate.

After climbing a little *mesita*, I paused and looked back toward the southeast. It was late afternoon. The gateway of the pass by which we had just entered the mountains was brilliant in the golden glow. Through it we could see the vast shadow-streaked width of the Great Smoky Valley and the thread of a distant highway leading to Tonopah. We were at least 20 miles away but the individual buildings of the great silver camp could be picked out.

Lucile and Eva had not gone far before there were exclamations such as would come only from a rockhound on a hot trail.

"Volcanic tears," called Lucile, and as I approached she showed me sculptured chunks of volcanic glass so large that one nearly covered the palm of her hand. Eva came up too, the crown of her broad-brimmed red straw hat full. Eva was happy. Before starting the Nevada trip, she had told us she wanted pick up one volcanic tear



—just one would be enough. Here, in a few square rods, she had collected a double handful.

I traced the obsidian nodules toward the base of the mountain. They continued up the steep slopes. It looked as if we had come upon the hideout of the granddaddies of all volcanic tears, and most of them of cutting quality—smoky-grey, banded, amber-brownish.

The formation of these colorful little nodules of volcanic glass has always intrigued me. Collecting them as float in a number of localities, I've figured out any number of plausible explanations. But an explanation that seemed to apply in one location would break down in another. For a long time, I'd hoped to find them in place, feeling that then I might be able to dope out the whys and wherefores.

Here it looked as if I might do just that. About half way up the mountain-side was a tall contorted gray cliff. The volcanic tears might be coming from that dike. It was a steep and difficult climb to the cliff, but when I finally made it, the ledge beneath my feet was littered with volcanic tears which had weathered out, and the cliff itself looked like a greyish rice pudding plentifully spotted with raisins and spiced with big plums. As I examined the dike closely, I found that it was composed of perlite, and each tear was delicately wrapped in many thin layers of pearly grey which followed the shape of each nodule exactly. The

GHOST TOWN LOG

- Miles
- 00.0 Tonopah. Head northwest on Highway 6 & 95 toward Mina.
 - 12.8 Left branch to ruins of Millers, once big ore milling center for Tonopah. Continue ahead on main highway.
 - 14.2 Turn right on dirt road over playa. Small arrow beside highway at turnoff is marked "An-jax." There are many crossroads on playa. Continue on main route toward pass in the east face of Monte Cristos, near northern end of mountains.
 - 18.8 Road Y. Keep left.
 - 23.5 Just through gateway of pass, turn right from main road onto sandy tracks.
 - 24.0 Faint tracks branch right onto mesa. Obsidianites may be found all around this area. Obsidianites in place in grey cliff half way up mountain at end of side trail. NOTE: The grey dike (perlite) has been filed upon and discovery work done by Nevada miners. However, there are plenty of volcanic tears, as float, on slopes below the dike all around the mountain.
 - 24.5 (Approx.) Washes to right of road lead up to area below orange outcrop where opalite, chalcedony, and other colorful cutting rocks may be collected.
 - 28.8 (Direct mileage from Tonopah, without rock-collecting detour) Gilbert ghost town.

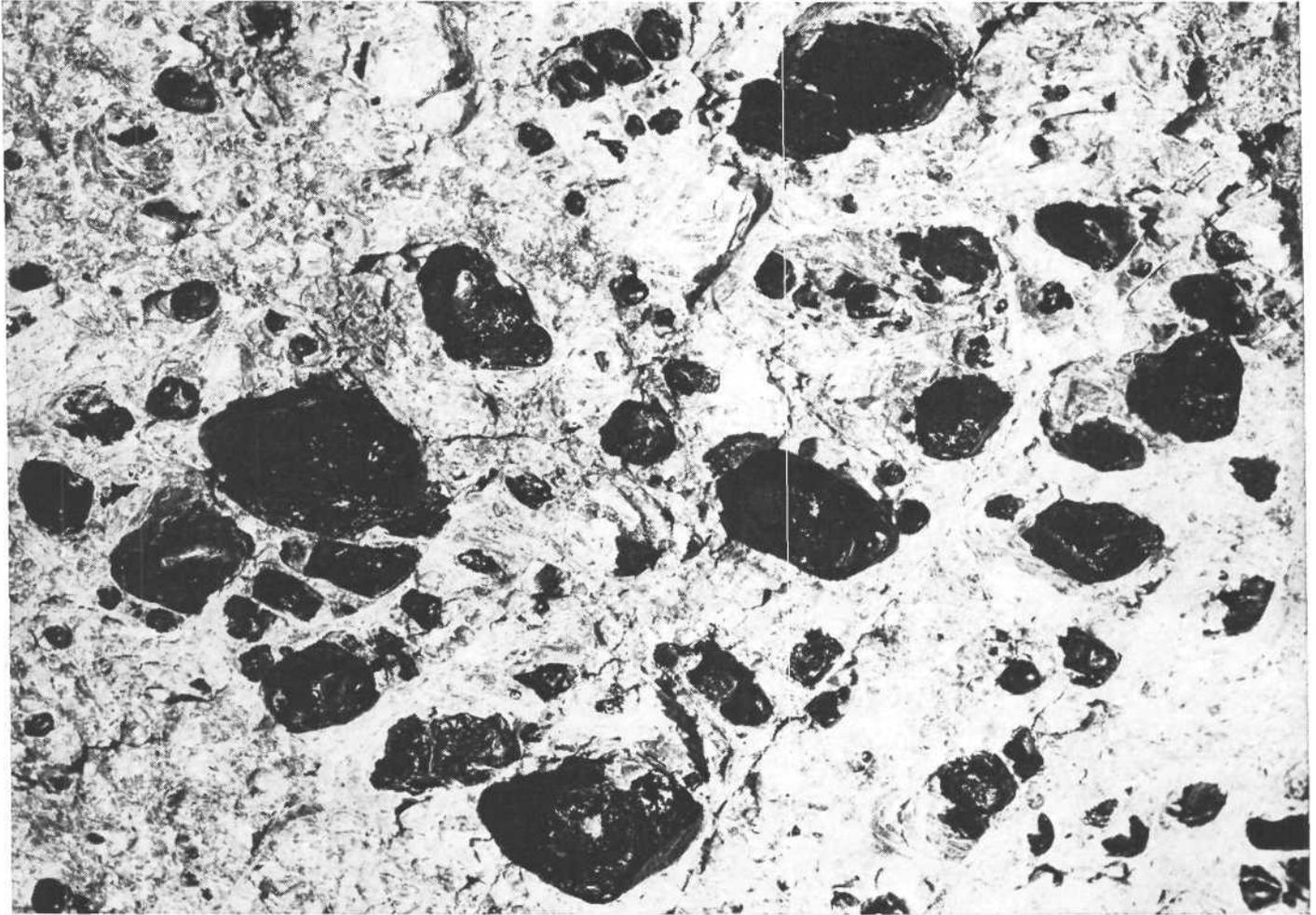
nodules ranged in size from three inches down to perhaps a quarter of an inch.

Perlite apparently, then, was the

natural mother rock for volcanic tears, since they had been reported in the same matrix from Arizona (*Desert*, Aug. 1939). But having found them in place, I still was unable to hazard a guess as to their formation. Some occurred singly and were quite round while others—angled ones—were clustered in groups. It was quite obvious that the obsidianites had not been made first, with the perlite flowing around them later.

Chipping some good specimens off the cliff, complete with obsidianites of various sizes I returned to the car. By crossing a narrow gulch to the north and coming down a ridge, I found a much safer way to reach the cliff than the one by which I had climbed. This perlite dike has been filed upon by Nevada miners and assessment work has been done. However, there are enough loose obsidianites below the dike and all around the mountain slopes to supply almost any number of collectors.

While I had been studying the geology of the dike, Lucile and Eva had been prospecting the broad wash coming down from the north and west. They had found bits of jasp-opal, chalcedony and a striking banded pastelite which called for more investigation. We followed the main side road up the valley to its end, more than a mile farther, then headed back down the rough and narrow track seeking a protected spot to camp for the night. We pulled off at last onto a little flat under



Obsidianites as they occur in the lustrous pearl-grey perlite in Monte Cristo Mountains. They vary from pea-size to three inches in diameter.

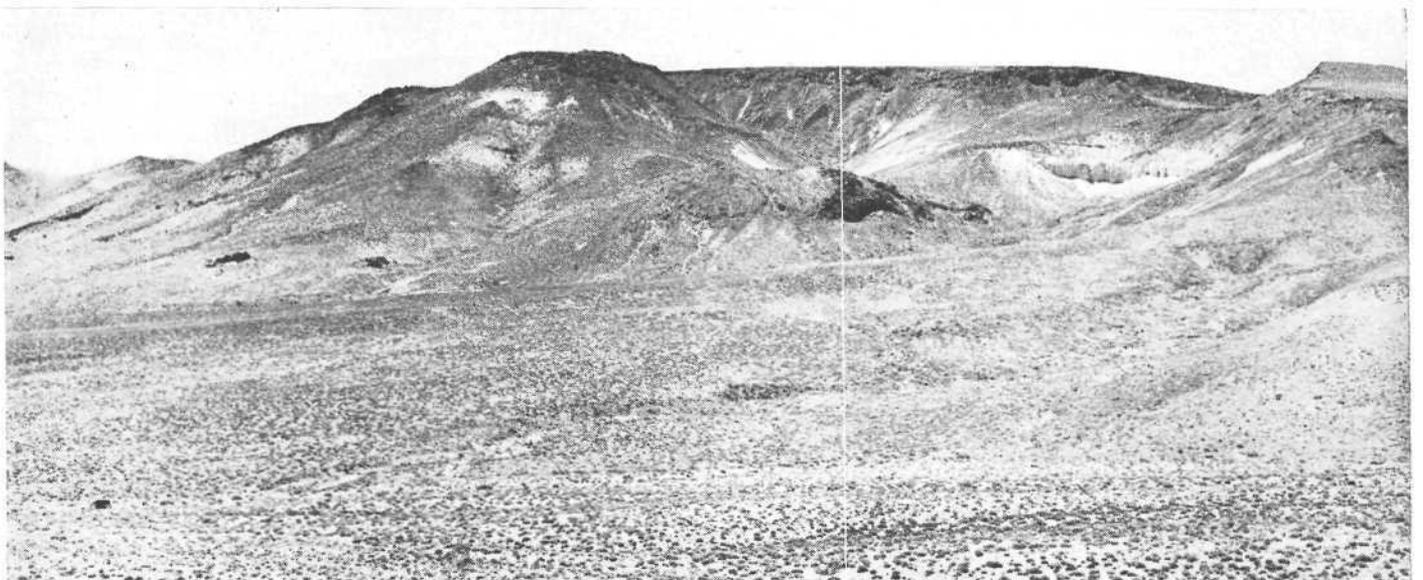
a white shale butte and sought the welcome warmth of sleeping bags. The wind died completely before morning and the sun rose clear and hot. I headed around the slopes to the south and west, aiming for a bright orange outcrop on the main mountain which

I had noted the day before. Lucile and Eva took off to investigate a pass through the mountains across the valley to the northeast.

In the washes and on the slopes and small hills in the formation below the orange cliff, I found a number of small

areas containing chunks of beautiful jasp-opal and opalite. It was most colorful stuff—oranges, reds, fine two-tone bandings in brown and tan and white. Unfractured pieces will cut into fine cabochons and cabinet specimens. With the sun high and no wind,

Light outcrops are bright orange, and are landmarks for location of pastelite and chalcedony.





Two specimens to lure collectors to the Monte Cristos. Left, polished piece of laminated pastelite, a beautiful rose-brown. Right, one of the obsidian tears which occur in this area.

the narrow canyons became breathless. Finding myself resorting to the canteen too frequently, I headed back.

Lucile and Eva were resting in the shade of the car. They had found some of the same colorful material that I had, but in a different state—arrow chippings. In the pass they had come upon the remnants of an Indian trail. Around almost every huge lichen-encrusted boulder near the trail in the pass was a scattering of chips. Obsidian flakes were most common, but there was a variety of more colorful material. Possibly this spot was a lookout where guards were posted for the Indian group that lived at least part of the year at Willow spring, a few miles to the southwest. Good water still is obtainable at this spring.

Lucile also reported that there were thousands of obsidian nodules coming down from the mountain to the right of the pass. But we had enough of the tears, so we loaded our camping equipment, returned to the main road and made a right turn for Gilbert. A few miles farther it twisted through low hills, and we came out above the ghost town.

Gilbert is not an attractive ruin—perhaps because so much of the debris is familiar to us and therefore reminiscent of a waste-dump. Somehow—at least to our generation—a ruined gasoline station pump and sign does not have the glamor of an ancient blacksmith shop. Tar-paper and wood shacks cannot compete in romance with weathered adobe and stone. At the rate that Gilbert is collapsing—though some buildings still are occu-

ped—nothing but a few dugouts will survive for future generations to consider picturesque.

Fred and Logan Gilbert are living in Luning, Nevada, today and are still prospecting. Currently, after having completed a long hunt for uranium, they are after manganese and other strategic minerals. Herman Gilbert, the third brother in the Gilbert strike, lives in Mina. At Luning, from Fred and Logan, we heard the story of the boom in the Monte Cristos.

"We were raised in a prospect hole," Fred declares, "and have been prospecting all our lives." Their father came across the plains in 1865. They lived in Idaho, Tintic, Pioche, Pahrangat, Reveille. Their father came to the Monte Cristos before 1900, found the silver mine later known as the Carrie, and moved his family into the mountains. They were there "about the time Jim Butler discovered the Tonopah silver when there were only 21 voters in Nye county." They went to the first school in Tonopah, in 1901, and Fred still remembers the pretty redheaded teacher.

Just before they made the Gilbert strike, the three boys were working at Millers. But too many of the mill men were suffering from silicosis and nothing was being done to protect them. Herman sold some Tonopah Extension stock and moved with their mother into Tonopah. Fred and Logan followed soon afterward. With no jobs and little money, they decided to go back to the Monte Cristos, certain that some paying ore still remained in the Carrie.

So they loaded the big seven-passenger Chandler, "not paid for but impressive," and returned to the Old Camp. They worked out the silver in the Carrie in three days and, discouraged, decided to go on to American Fork, Utah, where they had relatives. But Fred remembered a little peak less than three miles from Old Camp that he always had intended to prospect. He wanted a day or two to look it over before they moved on.

On September 24, 1924, they drove down to the area he had in mind. Their mother, who was 70, came along and was left in a little square wooden shack so she would be in the shade. The three brothers scattered. Fred went to the top of the little hill. Down on the west side he saw a small depression. From the bottom of the depression he filled his sample sacks.

That night, at home, he panned his samples and found a pennyweight gold nugget. "I let out a warwhoop," he remembers. "First the others thought I'd salted it. Then they suggested the gold must have been in the sample sack. Then they doubted it was real gold." The Gilberts had reason to be doubtful. There were silver claims in the area where Fred had made his find, but no gold mines anywhere in the Monte Cristos. But Fred took a hammer and smashed the nugget and "it just spread out."

