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# Desert Calendar of Events

Imperial Valley (Calif.) Gem and Mineral Show, California Mid-Winter Fairgrounds, Feb. 25-March 6; National Indian Arts Exhibition, Scottsdale, Ariz., March 4-13; "World's Championship Gold Panning Contest" and burro races and antique car contest, Rosamond (Kern County), Calif., March 5 and 6; Gem and Mineral Show, Arizona State Fairgrounds, March 11-13; Berkeley Gem and Mineral Society's 3rd Annual "World of Gems" Show, Hotel Claremont, Berkeley, Calif., March 19 and 20; Los Angeles Lapidary Society's 26th Annual Gem Show, Las Palmas Recreation Center, 1820 N. Las Palmas Ave., Los Angeles, March 19 and 20; Southern Arizona International Livestock Show and Pima County Fair, Tucson, Ariz, March 23-27; Rodeo of Rodeos and Parade, Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Phoenix, Ariz., March 24-27, (Parade, March 26); 14th Annual Yuma, Ariz. County Fair, March 30-April 3; Southwest Indian Pow Wow, write Yuma, Arizona Chamber of Commerce for dates.

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Desert Magazine, Palm Desert, Calif. 92260 Telephone 346-8144

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### FORTS OF THE WEST

By Robert Frazer

The number and variety of forts and posts, together with changes of location and name, have posed perplexing problems for students of Western history. Here the author presents a systematic listing of presidios and military forts west of the Mississippi up to 1898. Included with information for each fort is its date of establishment, location, reason for it, name of person establishing the post, origin of the post name and changes in regard to it; also its present status or date of abandonment. There is a map for each state locating these posts. Hardcover, 246 pages, \$5.95.

### THE WARRIOR APACHES

By Gordon C. Baldwin

Illustrated with a wealth of historical photos of famous Apache Indians and drawings identifying berries, seeds and plants they ate and various implements they used, this book gives an excellent rundown on these often misunderstood people. At least the author believes

them misunderstood and claims many depredations credited to Apaches were actually the work of other tribes. No doubt the book will be controversial, but it is well researched and interesting. Hard clothbound cover, 144 pages. \$3.50.

### THE CHANGING MILE

By Hastings and Turner

Vividly illustrated in matching photographs are the changes brought about on the desert during the past 85 years. Having acquired 97 photos of the Southwest taken in the 1880s, the authors proceeded to rephotograph the same terrain from exactly the same vantage points and, in the book, the photos are displayed side by side. You will be astonished at differences—not only in flora, but in some cases thriving mining communities are now barren waste. The reverse is usually true of native growth. In one plate, especially, the decrease in saguaro population is evident. A recent study indicates that if the present trend continues, this cactus will disappear by 1898!

Text is highly readable, with common names of plants used in preference to scientific names. Chapters discuss the desert habitat, the influence of Indians, Spaniards, Mexicans and Anglo-Americans. Patterns of change are illustrated in oak woodlands, desert grasslands and the arid desert. This fascinating, large format book, the photos are displayed side by side than 200 illustrations. \$12.50.

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## WALKER'S R.R. ROUTES - 1853

By Pat Adler and Walt Wheelock

A fur trader, trapper, trader and guide for John C. Fremont, Captain Joseph Walker was one of the heroes of Western exploration. He has been the subject of much writing, but here is revealed a little known document to a Senate Committee of 1853 in which Captain Walker told the lawmakers how a railroad could be built across the Great Sierra Nevada. It is amusing that he routed all routes through his home town of Gilroy and all but one through Walker Pass (named in his honor). Nevertheless, here is a detailed account of his own explorations as they have never been told before. His statement was read into the record and it is from that record this book was obtained. It vividly portrays cities, like Salt Lake City, holding conventions and making a pitch to see that the railroad was brought through "their town." After a long history of wanting to be left alone, the City of Saints did an about-face and fought hard for the railroad. However, the closest a mainline came to it was about 50 miles away, through Ogden, until years later when a line was instituted through Salt Lake City to Los Angeles.

This isn't an especially appealing book to read for entertainment, but history buffs will like it, as well as the old maps illustrating the text. Hardcover, 64 pages, \$4.50.

## WESTERN TRAINS

By Richard Steinheimer and Donald Sims

A quality railroad picture book, this is designed for people having an interest in the modern history of railroading and for readers interested in the railroading aspects of Western Americana. Every mainline west of Denver and El Paso is represented in the 85 excellent illustrations, along with an account of the 20-year motive power evolution that followed the end of World War II. Names like the Challenger, Pony Express and Exposition Flyer will take readers back to days of smoke-filled club cars, swishing steam and cold, crisp stops at the Ogden, Utah station. This is the best book of its kind for railroad buffs and brand new on the market. Hardcover, 72 pages, \$5.95.

## CORTES AND THE AZTEC CONQUEST

By the editors of Horizon

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Editor of DESERT Magazine

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## On the Trail of Pegleg Smith's LOST GOLD

by J. Wilson McKenney

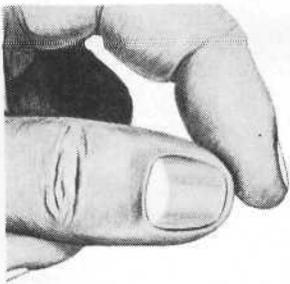
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*It was in the rocky foothills below that bandits may have hidden the gold stolen from an army detachment in the story.*

# INCIDENT AT INDIAN WELLS

## BY FRED FORD

SOMEWHERE, WITHIN a radius of 12 miles of the ancient Indian wells at Indian Wells, it is possible that more than \$9,000 in gold coin is hidden. The wells, once maintained by the state, are now filled in with dirt. A stone marker on Highway 111, between Palm Springs and Indio, points to where the historic wells used to be, now some 300 yards east of the highway. It was near this spot, in 1906, that a detachment of cavalry, guarding the payroll for the men at Fort Yuma, was held up and the payroll stolen. The money was never recovered, although four of the five bandits were later rounded up and shot. The fifth man, an extraordinary character known as Endless Ed, was believed to be the leader of the gang. He was not heard from after the holdup and may have escaped.

The whole story is shrouded in more than a little mystery, but two features of the case have interested the few who have followed the meager clues available. An ancient news report dated March 30, 1906 reads:

### ARMY DETACHMENT ROBBED OF YUMA PAYROLL ON DESERT

*A detachment of cavalry guarding the payroll for Fort Yuma in Arizona Territory was captured by bandits last week, according to reliable information. More than \$9,000 in gold coin is reported to have been taken by four or five men headed by the notorious bandit Endless Ed. The incident took place at Indian Wells, near Indio, California.*

Somewhere in the foothills of the Little Santa Rosa range of mountains, within easy riding distance of the old wells, a sizeable fortune may be hidden. More than this, the bandit Endless Ed was reputed to be the owner of a specially made rifle, one of five made by a famous small arms manufacturer. Lovers of antique firearms state that this gun, if found, will be far more valuable than the lost gold.

Endless Ed was not only notorious for his bravado, he was a crack shot and, more extraordinary, he wore a monacle. Reputed to be an English remittance man, the bandit, whose real name was Edington Endless, roamed the border country and was well-known to pioneers of the area.

Now the idea of a pioneer American

bandit with a monacle, while ludicrous in essence, is quite possible in fact. Many leading families of Coachella Valley are descended from sound English stock. It was quite the thing in Victorian England to banish an errant son, especially if he was a second son, to the colonies. "Get rid of the blighter," the choleric head of the household would say, "Send him to America—or Australia, or Canada—get rid of him." And each month a check would be forthcoming to see that the errant son did not return or starve.

The idea of a monacle also made sense. If a man had one weak eye, only that one was treated with an eyeglass. The knack of holding the glass in the eye took some dexterity but, by jove, the British did it and for many years the wearing of monacles throughout Europe assumed a Beau Brummel flavor—it was the fashionable thing to do. Thus it was that Endless Ed, crack shot and ardent gun lover, wore a single eyepiece and probably delighted in the fact.

The wells at Indian Wells were on the banks of the subterranean Whitewater Creek on the floor of the Coachella Valley. They were dug out in the familiar spiral form of most Indian wells of the period, constructed so that a pack animal could descend. Whitewater still runs in the same channel, although only in times of a very swift runoff from the hills does

water show on the surface. Today the water table is some 300 feet below the surface. While the wells are no longer used, water from the Whitewater is pumped to irrigate many of the famous golf courses which now lie to the west of the site of the holdup.

A few miles south, Highway 111 now cuts through a rocky escarpment and a few hundred yards farther south is the turnoff for La Quinta. In earlier years the highway, then trail, rounded the end of this rocky escarpment and it is believed that it was at this spot the holdup took place. To the east, the broad expanse of desert would make escape possible, but improbable. A more likely avenue of escape would be the rocky abutments to the west. There, in a maze of rocky defiles, a man could quickly hide. And, with a knowledge of the terrain, he could gradually work himself to an oasis.

It is possible that Endless Ed made good his escape with the loot. Chances are, however, he did not. Remember, he was neither seen nor heard of after the incident and he was a man hard to miss. There seems a reasonable possibility that somewhere, within a 12-mile radius of Indian Wells, \$9,000 in gold coin is hidden and, among the scattered bones of a bandit, possibly an ancient and antique rifle too. □



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# The Value of an Ancient Trail

By Louis Jones

**A**N OLD Indian saying runs this way: "One set of hoofs or pair of feet never made a trail." Rather, it is the constant tread of hoofs or feet which make trails.

As we walk southward on Main Street, Los Angeles, an Indian trail lies buried beneath our feet. Now, however, it is covered by tons of earth and concrete. Long before this city was known to Europeans, it was there. And where Main Street intersects Olympic Boulevard, another trail crosses it from the east. This trail led toward Hollywood Hills, now a world renowned spot.

So it is wherever we go in America; old Indian trails may be found anywhere, everywhere.

A trail might be a mere pathway, made by men or animals. These might lead through the deserts, across prairies, or over mountains. Some of these nameless paths date from mastodon and dinosaur times, thousands of years ago.

On the heels of Columbus, Spanish

adventurers found human trails leading in every direction. By Hernando Cortez and his men the land of the Mayas (Old Mexico) first was overrun. Then followed Francisco Pizarro's invasion of Peru—the mountain country of the Inca peoples.

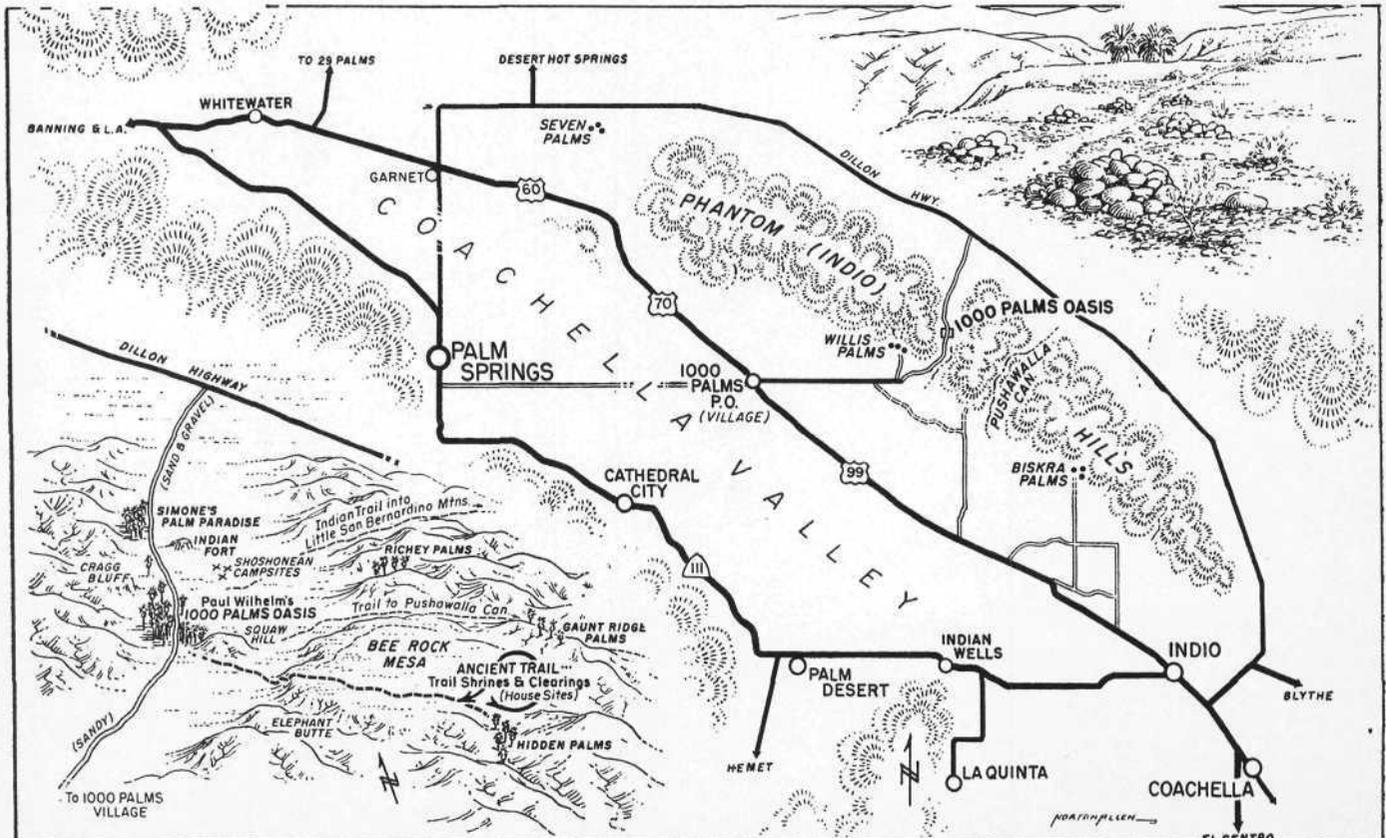
Describing the main route to the Inca capital, an eye witness wrote thus: "One of these roads passes over the grand plateau, and the other along the lowlands of the ocean." The first of these climbed the "pathless sierras (mountains), buried in snow." In building this trail galleries had to be cut for miles through solid rock. Over yawning gorges, bridges were swung in mid-air, suspended by crude cables made from spun tree bark. It was this kind of primitive engineering which captured the admiration of these invading Spaniards.

North of Old Mexico and Peru, every grade of aboriginal development expressed itself. Some clearly were hunting trails, others war trails, still others were used as local passage ways between vil-

lage and village, or between shrine and shrine. But most of them were trade trails, worn down by the shod or unshod feet of those who carried many articles of trade and merchandise of that far off time.

