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Volume 35, Number 4

APRIL, 1972

## CONTENTS

### FEATURES

- |                                    |    |                     |
|------------------------------------|----|---------------------|
| TRAIL TO DRUID ARCH                | 6  | Enid C. Howard      |
| SIDE-BLOTCHED LIZARD               | 10 | K. L. Boynton       |
| JUNGLES OF SAN BLAS                | 14 | Jack Delaney        |
| LAVISH LEGACY OF LUCKY BALDWIN     | 16 | R. Daniel Clark     |
| WEEK END DESERT                    | 18 | George Kebew        |
| NOCTURNAL SHUTTERBUGS              | 20 | Walter Ford         |
| SPRING SPLENDOR IN ANTELOPE VALLEY | 22 | Mary Frances Strong |
| MYSTERIOUS YAQUI INDIAN RITUALS    | 26 | Bernice Johnston    |
| GHOSTLY KILNS OF COCHRAN           | 34 | Arnold Tilden       |

### DEPARTMENTS

- |                                |    |                         |
|--------------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| A PEEK IN THE PUBLISHER'S POKE | 4  | William Knyvett         |
| BOOK REVIEWS                   | 5  | Jack Pepper             |
| CALENDAR OF EVENTS             | 37 | Club Activities         |
| DESERT LIFE                    | 37 | Hans Baerwald           |
| RAMBLING ON ROCKS              | 38 | Glenn and Martha Vargas |
| NEW PRODUCTS                   | 42 | Items of Interest       |
| LETTERS TO THE EDITOR          | 43 | Readers' Comments       |



#### THE COVER:

Storm clouds above Southern California's Mojave Desert accentuate the brilliant California poppies in Antelope Valley. See page 22 in this issue for a trip through the area and a view of the wildflowers. Photo by David Muench, Santa Barbara, California.

ELTA SHIVELY, *Executive Secretary*

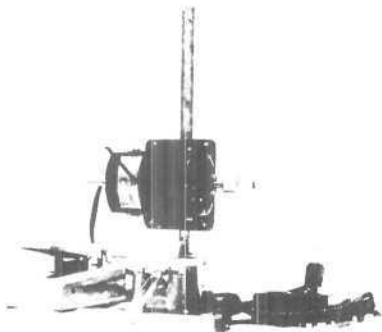
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# A Peek in the Publisher's Poke

IT'S THAT time of the year again when romance is in the air and young men's fancy turns to love. Humorous rhymes such as:

Spring is here, the grass is riz;

I wonder where the birdies iz?

are on a lot of lips. Well, the birds are on the wing and the wildflowers are in bloom in Antelope Valley and with that in mind our Field Trip Editor, Mary Frances Strong, has compiled a comprehensive article on the Antelope Valley, describing its historical background, present-day recreational areas, and an in-depth treat-

ment of the wildflowers, which, when the weather conditions are right, present an awe-inspiring scene to motivate both professional and amateur photographers. This year, at press time, the wildflower bloom appears favorable, with a good fall of snow in December and with a little additional moisture should produce a better-than-average crop.

Our good friend, Jack Hesemeyer, long-time supervisor of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, has been transferred to Sacramento. His successor is Maurice "Bud" Getty, who at one time was the Anza-Borrego Park naturalist.

Anza-Borrego comes in for a little tongue-in-cheek treatment from artist-author George Kehew, whose article on pages 18 and 19 could well augur the state of things to come what with vandalism on the increase and desert areas becoming more popular with each passing year.

We were very sad to hear of the untimely death of Bernice Johnston whose article *Mysterious Yaqui Indian Rituals* appears on page 26. Mrs. Johnston was associated with the Arizona State Museum and was considered an authority on Indians of the West. She will be missed by her many friends and admirers.

Due to a shortage of "First Notice" forms we have been forced to send out renewal notices on "Second Notice" forms causing thousands of subscribers to think that they were losing their memory as they received the second and didn't remember ever seeing the first notice. The error has been rectified and our apologies to all those who were confused.

*William Knapp*

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# Book Reviews

by Jack Pepper

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## GOLD AND SILVER IN THE WEST

By  
T. H. Watkins



There have been many excellent books written about the search for gold and silver in California, Nevada and Arizona, all of which highlighted the colorful past in each individual state or territory.

This is the first volume, to this reviewer's knowledge, where an author has attempted — and succeeded — in presenting the entire saga of the search for valuable ore throughout the entire West.

After reading this book, I felt I finally had put together the entire jigsaw puzzle, whereas before there were many missing pieces which resulted in voids in the overall picture.

The main parts of the mining puzzle are the Mother Lode in California, the Comstock in Nevada and the various mines, such as the Vulture, in Arizona. The voids are the Appalachian Gold Fields on the east coast, Mexico mainland, Baja, Oregon, British Columbia, Alaska and other fields about which little has been written.

Starting with the conquest of what is now Mexico by Cortes which began in 1519 and Coronado's later search for the "Seven Cities of Cibola", the author takes you on an adventure throughout the West which ends with the advent of today's technological mining corporations.

Author of four other successful books, including *The Grand Colorado* and *The Story of a River and its Canyons*, Watkins is not only a learned historian and researcher, but a writer who has the ability to make the reader feel he is actually participating and living in this colorful area of the old West.

As indicated in the subtitle of the book, *The Illustrated History of an American Dream*, the author not only describes the violent and dramatic history of the frustrating search, but analyzes and dissects the underlying reasons which caused hundreds of thousands of men from all walks of life to leave their homes in search of gold. Only a handful found the Golden Fleece. His description of the hardships, frustrations and fanatical determination of these men who refused to give up the search—moving from one discovery to another—is vibrant and moving.

In addition to the excellent writing, the book is profusely illustrated with rare old pictures plus four-color photographs of the mining camps as they appear today. This book is highly recommended for those who want to put together the fascinating jigsaw puzzle of the search for gold and silver in the West.

Large format, heavy slick paper, hardcover, 287 pages, \$17.50.

## LAND OF POCO TIEMPO

By  
Charles F.  
Lummis



A Harvard graduate and newspaperman, Charles Lummis in 1884 walked 3,507 miles in 143 days from Cincinnati, Ohio to Los Angeles where he assumed the duties as city editor of the *Los Angeles Times*.

The dramatic account of his experiences during the hike in which he was accompanied only by his dog (who later turned mad and attacked Lummis) is told in his *Tramp Across the Continent* first published in 1892. (It has since been republished and is available through Desert Magazine Book Shop.)

For three years Lummis worked night and day as editor of the *Times*. As a result he suffered a stroke and brain clot which paralyzed his left side. He went to New Mexico as an invalid and within a few years he completely regained his health (to test it he later climbed a 19,000-foot volcano in Peru) and during this time explored New Mexico, living with the Indians.

*Land of Poco Tiempo* (*Poco Tiempo* is Spanish for "pretty soon") is not only his experiences in New Mexico, but also his Thoreau-like observations of the land

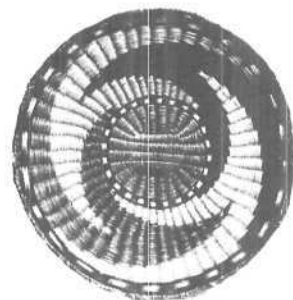
and Indians he learned to love and respect.

First published in 1893, and now available in paperback, the book is a combination of his adventures and his observations relative to the Indian cultures which are enlightening today in view of the white man's guilty complex relative to what his predecessor once called "Redskins."

Lummis later returned to Los Angeles and was the organizer and founder of the Southwest Museum, one of many civic, historical and archeological projects which exist today as a result of his determination to explore life. Even after blindness overtook him, he compiled a book of his poems which were published just before his death in 1910.

The reprint of *Land of Poco Tiempo* is exactly as the first edition with a new foreword by Paul A. F. Walter, New Mexico historian and author. Paperback, 236 pages, \$2.45.

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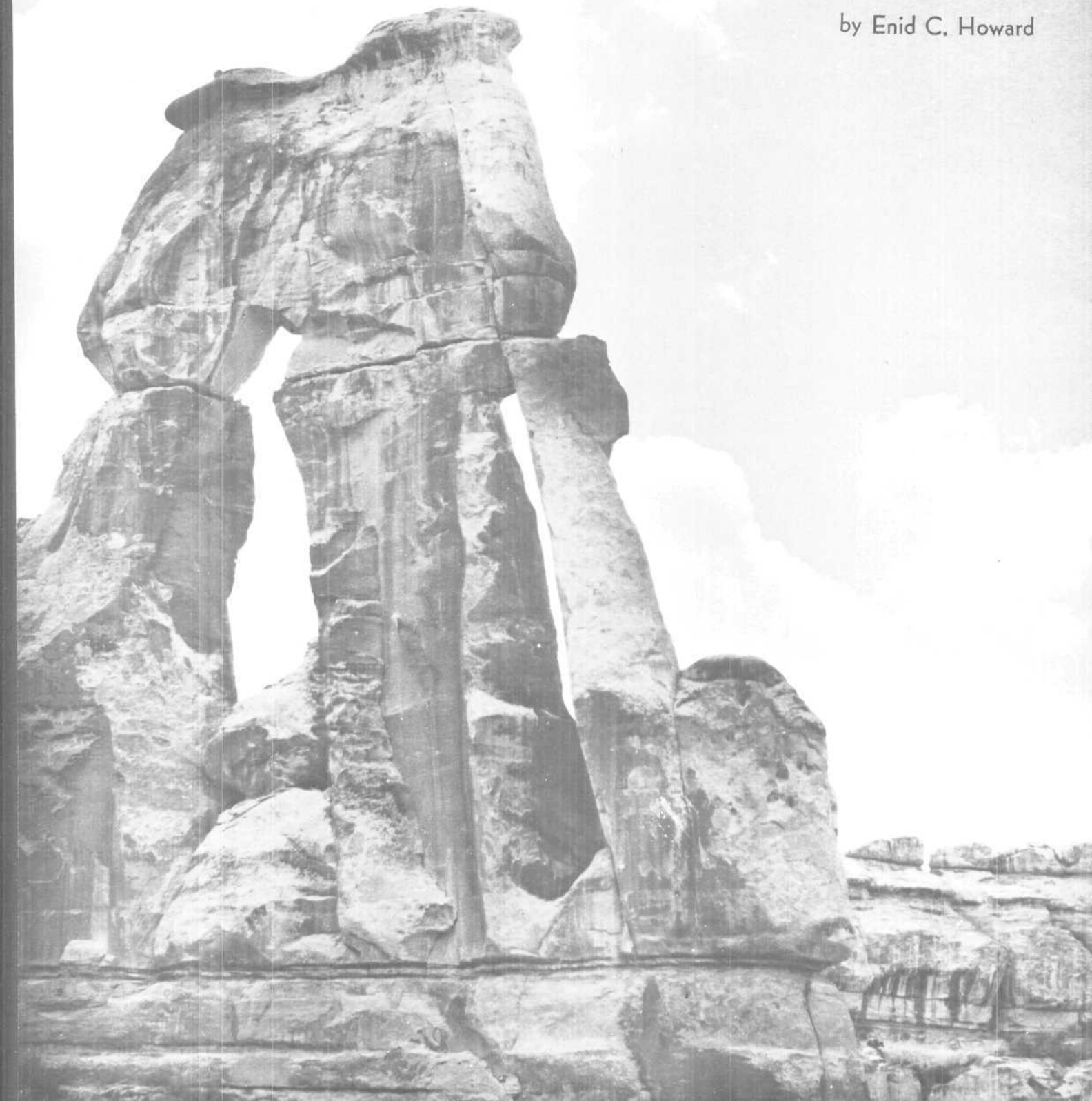
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# The Trail to Druid Arch

by Enid C. Howard





NOT TOO many visitors to Canyonlands National Park in southeastern Utah are aware of the well planned and marked trails for hikers that penetrate into the heart of this newest of our national parks.

One of the most rewarding of these foot trails offers two points-of-departure trail heads, and ends at impressive Druid Arch in Elephant Canyon. Druid Arch is not accessible by jeep, so those who would visit this unusual Canyonlands treasure must walk through deep and silent corridors, to stand bedazzled and amazed at the very size of Druid.

The trail that begins at Squaw Flats is wonderfully scenic, with a variety of terrain to please the most avid hikers. It might be a bit too long for the novice to complete the round trip of 13 miles in one day, as it requires a minimum of ten hours hiking, even though the trail is an easy one. Summertime daylight hours allow plenty of time to do the trip without hurry. This writer and her hiking part-

ner walked the distance in nine hours

From campground B at Squaw Flats the long trail gets off to a good start by winding up a narrow canyon, then ascends a slickrock shelf where we used the steps cut into the steep wall of sandstone and grasped a steel cable handrail to arrive at the top of the first ridge. The trail has been planned to give the hiker the best with an hour at the Arch to lunch and take pictures. Some visitors might want to carry a light overnight pack and experience Canyonlands under the stars.