All three brothers took out for the hill and panned until after dark—with unsatisfactory results. The mother told the boys to try again. Their lunch the next day was cooked over a sagebrush fire, with snow lying on the ground all around. In the afternoon they began to find fine gold in the hill. Each sample improved, one pan showing \$38. The values were in silicified shale—gold had run into it with the liquid silica.

The Gilberts filed on six claims around the hill. When the news got out, six cars came the first day, 17 the next. Visitors were so thick it was almost impossible to work, but the values continued to soar—one panning \$97. The real strike, however, was yet to come.

When their friend Dick Raycraft became discouraged because the crowd made work impossible, the Gilberts sent him to a huge outcropping not far away to prospect for them. There Dick found a chunk of highgrade calcite and quartz running \$800-\$900 a ton. But he panned the whole sample and they had no float to trace the ledge.

The place where he made the find was on land already filed upon as the Black Mammoth silver claim, but the silver was way up in another corner of the property. The Gilberts obtained

a \$10,000 option on the Black Mammoth, then told Dick to go ahead and find where the rich ore was. Two weeks later Dick found another bit—where the badgers had been working, but it was a long time after that before they located the rock carrying the real values—and then it proved to be in a spot in plain sight around which they had hunted.

This strike started the real boom and the Gilbert brothers later sold their share in it for \$82,000. Picked sample ore, taken into Tonopah where it was stored in the bank's underground vault, was valued at \$18,000 for about 12 ore sacks full—\$96,000 a ton. Gilbert boomed. A townsite was laid out and lots went for high prices. Peak population was about 800, there was a weekly newspaper — *The Gilbert Record* printed in Tonopah. The real boom was in 1925 and 1926. Miners began to move out the next year and by 1929 the population was down to about 60.

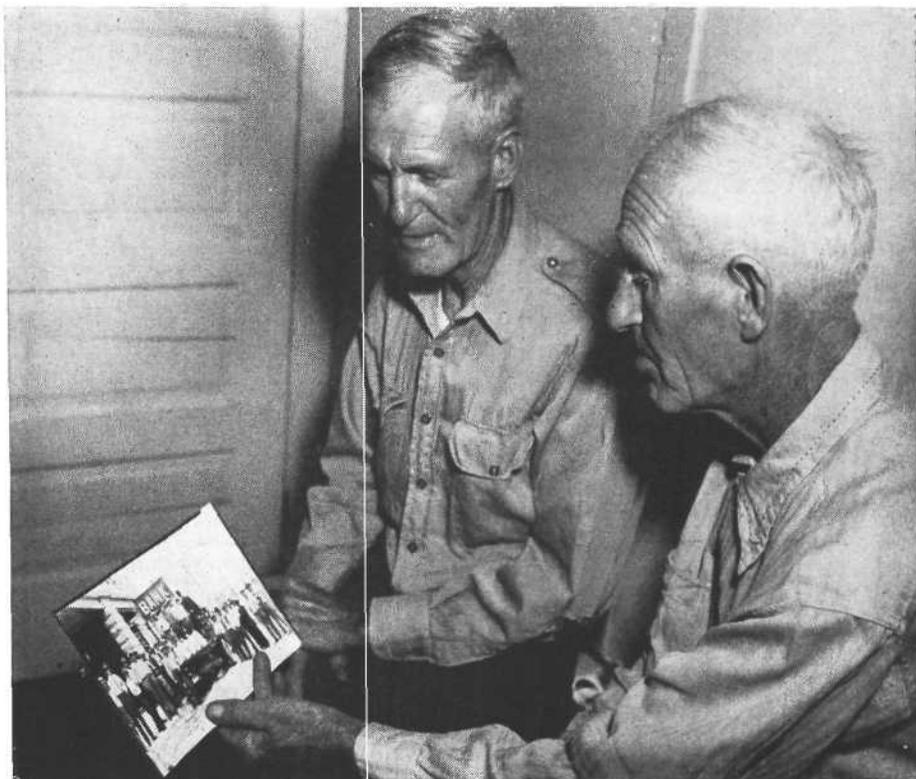
They began to move out because the Mammoth mine was having the same trouble that afflicts many desert properties. The rich vein was badly faulted. It was lost, found again, followed down to 160 feet and lost. The Gilbert brothers came back and took a lease when the mine was at the 200 foot level. They got out \$14,000 then "chased it down" to 600 feet where they came to a major fault with the possibility that the paying ore might have shifted 2500 feet in either direction. There the Gilberts gave up, having lost \$35,000 on this deal. But mining still continues in the district. Fred says: "I think the Farrington and Mammoth are still good mines. But it will take money to develop them."

So we learned the story of Gilbert. But my problem of the volcanic tears was still unsolved. When we returned from Nevada, I took my specimens of obsidianite in perlite out to Jerry Laudermilk, research associate at Pomona college. When it comes to sleuthing out the mysteries of minerals and rocks, Jerry is a super-detective. Jerry examined the little black blobs in the pearly rock through a magnifying glass.

"Let's try an experiment," he said. He got out charcoal, alcohol lamp and blowpipe, pried one of the tears still partly coated with perlite out of the mass. With the nodule on the charcoal, he directed a fine hot flame against it. Soon there was a crackling and fine white dust drifted from the nodule.

"You're popping the perlite," I said.

"Not only the perlite," Jerry responded. "If I'm right, the obsidian is popping too." He took another nodule from the perlite, cleaned the



Logan (left) and Fred Gilbert whose strike in the Monte Cristo Mountains was made in 1924. Fred holds picture showing delivery of 12 ore sacks worth \$18,000 to a Tonopah bank.

perlite coating and put the shining nodule into a test tube and the tube over the flame. Soon little wisps of vapor rose from the tube.

"See the moisture — the steam — being driven out of the obsidian?" Jerry asked. "Obsidian has water in it—juvenile water it's called since it was there from the beginning, part of the molecular structure of obsidian. Perlite has water too—but less." He rolled the little obsidianite out of the test tube.

"Now look at it under the glass." I looked. The formerly clear glass was coated with a layer of white, apparently a layer of perlite quite similar to those which originally had surrounded it.

"You know about perlite?" Jerry questioned. Having just read about it in Pirsson and Knopf's "Rocks and Rock Minerals," I knew. The book says: "Perlite—Glassy rock composed of small spheroids, usually from small shot to pea size. The spheroids either lie separated in a sort of cement and are round, or they are closely aggregated and polygonal. They tend to have a concentric, shelly structure and are the result of a contraction phenomenon in the cooling glass, which produces a spherical, spiral cracking. . . . They have a rather constant percentage of combined water, between three and four per cent, and there may be a connection between this amount

of water and the peculiar method of cracking."

"Here's the story as it might be," Jerry explained. "These volcanic glass nodules are just the remnants—residual wads, you might say—of a dike of obsidian that is turning into perlite. Yes, that whole big dike where you found them probably originally was a solid mass of obsidian from a felsitic magma. Then it started drying out—devitrifying. Obsidian looks and feels solid to us, but molecularly—from its own point of view, you might say—it's still a liquid. It continues to crystallize. The crystallization is microscopic and takes a long time. But Nature has plenty of time, and it doesn't take much heat if there is enough time.

"When the obsidian is almost completely devitrified, it's perlite. The volcanic tears are the last survivors of the obsidian. They, if left long enough, will devitrify layer after layer. So the little pearls in perlite are the last stage. They are the ghosts of the obsidian nodules."

Jerry made it clear he was just putting two and two together. But so far as I am concerned, the Mystery of the Obsidian Nodules is another solved case. Next time I go into the colorful Monte Cristos to collect them, I can concentrate on their beauty, and not fracture my brain worrying about how they were made.

MINES AND MINING . . .

Washington, D. C. . . .

The Atomic Energy Commission has offered bonuses up to \$35,000 plus a sharp price boost to stimulate U. S. production of uranium. The new bonus plan does not supersede the commission's long standing offer, yet to be collected, of \$10,000 for discovery of a new deposit and production from it of 20 tons of ore containing 20 percent or more of uranium oxide. The new premium payments program went into effect March 1 for three years. It applies to newly discovered deposits producing ores containing as little as .01 percent uranium oxide. It is payable on each pound of new production up to 10,000 pounds. Complete details of the new schedules are being supplied to the mining industry. — *Humboldt Star*.

Henderson, Nevada . . .

A bright future for known manganese ore deposits in the vicinity of Carp and probably for other promising locations is seen, according to an announcement by United States army signal corps authorities. New and enlarged processing facilities are to be set up at Henderson to provide new compounds for electric battery use. These will be located at Western Electrochemical company at its basic plant. Much of the ore now being used is said to be coming from Utah. The Carp workings in the southeast corner of Lincoln county, 40 miles down Rainbow canyon from Caliente, promise to step into the picture in a big way.—*Caliente Herald*.

Esmeralda, Nevada . . .

Higher prices and a constantly increasing demand for tungsten, one of the strategic metals, has sent Nevada prospectors into the hills searching for new deposits. Owners of prospects in the Nye, Esmeralda and Mineral county areas are showing renewed activity. At least half a dozen properties in these sections have already started operations. The Nevada Tungsten corporation has re-opened and is now operating the Sodaville flotation mill, concentrating tailings of the old Atkins-Kroll mill which operated on ore from the Silver Dyke tungsten mine in 1918. Other large and already operating companies are planning to expand. Renewed activity in tungsten mining in Nevada does not come as a surprise since it is a highly strategic mineral, holding high priority in government needs.—*Pioche Record*.

Austin, Nevada . . .

Famous Lander Hill, which played so important a part in the early development of Austin and of Central Nevada, is in line to return to the limelight as the result of a transaction recently completed. Deep diamond drill tests will be conducted to learn just what metals and in what quantities, are to be found at depths below any reached in previous operations. The tests will be made by the Round Mountain Gold Dredging company. The area to be tested covers approximately 1000 acres. The Nevada Equity company, which up to three years ago was active in the area, will collaborate. It is believed mineral wealth of various kinds underlying Lander Hill, greatly exceed all that was recovered during early operations.—*Pioche Record*.

Salt Lake City, Utah . . .

Advent of jet engines for both piloted and pilotless aircraft has sent scientists searching for materials which are not wilted by acid fumes, intense heat and extreme pressure. Some of this research is being carried out by graduate students at the University of Utah. Supervised by Dr. George R. Hill, acting head of technology, John Weeks, graduate student and reserve army engineer, began his investigation of corrosion of radioactive cobalt under a grant from the Atomic Energy Commission. Weeks will subject cobalt to various acids under mechanically brutal conditions, then dissolve and evaporate the corrosion film. The cobalt "rust" being radioactive, can be measured by a Geiger counter.—*Salt Lake Tribune*.

Washington, D. C. . . .

Representative Walter S. Baring of Nevada has introduced a bill designed to increase production of strategic and critical minerals by making incentive payments. It provides for increasing the country's ore reserves by putting into operation a liberal exploration plan in which mining companies will act as agents of the government in expending exploration funds on their own properties. "The automatic incentive payment plan worked for copper, lead and zinc and I do not see why it should not work for all strategic metals and minerals," Baring said. According to him, the bill in no way interferes with the authority of the I. M. A. under the Defense Production Act.—*Humboldt Star*.

Barstow, California . . .

A unique night mining operation is reported from the recently discovered Starbright tungsten deposit 25 miles north of Barstow. According to the Mineralight Information Service of the California Division of Mines, the ore is being mined at night by open cut methods, so ultraviolet light may be used to check the ore. Approximately 30 tons of crude ore are being shipped daily to Bishop for concentration. The deposit, including an outcrop 100 feet long with a maximum width of about 40 feet, was discovered in 1950 by A. C. Lambert of Barstow. It has been actively mined since August, 1950, by Mineral Materials Company of Alhambra.—*Mining Record*.

Washington, D. C. . . .

The government has set out to check skyrocketing world prices of tin, one of the few strategic minerals which the United States does not produce in quantity. It has suspended all purchases of tin for the national stockpile and said it will hold down buying of the metal for industrial uses to the "barest possible minimum." Tin, which before the outbreak of the Korean war sold for about 77 cents a pound, now sells for around \$1.79.—*Battle Mountain Scout*.

Austin, Nevada . . .

The Breyfogle Mine, most famous and long sought of all western "lost mines" was not in Death Valley, where many prospectors have died hunting it. According to a carefully worked out solution, it is in Round Mountain. The error in calculations which set Breyfogle and his many successors hunting the lost mine 200 miles from its actual location, is explained in a story written by Harold Weight, editor of the Calico Print.—*Reese River Review*.

Tonopah, Nevada . . .

Operations on the War Eagle group of claims located in San Antone canyon, west branch of Meadow canyon, is expected to begin early this spring according to W. A. Flower, owner of the land. He has sold a half interest in his holdings to a group of mining men from Tacoma, Washington, headed by Ed Doty, who will be in charge of the work. The War Eagle group is comprised of 11 claims, traversed for several thousand feet by a quartz vein carrying gold and silver. The crosscut tunnel, driven 5 years ago for the purpose of cutting the vein at a verticle depth of 250 feet, will be completed as soon as possible and extensive driftings on the vein will be done.—*Tonopah Times Bonanza*.

Monticello, Utah . . .

The largest uranium-copper deposit in the United States, according to Fletcher Bronson, is in the Happy Jack mine located in White Canyon. It is owned by Cooper and Bronson of Monticello. The ore mined from it is more than enough to keep the mill at White Canyon running. There is a surplus stockpile each week, both at the mill and mine. The mine has been worked only two or three years, and the ore is increasing in volume and the percentage of minerals in value. Three hundred fifty feet back in the mine there is a deposit of pitchblende, one of the richest sources of uranium. — *San Juan Record*.

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Window Rock, Arizona . . .

The eleven-member advisory committee of the Navajo tribal council is starting work on a detailed program to develop large uranium deposits on the reservation. Committee members met with reservation superintendent, Allan G. Harper and representatives of the Atomic Energy Commission, the geological survey and several uranium processing firms. Navajo prospectors and miners also sat in on the sessions. The Navajos hope to have a processing mill for the atomic bomb material built at Shiprock, New Mexico. — *Tucson Daily Citizen*.

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Baker, California . . .

Rare-earth minerals of "highest importance" have been found 35 miles east of Baker, according to Secretary of the Interior, Oscar Chapman. He said the discovery area, six miles long and two wide, makes the United States largely self sufficient in rare-earth minerals, many of wartime value. Discovered by geological survey scientists, they are chiefly cerium, lanthanum, neodymium and praseodymium. Rare-earths are used in arc lamps, tracer bullets and luminescent shells as well as in lamps and pocket lighters. — *Printer Review*.

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Mina, Nevada . . .

