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Desert

MAGAZINE

Volume 36, Number 9 SEPTEMBER 1973



THE COVER:

The midsection of White Wash, in southeastern Utah, is a branching maze of redrock walls, sand dunes and cottonwood trees. Photograph by F. A. Barnes, Moab, Utah.

FEATURES

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----|---------------------|
| FORT MOJAVE ROAD | 10 | Russ Leadabrand |
| THE GREAT COYOTE CAPER | 12 | Hans Baerwald |
| ROOM TO SPARE | 15 | Walter Ford |
| THE PILLING FIGURINES | 18 | Enid Howard |
| THE TRONA PINNACLES | 20 | Leonard R. Tantee |
| CALIFORNIA'S ALABAMA HILLS | 24 | Gary Richardson |
| GOLER GULCH GOLD | 26 | Mary Frances Strong |
| DESERT PERFUMERS | 32 | Robert Hyatt |
| UTAH'S WHITE WASH | 36 | F. A. Barnes |

DEPARTMENTS

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| PEEK IN THE PUBLISHER'S POKE | 4 | William Knyvett |
| BOOKS FOR DESERT READERS | 5 | Book Reviews |
| BOOK CATALOG | 6 | Offerings for Fall '73 |
| RAMBLING ON ROCKS | 42 | Glenn and Martha Vargas |
| LETTERS TO THE EDITOR | 46 | Readers' Comments |
| CALENDAR OF WESTERN EVENTS | 46 | Club Activities |

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A Peek in the Publisher's Poke

MENTION THE word "desert" and some folks think of a quiet, peaceful area, others conjure up thoughts of rolling dunes and being stranded without water, some will wax about the great recreation area it is, while others think of the strange wildlife that inhabits the arid lands. Hopefully, to some it will bring back to memory favorite articles from "their" magazine, but to hardly anyone does "desert" identify with power and the energy crisis. Yet below the sands may well lie a partial solution to an increasingly critical shortage.

The Bureau of Reclamation will begin experimental testing of a desalting pilot plant at its 8,000-foot-deep geothermal well, located southeast of Holtville in Imperial County, California. This plant is projected to reduce salinity of the geothermal fluids from in excess of 20,000 to less than 50 parts per million.

This preliminary study is directed to determine whether desalted geothermal fluids would be a feasible source for augmenting Colorado River supplies.

There is a good possibility that the geothermal wells could provide both energy and water. In an upcoming issue of *Desert* we will have an article on the successful operation of a geothermal power plant in neighboring Baja.

This issue has two recreation areas featured, one in California and the other in Utah. Water Ford's *Room to Spare* and F. A. Barnes' *Utah's White Wash*, will have a lot of folks packing their rec rigs, while Mary Frances Strong and *Goler Gulch Gold* will have everyone scrambling for their dry-washers and gold pans. In fact, with gold at \$114 an ounce, I'll see you in the gulch!

William F. Kump



Test Your Fun Sense with these five questions:

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True ☐ False ☐
2. You have to go to Las Vegas to get real action?
True ☐ False ☐
3. Roulette is the most unpredictable game of chance?
True ☐ False ☐
4. Dice is the wildest and most wooly game of chance?
True ☐ False ☐
5. The new game 'Bushwhacker' is the most exciting, wildest, and unpredictable game of chance invented since cards and dice?
True ☐ False ☐

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Books for Desert Readers

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PONDEROSA COUNTRY

By
Stanley W
Paher

The author has collected data on Reno and its scenic byways, abandoned mines, ghost towns, mountain lakes, forests of fir and pine, historic buildings in century-old towns, all in contrast to modern resorts in Reno and at Lake Tahoe.

From what he calls the "Bonanza Tour" south of Reno and outward from Reno in every direction, you can reach scenic and recreational sites described in this volume with any passenger car. Photos, wood engravings of Comstock mining and milling, a pictorial history of Reno over a 90-year period, and verbal descriptions of the tours make this an informative book to be read and scanned in little time.

Paperback, large format, 48 pages, \$1.95.

THE PACIFIC CREST TRAIL, Volume 1: California

By
Thomas Winnett

From the colorful front cover by Esther Higgins to the last page, this compact little book will keep the hiker/reader on his toes.

The idea of a Pacific Crest Trail originated in the early 1930 in the mind of Clinton Clarke of Pasadena. The original proposal was to have the United States Forest and National Park Services take on as a project a continuous wilderness trail across the United States from Canada to Mexico.

Relative to this particular California guide, the author had this to say, "But

September, 1973

meanwhile, it is possible to walk all the way, and we walked from Mexico to Oregon to obtain the information necessary to write an authentic guide to the California portion of the Pacific Crest Trail."

This book is not a "story book" by any means, though it gives a detailed description of the route, including mileages between points, and 127 strip maps covering 1640 miles. The book tells you how to plan your hike from Mexico to Oregon, how to prepare for it, and how to actually do it.

A chapter on the logistics of supply and resupply will enable you to have enough food, sunburn lotion and boot-soles to make it through without carrying everything from the start.

Another chapter on how to backpack and camp in the wilderness will provide all the basic knowledge you need, and still another lets you know how to *enjoy your walk* along the PCT by furnishing information about the natural history. In other words, this invaluable guide will make you among the most informed of hikers.

The cost of all this is astoundingly low: If you were to buy all the topographic maps necessary to hike the PCT in California, they would cost over \$80 (and weigh 7 pounds). The book costs \$4.95 (and weighs 10 ounces). Per mile of trail described, this book costs 1/4 cent. If you hike a typical 2 miles per hour, this book will cost you 1/2 cent per hour of pleasure on the finest long trail in America!

Paperback, illustrated, photos, maps, 150 pages, plus 127 maps, \$4.95.

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE INSECTS of America, North of Mexico

By
Donald J. Borror and
Richard E. White

Introductory chapters of this guide give information on collecting and preserving insects, the study of living insects, and their structure, growth, and development. Through the descriptive section, illustrations are placed with related text, and the color plates with their facing legend pages are grouped for easy reference at the center of the book.

Insects play a vital role in our lives and some 88,600 species inhabit North America north of Mexico. This field guide covers 579 families of insects and includes

descriptions of other arthropods. More than 1300 fine line drawings, of which 142 are in color, illustrate the book, and most of the families have one or more illustrations; only the rarely encountered or obscure families are not illustrated.

The authors explain the importance of wing venation or other minute features of an insect as being the chief diagnostic character. Also, that wing venation entails a rather complicated terminology for which no shortcuts can be devised. They suggest that by studying carefully the important introductory chapters and learning the basic technical material, those who use this book can launch themselves on one of the most varied and interesting wildlife pursuits.

Hardcover, 400 pages, including glossary, references, and index, beautifully illustrated, \$5.95.

FLOWERS OF THE CANYON COUNTRY

Text by Stanley L. Welsh
Photography by Bill Ratcliffe

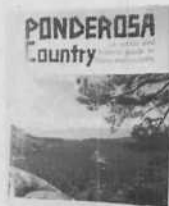
The results of the concentrated efforts of two men who have been long interested in the wealth of beauty found in the West, is depicted here in verbal descriptions and color photographs that demonstrates the professional skill of the author and photographer.

The Four Corners region of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah provide the setting for this book. It illustrates and discusses one of the prime sources of the beauty of that country—the common native and introduced flowering plants of the canyon country.

The writer has used technical terms sparingly, but there is a foreword in the book which covers the basic terms in general for background information. However, with the combined photography and text, it is not necessary to know any technical language to appreciate the beauty of the book.

It is further simplified because plants with similar flower color are grouped together; so all one has to do to identify a particular flower is to turn to the section representing the flower color.

Paperback, large format, 51 pages, all color photography, \$2.95.



FALL 1973

CATALOG — PART 1

BOOKS OF

LOAFING ALONG DEATH VALLEY TRAILS by William Caruthers. Author Caruthers was a newspaper man and a ghost writer for early movie stars, politicians and industrialists. He "slowed down" long enough to move to Death Valley and there wrote his on-the-spot story that will take you through the quest for gold on the deserts of California and Nevada. Hardcover, old photos, 187 pages, \$4.25.

BALLARAT, Compiled by Paul Hubbard, Doris Bray and George Pipkin. Ballarat, now a ghost town in the Panamint Valley, was once a flourishing headquarters during the late 1800s and 1900s for the prospectors who searched for silver and gold in that desolate area of California. The authors tell of the lives and relate anecdotes of the famous old-timers. First published in 1965, this reprinted edition is an asset to any library. Paperback, illustrated, 98 pages, \$3.00.

DEATH VALLEY GHOST TOWNS by Stanley Paher. Death Valley, today a National Monument, has in its environs the ghostly remains of many mines and mining towns. The author has also written of ghost towns in Nevada and Arizona and knows how to blend a brief outline of each of Death Valley's ghost towns with historic photos. For sheer drama; fact or fiction, it produces an enticing package for ghost town buffs. Paperback, illustrated, 9x12 format, 48 pages, \$1.95.

TEMALPAKH by Lowell John Bean and Katherine Siva Saubel. Temalpakh means "from the earth," in Cahuilla, and covers the many uses of plants used for food, medicine, rituals and those used in the manufacturing of baskets, sandals, hunting tools; and plants used for dwellings. Makes for a better understanding of environmental and cultural relationships. Well illustrated, 225 pages, hardcover, \$10.00; paperback, \$6.50.

OUTDOOR SURVIVAL SKILLS by Larry Dean Olsen. This book had to be lived before it could be written. The author's mastery of primitive skills has made him confident that survival living need not be an ordeal once a person has learned to adjust. Chapters deal with building shelters, making fires, finding water, use of plants for food and medication. Buckram cover, well-illustrated, 188 pages, revised edition boasts of 96 4-color photos added. \$2.95.

PAN BREAD 'N JERKY by Walter L. Scott. Now in its third printing, this is the life story of the author. Walter worked at everything from placer mining, freighting and for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The book is an interesting account from days gone by when wood furnished heat, horses provided transportation and one lived off the land. Paperback, illustrated, 174 pages \$2.50.

THE DESERT IS YOURS by Erle Stanley Gardner. This is the late author's fifth book written on the desert but the first that is devoted to the western desert of the United States. With parties of hunters and companions, he proves to be the true adventurer, combing the vast reaches of trackless land, and shows how the good outweighs the bad in the perils of the desert. Hardcover, well illustrated, 256 pages, \$7.50.

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL, Vol. 1: California, by Thomas Winnett. Even if you are in good physical condition, just reading this detailed, informative book and planning to walk the PCT, you might sit back exhausted by the sheer prospects of such an adventure. How to hike the trail, appreciate, and DO it, have been outlined in the proper order. 145 pages with photography, plus 127 pages of topographic maps of the entire PCT route and alternate routes. Paperback, \$4.95

GEM TRAILS IN CALIFORNIA by A. L. Abbott. This compact little book can easily be carried while hiking or riding and combines detailed map drawings with pictures. In addition to gem and mineral names with their specific locations, there are other leads to nearby ghost towns, fossils, campgrounds and recreation areas. Paperback, well illustrated, 84 pages, \$2.95.

PADRE ISLAND (Treasure Kingdom of the World) by William Mahan. At the age of 13 the author had done research on lost treasures and completed a scrapbook on the subject. In later years, he discovered "Padre Island," off the coast of his home state of Texas. Bill Mahan is well qualified for his work having made countless trips to Padre where he relates in historical detail of lost treasures, shipwrecks and savage Indian tribes. If you are an historian or treasure hunter, you'll "dig" this adventurous accounting. Hardcover, illustrations, maps, translations of Fray Marcos de Mena from Spanish to English, 139 pages, \$6.95.



CORONADO'S CHILDREN by J. Frank Dobie. Originally published in 1930, this book about lost mines and buried treasures of the West, is a classic and is as vital today as when first written. Dobie was not only an adventurer, but a scholar and a powerful writer. A combination of legends and factual background. Hardcover, 376 pages, \$3.95.

SELDOM SEEN SLIM by Tom Murray. Profiles and vignettes of the colorful "single blanket jackass prospectors" who lived and died as they looked for gold and silver in Death Valley. Slick paperback, exclusive photos of the old-timers, 65 pages, \$3.00.

ROCK DRAWINGS OF THE COSO RANGE by Campbell Grant, James Baird and J. Kenneth Pringle. A Maturango Museum publication, this book tells of sites of rock art in the Coso Range which, at 4000 feet, merges with the flatlands of the northern Mojave Desert. Paperback, illustrated, detailed drawings, maps, 144 pages, \$3.95.

BAJA (California, Mexico) by Cliff Cross. Updated in 1972, the author has outlined in detail all of the services, precautions, outstanding sights and things to do in Baja. Maps and photos galore with large format, 170 pages, \$3.50.

CALIFORNIA by David Muench and Ray Atkeson. Two of the West's greatest color photographers have presented their finest works to create the vibrations of the oceans, lakes, mountains and deserts of California. Their photographic presentations, combined with the moving text of David Toll, makes this a classic in Western Americana. Large 11x14 format, heavy slick paper, hardcover, 200 4-color photographs, 186 pages, \$25.00.

PONDEROSA COUNTRY by Stanley W. Paher. A scenic and historic guide to Reno and vicinity, the author tells in words and pictures the many scenic byways and colorful country to be found within an hour or two of downtown "Casino Row." Various tours are outlined and a final chapter is devoted to a pictorial history of Reno. Paperback, 48 pages, 9x12 format, \$1.95.