Early Indian trails usually followed high ground for good reason. Sloping ground kept pathways dry and elevation extended the range of vision over the route to be followed. Moreover, these trails were little more than foot-paths, in keeping with the Indian's practice of traveling single file.

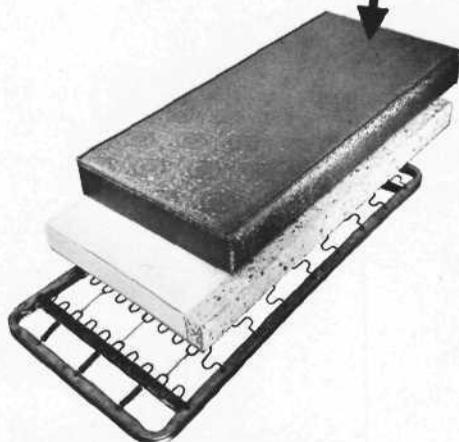
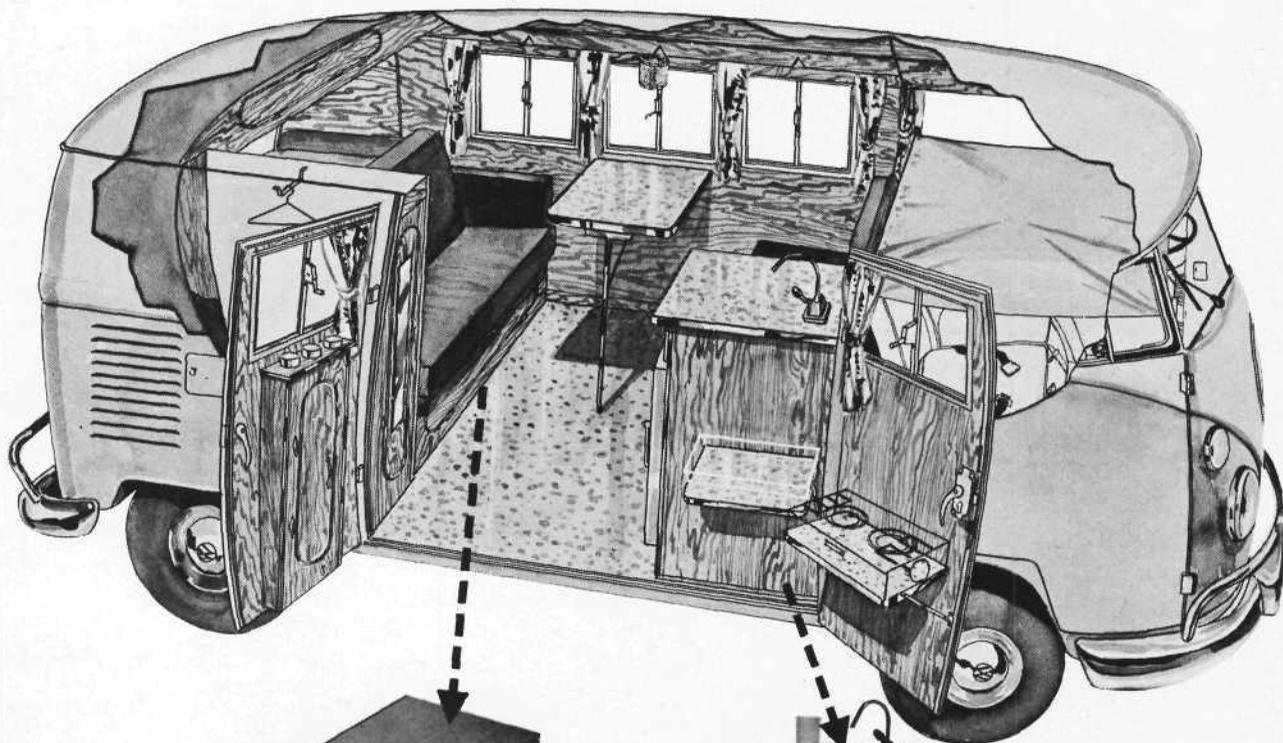
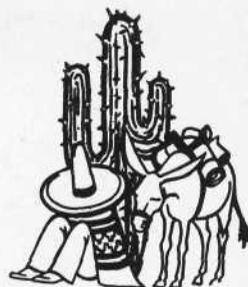
In the breaking of a new trail, these first Americans often bent the tips of small trees or plants along the way, indicating the direction taken. When trails crossed or spurred off from one another, large stones were placed at junctions with smaller ones indicating the direction to be taken. The number of days travel to the nearest water-hole or the next Indian village might be indicated by the number of sticks forced into



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At the base of what is called Squaw Hill is a curious circle of small stones, fist size, about a yard in diameter. At its center is a block of granite not more than a foot in height. What could have been the purpose of this monument or fetish in terms of aboriginal life? Here it lay, amidst its Phantom Hills, like a gaunt skeleton of by-gone days. Was it a resting place, a shrine where comely Indian maidens as water carriers gathered to exchange the tribal gossip of the hour? Who can say?

Nearby stands Bee Rock Mesa, a crest-elevation which overlooks Coachella Valley, a barrier to all who tried to penetrate those sacred parts. Here hard beaten footpaths spread in every direction. But one main passage dominates. Beside it are strewn, at more or less regular distances and a few feet apart, clusters of stones thrown together, some hip high. By actual count, these number 57 heaps. Hence the name, the *Trail of the 57 Shrines*.

As European whites early explored and exploited the American wilds, almost invariably this was by way of old Indian travel routes. This was true of the French and the English in the colonial East as it was of the Spanish in the South and West.

When gold in quantity was discovered in California, the image of our Far West quickly changed. Like an avalanche, a flood of population from all parts of the world moved in to take possession of this fabulous realm. The old Spanish customs, together with the more ancient Indian traditions and knowledge of the prehistoric Indian trails, faded from current memory. A new day had dawned for our West.

On March 31, 1853, the Congress of the United States enacted legislation to meet the need. Surveys for railways to the West was the cry of the hour. The East and West could thus be joined. To put these surveys through, was entrusted to the Federal War Department. And this was promptly done. Within a year one of these surveys was under way through Coachella Valley, near the Trail of the 57 Shrines.

Not far from the foot of Mt. San Geronio, the highest peak in Southern California, the government's crew of surveyors had this experience.

A group of Indians was seen moving over this—one of the ancient trails of their forefathers. A stalwart young man led the party, bow and arrow in hand, as of the long ago. "At the end of the line," said the crew reporter, "an old In-

the ground, each stick representing a day's foot travel.

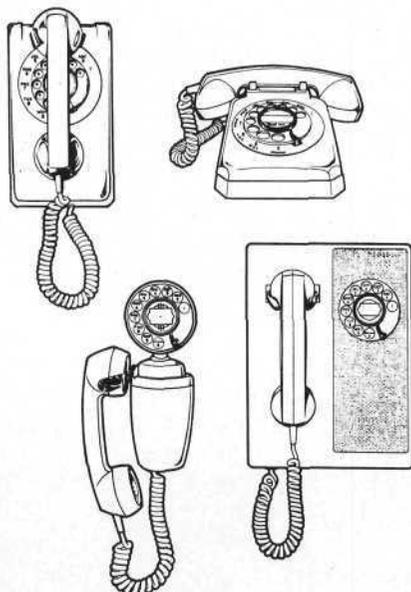
The articles carried on the backs of these early Indian traders were almost endless. Among these were salt, marine shells, pigments, paints, pine nuts and tobacco. Added to these were obsidian suited to the making of arrow heads, elemental clays and pottery, and grasses and fibres for basketry.

Early Spanish explorers were the first to reduce these aboriginal routes to map status. For Southern California, the Mojave Trail is best known. It had its inception near the present Mojave village of Needles, the Santa Fe Railway station on the west bank of the Colorado River. There, today, descendants of this once powerful Indian tribe still market their crude wares.

From Needles the Mojave Trail first pointed toward present Barstow, then to the Cajon Pass from which its trade rela-

tions included the Gabrielino and the Fernando people in their valleys. To the north, one of its branches extended into the rich Antelope Valley, once the home of numerous tribal groups. From this point its traders moved northward into present Castaic Valley, then through the Tehachapi Mountains and beyond. The apparent extent of this primeval trade and commerce, according to recent archeological findings, is almost beyond belief.

One of the most romantic Indian trails of our great Southwest is that known as "The Trail of the 57 Shrines." This set of trails through desert canyons appears to have been the work of thousands of aboriginal feet. Their cluster now are to be found only about 15 miles east of Palm Springs. In total, this trail is only about three miles long—no great distance to travel. It takes its start at the spring waters of Thousand Palms Oasis and ends at Hidden Palms Oasis deep within its own canyon walls.



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On Bee Rock Mesa, this ancient Indian Trail of the 57 Shrines may still be seen today.



dian squaw followed, bearing the burdens."

On seeing the whites, the Indians stopped. In keeping with primitive hospitality, the woman let her load down, unrolled one of the larger packs which was wrapped in a dusty cloth and spread its contents before the whites. With a gesture of welcome, they were invited to eat.

Close by, carefully screened from view, was an Indian village of 200 or more natives. From it came forth numerous Indians with melons, squash, corn, native barley and various other articles—evidently for trade. For such as these engineers could stomach, they exchanged portions of their own pork and beans. But the jackrabbit meat, dried desert tortoise, and grasshopper delicacies—luscious though these might be to Indian tongues, furnished no lure for

the whites. This scene took place in California as late as 1856, little more than a century ago.

What do these old Indian trails have to do with our present day living? Wherever we cast eye, routes taken by early white traders, trappers, explorers, and American empire builders followed Indian trails. And more, the paths later taken by our roadways, railways, and even airways followed these same routes. Today's continental United States has no less than 3,000,000 miles of roadways and 200,000 miles of railway trackage. As for automobiles, we Americans drive no less than 70,000,000 of them—all colors, makes and models.

So who would want to go back to aboriginal trail days? This is the story of human progress. It is also the astonishing story of an unexpected legacy contributed by America's prehistoric man. □



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# Coachella Valley's Ghost Town

By Phyllis Wight



*Berdoo Camp in 1936*

**I**F YOU'RE the kind of person who always has to find out what's at the end of "that little road," you belong to an ever-growing breed of weekend explorer who spends all free time on the desert. Some prospect, some look for purple bottles, others just look, but one thing they have in common. They want to know why the unexpected things they inevitably find, are there.

Just such a place lies less than a dozen miles from Indio. This isn't a hidden spot—it's not possible to hide vast cement foundations with stairways leading nowhere still intact. Rather, it's well on the way to becoming an historic spot, with a history reaching back some 30 years.

For those of you who haven't visited this ghost town, take Highway 60 out of Indio a mile and a half to Dillon Road, follow Dillon seven miles and turn right at the San Bernardino Canyon sign. Watch for a left turn a little more than three miles up the Canyon. After you turn, the road forks and you will notice a chain across the right fork which leads to what is left of the old change house and warehouse, but the road you will follow turns sharply to the left, under the spot where the railroad trestle used to be. This winds around and up a short hill, and, oddly enough, this road is paved. There are

two small washouts here, but with reasonable care a passenger car can detour around the bad spots. When you have reached the top and parked your vehicle, you've arrived within easy walking distance of "Berdoo Camp."

Built when the Metropolitan Water District was constructing the aqueduct to carry water from the Colorado River to Los Angeles, substantial buildings with all possible conveniences were constructed to accommodate the men who worked the desert project.

Eight other camps were established in Coachella Valley to facilitate the project—Fargo Canyon, Yellow Canyon, Pushawalla among them—but Berdoo Camp was the largest and most costly. The sum of \$148,000 was spent to complete it. Considering the low cost of construction in the early '30s, that was a large sum of money. There were more than 40 buildings plus necessary improvements—even fire plugs on the hilltop!

Roads had to be provided prior to work on the aqueduct itself. The building of the first section of road, 35 miles along the north side of Coachella Valley, between Garnet and Indio, was completed in 1933. Each road built by the District was planned to connect with state highways, with paved branch roads to the division camps and the aqueduct intakes. Then stub roads were brought to the individual contractor's camps to complete

the District road system. The original roads were first prospector's trails, then "scratch" roads built by the District. Prior to that, the only State highway able to serve any of the camps east of White-water was old Highway 99 and its branch from Coachella to Blythe, called the Sunkist Trail. In addition to roads, the District installed power lines, telephone lines, and water lines with wells and pumping equipment before construction could start.

It is evident that the roads in various stages of construction were not too smooth. An editorial in the old *Coachella Valley Submarine* described a trip to visit the Berdoo Camp, commenting that the men would be glad to stay in camp once they got there! Meanwhile, Coachella and Indio merchants outdid themselves trying to get business from the camps. This same editor also stated that "Coachella built a road into town from the aqueduct while Indio argued as to how to spend its money."

The buildings in Berdoo Camp were of various types. The layout plan shows different-sized dormitories—one to house 40 men, one for 28, several for 20, a couple for eight and a number housing only four. Again quoting the Report,

the District charged a little more for the privilege of listening to fewer snores, as the larger dormitories charged 20c per day for lodging, and the cottages charged 25c and 35c!

A 9-room guest house was maintained at the camp for use of visiting members of the District organization and guests, with \$1 per person per night the rental fee. A large mess hall served meals to the men with hours according to the shifts being worked. Nine meals a day were not unusual. These meals cost each man \$1.15 per day. Each camp also operated a commissary where toilet articles, tobacco and cigarettes and so forth could be purchased at small cost.

The Division Headquarters Office was in a large building near the northern boundary of the camp, at the edge of the ravine. The superintendent's residence was above and to the right of the office, and there were other buildings used as an auto repair shop, car shed, tool shed, machine shop and general utility buildings.

One of the largest buildings, at the upper end of the camp near the "U" turn, was a 27-bed hospital. While other camps had emergency first-aid stations, the hospital was located at Berdoo Camp where accident (and other) cases were

brought by ambulance. T. Sheridan Carey, M.D., of Los Angeles, was surgeon-medical officer for this class A industrial hospital, with one assistant surgeon and 14 registered male nurses as staff. The air-conditioned hospital was equipped with a modern operating room, X-ray plant, diet kitchen, general offices and other modern facilities. Each employee was charged 5c per working day for medical service. It was decided, as the Coachella tunnels neared completion, to expand the medical facilities at Banning. Accordingly, the Berdoo hospital was closed in October '36 and all equipment moved there.

The camp buildings were of frame, sheeted with plaster wallboard outside and insulating wallboard on the interior. Each building was sprayed with light brown lacquer, wired for electricity and equipped with modern plumbing. They were heated by gas radiators supplied with gas piped from a liquid butane plant; the dormitories were cooled in summer by air forced through insulated ducts from a centrally located plant where coils were cooled by water circulated from a cooling tower.