Newmont Mining Corporation has completed extension of a 1000-foot tunnel into mineral bearing Mt. Diablo at Candelaria, 27 miles south of Mina. It is reported to be planning an extensive diamond drilling program next spring. Mexican prospectors discovered rich gold-silver ore in the area in the 1860s, and Candelaria became one of Nevada's leading producers of the precious metals within a few years. The district has been comparatively inactive for nearly 50 years. — *Mining Record*.

Lost Gold in Mono Lake . . .

By A. FRED EADS

IT WAS in the year 1923 that news trickled into Los Angeles through grapevine channels that the greatest of all California gold discoveries had been made in Mono County. The gold was in Mono Lake.

With a friend, I left immediately for the scene of the new gold strike. When we reached Mono Lake I found that every foot of the 60-mile shoreline had been staked out as mining claims. Seven more or less crude gold recovery plants had been installed along the western shore of the lake and an eighth plant was on the north shore. Most of the plants were owned by stock companies formed at Portland, Oregon. None of the companies had qualified to sell stock in California.

One of the men who had made an experimental installation was Professor Herschel Parker, member of the American Geographic Society and a Fellow of the Royal Society of London. He had been a professor of physics at Columbia University 20 years.

Prof. Parker had made a commercial assay of the water in the lake for

its gold content. The assay produced a small button of gold which he carried in a glass vial. When he showed me this he remarked that it was the only measurable quantity of the precious metal that had ever been extracted from the lake.

He estimated that the water carried in solution \$1.00 a ton in gold and 15 pounds of chemical ash. Using such approximate measurements as were available, he and I sat down and estimated that Mono Lake contained 15 billion tons of water. If this figure is correct, then there were in the lake \$15,000,000,000 in gold—more than all the gold mined in the United States since the first gold discovery was made. And in addition there were 225 billion pounds of chemical ash—also worth a fortune.

Prof. Parker spent several months experimenting with his recovery plant, revamping it many times. In the end he made the statement that the gold in Mono could not be salvaged by any known chemical or electrical process.

Hard Rock Shorty of Death Valley



Hard Rock Shorty was embarrassed. A touring bus filled with school teachers spending their Easter vacation on a sight-seeing trip through Death Valley had stopped at the Inferno store for cold drinks. Hard Rock was half asleep on the bench in front of the store when they arrived, and immediately he was surrounded by more women than he had seen in 15 years.

They recognized Shorty as a local "character" and began asking questions. "How hot does it get here? Do you have a mine up in the hills? Where are your burros? etc., etc."

Shorty tried to shrug them off, but his embarrassment only made them more inquisitive. Finally one of them asked the usual question: "Do you have any rattlesnakes around here?"

"Naw, they ain't no snakes

here," he exclaimed. "Too hot fer 'em."

Obviously the young ladies were disappointed. They wanted some stories they could tell the folks when they returned home. Shorty sensed their disappointment.

"But they's a lot o' snakes up along Eight Ball Crick," he assured them. "Up there the rattlers grow as big as a fire hose, an' they can swallow a coyote at one gulp. Snakes got so bad one year Pisgah Bill decided he had better build a corral for his burros so they wouldn't wander off up the crick and get bit.

"Trouble was he didn't have no fence posts. Prospectors'd cleaned out all the mesquite fer firewood. Then Pisgah got one o' them smart ideas o' hizen. He went out an' lassoed a few o' them rattlers an' staked 'em to those salt cedar switches growin' just below the spring. Made the snakes so mad they started bitin' the salt cedars. Within 30 minutes after a salt cedar got a dose o' that snake pizen it swelled up as big as a full grown mesquite tree. Inside a week Bill had enough fence posts to build two corrals an' six cords o' logs fer timberin' the tunnel in his silver mine."



Pictures of the Month

Tenacity

First prize in Desert Magazine's Pictures-of-the-Month contest in March was won by Brooks Hill of Neosho, Missouri, with the accompanying print of a veteran juniper tree with its root system exposed by the weathering of rain and the erosion of wind and sand. Photograph taken in White Canyon, Utah, with a Medalist II camera, Super XX film, 200th of a second at f. 22.

San Xavier del Bac

Weldon Heald, author and lecturer of Painted Canyon Ranch near Portal, Arizona, was winner of second prize in March with a new picture of the much-photographed mission of San Xavier del Bac near Tucson, Arizona. Photograph taken with a German FECA at f. 4.5. Taken near sunset with Super XX film with Ki filter at 100th of a second.



Joshua in Flower

By CONSTANCE WALKER
Los Angeles, California

Unsympathetic eyes have often scorned
Your tattered garb and melancholy hue
And labeled you as weird and unadorned
With awkward fingers etching desert blue.
Inured to silent days without regard,
The solitary monotonous of night;
Assailed by wind and sun and careless
bard
Only a brooding dream gives you delight.
The alchemy of time brings your reward,
A long awaited coronation hour,
As fortitude becomes a royal sword
To vest humility with petaled power.
At last your beauty claims the boon of
spring
And you are crowned with splendor,
flowering.

PEACHES OF THE PADRES

By FERN TAPSCOTT BELL
Aztec, Arizona

The day was hot. The desert sun shown
down
Relentlessly. A dark robed figure strode
In silence down the dusty mission road.
The glare brought to his genial brow a
frown.
While curling tongues of dust licked at his
gown
And settled on its trailing hem, he showed
Awareness only to his basket load,
Comparing it to gems fit for a crown.

The wind-blown trees, their very lives hard-
fought,
Gave to the scene a touch of Old World
charm;
Their laden boughs the essence of good
cheer.
The padre, counterpart of those who brought
The seed from far-off Spain, bore on his
arm
The first full-ripened peaches of the year.

IF I WAS A FREE SHADOW

By AMY VIAU
Santa Ana, California

If I was a shadow and could be free
To dart away,
I'd go where shadows have never been
With their cooling lay.

I'd shadow the desert, here and there,
Where men might gaze
Until their eyes caught the lovely tints
Of desert haze.

If I was a shadow that could go free
I'd thwart the sun
By healing the burn of the desert sands
Before I'd run.

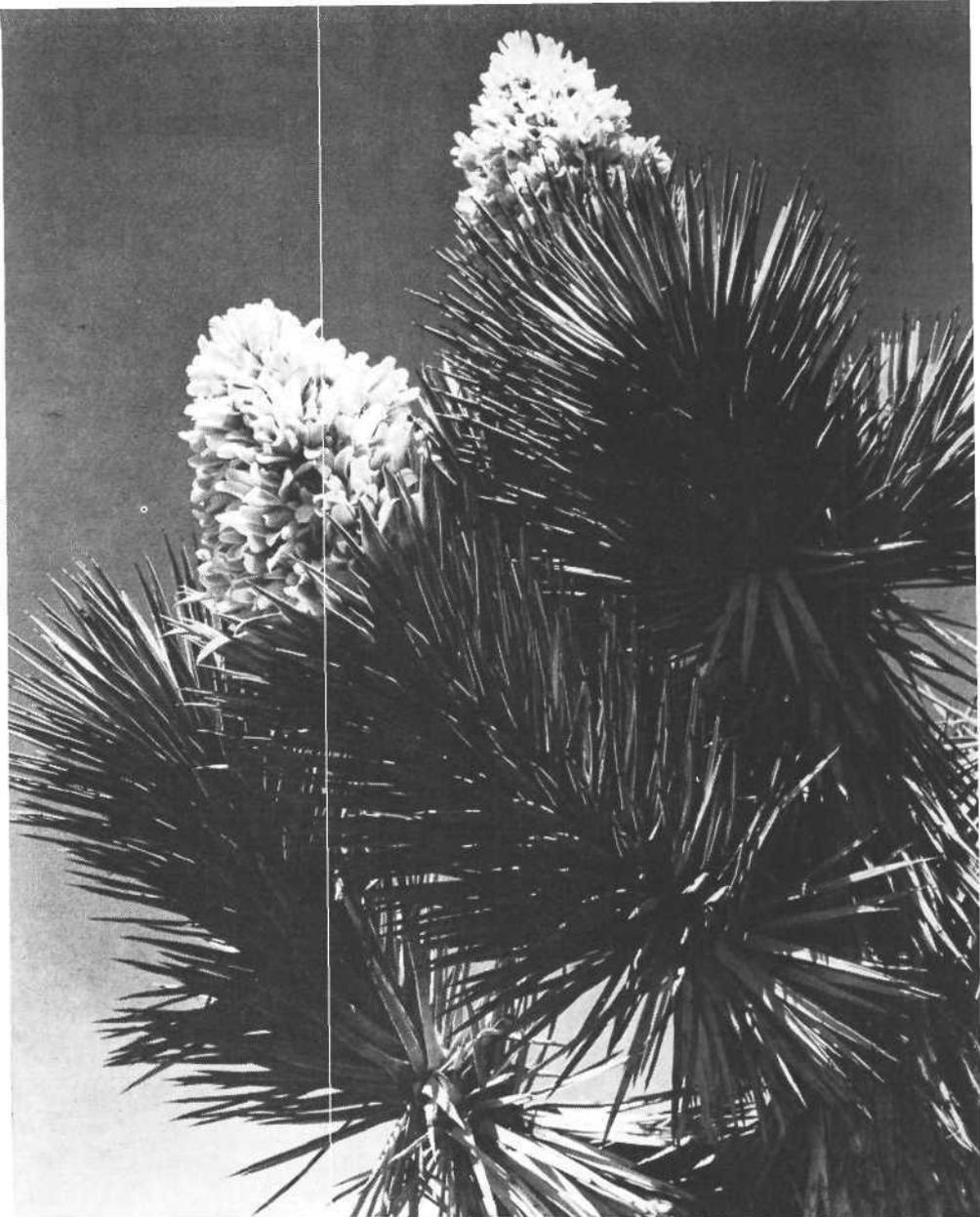
THE DESERT SLEEPS

By HALLEE CUSHMAN HENDERSON
Riverside, California

Across the waste of sand and dunes,
Lonesome, silent, deep,
Slumbering in yesterday's noons,
The desert lies asleep.

Bleaching bones of cattle yield
Grimness to the past,
Sullen sands are motionless,
And heat waves travel fast.

But yuccas bloom, white belled and
chaste,
A sand verbena smiles,
Mourning doves still call a mate,
Across the desert miles.



Photograph courtesy U. S. Bureau of Reclamation.

TRUE GRACIOUSNESS

By ELSIE MCKINNON STRACHAN
Santa Ana, California

I have found true graciousness,
On life's highway, in old shade trees
That welcome all with friendliness,
And pass cool gifts of shade with ease;
Caressing with serenity
The traveler resting for a space,
Refreshing him with pleasantry;
It matters not, how fair his face.

WHERE TUMBLEWEEDS ROLL

By HARRIETT L. GEORGE
Pasadena, California

Out where desert and farm lands meet
And wide blue spaces arch,
Where tumbleweeds and dry brown seeds
Are ever on the march,
There stands a windowless sagging wraith
Of what was once a home,
Abandoned now like a sunken scow
Encircled with sandy loam.

The secrets it has known are lost
As the elements win their race
With steady thrust and searing dust—
To leave at last but space.

CALL OF THE DESERT

By GRACE BARKER WILSON
Kirtland, New Mexico

The desert is calling, and I must go,
Though the road be hard and the travel
slow;
Cactus and sagebrush and rattlesnake hole,
Sun beating down into my very soul;
Sandy and wind-worn, a tortuous sea,
Yet the god of the desert is calling me.

Wide, lonesome spaces under the stars,
Whispers of magic no human voice mars;
The gods walk abroad in communion with
all
Who follow the road at the desert's call.

In Faith

By TANYA SOUTH

Erase the stark, the beaten face,
The shoulders stooped from burden
trace,
The lagging footsteps, and the sigh.
Let but your soul to heaven cry,
And rest in faith that God is caring,
And oh, how easy is the faring!

Through peace at heart, a calmer
grain,
Life will assume a higher plane.
Grief and regret can but deter.
Have faith, strive on, and you will
soar.

LETTERS . . .

Hasn't Found the Nuggets . . .

Aztec Well, California

Desert:

So many people have been coming to the Corn Spring oasis in the Chuckawalla Mountains expecting to find water that I think you should make clear that the spring has been dry for a long time.

Many prospectors have been coming into this area in search of the lost Pegleg gold as a result of John Mitchell's story in your February issue, in which he stated he had found some of Pegleg's nuggets in the Chuckawallas while looking for a meteorite about 25 years ago.

I don't know about the nuggets as I haven't found any, but I did find a meteorite near Corn Spring in 1945. It weighed more than 40 pounds and I still have about half of it in a single chunk.

WILL LEWIS

Imperial County Geography . . .

El Cajon, California

Desert:

More bad geography, and history.

Grace E. Gray stated Imperial, California, was founded in 1904, and El Centro in 1907. Imperial was founded in 1901 and by 1907 El Centro was quite a town and won a bitter fight with Imperial as to the location of the county seat in August that year.

ANDY VAN DERPOEL

Ancient Spanish Mining . . .

Los Gatos, California

Desert:

I would like to add my comment to the interesting story of ancient Spanish mining as told by Charles Knaus in the March issue of *Desert Magazine*.

When I read this story I questioned the statement that this was the only evidence of ancient Spanish mining in southwestern United States.

During the first World War I spent some time in New Mexico in connection with mining equipment. I recall a small museum at the open pit mine at Santa Rita where there were exhibited some notched logs, rawhide bags and Indian skeletons which had been dug out by steam shovels during the mining operation. How ancient they were, or whether or not they were Spanish I do not know, but apparently they were relics of the same period described by Mr. Knaus, although the mine itself had been destroyed years ago.

GLENN HOLMES

Which Areas Are Off Limits? . . .

Las Vegas, Nevada

Desert:

Thank you for publishing the map showing the boundaries of the Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery range in your April issue. And now if you can obtain from the military and naval authorities the maps of their other reservations in the desert country, and publish them, it will be a great help to those of us who follow the desert trails, and who wonder just how much of the desert is left for our explorations.

G. M. MERRILL

Save the Mesquite Trees . . .

Banning, California

Desert:

Referring to your recent news item concerning the controversy between those stockmen who would denude the range of mesquite trees to provide more grazing lands, and those who believe the mesquites should be preserved as shade for range animals and for the food value of their beans, may I suggest the following?

Nitrogen is the prime requirement for the building of protein, and direct sunlight extracts nitrogen from both flesh and plants. Without shade, animals have to eat more of less nutritious food.

As for the value of mesquite beans, they are equivalent to the carob, about whose virtues any dealer who is fortunate enough to obtain it can grow eloquent. Wherever obtainable it has been food par excellence for the last 4000 years.

Both the range and the mesquite trees may be preserved by periodically running a fast fire through the forest, just before a storm, thus thinning the old growth and making the pasturage they have been nursing, but leaving the roots intact. Meddlers should be warned that once the roots have been destroyed mesquite is very hard to start again.

J. BRECK

Freedom from Worldly Care . . .