FLOWERS OF CANYON COUNTRY by Stanley L. Welsh, text; and Bill Ratcliffe, photographs. Brigham Young University Press. Two professionals have united their talents to present an informative, scholarly and artistic promotion of the beauty found in flowers and plants of vast regions of the Southwest. Paperback, 51 pages, \$2.95.

ROCKS AND MINERALS OF CALIFORNIA, Compiled by Vinson Brown, David Allan and James Stark. The 1972 printing is the third revised edition of a book that will save you hours of time by the description and pictures of rocks and minerals found in this state. Color pictures with clearly developed keys show you how to identify what you have found and gives you the fine tools to increase your ability as a field collector. Paperback, well illustrated with photos, locality maps, charts and quadrangle map information. 200 pages, \$3.95.

BICYCLE TRAILS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA by David Kurk and Robert Miller. Sixty-nine trails, including sidetrails, ranging from three to fifty miles in both rural and urban areas. Illustrated, maps, terrain description, paperback, 128 pages, \$1.95.

TURQUOIS by Joseph E. Pogue. (Memoirs of the National Academy of Sciences) First printed in 1915, *Turquois* has in its third printing (1973) been updated in many ways. Among them are listed currently-operated Turquois mines, more color plates. The book is full of incredible results of research and an in-depth study of this fascinating mineral of superficial origin. Hardcover, 175 pages, beautifully illustrated, \$15.00.

MEET THE SOUTHWEST DESERTS by Philip Welles with Photography by Marvin H. Frost, Sr. The geographical area covered by the excellent photos and detailed descriptions include the Great Basin Desert, Mojave and Sonoran Deserts. The author identifies and describes some of the more common plants, mammals, birds, reptiles and other forms of life that a newcomer to the desert might want to know. Hardcover, very well illustrated, 84 pages, \$3.50.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS by Editors of Sunset. Covers the Northern Coast and Redwood Country to the Southern Desert and Mountains. Fees, rules, climate, reservations, new developments are listed, as well as State beaches. Paperback, illustrated with photos and maps, large format, 126 pages, \$2.95.

LONDON BRIDGE IN PICTURES and **CARLOS ELMER'S ARIZONA** by Carlos Elmer. From the blazing 4-color photos of the scenic wonders of the state of Arizona to the pictorial essay of London Bridge at Lake Havasu City, Arizona, you will learn to appreciate what you will eventually want to visit. These two books combined make for a memento, a guide and a knowledgeable approach to a worthwhile vacation, or weekend jaunt. *London Bridge* is paperback, large format, \$1.50. *Arizona*, paperback, large format, entirely 4-color photos, \$1.00.

NAVAJO RUGS, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE by Gilbert S. Maxwell. Concerns the history, legends and descriptions of Navajo rugs. Full color photos. Paper, \$2.50.

THE WEST

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LOST MINES AND HIDDEN TREASURES by Leland Lovelace. Authoritative and exact accounts give locations and fascinating data about a lost lake of gold in California, buried Aztec ingots in Arizona, kegs of coins, and all sorts of exciting booty for treasure seekers. Hardcover, \$4.95.

A LIGHT HEARTED LOOK AT THE DESERT by Chuck Waggin. A delightfully written and illustrated book on desert animals which will be appreciated by both children and adults. The sketches are excellent and, although factual, descriptions make the animals seem like human beings. Large format, heavy quality paper, 94 pages, \$1.95.

FANTASIES OF GOLD by E. B. Sayles. During his search for archeological finds for more than 30 years, the author was exposed to the rumors and legends of lost gold and treasures. After his retirement as curator of the Arizona State Museum, he classified and delved into these still unsolved mysteries. An interesting and informative book on lost bonanzas and legends, many of which have never been published. Hardcover, well illustrated, 135 pages, \$6.50.

ROAD MAP TO CALIFORNIA'S LOST MINES AND BURIED TREASURES AND ROADMAP TO CALIFORNIA'S PIONEER TOWNS, GHOST TOWNS AND MINING CAMPS compiled by Varna Enterprises. Both roadmaps are 38" by 25" and scaled. Southern California on one side and Northern California on the other. Both contain detailed location of place names, many of which are not on regular maps. Treasure Map is \$4.00 and Ghost Town Map is \$2.95. When ordering, be certain to state which map, or both.

SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAIN TRAILS by John W. Robinson. Easy one-day and more rugged hiking trips into the historic mountains. The 100 hiking trails are described in detail and illustrated so you will not get lost. Heavy paperback, 257 pages, \$4.95.

MOCKEL'S DESERT FLOWER BOOK by Henry and Beverly Mockel. The well-known painter of desert wildflowers has combined his four-color sketches and black and white photographs to describe in detail so the layman can easily identify wildflowers, both large and small. Microscopic detail makes this an outstanding book for identification. Special compressed fiber cover which will not stain. 54 full-color illustrations with 72 life-size drawings and 39 photographs, 316 pages, \$5.95.

LOST LEGENDS OF THE WEST by Brad Williams and Choral Pepper. The authors examine the "lore, legends, characters and myths that grew out of the Old West" in a sequel to their popular first book, *The Mysterious West*. Included among the more than 20 "lost legends" are such intriguing subjects as lost bones, lost ladies, lost towns, and lost diamonds. Hardcover, illustrated, 192 pages, \$5.95.

MY CANYONLANDS by Kent Frost. A vivid account of the early exploration of Utah's Canyonlands by the author who spent his entire life exploring America's new national park and who presently runs a guide service through the scenic country. Hardcover, artist illustrations, 160 pages, \$6.95.

GHOST TOWNS OF ARIZONA by James and Barbara Sherman. If you are looking for a ghost town in Arizona this is your waybill. Illustrated, maps, township, range, coordinates, history, and other details make this one of the best ghost town books ever published. Large 9x11 format heavy paperback, 208 pages, \$3.95.

DESERT EDITOR by J. Wilson McKinney. Known by his many friends throughout the West as "Mr. Desert" the late Randall Henderson founded the *Desert Magazine* 35 years ago and for more than 20 years was editor and publisher. His former business partner and long-time friend, J. Wilson McKinney has written a book about Henderson, *Desert Magazine* and the growth of *Palm Desert* since Henderson moved the magazine to the area in 1948. This is a story about a man, his dream, and how he made it a reality. Hardcover, illustrated, 188 pages, \$7.95.

NEW MEXICO PLACE NAMES edited by T. M. Pearce. Lists and gives a concise history of the places, towns, former sites, mountains, mesas, rivers, etc., in New Mexico, including those settled by the early Spaniards. Good for treasure hunters, bottle collectors and history buffs. Paperback, 187 pages with more than 5000 names, \$2.45.



DUTCH OVEN COOKBOOK by Don Holm. Wildlife editor of the *Portland Oregonian*, the author has spent his life exploring and writing about the outdoors, so his recipes for preparing food in a Dutch Oven come from experience. If you haven't had food cooked in a Dutch Oven, you haven't lived . . . and if you have you will find these recipes new and exciting culinary adventures—as well as his style of writing. Heavy paperback, 106 pages, \$3.95.

MEXICO by Auto, Camper, Trailer by Cliff Cross. Revised edition. Excellent guide with information on trailer parks, butane and ice suppliers and street maps for villages and cities. New enlarged edition includes Baja and Yucatan. Large format, paperback, \$3.50.

SOURDOUGH COOKBOOK by Don and Myrtle Holm. How to make a sourdough starter and many dozens of sourdough recipes, plus amusing anecdotes by the authors of the popular *Old Fashioned Dutch Oven Cookbook*. A new experience in culinary adventures. Paperback, 136 slick pages, illustrated, \$3.95.

THE WEEKEND TREASURE HUNTER by A. H. Ryan. A companion book to his *Weekend Gold Miner*, this volume is also concise and packed with information on what to look for and what to do with your treasure after you have found it. Subjects range from Beach Combing to Sunk-en Treasures. Paperback, 76 pages, \$1.95.

THE OREGON DESERT by E. R. Jackman and R. A. Long. Filled with both facts and anecdotes, this is the only book on the little known but fascinating deserts of Oregon. Anyone who reads this book will want to visit the area—or wish they could. Hardcover, illustrated, 407 pages, \$7.50.

A FIELD GUIDE TO INSECTS of America North of Mexico by Donald J. Borror and Richard E. White. This is the most comprehensive, authoritative and up-to-date guide to North American insects ever published. It covers 579 families of insects and has more than 1300 line drawings and 142 color plates. Hardcover, 372 pages, glossary, references, \$5.95.

GEM TRAILS OF ARIZONA by Bessie W. Simpson. This field guide is prepared for the hobbyist and almost every location is accessible by car or pick-up accompanied by maps to show sandy roads, steep rocky hills, etc., as cautions. Laws regarding collecting on Federal and Indian land outlined. Paperback, 88 pages, illustrated, \$3.00.

UTAH GEM TRAILS by Bessie W. Simpson. The casual rockhound or collector interested in collecting petrified wood, fossils, agate and crystals will find this guide most helpful. The book does not give permission to collect in areas written about, but simply describes and maps the areas. Paperback, illustrated, maps, \$3.50.

RELICS OF THE REDMAN by Marvin & Helen Davis. Relics can be valuable! Those dating back to Indian history in our land are becoming almost priceless, say the authors. How to search for these "hard to find" Indian relics, where to search and at what time of year, and types of tools needed, are among the many helpful suggestions given. Large format, many color and b/w illustrations, a striking cover. Paperback, 63 pages, \$3.95.

RELICS OF THE WHITEMAN by Marvin & Helen Davis. A logical companion to *Relics of the Redman*, this book brings out a marked difference by showing in its illustrations just how "suddenly modern" the early West became after the arrival of the white man. The difference in artifacts typifies the historical background in each case. The same authors tell how and where to collect relics of these early days, tools needed, and how to display and sell valuable pieces. Paperback, same type format and cover, well illustrated in color and b/w, 63 pages, \$3.95.

FAMILY FUN IN JOSHUA TREE by Dean Publications. A happy medium in price and guide book value is reached in this publication for all the family, easily understood by youngsters and highly informative for adults. Step-by-step tour guide, map, puzzles, keep the young alert to their surroundings, animals, geology and history of the area. Paperback, 36 pages, \$1.25.

GUIDEBOOK TO THE COLORADO DESERT by Choral Pepper. Rich in history and beauty is the Colorado Desert which lies below the Mojave and extends into Mexico. The author describes areas of interest for passenger cars as well as for four-wheel-drivers. Paperback, 128 pages, \$1.95.

PLANTS USED IN BASKETRY BY THE CALIFORNIA INDIANS by Ruth Earl Merrill. Seventy-odd plant species, their uses and combined uses, limitations, patterns, waterproofing, etc., are all brought into focus in an easily read presentation. Appendix lists basket materials according to part, use and Tribe. Paperback, 25 pages, \$2.00.

YUMAN POTTERY MAKING by Malcolm J. Rogers. This publication from the San Diego Museum Papers, No. 2, February 1936, and reprinted in 1973, presents the subject of Yuman ceramic technique in its aboriginal form. Comparative studies and charts of the various Divisions and Tribes help to clarify the ethnological interpretations, and both archaeological data and that obtained from Indian informants have been equally drawn upon. Paperback, 52 pages, \$2.95.

FALL 1973 CATALOG — PART 1

BOOKS OF

HAPPY WANDERER TRIPS by Slim Barnard. Well-known TV stars, Henrietta and Slim Barnard have put together a selection of their trips throughout the West from their Happy Wanderer travel shows. Books have excellent maps, history, cost of lodging, meals, etc. Perfect for families planning weekends. Both books are large format, heavy paperback, 150 pages each and \$2.95 each. Volume One covers California and Volume Two Arizona, Nevada and Mexico. **WHEN ORDERING STATE WHICH VOLUME.**

BEACHES OF BAJA by Walt Wheelock. Beaches on the Pacific side of Lower California are described by the veteran Baja explorer. Unlike California beaches, they are still relatively free of crowds. Paperback, illustrated, 72 pp. \$1.95.

BOTTLE COLLECTOR'S HANDBOOK by John T. Yount. Contains a listing of 1850 bottles and their market value (including the prized Jim Beams), where to sell and buy, identifications, etc. Although contains few illustrations, it has more listings than any other bottle book. Paperback, 89 pages, \$3.95.

CALIFORNIA DESERT WILD FLOWERS by Philip Munz. Illustrated with colored photos and descriptive text by one of the deserts finest botanists. Paperback. \$2.95.

A FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS by Robert C. Stebbins. A Peterson Field guide. 207 species, 569 illustrations, 185 in full color, 192 maps. The best book of this type. Hardcover. \$5.95.

OVERLAND STAGE TO CALIFORNIA AND THE PONY EXPRESS by Frank A. Root. A first-hand account of a mail agent who lived and fought with the men who settled the West through their efforts to establish communication across the wilderness during the 1800's. First published in 1901 and just republished. Heavy stock and hardcover, original artist illustrations, two 1800 maps, 645 pages, this is a book for history buffs, \$15.00.

INYO MONO JEEP TRAILS by Roger Mitchell. Author of *DEATH VALLEY JEEP TRAILS*, veteran explorer Mitchell takes you on 18 different 4-wheel-drive trips into the Sierra Nevada Mountains, where he explores ghost towns, Indian territory and scenic canyons and mountain passes. Paperback, 36 pages, illust., \$1.00.