Although the roads were rough and summer weather hot, the men didn't



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U. S. PATENT NO. 2879103

CANADIAN PATENT NO. 637-543



*Foreground foundation was four-man dormitory.*



*Above: Slab at left is believed to have been the hospital site. Below: Shift lunch inside Berdoo Adit taken in 1933. Old-timers may recognize themselves. Some families came and stayed.*



suffer for want of entertainment. One event was Indio's two-day Miner's Day Celebration. Work on the tunnels was suspended so the men might attend. Along with boxing, sack races and so on, a contest was held to determine the best rock-drilling team (driller and chuck-tender) from the various camps. A prize of \$1,000 was donated by Indio business men. This contest involved two blocks, one weighing 41 tons and the other 37, with the idea being to drill a hole completely through each of the solid concrete blocks in the shortest time possible. The winning team came from the Wide Canyon Camp, with Berdoo coming in second. The winning time was 5 minutes, 42 seconds.

All entertainment wasn't so innocent though. In May of 1934, Chief Sanford of Indio inaugurated a general clean-up of card rooms and saloons, where frequent brawls proved upsetting to the community. Some of the "hardrock" men objected to this and made strong comments through the newspapers about the enforced "loss of recreation."

The placing of concrete in the Coachella tunnels was finished on May 8, 1937, with the completion of the lining of the east heading at Berdoo Camp. At that time, passages were closed off in the Yellow and Pushawalla tunnels with heavy concrete plugs. At Fargo and Berdoo, doors were set in the tunnel lining and the passages (adits) were to be maintained as entries to the tunnel for inspection. In December of that year, the Coachella Headquarters Office was closed.

(Three of the tunnels have been inspected and re-opened to be used as air raid shelters through an agreement between the Civil Defense office in Indio and the Metropolitan Water District.)

While you consider the busy camp's short history you can't help but speculate upon what could be done with the slabs of concrete still intact? On a large one at the "topside" of the camp, wouldn't it be fun to build your own Berdoo Camp, enjoy the breeze in the evening, and watch the lights come on over the valley?

A parody of a Julia Carney poem goes:  
 "Little drops of water  
 On little grains of sand,  
 Make a lot of difference  
 In the price of land."

Some day, no doubt, old Berdoo will be awakened from her long rest by an ambitious dreamer who will discover her magnificent view when he innocently follows a rainbow to "the end of that little road." □

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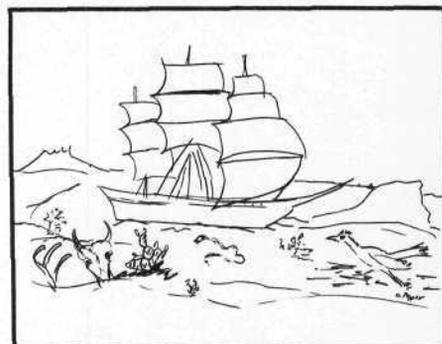
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**By Den Galbraith**

**A**LL LEGENDS have some basis. With proper aging, they may even be considered historical fact. Sometimes, if a person can get to the origin of a tradition, he can puzzle out how and why it started. Having known prospectors and oldtimers who invented stories on the spot, I have been inclined to disbelieve many traditions of the Southwest. Undoubtedly, many traditions have originated around a campfire with a jug of Taos Lightning.

For years I have heard or read about lost ships on the desert, derelicts riding the crests of sand dunes, phantom crews at the helm. In most cases it is easy to puncture holes in these tales and shoot them out of the sky. Yet it seems a shame to destroy a good legend with cold, hard, cruel facts.

So my approach to the legend of the lost ship has been to try and prove it existed, rather than pooh-pooh the tale as a phony. On January 17, 1871, the *Engineering and Mining Journal* reprinted a story from the *Los Angeles News* in reference to this ship, or at least one ship. This article said in part:



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# LOST SHIPS OF THE DESERT



*Photo by Bill Boyd*

... A short time since, one of these saline lakes disappeared, and a party of Indians reported the discovery of a 'big ship,' left by the receding waters. A party of Americans at once proceeded to the spot, and found imbedded in the sands the wreck of a large vessel. Nearly one-third of the forward part of the ship, or bark, is plainly visible. The stump of the bowsprit remains, and portions of the timbers of teak are perfect. The wreck is located forty miles north of the San Bernardino and Fort Yuma road, and thirty miles west of Dos Palmas (probably should read Dos Palmas), a well-known watering place in the desert. . ."

The hulk of this mysterious vessel rested at a prominent point where it could be viewed by travelers "on the high mesa between Dos Palmas and Bitter Springs." Unfortunately no details were given concerning the name of the boat, its type, size or make, or its exact location. While we must wonder how big a "big boat" might be, we can assume that it would certainly be larger than any small craft, such as a canoe or rowboat. Dos Palmas and Bitter Springs cannot be pinpointed precisely. Six miles east of Salton, a point on the Southern Pacific Transcon-

tinental Line, Dos Palmas was a well-known watering point for early travelers. Old maps locate another Dos Palmas 14 miles southwest of Indio, but the only Bitter Springs mentioned is in San Bernardino County, several miles north of Afton, and apparently too far north.

Now that we can verify that a boat existed on the desert, we can consider how it got there and why. It is only natural to assume that it once sailed the ancient Lake Cahuilla, which once filled the Coachella and Imperial valleys. The name for this ancient body of water was proposed by Prof. William P. Blake, after his visit in 1853 when he described the past and then-present conditions of that region.

Blake learned that the Indians of the Coachella Valley had a distinct legend concerning a great body of water. This lake teemed with fish which formed a substantial portion of the Cahuilla Indians diet. Asked when this lake existed, the Indians put the event "as far back as the lives of four or five very old men," say four or five centuries prior to 1853. While the time element of the Indian's tradition might be questioned, we can find no fault with the legend itself. That

ancient shoreline has been preserved in many places, rimming the desert from Indio to Cerro Prieto. At numerous spots, ancient beaches and wave-cut cliffs remain as clear-cut evidence.

Cahuilla was a fresh-water lake, although at times its waters may have been brackish. Myriads of shells can be found on the fossil beaches and over the floor of the desert, once overlain by the lake. These shells are fresh-or brackish-water mollusks, which are definitely associated. These shells are fresh or brackish-water identical with those living in permanent streams in the desert region.

Blake and subsequent geologists have agreed that the water for the ancient lake came from the Colorado River. Walter Mendenhall described the events in U. S. Geological Survey Water Supply Paper 225. In times past, the mouth of the Colorado was at Yuma, about 60 miles north of its present site. Tremendous quantities of material carried by the stream built up a wide-spread delta and, during flood periods, the Colorado would occasionally "jump" its regular channel, wandering here and there in a haphazard, braided pattern. At certain times the stream channel would be built up until



*Flooded homestead near Five Headings, Imperial Valley, in summer of 1905.*

it was actually higher than the land adjacent to it. In this manner the delta gradually grew to a positive area. During years of heavy floods, Big Red would alternately dump its waters into the Gulf of California and the Salton Sink. Filling of the sink and evaporation probably went through numerous cycles, for numerous shorelines can be observed.

But water running into the Salton Sink isn't entirely ancient history. Several bad floods between 1904 and 1907 defied control and on occasions the Colorado dumped its entire load into the Salton Sink via two old channels, the Alamo and New rivers. The Southern Pacific Co. expended nearly \$3,000,000 in bringing the river under control. During this episode, the lake in the Salton depression grew rapidly and the S.P. had to build a succession of "shoo-fly" tracks, each higher than the last, in order to stay above the encroaching waters and prevent the interruption of traffic on its main line.

A river raging unchecked is a fearsome monster. The Colorado rampaged often, carving great channels in the land. It

undercut great cliffs, dropping infinite tons of rock in its path. In its fury it carried house-sized boulders toward the sea and giant trees bobbing like corks on its surface.

We can easily picture Big Red jerking



*Above: New River cutting its banks near Imperial in 1905. Below: Old Waterline of Salton Sea near Figtree Johns.*



some boat free of its moorings, washing it downstream. If the fickle river suddenly changed its course and flowed into the Salton Sink, it would finally deposit the craft, partially filled with mud and debris, along some ancient beach. Here the boat might remain submerged for centuries, or until evaporation finally exposed it to view. Dozens of steamboats and ferry boats operated along the Colorado.

By stretching one's imagination, it is conceivable that an unknown ship, in the past, sailed up the Colorado and into the Gila. Possibly waiting out a flood period on the Colorado, the boat then starts down the Colorado only to find it entirely diverted into the Salton Sink. Before the boat could retreat toward the Gila, Big Red may have again changed its course, running into the gulf, leaving the boat landlocked. You may not believe that, yet you'll have to admit that a boat got out into the desert of California somehow.

All attempts to track down the legendary lost ship have failed, except that a second ship turned up, and it is a greater mystery than the first. This story appeared in the *Golden Globe* of August 18, 1894, sandwiched in between articles on cranberry crops, female suffrage, a man falling off his horse, the horrors of women wearing slacks, and the formation of a weed-extermination society to stamp out the Russian thistle. The story is related by E. C. Traver, supposedly a well-known prospector and civil engineer.

"One of the queerest and most surprising sights I ever saw in all my wanderings over the wilds of this country," Traver said, "was a newly constructed brig lying on the floor of Death Valley. And it is there yet, so that anybody can see it."

Traver had been prospecting on the eastern side of the "Ground-on-Fire" Valley for several weeks without success. He decided to move to the vicinity of

Mount Darwin, crossing the valley at the upper end, at a point about 200 feet below sea level. Suddenly he came upon a boat. He didn't quite believe what he saw. A boat? Out there in the middle of the desert? Great balls of mud, he thought, surely I've been sunstruck. He couldn't believe it, yet there it sat, high and dry, all ready for a shakedown cruise.

Somewhat of a sailor himself, Traver knew something of boats, or so he said. This boat was constructed along modern lines, and the timbers looked fresh. Travers estimated it to be a brig of about 400 tons. He climbed aboard and found everything shipshape.

With night coming on, the prospector decided to make camp near the boat. As he prepared his meal, a man came up and hello-ed him, introducing himself as Frederick Evans. Traver invited him to eat. He described Evans as "good looking with gray hair and beard." The fellow seemed sane enough. Evans lived in a cave nearby. Naturally they talked about the ship, which, as anyone can understand, would make a dandy conversation piece, situated, as it was, out there in the middle of the desert.

Evans, he said, was a shipbuilder by trade, and a California '49er. He had given up his trade to prospect, lured on by the fabulous tales of yellow metal. Some years before, possibly in the '80s, he was prospecting in the mountains of the desert, when the Salton Sea began to rise, undoubtedly one of the times when the Colorado changed its course. Fred had heard the stories about the large inland lake, and he decided the waters would eventually reach Death Valley. Since he had resources, he hired two men to help in building the boat. When the waters in the Salton Sea began to recede again, he worked alone. Year after year, he stayed in the vicinity, prospecting, waiting for the the water to reach him.

When Traver left, Evans said, "When the water rises I will be ready for it."

It would seem that either Evans was ready for the booby hatch, or that Traver, in his stint on the desert, spent a heat-struck afternoon out there and the shimmering heat waves got to him.

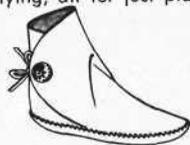
In trying to solve the mystery of the lost ship of the desert, I find that every year or so, like flat worms, new lost ship legends spring from old and always new testimony is turning up. Probably if anyone did find it, they'd keep both the news and the loot to themselves, but if ever one is found, there will still be the others to stimulate the never-ending search. □

## MOCCASINS

## COWBOY BOOTS

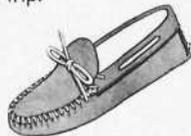
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By Jack Delaney

“WILT THOU, John Doe, have this woman to be thy wife, and wilt thou allow her to indulge in *balneology* at the resort of her choice at least once a year?” Though the wording of this question may be somewhat inaccurate, the unique provision it contains was a part of the wedding ceremony that was frequently used in Germany during the 19th century. It is reasonable to assume that any activity that was considered to be so vital to the success of a marriage must have been concerned with the improvement of health, disposition, or physical appearance.

Actually, balneology is concerned with all three of these conditions. Webster tells us that it means “the science of the therapeutic use of baths.” It refers specifically to the enjoyment of mineral springs, etc.; usually a feature of establishments and resorts commonly known as *spas*. There are more than 2000 spas in Europe (240 in Germany alone), and about 150 in the United States at the present time. Several of these are in the Coachella Valley of Southern California, or within a short driving distance of this desert area.

Some of the “watering places” that are well known to residents of the region, and to many visitors, are the Palm Springs Spa, the Desert Hot Springs Spa, Gilman

Hot Springs and Massacre Canyon Inn, Soboba Mineral Hot Springs, Agua Caliente Springs Park, and the Hot Mineral Spa (near Niland, Salton Sea area), which is closed to the public temporarily. There are others, especially in the town of Desert Hot Springs; but this sample list includes only a few of the most popular ones.

Public baths, established around natural springs, have been popular throughout history. The ancient Greeks were firm believers in the therapeutic value of mineral waters. When the first Olympic winner (Coroebus) limped in and waved to the crowd, in 776 B.C., it is likely that he continued running until he reached his favorite bathing place in order to ease his



aching muscles. The physical beauty and character building aspects of the Greeks' athletic and balneologic activities are reflected in ancient art and literature.

The Romans, unlike the Greeks, were spectators by nature. Public games, athletic contests, and spectacles were a vital part of their lives; but the average Roman preferred to sit in the stands of the Circus Maximus, or the Colosseum, and sip from a flask of "Old Romulus," while watching someone else face the lions. However, they were enthusiastic participants at the baths. In this healthful pursuit they had a do-it-yourself attitude. In fact, the conquering Roman legionnaires were responsible for the discovery of many of the mineral springs around which were developed some of the famous spas of Europe.

The most outstanding of these is Baden-Baden, in the Black Forest of Germany. One of the springs there has gushed almost a million gallons a day of 123 degree water ever since the Romans discovered it, about the year 30 A.D. Baden-Baden is a casino and spa resort on an immense scale. It offers every conceivable device and appointment at its famous thermal baths. It was popularized, about 100 A.D., by Kaiser Antoninus Caracalla and has been frequented by European nobility through the years. A Russian temple and a Buddhist temple are still in existence there.