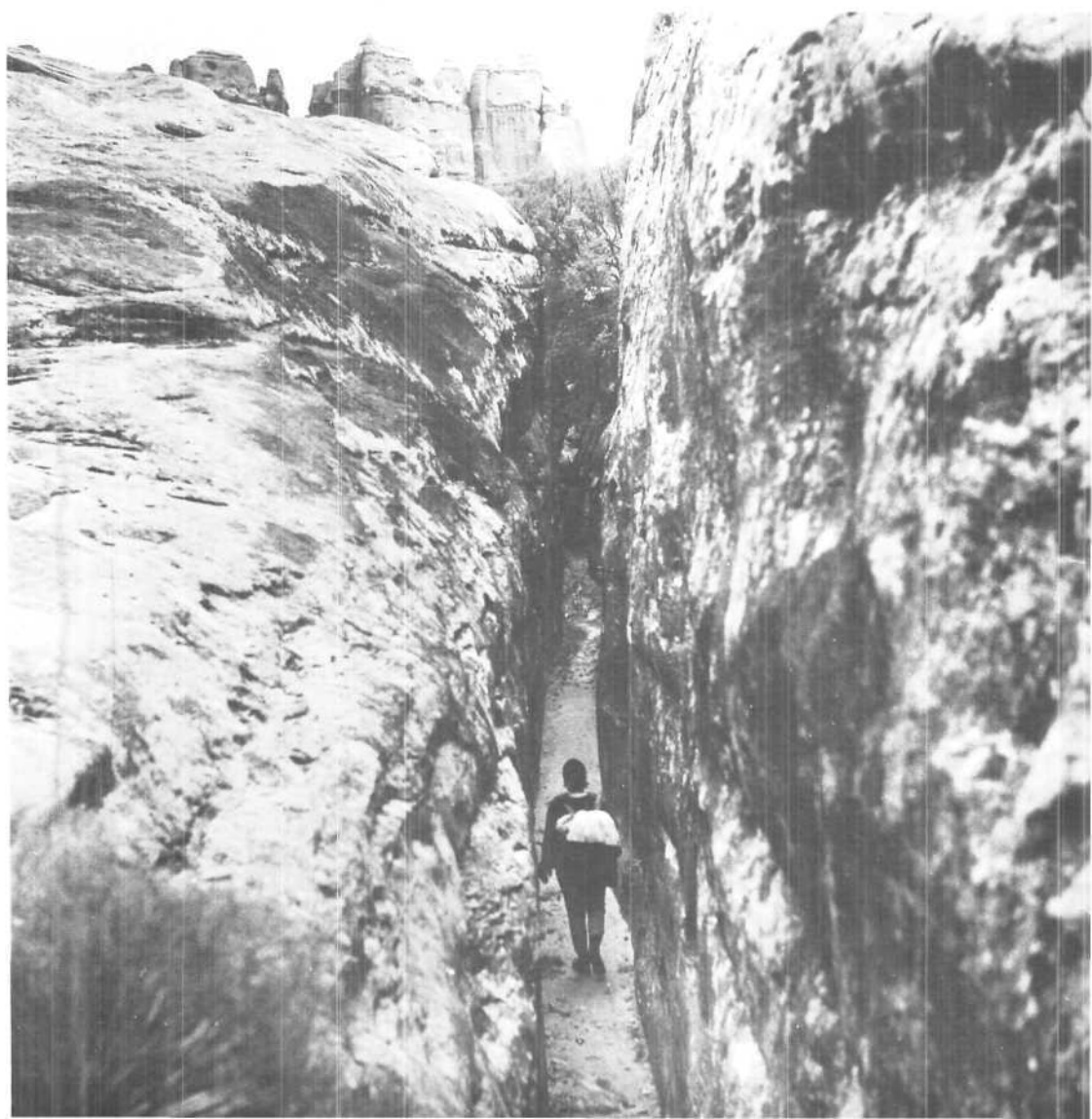
There is a shorter trail to Druid out of Chesler Park that requires five hours to complete the six mile round trip. It is necessary to jeep into the Chesler Park area to the Joint Crevasse Trail head, hike the Joint Trail into Chesler, (45 minutes) then across the Park to the campground on the east side where a directional sign starts the hiker on his way. The two trails meet in the bottom of Elephant Canyon. Both trails are marked by large stone cairns that are easy to follow, directional signs and signs that direct to water.

views from each ridge that must be crossed, and it is wise to follow cairns so there will be no need to back track.

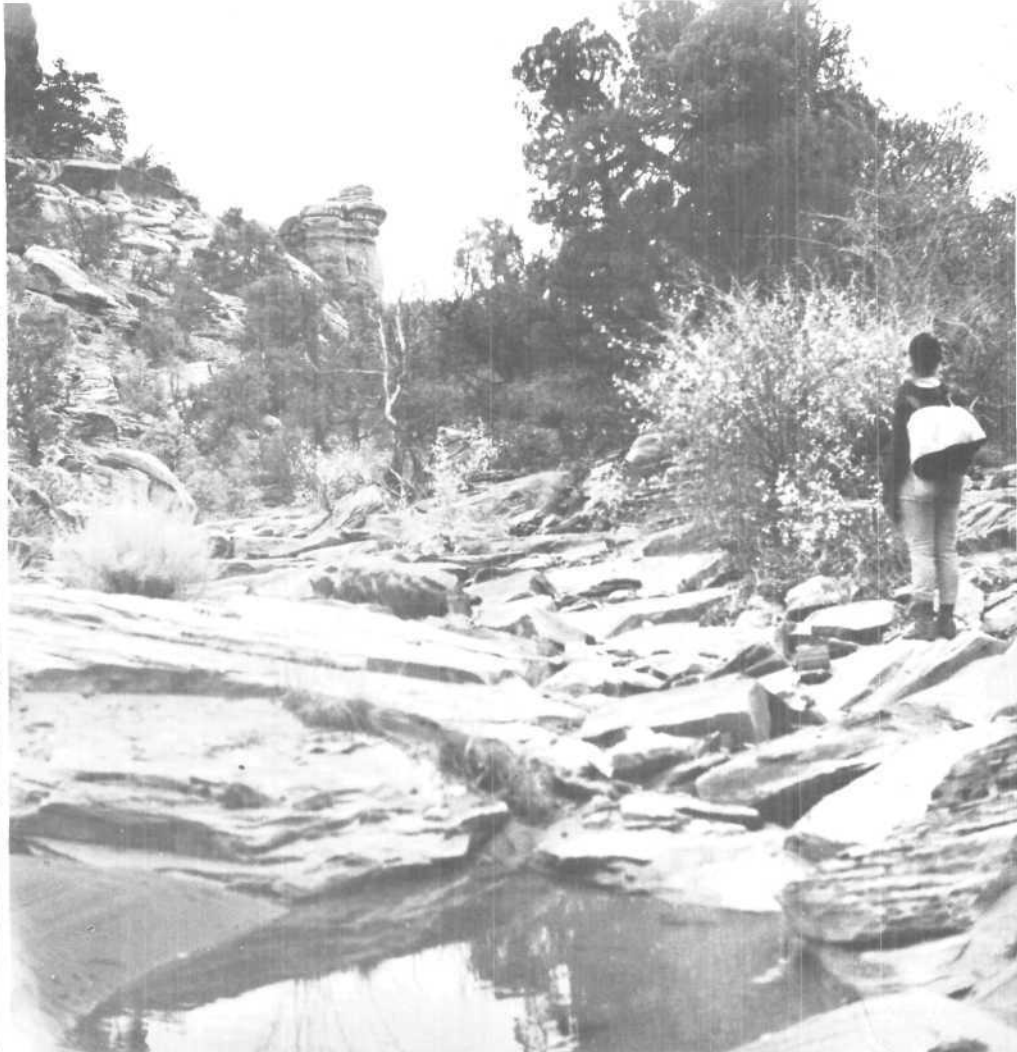
The trail will cross wide meadows lush with desert grasses, ascend and descend narrow crevasses. In one of the fissures a gnarled, shaggy cedar tree has grown very tall and slender as it reached for life giving sunshine within its narrow prison walls. Another steep crevice contains a neat flight of log steps constructed by the park rangers. The cairns—our silent guides—led us over wide rolling shelves of dark iron-red sandstone, under ledges and down the sides of slickrock knobby domes, up and down steps of crossbedded formations. We crossed three canyons and four ridges so there was a bit of easy climbing involved before reaching Elephant Canyon.

Always along the path we paused to absorb the vistas that unfolded below and in the distance as we topped each successive ridge. This trail penetrates into the very heart of the Needles Country of the National Park. It is incredibly beautiful.

*Shaped like part of the walls of an ancient temple resembling the ruins of England's prehistoric megalithic Stonehenge, Druid Arch is 360 feet high and appeared "unbelievably massive" to the author as she rounded a bend and saw the arch silhouetted against the Utah sky. The hike through this section of Canyonlands National Park (right) traverses numerous stream beds. Photos by the author.*



*Fern Frost walks through a narrow crevasse, one of the many unusual geological formations encountered during the hike to Druid Arch.*



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When we reached Elephant Canyon the cairns followed the stream bed most of the last two miles, but there were places where the path led up the side of the canyon because of deep water holes that blocked our way. As we progressed, the walls became increasingly higher and vertical, splendidly weathered and luminous.

We rounded a bend and Druid Arch stood high above on its pedestal—a first thought—that it is unbelievably massive. It is, for it stands three hundred and sixty feet high! Its shape is rather like part of the walls of an ancient temple with columns supporting portions of a roof.

It has been likened to the ruins of Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain, south central Wiltshire, England. Perhaps those who named Druid Arch thought of the order of priests or teachers or religion in ancient Gaul, Britain and Ireland who





*Elephant Canyon has deep water holes and brilliantly colored sandstone formations making it appear like a fairyland.*

were called Druids, and placed them at the Stonehenge location.

There is a trail that turns left up a talus slope to a ledge which brought us almost on a level with the lower base of the arch—this ledge should be treated with respect as a careless misstep would send one down the steep wall. There is a good view of the Arch from this vantage point, and it created a different perspective of the perpendicular lines of the surrounding walls.

A map of the Park Foot Trails and jeep roads may be obtained at the Ranger Station in Squaw Flats where visitors must register. State how long you expect to be gone, in which area you will hike, and inquire as to the water situation in the canyons as it will vary with the season. Water is the most precious element in the semi-arid Canyonlands Country and park rangers ask that hikers refrain from using the small water basins to swim in or wash clothing as other hikers will need the water for drinking.

Hiking Canyonlands National Park foot trails will be a new delight for the first time visitors to this land of contrasts, with its "slickrock" dunes that hold exquisite

natural rock gardens in hidden coves. Its sandy stream beds that trail silver ribbons of water after a summer shower or its palette of color that changes with each hour of sunlight. Yes, all these the hiker will remember, and they will call him back. □

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# The Side-blotched Lizard

## Tiny, But Tough!

by K. L. Boynton

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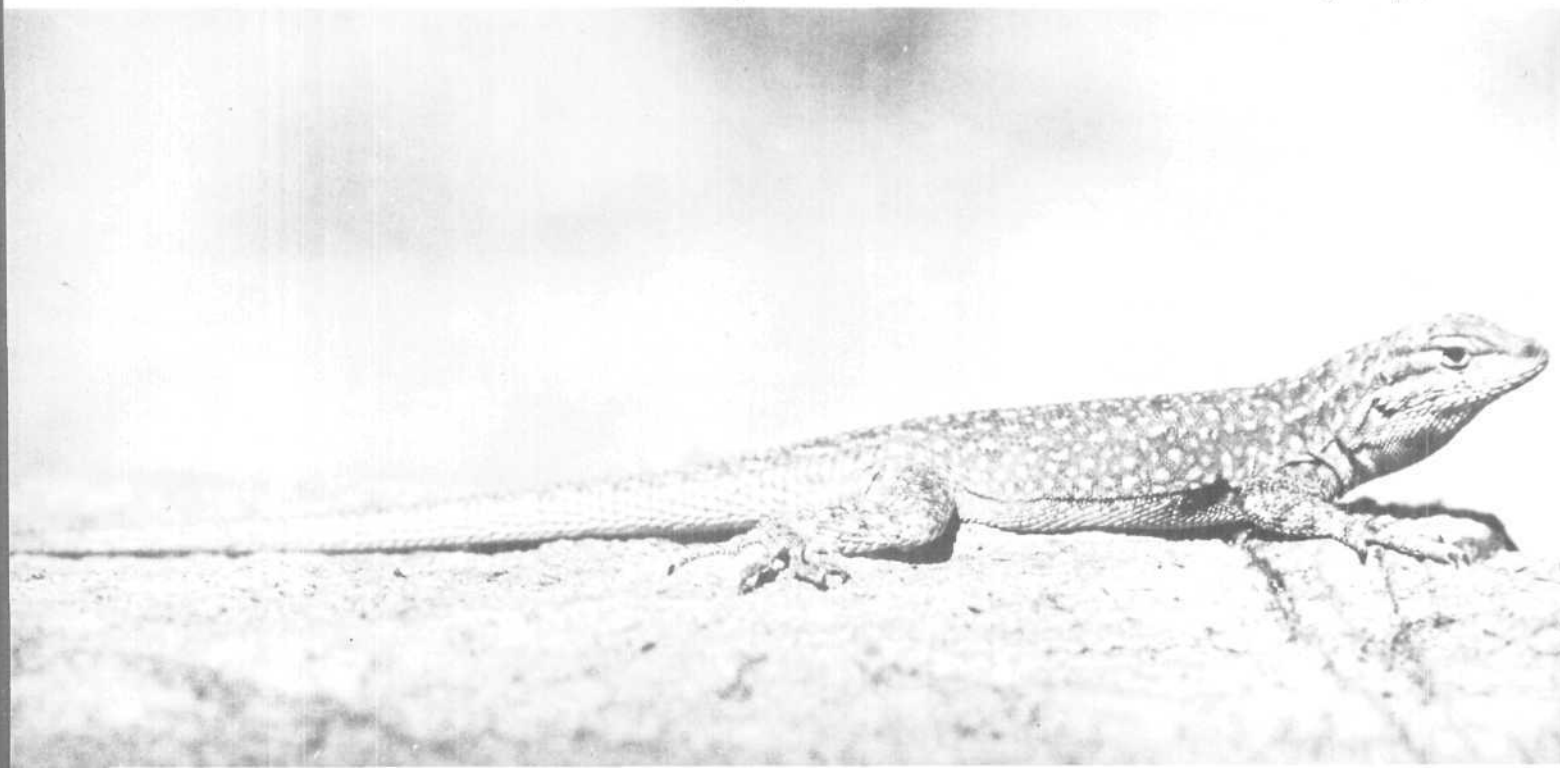
THE SIDE-BLOTCHED lizard is one of the smaller lizards dwelling in the desert lands of the Southwest, being only about two and one-half inches long, not counting his tail. Let it be here recorded, however, that *Uta stansburiana* is one of the toughest. He stands for no nonsense from others of his own kind, nor is he daunted by the might of the great desert.

His species is abundant in a variety of adverse desert conditions, each local population adapting neatly to the different soil, vegetation and altitude conditions in their particular area. They dress in different patterns that seem best to fit the background scenery, and they regulate their behavior to make the most of bad conditions around them. They all carry the tribal badge—a distinctive dark spot on each side just back of the arm—the dark blotch from whence spots their common name. And, they all subscribe to the Uta

clan motto: "Live alone and like it."

Yes, Utas are anti-social. Each one of these little lizards, fellows and gals alike, sets up a private territory. Those claimed by males are about .11 acre in size, those of females much smaller, .03 acre. Boundary lines are policed with vigor. From March to mid-August, intruders of the same sex get the bum's rush, the ladies being as adept at tossing female interlopers out of their domains as the gentlemen are at expelling male intruders.

Scientists view with interest this strong territorial behavior, particularly since it turns out upon further investigation that there's a loophole in the apparently iron-clad Uta scheme. While the large territories of the gentlemen never overlap, it just may happen that a goodly portion of a smaller territory claimed by a lady living next door so to speak lies within the domain of a male. Naturally enough, who





*Although one of the smaller desert dwellers, the Side-blotched lizard is tough and can survive under the most adverse conditions. They are "loners" as far as other lizards are concerned. Averaging only about four inches long, the gender have different markings. The male (opposite page) is dotted whereas the female and her hatchling (right) have marks down their backs.*



would be so ungallant as to point out to a lady that her property survey was in error? And so it seems that under such conditions, a more neighborly attitude between these two is apt to exist.

In fact, the chances are exceedingly good that encounters between the resident male going about his daily business and the lady dwelling partially within his territory will become increasingly frequent. This is a matter with plenty of social consequence, since females are receptive to overtures only at certain times. Furthermore, what with the local lad's constant patrolling of his lines, the chance that this lady will meet other non-resident

males diminishes immediately.