A TRAMP ACROSS THE CONTINENT by Charles Lummis. First published in 1892, this is a reprint of the personal experiences of the western historian who, in 1884, walked from Ohio to Los Angeles, covering 3507 miles in 143 days. Lummis writes in a matter-of-fact manner of adventures which make fascinating reading and give a keen insight into the people he encountered. This is a classic of Western Americana. Hardcover, 270 pages, \$8.50.

DESERT OVERVIEW MAPS

Using topographic maps as basic underlays, Wes has compiled two excellent detailed maps for back country explorers of the Mojave and Colorado Deserts. Maps show highways, gravel roads, jeep trails plus historic routes and sites, old wells, which are not on modern-day maps, plus ghost towns, Indian sites, etc. Mojave Desert Overview covers from U.S. 395 at Little Lake to Boulder City, Nevada, to Parker Dam to Victorville. Colorado Desert Overview covers from the Mexican border to Joshua Tree National Monument to Banning to the Arizona side of the Colorado. \$3.00 each. Be certain to state which map (or both) when ordering.

DEAD MEN DO TELL TALES by Lake Erie Schaefer. A sequel to *BURIED TREASURE & LOST MINES* by Frank Fish, the author knew Fish for many years and claims he was murdered. Her book adds other information on alleged lost bonanzas, plus reasons why she thinks Fish did not die a natural death as stated by the authorities. Paperback, illustrated, 80 pages, \$3.00.

TREASURE HUNTER'S GUIDE TO THE LAW by Clair Martin Christensen. Answers all of the questions relative to the legal aspect of finding treasure trove. Subjects include Antiquities Act, Mining Claims, Gold Regulations, Trespass and Salvage, Claim Recordings, Tax Aspect and many others. Concise and factual. Paperback, 46 pages, \$2.75.

THE CALIFORNIA DESERTS by Edmund C. Jaeger. Revised 4th edition is standard guide to Mohave and Colorado deserts with new chapters on desert conservation and aborigines. Hardcover. \$4.95.



100 HIKING TRAILS by Don and Roberta Lowe. There are two separate books: one on trails in Northern California and the other in Southern California. Both have 100 trips (both easy and rugged) described in detail. Both books are 225 pages, heavy paperback, \$5.95 each. When ordering state whether you want *NORTHERN* or *SOUTHERN* Hiking Trails.

THE MIGHTY SIERRA by Paul Webster. Subtitled "A Portrait of a Mountain World", This is a dramatic story of the geology of the Sierra Nevada and of the people—both of historic and present age—who have lived and died in the mountain world. Includes a special Travel Guide, glossary and bibliography. Seventy 4-color and 90 black and white photographs plus maps and illustrations. Large format, hardcover, 288 pages, \$17.50.

ROUGH RIDING by Dick Cepek and Walt Wheelock. Two veteran travelers have compiled an excellent book on how to drive and survive in the back country. Although based on driving through Baja California, the information is applicable to all areas of the West. Strongly recommended for both amateurs and veterans. Paperback, 36 pages, \$1.00.

LOST MINES OF ARIZONA by Harold Weight. Covers the Lost Jabonero, lost mines of the Trigos, Buried Gold of Bicuner and others of southwestern Arizona. Paperback, \$2.00.

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE HANDBOOK by James T. Crow and Cameron Warren. Packed into this volume is material gathered from actual experience and presented in a detailed manner so it can easily be followed and understood. Highly recommended for anyone interested in back country driving. Paperback, illustrated 96 pages, \$2.95.

GOLD MINES OF CALIFORNIA by Jack R. Wagner. Illustrated history of the most productive mines of the Mother Lode country with descriptions and anecdotes about the people who owned the mines and the roles they played in the development of California. Profusely illustrated with rare photographs, the author has chronicled California's greatest and most exciting era. Large 9x11 format, 300 photos and maps, hardcover, 259 pages, 10.00.

EARTHQUAKE COUNTRY by Robert Iacopi. Published by Sunset Books, this well illustrated book separates fact from fiction and shows where faults are located, what to do in the event of an earthquake, past history and what to expect in the future. Highly recommended for all Californians. Large format, slick paperback, 160 pages, \$2.95.

THE INDIANS AND I by Peter Odens. Intimate conversations with Indians by a compassionate author who writes in the style of Ernie Pyle. Paperback, illustrated, 89 pages, \$2.00.

POISONOUS DWELLERS OF THE DESERT by Natt Dodge. Anyone walking through the back country should have and study this book, especially families with children. Illustrates and describes which dwellers are poisonous and which are not. Slick paperback, 40 pages, 75 cents.

CACTI OF CALIFORNIA by E. Yale Dawson. A handy guide with description and illustrations of the principal cacti of California. Paperback, 64 pages, \$1.95.

100 DESERT WILDFLOWERS by Natt Dodge. Each flower is illustrated with a 4-color photograph and described in detail, where found, blooming period, etc. Habitats from sea level to 4,000 feet. Slick paperback, 64 pages, \$2.00.

100 ROADSIDE WILDFLOWERS by Natt Dodge. A companion book and with the same format as *100 Desert Wildflowers*, this book lists 100 flowers found from 4,000 to the 7,000-foot levels. Also has 4-color photographs. Slick paperback, 64 pages, \$2.00.

DEATH VALLEY JEEP TRAILS by Roger Mitchell. Although a system of paved roads covers Death Valley National Monument, there is even a larger network of back country roads leading to old mining camps, stamp mills and other little-known areas of interest. The author has provided a guide to these places for explorers with back country vehicles. Paperback, illustrated, 36 pages, \$1.00.

BAJA CALIFORNIA MAP AND GUIDE by Walt Wheelock. An updated map and guide to Baja California showing the roads that have been paved and those scheduled for improvement. Also travel suggestions relative to gear, gasoline and supplies. Anyone going to Baja should have this latest information. \$1.95.

EXPLORING JOSHUA TREE by Roger Mitchell. Excellent guide to Joshua Tree National Monument in Southern California. Paper. \$1.00.

CAMPING AND CLIMBING IN BAJA by John W. Robinson. Contains excellent maps and photos. A guidebook to the Sierra San Pedro Martir and the Sierra Juarez of upper Baja Calif. Much of this land is unexplored and unmapped still. Car routes to famous ranches and camping spots in palm-studded canyons with trout streams tempt weekend tourists who aren't up to hiking. Paperback, 96 pages, \$2.95.

THE WEST

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BOTTLES AND RELICS by Marvin and Helen Davis. This latest bottle book has more than 30 pages of full-color illustrations with the bottles shown in natural settings. In addition to the color there are also dozens of black and white photos of more than 500 bottles. It also includes sections of collection and display of relics such as guns, horns, cooking utensils and other collectors' items. Slick paperback, 155 pages, four-color cover. \$5.00.

COLORFUL DESERT WILDFLOWERS by Grace and Onas Ward. Segregated into categories of red, blue, white and yellow for easier identification, there are 190 four-color photos of flowers found in the Mojave, Colorado and Western Arizona deserts, all of which also have common and scientific names plus descriptions. Heavy, slick paperback. \$4.50.

MEXICAN COOK BOOK by the Editors of Sunset Books. Mexican recipes for American cooks, thoroughly tested and suited for products available in the United States. Includes comprehensive shopping guide, all cooking techniques and recipes from soups to desserts and drinks. Large slick paper format, well illustrated, 96 pages, \$1.95.

GHOST TOWNS OF THE WEST by the Editors of Sunset. Compares the past with the present and provides both a detailed and overall picture of the early-day west. The outstanding collection of historic photographs are matched by current-day photos by William Carter. Hardcover, 11x9 format, heavy slick paper, 225 pages, maps, diagrams, etc. \$11.75.

MAMMALS OF THE SOUTHWEST DESERTS by George Olin. Newly revised edition describes the mammals of the deserts with artist illustrations of the animals and their footprints for easy identification. Paperback, 112 pages, \$1.50.

GUIDE FOR INSULATOR COLLECTORS by John C. Tibbitts. This is the third and final book on insulators by veteran bottle collector John Tibbitts. This third book has a revised price list and index to insulators described in the previous two volumes. However, each volume describes insulators not shown in the other books, so for a complete roundup of all insulators, all three volumes are needed. Books are paperback, averaging 120 pages, illustrated with artists drawings, \$3.00 EACH. WHEN ORDERING BE SURE TO STATE VOLUME NUMBER: ONE, TWO OR THREE.

A FIELD GUIDE TO ROCKS AND MINERALS by Frederick H. Pough. Authoritative guide to identification of rocks and minerals. Experts recommend this for all amateurs as one of the best 3rd edition with many new color illustrations. Hardcover. \$5.95.

BARBED WIRE HANDBOOK by Thomas E. Turner. Contains 418 different kinds of barbed wire and associated items, described and illustrated with line drawings. Current value prices. Paperback, 102 pages \$3.95.

EXPLORING CALIFORNIA'S BYWAYS by Russ Leadabrand. Excellent travel guides to passenger car areas by a veteran explorer and popular writer. All books are heavy, slick paperback with detailed maps, illustrations and historical background, 180 pages and \$1.95 each. STATE WHICH VOLUME WHEN ORDERING. Vol. 1, Kings Canyon to Mexican Border; 2, In and Around Los Angeles; 3, Desert Country; 4, Mountain Country.

LOWER CALIFORNIA GUIDE BOOK by Gerhard and Gulick. The authors have revised the third edition to bring it up to date. Veteran travelers in Baja California would not venture south of the border without this authoritative volume. It combines the fascinating history of every location, whether it be a town, mission or abandoned ranch, with detailed mileage maps and locations of gasoline supplies, water and other needed information on Baja. 243 pages with three-color folded map, 16 detailed route maps, 4 city maps, 22 illustrations. Hardcover \$6.50.

MAPS OF BAJA CALIFORNIA from the Lower California Guidebook by Gehard and Gulick. Slightly smaller than those in the book but convenient to carry in glove compartment. \$1 when purchased with the book; \$1.50 when purchased separately.



THE GREAT SOUTHWEST by Elna Bakker and Richard G. Lillard. The publishers of American West commissioned the authors to capture the past and present panorama of the Great Southwest. Through text and photographs (both black and white and color) they have succeeded in accomplishing this monumental task. Large 9 x 11 format, hardcover, heavy paper stock, maps and index. The best comprehensive book on the Great Southwest to date. \$17.50.

UNCLE SAM'S CAMELS, edited by Lewis Burt Lesley. This book is the actual journal of May Humphreys Stacey, a young man who was part of the "camel corps" under leadership of Lt. Edward Beale. First published in 1929 this is a fascinating account of attempts by the U.S. government to import camels from Asia to provide transportation across the deserts of the Southwest. Stacey later became a colonel in the U.S. Army. A good description of how the camels were purchased; and Beale's report to the Secretary of War. Hardcover, 298 pages, \$8.00.

HELLDORADO by William Breakenridge. One of the most famous law enforcement officers of the Old West describes his life and gives firsthand accounts of the famous outlaws and lawmen he knew. First published in 1928 and long out-of-print, now available. Hardcover, illustrated, 1883 map of Arizona Territory, 255 pages, \$7.50.

JEEP TRAILS TO COLORADO GHOST TOWNS by Robert L. Brown. An illustrated, detailed, informal history of life in the mining camps deep in Colorado Rockies. Fifty-eight towns are included the almost inaccessible mountain fastness of the as examples of the vigorous struggle for existence in the mining camps of the West. 239 pages, illustrated, end sheet map. Hardcover. \$5.95.

TREES OF THE WEST (Identified at a Glance) by Matilda Rogers. Photographs by Wynn Hammer. Miss Rogers has written graphic descriptions of all of the trees generally found in the Western area of the United States. Mr. Hammer has photographed them when in their prime. The result is a handbook that everyone can understand and enjoy. Paperback, illustrated, 126 pages, \$2.50.

BURIED TREASURE & LOST MINES by Frank Fish. One of the original treasure hunters provides data on 93 lost bonanzas, many of which he personally searched for. He died under mysterious circumstances in 1968 after leading an adventurous life. Illustrated with photos and maps. Paperback, 68 pages, \$2.00.

LAND OF POCO TIEMPO by Charles F. Lummis. A reprint of the famous writer and historian of his adventures among the Indians of New Mexico. Lummis was one of the foremost writers of the West. Paperback, 236 pages, \$2.45.

GRAND CANYON TREKS by Harvey Butchard. Detailed description and directions of hiking trails into the Grand Canyon by a man who has spent all of his life exploring the Arizona gorge. Paperback, illustrated, 69 pages, \$1.95.

GEOLOGY FIELD GUIDE TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA by Robert P. Sharp. A fresh and lively approach to what otherwise might be a dry subject. Areas which you can see while driving are described and illustrated. Will help your children understand (and make better grades) geology. Heavy paperback, 192 pages, \$2.95.

SOUTHWESTERN INDIAN ARTS & CRAFTS by Tom Bahti. Beautifully illustrated with 4-color photographs, this book describes the arts and crafts of the Indians of the Southwest and offers suggestions on what to buy and how to judge authentic jewelry, rugs, baskets and pottery. Large format, heavy paperback, 32 pages, \$1.00.