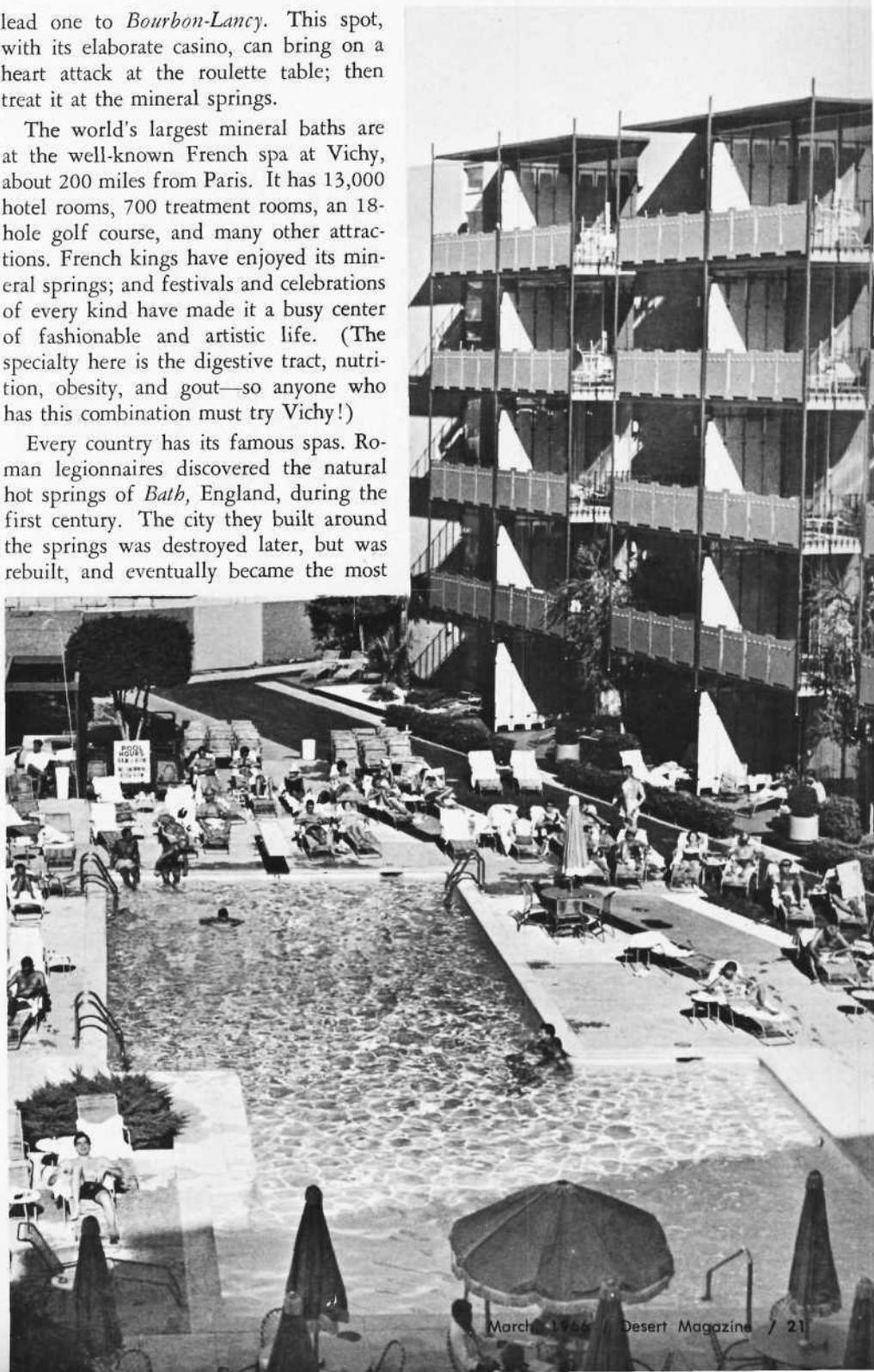
Mineral spring spas in Europe are classified according to the ailments they are supposed to cure. A brochure on French spas, published by the Minister of Public Travel and Commissioner General of Tourism in France (available at travel bureaus) lists about 75 of the most popular resorts in that country. The list reminds one of the index pages of a medical book! For bones, joints, and a dermatosis visit *Digne*; skin or throat ailments, rheumatism, and tuberculosis call for a trip to *Biskra*; and heart trouble, rheumatism, and gynaecology will most certainly

lead one to *Bourbon-Lancy*. This spot, with its elaborate casino, can bring on a heart attack at the roulette table; then treat it at the mineral springs.

The world's largest mineral baths are at the well-known French spa at Vichy, about 200 miles from Paris. It has 13,000 hotel rooms, 700 treatment rooms, an 18-hole golf course, and many other attractions. French kings have enjoyed its mineral springs; and festivals and celebrations of every kind have made it a busy center of fashionable and artistic life. (The specialty here is the digestive tract, nutrition, obesity, and gout—so anyone who has this combination must try Vichy!)

Every country has its famous spas. Roman legionnaires discovered the natural hot springs of *Bath*, England, during the first century. The city they built around the springs was destroyed later, but was rebuilt, and eventually became the most

*Palm Springs Spa is one of the most luxurious in the world.*



popular health spa in England. Austria is proud of its "Springs of Eternal Youth" at *Bad Gastein*, known as a thermal-bathing-cure resort. The buildings are arranged in amphitheater style, with a mighty waterfall thundering down the center of the village. And *Merano*, in Italy, with its radio-active springs, casino and horse-racing has much beauty and charm.

Returning to California's Coachella Valley we find several modern, efficient spas. The mineral waters are as high in quality as any in the world, and the facilities are excellent at all of them; with one exception—the Hot Mineral Spa near Niland. The principal difference between our spas and the famous European ones is that we have no gambling casinos. Here, there is no danger of a visitor being "cleaned" at a gaming table before he has a chance to try the mineral baths. In Europe, many of the springs were discovered by the roaming Romans—in the Coachella Valley, they were first found and used by the wandering Indians.

The multi-million dollar *Palm Springs Spa Hotel and Mineral Springs* is unmatched in North America. It is truly a fabulous institution, both in its luxurious appearance and in the facilities it has to offer. The buildings, all on a

grand scale, embrace a free form of modern architecture based on the baths of ancient Rome. They might be called "Palm Springs Modern," or even "Futuristic Indian." They are located on eight acres of land in the center of the city, leased from the Agua Caliente Indian tribe—the first 99-year lease of Indian land ever approved by the United States Congress.

This is the site of the springs from which the city of Palm Springs and the Agua Caliente Indians derived their names. Mankind has enjoyed the natural hot mineral water from these springs for centuries. The Palm Springs Spa offers it in three outdoor pools (Immersion, Swirl, and Exercise), plus indoor soaking tubs. An Olympic-size fresh water swimming pool, and every facility for exercise and health improvement are available in this plush spa. A formal health program, designed to reduce weight or achieve any desired objective is being featured. Those who cannot spare the time for the full program may participate on a limited basis.

Anne-Marie Bennstrom, internationally known health expert, conducts the exercise program. She was director, for seven years, of The Golden Door health and beauty resort at Escondido, California. To the men of the desert, she says, "At the Spa we are co-educational!" One of the luxury treatments available is called the "herbal wrap." Guests are wrapped in herb-soaked linens, covered with a plastic sheet, and then bundled in blankets. The setting is a scented, music-filled room. (The author wonders if the benefit in this is the feeling of elation the guest experiences when he realizes that he is not a mummy after all!)

The Desert Hot Springs Spa, about 11 miles north of Palm Springs, leans toward the Grecian in architecture. Here the attraction is sun with the benefits of mineral water bathing, rather than a scheduled health program. There are no accommodations for overnight guests. This town is fairly bubbling with mineral springs. It is reported that many of the homes there have natural hot water piped directly to their bathrooms.

For a rare treat, try Gilman Hot Springs and Massacre Canyon Inn, on Highway 79 about six miles south of Beaumont. The history of Gilman's goes back some 51 years, and the owners used good judgement in retaining some of the old, while keeping up with our fast changing times. On one side of the road is the charming old resort atmosphere, with its mineral baths from natural sulphur and soda hot springs, large

pool, "homey" dining room, bar, theater, social rooms, and "oldish," but attractive living quarters—the type of resort that brings memories of the good old days.

Across the road is a reminder that these are the good new days. Here, the ultra modern, luxurious Massacre Canyon Inn, with its swank dining room, lounge and coffee shop faces a beautiful 27-hole golf course. The explanation being offered for the name of the Inn is interesting. A peaceful Indian tribe lived at the site of the springs many years ago. They had an abundance of chia (the seeds of which were used for food), and no close neighbors. To make a long legend short, a tribe of "bad" Indians came along, caught them with their bows and arrows down, massacred them, and stole their supplies of chia. After this tragic event the surrounding canyon was named Massacre Canyon. (See DESERT Sept. '64.)

While on the subject of Indians a little pow-wow on Soboba Hot Mineral Spa might be in order. This is a picturesque resort about eight miles south of Beaumont, along Highway 79. Originally, the Soboba property was a portion of a grant of 32,000 acres given to Jose Antonio Estudillo in 1842 by the Mexican government. Senior Estudillo allotted to the Soboba Indians of the area the land on which their reservation is now located, adjoining the property of the present resort.

Today, Soboba Spa is a modern, restful resort that appears to be growing out of the mountainside. It is built on a series of terraces, providing a magnificent view from every structure. The atmosphere is one of comfort and simplicity with an accent on outdoor activity and mineral water bathing. Several natural springs can be seen bubbling out of the mountain, with a foot path leading to each. A well-equipped bath house and a large outdoor pool containing natural mineral water are popular attractions.

Accommodations include a modern dining room, a lounge, social rooms, and an 18 hole golf course. A feature of this resort is a group of guest cottages called the Indian Village. The exteriors of these quaint lodges, scattered around the mountainside, carry an Indian theme, but the interiors are attractive and comfortable. These colorful units are unique, and they harmonize perfectly with their surroundings.

Those who prefer to give the car a longer workout, and spend a day in the sunshine might consider a drive to Agua Caliente Springs Park. This is a San Diego County park, located in the Anza Borrego area. From Palm Desert, drive

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IN THE FOOTHILLS OF ROMANTIC  
SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS

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east on Highway 111, south on 86, west on 78, and south on 82 to the park. The total distance is about 130 miles each way. Agua Caliente features trailer and tent camping all year. As a county park, there is a small charge for use of the facilities, and it is supervised by a Park Ranger.

Accommodations include restrooms, tables and stoves, hot and cold water, a bathhouse with shallow tubs, an outdoor wading pool, playground with horseshoe and shuffleboard courts, and a grocery store near the park entrance. No intoxicating liquors are permitted (the county defines these as having more than 20% alcoholic content). This park differs considerably from the resorts mentioned above, but it does provide the opportunity to enjoy natural hot mineral water and sunshine at a minimum cost.

Now, a few words about the spa that was—and will be again in the near future. Reference is made to the Hot Mineral Spa, 20 miles north of Niland. From Highway 111, along the Salton Sea, turn east at Pope Siding and drive about three miles. These famous hot springs, on the Imperial County line, are noted for their therapeutic powers. The hot mineral water, nearly 170 degrees, bubbles from the ground into large cooling pools, built for bathing and soaking. Over the years, a squatters' trailer town developed around the spa, composed of thousands of senior citizens.

Officials of Imperial County closed the spa to the public last year and evicted the squatters because of a lack of sanitary facilities. Instead of building powder rooms for the multitudes, they leased the property to a development company that has ambitious plans for making it a popular spot for trailerites. It intends to construct trailer parking sites, a new pool, sanitary facilities, showers, a laundry, market, post office, sauna bath, recreation hall, and eventually a commercial shopping area. So, the spa that *was* may soon be the the spa that *is* again.

Recently, Mrs. D. and I decided to make the rounds of all of the "Fountains of Youth" in and around the Coachella Valley to see what each has to offer. This was our "preventive maintenance" program, though we weren't sure what we were trying to prevent. Truthfully, the survey resulted in no cures of any kind because we had no ailments of any kind in the first place. Neither did it melt away the marks of age (we *do* have a couple of these). However, one thing is certain, the experience was interesting, relaxing, and refreshing—and, *boy*, are we clean! □



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HOTEL AND NATURAL HOT MINERAL SPRINGS  
Samuel W. Banowitz, President

*Deglet Noors being harvested.  
Photo by Ralph Cornell*

# Coachella Valley Date Quiz

By Jack Delaney

**D**OES A LIST of date varieties read like an Arabian Boy Scout roll call to you? Are you a pointer—do you enter a date shop and say, "Gimme a pound of these, a pound of those, and toss in a few of them there?" If so, you should save wear and tear on your index finger by learning the names of a few popular varieties of dates.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, date growers in the Coachella Valley of Southern California have concentrated on improving the quality of the various types originally imported from Algeria, Iraq,

Egypt, Arabia and Morocco. They now produce 95% of the dates grown in the United States.

The following quiz will provide an opportunity for you to prove whether you are date-wise or otherwise. Please do not be disturbed if you are unsure of the answers—the author was unsure of the questions until he cornered Roy W. Nixon (horticulturist with the U. S. Department of Agriculture) and Hillman Yowell (Marketing Services Manager of the California Date Growers Association.)

(To complete the test, indicate your selection by checking one of the three possible answers to each question.)

1. Which of the following date varieties is the leader in sales, and is the only date with a large amount of cane sugar?
  - A. Maktoom
  - B. Amir Hajj
  - C. Deglet Noor
2. One of these has the reputation, in the Persian Gulf, of being the most delicious date in the world. (It is grown here.)
  - A. Khalasa
  - B. Kustawy
  - C. Rhars
3. Check the date that has been developed into the largest sized of all of the imported varieties grown in the United States.
  - A. Halawy
  - B. Sayer
  - C. Medjool
4. A popular soft date is round in shape and is one of the best dessert dates. Can you name it?
  - A. Khir
  - B. Barhee
  - C. Iteema
5. Which date, in its highest quality, is translucent? Its seeds can be seen when the date is held up to a light.
  - A. Hayany
  - B. Deglet Noor
  - C. Tazizoot
6. Can you select, from these three, the inverted sugar date that is suitable for enjoyment by diabetics?
  - A. Khadrawy
  - B. Zahidi
  - C. Saily
7. One of these is known as a bread date. Which one?
  - A. Medjool
  - B. Barhee
  - C. Thoory
8. Which of the following is a dark colored (almost black) date?
  - A. Dayri
  - B. Ashrasi
  - C. Hilali
9. Check the popular date that is frequently used for cooking.
  - A. Kustawy
  - B. Halawy
  - C. Khalasa
10. Which date is the sweetest? It is large and is brown in color.
  - A. Rhars
  - B. Saily
  - C. Hayany

Now turn to page 46 and compare your choices with the answers. Allow ten points for each correct choice, and check your total score against the following scale to determine whether you are *date-wise* or *otherwise*.