What emerges from all this territorial system is first of all a spacing out of the local population that makes the most of the grocery supply in a sparse environment, a real advantage both for the individual lizard and the species. But then something else is also achieved, largely due to the loophole: a kind of monogamous situation since the same two lizards tend to pair during the breeding season to produce the customary three batches of young per season.

Uta's day begins shortly after sunrise. Pushing out of the sand where he's been buried all night, he basks in the warming

rays of the sun. Being a lizard he is a member of the cold blooded brotherhood, unable to manufacture enough heat within his body for much activity. Turning this way and that to expose the greatest part of his body to the sun, he warms up fairly quickly since he is so small. Now he's ready for the day's work, which consists mainly of eating as the opportunity offers, basking in the sun, resting in the shade, moving from plant to plant, and patrolling his boundary lines.

Utas are not active foragers, nor need they be. Staying around sheltering plants as is so characteristic of them, they find a good food supply at hand, since insects

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also hang about plants. Black ants, beetles, grasshoppers, caterpillars are snapped up quickly. One female was observed to tuck away 25 to 30 ants merely as a snack while resting under a yucca during the heat of the day. Utas are particularly fond of leafhoppers, and eat so many of these that in Nevada they are considered of prime economic importance in controlling these insects on beets.

In moving about Utas travel quickly, legging it from one sheltering plant to the next. Tinkle found that the average running speed was about 6 mph which could be sustained long enough to cross the short spaces between shelters. And in this matter, the particular location of the population makes a big difference in how Utas make out. Texas Utas living in vegetation areas where low mesquite, yuccas, sand sage, broomweed plants grow rather closely together, are seldom caught by birds, since they are not actually out in the open very long when going between plants. Alexander and Whitford in their study showed that it was a quite different story for Utas dwelling in New Mexico on creosote flats where wide spaces occur between plants. Here the lizards are forced to be out in the open more and, speedy

as they are, are caught handily by both sparrow hawks and shrikes.

Utas are subject to predation 24 hours a day. Snakes of various sorts—rattlers, coachwhips, glossy snakes—are quick to catch them. There are also the larger leopard lizards around who, highly predatory and very fast on their feet, account for many a Uta demise among both the adults and the hatchlings. Mortality is high, but Utas stay in business. Each female lays about 12 eggs during the season, and at least 20 percent of the hatchlings make it successfully to maturity, which is reached about four months after hatching.

The youngsters are less than one inch long when they first emerge from the shell and live on the yolk still clinging to them for the first few days. Growth is slow at first, then steps up in speed, the young shedding their skin frequently as they increase in size.

Growth of the tail is very important since this appendage is of big use in escaping predators. Like many lizards, Utas have fracture points in their tails at which the tail is easily broken. The portion of the tail beyond the break parts company with the body, and many a lizard owes his life to leaving part of his tail behind. Fast regeneration of the lost part is important, for a lizard needs his tail not only for future escape tactics but also for balance, fat storage, fighting and mating. About a week after a break occurs, a callous forms at the spot, and after this regrowth becomes rapid until the lost portion of the tail is replaced. Regeneration is quickest if the break occurs near the base; slowest if just the tip end is lost.

Besides producing three batches of young, Utas have another reproductive advantage — a special form of delayed

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fertilization. Anatomist Cuellar, checking into this, found that sperm from a mating is stored in the female's body and remains active at least 81 days. This is about the time needed for the development of two clutches of eggs. A clutch is made up of four eggs, and each clutch is formed separately in the ovaries and laid. About 50 days after the first clutch, the second is ready. Thus the stored sperm, still active, can fertilize the second clutch, if need be. This could well be a factor in maintaining Uta numbers, for while the males slow down productively about the middle of July, the females can go right on and lay another clutch even considerably later, fertilized by this single mating.

Late afternoon is the period of most activity among Utas, the lizards moving about considerably, feeding and patrolling their boundaries. Most social contacts are made at this time, since everybody is abroad and challenges, bluffing, fighting take place now, and indeed wooing, too. In late evening the lizards bask again in the sinking rays of the sun, and as the air cools down, seem to become quite nervous, moving about almost constantly although only for a distance of a foot or so at a time. Finally when the air temperature is down to about 77 degrees, the lizards retire. Pushing their snouts into the sand and shoving with their hind legs, they bury their entire bodies. By sunset everybody's gone to bed.

Actually one reason why these lizards get along so well in their deadly desert surroundings is that as lizards go they are rather sedentary, spending so much time sitting, either basking in the sun or resting in the shade. Hence their energy budget is low. Food is handy, so no big effort is required to get something to eat. About the only time spurts of energy are needed are in racing from plant to plant, or in the late afternoon activity session of boundary patrols. Long periods of inactivity during

the heat of the day conserves body moisture and keeps the lizards cooler. On earth as early as 10 million years ago, Utas have learned how to adjust behavior for maximum comfort under exceedingly bad conditions. As a species, however, they are short-lived; the average length of a normal life span of an individual being only about two years.

Ironically, this short life may be a key to the future survival of the species in these days when man is so busy spoiling things in the world about him. Studies are going on now in the areas around Jackass Flats, Nevada at the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's Test Site, that point in this direction. The whole terrain here has been exposed to low levels of gamma radiation, and the investigations are aimed at finding out what has happened to the vegetation and wildlife because of it. It has been discovered already, for instance, that female leopard lizards are sterile after three years exposure. In this area, therefore, leopard lizards are on their way out. Here in this spot, because of radiation, this particular species is finished.

But the side-blotched Uta clan apparently survive the radiation without noticeable ill effects, the females still being found to be fertile. This is due to their much shorter life span. During the two years each female Uta lives, she receives far less radiation than the dose accumulated by the female leopard lizards during their longer life span of eight or nine years.

So in the last analysis, the little Utas may have the last laugh on their arch enemies the leopard lizards, and incidentally, on man himself. □

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# Jungles of San Blas

by Jack Delaney



A WELCOMING PARTY of a million diminutive, but ferocious, flying insects awaits you upon your arrival at San Blas, Mexico—especially around sundown! This is the warning you'll hear, and read, when you plan a trip to this tropical paradise.

Yet, during an enjoyable stay in the village and a thrilling jungle river cruise, we were not invaded by these little flying beasts. Possibly the answer is they practice their skin-game along the beach exclusively; or that they prefer the humid summer season for "doing their sting!"

San Blas, in the state of Nayarit, is on the west coast of Mexico about 180 miles south of Mazatlan. Should you want to drive the approximate 1,000 miles from the United States border to this tropical community, you'll find paved roads all the way. Just follow Mexican Highway 15 through many interesting cities and towns, to the San Blas turnoff at Km 941 (about 20 miles north of Tepic). Turn right at the clearly marked junction and drive through 22 miles of lush, green vegetation to the village.

Here, you'll have an opportunity to thrill to the real thing, after having seen artificial rides at Disneyland and other amusement parks in the United States. Dress casually, and be sure to bring your camera and a supply of color film. If you own binoculars or field glasses, bring

them for close-up viewing of the unique specimens of wildlife relaxing in their own world.

A portion of our trip was made by bus; and we learned that first class buses in Mexico are truly first class. They feature two drivers who take turns driving; a rest room; drapes on the windows; music by radio and hi-fi; an ice-chest stocked with cokes (free to first class passengers); meal stops; reserved seats, and low fares. We rode from Mazatlan to Tepic for approximately 50 pesos (\$4.00) for two. The bus from Tepic to San Blas, also first class, cost only 15 pesos (\$1.20) for two.

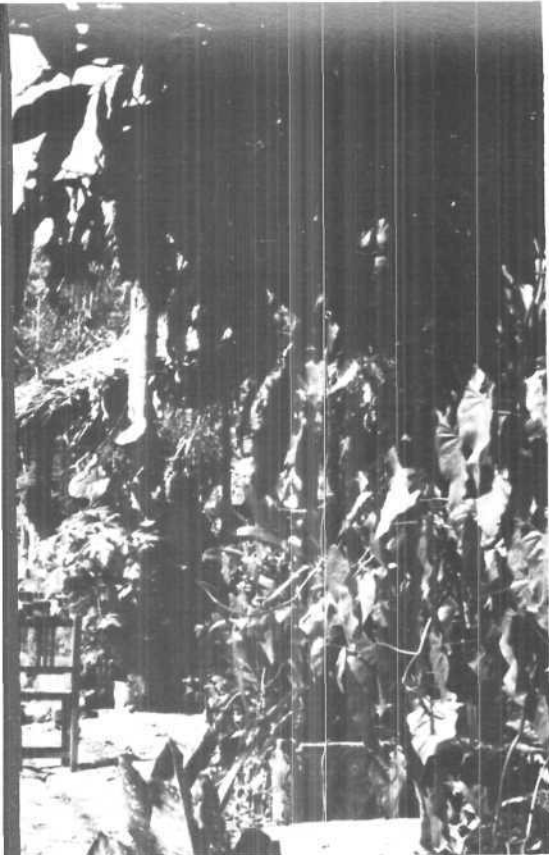
Our choice of living quarters in San Blas was the Bucanero Hotel because we had heard that it was probably the best. We were greeted by a Senor Martinez, who led the way to the hotel and booked us for a jungle excursion the next morning. He quoted us a price of 60 pesos (\$4.80) for two, which we thought was reasonable for a two hour cruise.

The Bucanero is located a block from the village plaza. It has a pretty patio, swimming pool and beautiful tropical gardens. The rate for a twin-bed room for two is 50 pesos (\$4.00) per night—and is worth it! There is no hot water at any time; no glass in the windows (only screens); no insulation between rooms; no heating or air conditioning; but the rooms are clean.

The few other hotels in the village and at the beach, some with a number of trailer spaces, are not considered to be first class. We enjoyed good food in the Bucanero dining room and the prices were reasonable. A typical breakfast costs 24 pesos (\$1.92) for two, and it always starts with a local banana—compliments of the house! Dinners run around 50 pesos (\$4.00) for two, and featured dishes include venison, duck, turtle, steak, lobster, shrimp and oysters—all products of the area.

San Blas was an important Spanish port during the 16th and 17th centuries, with a population of 30,000. It was visited by missionaries Father Kino and Junipero Serra. Also, the pirate, Sir Francis Drake, made an appearance or two. Today, it is a quaint fishing village consisting of 15 or 20 business places encircling its plaza, a cathedral, a few hotels and eating places and several blocks of native homes. There are many picturesque palm-thatched houses scattered within a radius of several miles around the town.

The major attraction here is the jungle river cruise in an outboard motorboat. What appears to be an impenetrable thicket of tropical vegetation is penetrated by a skilled pilot, bringing you in close touch with a mass of mango, papaya, and mangrove trees; coconut palms; banana trees; bamboo and reeds.



*The landing and refreshment stand at the headwaters of the San Blas lagoon looks like a tropical paradise.*

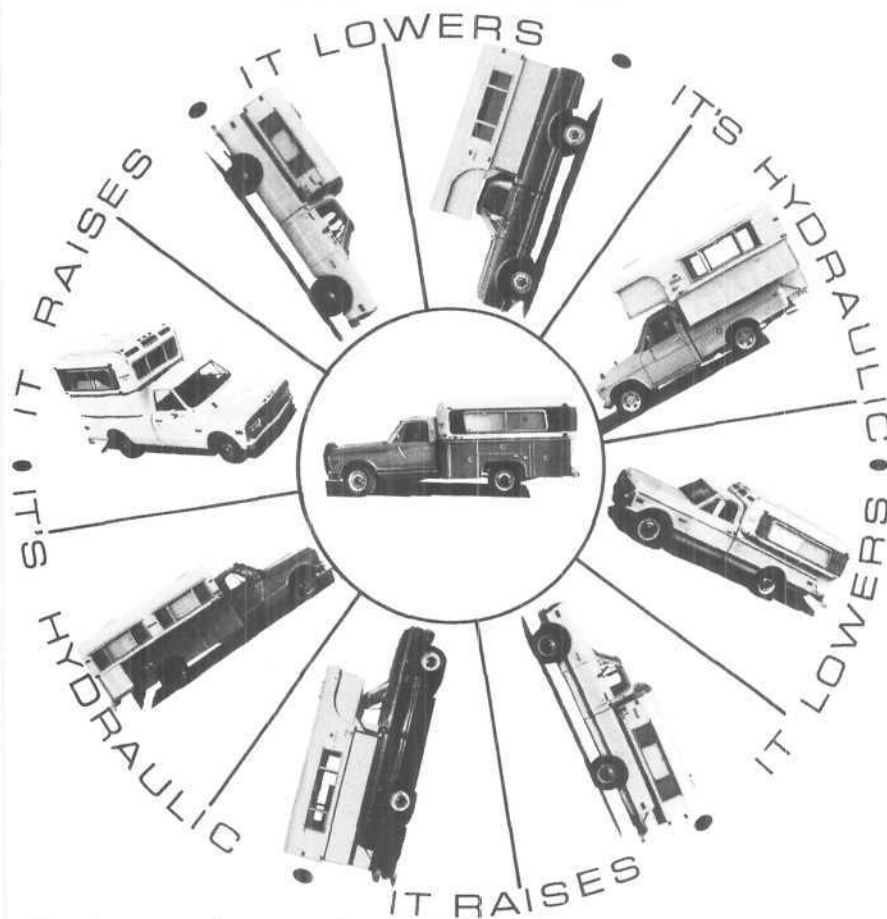
In addition to the fabulous jungle river cruises, this region offers an opportunity for water sports along a fine ocean beach. Also, bird-watchers will be interested to learn that thousands of water birds live on the offshore islands. Peter C. Alden of the Tucson Audubon Society, recently reported 299 different species of birds observed. Boat excursions to these islands

can be arranged, and the rates charged are not out of line.

When you reach the point where you are becoming bored with your routine and wish you were out in the jungle, away from the daily grind—keep San Blas in mind. You'll find something different and refreshing here. But regardless of what you read in the first paragraph of this article, be sure to bring some insect repellent along. It is always possible that your arrival might coincide with a safari of the little flying monsters, and that you might happen to have the kind of skin they love to touch! □

Much of it is covered with ferns and wild orchids, with native lilies growing everywhere. You'll see parakeet nests hanging from the trees and many exotic birds flying or resting—with their eyes on you! The cruise leads to a picturesque landing, with a refreshment stand, at the headwaters of the lagoon.

We enjoyed every mile of the trip, sitting at the bow of the boat, with Senor Martinez at the controls. He cut off the motor whenever I raised my camera for a picture (a courtesy I appreciated), and even called our attention to a particularly attractive picture material along the way.



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*To entertain his friends, "Lucky" Baldwin built the Queen Anne Cottage. The marble steps and gingerbread ornaments made it the last word in elegance in Los Angeles during the turn of the century.*

# Lavish Legacy of Lucky Baldwin

by R. Daniel Clark

**F**EW OF the hundreds of thousands of motorists who drive to the Santa Anita rack track in Arcadia, California, are aware that within a few hundred yards of them is one of the most beautiful spots in all of Southern California.