GHOST TOWNS AND MINING CAMPS OF CALIFORNIA by Remi Nadeau. The only good, hardcover book on the California ghost towns. We recommend it highly. \$7.50.

1200 BOTTLES PRICED by John C. Tibbitts. Updated edition of one of the best of the bottle books, \$4.95.

BOOK OF CACTUS by Harry C. Lawson. Written for the amateur, this book tells how to plant, care for and identify cactus found in the West. The 36 pages contain 409 small photographs and descriptions of the plants. Paperback, \$2.00.

TRAVEL GUIDE TO UTAH by the Editors of Sunset Books. Like their other guide books, this is a concise, factual, illustrated and well-mapped guide to Utah. Anyone planning a vacation or tour through the Beehive State should have this along. Large 8x11 format, heavy paperback, 80 pages, \$1.95.

OLD ARIZONA TREASURES by Jesse Rascoe. Containing many anecdotes not previously covered in Arizona histories, this new book covers haciendas, stage stops, stage routes, mining camps, abandoned forts, missions and other historical landmarks. Paperback, 210 pages, \$3.00.

THE WEEKEND GOLD MINER by A. H. Ryan. An electronic physicist "bitten by the gold bug," the author has written a concise and informative book for amateur prospectors telling where and how gold is found and how it is separated and tested, all based on his own practical experience. Paperback, 40 pages, \$1.50.

ON THE TRAIL with . . .
Russ Leadabrand

Fort Mojave Road

IN THE MIDDLE 1800s, the Pah-Ute Indians in the southern portion of the Great Basin made frequent and sanguine forays against the white settlers, emigrants, military and miners in the area from Fort Mojave on the Colorado River, all the way into the San Bernardino Valley.

As a result, a series of U.S. Army forts, camps, outposts and redoubts were built in the lonesome desert areas, each situated reasonably close to a supply of water. Here, at these small, isolated camps, the military waged a curious kind of warfare with the Indians.

The effectiveness of the campaigns, the

value of the battles and sieges, are still being argued by learned and insistent historians. But of greater interest is the preservation of the history—and hopefully the sites themselves—of the various outposts that reach from San Bernardino out to the Colorado River. (The old Fort Mojave Road, according to our experts of this month's column, claim the road reached from San Pedro, California, to Prescott, Arizona. But for the purpose of this discussion, the road between San Bernardino and Fort Mojave on the Colorado is most interesting.)

Not too much has been written about these military outposts in the Mojave

Desert, almost no work has ever been done in the national archives.

Dennis Casebier changed all that.

Casebier was a Marine stationed at the the Marine Corps base near Twentynine Palms in the period 1953-1956. Not a Californian, he was fascinated by the desert. In 1956 he returned to school in Kansas, came back to California a physicist working for the U.S. Navy and now stationed in the San Bernardino area, and with his new wife started exploring the desert. He decided early that he would concentrate on the Mojave Road. His work took him frequently to Washington, D.C. where, at night, he poured through the national archives seeking information about these tiny, remote military outposts that flourished in a period from 1860 to 1869.

The research paid off. Today he is considered the doyen, the expert on this area and these outposts.

He spends much time at the sites, knows the owners of the private land that some of the sites are situated upon, knows the desert people, and has made good and lasting friends. Dennis Casebier is 38.

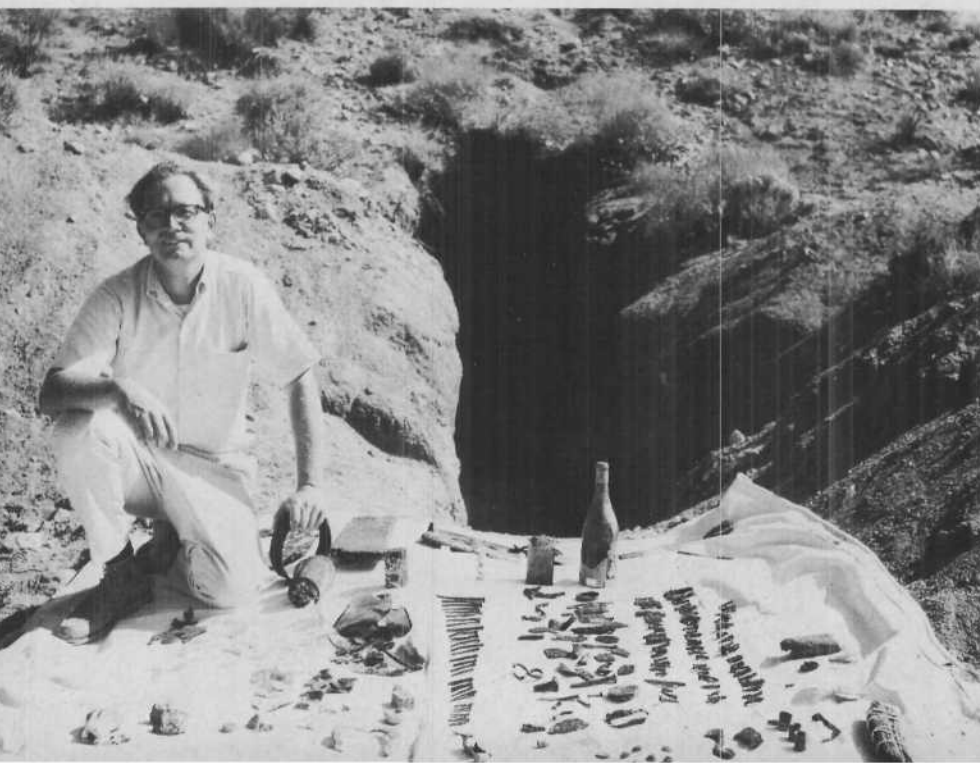
Thus far his research has resulted in the publication of four books on the general area. The first, *Camo El Dorado, Arizona Territory*, was published by the Arizona Historical Foundation. Three subsequent books are all on the outposts of the Mojave Road which Casebier published himself in limited editions. These are *Carleton's Pah-Ute Campaign*, *The Battle of Camp Cady*, and finally, *Camp Rock Springs, California*.

Projected are future books on Fort Pah-Ute, another Camp Cady volume, (there are many subjects for books about Camp Cady), and others of the outposts.

Casebier lists the points of interest from the crossing of the Mojave north of Cajon Pass toward the Colorado thus:

1. Lane Ranch, near the site of Oro Grande, a frequent stopover site but not a military outpost.
2. Forks of the Road. Where the Mojave and Old Salt Lake City Trails forked, nine miles west of Camp Cady.
3. Old Camp Cady, established briefly in 1860, active again in 1865-70, the most important military outpost in the Mojave Desert.
4. The Caves of Afton Canyon. A trading post was once located here.
5. Soda Springs, in 1860 called Han-

Dennis Casebier and artifacts found at the site of old Camp Rock Spring.



cock's Redoubt. On west edge of Soda Lake near spot of present-day Zzyzx.

6. Marl Springs, 1876 to 1878. It was 35 miles between water to Marl Springs in those days, a long dry crossing.

7. Pah-Ute Spring, higher, cooler, 5000 feet. Lots of free flowing water here. A fantastic archeological site that has been heavily vandalized. Active 1867-68. Once called Camp Beale in days of camel crossings.

8. Fort Mojave, with adjacent Hardyville. An Indian school stood here once. All buildings gone, only sidewalks and foundations remain, even graveyard heavily vandalized.

And beyond Fort Mojave toward Prescott, Casebier has pounds of documentation about other forts, camps and outposts.

To single out one specific desert history subject and to follow through on it to the end, is important for us all—students, and scholars and armchair adventurers. Dennis Casebier has done this in a job of incredible dedication and zeal, and at no little cost to himself. He deserves the highest kind of credit for this effort which will, for years to come, serve everyone here.

I was introduced to the labors of Dennis G. Casebier by my old desert buddy, E. I. "Eddie" Edwards, lately of Joshua Tree and more recently of Sun City.

Casebier, in a recent conversation, has told me that there are a number of interesting and significant military sites adjacent or approaching the Army posts that are on private land.

Casebier has made good friends in the desert during the years he has researched the Mojave Road and has permission to

examine the sites on private land. Sometime in the late summer or fall of this year he has scheduled a metal locator search on these private land areas.

Casebier told me that if he finds significant articles he will notify concerned museum people and will give me a report to share here with you.

He is a vigorous campaigner for protection of all the old military sites. He would like to see them guarded against vandalism and unauthorized digging and activities that would hamper later, serious archeological work.

The U.S. Army outposts along the old Mojave Road are now being protected, as far as written history is concerned, by Dennis Casebier.

He, and I, would like to see these ancient, remote, poignant outposts in the hostile Mojave preserved as state parks or a string of National Monuments, or something equally secure, so that visitors here in those years in the far future can understand the march of living history that once was enacted so violently here during the various Pah-Ute campaigns across the lonesome California desert. □

BACK ISSUE SPECIALS



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1

1. "Keep the engine running, it looks like the coast is clear."
2. "Hope I don't trip the silent alarm."
3. "Don't fool with the small stuff. Grab the big pieces and let's get outta here"
4. "It was a pushover! Step on the gas and head for the den!"
5. "No officer, it couldn't have been me, I was just out for an evening walk. You say he has a gray coat, is bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. I'll sure keep an eye out."

The Great

Our photo-story takes place in the city of Desert Hot Springs, California, a wildlife sanctuary where a regular evening meal is approached with all the wariness and caution of a major heist. Hans Baerwald has "captured" the "burglar" red-handed with his Exacta camera and a 135 mm lens.



2

Coyote Caper

by Hans Baerwald





Room to Spare

by Walter Ford

ARE YOU A TARDY camper—one whose habits or job requirements delay your arrival at a campground until all the desirable sites are gone? If you are, the area described here is just for you—the whole 25,050 acres! But not exclusively. You will share it with other campers, the proximity of which will depend solely upon your desires. You may mingle with fellow campers, or select a spot in this vast area where isolation and solitude are real and not just a state of mind.

The campground is known as Los Coyotes and is located on the Cahuilla Indian Reservation of the same name which lies along the San Ysidro Mountains, east of Warner's Hot Springs. Los Coyotes is one of a number of campgrounds being constructed throughout the West by an organization called Indian Campgrounds, Inc., using Federal funds and Indian manpower. Those in operation so far are: Los Coyotes; Hoopa, on the Klamath River; and one on the Tule River, near Porterville.

Banning Taylor, Los Coyotes manager, points with pride to some of his campgrounds' plus factors. Color photo by Jim Smullen.

September, 1973

Los Coyotes is the largest campground in San Diego County's mountains and also has the distinction of having the highest peak, Hot Springs Mountain, elevation 6533 feet. So far, about 100 acres have been developed with water, restrooms, and tables. Banning Taylor, Los Coyotes spokesman for the past 23 years, and a director for Indian Campgrounds, Inc., told me that additional areas in Los Coyotes are being improved as the need develops. A food store is scheduled for opening soon, with a bath house, extended water supply and more tables to follow in the near future.

Camping is permitted anywhere in the reservation, but most visitors seem to prefer a spot under the oak trees. Those seeking to get away from it all, like the campsites among pines and cedars along the road up to Hot Springs Mountain. This area also has a special appeal to campers from Coachella and Imperial Valleys who find the cooling breezes of the higher elevation a welcome relief from the summer heat of their home areas.

All roads in the reservation are well maintained, with the exception of a short stretch leading up to the lookout on top of Hot Springs Mountain. This section is

Indian Campgrounds, Inc., is a new all-Indian enterprise designed to use, nourish and develop the long-dormant human and land resources of American Indians. Its business structure is that of a member-owned chain. Its primary business goal is the development of attractive and profitable campground/recreation areas on Indian-held lands—campgrounds that will be fully competitive with similar facilities, both public and private.

In achieving this goal, Indian Campgrounds will produce positive and far-reaching social and economic reverberations. Member campgrounds invite all camping enthusiasts to share in the unspoiled surroundings which have been their domain for generations.

the responsibility of the Forest Service, but because the fire control station is occupied only a few months each year, the road is apt to be rutted at times. However, the views possible from the top far outweigh the minor irritation of a bumpy road. On the rare days when coastal smog permits, Santa Catalina Island, 100 miles to the west, may be seen. On other days, views northward of the usually snow-capped San Geronio and San Jacinto peaks should provide an acceptable substitute.

From the entrance gate the main road winds through the reservation for about six miles, then swings sharply right to the old Cahuilla village site of San Ignacio, 0.6 mile beyond. In his, *California Desert Trails*, J. Smeaton Chase tells about visiting San Ignacio in 1918 when he was collecting material for the book. Uncertain of the route to the village from Coyote Canyon, he spent most of the day trying to locate the trail, leading his horse all of the way. It was nearly sunset when they struggled up the last rise. A short descent brought them to water, but forage was scanty and it was necessary to push on. "It was dark when we came to a larger valley, encircled by pine-clad heights, where we found the rancheria of San Ignacio," Chase wrote. "It is a romantic situation, like an eagle's eyrie on the craggy crest of the mountains: on one hand is the desert, far and steep below; on the other the long seaward slope, fifty miles as the crow flies to the Pacific."

His impressions the next morning were equally colorful: "The daylight view of San Ignacio confirmed its attractiveness. The little valley was deliciously green, water was abundant, and the surroundings were almost alpine in boldness and novelty. The air was superb, and the summer climate delightful."