# How to Photograph the Desert



by bill boyd

**A** TREASURE OF subject matter awaits photographers on our beautiful southern deserts. Nothing is more spectacular than the brooding mood of a thunderstorm moving across the thirsty land. Usually they are of short duration and when the storm terminates and blue sky appears through the cottony clouds, here again is a spectacular subject.

To insure depth of field, use a fast black and white film—like Tri-X, ASA 400—and any regular black and white filter. Purposely underexpose for a dramatic effect, especially when the clouds are backed with blue skies. Filters are ineffectual, however, if the sky is overcast and rain is coming down. A little trick to darken blue skies and accent white clouds is to use a medium yellow filter without the factor (its regular filter factor is 2, or one F/stop wider) or the G (orange) filter with only a half stop increase instead of the recommended stop and a half. If you want an even more dramatic scene, try the red A filter with only a one stop factor instead of the usual three. This will make the sky almost black, graduating to a light grey at the horizon.

To show texture in sand, shoot at mid-morning or late afternoon when the sun is low enough to cast a shadow by each individual ripple of sand. To increase the textured effect, have the sun at right angles to the lens axis. This will give you the needed cross shadows for contrast and make your print really stand out. When the sky is overcast and the shadows disappear, the film will have to be developed 20% longer to build up the contrast of the flat-lit scene. For color slides, use Anscochrome, either the highpowered 200 or the regular 50, for scenes that really say *desert*. Anscochrome has the warmth to express the feeling of the desert. Add a polarizing filter for a real spectacular result when the blue sky and clouds appear. Some photographers use a haze filter to “warm-up” an overcast day, but a similar effect may be had with an ultra-violet filter over the lens.

Here are some suggestions for equipment to tote along on your winter photo trip to the desert: a sturdy tripod to insure wire sharp negatives or slides, a lens hood to protect the optics and also to enable the photographer to shoot into the sun, a cable release for convenience, the set of filters—K2, X, G, A for B &

W and polarizing haze and UV for color, and believe it or not, flash equipment to be used as fill in on pictures of people. And don't forget a hat, overcoat and umbrella to keep you and the equipment water tight.

Some shooting locations reasonably close to accommodations are around Palm Springs, Palm Desert and Indio, where the accompanying photographs were shot. From November to May the low desert can't be beat. Here is found a wealth of desert flora for either close-up or long distance scenes. After January, wild flowers start to paint the brown desert with a majestic assortment of color. The flowers will last approximately two months and can be found along roadsides and in remote canyons. In the high desert, Antelope Valley is always choice. From Lancaster drive westward to the ridge route until you get to the Fairmont region. In the spring months, the grandeur of the wild flowers is beyond compare. Here the cameraman has subject matter that could last him for weeks, but may have to be shot in a day or even an afternoon.

The Salton Sea offers great photographic opportunities. This impressive

body of water is encircled by good roads and accommodations are readily available, ranging from camping at the Salton Sea State Park to elaborate motor lodges. Shooting the Salton Sea during a storm is a photographic experience long to be cherished.

Most of the time the desert provides abundant bright sunlight for the photographer. This means that scenes shot on medium speed film can be photographed with a small f/stop (for depth of field) and a fairly fast shutter speed. If the meter tells you to shoot at a shutter speed slower than 1/100 sec., it is best to use a tripod to prevent "camera wiggle" that ruins the sharpness of so many negatives and slides. Here are some valuable tips for the cameraman interested in improving his technique.

For more contrast in black and white scenes, close down one f/stop smaller than the meter reading. This reduces exposure in the shadow areas, enabling them to print out black, thereby stepping up the contrast. If you use a K2 filter, don't open up for the factor and you'll achieve the best result. Bright sunshine is ideal for spectacular shots with filters. Remember, the red "A" filter (factor of 3 f/stops) is the most dramatic, especially when deliberately underexposed. This technique will turn a bright sky into an almost midnight black. Remember to shoot a contrasty scene (i.e., white or light buildings against a blue sky) or the results won't be as spectacular. When using color transparency film, try underexposing your shots by half a stop to enrich color rendition. Many professionals do this on bright distance scenes



when shadow detail is not important. If a reflected meter is used, point the photo electric cell toward the scene and tilt the meter 45 degrees toward the ground. If an incident meter is employed, hold the meter in the direction of the scene with the photosphere pointed back toward the camera lens.

Whatever desert you choose, you'll be guaranteed scenic opportunities sure to be favorites of your collection. So next time you hear of a storm approaching, grab your camera and head for the desert. Then stick around. When it's over and the sun warms the earth, you might be lucky enough to catch flowers popping from the ground. □

# Nobody's Idle in Idyllwild

By Jack Delaney

*Ceramic workshop is popular class  
at ISOMATA*



WHEN THE desert dweller tires of Nature's sauna bath; when the thermometer turns its back on 100 degrees and moves upwards to the boiling point and starts to whistle; when the water in the swimming pool gets so warm one is tempted to dive in with a bar of soap and a back-scrubber; the time has arrived for what has become an annual institution in the Coachella Valley of Southern California—a series of trips "upstairs."

If the uninitiated interprets "a trip upstairs" as meaning a journey to Heaven, he should be happy to learn that this is very nearly correct. To the old timers on the desert, "upstairs" is a pine-covered paradise, 5300 feet up in the San Jacinto mountains, known as Idyllwild. They have learned that this charming village, which appears to be run by squirrels and chipmunks, offers a cool retreat from the shimmering heat waves of the desert.

The route to Idyllwild is simple and the distance is short enough to make this an ideal one-day, or week-end, trip. From Palm Desert, drive up State Highway 74 (the Palms-to-Pines Highway) about 36 miles to Mountain Center, then turn right and proceed another four miles or so to the village. Be careful of deer along the way, and don't be surprised if you see a squirrel directing traffic in the center of town!

Idyllwild, the largest village in the San Jacinto Mountain area, has become a popular playground because of the spectacular scenic and recreational attractions it offers. This is a land of windblown pines and picturesque timbered mountainsides. In addition to the forests of conifers (11 different varieties) you see black oaks and live oaks everywhere. Dominating the entire area, like the frosting on a giant cake, is magnificent San Jacinto Peak which rises to a height of 10,831 feet.

Native animals, likely to be seen around the inhabited region spying on the humans, include deer, raccoon, squirrels, chipmunks, and an occasional skunk, with a twinkle in his eye. Woodpeckers, more often heard than seen, start their "riveting" early in the morning. They set up a rhythm throughout the woods that sounds like a 100-piece percussion orchestra playing a Bosa Nova. Bob-cats and mountain lions are around, but they prefer to prowl the wild sections—and the residents are happy with their preference!

The "wild" area is known as Mt. San Jacinto Wilderness State Park. It consists of about 30,000 acres of rugged mountain and forest land, unspoiled by civilization. This is one of the few truly primitive areas left in California, offering a challenge to the explorer who can "take it." More than 30 miles of trails lead through the wilderness, enabling hikers and horsemen to test their endurance.

To reach this back country, the visitor to Idyllwild should drive up the main street (Circle Drive) about a mile to Fern Valley (a charming Alpine-type district); then toward the mountain another couple of miles to Humber County Park, the gateway to the wild area and starting point of the hiking and riding trails. From this point on you can observe wild life in its native haunts. Camping is permitted, but it's primitive and for hardy souls only.

When driving to the wilderness, or returning to the village, be sure to stop at the office of the local newspaper, *The Idyllwild Town Crier*, in Fern Valley. Ernie and Betty Maxwell, the publishers, are friendly folks and are happy to supply any information desired on the Idyllwild region. Here, an excellent map of Idyllwild and vicinity may be obtained. It covers the entire area, including the Wilderness State Park, and is a must for those



who can't enjoy a game without a program.

The permanent population of the village is about 2500, but on weekends during the summer season as many as 50,000 nature lovers come to the mountain to relax and, in some cases, to visit their children at one of the numerous camps in and around the town. This is a region of camps—20 to 25 of them, including the YMCA, YWCA, Boy Scouts, and several church group camps. Accommodations for adults and families are: State, County, and Forest Service camps that permit overnight stays; cabin courts for the "tenderfoot campers;" trailer parks for the "rolling stones;" and modern motels for the "comfort crowd."

The selection of eating facilities in the area is adequate. In addition to the usual assortment of coffee shops, pancake houses, etc., a number of fine restaurants welcome the visitor. The picturesque Tirol features an international cuisine, and a beautiful view; the Carriage Inn, in the center of town (owned and operated by the Palm Desert Fishers), is excellent for cocktails and gourmet dining; and the Chef in the Forest, in the Fern Valley district, provides an opportunity to enjoy a great meal served on an outdoor deck surrounded by trees.

Recreation activities include horseback riding, hiking, pack trips into the back country, swimming, fishing, picnicking, and barbecues. Under the heading of entertainment movies are offered in a rustic theater, and square dancing and other functions are featured in the Town Hall. Also, there are nature programs, field trips, woodsmen's breakfasts, and frequent concerts and other attractions at the Idyllwild Arts Foundation.

The chief activities of the Idyllwild area are recreation and education. Both can be enjoyed at the Idyllwild Arts Foundation, which was founded in 1946 and dedicated to the cultivation of the arts by people of all ages in a beautiful outdoor setting. In 1950 the Foundation established the Idyllwild School of Music and Arts, which is popularly known as ISOMATA (from its initial letters). This is a campus of the University of Southern California, consisting of 38 rustic structures on 200 acres of majestic pines, cedars, and oaks. Most of the classes are held outdoors, in close touch with Nature.

The growth of the school from 40 adult students and 8 instructors the first summer session, to approximately 3200 students and 125 instructors during the 1965 session, is a source of pride to its

director and guiding light, Dr. Max T. Krone. The purpose of ISOMATA is to foster and develop the aesthetic, emotional, mental, and physical health of those who attend its classes and programs. One of its principles, since the first summer program in 1950, has been "art for man's sake, rather than art for art's sake." Dr. Krone believes that learning should be a family venture—all members studying together for the satisfaction of learning.

Most of the adult courses run for two weeks (some for one week) but there is also a series of special weekend conferences for those who cannot attend the longer periods. In drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, and crafts there are courses for the beginner, the amateur, the teacher, and the accomplished artist. While the parents study in adult classes ranging from folk music to photography, their children (from 3 years of age) are kept busy learning everything from puppetry to Spanish.

Visitors, upon touring this unique campus, will be impressed with the structures built of native materials. They are likely to recall their old "apple for the teacher" days and have the feeling that they missed something in their childhood. Should they develop an urge to return to school, if only for a few days, ISOMATA will provide an opportunity for them to do so. The 1966 summer schedule starts June 19, and Dr. Krone warns that applications should be submitted well in advance. For information on classes and costs, write to: University of Southern California, Idyllwild Arts Foundation, Idyllwild, California.

Several lakes and streams in the Idyllwild area are well stocked with trout. Foster Lake, about two miles from the center of town on the main highway (toward Banning), is a popular fishing place. No entrance fee is charged, and no license is required. Any trout caught that is less than ten inches long is "on the house." The only charge is 85¢ for each trout that measures 10 or more inches in length. This lake is a lifesaver for the angler who spends all day elsewhere without results and desires to save face upon returning home.

Another mile along the same highway brings you to a small mountain settlement named Pine Cove. Should you hear that this community is really "for the birds," you'd better believe it—the hummingbirds heard it, and *they* believe it! Thousands of them come daily during the summer season to feed from small glass feeders which are serviced by some of the

residents who love these elegant, animated beings. Audubon has called them "glittering fragments of the rainbow." Dick Wright, of Pine Crest Cabins, and his neighbor Ray Adams, of Adams Trailer Park, use about 400 pounds of sugar per month during the summer season to keep these little perpetual eaters "fat and sassy!"

Pine Cove has another claim to fame—it was here that Dr. Albert A. Michelson, famed American physicist and winner of the Nobel Prize in 1907, conducted a series of experiments. He is known especially for his determination of the speed of light and experimental studies which contributed to the theory of relativity. On the site where his tests were conducted, in 1927, a concrete pyramid and a concrete block, exactly four feet square and 50 feet distant, still stand. Residents of the area call this spot the "Point of Light" in recognition of Dr. Michelson's contribution to science.

It can be seen that the quiet, woody, Idyllwild region, with its pine scents and natural wonders, has much of interest. John Muir once said (referring to the high wilderness area), "The view from Mt. San Jacinto is the most sublime spectacle to be found anywhere on this earth!" There are certain places in the world which have an individual distinction that sets them apart—Idyllwild is such a place. Its common understanding and appreciation of informal, casual living has made the hands on clocks unnecessary.

From 1870, when the first families moved to what was then known as Strawberry Valley, to the present time, there has been steady progress, but not at the expense of its charm and rustic surroundings. The manzanita-covered knolls are still here and soft music still emanates from the whispering pines. This peaceful paradise on the green side of the mountains is what the Indians might have called "Heap Good Medicine!"

In discussing Nature's frills on the mountain-top, reference to this haven as "Heaven" is not intended as an inference that the desert is the opposite! Where else, but on the desert can one find basic nature on such a grand scale? Here, those who appreciate the great outdoors enjoy warm sands, palm gardens, wild flowers, unlimited varieties of cacti, scampering Chuckawallas, and playful little Prairie Dogs that squeak to attract attention, then dive into their holes and peek out, just to tease the people-type animals. Yes, the desert dweller has all of this—and *Idyllwild* too! □

# Living



## the easiest way

By Jack Delaney

With the advent of air-conditioned autos, buildings and residences, former desert vacationists are now establishing permanent homes in desert areas and maintaining smaller apartments in the cities where they used to live. Here DESERT writer Jack Delaney reports on the newest concept for convenient desert living.

THERE IS no truth to the rumor that a 90-year-old man and an 85-year-old woman got married, drove to Palm Springs and spent their honeymoon getting out of the car! It is probable that they spent it touring the model garden apartments of the many condominiums and cooperatives in the Palm Springs-Palm Desert area. This is a popular pastime here, which frequently results in a decision to try the "good things of life" offered by these attractive community developments.

How would you like to write Aunt

Harriet: "I just bought a beautiful 9600 cubic feet of air-space, plus an undivided portion of a contiguous common area, in a statutory condominium built on land that is still owned by the Indians?" Dear old Aunt Harriet would probably blame the desert sunshine; but if she investigated the various types of apartment projects here she would learn that this could be an accurate description of a "home sweet home" in the Coachella Valley of Southern California. On the surface, the description appears to be over-complicated for a simple garden apartment on

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leased land, but legal language is always over-complicated.