Los Angeles, California

Desert:

Within my acquaintance are many young people seeking an independent existence, usually as writers, but because of the high cost of living they find it necessary to engage in work which gives them no opportunity for creative effort or self-expression.

About 11 years ago I learned how to live on an expenditure of about eight cents a day for food, with no injury to my health. In fact I have gained over 25 pounds. Then I bought a half acre lot and built my own cabin near the desert—total cost about \$350. The taxes are about \$3.00 a year.

In this manner I found it possible to live on \$10 a month, half of which went for books and postage. Thus I could earn my livelihood in an average of a half hour a day, leaving the remainder of my time for creative work. But this is possible only for those who are willing to forego everything except the basic essentials of living. However, that is not too big a price to pay for the freedom from anxiety and worldly cares which can be attained in that manner.

THEODORE B. DUFUR

A Guide to the Land of the Northern Lights . . .

THE MILEPOST

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HERE AND THERE . . . on the Desert

ARIZONA

Javelina Areas Listed . . .

AJO—Plentiful plant food is keeping Javelina in lower areas, according to R. L. Neill, assistant chief of the division of law enforcement. Northeast of Florence, before the country breaks out into the lower rolling hills between Calvin and the Gila River, is a favorite area for wild hogs, particularly since recent rains have made food adequate. The Tom Mix wash on the south side of Tucson in another haunt, especially in the beds of the washes. The lower foothills of the Superstition Mountains and in the Sierra Anchas north east of Roosevelt lake have always been Javelina locations.—*Ajo Copper News*.

Water for North Yuma County . . .

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Department of Interior has announced that farmers in the Ranegras plain area of Arizona could tap between 5,000 and 10,000 acre-feet of water a year by drilling wells. This amount would support irrigation on a small scale. The information came through the Geological Survey and Arizona State Land Department, who made a study of the ground water resources of the northern part of the Ranegras plain. According to the report, a year ago only two wells had been drilled but others were under construction or being planned. Water levels, the report states, range from about 30 feet below the ground surface near Bouse to more than 250 feet between Desert Wells and Hope.—*Yuma Daily Sun*.

Poison Weeds Threaten Stock . . .

TUCSON—With the ranges of Arizona extremely dry and grazing scarce at this time of year, Dr. William J. Pistor, head of the University of Arizona department of animal pathology, warns ranchers against loco and burro weed poisoning. Since ranges are especially dry after the winter drought, cattle are more apt to graze on them than in years of normal rainfall. Loco weed is usually found at from 4,000 to 6,000 feet elevation, burro weed at lower levels. All the usual weed killers will destroy both, but are too expensive for general range use. Cattle should be kept from infested areas and supplemental feeding employed until regular grasses green. The poison in loco weed is probably an alkaloid, that in burro weed is trematol. Both have an accumulative action.—*Tucson Daily Citizen*.

Museum Opened for Summer . . .

FLAGSTAFF — Opening of the Museum of Northern Arizona for the summer season has been announced by its officials. Hours will be from 9 to 12 and from 1 to 5 on weekdays; 1 to 5:30 Sundays. Admission is free. Re-opening at this time makes the Museum and facilities available for many weekend visitors. During the winter a new panel was added showing the life of pit house people on Bonito Terrace before and after the eruption of Sunset Crater about 1066.—*Cocino Sun*.

Archeological Gift Packed . . .

GLOBE—The Gila Pueblo archeological collection, donated to the Arizona State Museum last December by Mr. and Mrs. Harold S. Gladwin, of Santa Barbara, California, is being packed at Globe, Arizona, and will be transferred as rapidly as it can be made ready. The first shipment is valued at \$1,000,000. The collection will be placed on the first floor and mezzanine of the museum, located on the campus of the University of Arizona, Tucson. Some of the artifacts are to be housed in the basement, conveniently available to archeological students. It will be some time before the entire collection, conceded to be the best of its kind in southwestern United States, can be unpacked and arranged.—*Tucson Daily Citizen*.

Voting Navajos Show Up Whites . . .

WINDOW ROCK — The Navajo Indians gave their white brothers an election lesson recently. Using the white man's voting system for the first time in a tribal election, more than 75 percent of the eligible voters cast their ballots at 74 polling places scattered over the vast reservation. The campaign was similar to election procedures everywhere, except that candidates canvassed undeveloped areas and there was no mud-slinging. The ballots bore pictures of the candidates in place of names since most of the Indians cannot read or write. Since 1938 the Navajos have voted by selecting a colored card representing their choice. Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Dillon S. Myer sent a congratulatory message to Sam Ahkeah, who was re-elected as chairman of the Navajo Tribal Council. With the message went a gavel made from wood taken from the White House, now under restoration.—*Department of Interior and Gallup Independent*.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Antelope Transplanted . . .

NOGALES—Early in February 57 antelope were transplanted from the Raymond Ranch, southeast of Flagstaff, to the San Rafael Valley, 40 miles northeast of Nogales. The move was accomplished under the direction of Jay Klaus of Phoenix and Harold P. Heddings of Flagstaff for the Game and Fish Commission. Moving the herd was decided upon after a thorough study indicated the project would be successful. In 1944, thirteen antelope were transplanted successfully. It is hoped to once again populate a portion of the original southern range of the antelope. Now only a few are found in the area.—Ajo Copper News.

CALIFORNIA

Ice-Age Fish Found . . .

DEATH VALLEY—A species of fish which has survived in Death Valley since the Ice Age has been discovered, according to Dr. Thomas Clements, U. S. C. geologist. These fish, a single species of minnow, have presumably lived in Salt Creek since the drying up of the late Ice Age lakes, he said. Salt Creek disappears into the sand a short distance after leaving its shallow canyon. The depth of the water is nowhere over two or three inches and in most places less than an inch. Backs of the little fish are frequently above water which is over 80 degrees F., and quite salty to the taste. The continued existence of these fish is an amazing testimony to the tenacity of life through the ages, says Dr. Clements. Amplifying his previous reported evidence that man existed in Death Valley during the Ice Age, 20,000 years ago, the geologist disclosed the finding of mills for grinding gold and silver ores.—Los Angeles Times.

Painted Canyon Road Opened . . .

INDIO—A public celebration highlighted the formal opening of a new graveled road into Coachella Valley's picturesque Painted Canyon. The Coachella Valley troop, Riverside Sheriff's Posse, handled grounds details, providing firewood for those who wanted to camp overnight and attend "The Master Passes By" showing in nearby Box Canyon. Sponsored by Desert Associates, the event, starting at 3 p.m. five miles up the multi-hued gorge from Highway 195, was presided over by L. C. Lewis. He read a paper by Lloyd Mason Smith, curator of the Palm Springs Museum, which told of geological formations within hiking distance beyond the end of the new road. Many brought lunches, others purchased food from the Posse's stand at the picnic site.—Date Palm.

Death Valley Museum Requested . . .

DEATH VALLEY—A resolution, requesting the federal government consider the establishment of a museum in Death Valley was adopted by the County Superintendents' Association of California at the annual meeting in Death Valley early in March. Copies were sent to the Department of the Interior, to senators and congressmen representing the state in the federal government and to state senators and assemblymen. Relics of the colorful and historic area are for the most part now privately owned, with only a few assembled in one place for the enjoyment and education of all.—*Inyo Independent*.

• • •

Blythe Indian Trade Center . . .

BLYTHE—Many of the Hopi and Navajo families who have been resettled in the Parker valley on the Colorado River Indian agency are now seen on the streets of Blythe. Albert Yava, Hopi from Poston, says there are 126 families on the reservation and land is ready for 40 more. Each family may buy 40 acres of developed land, implements and limited housing on long-term credit. The Hopis have always been farmers. The Navajos, traditionally stockmen, are learning to farm. Yava says that in coming to this strange land from the old reservations, the Indians feel that Divine Providence is with them.—*Palo Verde Valley Times*.

• • •

Fish Farms Come to the Desert . . .

BLYTHE—Located on a 640 acre section of land north of Ehrenberg, a new enterprise, started in early 1949, has developed on a barren plat of Arizona desert. Tasty channel catfish for markets across the nation will soon be ready at the Arizona Fish Farms at the south end of the Colorado River Indian reservation. The project includes everything from small tank-size spawning pens to huge 60 acre lakes constructed to depths averaging three feet.

Three residents of Blythe are associated with the enterprise with P. H. Hill (one of the trio) serving as farm operator. Hill says the fish are being raised principally for fresh and frozen fish markets. Two additional farms are expected to be in operation before 1960.—*Palo Verde Valley Times*.

• • •

Museum Housing Requested . . .

INDEPENDENCE—Appealing to the county board of supervisors for more adequate space and better promotion of the Eastern California Museum, now housed in the courthouse basement, Curtis Phillips of the museum committee, suggested the historic attraction be moved to a new building in Bishop. After suggesting additional space be allotted in the courthouse, he pointed out the museum might receive more attention if located in Bishop. "It could be an asset to the entire county if more room and more attractive hours could be arranged," he said.

• • •

Tram Builders Granted Time . . .

PALM SPRINGS—The Mt. San Jacinto Winter Park Authority has won a five-year extension on its contract to build a \$10,000,000 tramway from the mountaintop to the floor of the desert near Palm Springs. According to Earl Coffman, head of the tramway project, the extension was requested because the group does not want to use critical materials needed in national defense. Under the terms of the original contract, all construction funds are to come from private sources. The Authority was pledged to sell \$1,000,000 in bonds for the tramway by next January. With the granting of the extension it is no longer obligated to do so.—*Desert Sun*.

• • •

Ornithologist Submits List . . .

TWENTYNINE PALMS—A new check list of mammals and birds found in the Joshua Tree National Monument has been received by Park Superintendent Frank Givens from Dr. Al-

don H. Miller, professor of the museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Miller, who has conducted many research expeditions to the Monument, writes that on a recent trip he found a new species of dipodomys, the chisel-toothed kangaroo rat. He lists 156 species of birds, either residents or migratory.—*Desert Trail*.

Ancient Ram's Head Found . . .

LONE PINE—Nearly 100 years ago, a prospector in the Inyo Mountains east of Independence, California, killed a big horn sheep. Instead of tossing away the horns he placed them in the crook of a foxtail pine tree.

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Monterey, Lassen—\$3.

Also Oregon, Idaho and Washington County Maps

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Bernardino, 73x110, \$15; No. or So. 1/2

\$7.50; NW., SW., NE. or SE 1/4, \$3.75.

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Harold Gates, Lone Pine mountaineer, found them while hunting last fall, the tree having grown well over and around them. According to George Hardman, Nevada state conservationist, the horns were placed in the tree sometime between 1862-69, the tree having begun life about 1700. Gates says horn rings indicate the ram was 13 years old when killed.—*Inyo Independent*.

Anchor Discovery Reported . . .

LONE PINE — A ship anchor of the type in use 50 to 100 years ago has been dug from Owens Lake about four miles southwest of Keeler. Old timers in the Keeler area say it could be from the Bessie Brady or the Mollie Stevens, boats that once transported Cerro Gordo silver across the lake for shipment by mule freighter to Los Angeles. Hand forged, the anchor has been estimated to weigh 400 pounds. It was discovered by Gary Vaughan, a Keeler youth. There is a persistent tale in southern Inyo county that one of the bullion-laden ships sank in the lake and was never recovered.—*Inyo Independent*.

NEVADA

Two Year Wildlife Program . . .

CARSON CITY—A two-year program for the betterment of Nevada fish and game conditions, proposed by sportsmen from all parts of the state, met with the general approval of lawmakers at a recent public hearing. It is hoped at least a part of the necessary \$78,000 sportsmen are seeking from the state will be forthcoming. This money would be used to obtain federal matching funds under the Dingwell-Johnson and Pittsman-Robertson

acts. At the present time Nevada can obtain about \$450,000 in such funds by putting up \$142,000. Sportsmen have requested only \$78,000, feeling the economy-minded legislature would not consider the larger sum. To make up the difference, a proposal to increase non-resident hunting and fishing license fees and to abolish free licenses for residents over sixty years of age was advanced. This met with some opposition.—*Las Vegas Review Journal*.

Scotty's Castle Road Complete . . .

GOLDFIELD — Construction on roadbed of the 21.3 miles of Nevada State Road 72, from junction with U. S. 95 below Goldfield, to the California line has been complete. Cost of the project, including an oiled surface, is \$214,000. Oiling will go forward as rapidly as possible. This road will provide California visitors to Death Valley Scotty's Castle, with a modern highway into Nevada. It is expected many will avail themselves of the opportunity to visit historic and scenic attractions in the state.—*Tonopah Times Bonanza*.

Sportsmen Attend Lecture . . .

WHITE PINE—An illustrated talk on counting deer herds in Nevada by airplane was given by Joe Rabb, biologist for the State Fish and Game Commission, at a recent meeting of the White Pine Fish and Game Association. Rabb reported the state commission had been helping set the seasons on deer, elk, antelope and sagehen by accurately counting the herds and broods over the entire state. The movie accompanying the talk illustrated the method used in counting herds. Some deer have been trapped, tagged and released. It is hoped tags returned by hunters will chart movement of deer.—*Ely Record*.

Historic Fort Being Restored . . .

LAS VEGAS—The Old Fort, located on the Old Ranch, Las Vegas, Nevada, is one of two, built by Mormon pioneers, still standing. Mrs. Kate B. Carter, president of the central company of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, states the Fort was built in 1855 to protect Brigham Young's colonists in Vegas Valley. The only other is located in Cove Fort, Utah. Several years ago members of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers obtained permission from the Union Pacific Railroad, on whose property the Fort stands, and began restoration. Many relics have been placed in the building and a monument, calling attention to the Fort, erected on the highway. —*Las Vegas Review Journal*.

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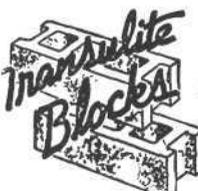
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Old Postoffice Closes . . .

OREANA—One of Nevada's oldest and one-time busiest postoffices has closed. Early in Nevada history, Oreana was the site of one of the first lead smelters in America. Quantities of mail funneled through the postoffice to and from such boom communities as Rochester, Rye Patch and Arabia. A narrow gauge railroad operated between Oreana and Rochester. Long line wagons hauled lumber and supplies to the mining towns. The village is now a section station and in early March the postoffice closed.—*Tonopah Times Bonanza*.

Roadside Parks Planned . . .

RENO—A system of roadside parks along major highways of Nevada has received executive and legislative approval. Governor Russel has signed a bill calling for the small cost of such parks to be paid from existing federal and state funds. Locations will be selected by the state highway engineer. Although Assembly Bill No. 30 does not specify the details of the parks, it is expected each developed area will include drinking water, one or more picnic tables, a fireplace, shade and a comfort station. It is hoped the parks, designed to make Nevada travel more pleasant, will increase the average time tourists spend in the state.—*Tonopah Times Bonanza*.

NEW MEXICO

New Water Method Developed . . .