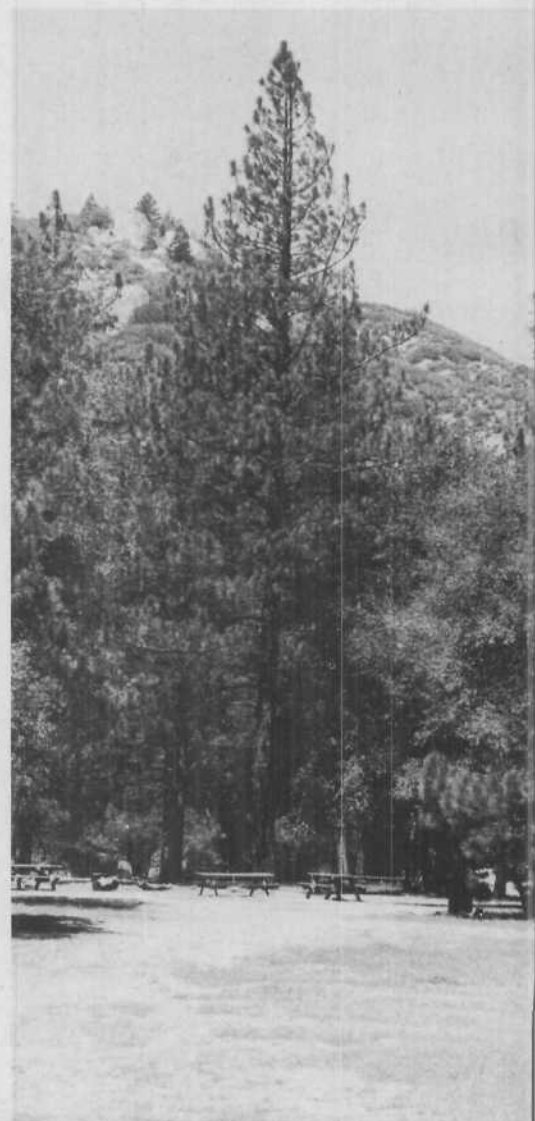
Palm Canyon, which cuts through the San Ysidro Mountains, begins a short distance east of San Ignacio and ends near the Anza-Borrego Park headquarters in Borrego Springs. Since hiking up the canyon from the Borrego side is a popular activity with visitors, I asked Taylor about the possibility of traveling through the canyon from the San Ignacio side. "There are nothing but cattle trails in the Los Coyotes section of the canyon and the going might be rough," he said. "But capable hikers could probably make it." However, anyone considering making the trip should check with him first for direc-

tions and possible sources of water along the way.

A road left from the turn to San Ignacio leads to Camp Nelson, 0.5 mile away. This campsite among the pines is primitive in its accommodations, but it appeals to many campers who like the isolation it provides. Camp Nelson takes its name from a deer hunter who used it yearly for his hunting headquarters. But hunting is no more. A few deer hunters extended their activities to reducing the quail and squirrel population, so the Los Coyotes residents voted to ban all hunting.

Surprisingly, other than the ban on hunting, restrictions on campers are few. And with the cooperation of visitors, it is hoped that they will remain that way. At present the people of Los Coyotes ask only that you treat their homeland with kindness as you travel through it; use care in starting your campfires; and if you bring your pets with you, keep them under control so they don't disturb the wildlife.

Although Los Coyote lists its population at 150, lack of work has forced about 100 to seek employment elsewhere. The main reason for opening the reservation to campers was to provide work for its members, which is certain to happen, once the traveling public learns what the area has to offer. So far, such recognition has been slow in coming. Many campers who use Los Coyotes frequently are reluctant to





Tent campers like Los Coyotes for its free firewood, water, shade, and the extra bonus—tranquillity!

Left: Serene spots surrounded by pines and oaks await one-day picnickers and weekend campers.

Above: Youngster examines old grinding holes where Cahuilla women ground seeds and acorns. Grinding holes may be seen in Los Coyotes and along the old trail to Santa Rosa village.

praise its attractions to others, lest it join the ranks of other overcrowded campgrounds. But Banning Taylor believes that, if it ever does occur, it will be too far in the future to even think about. And after looking at Los Coyotes you have to go along with his conviction. Twenty-five thousand acres can accommodate a lot of camping rigs.

If you visit Los Coyotes during a weekend, you can register at the entrance gate where you will receive the combination to a lock on a gate farther along. Campers with children seem to like the sense of security the locked gate provides. At times other than weekends you can register at Banning Taylor's home on the way in, where you will undoubtedly be met with much tail-wagging and friendly barking from his four dogs. And if you hear some unearthly screams intermingled with the barking, don't be alarmed. Some of Ban-

ning's 11 peacocks will just be adding their voices to your welcome.

In his book, *The Cahuilla Indians*, Harry C. James has an interesting illustration showing the locations of 31 old Cahuilla Village sites which he divided into Western, Mountain, and Desert groups. San Ignacio is included with the Mountain Cahuilla group. There is an old Indian trail from San Ignacio to the Mountain Village Wiliya that continued on to Rockhouse Canyon, then up to Old Santa Rosa, which Banning Taylor said is still passable. This is probably the same trail Chase was seeking when he was trying to find the way from Coyote Canyon to San Ignacio back in 1918. The numerous fire-blackened caves and bedrock grinding holes along the old trail west of Santa Catarina Springs indicate that this area may have been the site of Wiliya Village, considered to have been one of the largest of the Mountain Cahuilla group.

If you follow Highway 79 northeast about seven miles from Warner's Springs, you will be near the area of one of Southern California's most bizarre mysteries—Deadman's Hole.

The story of Deadman's Hole began back in 1858 when a Butterfield Stage driver found an unidentified prospector dead near a waterhole. There was no apparent cause of the man's death. The spring took on the name of Deadman's Hole and the incident faded into the back-

ground until 1888, when the body of another victim was found under almost identical circumstances. In both instances the possessions of the victims were undisturbed, ruling out robbery as a motive.

In 1889 a resident of the area was found dead near the spring. There were lacerations around his neck and evidence of his body having been dragged a considerable distance. Wealthy friends arrived on the scene, determined to find the cause of his death. A six-month search provided no further clues, so the quest was ended.

In the same year the body of a young Indian girl was found hidden in a clump of brush near the spring. Like the previous victim, there were lacerations around her neck and her body had been dragged to the place of concealment. And like the other crimes, no clues to her assailant could be found. And thus the matter stood until a few months later when the mystery of Deadman's Hole was brought to a dramatic end.

Two hunters entered the area and reportedly sighted a gorilla-like creature, six feet tall and weighing about 400 pounds, with long muscular arms and feet that extended fully 20 inches. As they followed the beast it turned as if to attack the hunters and one of them brought it down with a rifle bullet. It is said that since that time Deadman's Hole has been an area of peace and tranquillity.

However, some skeptics did not accept the hunters' story. They said the hunters never revealed the creature's body, like they promised to do, nor was any mention of this seemingly newsworthy event made in a newspaper until long after it happened.

And now, back to Los Coyotes for directions how to get there: Follow highway toward Warner's Springs and turn right to Camino San Ignacio 0.3 mile south of Warners. Turn right off Camino San Ignacio to Los Coyotes road and proceed to a stop sign 1.5 mile ahead. Turn left at the stop sign to reach Taylor's home, otherwise continue ahead 4.3 miles to the Los Coyotes entrance gate.

The camping season runs from May 1st to December 1st. There is a charge of \$3.00 a night or \$5.00 a weekend for camping. Picnicking is \$2.00 a car or 50 cents per person. Considering the serenity the area provides, these have to be bargain rates. □

THE PILLING

MARCH 1, 1950, is a day that Clarence Pilling will always remember. Of medium stature, dark haired, slim and keen of eye as befits an outdoorsman, he rode his agile cow pony along the canyon rims in southeastern Utah's high mesa country on that day, looking for stray cattle.

His thoughts were on two particular wild-eyed yearlings he had been trailing for the last thirty minutes, and what he would do when he caught up with them. Their tracks went down a couple of ledges, through a sand flat area, then off across a large patch of slick-rock where he lost them.

He decided to stay on the ledge, ride past a large overhang, and climb out about a hundred yards ahead through a broad crevice if possible.

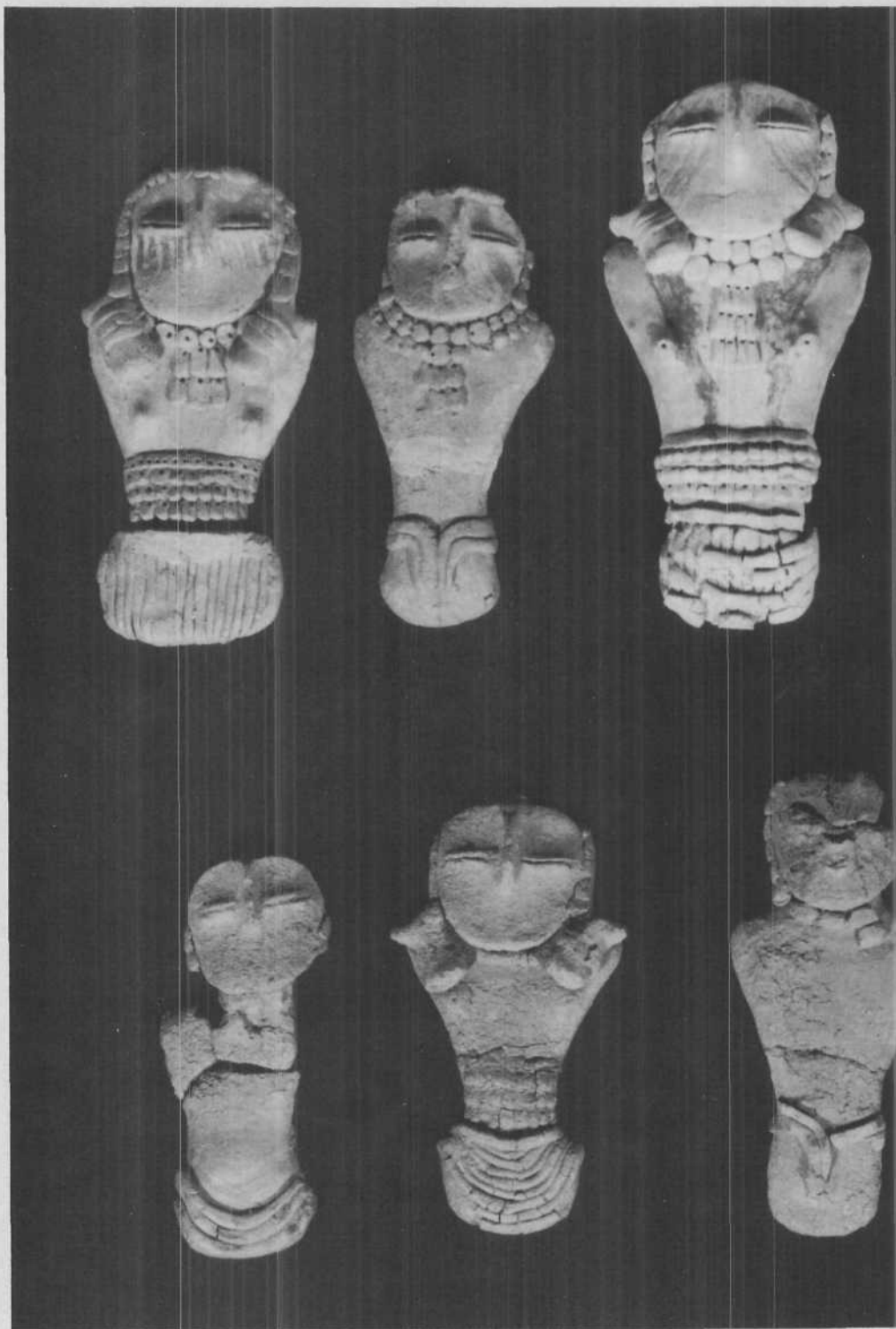
When he reached the overhang he was surprised to see that it contained a small Indian ruin. The overhang was about one hundred feet long by twelve feet wide, and the ruin, oval in shape, appeared to have a stone foundation with a wooden spear structure.

Clarence had lived in the canyon country of southeastern Utah since boyhood and was accustomed to seeing such ruin sites in the canyons where his parents ranched, but had never run across this one before. His curiosity prompted investigation.

He walked around the cave, looked into the little kiva-type structure, climbed up on a rock ledge in the rear of the overhang and started to jump down when his attention was caught by something on a small, natural shelf along the wall.

He reached his hand into the small opening and grasped an object to bring it into the light . . . he stared at it unbelieving—a doll! It looked like a clay doll, and there were more. There were eleven of the figures, and a few odd pieces—not all of them perfect. Four of the "dolls" were beautifully decorated.

Clarence Pilling had been around Indian artifacts enough to know that his find was a very precious one. How to get them to safety without breakage? He placed them in his various shirt and jacket



pockets and rode slowly back to the line cabin on the mesa top. There he wrapped each one in layers of tissue, (there was only one kind available), placed the dolls between two pillows, tied them together with twine and carried the package into Price on his pack mule.

"The Pilling Figurines," as they were named, were shipped off to the Peabody Museum at Harvard University where Dr. Noel Morss made a study of their material, style and handwork. He dated them as probably having been made in the 11th Century, which means they are in the

Desert Magazine

FIGURINES

by Enid Howard



neighborhood of 800 or 900 years of age. They are considered in archeological literature to excel both in beauty and technical construction any like find of comparative age in the American Southwest.