Hidden for years from the public, this beautiful arboretum of trees, shrubs and flowers is open daily to visitors. It is the heart of the home and grounds of the fabulous E. J. "Lucky" Baldwin and his Rancho Santa Anita.

And, as a crazy quilt always has one patch brighter, odder, lovelier, and more romantically interesting than the rest, so this 100-acre estate is the most outstanding of all of Baldwin's holdings.

Here, giant oaks and bubbling springs set the stage originally, but Baldwin spent money lavishly to aid nature in providing a more perfect paradise. He dug wells, enlarged reservoirs and improved the irrigation system. He planted orchards, vineyards and fields of various crops. He made an eucalypti-bordered lake out of the marshy *ciénega*—planting the first eucalyptus trees in California.

When Baldwin died in 1909, he was lord and master of an estate, the value of which he but little dreamed. Even then the horticultural aspects of Rancho Santa Anita were tremendous. These included the finest orchards of citrus fruits, grapes,

walnuts, peaches, apricots, olives, pears, plums, cherries, persimmons and apples; the corn and alfalfa; the barley and oats. Then, too, there was the expansive water system, which conveyed spring water from huge reservoirs to every part of the homesite. Baldwin so loved the sound of running water that he built several fountains among the trees, adjacent to the buildings.

Thirty-six years after Baldwin's death—March of 1947—the deed to his old home, the outbuilding and the surrounding estate was turned over by Rancho Santa Anita, Inc., to the Chairman of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The property had been bought in partnership by the State of California and the County of Los Angeles for the purpose of turning the grounds into a public arboretum and botanic garden.

Dr. Samuel Ayres, Jr., Chairman of the Arboretum Committee of the Horticultural Institute, in speaking at the presentation about future plans for the project, compared them with those of the Kew Gardens in London and the New York Botanical Gardens.

"Here," said Ayres, "will eventually flourish the most exotic flowers and trees in the world. We have the opportunity in Southern California, and particularly in the arboretum, to grow things which can-

One of the many features of the Santa Anita Arboretum is the Aquatic Garden with its terraced pools. The Arboretum contains some of the most exotic flowers and trees in the world and, although little known, is open to the public.



not be grown elsewhere (parts of Florida excluded) except under glass." In conclusion, he stated that all the garden clubs, the horticultural societies and the bird organizations in California were interested in the development of this arboretum.

The horticultural aspects of the arboretum are impressive. Palms at Rancho Santa Anita are the tallest in California, one being 108-feet high. A redwood found here is also the tallest in the south. In addition, rare trees of all kinds prevail. For instance, there is the Ginkgo — or Maidenhair Tree. It is the sacred tree of China and is the oldest tree in the world's history. There are seven of these beautiful trees at the arboretum.

In thinking of this example of California's scenic attractions, one must keep in mind the great fundamental distinction between a botanic garden or arboretum and a park. A public park is intended to serve hygienic, esthetic and recreational needs. And in planting a park the main consideration is beauty. No attention need be paid to the botanical affinities of the trees and shrubs and herbaceous plants.

Of course beauty is equally essential in an arboretum, but there is the added handicap of botanical complications. Also, in a public park plants are *sometimes* labeled; in a botanical garden they *must* be, for it is the primary purpose of the plantations

to be educational. No one ever thinks of a public park as an educational center, but that is precisely what an arboretum is—an outdoor museum of plant life, about which is organized a program for the advancement and diffusion of knowledge.

Those who realize the civic and economic importance of arboriculture, silviculture and scientific forestry have always recognized the great advantages of an arboretum and scientific forestry have always there is no question but what this Southern California arboretum has made a tremendous contribution to the understanding and appreciation of horticulture to all classes of people. To the student it has scientific appeal; to the lay gardener it shows the use of plant materials, and to those who have never worked with plants, it is often the stimulation for starting a garden of their own.

In addition to the botanical features of the arboretum, there are several interesting buildings within the grounds which were used in Baldwin's time. For instance he restored the old adobe that had been first built by Hugo Reid in 1839, and added a wing himself in 1879.

In order that he might properly entertain his friends, Baldwin built the lovely Queen Anne Cottage which also looks out upon the lake. Its marble steps and "gingerbread" ornaments were the last word

in elegance. Inside was even more elegance, for here was the paneled bathroom with its enclosed bathtub of lead, its funny commode, and the enclosed lavatory. This building, also known as the Old Casino, still supports its ornate bell-tower.

Spacious verandas surround the ground floor and overlook vistas of sylvan beauty. Roulette and card games were played here by Baldwin and his friends—not commercially—but for their own amusement. The old safe that guarded Baldwin's fortune is still in one of the rooms—and still locked!

A stone's throw from the Queen Anne Cottage is the old Coach Barn. One cannot enter its doors without feeling the clock being turned back to an earlier and more leisurely day. Heavily and carefully built, this building will stand for generations. Within, much as it was in the '90s. The old carriage stalls are still as serviceable as they were 75 years ago, and are still tipped with their ornate iron work. Inset in the design is the date and maker's name: "1879—San Francisco, Savage and Son."

It is their antiquated charm combined with the priceless collection of flora about them which brings thousands of people to see and enjoy the magnificence that is here. □









# WEEK END DESERT

WHEN PROVIDENCE placed the Anza-Borrego Desert so close to the metropolitan areas of Southern California, she certainly was partial to the desert lover. Unwittingly, in these new begotten days, this proximity is proving to be the desert's undoing. With the easy and swift accessibility offered by freeways, weekending armies of unsympathetic land tramps armed with combustion engines are waging all out war on desert fauna, flora and mineral.

It would be imprudent to suggest that modern man wean himself from his spark plug pacifier. Deaf ears listen not to the mass media warning of recreation land plunder. The one possible way to save what hasn't yet been ravished is to create a suitable environment conducive to the appetite of the times. Such an environment is the "Week End Desert." This synthetic, indestructible desert park would confine the spoilers while giving them every opportunity to rip and roar about in their multi-wheeled terrain munchers, four-wheeled flora crunchers, mini and monster rut makers, and all their other anti-ecology blitzers.

The "Week End Desert" starts with a simple credit card. It ends with the guaranteed satisfaction of having spent a profitable weekend ravaging Mother Earth without that fair dame receiving one blight.

## MAP LEGEND

1. Charge card gate, restricted to motorized blitzers and dedicated spoilers.
2. Water hole for general polluting.
3. Knock down, pop up, indestructible plastic flora.
4. Family hiker manikins for maniacal drivers.
5. Bottomless pit for terrain rooters.
6. Pop up armor-plated fauna cutouts for playing safari.
7. Target range for indiscriminate plunkers.
8. Whittle table for park cut-ups.
9. Historic synthetic ruins for playing "ruin your heritage."
10. Doodle boulders for extroverted exhibitionists.
11. Plasma-fed elephant tree for axe, sword or pen knife.
12. Stuffed furies for sportsmen to ride down and squash.
13. Fireproof fan palms for fire nuts.





by Walter Ford

*This stray cat was probably just as surprised as the author when he wandered into the nocturnal shutterbug contraption.*

# NOCTURNAL SHUTTERBUGS

**M**ANY DESERT denizens forage for their food at night and those we rarely see. The only signs of their presence are tracks across the sand dunes and burrows in which they spend their daylight hours. However, in spite of their elusiveness, we can record their images on film—and even have them assist in the picture-taking operations.

To engage in this intriguing phase of nature photography, we need a camera with an electronic flash, tripod, a means of tripping our camera shutter and an extra supply of patience. The easiest setup for tripping the shutter is a piece of thread strung across an animal's path with one end attached to the shutter release. And while that method is simple to arrange, it can't be recommended for 100 percent reliability. I used it successfully many times until one of my subjects be-

came tangled with the thread and tipped my camera over into the sand.

The replacement for the thread-controlled shutter was a beam of infrared light. A bit of food was placed in an area before the camera and a flashlight with a red filter over its lens was located to shine across the area and into a photocell. When an animal walked through the light beam the photocell actuated a relay which tripped the camera shutter and photoflash.

The first photo taken with the light-beam controlled shutter was in front of a small burrow one night on the Mojave Desert. When developed the negative showed a blurred image of a kangaroo rat. This little animal rates high on the desert kit fox's bill of fare and the remarkable speed that he uses in trying to escape this natural enemy was dramatically shown in the photograph. The flashlight

bulb had an effective duration of only 1/200 of a second, yet during that brief interval the *Dipodomys* was able to sense a possible danger, then nearly complete a turn to get back to his underground home.

The original light-beam controlled camera provided fun and excitement on many desert safaris, even though it required frequent checking during an evening to see if the shutter had been tripped. The camera was usually set up some distance from camp and when it was located in rough terrain, finding it in the dark often created problems. Recently, I rebuilt the control unit to eliminate that annoyance.

Now, I can relax in camp until an exposure has been made. Two seconds after the camera shutter has been triggered, a light which may be seen up to 500 feet away signals that a customer has entered my outdoor studio, posed for his picture,

and departed. At the same time a switch automatically cuts off battery power to all controls but the signal light, to prevent possible damage to them if an animal happens to nudge the light source out of line. This would have the same effect as if the light beam were broken during an exposure operation, except that the flow of current through the relays would be continuous with probable damage from overheating.

I made the test of the improved camera shutter control in my back yard. Twelve years ago the area was surrounded with chaparral from which small animals would come nightly to get the scraps of food I had placed out for them. With the development of the neighborhood during the intervening years, the number of their visits gradually dwindled up to about three years ago when they stopped altogether.

An exciting phase of subject-controlled nature photography is that you never know what you have captured on film until the negative has been developed. When I set up the remodeled equipment for its first test, I hoped that one of my old animal friends might return, but instead the developed negative revealed a black alley cat—a battle-scarred veteran that apparently was just passing through.

I set up my camera equipment for the first field test recently in the Anza-Borrego State Park near what looked like a kangaroo rat's burrow. Since the terrain was rough I placed a flat rock over the opening so that it would break the light beam if moved upward. Soon after dark the signal light indicated an exposure had been made. The next day, after considering how far I had traveled to make the first field test, I returned to the same spot to take an "insurance" shot.

When the negatives were developed the first one taken revealed not the *Dipodomys* I expected but a large hairy tarantula. The second negative was equally surprising, but disappointing. It showed how close I came to getting a one-in-a-thousand picture. The negative showed a leg of the tarantula reaching out of the burrow and a small scorpion just a few inches away.

It disclosed also my mistake in covering the opening with a flat stone. Without it the camera shutter would not have operated until the tarantula had climbed above the ground, then the perplexing question whether the subjects were on a collision course or just going their separate ways would have been answered. □



*Breaking the photocell (lower right of picture) light beam, a tarantula (above) is photographed as he leaves his hole. Rock over the tarantula's hole prevented author from obtaining actual confrontation of tarantula and scorpion—or was it just a friendly visit?*







OWL'S CLOVER



CALIFORNIA POPPIES

# Spring Splendor in Antelope

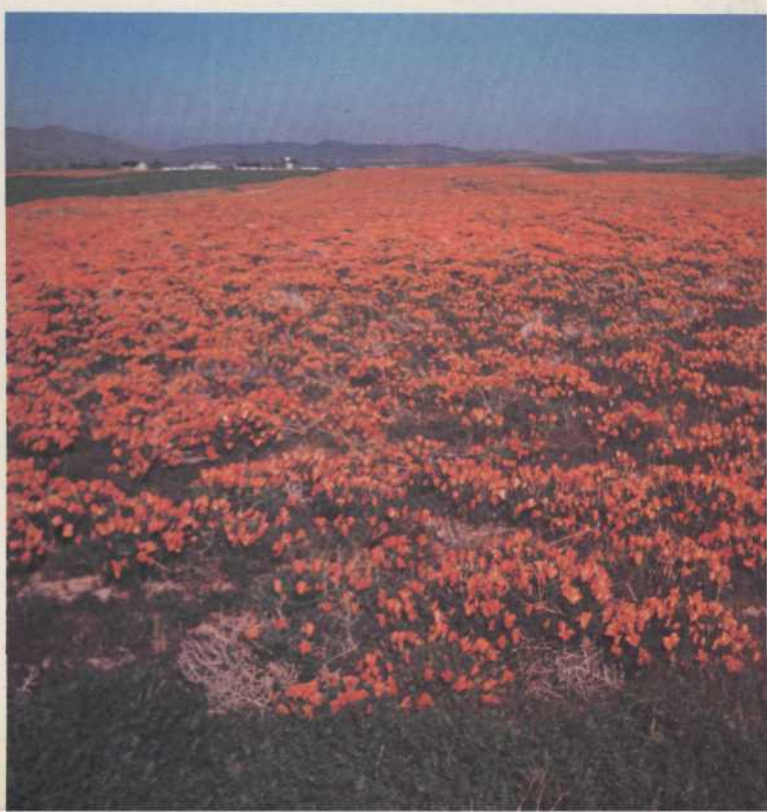
by Mary Frances Strong

Photos by Jerry Strong

YELLOW BUSH



GOLDEN POPPIES







POPPIES AND OWL'S CLOVER



CLUMPS OF LUPINE

# Valley

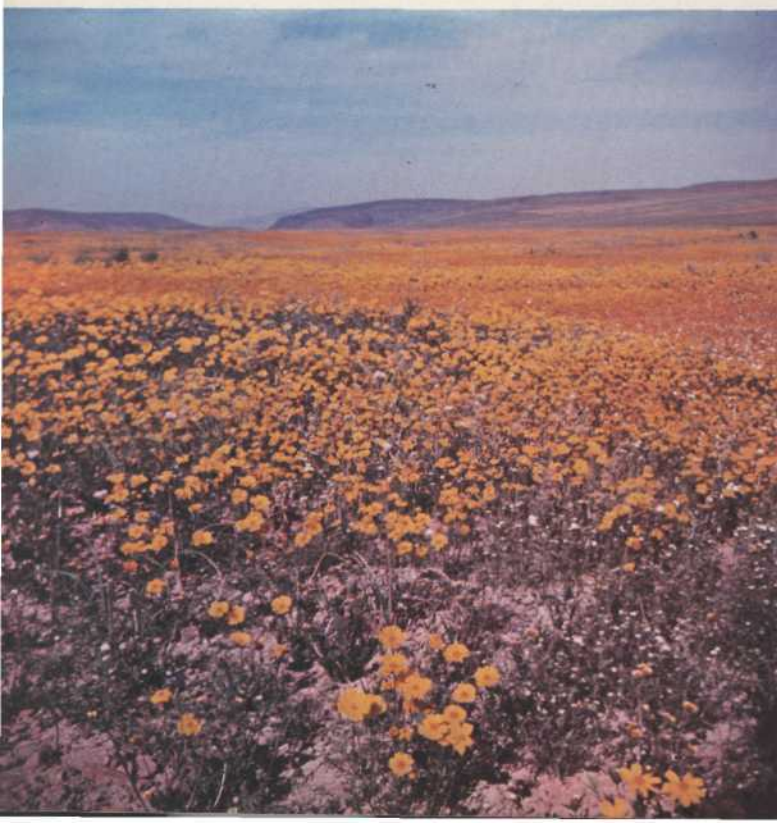
WHEN SEVERAL winter storms manage to surmount mountain barriers and drop adequate moisture on California's desert region, one of Nature's miracles will be revealed—the birth of wildflowers.