SANTA FE — New geo-physical methods used in drilling for water by New Mexico School of Mines may give the state a new source of water. The school has found a water deposit under the barren hills north of Socorro, capable of supplying one New Mexico town. Dr. E. J. Workman, president of the school, reported the find to the state economic development commission. He said the water was located below the so-called Santa Fe clay formation, where drillers usually stop. Dr. Workman said the new well is the first concrete evidence that experimental techniques developed by the School of Mines may pay off. The well, drilled on a grant from the EDC, may bolster chances of the commission's survival, which has been threatened by a cut-off in appropriations. Robert McKinney, EDS chairman says the EDC gives the School of Mines \$75,000 for research.—*Gallup Independent*.

Indians Protest Water Use . . .

ALBUQUERQUE—Indians of the United Pueblo Agency may be instrumental in saving the fish behind El Vado Dam. Considerable concern about the fish has been voiced since

plans were announced for draining the northern reservoir to repay water owed to the Elephant Butte dam, serving southern New Mexico and Texas. The Indian council has warned that legal action will be taken if another foot of water is released from El Vado reservoir. Diego Abeita, council secretary, says the Indians are entitled to enough water to irrigate 20,000 acres. State game warden, Elliott Barker, estimates 50,000 pounds of fish will be lost by draining El Vado reservoir. Senator James T. Brewster of Las Cruces says the value of the crops irrigated from water above Elephant Butte Dam, outweighs loss of fish. The Rio Grande compact, drawn up in 1939, states nothing in the compact shall impair the water rights of Indian tribes.—*Gallup Independent*.

Fireball Meteorite Hunted . . .

SPRINGER—A flaming ball of fire followed by a heavy blast was reported flashing through the sky March 6. Although the phenomenon was not seen by many, scattered reports have come from as far south as Albuquerque, where it is believed the meteorite may have fallen in the vicinity of the Sandia Mountains. Since it was seen in Las Vegas, Springer, Roy, Clayton and other communities, it may have struck much farther north, possibly in the vicinity of Gladstone or Farley, east of Springer. There is some disagreement as to the time. One report places it at 2:54, another at 2:30. Dr. Lincoln La Paz of the University of New Mexico and Rick Raphael, photographer on the Denver Post, are searching for it. Dr. La Paz states it is the first fireball instance in his two years steady work in this field, he definitely believes it to have been a meteorite.—*Springer Tribune*.

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Maps Show Old New Mexico . . .

ALBUQUERQUE—Rare maps at the University of New Mexico Library show the state once incorporated most of Arizona and a portion of Utah, with borders extending to California on the west and to the Gadsden Pur-

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chase, titled Arizona, on the south. The oldest, dated 1682, was made in Paris. All show old wagon trails, proposed railroad routes, settlements and United States Army Posts. Some have been donated to the library, but most have been purchased from the Argosy Book and Map Store in New York City. One of the maps shows New Mexico extending to a territory known as New France, now called Canada. They range in size from three to four inches to two or three feet. Most were made by surveyors for the General Land Grant office. — *Alamogordo News*.

Old Land Bank Only a Memory . . .

LOVINGTON—The old building housing the First Territorial Land Bank, chartered under territory law before New Mexico became a state, is no more. Built in 1909, this two story structure of frame and sheet iron, in recent years known as the Lester Alston building, has been torn down to make way for a modern office building. The bank was operated continuously until 1921, when the depression closed it. It was later organized as the Lea

County State Bank. Other businesses, have been sheltered by the old building, including a drug store and abstract offices. Early pioneers watched the demolition nostalgically.—*Lovington Press*.

Penitentes Stop Bloody Rites . . .

TAOS — The bloody rites of the Penitentes have all but been forgotten in the hills of the oldest Spanish parish in the country. The secret sect, whose members once tortured themselves and even crucified each other in a re-enactment of Easter, now take part in the usual rites as good members of the Catholic church. Perhaps 100 men in the parish of the church of St. Francis at Rancho de Taos, are members of the Penitentes.—*Gallup Independent*.

Fire Improves Water Supply . . .

SANTA FE—A northern New Mexico rancher claims last summer's big forest fire near Ocate substantially increased water supplies in the burned over area. H. A. McDaniel of Cimarron, estimates the fire which burned over 6400 acres of his land and 40,-

000 acres of state land, materially helped the water situation. "The springs in the area all doubled their output right after the fire and have continued to do so," he said. McDaniel attributes the increase to lack of transpiration from heavy timber. Two ranchers from other parts of New Mexico concurred with his opinion. Floyd Lee of San Mateo, president of the New Mexico Wool Growers association says five states are now burning off brush to increase water supplies.—*Gallup Independent*.

Permanent Fish Trap on Pecos . . .

CARLSBAD — A permanent fish screen and trap, built by the Game and Fish Department for the disposal of such rough fish as gar and carp, is nearing completion on the Pecos River between McMillan and Avalon Lakes. Fish that are contaminating these lakes can thus be removed when water is shut off at McMillan Dam. The department feels the screen and trap will be beneficial to local fishermen as well as making more effective hatchery restocking activities. — *Eddy County News*.

UTAH

Indian-Stockmen Clash Feared . . .

SALT LAKE CITY—Physical hostilities, personal conflicts and violence between livestockmen and Indians are a serious possibility in southeastern Utah, according to a group from Blanding, in a suit against Jon D. Felornia, Slim Cowboy and 31 other Navajos. The suit came before the U. S. district court as the result of a petition for removal from the San Juan county court by the Indians. The cattlemen seek to have the Indians restrained from building hogans on the land and grazing their animals. The Indians contend they are not residents of the state and, as wards of the government, cannot be sued in state courts.—*Salt Lake Tribune*.

Plan Trek Along Old Trail . . .

CEDAR CITY—An Explorer activity is being planned in Cedar City, according to John L. Cross, field executive for the Boy Scouts of America. It will take Explorers over a portion of the Old Spanish Trail. The object is to familiarize young men with the history of this part of the state. The first trek is scheduled for August. According to present plans, it is expected over 100 Explorers will rendezvous in Parowan, first white settlement on the Trail, and make the 35-mile trip from Pinto toward Santa Clara. It is hoped Explorers from all over the country will make the trek. Expeditions can be arranged for any time of year.—*Iron County Record*.

For Prize Photos in May . . .

Although the desert flower display has been disappointing this season there is still no lack of subjects in the desert country for prize photography. And it is for the purpose of securing the best of these pictures for publication that the Desert Magazine offers two monthly prizes for the best "Pictures of the Month."

There is a wide range of subjects—landscapes, wildlife, strange rock formations, sunsets, prospectors, Indians—there is no limitation as long as the pictures were taken on the desert, and all Desert readers are invited to participate.

The next Pictures-of-the-Month contest will be held in May, and all photographers, both amateur and professional (the amateurs generally win), are invited to submit their best prints.

Entries for the May contest must be in the Desert Magazine office, Palm Desert, California, by May 20, and the winning prints will appear in the July issue. Pictures which arrive too late for one month's contest are held over for the next month. First prize is \$10; second prize \$5.00. For non-winning pictures accepted for publication \$3.00 each will be paid.

HERE ARE THE RULES

- 1—Prints for monthly contests must be black and white, 5x7 or larger, printed on glossy paper.
- 2—Each photograph submitted should be fully labeled as to subject, time and place. Also technical data: camera, shutter speed, hour of day, etc.
- 3—PRINTS WILL BE RETURNED WHEN RETURN POSTAGE IS ENCLOSED.
- 4—All entries must be in the Desert Magazine office by the 20th of the contest month.
- 5—Contests are open to both amateur and professional photographers. Desert Magazine requires first publication rights only of prize winning pictures.
- 6—Time and place of photograph are immaterial, except that it must be from the desert Southwest.
- 7—Judges will be selected from Desert's editorial staff, and awards will be made immediately after the close of the contest each month.

Address All Entries to Photo Editor

The Desert Magazine

PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

Highway 6 Nears Completion . . .

WHITE PINE—Grading and gravelling this summer to be followed by oiling at a later date will complete the last 33 mile link in U. S. highway 6, between the Nevada-Utah state line and Delta, Utah. D. H. Wittenberg, Utah state highway engineer says the contract will be let at once. Another 30 mile stretch is nearing completion. It ties to the first 27 miles that were built eastward from the state line near Baker. This roadwork marks the successful culmination of a 20-year fight to have a 90-mile stretch of Utah highway completed. — *Tonopah Times Bonanza*.

. . .

Notify Before Planting Poison . . .

VERNAL — Danger and penalties involved in laying poison without notifying Federal agencies and private land owners, was emphasized by Dale C. Naylor, range manager, recently. The warning was prompted by reports from Deep Creek that valuable livestock dogs and been poisoned. Poison should not be placed where there are small children since it is also a human hazard.—*Vernal Express*.

. . .

School Enters Second Year . . .

BRIGHAM CITY—The Intermountain Indian School at Brigham City has more than 1300 Navajo children of all ages enrolled. Dr. George A. Boyce, school superintendent, says they hope to have 2150 pupils at next year's session beginning the middle of August. The children, coming from primitive hogans on the Navajo reservations of Arizona and New Mexico, are taught English, arithmetic, civics and other routine classroom subjects. They are also grounded in personal hygiene. Shop training is given the boys and the girls study home economics. Democracy is practiced at the school. A student council operates and the Boy and Girl Scouts have troops. Regular religious programs are held. According to Dr. Boyce, treating Indians as first class citizens and providing good educational facilities, is sound public policy.—*Salt Lake Tribune*.

. . .

Range Reseeding Hits New High . . .

CEDAR CITY—Range reseeding in the Dixie National forest for 1950 encompassed 8753 acres newly planted to crested wheatgrass, smooth brome, orchard grass, slender wheat, timothy and other palatable range grasses. Supervisor Albert Albertson reports most of the acreage went to complete the huge Pines project near Bryce Canyon which now has 25,658 acres tilled and planted to grass. This year reseeding costs amounted to \$6.43 an

acre including 5.4 miles of fence. Ranger Max Rees of Panguitch, in charge of the work announces the new grass will be protected from grazing for three years, after which grazing will

be controlled to get maximum forage production. A total of 37,373 acres in the Dixie National forest has been reseeded to date.—*Iron County Record*.

Desert Quiz

Here are 20 more questions for the Quiz class. They cover a wide range of subjects—geography, history, Nature, Indians, and the general lore of the desert country. But they are not catch questions. Every one involves an elementary fact about the desert country which every traveler should know. Twelve to 14 is a fair score, 15-16 is good, 17-18 excellent, over 18 is very exceptional. The answers are on page 35.

- 1—Carlsbad Caverns are in — Texas..... Colorado..... New Mexico..... Arizona.....
- 2—Highest mountain visible from the Great American Desert is in— California..... Arizona..... New Mexico..... Utah.....
- 3—Climbing over the desert rocks you discover a vug. In it you would look for—Indian pottery..... Crystals..... A desert tortoise..... A pack rat's nest.....
- 4—Hank Monk was a — Bandit..... Mountain Man..... Indian Scout..... Famous stage driver.....
- 5—Author of the famous stories about a frog that never learned to swim was—Isaac Walton..... Frank Dobie..... Oren Arnold..... Dick Wick Hall.....
- 6—Among the native desert trees of the Southwest, the best for shade purposes is the—Mesquite..... Palm..... Palo Verde..... Joshua tree.....
- 7—Ancestral home of the Chemehuevi Indians was in—New Mexico..... Along the Colorado River..... In Tonto Basin..... Cocopah Mountains.....
- 8—Coolest clothing to wear on the desert in summer is—Green..... Olive drab..... White..... Black.....
- 9—To enter scenic Oak Creek Canyon from the north you would leave Highway 66 at—Winslow..... Flagstaff..... Williams..... Ashfork.....
- 10—The squash blossom hairdress of the Hopi Indian girls is worn— Only at the Snake Dance..... To mark their engagement..... As evidence that they are eligible for marriage..... When in mourning.....
- 11—Correct spelling of one of the best known National Monuments in Arizona is — Chiracuacua..... Chiricuha..... Chiricahua..... Chiruchua.....
- 12—In firing their pottery the pueblo Indian women of the Southwest generally use—Aspen wood..... Dry manure..... Cedar wood..... Coal.....
- 13—Mature fruit of the Saguaro cactus is—Red..... Golden brown..... Light Green..... Pink and green.....
- 14—True onyx is a variety of—Agate..... Calcite..... Gypsum..... Mica.....
- 15—Palm Springs is at the base of—Catalina mountains..... San Francisco peaks..... Panamint range..... San Jacinto peak.....
- 16—The petals of the Encelia or brittle bush blossom are—White..... Purple..... Pink..... Yellow.....
- 17—The Great White Throne is a conspicuous landmark in—Zion National Park..... Grand Canyon..... Cedar Breaks National Monument..... Petrified Forest National Monument.....
- 18—John Wetherill for many years before his death operated an Indian Trading Post at—Kayenta, Arizona——. Tuba City——. Keams Canyon——. Monument Valley.....
- 19—Going from Tucson, Arizona to Hermosillo, Sonora, by the most direct route you would cross the Mexican border at Douglas..... San Luis..... Nogales..... Sonoyta.....
- 20—The historic "Crossing of the Fathers" on the Colorado was made by an exploring party headed by—Father Escalante..... Garces..... Kino..... Marcos de Niza.....

AMATEUR GEM CUTTER

By LELANDE QUICK, Editor of The Lapidary Journal

During the past year we have had many inquiries about juniors. How can they fit into the adult club and how can lapidary activities be promoted as a part of a public school curriculum?

We have often told societies that it was a lamentable fact that few in the audience were ever under 30 and indeed too few are under 50 years of age. Youth itself is a hobby. When young people finish their formal education they are not inclined for many years to feel the necessity of a study program in their pleasure-filled lives. Raising a family is a study program of the first order and as an educational program it is at the top.

But we have noticed that the average age of the earth science groups is noticeably lower than it was several years ago, and that is good. Through the intensive adult education program, begun all over the land in the early thirties, people have learned, as they did long ago in the Scandinavian countries, that the process of education should never cease if people wished to have a full life.

However it is the very young and the teen-age group that concerns our correspondents and we find many people inquiring how to organize a kids' rockhound group. In almost every case the inquirer wants to know "what will happen if a child is hurt on a trip or at a machine?" We cannot answer that question but children are hurt every day in thousands of other pursuits of happiness. We believe all societies should be incorporated and then no responsibility

is going to be placed upon an individual member for injuries sustained on field trips to either adults or children, for damage caused by thoughtless persons who destroy property or leave gates open on ranches, etc., etc. The Junior Rockhounds of Prescott, Arizona, a branch of the Yavapai Gem & Mineral society, is the first junior group we remember. It has had a conspicuous success and interested persons could get much helpful advice from John Butcher, secretary. He was their first president and has been a leader of the group ever since its inception. John can be reached at 331 Park Ave., Prescott. We understand that junior rockhounding is emphasized all over Arizona where every high school in the state has its own rockhound club. Each year these clubs enter an exhibit at the state fair for competitive awards. The result of this program is that the next generation in Arizona will no doubt be the best informed group of citizens of any state regarding the mineral wealth of their own commonwealth and its importance to its citizens.