The Figurines are four to six inches high, and the natural clay used is grey-

white or pink-red. Five of them were protected by a thin sandstone slab on the cave shelf, and were well preserved. The remainder were exposed to wind and sand scouring and lack some of the intricate ornaments that would make them complete. All are made of unbaked clay, and

the cross marks on the back would indicate that they were laid on a basket tray to dry when they were finished. Rather like ornamental cookies.

The Figurines are paired male and female, and the sexes are clearly distinguished in both anatomy and dress. The detail of construction and decoration is intricate and artistic in that each tiny pear or disc-shaped ornament of the necklace or belt is perfect with no ragged edges, and they have been applied from the bottom up so that the upper rows always overlap the tops of the preceeding row. The dress of each Figurine is unlike the others, as are the facial expressions. Eyes are indicated by transverse indented slits, and stripes of red and white painted on cheeks and forehead.

The female Figurines have the hair dressed in heavy bobs bound with cord, hanging down over the shoulders, and their manner of decoration suggests an apron type garment around the hips, with the men wearing breechclouts, except one which has a sort of kilt.

It is indeed remarkable that such delicate objects should remain undamaged for the several centuries they reposed on the ledge in "Pillings Cave," where Clarence found them.

Who was the artist and why were they created? Did they have ceremonial significance, or merely a special family portrait group? Was the artist male or female? These questions tease our minds, but we can possibly never unravel the mystery. The artist could not have foreseen that a cowboy of the future, rounding up stray cattle, would probe the crevice in the canyon wall and sunlight would again fall upon eleven Figurines of skilled primitive craftsmanship. The Figurines are a gift from the past, one that stirs the imagination and has given today a small glimpse of yesterday.

The Figurines have been exhibited in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Prehistoric Museum at Price. At present they are on display in the lobby of the Carbon County Bank in Price, where they have their own special glass case to protect them from damage.



A moon-like landscape provides a unique camping spot.

THE TRONA

PINNACLES

by
**Leonard R.
Tantee**

IT WAS a little past midnight as we bounced along in our car on the bottom of Searles Dry Lake in California's San Bernardino county. The air had just a touch of coldness in it on this moonlit May night. Silver clouds slept in the navy-blue sky, silhouetting the tall and mysterious Trona Pinnacles that majestically reached up to the stars. I slowly brought the car up to the base of a pinnacle and parked in the bright moonlight. My wife and I had returned to this masterpiece of Nature's once again.

One hundred-twenty miles and three hours from Los Angeles, with a coffee break midway, we found ourselves directly in the middle of Searles Dry Lake, heading for the pinnacles on the distant southern shores. There is no "maintained" road over the lake, and the mud-packed road that does exist is quite treacherous. When storm clouds are rolling across the desert sky, it is best to avoid the muddy tracks.

Just off the paved Trona-Wildrose road, a large Spanish and English sign boldly warns the desert explorer of the dangerous area ahead. Most people using the Trona-Wildrose road travel past the sign and the pinnacles, unaware of their existence. People on this road, for the most part, are following one of the most

Desert Magazine

historical and scenic routes into nearby Death Valley.

The pinnacles are a land to visit on balmy winter days. But they are best left alone on dripping-wet winter days and simmering summer days. If you find yourself crossing this dry lake for the reward of the pinnacles, check your gas, water, your tires and that spare, and your legs to take you to the town of Trona, should you need help in getting your car out of mud or sand.

The friendly chemical-producing community of Trona is ten miles away to the northeast. As we set up our tent and started a warm fire going in the moonlight, I noticed the lights from Trona. They flickered on the dry shores of a long-ago lake much as the stars flickered above us.

Some history of this captivating piece of desert will explain its discovery by white man and its formation by nature.

The dry lake is named after its discoverer, John Searles, who crossed the lake in 1862 in search of riches in the nearby Slate Mountain range. As he crossed the lake, he idly picked up a few crystals simply to look at them. He had no idea as he tossed the crystals back down, that he was standing on top of his future fortunes. Ten years later, while in Nevada Searles happened to see the process of taking borax from a dry lake. The crystals looked vaguely familiar. Then dollar signs flashed in his eyes! He had crossed a similar dry lake somewhere near the Slate Mountain range. One more year passed before Searles and his brother returned to the shore of the dry lake that bears

their name and filed a mining claim. In 1874, the two brothers founded the San Bernardino Mining Co.

Twelve years later, in 1896, Searles sold his company, and soon after there was a lag in productivity. Then, in 1913, a permanent processing plant was constructed and named the American Trona Company. The word Trona comes from one of the many minerals mined in the salts of the dry lake. During World War I, there was a serious shortage of potash here in America. Potash is another one of the many salt chemicals that come from dry playas, or dry lakes. Potash is used normally for soaps, fertilizers, and, strangely enough, tooth pastes. But during World War I, our government needed it to produce explosives. The scientists working for our armed forces knew how to change potash into potassium chlorate, which at this point became the "bang" in a bomb. Most potash was imported from Germany. The Allied blockade cut off our import of potash from Germany. When imported potash dwindled, the prices of it spiralled skyward. The town of Trona, hidden out in the desert, boomed.

Today, the chemical company has a new name: The American Potash and Chemical Company. The lake yields potash, soda ash, borax, boric acid, salt cake, lithium,



Above: Pinnacles rise from the desert floor and create a science-fiction atmosphere.

Right: A closer view of the pinnacles with Searles Dry Lake in the background.



bromine, and four newly discovered chemicals that haven't been given names as yet. Trona is sitting on top of one of the largest chemical stockpiles in the country. There are three billion, two hundred tons of salts awaiting processing.

Searles Lake was a very deep and vast lake during the Pleistocene era, or more commonly called the Ice Age. Waters melting away from the enormous sheets of ice, the glaciers up north, created rivers and lakes in Owens Valley, Lake Manly, which, at that time, filled Death Valley to the brim, and all the dry lakes through Panamint Valley, which includes Searles Dry Lake.

That is how the water got there. But how did the pinnacles form? There are about 70 pinnacles within a square mile. A few of the pinnacles are not more than a few feet tall, while others reach 130 feet into the desert air. Scientists believe the pinnacles are the skeletons of a calcium-carbonate blue-green algae, which are fresh water plants. If this is true, the plants grew on top of one another to keep with the rising surface of the lake. When the lake began to evaporate 10 to 15 thousands years ago, it was at least

another 130 feet higher than the present day surface of the dry lake. And when you see the massive expanse of desert once covered by water that deep, it was a large lake indeed. Today, tall and lonely pinnacles stand like sentries guarding the secrets of a long-ago lake.

We rose with the sun on our first morning. Beams of the new day drifted across the desert and painted the normally white pinnacles a vibrant, warm gold. After breakfast my wife and I prepared to hike through, over, and around the pinnacles. Through experience gained on previous rock-hounding weekends, we have found backpacks to be the answer to carrying all the rocks that we find for cutting, tumbling, or shelf display. As we find a rock, we simply toss it into our back packs.

I wrapped myself in rock chisels, a rock pick, a three pound sledge hammer, my 35mm camera and various other camera paraphernalia. My wife adorned herself with two large canteens, rock chisels and hammers, and emergency supplies in her backpack, plus the responsibility of watching our puppy beagle, Mitzi.

When we had finished getting ready, we looked as if we were display racks right out of a sporting goods store. Despite all of this, ironically, we were ready to spend the day in search of miniature "caverns" and bubbly sheets of orange-stained rock looking very much like chalcedony.

I just mentioned that we were about to search for "miniature" caverns. That is exactly how the surface of the pinnacles appear. By close observation, small cavities, from three to six inches by five inches deep, have small columns in them resembling dripping wax. They bring to mind stalactites and stalagmites one sees in caverns. The colors range from white, through beige to a brown. However, with some patience and close scrutiny, I have found a small cavern with purple and vivid blue formations in it. We also have a beauty with black and red inside it. Some hard chiseling is required to work out the caverns from the side of the pinnacle without damaging the materials that you want.

There are many pieces of odd-shaped rocks and caverns in the fallen rocks at the base of the pinnacles. It was in one of these fallen rock piles that I found one white pinnacle about three feet long, laying on its side. Its base diameter is ten inches and then it tapers to a point three feet away. It makes you think of a large candle, being the way the smaller columns run down its sides. Perhaps 15 thousand years ago, it was the uppermost peak of one of the huge pinnacles.

Close to six hours after leaving our camp, we walked through the shadow of a pinnacle and saw our tent and car. We discarded our gear, then relaxed as nature presented us with a beautiful desert sunset. Pinnacles pointed up to the pink puffs of clouds that were overhead. The shadows of the pinnacles raced out over the desert toward the darkness that was climbing the mountains to the east behind us.

When the sun gracefully finished pulling the last remains of the day from the sky, we were again swallowed by a navy-blue night. Stars sprinkled like diamonds. With a small fire going, my wife and I sat back and reflected in this lonely and moody piece of country. It clears a man's mind; gives him a fresher outlook on life. It is like medicine out here, a quiet, peaceful place, these Trona Pinnacles.

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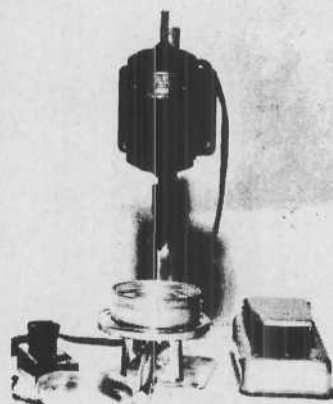
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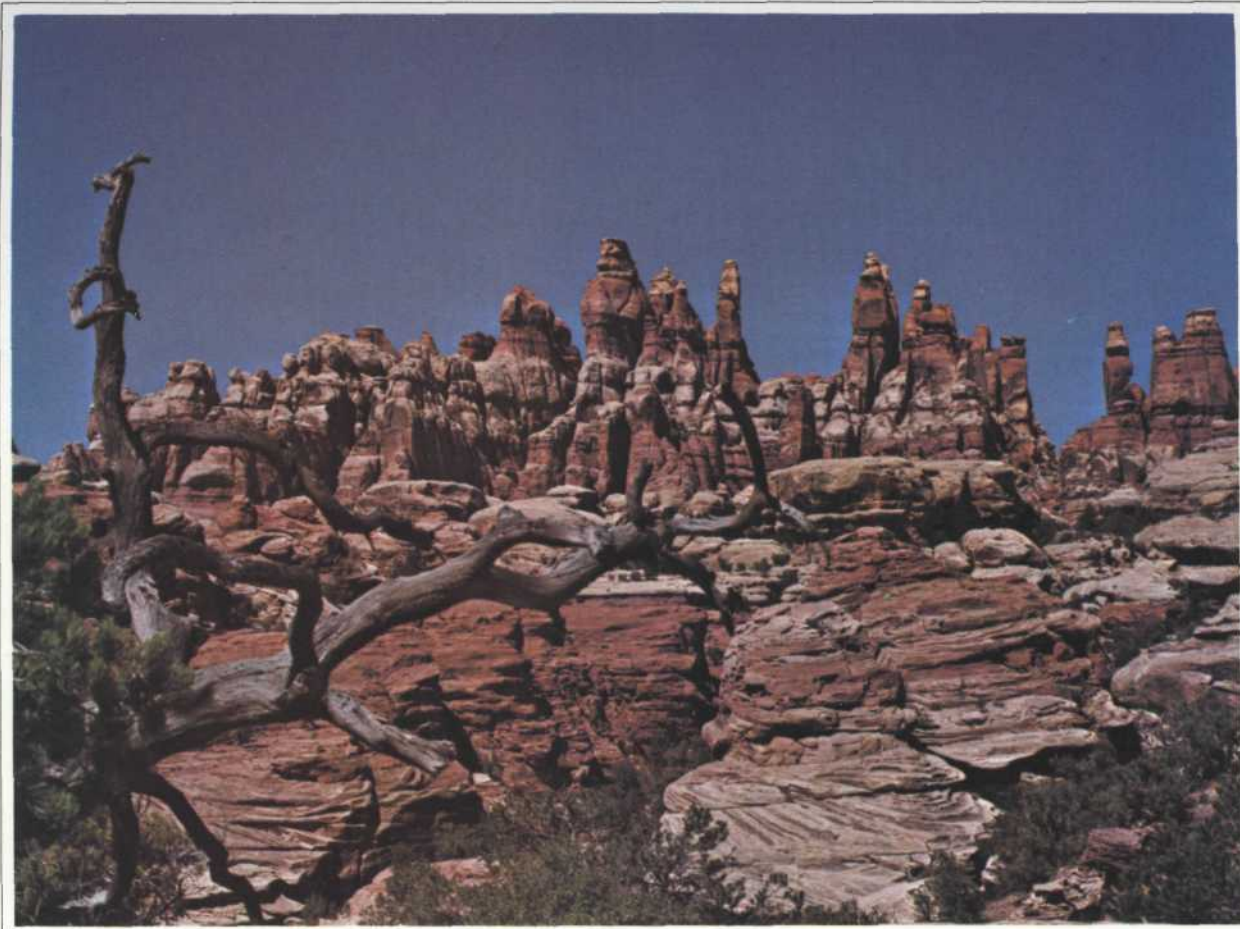
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LOTTIE M. SHIPLEY





September

Quite possibly the nicest time to vacation in Canyonlands, U.S.A.