The purpose of this dissertation is to un-complicate the facts and to simplify the details of a very popular and desirable form of living, by which groups of congenial people enjoy the privacy of their individual apartments and the companionship possibilities of jointly owned recreation areas—all in a park-like setting. The first point of clarification should be that these community developments are centers — they feature permanent residences for people of all ages. Many are used as full-time dwellings—others as second homes for seasonal stays, vacations, or just week-end visits to the desert.

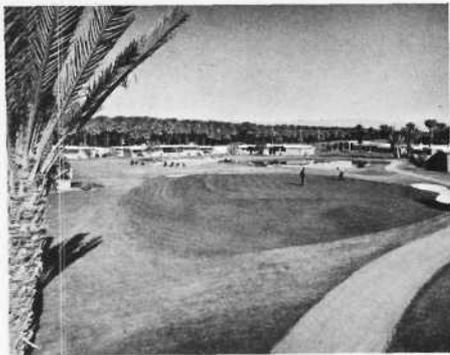
This chummy form of living has many points in its favor. Through the sharing of maintenance expenses, the unit owner enjoys a large swimming pool, other recreational facilities, and lush lawns and gardens at a fraction of the upkeep costs he would incur in a private home. An important convenience is the fact that he can leave at any time, for weeks or even months, and find upon his return, a home and garden in the same perfect condition as when he left—his only problem is the reading of a quantity of accumulated mail (mostly advertisements and bills).

Organized athletic activity, game playing, etc., are not promoted; but the incentive to spend much time out-of-doors is always present. In touring the various projects and observing the present residents, the tourist is impressed with the physical appearance of these people. It is obvious that the routine of daily exercise, sunbathing, and relaxation has made them so fit that they have forgotten how to spell "natures" backward!

The two most popular types of community apartment projects in the Palm Springs-Palm Desert area are *cooperatives* and *planned developments* (or non-statutory condominiums). A non-technical description of each (without a single "whereas" or "wherefore") is presented below:

*Cooperative*: A grouping of apartments around a central recreation area. The purchaser receives a grant deed for an undivided portion of the entire project, with an exclusive right to occupy a specific apartment. Real property taxes are usually billed to the whole project (a single billing). In most cases, the monthly maintenance fee includes the real property tax payments and insurance premiums for all of the units. Management is in the hands of a Board of Governors, composed of unit owners. In other words, these groups are free to run their own affairs,

Luxurious Casa Dorado living room overlooks private nine-hole golf course.



within the terms of the original agreement.

*Planned development* (non-statutory condominium): Also a grouping of apartments around a central recreation area; but, in this case, the purchaser receives a deed for his own unit and the land beneath it, plus an undivided portion of the common area. Real property taxes are billed to the individual unit owners, and the monthly maintenance fee does not include a provision for their payment. The same applies to insurance premiums on the individual units. Planned developments are usually operated by a manager, or management company, subject to approval by the apartment owners' Board of Governors each year.

Either of these two popular forms may be *corporate projects*, involving stock (a share to each unit owner) which serves as evidence of ownership in the common areas. As a corporation member, the owner has certain privileges—but also responsibilities that should be understood in advance of purchase. Also, either cooperatives or planned developments may be built on *leased land*. A purchaser in one of these should realize that, in addition to his mortgage payment and maintenance fee, a rental payment on the land will be required each month. The leases usually run for 55 years, at which time they are subject to renegotiation.

One other form of community development (not a popular part of desert living) is the *statutory condominium*. Multi-storied apartment projects are in this category. The definition of a true statutory condominium is: "A specific number of cubic feet of air-space, surrounded by walls, floors, ceilings, windows, and doors—plus a portion of all common areas of the building and grounds."

In California, the *space-age* started in May, 1963 with the passage of Senate Bill No. 600, relating to condominiums,



and was confirmed in September, 1965 by Assembly Bill No. 2000. The Civil Code was amended to read that "land is the material of the earth, whatever may be the ingredients of which it is composed, whether soil, rock, or other substance, and includes free or unoccupied *space* for an indefinite distance upwards as well as downwards." This is the current legal interpretation, relating to the new dimension in property ownership—vertically arranged air cubes!

Enough of the profound legal lingo—back to the desert and the discussion of community garden apartments. They all require a monthly maintenance fee (subject to increase as the cost of services increases), and the amounts differ in the various developments. Basic items included are liability insurance on common areas, painting exteriors of units, pool service, gardening, pest control, utilities in the common area, and trash pick-up. The prospective purchaser should check on the other services, in addition to the above, that are covered by the maintenance fee. Some of these include taxes and fire insurance on the individual units, washers and dryers, accounting services, manager's salary, etc.

It has been said that there are problems in connection with apartment ownership in *cooperatives* (not experienced in *condominiums*). "Every silver lining has a cloud," but this does not mean that unit owners in cooperatives are facing "Hurricane Betsy." The charge is that, since taxes are billed in single form, rather than to the individual units, the owners as a group are responsible for the delinquency of any defaulting member. The

answer is that the tax payments are included in the monthly maintenance fees, which are *legally* considered as a debt of the individual apartment owner. Refusal to pay will result in a lien upon the property which can be enforced by foreclosure by the Board of Governors.

Reaching way out for an example of possible trouble—suppose that *half* of the unit owners were to risk the equities in their apartments by refusing to pay the monthly maintenance fee. What would happen in this unlikely situation: The remaining unit owners would have to pay a higher fee, temporarily, to offset the deficit. After a reasonable waiting period the delinquencies would be cleared by foreclosure, or by the acquisition and sale of the defaulting owners' personal property, which is permitted by law. In either case, the remaining owners hold a priority to purchase the real or personal property.

In the low to moderately priced group there are many beautiful spots. Here are three of them:

*Desert Lanai*, Palm Springs. A cooperative built on leased land. Prices are \$15,950 to \$22,750, plus \$30 per month for land rent. The maintenance fee is \$60 per month (includes taxes and insurance). The location is convenient for shopping and fun.

*Chalet Palms*, Rancho Mirage. A non-statutory condominium. Prices are \$18,250 to \$18,750. The maintenance fee is \$38 per month (excludes taxes and insurance). The gardens and landscaping of this development are outstanding.

*Village Green*, Palm Desert. A co-

operative on owned land. Prices vary (resale only). The maintenance fee is \$65 per month (includes taxes and insurance). Only sixteen apartments, in a quiet, homelike atmosphere.

Stepping up to the moderate to high priced group, the following distinctive apartment communities might be considered:

*Sands and Shadows*, Palm Desert. A non-statutory condominium. Prices are \$28,950 to \$34,350. The maintenance fee is \$54 per month (excludes taxes and insurance). A beautiful display of lavish gardens and exquisite living quarters.

*Sandpiper*, Palm Desert. A non-statutory condominium. Prices are \$30,000 to \$42,000. The maintenance fee is \$80 or \$90 per month, depending upon the size of apartment (excludes taxes and insurance). This was one of the first on the desert—appointments and surroundings are luxurious.

*Sandpiper*, Indian Wells. A non-statutory condominium. Prices are \$32,500 to \$37,500. The maintenance fee is \$85 per month (excludes taxes and insurance). A unique feature of this swank development, which faces the Indian Wells Country Club, is that each apartment has a private garage

for a golf cart (with provision for battery recharging), in addition to the regular carport. Another unique attraction is a project manager who is remembered by millions of radio listeners. He is Mr. Goff, who was *Abner*, in the *Lum and Abner* series that played on radio for 25 years. Drop in and meet him—he's a real nice fellow!

A series of preliminaries always leads to a "main event." No reflection on the developments mentioned thus far is intended. They represent, at each price level, the ultimate in charm and promise of gracious living. However, for those who can afford an aristocratic existence in a lavish atmosphere, the following planned development should be mentioned:

*Casa Dorado*, Palm Desert. A non-statutory condominium. Prices are \$30,000 to \$50,000. The maintenance fee is \$63 to \$90 per month, depending upon the size of the apartment (excludes taxes and insurance). Casa Dorado was the first on the desert to install fireplaces in all of the apartments. A par-three golf course is an integral part of the landscaping; and an elegant clubhouse, containing card rooms, social hall, outdoor barbecue, sauna baths, therapeutic pools, and locker rooms is part of the common

area for the residents to enjoy. This is truly a prestige home-park setting for those whose financial position are equal to it.

A decision in favor of condominium or cooperative living, on the desert, should result in a pleasant experience for the former homeowner. The only possible point of friction is the close association with other people who may be slow on the "give and take" that is necessary in these situations. Unfortunately, not all grown-ups are adult. Personality differences, likely to occur anywhere, are not a serious problem—in fact, they are quite often amusing.

There are the Petunia people, as opposed to the Periwinkle crowd, when discussing garden preferences. A cry of "let there be light" is opposed by the younger generation, who prefer darkness. A popular gripe is the temperature of the swimming pool—the swimmers want it cool, and the soakers want it warm. And the ever-present pet squabble brings remarks, such as, "I know dogs aren't allowed in the common area, but little Sniffy is almost human!" One is tempted to paraphrase the potato chip commercial (on television) with the admonition: "These provocative products are made for adults—are you adult enough to enjoy them?" □



*This Palm Desert condominium residence is owned by the Fred A. Carlesons of Salt Lake City. Mrs. Carleson is Food Editor of DESERT Magazine*



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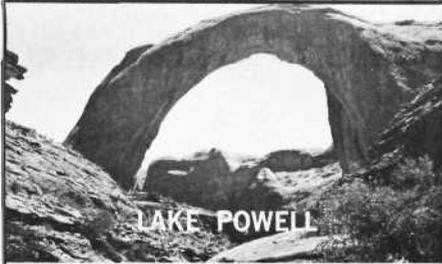
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# Surprise, Mr. Earp!



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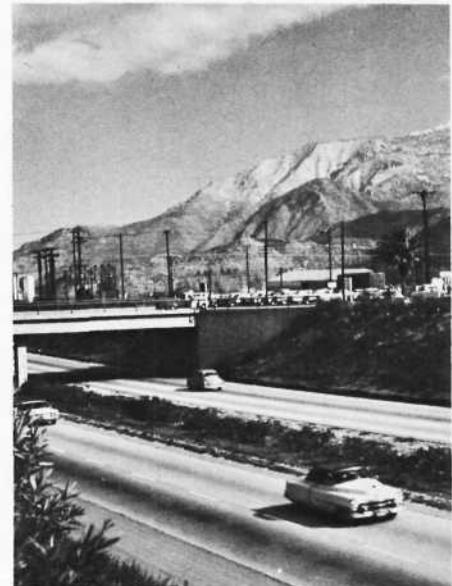
SAN GORGONIO Pass, that split in the towering Sierra Madre-San Jacinto mountain chain, contributed exciting pages to California history. Though one of the last passes discovered in the coastal range, this mountain gap today spills not only hot desert wind and sand, but transcontinental travelers and sun-enthusiastic vacationers from Palm Springs desert resorts into Southern California's populous coastal basin.

San Gorgonio Pass had long been known to Indians, but not until 1820, when Captain Jose, an Arizona Indian, began to use the pass to carry messages from California to Colorado River settlers, did white men learn of its existence.

Four years later the Mexican government decided to establish a fort and a trade route in the pass. However, when men sent to explore the region lost their way and almost their lives on the desert, the scheme was abandoned. This decision could have changed California's history. Twenty-three years later, the defeated Mexican army under General Gumesindo Flores used the pass to retreat into Sonora. Had Flores been able to recoup his forces at a well-equipped fort in the pass, the Mexican army might have counter-attacked and reversed the war. As it was, Mexico lost the pass and the war, leaving California to join the United States.

The padres actually established the first white settlement in the pass around 1830. The first Americans, rugged mountain men Daniel Sexton and Pauline Weaver, settled there in 1842 when they received a contract to hire Indians to haul timber from the high country to the coast.

To guard the pass against fierce desert Indians who used it in the winter of 1846 to raid coastal ranchos, settlers induced mountain Cahuilla Indians to live on its



How surprised he would be today to find this . . .

wind-swept slopes. After the Mexican War, Cahuilla Chief Antonio Garra revolted against the whites when a San Diego tax collector seized his cattle. Before he could arouse fellow Southern California Indians to attack Los Angeles, Weaver and a friendly Cahuilla chief, Juan Antonio, captured Chief Garra and executed him. Chief Antonio later regretted his part in apprehending Garra when he saw white men steal the Indian lands and his people reduced to poverty. Embittered, Chief Antonio died cursing the white who, he believed, betrayed his race.

In 1862, Wyatt Earp, cracking a whip over high-spirited stage coach teams, drove gold-hungry prospectors through the pass to Pauline Weaver's ore strike on the Colorado River. Even this traffic proved but a trickle, for the average

## By D. W. Stephens

traveler seemed to prefer the southern Anza Trail and other passes to the north and south rather than risk San Geronio's hot desert approaches.

The pass did not become a main travel artery until 1876, when the Southern Pacific Railroad laid tracks as far as Indio. This mountain corridor truly became a transcontinental link in 1883, when the railroad routed its San Francisco-to-New Orleans "Sunset" train through the pass.

However, back in 1862, if someone had told Wyatt Earp that the dusty trail he drove someday would be replaced by six lanes of paved highway, carrying thousands of travelers to desert and coastal areas each day, he would not have believed them.

If on one of his hot dusty trips through the pass someone had told him that huge pipes would someday carry millions of gallons of pure water to millions of settlers in the coastal basin, he would have said, "You're pullin' my laig."

If someone had told Wyatt that a soaring aerial tramway would someday carry folks up the steep slopes of 10,000-foot Mt. San Jacinto, he'd probably have drawn his six-gun and demanded the lie be retracted.