Many school superintendents are coming to realize that the best way to interest young students in the science of geology, mineralogy, natural science and physical geography is to let them learn about hardness and values at the lap wheel. The resultant growing appreciation of beauty is a fine antidote for the comic books.

Many of the adult education programs include evening education in gem cutting and silversmithing. The machinery involved is now being used in day classes by the youngsters. One of the first of these classes, which has since grown into national importance, was the class started at Woodrow Wilson high school in Washington, D. C., by William T. Baxter, author of *Jewelry, Gem Cutting and Metalcraft*, now in its third edition. This book is used as a text book in schools all over the land. Many big city schools have fine lapidary shops.

The lapidary program for youngsters can be instituted with great success in the small towns too. A good example is the program of the Junior high school at La Porte City, Iowa; a town of less than 1800 population. Let Richard E. Holland, the town druggist, tell you how it came about. He writes: "Our school has had such a program since January, 1950. It was the idea of the class in science and the instructor, Mrs. Boyles. Early in the school year the eighth grade science class began the study of rocks and geologic formations for about three weeks. As one of their field trips they visited the local mineral and gem collections of William Bahr and H. R. Halbfass. The students planted the germ of the idea when they saw the Halbfass equipment. Harold Matt, school superintendent, was agreeable to instituting a lapidary class as a part of the science course but he was unable to provide any school funds for equipment. The eighth graders initiated a program of classwork for which they sold tickets. There are very few who can withstand a home demonstration of ticket selling and thus enough cash was raised to purchase two arbors and a saw. The class built their own tables. Now each student is required to polish one flat and one cabochon from material he has collected in the

field. The result is that in every case the student is markedly more familiar with the geologic formations and types of minerals. Their grasp of the science course is far more complete.

"For any who may be interested in promoting such a school class we advise that you take it easy. The best that can be expected is that a very few will continue the new interest after leaving the class. High school brings quite a few outside interests to compete with the lap wheel and the lapidary hobby is confining to a youngster who needs a lot of physical activity. At least you can expect that the students will benefit considerably by learning much more about the crust of the earth and they will have a good time while doing it."

There is enough in the foregoing experience to stimulate the imaginations of those who wish to bring a painless form of teaching science into their own schools for their own children. For the youngster who maintains a permanent interest in the hobby will inevitably branch out into allied studies that will enrich his life. And, if nothing else, it will instill in the child the supreme satisfaction that comes from learning to do something with his hands and to promote that love of the rocks of the earth which was Man's first love in the beginning of things.

* * *

The Glendale Lapidary & Gem society will present its fourth annual gem show at the Glendale Civic Auditorium, 1401 Verdugo Rd., Glendale, California, May 12 and 13. In addition to their own work they will have a marvelous attraction in the private gem display of William E. Phillips. It was about a year ago that we first saw Mr. Phillips' great collection in the company of Dr. Frederick H. Pough of the American Museum of Natural History. He pronounced it one of America's outstanding assortment of gems.

Since then Mr. Phillips has flown around the world, gathering new additions for his collection in Siam, India, Ceylon and Europe. Among items of special interest in the Phillips collection is a 149 carat white topaz in a square cushion antique cut of more than 200 facets. In Ceylon Mr. Phillips acquired a brown peridot weighing 158.55 carats. This was sold to him as a brown tourmaline and later identified as genuine olivine. Other interesting items are a deep purple amethyst (101 carats), a peridot from the Red Sea that is 45.40 carats and reputed to be the largest and finest green peridot outside the British Museum. The largest stone in the collection is a citrine weighing 944 carats.

We will exhibit for the first time what is believed to be the largest opal in private hands—eight full ounces of fire loveliness. This opal was 11½ ounces when we first acquired it several months ago from Mr. Seward. At that time he advised us that it was one of the largest opals ever found in Australia. We removed the matrix and most of the potch and polished the opal as a specimen piece. Despite several fancy offers we prefer to keep it as a specimen because it is so lovely and just to prove that all amateurs do not cut every magnificent specimen into cabochons.

* * *

Our readers in the Chicago area will be glad to learn of the first big lapidary show to be held there on May 19-20. It will be given at Grand Crossing Field House, 76th St. and S. Ingleside Avenue from two until ten p.m. each day. Admission is free and it will be sponsored by the Chicago Lapidary Club. Ninety-three prize awards will be given.

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Gems and Minerals

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, HAS NEW MINERAL SOCIETY

The Fresno, California, Gem and Mineral society held its first meeting January 18 with 72 charter members. Regular meetings will be held the fourth Thursday in each month at the John Burroughs elementary school. The president is Dr. Andrew Still Wallace. Serving with him are: George Harbison, first vice president; Dr. Clement Tavares, second vice president; Anita Marshall, secretary and Minnie LaRoche, treasurer. The first field trip took members nine miles north of Coalinga where they dug for fossilized clam shells. Four miles nearer Coalinga nice specimens of opalized wood were dug from the Shell Oil company gravel pits.

JADE NIGHT AT MINNESOTA MINERAL CLUB

The Minnesota Mineral club held its February 10 meeting in the solarium of the Curtis Hotel, Minneapolis. Kenneth Johnson, popular member of the club told "The Story of Jade" based on his own research, reading and observation. He explained the various locations throughout the world where jade is found and the real ancient history connected with it. Later, Johnson gave another talk entitled "The Metamorphosis of a Rockhound," illustrated with colored slides. A short business meeting was followed by a period of trading and selling. According to the serial numbers on the tickets, 130 people attended this meeting, all agreeing it was one of the best of the year.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SWAP PICNIC PLANNED

Jointly sponsored by the Sacramento, Mother Lode and Sequoia Mineral societies, the Northern California Annual Swap Picnic is scheduled for May 20, American Legion Park, Modesto, California. The affair is open to all rockhounds. Those attending should bring their own lunch but coffee, cream and sugar will be served by the Sacramento Mineral society. Ample display space is planned and dealers are welcome. Prizes will be given the winners of games, quiz programs and the best tall tale.

MOHAVE MINERAL SOCIETY HEARS FACTS ON BORAX

California, source of 94 percent of the world's borax, produces more in a day than the rest of the world does in a year. This was only one of the facts heard by the Mojave, California, Gem and Mineral society in a talk by Mr. Morgan, chief chemist for the Pacific Coast Borax company, March 1. Morgan stated that borax has many other uses besides that of a cleansing agent. He listed its use in refining precious metals, in the manufacture of rayons, dyes, paint and insulation, among others. The door prize for the evening, a slab of sanded agate, went to Mrs. Ted Galusha.

MID-WESTERN FEDERATION SETS UP EXCHANGE BUREAU

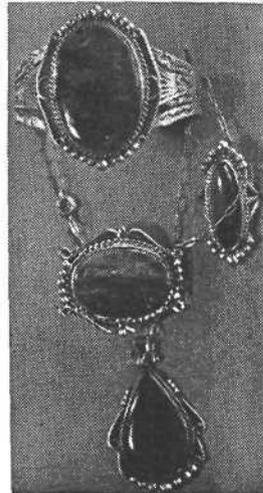
A mineral exchange bureau, designed to facilitate the exchange of specimens between members, has been set up by the Mid-West Federation, under the chairmanship of Frank J. Sadilek, 1308 West 42 Street, Des Moines, Iowa. Sadilek and a committee will compile lists of material available from interested members. These will be mimeographed and distributed through member societies. Those submitting lists of exchange materials should enclose nine cents in stamps to help defray costs and postage.

EARLY LAPIDARISTS CREDITED FOR PRECISION EQUIPMENT

"Cutting and polishing Cabochons" was the subject of an entertaining talk given by Herbert Monlux at the March meeting of the Santa Monica, California, Gemological society. Monlux is a pioneer hobby lapidarist and a charter member of the Los Angeles Lapidary society. He said very little lapidary information was available 15 years ago. He recalled his first experience in cutting a geode—four days of eight hours each with a home-made mud saw. He credits present day precision equipment to the experimentation of early rockhounds.

NEW FEATURE PLANNED FOR SEQUOIA SOCIETY BULLETIN

The Sequoia Mineral society, Parlier, California, has planned a new feature for the Bulletin, its official publication. Through the courtesy of Bill McDonald, society member and Fresno jeweler, a series of articles on birthstones will be published. The first appeared in March, with bloodstones and aquamarine being discussed. According to legend, a piece of green chalcidony lay at the foot of the cross. Drops of the Savior's blood fell upon it and became a part of the stone, the small red inclusions which distinguish the bloodstone and give it the name.



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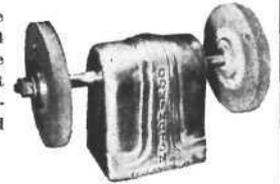
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AMONG THE ROCK HUNTERS

Dona Ana County rockhounds, Las Cruces, New Mexico, held their March 9 meeting at the Mesilla Park school. After a business session, Dr. L. L. Camien, professor of Sociology and Anthropology at State college, lectured on the Folsom Man, earliest known human from whom we have artifacts. Professor Camien stressed the fact that amateurs have contributed much to archeological research and exploration. A March 11 field trip into the Little Hachet Mountains six miles west of Hachita netted jasper-agate and agate in plentiful quantities.

"Minerals of the Duchy of Cornwall" was the topic of a talk given at the March 12 meeting of the Southwest Mineralogists, Los Angeles. Speaker was Kilian Bensusan. For hundreds of years, slate, tin, iron and kaolin have been mined in Cornwall. Bensusan said that Cornwall is a rockhound's paradise as fine specimens of many varieties can be picked up by going through the mine dumps. The March field trip to Muroc dry lake netted a small amount of fine quality petrified wood to those who were willing to do a terrific amount of pick and shovel work.

At the March 13 meeting, Joseph W. Baker gave the Yuma, Arizona, Gem and Mineral society a resume of mining activities in the vicinity. He said the most interesting and extensive work on general geology and mineral deposits of southern Yuma county was done by William P. Blake between 1853 and 1898. More than 1800 different minerals have been classified in Yuma county, with deposits found in either placer or vein. Baker listed the different areas and told about the river boats that once docked at the granite bluffs near the mission of the Yuma Indians.

Gladys Babson Hannaford gave a talk on "Diamonds from the Ground Up" at the February 6 meeting of the Tucson, Arizona, Gem and Mineral society, illustrating with pictures taken at African mining areas. She also showed crystal models of many famous large diamonds. At the February 20 meeting several members gave short talks on silver and silver mining. Numerous ore specimens were displayed. On March 6 Mrs. H. Murchison addressed the society on "Whys and Wherefores of Mineral Names" covering the subject in an entertaining manner.

The San Diego Lapidary society recently presented the San Diego Museum of Natural History with pieces of jade from the sculptures of "Yang Kuei-Fei" and "Thunder" by Donal Hord. Two sets of pictures showing different views as the work progressed, were included in the gift. The two statues are showing at the Fine Arts Gallery, San Diego.

In the future the regular monthly meetings of the Northern California Mineral society of San Francisco will be held on the first Wednesday of each month and the business meeting on the second Wednesday. Several field trips are being planned. One within the city and county of San Francisco has been proposed by a charter member of the society, Morris White, who really knows his way around when it comes to rocks.

LAPIDARY SOCIETY HOLDS SECOND ANNUAL ROCK SHOW

The Maricopa Lapidary society, Phoenix, Arizona, held its second annual show at the National Guard Armory, February 17-18. Dealers and demonstrators had ample space around the edges of the room while the exhibit material formed a hollow square in the center. There were many fine examples of lapidary art. Two lectures by Dr. C. D. Woodhouse of Santa Barbara college, University of California, and one by Odd Halseth, Phoenix City archaeologist, were interesting features of the show.

"Aerial Photography and Its Relation to Geology" was the subject of a talk given the Yavapai Gem and Mineral society, Prescott, Arizona, by Hugh Hughes, S. E. Jerome and W. P. Johnston of the New Jersey Zinc Exploration company. The speakers pointed out how aerial shots taken over familiar territory could be of value to rockhounds. They explained the different types of pictures used by their company, explaining why oblique photographs are more easily interpreted by the amateur. Door prizes for the evening were won by Marie Kuhne and Dick Manley, Jr.

Fourteen out of state guests met with the members of the Mineralogical society of Phoenix, Arizona, February 2. President Benham gave an interesting talk on the physics of fluorescence, using charts to show the relationship between the basic facts underlying the phenomenon. The field trip on February 11 netted tourmaline which will be used in the grab bags at the Federation Convention in June. Glen Moore gave an interesting lapidary demonstration on the evening of February 16. During the month seven new members were accepted into the society.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Pomona Valley, California, Mineral club, Walter S. Chamberlin, chairman of the Southern California Grotto of the National speleological society, explained the methods used in cave explorations. He described equipment and showed colored slides of cave explorations in the vicinity of Sequoia and Death Valley, California, and Natural Bridge, Arizona. Underwater photos of cavern streams and pools, taken by Chamberlin, were also shown, closing an unusually entertaining evening.

At the February 9 meeting of the San Diego Mineral and Gem society, Norman Dawson and Robert Dye took members on a lecture "Trip to Four Peaks Amethyst Mine." The mine, located in eastern Arizona, is being operated by Dye, who has spent months packing out deep purple amethyst crystals. Kodachrome slides, revealing the color of the soil diggings skirting the opening and a panoramic view of the surrounding terrain, were shown. Many fine amethyst specimens were on display. The Four Peaks area is one of the most difficult to reach in the Pacific group of states.

Collecting areas in Mason, Llano, San Saba, Lampasas and Brown counties were discussed by Dr. R. T. Havens at the February meeting of the Austin Gem and Mineral society. Dr. Havens displayed a collection of faceted stones, including 29 cut topaz, the largest weighing over 23 carats. At the March meeting, Sergeant Lee Elmore, of the Bergstrom Air Force Base, showed pictures made while stationed in Alaska. An interesting feature of the program were the "braggers" who exhibited their bragging rocks.

ROGUE GEM AND GEOLOGY CLUB HOLDS FINE SHOW

An excellent display of rocks, minerals, cut and polished semi-precious stones and a number of mounted specimens were features of a show held by the Rogue Gem and Geology club at the Grants Pass, Oregon, Library auditorium March 2. Of special interest was a brick from the Great Wall of China. Harold Wolfe, of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, brought a rock and mineral display from the local office. Plans were made for the mid-March field trip.

The Palo Alto Geology society members were guests of Calaveras Gem and Mineral society, Angels Camp, California, March 10 and 11. Professor V. L. Vanderhoof, of the Stanford school of mineral sciences, spoke on California earthquakes at the February meeting. On display was the most accurate earthquake forecaster known, a perfect crystal ball, belonging to the Stanford family collection. The Palo Alto Geology society members are "rock readers" rather than rockhounds.