VACATIONING in southeastern Utah is great any time of the year. But the time that's becoming a favorite with many visitors is September, that delightful period from Labor Day to Halloween. The days are pleasantly warm and clear, the nights crisp and brilliant.

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California's Alabama Hills

by
Gary
Richardson

*The Alabama Hills
with the
Sierra Nevada
range for a
backdrop.
Color photo by
David Muench,
Santa Barbara,
California.*

JUST WEST of Lone Pine, California, a series of hills parallel both Highway 395 and the Sierra Nevada for some ten miles. To the casual tourist driving along the highway these hills seem an unnecessary obstruction to his view of the abrupt Sierra escarpment, the barren sand-and-gravel-strewn hillsides blocking his view of the more spectacular granite faces and canyons of the mountains. Occasionally, the more adventurous traveler leaves the highway via one of the dusty side roads and is rewarded by a view of one of the most curious geological anomalies of this planet—the Alabama Hills.

Eighty million years ago a mass of molten granite began to force its way from the bowels of the earth up through the

Continued on Page 40



*Gold panning can be fun,
as well as, often rewarding.
Members of the Antelope Valley
Gem & Mineral Society try their
luck in Benson Gulch,
a tributary of Goler Gulch.*



GOLER GULCH Gold

by
Mary Frances Strong
photos by Jerry Strong

During the 1880s, Goler Gulch was nearly all under claim. Mining has been intermittent since the turn of the century. However, a few old buildings such as this one at the Yellow Lily Mine, have stood gallantly against the harsh ravages of time.

THE MERE MENTION of a lost gold mine has always quickened the hearts of men, raised their pulse rate and brought visions of great adventure and ultimate riches. Man's desire for gold has been so great he has willingly endured unbelievable hardships and often given his life in the quest for this precious and elusive metal.

Though he may be on the verge of starvation and almost crazy from lack of water, a man can momentarily forget his dilemma upon discovering a golden treasure. Such was the case in the winter of 1849 when Fred Goller paused to rest in a dry gulch and found gold nuggets in the gravel.

At the time, Goller was a member of the ill-fated Bennett-Arcane party being led out of Death Valley by William Manley. Though on the way to safety, their ordeal was not over as they crossed the great Mojave Desert. Traveling on foot and in a weakened state, verging on collapse, Goller realized he was not in any condition to stake a claim. However, he picked up several nuggets, filled a pocket

with gold-bearing sand and then quickly sketched a rough map of the area. He also planted his gun on a low rise to help identify the locale when he returned.

Goller was not destined to find the site of his golden nuggets though he searched for it many years. During one of his explorations with a newly acquired partner, J. C. Cuddeback, they discovered placer gold in Red Rock Canyon. Goller continued to search periodically for his "lost gold" during the several years he placer mined his claims in the canyon. He appears to have vanished abruptly from the scene, as well as any later recorded history.

Perhaps he used his poke to return to a more civilized life or, quite possibly, he met with foul play. The latter is not unlikely, since marauding Indians and "highway men" were roaming the area during this period.

Goller had shown his nuggets and related his story to anyone who would listen. Eventually, many men searched for "Goller's Lost Gold"—to no avail.

Goller wasn't around in 1893 when

rich placer ground was discovered in a dry gulch on the southern side of the El Paso Mountains. The new bonanza was believed to have been the site of his lost gold and the district, as well as the long narrow canyon (called a gulch), were promptly named in his honor.

It is always amazing to learn how quickly the word of a new strike could reach the outside world in the days before any modern means of communication were available. Hundreds of prospectors were soon rushing hell-bent for Goler Gulch. Stories circulated about gravel that glittered with gold and the \$10 to \$1000 nuggets being found on the ground.

Fortunately, discoverers Reed and Benson, and other long-time prospectors in the area, had time to stake the best ground before the hordes arrived. On March 15, 1893, 10 miners held a meeting and laid out the boundary lines of the new district. A secretary and recorder were elected and the first mine recorded was the "Jackass Placer."

Within a few weeks, the length and breadth of Goler Gulch, and its tribu-



Left: In dry country where streams are absent, gold-panning can be done by bringing your own water and tub.

Below: You seem to have stepped back in history at the Lady K Mine (formerly the early-day Fine Gold) where owners, John and Kathleen Firdon, have kept the dugout and mine in almost its original state.

tarries, were under claim. Men with primitive dry-washers began skimming the "cream" and reports of sizeable nuggets being found were relayed to Los Angeles newspapers. With new people arriving daily, a camp soon rose on high ground east of the Gulch. Known as Goler Heights, it housed mining camp necessities such as a saloon, boarding house and store

along with numerous tents and hastily built cabins. However, Goler never attained the status of "town" but remained a busy camp.

In the Goler District, most of the placer gold occurred as very flat flakes in auriferous boulder gravels of what is now called the Tertiary Goler Formation. It lay upon the surface of basement rocks ex-

posed at intervals along the west side of the Gulch for several miles north. The greatest concentrations appear to have been in Benson Gulch—a side tributary.

Considerable gold was taken from the placers but, since mining was by individual claim owners, there isn't an accurate record of production. The Wells-Fargo agent at nearby Garlock reported \$500,000 in gold was shipped through his office. It is believed that around a million dollars in gold was actually mined during the years 1893 to 1905.

Dry-washing was hard work and when the accumulated surface gold was gone, most of the men moved on. However, mining on a small scale has continued intermittently over the past 60 years. During the depression of the 1930's there was a resurgence of mining at the Goler placers. A number of men and their families came to try and eke out a living from the gravels.

We met a member of such a family during one of our trips to Goler Gulch this past April. Charlie Behrens was just a boy when his family moved to Goler Heights.

"We came in 1931 and I've lived here ever since," Charlie told us. "There were quite a few men working the gravels and about a dozen kids attended the one-room school up in the Gulch," he continued. Though raised in a mining camp, Charlie's interest wasn't in mining. He loves the desert, however, and has a keen interest in the history of the Goler District. Now retired, he finds his comfortable home in Goler Heights provides the "elbow room" he needs.

From Charlie's front yard we had a commanding view of the desert, as well as a bird's-eye view of the Gulch. Charlie pointed out the various side gulches and claims then guided us on a trip up Goler Gulch to The Narrows. Four-wheel-drive is necessary for exploring beyond the Edith E Mine as the trail up the wash has stretches of loose sand.

It was a beautiful drive. Numerous winter storms had turned the deep, narrow canyon into a wildflower garden. Desert dandelion, gilia, coreopsis, pennyroyal and very brilliantly colored paintbrush were among the flowers we recognized. Just north of Sand Gulch we saw a large group of thistle-sage. Their beautiful purple coloring was even more striking than usual with the late afternoon sun shining through the blossoms.



As we drove along, Charlie pointed out old mines and various outcrops of the gold-bearing gravel which can readily be seen along the canyon's west wall. Many claims are still held in Goler Gulch and some unfriendly signs have been posted by one owner to discourage visitors. Charlie assured us the 4-WD trail through the Gulch is open for public use. Do not trespass on claims along the route and it will remain so.

About three miles from the highway, the canyon walls abruptly close down to a mere slit in solid rock. This is "The Narrows." The abrasive force of gravel-bearing waters have cut a winding passage, barely one car width, through the rock strata. Small 4-WD vehicles will find easy access but 4-WD pickups, especially those with a camper, must proceed with caution to avoid the sharp, pointed rocks in the walls. It is only a short distance through the Narrows. The trail continues northerly to Mormon Gulch, then eventually junctions with the Sheep Springs Road. The latter is a 4-WD trail leading south from old Highway 395 via Sheep Springs through the El Paso Mountains to a junction with Mesquite Canyon Road. Four-wheelers will enjoy exploring this back-country. Since we had traveled over the route previously, we didn't elect to do so on this trip.

Instead, we headed back down the gulch to a flower-covered mine adit that Jerry wanted to photograph. When we stopped at the "Lady K Mine" we were quickly greeted by a bright-eyed youngster and his dog. Before long, "Goober" introduced us to the mine owners (his parents) John and Kathleen Firdon. An invitation to explore the old mine and its some 1200 feet of underground placer workings was accepted. Kathy was our guide, since she mines the ore. John has a respiratory problem which prevents him from working where oxygen is scarce. Armed with a carbide lamp, flashlights and hardhats, we followed Kathy into the adit and along drifts that led in several directions. It would be easy to get lost underground—the only place I seem to lose my sense of direction.

Kathy pointed out the gold-bearing gravels and showed us several small drifts she is working. She digs bucketfuls of the gravel and then carries them out to a dry-washer for processing. The Firdons are examples of a new breed of prospectors—mainly hobbyists who enjoy mining



as their leisure time activity. They have some dandy samples to prove there is still "gold in Goler Gulch."

Their cabin is as fascinating as the mine, since it was originally an adit. Evidently not much gold was found in the

drifts and it was turned into living quarters. Running back about 20 feet into the hill, it has a 24-inch, solid rock facing which shields most of the area from extreme summer heat and winter cold. Early-day miners knew how to beat the elements

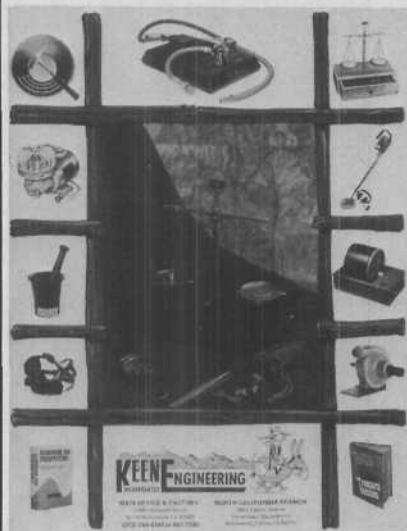
Above: Charlie Behrens is the "old-timer" at Goler Gulch where he has lived for over 40 years.

His home is one of the few remaining at Goler Heights. Goler Gulch is in far background.

Right: Howard Lampert, left, and Ed Reed operate a portable dry-washer during the Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Society's field trip to Goler Gulch.

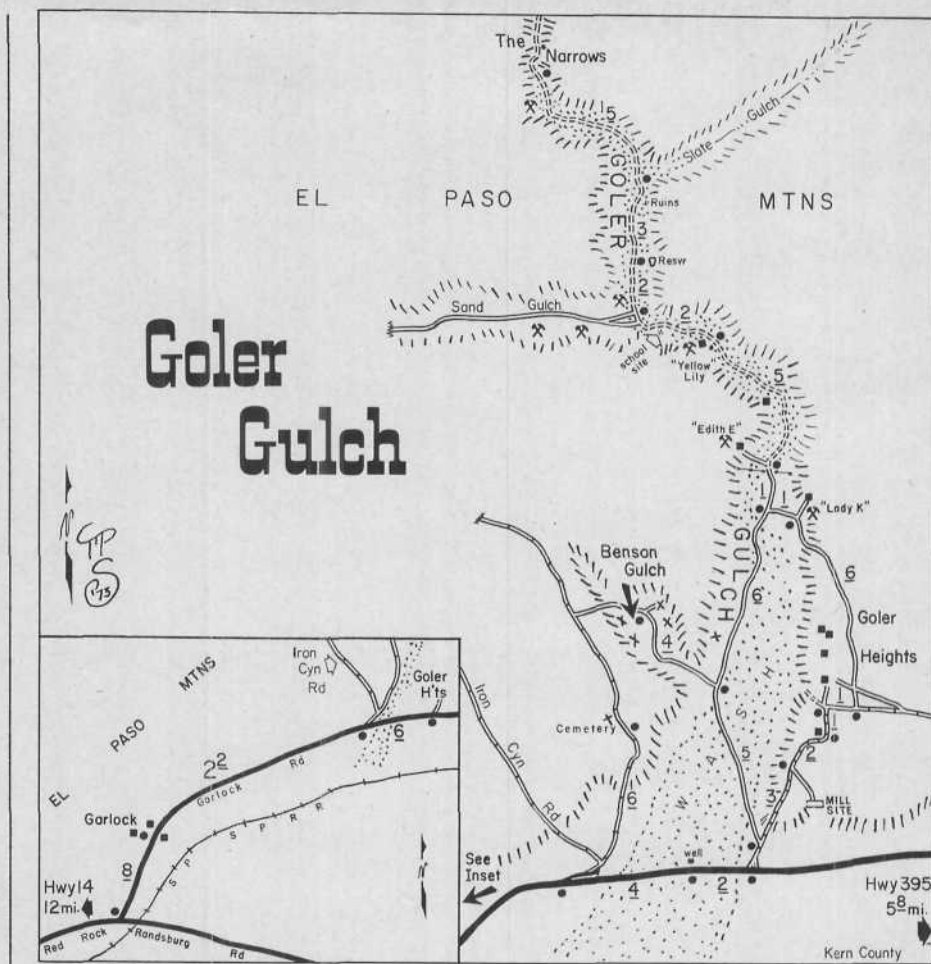


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without benefit of gas or electricity.

Our visit to Goler Gulch had been rewarding and the sun had slipped behind the mountains when we started for home. It was a locale we wanted to explore further.