The somber, beige-colored land soon takes on a velvet-green hue and, by late February, flowers will begin to carpet the area with a kaleidoscope of color often lasting well into May.

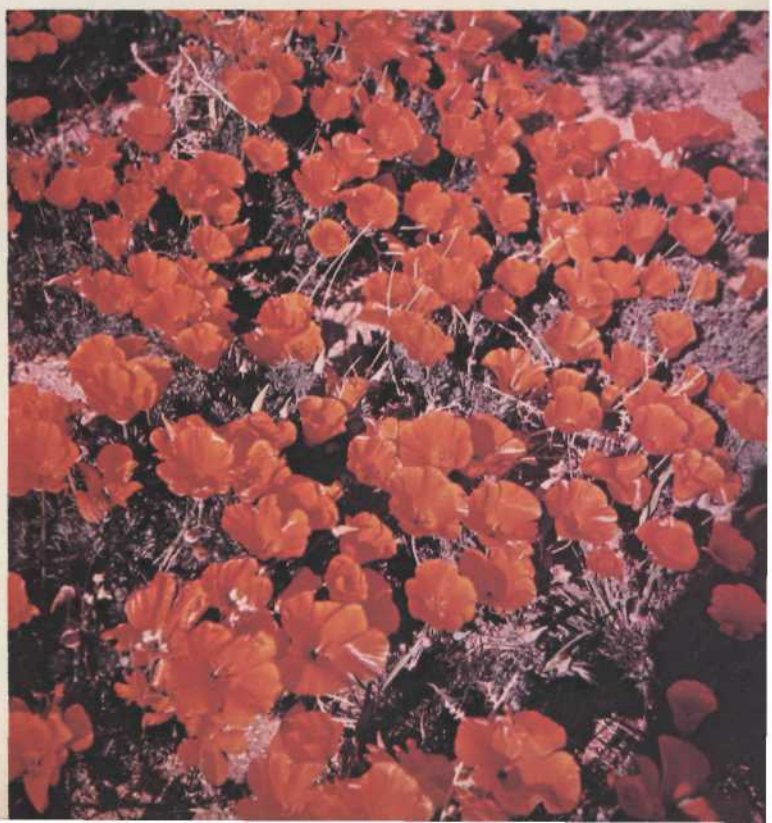
It is a time of rebirth even on the capricious and foreboding desert. Thrashers sing from the Joshua trees, Gambel quail have paired up and a new season is underway.

Tremendous fields of California poppies, lupine, coreopsis, desert dandelion, alkali goldfields and gilia; and smaller stands of owl's clover, candelaria, phacelia and thistle sage, plus many other varieties give a succession of colorful per-

FIELD OF COREOPSIS



CALIFORNIA POPPIES







*Mrs. Grace Oliver, owner of Antelope Valley Museum, displays Indian basket.*

formances. The show is about to begin and it shouldn't be missed. Now is the time for a trip to the Antelope Valley to enjoy spring's splendor.

While large masses of wildflowers will be found throughout the desert region, the Antelope Valley, on the Western Mojave, seems to be particularly favored. The wildflower areas are easily reached via paved roads which also lead through the historical past of the Valley. Two main

tours cover the western and eastern sections providing more than a full weekend of activities for spring visitors.

#### WESTERN TOUR

The earliest wildflowers begin blooming in Western Antelope Valley and by mid-March they surround and decorate many early-day historical sites. It is as if spring is the time to recall and honor the freighter, miners and pioneers who have

braved the unknown desert and brought about its development. The western tour will take you to outstanding fields of flowers and the more important historical sites.

Let's begin by leaving State Highway 14 at the Rosamond Boulevard offramp, 12 miles north of Lancaster. Turn left, then continue west for three miles to the Mojave-Tropico Road. Turn right and almost immediately you will have a good view of a sizeable mining operation in the Rosamond Hills.

This is the Tropico Gold Mine which now encompasses a half-dozen of the original mines including the famed Lida. Discovered in 1896 by Ezra Hamilton, the Lida started the Rosamond Hills mining boom that lasted for over a half century.

In recent years, the Tropico has become a tourist attraction. Mine tours are conducted all year except Monday and Tuesday of each week. \$1.00 for adults, 75¢ for children, 5 to 11 years, is charged. The tour is interesting and one you will enjoy if you haven't been inside an "honest-to-gosh" gold mine.

Our route now continues north along the Mojave-Tropico Road, cutting through the Rosamond Hills where wildflowers should be in bloom.

Just before the summit is reached, you will see shallow open cuts and pits along both sides of the road. This is the site of the "Great Uranium Strike" of the 1950-56 era. Several claims were filed and a sizeable area posted "No Trespassing." Uranium fever reached a high pitch and gun-carrying claim owners patrolled their property. But—as is so often the case—the ore didn't live up to expectations.

Immediately over the summit, on the north side, dirt tracks lead west to Gem Hill — a popular rock collecting area. Good specimens of petrified wood, agate, opal and agate nodules may be found.

#### ROAD LOG

Mileages not accumulative

- 0.0 Rosamond Blvd. and Mojave-Tropico Road. Drive north.
- 4.6 Turn left onto dirt tracks.
- .5 Keep ahead. Dirt tracks on left lead up to collecting area 1.
- .5 Turn left.
- .4 End of road. Nodules occur on hill to the west. Hike over the summit south of the parking area to the collecting area. It is a short hike.



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Soledad Mountain, a large volcanic core of silicious lava, looms skyward as our route continues north to Backus Road. During March, it is covered with wooly coreopsis. Little dirt roads lead back into the mountain's inner recesses inviting closer inspection and the opportunity to take some fine color photographs.

A particularly interesting flower area lies in the southwest corner of Soledad Mountain. Cross Backus Road and go north a few hundred feet to a dirt road leading off to the right. The wide variety of wildflowers found in this area gives a garden effect with blossoms of lilac, yellow, white, blue and orange intermingled. Camera buffs may find a new flower to add to their color slide collection.

Traveling west on Backus Road, intermittent wildflowers will be seen with the next large masses on the Middle Buttes. California poppies and wooly coreopsis predominate and, again, many dirt roads lead to and through the fields of flowers.

Continue west to the Tehachapi-Willow Springs Road and turn left. Drive south four miles to Hamilton Road, turn right and then left onto Manley Road. A mile further south you will enter Willow Springs—perhaps the most notable historical site in the Antelope Valley.

Long known and used by the Indians, Willow Springs served them as an important camp and burial ground. The first white man to cross the great Mojave Desert, Padre Fray Francisco Garces, camped at the spring in 1776. The year 1827 found the famed mountain man Jedediah Smith stopping at the spring. Other famous visitors include John Fremont and Kit Carson in 1884 and the Jayhawkers party who rested here in 1849 after their ordeal in Death Valley.

By 1860, Willow Springs had become an important stage stop serving travelers en route to the San Joaquin and Owens Valleys.

Ezra Hamilton purchased Willow Springs and 160 acres in 1911 with part of his earnings from the Lida Mine. His plans included the development of the springs into a desert showplace—and this he did. He built a public hall, bath house, hotel, blacksmith shop, stables, school and many cottages—all from native stone. For many years people patronized the springs for reasons of health and vacation.

Today, the buildings are in fair repair and are privately owned. Visitors can readily view and photograph many of



*Stables and corral at Willow Springs were a stage stop in the 1870s.*

them without invading private property. A historical marker has been erected at the now dry spring site.

Continuing south the Tehachapi-Willow Springs Road becomes 90th Street West, after crossing Rosamond Boulevard. Wildflowers will be blooming in

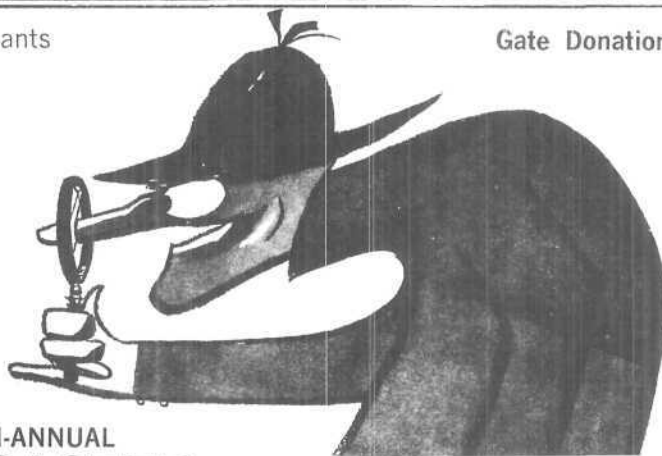
the fields and around several photogenic stone ruins.

Turn right at Highway 138 (Avenue D) and note the dry-farming along the highway which has been developed in a very interesting manner—grain fields al-

*continued on page 31*

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*From left to right: ceremonial dancer with deer headdress; masked Chapayekas carry Judas in effigy; Judas' effigy is burned thus defeating the evil sources so all participants are rededicated to Jesus.*

# MYSTERIOUS YAQUI

EVERY YEAR at Easter, a tribe of American Indians fights a battle with an enemy. There is no bloodshed and no lives are lost. As the enemies advance they are repelled by a bombardment of confetti, flower petals and din. Yaqui Indians have fought this yearly battle for about four centuries.

Yaquis who live in Arizona are refugees from Mexico and so are in a situation quite different from that of indigenous United States tribes. The first important Yaqui encounter with Europeans was in 1533. Spanish soldiers under Diego de Guzman were on their way north to capture Indian slaves. When he tangled with the Yaquis, this ferociously defensive tribe numbering approximately 30,000 caused Guzman to lose all

taste for further contact with Yaquis.

In the following years the Spanish subjugated all of the tribes to the south of the Yaquis and with those tribes, Jesuits were hard at work. So successful were the missionaries among the people that the Mayos, linguistically related neighbors of the Yaquis in the north, asked for and got missionaries to work in their villages, too. Spanish relations with this tribe and those to the south were excellent.

But the Yaqui door remained closed. In an effort to bring the tribe to its knees, physically and religiously, more and bigger armies were sent against them. None were successful. The Yaquis didn't fight beyond their borders but they held their ground.

Then suddenly, to the surprise to everybody, the Yaquis asked for a peace treaty

and missionaries. They had made the decision alone and in their own time. Possibly they had investigated the conditions in other tribes and liked what they saw—agricultural help and acceptable teaching. Not all of the young Yaquis were in agreement but the elders had made the decision and it was honored.

The missionaries moved in and for 60 years there was peace and prosperity. Yaquis from all of the approximately 80 scattered rancherias were gathered together by the Jesuits in eight villages, each with a church. Yaquis had always been agriculturists and the Jesuits helped them improve with new tools and techniques, new products and livestock. The tribe became so prosperous that they were able to export some of their produce.

Then in 1684, rich silver mines were



by Bernice Johnston

Exclusive Photos by  
Charles and Lucile Herbert.

# INDIAN RITUALS

discovered in the area bringing an influx of miners, prospectors and their like who caused friction and made life unpleasant. On their heels came settlers, land grabbers and the typical frontier encroachment on the rights of those already there. Settlers envied the Indians their rich lands and resented the prosperity that had been brought about for the Indians under the Jesuits. The fire of envy grew hot and the pot of turmoil began to boil. The situation became so unbearable that in 1740 the Yaquis and Mayos revolted. When it was all over, the Indians counted 5,000 dead and the Spanish 1,000.

Many of the Indians were scattered beyond their territory, population waned, agriculture was neglected and prosperity declined. The Jesuits tried to recover and save the situation but in 1767 they were

expelled from Mexico.

From 1810 to 1820 as the Spanish fought each other in their War of Independence the Yaquis watched from the sidelines, never considering themselves part of it. But at the end of the conflict, they found they were considered to be Mexicans, too, and therefore, taxable. This caused new and constant harassment. In 1825, the Yaquis again revolted and drove all of the white settlers from their borders. The new Mexican armed forces were no match for them.

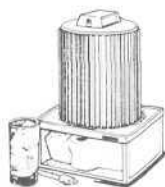
But it was the beginning of the end. They were to defend their rights off and on for another 100 years. Many were killed, others captured and deported to Yucatan and other places, some hid out in the hills, and others fled to the United States. Yaquis were considered a military

threat in Mexico as late as 1927. But the Mexicans were not successful in forcing their land and political systems on the Yaquis even as late as the 1960s.

Those Indians who sought refuge in the United States at the end of the century settled from Nogales to Phoenix, Arizona wherever they could find work on ranches, in fields or mines. Their largest village, Pascua, was established on what was then the outskirts of Tucson. It was eventually smothered under the dirty skirts of the city that soon surrounded it. Another old village, Barrio Libre, is located in the armpit of Interstate 19, south of Tucson. Other villages are at Marana, Scottsdale and Guadalupe, Arizona. Of the eight original villages in Mexico, one is deserted entirely and the bulk of the population is concentrated in



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three of the others.

Being refugees, Yaquis do not qualify for the assistance available to other United States Indians. Their situation is still quite desperate. They came as displaced farmers and tried to compete in a wage economy with little formal education and a meager knowledge of English, speaking mostly Spanish, although many of them could read and write. Most are still at the very bottom of the pay scale.

In 1962, some Pascua residents and other interested citizens petitioned the United States government for land on which to build a new village. They were given a location near the Papago Indian Reservation south of Tucson. It was up to them to obtain money, materials and labor to build a new village. This has gone slowly. Not all of the villagers chose to move for various real and sentimental reasons and so the old village of Pascua hasn't changed too much except to lose about fifty families.

The Yaquis in the old village of Barrio Libre have an equally unsuitable site with the world's traffic roaring over their heads. For a long time they saved and worked for a new church. Their rickety old adobe Church of the Conception was almost unsafe. So behind it they began to build, as they could buy blocks, another church dedicated to St. Martin de Porres. Last year they put the roof on but they still fall short of completion. In all of the vil-  
lages, religion holds priority over any other situation and churches come first.

One of the mysteries concerning the Yaquis is their combined pagan-Christian Lenten and Easter ceremonies. In pre-Spanish times their religion was one of constant conflict between good and evil and the bringing about of the victory of good. This had to do mostly with animal spirits of the hunt. In order to obtain meat the Yaquis had to impress the animal's spirit with the need and convince it that it should give itself up, allow itself to be killed. Dances, ceremonies and songs held before the hunt were to bring this about. When the performance was good enough, the animal allowed itself to be taken.