Perhaps, though, the spirits of Wyatt

*... or this—especially on dark nights when the new mercury-vapor lights will add a new glow.*



Earp, Captain Jose, General Flores, Paulino Weaver, Chief Garra, Juan Antonio, and the other old-timers look down each year on Banning, California, when horse-

drawn stages and ore wagons rattle down the main street to celebrate San Geronio's exciting history during Banning's annual Stage Coach Days. □

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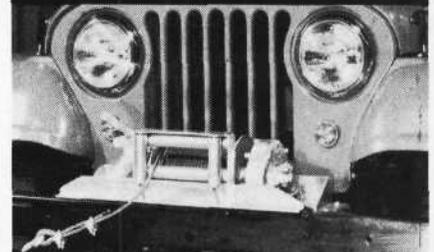
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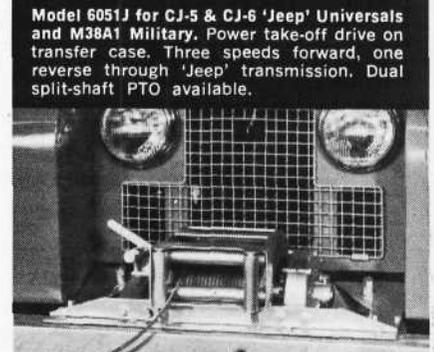
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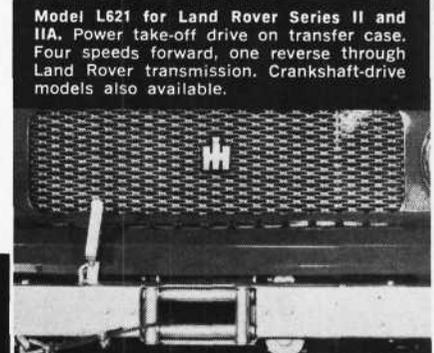
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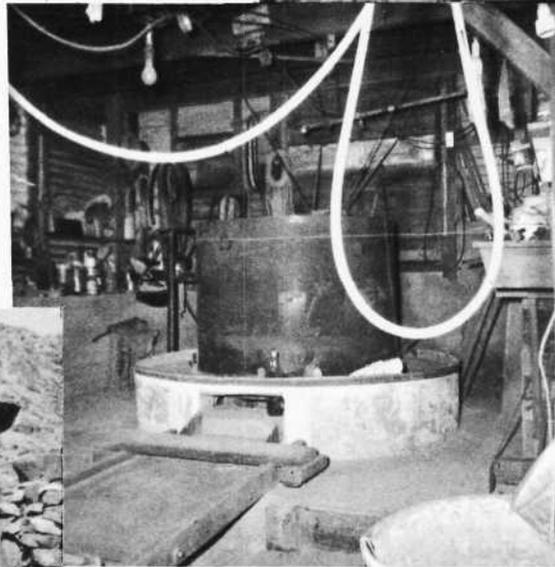


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# About a house



*a mill*



*a man . . .*

*and what happened in Twentynine Palms*

*By June Pearson*

ON THE evening of New Year's Day, 1961, Karl Schapel undressed for bed after having scheduled work on his mining claim for the year ahead. Suddenly he was shocked into action . . . the oil stove blew up!

The windows were too small to get through and the only door was blocked by fire. Badly burned, yet determined to escape, the 83-year-old man battered his way through the walls of his cabin.

For a moment he stood watching the inferno, then he freed his dogs from their tethers. His clothes and the keys to his truck were in the burning house, but he remembered an old pair of shoes in the truck. Putting them on to protect his feet from the sharp rocks, he started to run. It was a rough mile-and-a-half uphill to his nearest neighbor, but somehow he made it. Immediately his neighbor took him to Twentynine Palms for treatment.

After receiving first aid at the hospital, Karl faced the future in nothing but the scorched clothing he wore. But he had assets. He possessed one mining claim, one strong will, and two work-scarred hands. All he needed was a grubstake.

At Bagley's, the general store older even than the town, he found a few close friends. When they saw what had happened to the tough old miner, they organized a *house-raising*. Dazed, hurt and shaken Karl could only murmur, "Thank you!"

The simple house-raising and the "get Karl on his feet again" project became a tidal wave of community involvement. In less than a week even Ed Ainsley, columnist for the Los Angeles Times, became interested. Before long, the roads east of Twentynine Palms were jammed.

Over 450 people traveled up the alluvial fan toward Eagle Mountain. Four-

wheelers, station wagons, and vehicles of all descriptions raised the dust on the gravel road that led to Karl's Golden Egg mine. Lumber, tools, people and food rolled over the desert. A light plant to run power tools bumped along on a trailer. Folks from all over Southern California joined local residents headed for the hills.

*Search & Rescue* brought Doctor Ince who entertained the crowd with his singing and strumming, at the same time providing a margin of safety in case of emergency. From the Marine Corps base across the valley came General Fields with truckloads of Marines, picks, shovels and an over-sized water tank that sloshed to a stop at the mine.

The reconstruction of Karl's home began and there were hammers pounding and saws whining. The steady hum of a light plant accompanied the continued buzz of conversation. To see the expres-

sion on faces around, you'd have sworn they were being paid double-time.

Karl, still suffering from burns, tried to greet each one personally and help with work on the house, but was finally forced to settle for the job of guide to the many who were interested in seeing a real gold mine.

Born in Berlin, Germany, on October 22, 1878 and educated in Hamburg, Karl came to this country in 1903. He worked his way up from mucker to superintendent in mines throughout the northwest. In 1940 he came to the high desert. After working in several mines in the district, he finally settled on the Golden Egg. At one time, he claimed, the payroll from local mines amounted to about \$200,000.

"There are 17 mines in this area alone," he said. "Think of the payroll and the great benefit it would be to the community as a whole if only they could be re-opened and become working mines once more!"

Group after group followed Karl down the slope into the mine. He showed them the shed where he kept equipment and samples of ore. There he lighted his carbide lamps for his guests and for himself. The entrance to the mine was topped by a towering 100-foot over-burden. Inside, Karl took his guests through the level clean-swept crosscut. One hundred and fifty feet of track led through the tunnel to the ore car. Karl walked beneath a series of Gothic arches that he had carved out with his own pick. At the end of the cross-cut the southdrift extended to a daylighted shaft.

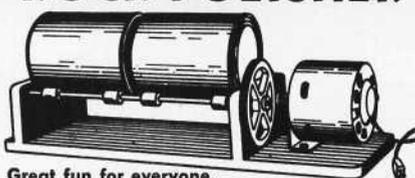
"The southdrift measures exactly 79 feet," said Karl, a stickler for detail. "There is where the ore bucket is hoisted to the surface." Turning to the northdrift the old miner then proudly showed his audience the vein of gold and other valuable metals.

The return trip up the hill from the mine was eased by the large flat stones that the elderly man had placed for those less able-bodied than himself.

"Most miners," Karl said, "ship their ore to be processed, but I have installed my own mill."

He led him inside and showed them the hoist, the crusher and the ore bin. He explained the ball mill and the copper plates. "They are plated with mercury and the crushed ore is passed over them to the settling tanks," he said. He then went on to explain that this process was not quite completed, but he expected to have it in operation by the coming fall. The amount of hard labor that had al-

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ready gone into his enterprise only seemed to increase this enthusiasm for more!

No whistle blew at noon but huge mounds of food had been piled on tables set in the open under a bright sky. Long lines of workers were satisfying appetites whetted by their hard work. Pit-barbecued beef had been prepared by a Hawaiian Marine and his family and bread for the whole feast was given, and paid for, by Norman Burt—a Langendorf bakery truck driver.

A long weekend of community co-operation gave Karl a new and larger home. He was then ready to welcome weekend sight-seers, who continue to this day to seek him out.

To reach the Golden Egg mine, follow



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the Twentynine Palms highway east to the turnoff shown on the map. Four miles from the highway the mine on your left is the Virginia Dale. Next is the Supply Mine. Six miles farther is a fork in the road. Bear to the right and with the old Ivanhoe Mine at your back and the Humbug Mountains on your left, you pass a group of mining shacks. Over the crest of the hill, the Pinto Basin comes into view. A last winding stretch of road with a canyon wash on the right—a sharp *turn* to the right and one downhill switchback brings you to Karl's.

If you are interested in mines, be sure to visit Karl Schapel's. You'll come away as everyone else does, wondering which is the more wonderful, Karl Schapel or his Golden Egg. □

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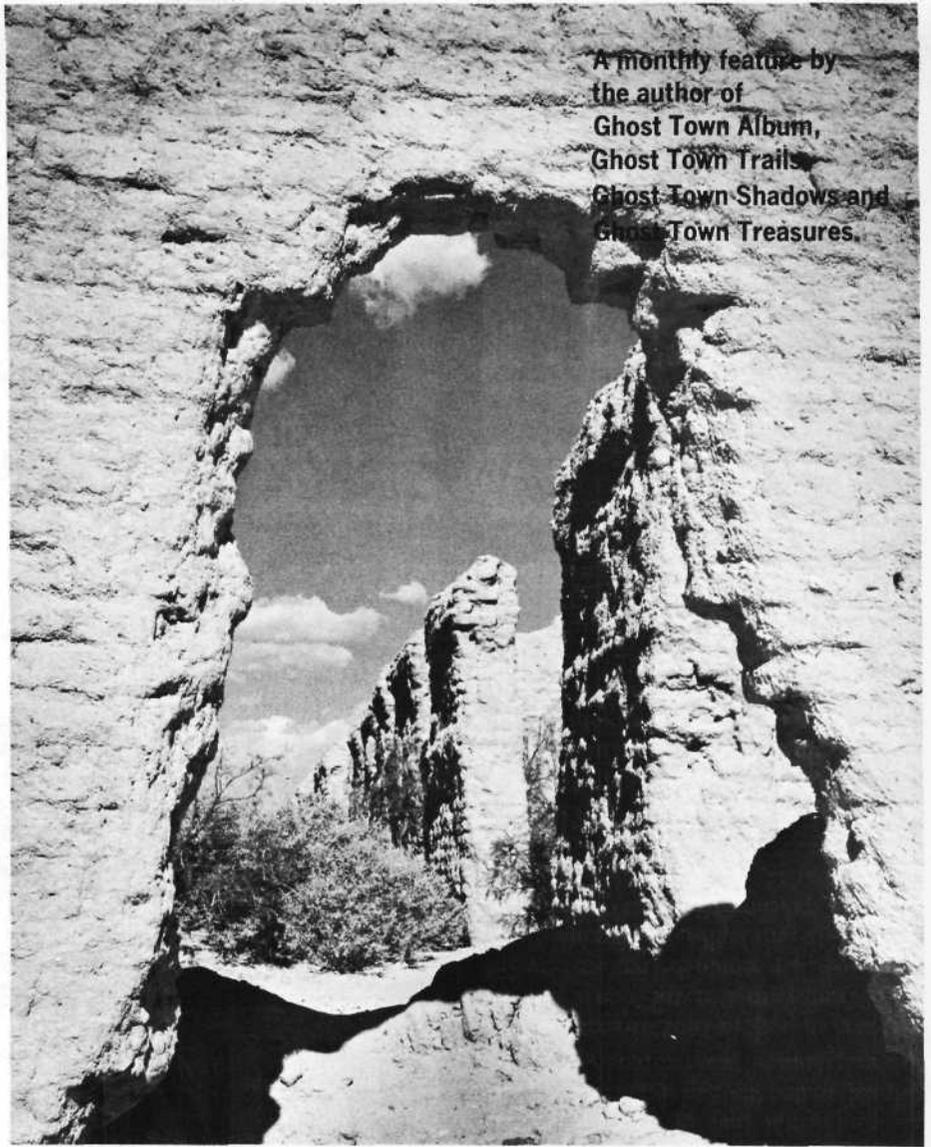
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A monthly feature by the author of Ghost Town Album, Ghost Town Trails, Ghost Town Shadows and Ghost Town Treasures.

# Fort Selden, New Mexico

BY LAMBERT FLORIN

ABOUT 20 years ago, Albert Salisbury, now president of Superior Publishing Company, was what he describes as a "rookie salesman." Right at the start of this job he found the exotic adventures attributed to traveling salesmen existed only in funny stories. To alleviate boredom on lonely weekends he put his hobbies of photography and interest in Western history to work, making photographs of roadside monuments. The project eventually grew into a book, *Here Rolled the Covered Wagons*.

In the preface of this collection of pictures and stories of incidents and adventures along old roads to the West, he wrote, "Sunday morning I set out to photograph a monument that had interested me during the week. There had been a snow storm the week before, but

not one single track had broken the white surface around the monument. Of the thousands of people who had whizzed by on that heavily traveled road, none had been interested enough to turn off the highway and pause for a moment to read the monument's inscription. Yet this was a place where men had died to make the West."

This sad situation, so true only a few years ago, has changed greatly. This photographer and reporter for the Western Ghost Town series has traveled an average of 7,000 miles each season for the past 11 years, making it a practice to stop at every historical marker. Very often another car has already pulled-in to read the inscription and, frequently, another will stop behind it.

Such was the case at the marker along

U. S. 85 where the road crosses the Rio Grande a few miles north of Las Cruces, N. Mex. This monument, a capsule history of exciting times during the last half of the 19th century, reads *Fort Selden. Built in 1865 to protect both settlers and the old post road. Abandoned 1879, reoccupied in 1881 during the Apache uprising. Finally abandoned 1892.* Along the graded dirt road to the fort we found two other cars parked near the desolate crumbling adobe ruins.

Fort Selden followed the general plan of similar posts, centered by a large parade ground, surrounded by barracks for single enlisted men, quarters for officers and families, commissaries, mess halls, guard house, etc. All buildings were constructed of adobe, this being the only available material in treeless, desert land.

Between the outer walls and the nearby Rio Grande were large vegetable gardens tended by interested enlisted men. In those days the water table was higher and grass more abundant, providing good pasturage for several cows. During times the Indian menace seemed remote, the soldiers would work in the garden, carrying water from the river to pour in furrows beside extra thirsty vegetable plants. One little four-year-old boy was especially fond of tagging along behind the men, sometimes taking off on forays of his own and causing momentary panic until located again. This tyke would one day become General Douglas MacArthur. His father, then stationed at Fort Selden, was General Arthur MacArthur.

The old adobe structures now are only a shadow of their former sturdy, comfortable selves. Adobe, nothing more than sun dried clay mud (sometimes with chopped straw added), is an enduring building material so long as it is protected from rain. Once the roof of a given structure collapses, though, walls constructed of adobe bricks soon melt away. Old Fort Selden, so invincible against raiding Apaches, has fallen victim to time and the gentle erosion of infrequent rains. Most of this attrition has occurred since 1915. At that time it sheltered maneuvering soldiers stationed at Fort Bliss.