The Mineralogical society of Phoenix, Arizona, enjoyed an outing in the Desert Botanical Gardens March 4 and a lecture by Dr. Marshall as well as a tour of the gardens and new lath house. A hot luck lunch was served in the patio of the gardens. At the mid March meeting Mr. and Mrs. Zeitner of the Zeitner Geological Museum at Mission, South Dakota, showed color slides of exhibits in the museum, explaining each as shown. Mrs. Zeitner also explained the collecting areas, geology and scenery of South Dakota.

The Contra Costa Mineral and Gem society, Alamo, California, has installed the following officers for 1951: Ed Ross, president; Lynn Hulse, vice president; Bill Wight, secretary-treasurer. A field trip, February 24-25, took 25 members below the Big Sur to Mill Creek, looking for Monterey jade. This is an extremely rugged bit of coast. It is reported most rockhounds got a good ducking. Some were successful in finding jade, others picked up serpentine. At the March 9 meeting, Glenn E. Daniels, a member of the East Bay society, spoke on "Water as a Mineral," showing many nice color slides.

A field trip to Red Rock canyon and the nearby opal fields on January 28 and another to the pegmatites near Naevo, five miles off U. S. 395 in Riverside County, for tourmalines and garnets, were a part of recent activities of the Whittier, California, Gem and Mineral society. Meetings are the first and third Tuesday of each month, at Whittier Union high school.

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The Southwest Mineralogists of Los Angeles, scheduled its fourteenth Annual Gem and Mineral show for April 21 from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. and April 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Exhibits of rough and polished gems and stones, as well as displays of jewelry and mineral specimens are planned.

At the February meeting of the Denver Mineral society, Dr. Richard M. Pearl showed colored slides of minerals in the Harvard Mineralogical museum. Car stickers, bearing the emblem of the American Federation of Mineralogical societies, were given to those who desired them. The design on the stickers is the prize winning emblem submitted by Betty Burwell in the national competition last summer. James Hurlbut has been appointed chairman of a committee which will plan a series of field trips for this summer. Doris Short, Mrs. Thomas Allen, Trudy Martin and Tike Meissner will assist Hurlbut.

Bob Kuhne, amateur photographer and a friend of the Havasupai Indians, showed a collection of Havasu canyon colored slides at the February 20 meeting of the Yavapai County Archeological society, Prescott, Arizona. An interested spectator was Mrs. Viola Jimulla, chief of the Yavapais. Kuhne's pictures of the Havasupai are a pageant of their lives. By special request of W. M. Beveridge, supervisor of Prescott National Forest and a member of the archeological society, Kuhne concluded his show with color photographs of the forest fire that came close to the outskirts of the Mile High City.

Dr. C. H. Cleminshaw, Associate Director of Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles, spoke on "Meteorites" to the San Fernando Valley, California, Mineral and Gem society at its March meeting. He used slides and actual specimens to illustrate Griffith Observatory has a fine meteorite display as well as other exhibits covering geology, mineralogy and lapidary work.

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At the regular monthly meeting of the Wasatch Gem society of Salt Lake City, February 16, a short talk on amethysts was given by Mary Moorehead. Dr. W. D. Armstrong's illustrated lecture on "The Beauties of the Mineral World" was greatly appreciated also.

An overnight field trip, March 18 and 19, took members of the San Gabriel Valley Lapidary society to Mule Canyon in the Calico Mountains. Petrified palm roots, blue agate, jasper and a small amount of petrified wood were found. Those who remained for the second day's hunt found good blue and plume agate as well as some golden jasper.

At the February meeting of the San Gorgonio Mineral and Gem society, Banning, California, colored slides of rock specimens from various sections of the world, were shown, with Stan Breitschneider as commentator. The club is sponsoring a silver-craft class in Beaumont, conducted by Paul Walker. To date 18 rockhounds have enrolled.

The Searles Lake, California, Gem and Mineral society held its annual '49er Costume Ball on February 17. George Pilcher's young Moonlight Serenaders from the Trona high school furnished the music. A melodrama and barbershop quartet were special features. Mr. and Mrs. Neil Hinkle and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Gale took top honors for the best costume. Mrs. Al Gilbert won the door prize.

W. R. Miller talked on "Original Rockhounds" at the February 22 meeting of the El Paso, Texas, Rockhounds. The lecture covered artifacts left by ancient Indians. Miller, who is associated with Texas Western college, displayed a part of his collection, explaining the manner in which they were made. Many of his fine arrow and spear points came from Comanche County, Texas.

At the February 1 meeting of the Tacoma, Washington, Agate club, Jack Miner showed colored pictures of Mexico. Mrs. Fred Chester and Esther served refreshments. At the second meeting of the month Thomas Morgan talked on faceting. There were two door prizes, the first a Bear Creek, Oregon, cabochon and a piece of the material was won by Mike Keena; the second, a Porter concretion, from Porter, Washington, was carried home by Kent Freeman.

The Mineral and Gem society of Castro Valley, California, held its membership meeting March 9 in the cafeteria of the Hayward Union high school. Two color sound films were shown through the courtesy of the Standard Oil company. The first film showed formations in Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico; the second was a travelogue of South America. F. W. Buhn gave an account of his trip to Horse Canyon in Southern California where he found specimens of agate. Plans for the third annual Mineral Show April 7 and 8 were discussed.

Edna Nichols has been elected president of the San Jacinto-Hemet, California, Rockhounds. Officers serving with her are: John Felt, vice president; Kay Kelly, secretary-treasurer. An installation dinner was scheduled for April 12 at the Hemet Elks club. Members attending at least six meetings during the past year are to be awarded new Rockhound pins.

Date for the Delvers Gem and Mineral society, Downey, California, show has been set at May 19-20, location Woman's Club building on Paramount Boulevard.

The regular monthly meeting of the Western Nebraska Mineral society was held March 5, Chappell, Nebraska. A program yearbook was organized. Luncheon was served by Mr. and Mrs. George Peterson. The next meeting is planned for Sidney, with E. P. Chapman of the Ohio Oil company lecturing on the geological features of Nebraska.

The Mojave Mineralogical society, Mojave, California, held its regular meeting at the Marine Base chapel March 3. Members arranged many displays of petrified wood from the Mud Mine, as well as mineral specimens and cutting material from Death Valley. Colored slides, prizes and free doughnuts and coffee wound up an entertaining evening.

An interesting and informative talk on usable plants of the desert, was presented by Preston Mercer at a recent meeting of the Yuma, Arizona, Gem and Mineral society. Mercer is the inspector in charge of the Arizona plant quarantine inspection station in Yuma.

The Coos County Mineral and Gem club, North Bend, Oregon, was a year old in January. Meetings are held the first Wednesday and third Tuesday in the month, with refreshments being served at the Tuesday meeting. Officers are: Joe Lessard, president; L. J. Wright, vice president; Mrs. Roy Law, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. B. N. Selthon, librarian.

Ruth Simpson, formerly connected with the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles, was guest speaker at the regular monthly meeting of the Orange Belt Mineralogical society, San Bernardino, California, March 6. Her subject was "Prehistoric Rockhounds." She explained the two great stone ages of South and Central America, illustrating with colored slides. Miss Simpson displayed artifacts of the pre-Inca Indians of the Mayan Temple age, proving people in those times also had knowledge of cutting and polishing stones.

The Sequoia Mineral society, Parlier, California, has been given an unusual specimen of selenite crystals by past president, Ocie Randall. It was presented, sealed in glass and has been placed in the society's permanent exhibit case at the Parlier high school.

COACHELLA VALLEY MINERAL SOCIETY HOLDS SHOW

Those interested in minerals and gems had an opportunity to enjoy them at the Coachella Valley Gem and Mineral show, held at Indio, California, March 30 through April 1. An entire building on the fair grounds was devoted to exhibits ranging from specimen displays through beautiful cabochons and artistic jewelry to the largest star sapphire in the world, owned by Kazanjian Brothers of Los Angeles.

Dr. Robert Whitfield, who is associated with the department of Paleobotany at the Chicago Natural History Museum, spoke on the identification of fossil flora at the March 9 meeting of the Earth and Science

club of Northern Illinois at Downers Grove. Illustrating with colored slides, Dr. Whitfield described points of similarity and difference, names of species and the relationship between various types. He had many fossil flora specimens on display.

Arrangements have been completed for the 1951 annual meeting and show of the State Mineral society of Texas. It is scheduled for May 4, 5, and 6 at the Woodlawn gymnasium, San Antonio. Jesse Burt is president of the society; Joe Murphy, vice president; Mildred K. Spillman, secretary-treasurer.

Show Date Changed . . .

The Delvers Rock and Mineral society has changed the date of its show from May 5 and 6, as previously announced, to May 19 and 20. Location remains the same.

Answers to Quiz

Questions are on page 29

- 1—New Mexico.
- 2—Mt. Whitney in California.
- 3—Crystals.
- 4—Famous stage driver.
- 5—Dick Wick Hall.
- 6—Mesquite.
- 7—Along the Colorado River.
- 8—White.
- 9—Flagstaff.
- 10—As evidence that they are eligible for marriage.
- 11—Chiricahua.
- 12—Dry manure.
- 13—Red.
- 14—Agate.
- 15—San Jacinto peak.
- 16—Yellow.
- 17—Zion National Park.
- 18—Kayenta, Arizona.
- 19—Nogales.
- 20—Father Escalante.

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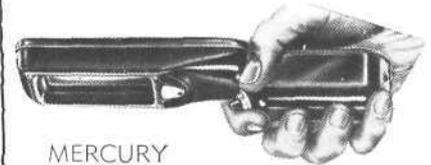
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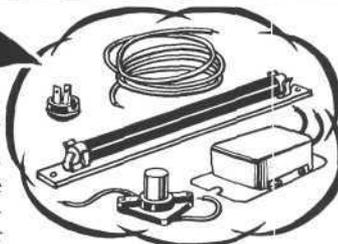
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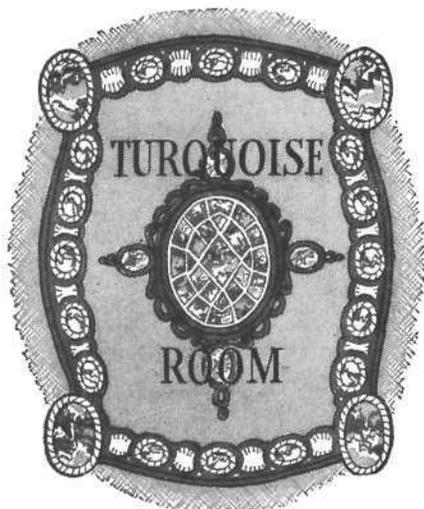
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THE *Desert* MAGAZINE CLOSE-UPS

As a student in the University of Pennsylvania many years ago Lelande Quick wanted to become a journalist. But when school days were over he learned that there were more journalists than there were editors who wanted to hire them—and so he took a job in a bank. From that he went into insurance, and eventually came to Los Angeles.

There, he was offered a position as salesman for the E. S. Miller Laboratories, Inc. Lelande remained with the Miller company 14 years, and in 1946 had become vice president of the company in charge of sales. Also, he was vice president of the American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers association. He owned considerable stock in the Miller company and his place in the industry was secure.

But in the meantime he had acquired a hobby. It started in September, 1938, when he bought a copy of *Desert Magazine* containing a story written by John Hilton about some old Indian turquoise mines on the Mojave desert—and the fun the rock collectors were having in gathering specimens of the colorful stone.

Lelande became interested in stones, and being a very thorough student of every subject to which he turned his attention, he soon had his own lapidary equipment and was cutting and polishing beautiful gems from the rocks which came from the desert and elsewhere.

He learned that others were interested in the same craft, and with other hobbyists he helped found the Los Angeles Lapidary society—the first of its kind in the United States—and became its first president. Since then he has helped organize 20 such societies across the country.

At the invitation of the *Desert Magazine* editor, Quick began writing a monthly page for the gem cutting fraternity in *Desert* in August, 1942. His sage counsel and informative comment have appeared in every issue since that date.

The old urge to become a journalist haunted him again, and in April, 1946, he launched the *Lapidary Journal*—an entire magazine devoted to gem cutting and silver craftsmanship. At first the publication appeared only as a quarterly, but after a year its popularity made it necessary to step it up to a bi-monthly.

The well-edited new magazine grew and prospered. Advertisers got profit-

able returns and increased their space. Lelande found that his job was interfering with his hobby—he couldn't be a top flight officer in a big pharmaceutical concern, and the editor of a fast-growing magazine, and do justice to both interests.

So in March, 1948, he resigned from the Miller corporation and became a full-time editor and publisher. The dream of his college days had come true.

• • •

"The reason none of the present day prospectors have had any luck in finding the lost Pegleg gold nuggets," writes Fred Eads, "is that they do their prospecting in automobiles. If the Pegleg mine is ever found, it will be re-discovered by a single blanket desert rat with a couple of burros."

Fred Eads, who wrote the story of the Mono lake gold for this issue of *Desert Magazine*, probably knows more lost mine stories than any other veteran in the West, with the possible exception of John Mitchell of Chandler, Arizona.

Eads is a newspaper man by profession, and for many years was on the staff of the Los Angeles Times. But the desert was always a lure to him and he spent many months tramping over Death Valley with the old-time prospectors in quest of lost treasure. Following his retirement from the strenuous life of a reporter Eads moved to San Gabriel, California. Although well along in years, he still goes off to the desert on a prospecting trip whenever he has the opportunity.

He has compiled over 100 lost mine stories of the Southwest which he plans to publish in book form eventually.

• • •

Eleanor Hodgson of Phoenix, Arizona, who wrote this month's story about Geronimo, is a versatile artist and craftsman. She works not only with canvas and oil, but also in ceramics, making pottery lamps, bowls, flower holders, etc., with the desert motif. Her decorations in clay include cactus blossoms, gila monsters, elf owls and other familiar denizens of the desert country.

Originally from Canada, she came to the desert many years ago and has found it an artist's paradise.

• • •

Loved by His Neighbors . . .

One of the most colorful old-timers in the Southwest, Tom Childs of Rowood, Arizona, passed away during the latter part of March. (*Desert Magazine*, Dec. '45). He was a survivor of the period when the Apaches were still running wild in Southern Arizona, and his death was mourned by both his white neighbors and the Papago Indians.

BOOKS OF THE SOUTHWEST . . .

VIVID TALES OF LIFE IN DEATH VALLEY

As a reporter in Los Angeles in the early days of the present century Bill Caruthers was intrigued by the stories which occasionally filtered out of the arid California-Nevada desert known as Death Valley.

At the first opportunity Caruthers went into the region—in a buckboard. And that trip was the first of many, covering a long period of years. During those years he became intimately acquainted with Dad Fairbanks, Shorty Harris, Death Valley Scotty, Indian George, Charley Brown, and the scores of others who sought riches in that arid sink.