Such a survival from these times is the Deer Dancer. Those who perform this dance are considered dance masters. It is the ultimate in performance. Older dancers teach young men from childhood. To become successful in the dance, a young man must hunt the deer. He needs to be familiar with the actions of the hunted animal. When a good Deer Dancer performs, he is not an imitator of a deer, he IS the deer. He is alert, listens, stands motionless, moves swiftly and with agility—he defends himself. An observer of the dance catches this animal fever, its fear, its cunning. If the dancer is good, it can be very exciting. No other animal dances are done now but some of the songs are still remembered and sung.

It has always been something of a mystery, too, why the Yaquis found the Christian teaching so acceptable as to incorporate it into their own religion. But remembering that the Yaquis are basically a peaceful people with a high sense of the good-evil polarity, the idea of a God who was peaceful and merciful and who triumphed over death, must have been fairly easy to accept. It is harder to understand the remarkable tolerance of the missionaries who permitted it. In any case, there developed a series of ceremonies commemorating the passion, death and resurrection of Christ that is as complex as the famed pageant of Oberammergau. For about four centuries this yearly observance has been performed in the same way by all Yaquis everywhere. Other linguistically-related Mexican Indians have celebrated it in a similar manner.

Flowers are very important in Yaqui ceremonies and have been from ancient times. The word *sewa*, flower, applied to blooms, acts, heavenly rewards, etc. In their Christian interpretation, flowers are weapons to be used against evil; they are

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Christ's blood drops transformed, and blessings bestowed. Flowers are and have always been their most important religious symbols.

People who take part in certain roles of this pageant do so for having made a manda or a vow. This is a promise of performance in return for a favor granted, a blessing received or other reason. Their training is intense and long and when they must perform, it takes precedence over school, job or any other obligation. Employers find this hard to live with and it often works great hardship on the Yaqui who may get fired or suffer pay loss as a result. Be that as it may, he leaves anyway to perform.

To an outsider these Lenten and Easter services seem very confusing and to most, they are an incomprehensible mixture of excitement and comedy. It is helpful to have an idea of what's going to happen before one witnesses the pageant. To this end, a film was made in the 1920s and is shown yearly by the Arizona State Museum the week before Easter. It is open to the public at no charge. Two excellent books have been published about the Yaqui ceremonies. One is *Faith, Flowers, and Fiestas* and the other is *Easter at Pascua*. With these assists one can get a preview of what will transpire. The events are not entertainment for visitors. They are religious obligations. Respectful visitors are welcomed to the ceremonies but photography is absolutely forbidden. On only a few occasions have Yaquis permitted professionals to record the ceremonies although at other times individual performers may pose.

Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of this series of ceremonies and they continue each Friday through Lent. The climax, and to most visitors the most impressive part, is on Holy Saturday at the singing of the Gloria. For weeks women have been decorating the church, the statues, etc., and making paper flowers. On Saturday, friends of the Indians bring real flowers from their gardens and from the florists and these are stockpiled with the paper ones and confetti at the church. This is the ammunition that will be directed against the enemies of the church and it will overcome them.

Around noon, good and evil forces line up—the good in front of the church and the evil beyond a mark at a distance. The enemy are the persecutors of Jesus, the Fariseos (Pharisees). They are officers in

hats; Pilates in long black capes; and masked men, Chapayekas, who are the common soldiers. These last have a "saint", Judas, in effigy.

On the side of the good are the defenders of the church: the leaders or Maestros; women; children; Matachin dancers (boys and men dressed in regalia of the Virgin or "soldiers of the Virgin"); Pascola dancers, called "old men of the fiesta" and their musicians; the Deer Dancer and his singers.

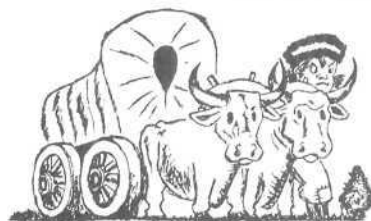
The Gloria is sung and the attack begins. Fariseos storm the church. Then all Heaven breaks loose in defense. Church bells and hand bells ring; the deer, Matachinis and Pascolas dance; there is tooting of the flutes; beating of drums; clatter of rattles. Flowers are thrown and there is a shower of confetti. Angels dart about brandishing switches and girls wave flags. There is motion, commotion, color and clamor.

After three such attacks and defeats, the Fariseos throw their masks and regalia at the feet of their Judas saint and the whole thing is consumed in a tremendous bonfire. The performers of the bad roles, now rid of all evil, are taken into the church where they are rededicated to Jesus. An all-night fiesta celebrates the victory.

On Easter morning leaders gather the performers together to commend and thank them for the discharge of their obligations and to bid farewell for another year. Christ is risen. Good has triumphed. Easter is over.

Seldom have there been known more ferocious warriors than the Yaquis and seldom have there been more peaceful Indians. All they have ever wanted was to be left alone. They were not left alone and today they are scattered far and wide, living with legends, with a nostalgic tie to their original eight villages in Mexico, with material poverty—but with rich and strong religious traditions.

Those who fled through the back door of the United States over half a century ago have tried to carve a slot for themselves. As farmers turned wage earners it was hard. Two generations later it is still hard. Friends of the Indians, various organizations and other assistances have not been enough to provide for most of their necessities much less to raise their standards very high or even build the churches that are so necessary to their way of life. Through it all their religion, almost alone, has sustained them. ☐



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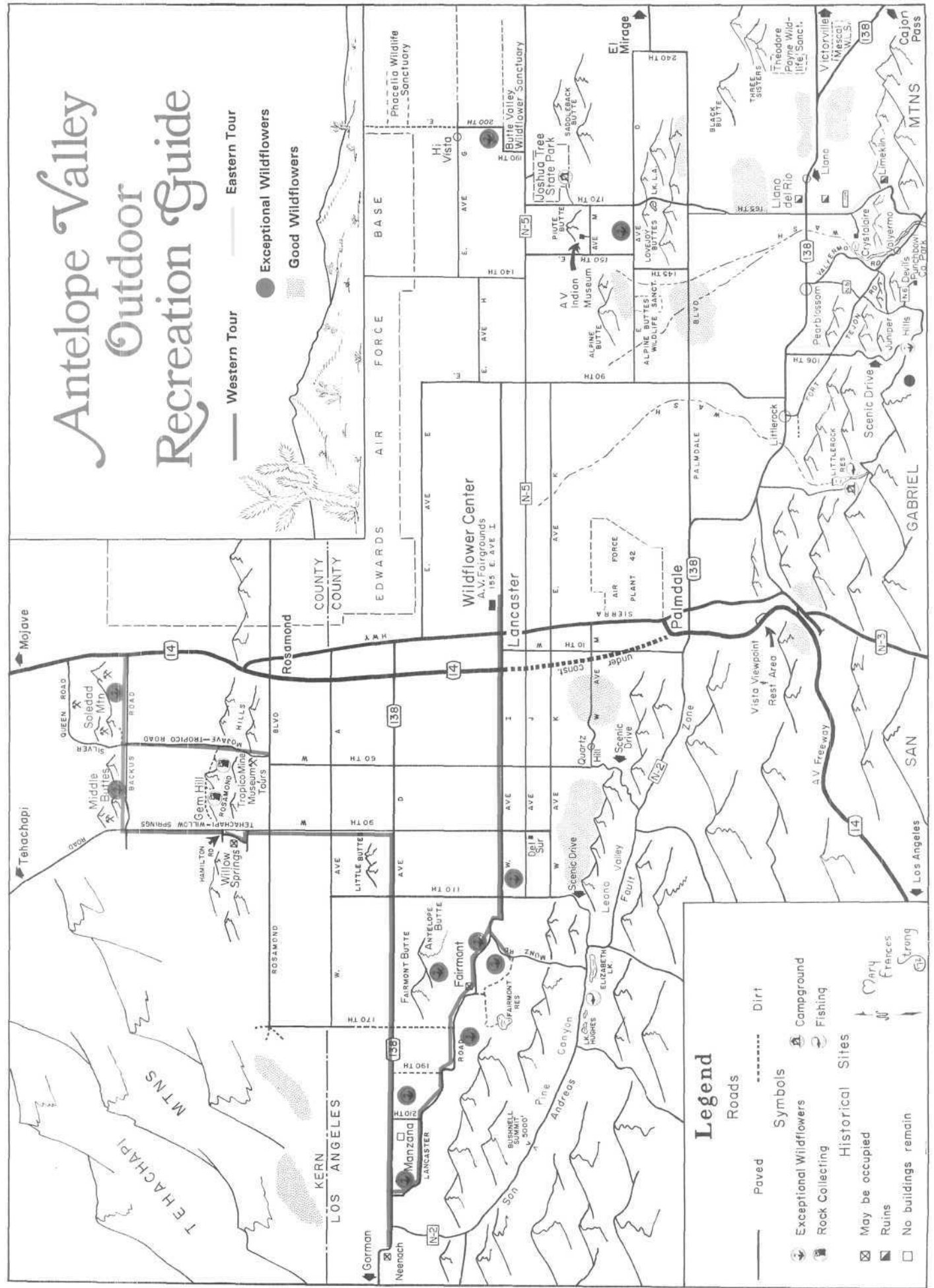
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# Antelope Valley Outdoor Recreation Guide

— Western Tour — Eastern Tour

● Exceptional Wildflowers  
■ Good Wildflowers



## Legend

### Roads

— Paved ——— Dirt

### Symbols

● Exceptional Wildflowers

■ Good Wildflowers

⊠ Rock Collecting

⊠ May be occupied

⊠ Ruins

□ No buildings remain

⊠ Fishing

⊠ Historical Sites

⊠ Strong

## SPLendor IN ANTELOPE VALLEY

*continued from page 25*

ternating with sections of land heavily covered by native vegetation, Joshua trees, junipers, buckwheat and Ramona Sage predominate with all but the junipers providing beautiful blossoms. A ground cover of small wildflowers will result from late spring rain.

Approximately four miles west of 90th Street, lies Fairmont and Antelope Buttes. Spring will generally find them almost smothered with bright yellow alkali goldfields. Numerous dirt roads give access for closer photography.

Large herds of antelope once roamed through the Valley and the last sighted was a group of 13 on Fairmont Butte in 1925. Their demise was inevitable when the settlement of the Valley began. Fences, hunters and the railroad, the tracks of which they wouldn't cross, severely curtailed their range and consequently reduced their numbers. However, historians agree that the great blizzards of 1882-85, when the entire Valley was covered with several feet of snow, hastened their end. The antelope were trapped in the drifts where many hundreds starved to death.

Our tour of Western Antelope Valley now brings us to the sites of the three original settlements—Manzana, Neenach and Fairmont. It also leads us through the outstanding displays of poppies for which the Valley has become famous.

Development of the Valley began in 1887. The Manzana Colony was the most ambitious planned, as acreage extending for nearly six miles along the hills was settled. Large almond and fruit orchards were planted, as were several large vineyards of raisin grapes. No expense nor labor was spared to make Manzana a permanent settlement. Fine farm homes were built and water in Kings Canyon was tapped to supply their irrigation system. Neenach and Fairmont were mainly settled by dry-grain farmers.

The settlements enjoyed success until 1895 when a three-year drought began. Dry-farmers couldn't raise crops, Manzana's source of water dried up and the orchards and vineyards died. Wooed and won by the capricious desert, who had shown only her pleasant face, most of the settlers were unprepared when she displayed her harsh side. Hot winds lifted the top soil from cultivated fields and

sand-blasted every thing in its path. Winter brought more of the same except the winds were freezing cold. Nearly all of the settlers moved to more gentle climes.

Today, nothing remains of Manzana except a few old almond trees that somehow manage to bring forth a few blossoms in spring. A dead orchard or two plays host to brilliant fields of golden poppies and royal-purple owl's clover. Neenach hasn't fared much better, although the old schoolhouse still stands.

From Neenach our route back-tracks a couple of miles to Lancaster Road (old Highway 138) and turns right. The poppy tour now begins! (An alternate route N-2 can be followed through Pine Canyon along the San Andreas Fault to Palmdale. This is a beautiful drive in spring and many wildflowers will be seen. You may want to take this route another day.)

Just after Lancaster Road crosses the Feather River Canal, a dead orchard will be seen on the left. It should be carpeted with poppies and owl's clover. I can guarantee it is a photographer's paradise when in full bloom.

In the vicinity of 170th Street will be numerous fields of yellow poppies. This area is strip-farmed and the poppies come up in the sections lying fallow.

Old Fairmont will loom into view on a sharp curve at 160th Street. A bar (a section of which is said to be one of the old buildings) and gas pump occupy the site. Fairmont may have been the "metropolis"

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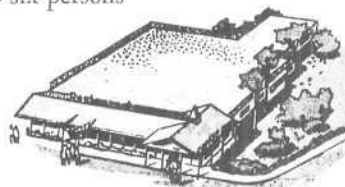
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*Built into the native rock, this kiln was used by the Llano Socialist Colony.*

of the 1880s, as on the corner stood the Justice of the Peace office, grocery store, blacksmith shop and postoffice.

A dirt road leads south from Fairmont for two miles through fields of wildflowers to Fairmont Reservoir. It is worthy of a side trip.

"Flowers, flowers everywhere" aptly describes the next four miles to Munz Road. If you are interested in taking some unusual flower photos, turn right. In about a mile there will be several large

patches of owl's clover on the low hills immediately adjacent to the road. This is one of the few locations where these beautiful flowers are found in profusion.

Munz Road is a section of the old stage route from Elizabeth Lake to Willow Springs, and my 1871 map shows a stage station near the owl's clover location. Nothing remains today.

Returning to Lancaster Road, our route leads through fields of poppies and lupine. Traveling east from 110th Street,

large fields of brilliant red-orange poppies will be seen alongside the road.

Our tour ends at Lancaster. You will want to visit the Wildflower Center in the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds. Ably-manned by volunteers, they have free maps and some very interesting exhibits. The Center is open from March 25th through April 30th, Thursday through Sunday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Admission is free.

#### EASTERN TOUR

Joshua Tree State Park is an excellent point to begin a tour of Eastern Antelope Valley. Overnight camping facilities (\$1.50 per night) are available among fine stands of Joshua trees. They should be in bloom by March. The blossoms are large and beautiful but quickly fade and produce a sizeable seed pod. The pod not only insures their survival but provides an important source of food for many of the birds and small mammals living in this habitat.

A few miles north and east of the State Park lie the Butte Valley Wildflower and the Phacelia Wildlife Sanctuaries. The drive between them will take you through acres of colorful wildflowers.

The Antelope Valley Indian Museum is a short distance southwest of the State Park. A visit to this fine, private museum will give you a better understanding of the desert's "first dwellers." (See DES-ERT, June '68, for more details.) The museum is open only on Saturday and Sunday from September through June. Admission is \$1.00 for adults and 50¢ for children 6 to 12 years.

Mrs. Grace Oliver, curator, told me the surrounding area (known as Wilsona Valley) is covered with verbena in late spring. In fact, this entire region beginning at 90th Street and running east for many miles, has a wide and varied bloom of flowers.