In later years the property was purchased by Mesilla Valley farmer Harry H. Bailey. Around 1926 Bailey attempted to have the ruins put under protection of the federal government, but without success. However, the old fort remained a hobby with him and he wrote many articles on its history. □

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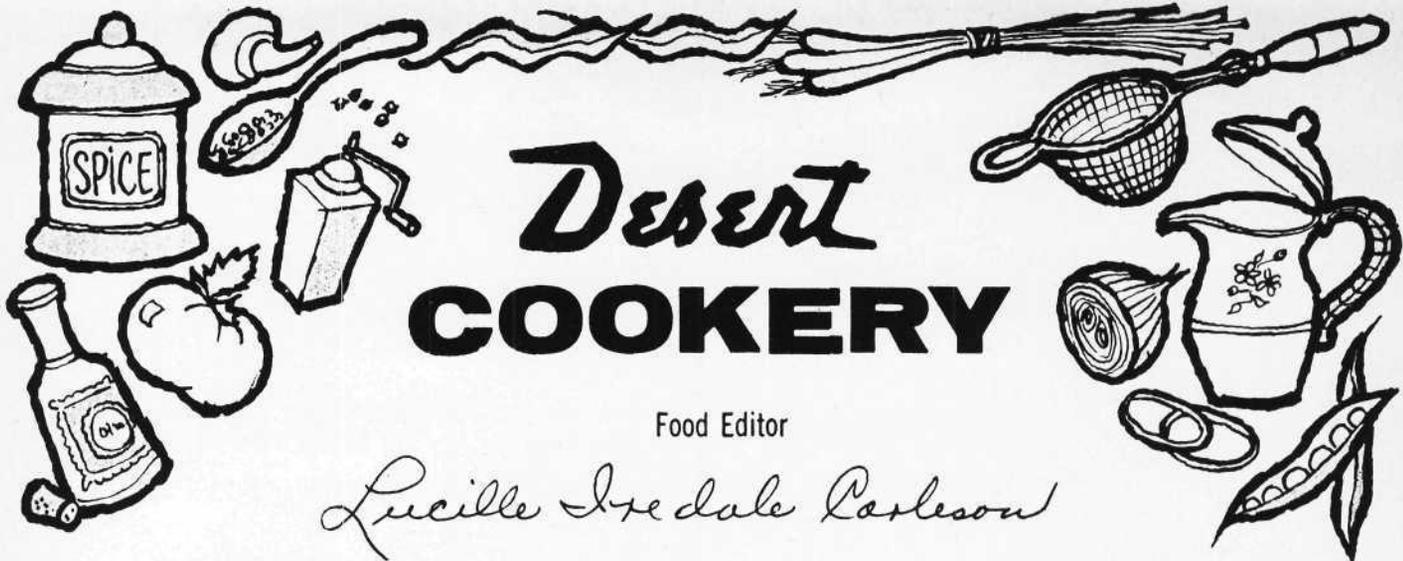
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# Desert COOKERY

Food Editor

*Lucille Inedale Carlsson*

## SCRAMBLED EGGS PLUS

- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 6 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon Lawry's seasoning salt

Dash pepper

- 3/4 cup Cheddar cheese cubed
- 1 small can of button mushrooms

Melt butter in frying pan over low heat. Combine eggs, milk and seasonings; pour into frying pan. Cook over low heat until eggs begin to thicken. Add cheese cubes and drained mushrooms. Continue cooking, stirring frequently until cheese is blended and eggs are cooked.

## SHRIMP THERMADOR

- 3 cans shrimp
- 1 4-oz. can mushrooms, drained
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon powdered mustard
- Dash cayenne pepper
- 2 cups milk
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- Salt to taste
- Grated Parmesan cheese
- Paprika

Drain shrimp. Cover with ice water and let stand for 5 minutes. Drain. Cook mushrooms in butter for 5 minutes, blend in flour and seasonings. Add milk gradually and cook until thick, stirring constantly. Add shrimp and parsley, and salt to taste. Place in 6 well-greased shells or custard cups. Sprinkle with cheese and paprika and bake in 400 degree oven for about 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Serves 6.

Here's something really new for Lenten season.

## SHRIMP CURRY WITH DATES

- 6 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1 small onion cut very fine
- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 2 teaspoons grated lemon peel
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 2 lbs. fresh or frozen shrimp, or 3 cans deveined shrimp
- 2 tablespoons each corn starch and water
- 1 cup sliced dates
- 1/3 cup toasted almonds

Melt butter in large frying pan, add onion, curry powder, cloves and salt, and saute until onion is soft, about 5 minutes. Add the 1 1/2 cups water, lemon peel and lemon juice. Bring to a boil, add the shrimp; cover the pan and simmer until the shrimp is pink, 5 to 7 minutes. If you are using canned shrimp, just bring to a slow boil. Blend the corn starch into the water and stir into shrimp mixture. When the sauce is thickened, after stirring gently, add the dates. Heat for a few minutes more to heat dates. Serve over mounds of rice and sprinkle toasted almonds over top.

**Note to readers:** The oatmeal was left out of the Oatmeal Roll recipe in the November DESERT. It should have included one cup of oatmeal.

## SHRIMPETTI

- 1 tablespoon salt
- 3 qts. boiling water
- 8 oz. spaghetti
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 small onion sliced
- Dash of garlic salt
- 1 can tomato soup
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 cans deveined shrimp or 10 oz. package frozen shrimp

Grated Parmesan cheese

Add salt to rapidly boiling water. Gradually add spaghetti so that water continues to boil. Cook, stirring occasionally until tender. Meanwhile, melt butter in sauce pan; add onion and garlic powder and cook over low heat until onion is tender but not brown. Add tomato soup, water and 1 tablespoon chopped or dry parsley; cook over low heat for 10 minutes. Add shrimp and simmer for about 5 minutes. Salt to taste. Spoon shrimp sauce over spaghetti and serve with Parmesan cheese. 4 servings.

## QUICK TUNA CASSEROLE

- 2 cans tuna, chunk style, drained and flaked
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 3 cups corn flakes
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 can undiluted mushroom or cream of chicken soup
- 1/4 teaspoon each, of Lawry's seasoning salt and pepper

Combine all ingredients in bowl, mix gently. Pour into buttered casserole and bake in 375 degree oven for 45 minutes. Serves 6.

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## Hints For Campers

By Bruce Barron



HERE'S AN easy and fun way to sup-  
plement your bread supply. While  
your fire is burning down to coals, cut  
a green stick three or four feet long and  
approximately 3/4-inch in diameter.  
Scrape off bark for about a foot on one  
end and let it heat next to your fire  
while preparing biscuit mix. Use a  
drier mix than called for in the recipe,  
(cut down on liquid, or add a little more  
flour). Mold the mix into a long thin  
ribbon about the size of your thumb, then  
twist around the stick in the fashion of  
a barber pole. Leave about 1/4 inch of  
space between each spiral so heat can  
penetrate. Now slowly rotate stick above  
coals—do not bake too fast. If you allow  
the crust to brown too soon, the center  
next to the spit will not bake properly. In  
about 10 minutes of baking the dough will  
have fully raised, then lower it closer  
to the coals until it attains a delicious  
golden brown crust. Break off small  
pieces to eat along with your mulligan!

For a hearty variation whittle your  
stick down to a smaller diameter. Skewer  
and broil until done, either thick-sliced  
bacon, link sausage, weiners, or shish-  
kebob. While still sizzling hot, spiral on  
your biscuit dough, and bake as described  
above. This is a "finger lickin'" good  
meal all by itself.

If you're hungry for sweet rolls, make  
a strudel by sprinkling some brown sugar,  
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WANTED: OLD books, clippings, maps, photos, circulars, magazine articles, posters newspapers, etc. of Death Valley, Rhyolite, Skidoo, Bullfrog, Harrisburg, Panamint City, Goldfield, Goldpoint. Send list, full description, and asking price. Lloyd Cooper, 2520 Chicago St., San Diego, California. 92110.

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"Mirage!"

# LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Letters requesting answers must include stamped self-addressed envelope

## Nummel's Lost Lode . . .

*To the Editor:* Just finished reading Erle Stanley Gardner's *Hunting Lost Mines by Helicopter* and, like many others who have undoubtedly written to you, I would like to obtain the March issue of DESERT Magazine containing the article about Nummel's Lost Mine that Mr. Gardner referred to in his book. Is it still available?

RICHARD CERIO,  
San Diego, California.

*Editor's Comment:* Guess other publications make mistakes, too. The issue referred to in the book should have been April, 1965, instead of March. Back issues of DESERT may be ordered by sending 50¢ per issue with your order. This one is still available. The January, 1965 issue also contained an article relating to this adventure, with additional important information. C.P.

## Spring Cleaning . . .

*To the Editor:* We read with interest Jack Pepper's fine article in the December issue about Lake Mead's new scenic route. The article was well done. I am happy to report that the garbage and trash have been cleaned up at Blue Point Springs and we intend to keep it clean. Also we put in two pit toilets and a picnic table at the springs and in the very near future we will grade a good entrance road and small parking area so that visitors may enjoy the springs. Again, thanks for your fine article and your interest in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

WILLIAM J. BRIGGLE,  
Acting Superintendent  
U. S. Dept. of the Interior,  
Boulder City, Nevada.

## Baja Roads . . .

*To the Editor:* I was in Baja California recently and was so impressed with the condition of the road between Puertecitos and San Luis Gonzaga (normally a pretty chopped-up stretch of camino) that I thought I'd pass this information along to Desert readers contemplating trips in that direction. Below Puertecitos, where the road had formerly been rough and slow, it is now in the best shape I've ever seen it. There have been heavy rains, but since the Gulf road is all rock or sand the moisture hasn't affected it. Nearly all of the deep ruts have been freshly filled and the rain has packed the loose material so that it is still holding on the sharp inclines like La Leona.

The road down the Pacific side of the peninsula is wet and muddy still. Because of road conditions south of San Quentin and around normally dry Lake Chapala (now full of water) it is probably wise for Baja travelers to use the Gulf road to Gonzaga, to Las Arrastras, and then through Calamajue Canyon for the next couple of months.

SAM HICKS,  
Temecula, California

## A Sense of Yuma . . .

*To the Editor:* In the January DESERT, the article on Yuma, by Jack Delaney, says this: "Yuma is located in the southwesternmost county in the United States . . ." None of my maps can pinpoint either Yuma or San Diego, but the approximate location of these cities is: Yuma Long. 114 40' W. Lat. 32 15' N. San Diego Long. 117 15' W. Lat. 33 15' N.

That puts San Diego further west . . . and as for south—take a look at Corpus Christi or Miami. Mr. Delaney's article is very interesting, especially since we visited Yuma about a year ago. And how it has changed over the years! Along with reader Ernie Cowan, I read DESERT from kiver-to-kiver, and enjoy it thoroughly.

ROBERT R. ORR, O.D.,  
Montrose, California.

*Comment from author Jack Delaney:* Dr. Robert Orr's criticism of the statement: "Yuma is located in the southwesternmost county in the United States," in my Yuma article is appreciated. His presentation of longitudes and latitudes is very impressive, and probably proves his point. My first source was the Chamber of Commerce, but another source, Hammond's World Atlas, shows the lower border of Yuma County as being south of San Diego County's border. On this basis, it could be said that no other country this far west is as far south! Maybe we should drop the whole question and accept the new state, "Hawaii" as the most southwesternmost! This also answers Clayton Kanagy of Los Angeles. J.D.

## Appeal to Readers . . .

*To the Editor:* Six of us avid DESERT Magazine readers are planning a month-long excursion to Costa Rica in 4-wheel drive vehicles, towing trailers. Our route will take us via Mexico City, a side trip to the Yucatan peninsula, and finally to San Jose. We plan to leave around July 6th. We would be interested in hearing from readers who would like to go with us or who have been in the areas we plan to visit and have handy hints on what to take, what to see, or any other helpful information.

CHUCK COLE,  
5642 N. Grand Ave.,  
Glendora, Calif. 91740

## Recovery Gift . . .

*To the Editor:* While I was recovering from an accident, a friend loaned me several volumes of his DESERT Magazine, which I read from cover to cover. As a result, I subsequently subscribed for myself. Recently I had to return to the hospital. There I read your December issue. I think I was the most informed bed traveler in the hospital. Now I want to subscribe as a gift for some of my friends who have been especially kind. By next summer I should be able to get out again and, with the guidance of DESERT, I know I have much to look forward to.

MERRILL E. CHAPMAN,  
Whittier, California.

## How To Clean Bottles . . .

*To the Editor:* In answer to the reader who asked how to clean antique bottles, I would suggest she try pouring chlorine or Purex in full strength into the rusty bottles. In about five minutes, the rust should be gone.

JEAN WHITTIER,  
Redondo Beach, California.

## More on Mexican Maps . . .

*To the Editor:* An addendum to the article "Where to Get Mexican Maps" in the January, 1966 issue: There is a series of maps called Mapas de Mexico Coleccion Geografica Patria, which is published by Libreria Patria, Av. del 5 de Mayo, Num. 43, Mexico 1, D. F. Each is a map of a separate state (for example, Chihuahua) on a scale of 1:1,250,000. They are useful in that they show many, but not all, of the secondary roads and are reasonably accurate and up-to-date. They can seldom be obtained in bookstores even in the larger cities so should be ordered from the libreria mentioned above. The cost is 10 pesos (80 cents) per map. Checks drawn on U. S. banks are accepted.

RONALD OLSON,  
Valley Center, California.

## ANSWERS TO DATE QUIZ

On Page 24

- |       |        |
|-------|--------|
| 1. C. | 6. A.  |
| 2. A. | 7. C.  |
| 3. C. | 8. A.  |
| 4. B. | 9. B.  |
| 5. B. | 10. B. |

100 points: You must have peeked at the answers.

90 points: No one could be so smart.

80 points: You should be operating a date shop.

70 points: Congratulations — you are almost an expert.

60 points: So you missed a few—we all do.

50 points: Oh well — you can't win them all.

40 points: Not bad — but not good.

30 points: Better start asking questions.

20 points: Might as well face it — this isn't your field.

10 points: So you picked it by accident.

0 points: Better return to your kumquats!



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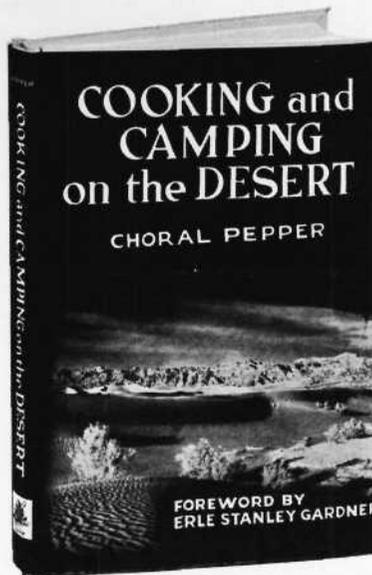
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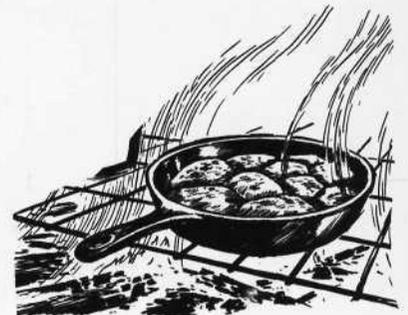


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by

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