Caruthers kept notes about the people he met, and the tales they told. And now those notes have been compiled and presented in *Loafing Along Death Valley Trails*, one of the most fascinating volumes yet to be written about the most forbidding area in the United States. Many of the stories in this book have never before appeared in printed form.

Caruthers' book is the story of man's quest for gold in that mad decade which followed the turn of the century—when a few men were growing rich while many others died of thirst as they searched for treasure in a region where summer temperatures often reached 125 degrees. In this book are recorded the stories of bad men and brave men, of braver pioneer women, of honkies and of harlots who added to the color of the mining camps even though they contributed nothing to the morals.

It is a very human book. The author was not so much concerned with history—although there is much authentic history in its pages—as with the intimate personal lives of the people who made mining history in the early days of Death Valley.

A fine tribute is paid to Senator Charley Brown of Shoshone, who perhaps more than any other deserves the credit during the last 25 years for the transformation of the Death Valley region from a forbidding wasteland to a popular winter mecca for motorists.

This edition of *Loafing Along Death Valley Trails* is limited to 3000 copies.

Published by Desert Magazine Press. Halftone illustrations. 184 pp. Index. \$3.85.

*This book available at
Desert Crafts Shop
Palm Desert, California*

COWBOY AND TRADER IN THE NAVAJO COUNTRY

Joseph Schmedding, author of *Cowboy and Indian Trader*, worked as a cowboy in New Mexico just after the turn of the century. In his book of memoirs he gives a true picture of cowboy life, far removed from the conception built up by fanciful musical comedies such as *Rio Rita* and *The Rose of the Rancho*. He writes, "I never saw a guitar in any trail camp, and though possessed of a good pair of ears, never heard the soft modulation of touching cowboy ballads at the end of twelve hours or more of strenuous activities."

In his late teens and early twenties, Schmedding worked at the Triangle Bar Triangle ranch, owned by Richard Wetherill, which was near the ruins of Pueblo Bonito in Chico Canyon on the Navajo reservation in northern New Mexico. There he learned much of the historic background of this ancient land. There too he learned to know Indians and the business of trading with them. His account of ranch and trading life makes fascinating reading. A great deal of information is skillfully woven into the tale of the youthful years of a man whose travels and occupations have taken him to many countries. The New Mexico of sunshine and space, sparsely populated by vigorous pioneers who lived a free courageous life almost unknown today, claims first place in Schmedding's heart and memory.

That he is able to communicate to the reader the many colorful reasons for this nostalgia is a tribute to the author's artistry. The reader chuckles with him at his turning of the tables on the not quite crafty enough Navajo, son of Many Horses, who drove away Schmedding's horses in the night in the hope of reaping a reward for "finding" them the next day. Joseph Schmedding liked the Navajos and gives a wealth of information about the *Dinneh* whom he came to know so well during seven years as owner of the Keams Canyon Trading Post. The Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho. 42 photographs illustrate the book, 364 pp. \$5.00.

*This book may be ordered from
Desert Crafts Shop
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SAGA OF AN OLD SILVER MINING CAMP

Douglas D. Martin, professor of journalism at the University of Arizona, has announced the publication in May of a new book on the history of Tombstone, colorful mining camp in southern Arizona, to be titled *Tombstone's Epitaph*. Prof. Martin became interested in writing the book two years ago when he served as summer editor of the *Tombstone Epitaph*, the local newspaper. Since then he has done much research on the lives of Wyatt Earp and his brothers, Doc Holliday, the Clantons, McLowerys and others who played leading roles in the bloody saga of the old silver camp. The book is to be published by the New Mexico University Press.

About Men and Their Quest for Gold . . .

LOAFING ALONG DEATH VALLEY TRAILS

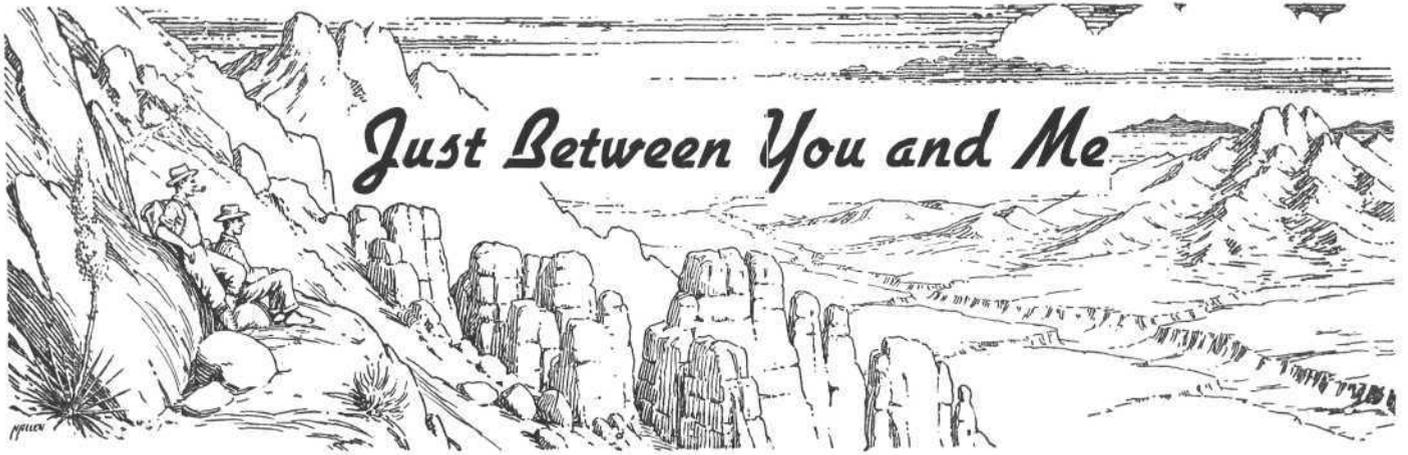
By WILLIAM CARUTHERS

Here are stories of men's search for gold in the most arid region of the United States—told by a reporter who followed the trails with them. Here is much information never before published about Death Valley Scotty, Shorty Harris, Indian George, Jacob Breyfogle and scores of other hardy frontiersmen who played leading roles in the early day drama of Death Valley and the boom mining camps of the California-Nevada Desert.

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Just Between You and Me

By RANDALL HENDERSON

ON MARCH 30, Newton B. Drury, director of the National Park Service, resigned his position—at the request of Oscar L. Chapman, Secretary of Interior. A. E. Demaray was named acting director pending the appointment of Drury's successor.

Newton Drury was a Californian, held in high regard by those of us who were acquainted with his conservation work in this state, notably in connection with the Save-the-Redwoods league.

I have no information as to the reasons for Drury's removal, but I suspect they are related to matters of policy in the Department of Interior. The Park director presented a strong case against the encroachment on the Dinosaur National Monument by the Echo Park and Split Mountain dam project on the Utah-Colorado border—and was over-ruled by Chapman.

Generally I am on the side of the conservationists—but I am well aware there will have to be some compromises between those of us who would preserve the scenic wilderness areas of the West in their natural state, and those who, without regard for scenic values, would exploit every resource to the limit of its profit-making capacity.

Compromises will be necessary because of the pressure of increasing population and diminishing natural resources. More dams in the Colorado river are inevitable. It is a depressing thought to those of us who would like to see the incomparable canyons of the Colorado preserved in all their majesty. And yet we cannot ignore the demands of an increasing population which will want more television sets, more automobiles. We must realize that all the manufactured gadgets with which we surround ourselves will require an ever-increasing supply of power.

Unless atomic energy is evolved to the point where it will supply this need, you and I may have to surrender some of the natural beauty of our western wilderness areas. Fortunately, there are men and women—idealists like Newton Drury—who will resist the encroachment of the profit-makers with all their strength. For we do not want to live in a world in which the chief aim of all human effort is the acquisition of material wealth.

• • •

Every day the mail man brings from one to a half dozen manuscripts—from persons who would like to sell their feature stories and pictures to *Desert Magazine*. We welcome the material from free lance journalists—for it is these writers who make magazines possible.

Perhaps it will interest readers of *Desert* to know some of the tests to which these manuscripts are submitted before they are accepted. In this office the number one rule, of course, is that the subject be associated in some way

with the Great American Desert. There are a thousand publications devoted to the rest of the world—our's is for the desert only.

Writers, before submitting a manuscript to any editor, should study the publication in which it is to appear. For each magazine has its own editorial formula—its style, its taboos, its limitations. Some very well written articles are rejected in this office because they are too impersonal. Readers like human interest, and most editors like to give them as much human drama as possible. And there is good reason for that. For after all, the most interesting phenomena on this planet are the humans who occupy it. People like to read about the doings of other people.

In this office we not only limit our material to the desert country, but we insist that it have the "feel" of the desert. That is an intangible something which some folks acquire very quickly—while others may reside in the arid region a lifetime and never understand. Some persons live in a tiny little world of their own, so small that they never acquire the feel of anything beyond their own little ego-centric selves. In conversation they talk mostly about themselves.

This desert is a big world—a world of plant life, of animal life, a world of constant change in which the lessons learned today may have to be re-learned tomorrow. Newcomers have to adapt themselves to life in this arid region, to the lack of rainfall, the absence of verdure, the extremes of temperature—and perhaps most important of all, the dependence on themselves rather than on the services rendered by others in more densely populated areas.

If you would see the desert at its best, turn your back on the main highways because they are not akin. Ambling along winding trails, flanked by creosote and mesquite, you can meet the real desert and listen to its leisurely language. Each hillside and miniature canyon has its own particular charm for those who would see. Each morning the rising sun seems to rest for a moment in a niche on the eastern mountains. The thin light strengthens. From somewhere close by comes the high-low call of a mourning dove. You draw a deep breath and thank your lucky stars for the privilege of just being alive.

• • •

From my scrapbook, this quotation from Everett Case: "According to democratic doctrine, wisdom is a kind of plant, to be nourished from many sources. It requires constant cultivation, careful pruning, and a good deal of sun and light; above all it matures slowly. It tends moreover to exhaust the soil, which must be repeatedly fertilized if the plant is to be strong and hardy . . ."

Desert Trail Shrine Is Dedicated . . .

With H. M. (Barney) Barnes of Corona del Mar, California, as master of ceremonies and Desert Steve Ragsdale as the main speaker, the Desert Trail Shrine sponsored by hundreds of rockhounds in Southern California and Arizona was dedicated at the *Desert Magazine* pueblo Sunday morning, April 1.

Barnes told of the interest taken by the mineral societies which participated in the plan to establish a Shrine for all followers of the desert trails. Desert Steve made clear that the Shrine was not for rockhounds alone, but for all those who come to the desert for its "sun, sand and solitude."

Leland Quick, editor of *Lapidary Journal*, was introduced as a man who has played an important role in the growth of the lapidary hobby all over the United States. He paid a tribute to all those who with the tools of the lapidary have revealed the beauty in the rocks which occupy the major portion of the earth's surface.

More than 100 visitors, coming from many distant points, were present at the dedication program. At the request of Randall Henderson, Barney Barnes, who secured the participation of the mineral clubs in sponsoring the project, placed the first stone at the base of the mound.

Following the brief speaking program, each of those present deposited a stone on the growing mound of the Trail Shrine and signed the special register which had been provided. The story of the Indian Trail Shrine, and its significance in the lives of the primitive dwellers of the desert country, was made clear in an introductory statement on the first page of the register, which will remain permanently at the Shrine. The statement reads:

"At intervals along many of the prehistoric trails in the desert Southwest are found small mounds of loose stones—placed there by Indian hands long before the white man discovered this western country.

"These Shrines are widely scattered over the lands once occupied by the Cahuilla Indians of Southern California, the Yumas, Mojaves, the Pimas, the Hopis, the Navajos, and in north-western Mexico. Even today in the Navajo country the Indians will often stop at the Shrines occasionally seen along their old trails and place a twig of juniper among the rocks.

"From such Indian legends as have been passed down from the ancient people who erected these mounds, the archeologists of today have concluded that they are Shrines—placed there,

Readers of *Desert Magazine*, passing through Palm Desert, are invited to visit the Trail Shrine, add their rocks—and their names—to the little monument in front of the *Desert Magazine* pueblo.

one stone at a time, by tribesmen who followed these trails on their hunting expeditions, or on their journeys from one waterhole to another, or as they moved from place to place for the seasonal harvesting of mesquite beans, chia, agave, acorns and other native foods.

"These Shrines, it is believed, were symbolic of the Indian's prayer for a successful journey—a journey that would be made in peace and safety,

and that would yield in ample supply the fruits for which the march was undertaken. The silent prayer in the heart of the savage as he deposited his stone on the Shrine may well be expressed in the prayer uttered by the Navajo today:

"With Beauty before me, I walk,
With beauty behind me, I walk,
Grant me success in my journey.
In Beauty I walk."

"These Trail Shrines symbolize a beautiful tradition. And it is for the perpetuation of this ancient religious custom that members of the *Desert Magazine* staff conceived the idea of placing a Trail Shrine on this spot, where those who follow the desert trails of today also may have the opportunity to symbolize their prayer for peace and beauty as they deposit their stones on the Shrine at the base of this granite boulder."

Pictures of the Trail Shrine will appear in Desert next month.

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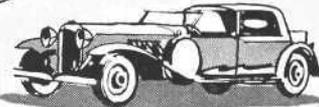
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A PURE, RICH PARAFFIN-BASE STOCK GIVES TRITON
 ITS BASIC STABILITY. SPECIAL COMPOUNDS RETARD
 ACIDITY, SLUDGING AND CORROSION AND CLEAN
 YOUR ENGINE AS YOU DRIVE. THE RESULT:
 AN OIL SO HIGH IN QUALITY
 THAT IT LASTS LONG AFTER
 MOST OILS ARE RECOMMENDED
 FOR CHANGING.



WHAT ABOUT **ACIDS?**

TRITON CONTAINS A SPECIAL COMPOUND THAT
 RESISTS ACID FORMATION SO COMPLETELY THAT
 TRITON WILL SHOW A LOWER ACID CONTENT
 AFTER MONTHS OF DRIVING THAN NON-COMPOUNDED
 OILS WILL SHOW IN ONLY 1,000 MILES!



WHAT IF YOU DRIVE TWICE AS MUCH AS AVERAGE?

TESTS PROVE THAT EVEN IF YOU DRIVE TWICE AS
 FAR AS THE AVERAGE MOTORIST, YOU WILL STILL GET
 COMPLETE PROTECTION FOR
 MONTHS WITH TRITON - AN
 EXTRA MARGIN OF
 SAFETY!

**UNION OIL
 COMPANY**
 OF CALIFORNIA



Notice: Triton is now sold by
 many independent dealers
 and garages as well as regu-
 lar Union Oil stations. If your
 particular dealer doesn't
 carry Triton, ask him to stock
 it for you.