From the museum, it is a short drive via 150th Street to Avenue O, then west to the Alpine Wildlife Sanctuary—located between two branches of Big Rock Wash. Quiet observers will be rewarded with glimpses of the "natives" inhabiting this life zone — round-tailed and antelope ground squirrels, packrats, white-footed mice, jackrabbits, lizards, snakes and a number of birds, to name but a few.

Our tour continues by going east on Avenue O to 170th Street, then right. The road leads up through Lovejoy Buttes and

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Yes, spring is the time to visit the desert. Dressed in a colorful patchwork of wildflowers, it will not appear to be a desert at all. It will woo you with a rainbow of colors and caress you with soft and gentle breezes. But, the old Mojave Desert, always capricious and ever bold, will show another face when spring is gone. □



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by Arnold Tilden

**F**IVE GHOSTLY kilns and the decaying ruins of a railroad station are all that remain of two once prosperous towns which served the Belle Air Mining District, an area of several hundred square miles on the right bank of the Gila River between Florence and Kelvin, Arizona.

It is one of only six places in the West where the charcoal kilns of the 1800s are still standing. In an almost perfect state of preservation, the "beehives" are 72 feet in circumference and 32 feet high. At one time one of the kilns was used as a living quarters.

Only in California's Death Valley, in Nevada near Ely, at Frisco in Utah and two places near Boise, Idaho can similar kilns be found.

The Arizona kilns are not well known or highly publicized, and for good reason. The direct route to the kilns is a jeep trail that has few equals on the three continents on which the author has had the pleasure of driving. It is a very good mountain trail leading through a magnificent Box Canyon following the Martinez Wash toward the area of the original Silver Belle mine. As the trail leaves the canyon, it continues its climb over a mountain ridge and then descends to the right bank of the river. The last five miles is very poor but it can be covered in about two hours of hard and steady driving.

The Silver Belle and Columbia, connected by a 200-foot tunnel, were the original mines in the area with ore sufficiently promising to lead the Pinal Consolidated Mining Company to establish a town, build a water-jacket furnace of 20 tons capacity and construct "five large kilns for the burning of charcoal," near a mountain called North Butte on the right bank of the Gila. It is only logical that the miners should call their town Butte when it was founded late in December, 1881. By 1883, it had become sufficiently important to have its own post office, but this importance lasted only three years when the post office was closed.

While the mines were operating, they produced relatively rich ore. A contemporary report, published in 1883, states that over 5,000 tons of ore, which yielded over \$160,000 in silver, had already been taken from the mines. The ore was hauled to Butte, some eight miles south of the



A four-wheel-drive safari into an isolated area in southern Arizona goes through deserts and mountain passes such as Box Canyon (right) and eventually ends at the "ghostly kilns." En route the author found abandoned mines and once thriving towns. There are only six places in the West where the "beehives" are still standing.





# Ghostly Kilns of Cochran



mines, where it was reduced into base bullion, which later was sent to San Francisco for final processing.

The previously mentioned jeep road which leads to the kilns follows the same alignment from Martinez Canyon to the Gila that was used in 1881. Improvements and repairs have been somewhat spasmodic—the last known being made in 1886 just before the mines, the furnace, the kilns and the town all closed down. Today it is only for the very hardy in four-wheel-drive vehicles, and even some of these prove reluctant.

A much easier road, one open to any type of vehicle, is the regular county road from Florence to Kelvin. This is a well-graded gravel road through a beautiful, unspoiled desert area, and sufficiently wide for two large trucks to pass with ease. It runs from U.S. 80-89, east past the Arizona State Prison some 18 miles to The Rocks, a unique outcropping that makes an excellent landmark. Here in The Rocks, a road from the north will be seen which, if followed 12.4 miles to its terminus, leads to Cochran. Cochran may be termed the successor town to Butte, but on the south side of the river. The Santa Fe Railroad built a spur from Phoenix through Florence to the Gila Valley mining area in the early 1900s, and the canyon of the Gila in which the kilns of Butte were located, was the only available route.

Since Butte was no longer an active town and was on the wrong side of the river anyway, a new town, Cochran, was founded to serve as a railroad station and water stop, a post office, and a supply center for the ranches and small mines in the area. In 1807, the Santa Fe sold its spur to the Southern Pacific, which still operates the route to serve the large copper mining area in the valley of the San Pedro River, a tributary of the Gila.

For modern prospectors with trailers, The Rocks makes an excellent campground completely primitive but with magnificent scenery. Trailers should be left at this point. Those with campers, jeeps, cycles or ordinary passenger cars may continue on toward Cochran on a good desert road but one that is narrow, hilly with sharp drops and frequent dips, and decidedly twisty as it approaches the river. It is not regularly maintained, but is usually in fair condition. A large flat area a hundred yards or so from the abandoned railroad station at Cochran makes an ex-



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cellent campground for those who wish to spend some time in the area. There are no supplies nor facilities available although the river might offer adequate bathing facilities in warm weather.

Arriving at the river on the south bank, it is necessary to cross to the north bank and walk about a half mile to the kilns and slag dump. The bridge, which once spanned the river at this point, was washed away last year. Venturesome four-wheel-drive pilots may risk the ford at this point but this is not recommended and certainly should not be tried unless vehicles are traveling in pairs. The fluctuation of the water level due to varying irriga-

tion needs and the reported quicksands in the area make fording the stream a somewhat risky operation.

The easiest route is to cross on foot. Certainly wading the Gila in the warm desert sun should be a pleasant experience. The ford cannot be mistaken due to a row of large boulders which have been placed across the river to mark it. These offer hand holds in case of need, but if one is careful he probably would not get wet much above the knees. Nevertheless, care should be taken and no one should attempt to wade across if he is alone.

A trip to the kilns could be made comfortably any time of the year except for June, July, August and September, which would be quite warm. The starting point may be either Florence on U.S. 80, or Kelvin on Arizona State 177, utilizing the county road which connects the two towns. For those with an extra day, or even an afternoon, to spend in this area, a trip through the "Box" in Martinez Canyon can be very rewarding.

The start must be from Florence following the farm road on the north bank of the river just north of the railroad. The road follows the river and the railroad eastward to the diversion dam. A short distance beyond the diversion dam the road branches, one branch continuing to follow the railroad while the other turns north, crosses the railroad and starts up the Martinez Wash which, after a few miles, enters Martinez Canyon.

It is possible to continue through Martinez Canyon, including the "Box" in an ordinary car, although a part of the road in the "Box" is rather rough. No pickup campers or trailers can make the "Box." After passing the "Box" one comes to a road junction. The left fork (to the west) leads to U.S. 60, the right fork continues on through canyon and mountain until you reach the kilns. *THIS IS A JEEP ROAD ONLY.* At the junction indicated above, it is possible to turn around and return to Florence. A reverse trip through the "Box" is as rewarding as the original.

Don't rush! Relax and enjoy your trip, for the "Box" and the Kilns will be there a long time. ☐

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MARCH 25 & 26, NINTH ANNUAL BOTTLE SHOW & WORKSHOP, sponsored by Bishop Belles and Beaux Bottle Club, Tri-County Fairgrounds, Bishop, Calif. Write P. O. Box 1475 Bishop, Calif. 93514.

MARCH 25-29, DESERT ART SHOW, Recreation Hall, Shoshone, Calif. Visitors and entrants welcome. Write P. O. Box 69, Tecopa, Calif. 92389.

MARCH 30-APRIL 2, FALLBROOK ART ASSOCIATION AND FALLBROOK GEM & MINERAL Joint Show, Fallbrook High School, Fallbrook, Calif. Free admission & parking. Write P. O. Box 62, Fallbrook, Calif. 92028.

APRIL 2, RED ROCK CANYON Easter Sunrise Services, 25 miles north of Mojave, Calif. on Highway 14. Since 1908. Starts at 5:45 A.M.

APRIL 7-9, WORLD OF GEMS AND MINERALS sponsored by Paradise Gem & Mineral Club, Veterans Memorial Hall, Paradise, Calif. Complete show. Write Frank Fehely, P. O. Box 359, Paradise, Calif. 95969.

APRIL 8 & 9, SECOND ANNUAL HOBBY AND GEM SHOW, Bliss, Idaho. Complete show.

APRIL 8 & 9, NORWALK ROCKHOUND'S Gem and Mineral Show, Masonic Hall, 12345 Rosecrans Ave., Norwalk, Calif. Complete show. Free admission and parking. Write Mrs. Dan Harlow, 13000 Crossdale, Norwalk, Calif. 90650.

APRIL 8 & 9, WESTERN BONANZA GEM & MINERAL SHOW sponsored by the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Arthur E. Wright School, 4029 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, Calif. Free.

APRIL 15 & 16, COMMUNITY FLOWER SHOW sponsored by the Riverside Community Flower Show Association, Riverside Memorial Auditorium, 7th & Lemon Streets, Riverside, Calif. Adults, \$1.00. Garden tour and workshops.

APRIL 15 & 16, KERN COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY'S annual show, Ming & South P Streets, Bakersfield, Calif. Complete Show. Write Clyde Ebbs, 3126 N. Inyo St., Bakersfield, Calif. 93305.

APRIL 15 & 16, NATURE'S JEWELS sponsored by the Yucaipa Gem & Mineral Society, Community Center, 1st & B Streets, Yucaipa,

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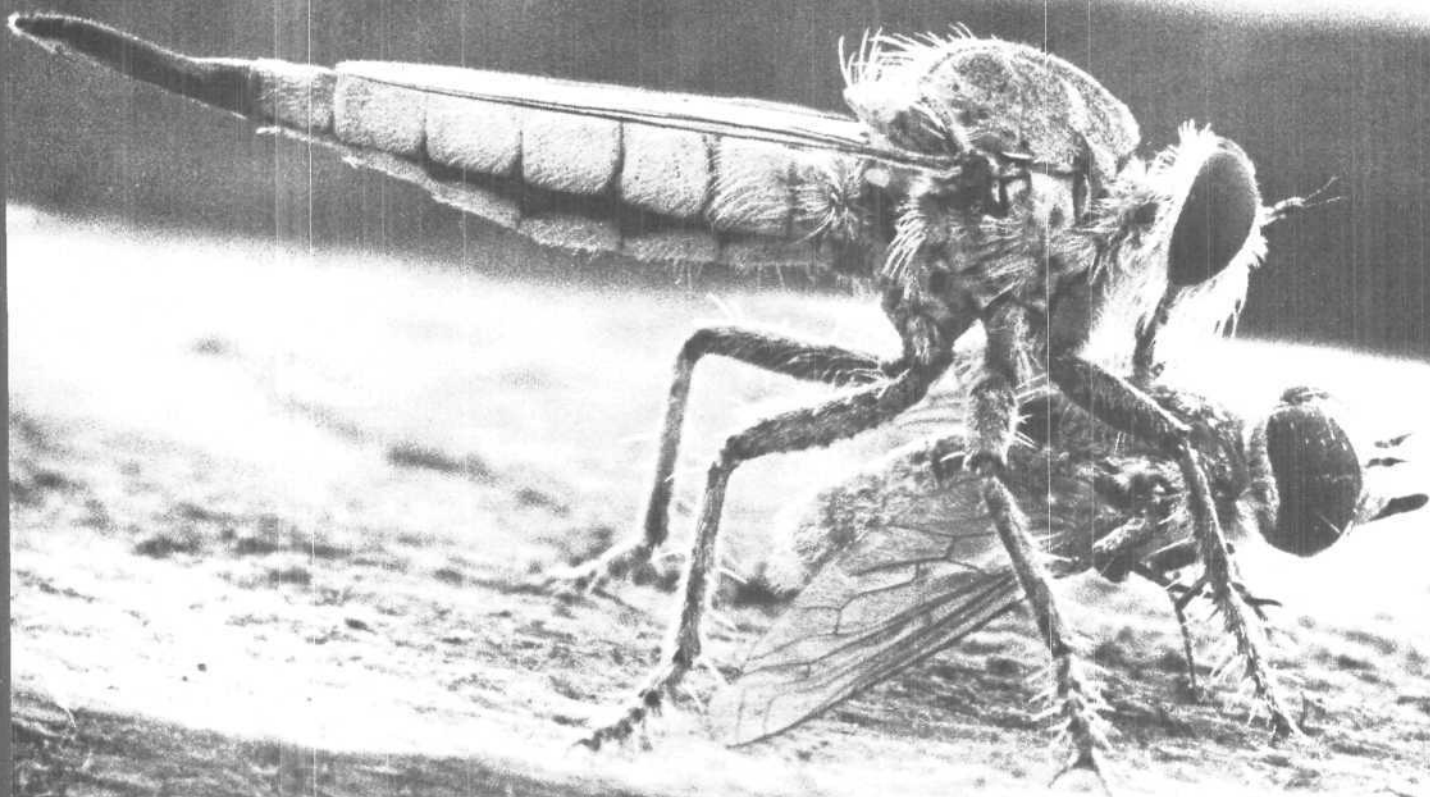
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## Desert Life

by Hans Baerwald

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# Rambling on Rocks

by  
**Glenn  
and Martha Vargas**

## IGNEOUS ROCKS: They Were Once Molten

ON MANY occasions, individuals have asked if a certain black rock were once molten. Many of these had been melted, but some were not. The question is usually the result of the thought that any rock that had been melted must now be black, undoubtedly making an association with charred wood. Some black rocks have never been molten. It is true that one of our most common lavas, basalt, is usually black, but most other lavas are red, brown or even gray. But now we are ahead of our story.

Igneous rocks (the word from Latin for fire) are the result of the deep-seated heat near the center of the earth. Geologically of this super-heated rock can expand not molten, but nevertheless is very hot. The pressure at great depths is so high that even though hot, the rocks cannot expand into a molten state. If a weak spot develops in the crust of the earth then some of this super-heated rock can expand to become molten, and flow up into the weak area. The molten material is now known as magma, a Greek word meaning something has been kneaded.

At this point, the magma may take either of two paths. It may move into a large weak area, but still deep under the surface, perhaps forcing the upper layer of rocks into a large mountain range. Such a mass of material may be many miles across, and presumably many miles deep. It may stop enlarging at any point, either because it cannot overcome the pressure from above, or the pressure beneath may have been relieved.

After many years—perhaps as much as a million or more—it cools into a rock, the most common of which is granite. This large block of rock is now known as a batholith. The word is again from the Greek, *bathos*-deep and *lithos*-stone. Many of the world's great mountain ranges are batholithic in origin, the Sierra Nevada of California is one of them.

Granite is a nearly white rock that contains small particles of black minerals. It is known as an intrusive igneous rock, a rock that has intruded into other rocks. Granite has many relatives, based upon the minerals each contains; some of them may be very dark, but as a whole, most of the intrusive igneous rocks are light in color.

As the second path for the magma, if it can overcome the pressure above, and find a crack that will allow it to reach the surface, it will create a volcano. The magma now spills out as lava. When it cools it becomes what is called an extrusive igneous rock, one that has extruded onto the surface. The truest definition of lava is a material that flowed, at least in a semi-liquid form, onto the surface.

There are other extrusive materials as well as lava. For instance, if a volcano erupts violently, it blows out some of the material as volcanic ash, which is simply finely powdered lava. This ash may fall into huge layers and become a rock. During any volcanic eruption, water in the

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form of steam is being released, and other vaporized minerals are also escaping. Many minerals such as sulphur and some of its compounds, and chlorine and chlorine compounds are spilled into the air. These certainly are extrusive materials, and even though it may be difficult to recognize them after the eruption is over, they may become part of rocks.

How do intrusive and extrusive igneous rocks compare? In some respects they may be similar, but in most they are very different. We must assume that, in many cases at least, examples of each came from the same magma. In other cases, the magmas producing each were greatly different. Basically, it depends upon what minerals made up the material that became molten. If the predominant minerals (or elements) were iron and magnesium, a dark heavy rock is the result. If, on the other hand, the minerals were mostly quartz and others high in silicon, the rock will be of light color and weight. Obviously, there can be many others of intermediate composition.

In reality, however, the greatest difference between intrusive and extrusive rocks are the effects of the rate of cooling. When magma is held beneath the surface the rates of cooling is slow. Any layer of rock lying above it is a poor conductor of heat, and the more rock above, the slower is the cooling process. Slow cooling tends generally to allow each mineral to crystallize when its optimum crystallization temperature is reached. It may be somewhat cramped for space when it starts to crystallize and the crystals will be very distorted. It is possible that two minerals or more may crystallize at the same time. They will have to compete with each other, and may become entwined.

In the case of granite, cooling was fairly rapid (with tongue in cheek we say

only a few thousand years!) and the constituents, usually quartz, feldspar, mica and hornblende, crystallized at nearly the same time. Almost none of them had sufficient time to grow into recognizable crystals. At the same time, however, each mineral is distinct and can easily be seen with the unaided eye. There are exceptions to the above cooling rate, and at times small pockets of slow cooling, such as pegmatites, allow large crystals to grow. We discussed pegmatites in our May, 1971 column.

In general, the slower the rate of cooling, the larger the size of the individual mineral crystals making up the mass of the rock. The inverse is obvious; rapid cooling allows only very small, or virtually no crystals to form. It then follows that intrusive igneous rocks usually have fairly large, quite conspicuous even though distorted crystals, while extrusive igneous rocks have very small inconspicuous crystals, or apparently no crystals at all.

For lavas, it would be expected that when they spill out onto the surface, they would cool rapidly, and this is true, but even so the cooling process has effects here also. If the lava is very hot (temperatures

over 1,100 degrees centigrade have been recorded) and it spills out on recently laid down lava, the rate of cooling could be fairly slow. If instead, it were not very hot, and flowed out onto cold rock, cooling would be much more rapid. Some lavas contain easily recognized crystals that good geologists or mineralogists can classify. Other lavas are so homogeneous that no crystals are to be seen except under high magnification. The ultimate in fast cooling results in what is known as obsidian, or volcanic glass. Obsidian has a smooth glassy look, but even it contains small crystals that give it some interesting characteristics. We shall discuss these in a future column. ☐

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## • TRAVEL

**DEATH VALLEY** and Desert Areas "Jeep" Photo-See Tours, 4225 Paseo de las Tortugas, Torrance, Calif. 90505. Paul H. Thompson, Photographer-Guide.

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## • MISCELLANEOUS

**FREE CATALOG,** distinctive gifts, newest imports, low cost books: House of Japan, 175 Calvert Drive, E-203d, Cupertino, Calif. 95014.

## • MISCELLANEOUS

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**GET PAID FOR** your vacation or weekend trip. Send 25c to cover cost of informative brochure. Homart, Box 267, Midway City, Calif. 92655.

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## • MISCELLANEOUS

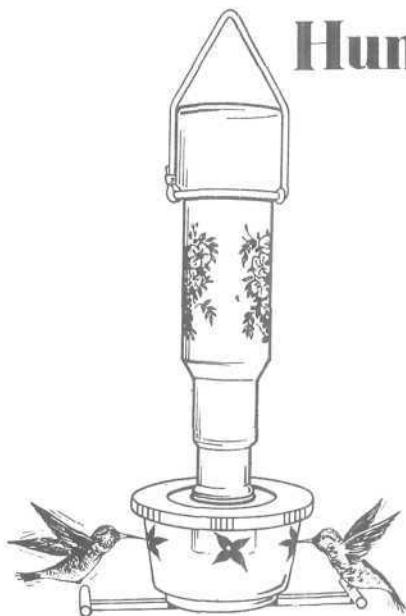
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4-72

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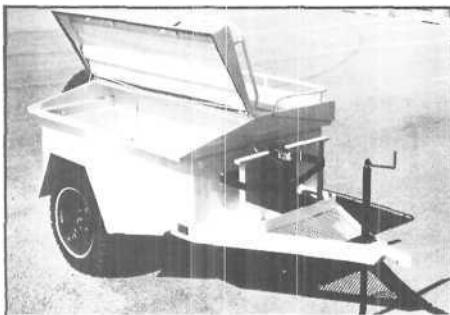
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### New Sportrailer

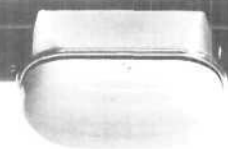
A new compact sports trailer has been developed by Koenig Iron Works, Inc., manufacturers of truck equipment and accessories. Called the Sportrailer, this rugged 2000# GVW trailer features large areas of space-saving storage for camping gear, luggage, hunting equipment and food. The top of the trailer contains a handy 6' x 4' rack for extra carrying large gear or game. Twin torsion bar lids insure easy, convenient entry to stored items from either side of the camping trailer. The two strong lids lock and seal securely protecting contents from water, dust or other damage.

For detailed information contact Koenig Iron Works, Inc., Dept. DM, P.O. Box 7726, Houston, Texas 77007.

# Desert Shopper

## New and interesting products

Items appearing in this column are not paid advertisements



### Roll-Bar Lite

The Roll-Bar-Lite is a roll bar mounted dome light that is dust and weather protected and is of life-time construction. Mounting bracket is chrome plated and will not rust, corrode or tarnish. Light has an acrylic plastic lens and two 12-volt bulbs. Light may be mounted with self-tapping screws or bonded in place. It fits all standard 1 3/4-inch outside diameter roll bars and comes complete with separate switch and under-dash bracket and all necessary screws etc., for installation. Single unit, \$7.95; double unit, \$11.95.

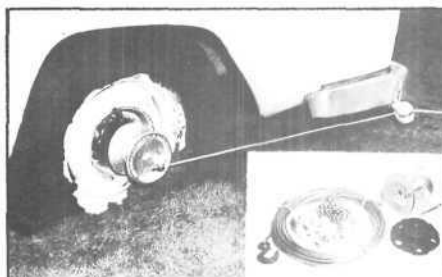
Write Nielson Products Company, P. O. Box 23022, Dept. DM, San Diego, Calif. 92123.



### Distress Flasher

Anyone who becomes lost in the outdoors can be more easily located if they've taken the precaution of carrying a Save-Ur-Lif'r distress flasher produced by Neo-Flasher Electronics of North Hollywood, California. The pocket-sized distress flasher, with its one million candle power strobe beacon, was originally developed to make location of downed U.S. airmen easier. Recently, Neo-Flasher Electronics has made the Save-Ur-Lif'r available to consumers in hopes that it will aid searching crews in finding lost outdoorsmen.

For information write to Neo-Flasher Electronics, Dept. DM, 11975 Sherman Rd., No. Hollywood, CA.



### McCain Hub Winch

This new winch consists of a steel wheel adapter that can be installed on almost any 2 or 4-wheel-drive truck, car or jeep, one ton and under, and fits under the hub cap and can be left on without affecting balance; and a lightweight, rustproof portable drum which connects with only one bolt tightened with a lug wrench. Also included in the kit is 100 feet of 1/4-inch galvanized steel aircraft cable equipped with hook and ferrule, a 12,000-pound capacity snatch block and a 4-foot length of 6/0 special chain equipped with 5/16 grab hooks on each end. Guaranteed for two years, the complete McCain Hub Winch Kit is priced at \$79.95.

Write McCain Hub Winch Company, P. C. Box 908, Dept. DM, Eugene, Oregon 97401.



### Get Unstuck Fast

Even been stuck hub deep in a pick up and tried to get a jack under the rear axle? Nearly impossible! With this new patented wheel jack bracket you raise the wheel from the outside with either your screw or bumper jack. Simply bolt the bracket to the wheel lug. Fits standard width 14", 15", 16" and 16 1/2" wheels, and split rims 1/2 and 3/4 ton pick-ups and passenger cars. Zinc plated and with a load limit of 2,000 lbs. The wheel jack bracket sells for \$5.95 postpaid. (California residents add 5% sales tax).

Order from Dick Cepek, Inc., Dept. DM, 9201 California Ave., South Gate, California 90280.

# Letters to the Editor



Letters requesting answers must include stamped self-addressed envelope.

## Remembers Charleston . . .

Your article on Charleston in the January issue reminded me of my own remembrances of stories heard about Charleston.

In 1879, my grandfather, Charles Bunce Tarbell, left Upper New York for the West Coast in search of a more congenial climate for my grandmother who, doctors said, had consumption.

First he came to San Francisco, then down the coast to Los Angeles, then across to Arizona. In Charleston he found the climate he desired, so he sent for my grandmother and her two little boys.

My grandparents ran the hotel in Charleston. I have the mahogany framed blue glass mirror that hung over the bar.

My grandmother had a Chinese cook whose dishes were tasteful and elegant. One day my grandmother discovered that when the cook was going to serve pancakes in the morning he always made the batter the night before and then put it in a pot under his bed. In the morning he would spit on the griddle where each pancake would lie. She fired him on the spot!

The hotel guests complained loudly because they said he prepared the best food around. My grandmother was firm: he had to go.

Then the silver strike in Tombstone came up a bust when the mines filled with water. That was the end of Charleston, the smelting town for Tombstone's silver.

Grandfather moved to Tombstone and owned the mortuary and the icehouse. But that is another story. Thanks for your article of times past and times remembered.

DOROTHY WELCH ASHBY,  
La Habra, California.

## For Local Control . . .

The letters in the January issue regarding the preservation of the desert further qualifies the use of the word "sad" as it was used recently in describing the total condition of the U.S.A. But when you prescribe as a solution further extension of Washington bureaucracy then you are falling into the trap of overcoming effect with more effect.

One has to look at the utter disregard of the 1872 mining laws and the persecution of the

small miner by the B.L.M. and California Division of Forestry to substantiate this picture.

The only logical remedy is for the public lands to be given to the state in which they lay. This was part of the original contract under which the states were created and was never ratified by Big Brother in Washington. The lands should then be placed under the grass root jurisdiction of each county board of supervisors for effective administration control.

I will close by posing a question to you. Our national debt is now 412 billion dollars. This indebtedness is equated to 75 percent of our total real property value and its improvements within the United States.

When this indebtedness (which is not owed to ourselves) is foreclosed by the unknown international bankers to whom it is owed, exactly who do you think will wind up owning this country, including the desert areas?

A. E. OTIS,  
Aptos, California.

## Who's First? . . .

Having the misfortune of being permanently disabled, I have the good fortune to enjoy listening to tales and history from lots of old-timers. Sometime ago some of us met a young Spanish lady who grew up in Tumacacori, Arizona. She told of lush vegetation, a running river, lost treasure and lots of stuff we found hard to believe.

But since I have a brother in Tucson, I went down to see this area and have seen some of the historic remains, etc. I also read a book *Tumacacori's Yesterday* by Earl Jackson that purports to be the history of the area based on an arm's length of historians and Catholic Church records.

In reading your article on the Tucson-Nogales-Tombstone Tour in the January issue, I noted a discrepancy in a historical comment you made. Mr. Jackson describes the Jesuit missionary Father Kino as the first white man in the area and that was due to the request of the Indians. You, however, state a Fray Marcos de Niza was there a century earlier.

Where on earth did you come up with information like that which Mr. Jackson didn't with all the information sources he had? In the past your articles have always seemed factually founded.

AL WILLIAMS,  
Upland, California.

*Editor's Note: Although I am certain Mr. Jackson is a factual historian, we do not have a copy of his book in our reference library. I think Mr. Jackson was probably stating Father Kino was the first white person to stay in the area. Fray Marcos de Niza and the controversial black slave, Estevanico, in 1538 traveled from Mexico City into what is now Arizona and along the San Pedro River and to the Indian village of Hawikub, just north of the confluence of the Little Colorado and Zuni Rivers. Estevanico was killed by Indians. As a result of Fray Niza's erroneous reports of golden cities, Francisco Vazquez de Coronado later led his ill-fated expedition in search of the "Seven Cities of Cibola."*

## For the Record . . .

I am still a little disturbed by your article "Can California's Deserts Survive" in the November 1971 issue. Not that I object to the article as I believe strongly in the basis of the subject.

However, I would like to suggest that at least one sentence could have been devoted to the fact that among all those who are destroying our deserts, there are several groups that are very concerned and are working hard to educate the average person as to the need for the care of our desert heritage.

Among these groups are the California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs, National Four Wheel Drive Association, M.O.R.E., C.O.R.V.A., C.O.R.I., and others. These groups, unfortunately, do not represent the majority, but they do represent many thousands of concerned individuals whom your article tended to include among the culprits.

CHARLES NEFF,  
Sepulveda, Calif.

*Editor's Note: The purpose of the article in the November issue was to point out the serious problem confronting all of us who enjoy the back country and present the B.L.M. Plan, not to signal out any individual. DESERT Magazine is an associate member of the California Association of 4WD Clubs and has been a supporter of the Association for many years. We have constantly stated that 4WD and other back country clubs not only police their own activities but are always busy in clean-up campaigns. In outlining our policy in the January 1972 issue we stated "Although most back country drivers respect our lands (especially those belonging to organized groups which police their members) there are a minority of reckless drivers who are unfortunately littering and destroying." We also stated that we respect the views and rights of all back country travelers—but these "rights" do not include destruction. As we stated:*

*"It is impossible to please everyone and every group especially when the basic philosophy is 'the greatest good for the greatest number.' But compromises can be made and our deserts and mountains can be saved and used for the enjoyment of all if we work together and substitute name calling for constructive cooperation."*

## Active Reader . . .

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my pleasure with your magazine. I have been a reader for five years now and a subscriber for the last three. Over the years your magazine has been a source of information, pleasure and gossip about the desert that we all love. It was through your magazine that I became aware of the many desert areas of the West and gained a respect and longing to experience them. I am presently working towards a degree in Natural Resources so I can take an active part in managing and protecting the desert areas in particular for all forms of recreation and study. Keep up the good work with Desert Magazine.

DONALD C. MARQUESS,  
San Luis Obispo, Calif.



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