Our next trip found us joining members of the Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Society in a search for gold. Leonard Tunnell, the club's enthusiastic president, was the Wagonmaster and he led the group into Benson Gulch. This was a very productive area in the early days and the narrow ravine was filled with old placer tailings. Several dry-washers were quickly set up, while other members prepared to pan for gold using a tub of water in place of a stream.

"Though we are primarily a rockhound club," Leonard explained, "our membership has varied interests and we try to plan trips which include all facets of the hobby. The club has a very active membership and we have filed a number of claims in the hope of preventing some of our favorite collecting areas from being closed."

Leonard continued, "There are many fine collections among the group and your

readers can see them on display during the Antelope Valley Fair in Lancaster, August 29 to September 3, 1973. We also hold a Desert Gem Roundup each spring which includes outstanding exhibits and guided field trips in the local area."

The dry-washers and panners worked valiantly but gold nuggets proved elusive. However, everyone agreed they had enjoyed the trip.

Taking our leave of the group, we drove down the faint tracks on the west side of the wash. They led to a graded road which we followed north hoping it would provide a good location for an overall photograph. In less than a half-mile we came to a number of wooden crosses in a small valley between the hills. Was it a cemetery or a hoax? Closer examination disclosed mounds and some were outlined with rocks. The wooden crosses were well-weathered and appeared to be quite old. There were no permanent markers. Most of the graves were small and we wondered if an epidemic might have taken the lives of several children. We checked with Charlie Behrens and he confirmed it was the Goler cemetery.

The site should be marked and fenced. While we were there a group on trail-bikes rode through the site and over some of the graves. It is not hard to understand why "cyclists" have a very poor public image. Unfortunately, it is the "uncaring few" who cause problems for us all.

It was with great reluctance we ended our trip to Goler Gulch. There were still other trails to follow but they must wait for another day. Under the guidance of Charlie Behrens we had enjoyed a brief intimacy with Goler Gulch. With fellow rockhounds we had shared the fun of dry-washing for gold. Added bonuses had been the scenic drive, beautiful wild-flowers and a tour of the Firdon's Lady K Mine.

Goler Gulch offers the desert enthusiast an opportunity for a pleasant weekend trip to an old mining district. The rewards will be scenic trails to wander, old buildings and mines to photograph, plus a sparkling, star-studded sky above the evening campfire. Bring along your dry-washer or gold pans. Remember, there is always the possibility of finding Goller's Lost Gold or one of those \$1000 nuggets!

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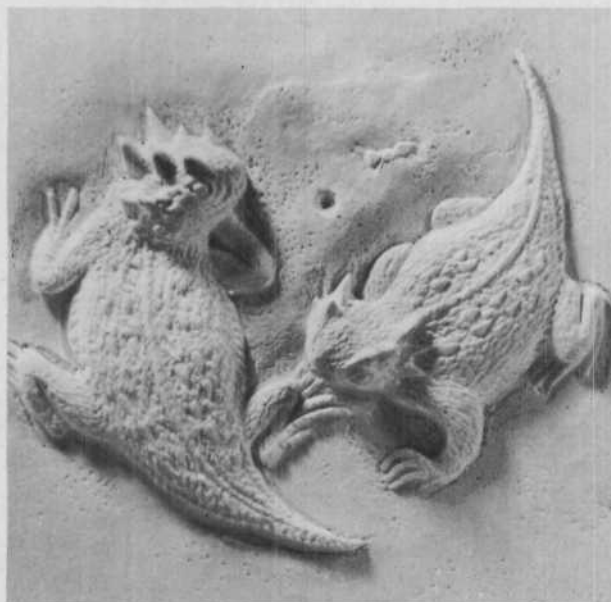
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Hog-nosed skunk
Photo by George M. Bradt



THE DESERT

by Robert Hyatt

ONLY A FEW animals practice chemical warfare, and these include the skunk tribe. But laying down a barrage of repulsive scent is thought to be a last resort by skunks against potential enemies because it must smell pretty horrible, even to the skunk. Two or three drops will pollute the atmosphere for a mile in all directions, thus trapping the skunk in his own perfume for quite a spell, since he is no fast mover.

When called upon to use this smelly means of defense, the skunk turns his back to the enemy, raises his tail, and cuts loose with one or both barrels. (The two musk sacs can be activated individually.) Its aim is bullseye accurate to about 10 feet and it not only offensive to the nose but

dangerous to the eyes. A large dose may cause blindness. Yet, this rather docile fellow has the decency to usually stomp his forefeet several times as a warning before releasing his choking fumes.

Skunks are everywhere. But most of us know only the big twin-striped or hog-nosed skunk. Men and animals avoid him, which probably accounts for his apparently undiminishing numbers.

Old-time trappers say you can talk a skunk out of firing at you by approaching slowly and talking soothingly. Other trappers say this is wrong advice, that any skunk will shoot at you if you get near enough, and often without warning you with foot-stomping.

However this may be, I must relate an incident of my childhood. Hiking in the woods, my father and I were resting on a

log when a skunk and several young sauntered out of the brush. My father ordered me to "sit tight." Mama Skunk halted near our feet and the little ones began climbing the log. Soon they were crawling all over us, investigating us like a band of tiny monkeys. Mama sat and watched. We sat and tried not to move. After a few minutes Mama made a small squeaky sound and the skunklets clambered down and went to her, and they filed off into the brush. Not a shot was fired.

This goes to prove that the skunk, like most animals, will not bother you if you let him have his own way. And, although the skunk rates pretty low on a popularity poll, he seems to enjoy the company of man and makes an interesting and gentle pet, preferably descended. When you "smell skunk" on the night air, it is

Desert Magazine



Spotted skunk



Striped skunk

PERFUMERS

usually caused by a car hitting one on the highway or street. Or an uneducated dog attacking one. Any dog sprayed by a skunk quickly becomes a very sick and "educated" dog.

There is an amazing degree of variations in skunk color patterns, behavior, aggressiveness and fear. They vary from predominantly white, or albinistic forms, to almost black, or melanistic, and spotted. They are mostly nighttime creatures, sleeping during the day. Their eyesight is poor, but their sense of smell is unusually keen. Their hearing is only fair, and they are, for the most part, not fleet of foot. So their defense depends largely in their scent glands, and in their expert marksmanship in directing their fluid missiles at man or predators that molest them. Once sprayed, nothing ever comes

back for a second try.

Their invincibility makes them exceptionally daring and they sometimes wander into places where other animals fear to tread. A few years ago a large number of them moved into the city of Sacramento and caused quite a stir, if not quite a stink. During this hectic period, one sauntered into a theatre just as the play, *Come Blow Your Horn*, was about to begin. The air became foul, the patrons stampeded for the exits even before the curtain went up. The play, a sellout elsewhere, was a total flop in Sacramento. A waggish reporter implied that it was sabotaged by a "skunky actor."

But the strangest place a skunk ever found himself was aboard a Navy ship heading for the South Pacific during World War II. Two days out of San

Diego, the engine-room gang yelled "Skunk!" And there was a mad scramble to the upper decks, and a lot of coughing and choking among crewmen.

Now there is nothing in Navy regulations that covers the subject of a skunk aboard ship. The skipper had to improvise. He launched a massive search, and every seaman was questioned. No one knew how the smelly creature had got aboard. At least, no one was admitting knowledge. The entire ship was searched minutely. No polecat. Evening came, and with it the awful stench of skunk coming through the air conditioning vents.

The ship exploded into a worse uproar than if enemy bombers had been sighted. Another search was on. It lasted for hours, while the reek grew worse. At last the two-striper was located in a storage

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room, caught between two crates. The question now was: How to get him out and tossed overboard.

"Just pick him up by the tail and he can't shoot," a youngster advised. And proceeded to do just that. All was well until he reached the rail, then both barrels hit him dead-center.

Navy records end here, but the widely accepted belief that carrying a skunk by the tail renders him incapable of firing, received a blow.

The skunk's reputation is bad but the bad name is an unfair stigma. Actually this rotund fellow is quite charming and very useful. Calling a fellow a skunk might be paying him a compliment. Like all things of the wild, the skunk has its uses. It probably destroys more harmful insects than any other mammal. From a survey in Canada on an eight-acre tract, it was estimated that skunks were responsible for the destruction of some 115,000 white grubs in a short time. During an outbreak of the range caterpillar in New Mexico, the food of skunks was found to be about 95% of these pests. In New York skunks were so effective in controlling the hop grub, a serious menace to hop plants, that farmers pressured for legislature protecting the animals. They succeeded.

When insects are not plentiful, skunks will eat anything, including fruit, mice and reptiles. As mousers they outrank cats. An occasional skunk has been caught red-handed in poultry houses, and has been known to eat the eggs and young of quail, pheasants, and other ground-nesting birds. But show me someone without any faults.

The secretion the animals use to produce their offensive odor is deodorized and employed in—of all things—the manufacture of perfumes. It would seem that the material added to some of the cheaper varieties has not been completely deodorized!

The little brother of the big striped skunk is the spotted skunk, sometimes called the phoby-cat, civet cat, polecat, marten-skunk, and others. His habits and disposition are vastly different from those of the bigger types, although his range is about the same: everywhere.

The striped skunk is a rather dull-witted chap but his little brother is witty. Big skunks do not play, but the small ones do. He likes to frolic and play tricks on other animals, and he is so full of

curiosity that he will investigate everything in your home if he manages to get inside.

One of his favorite stunts when he meets you, or a wild neighbor, is to stamp his front feet and elevate his tail, then do a handstand with his hindfeet pointing skyward. This is the time to withdraw.

Those who know only the slow moving, calm, striped skunk must recast their thinking to fit the spotted one. He is a pound of restless energy, bounding here and there, ducking into crannies, racing along logs, diving out of sight like a weasel, and reappearing in a flash. On the desert, the spotted skunk will leap into a bed of cactus, grin out at you, apparently defying you to try to penetrate his thorny protection. He makes a delightful pet.

Little Spot is a real Casanova. While Big Stripe usually is satisfied with one mate, Spot will romance a dozen females if he can, and move his harem into a cave, hollow stump, or any convenient place, such as the burrow of another animal. The young, from two to six in number, grow up rapidly but are looked after by their mothers until they can shift for themselves. The plural mate situation seems to be accepted with equanimity. Yes, the little ones of all skunks come equipped from birth with sacs of "desert perfume."

All skunks are solitary in their foraging for food. Except for mating time, they seem to be more repelled than attracted by others of their own kind, yet when not hunting, they sometimes sleep in "families" of a dozen or more.

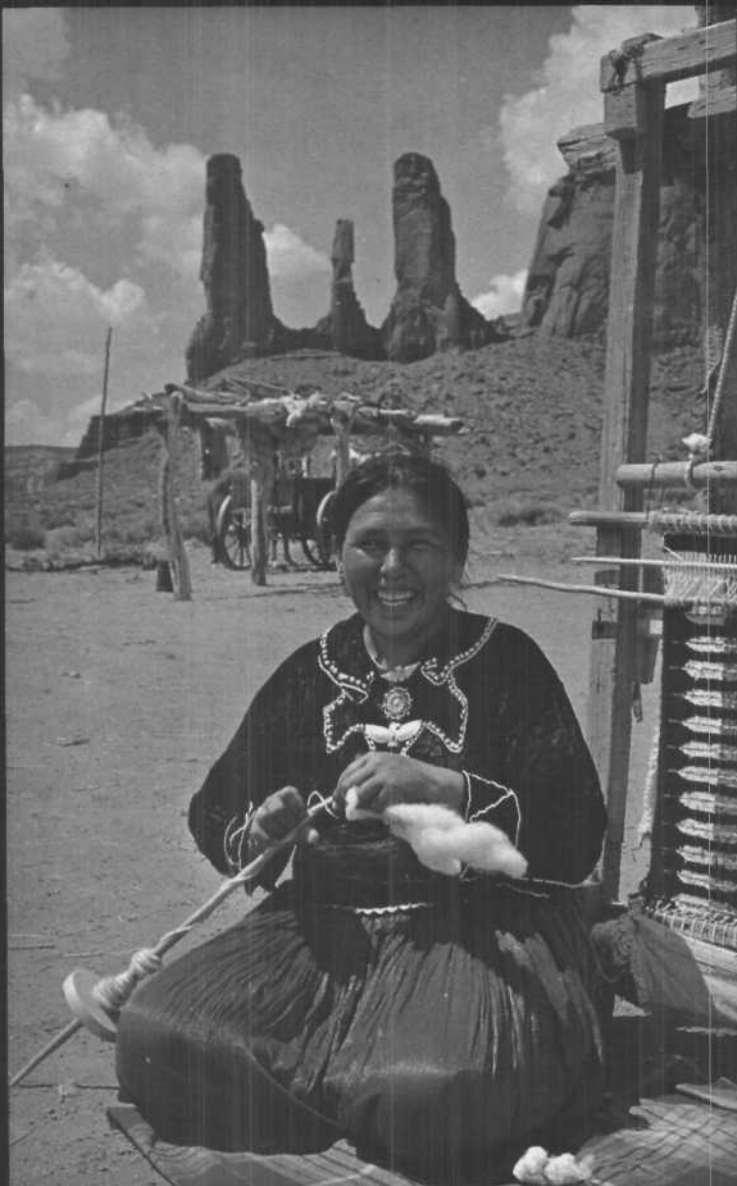
Pioneers used skunk oil as a medicine, much as they used snake oil and bear grease. It was supposed to relieve rheumatism and other ills. And maybe it did. It also served to enforce cleanliness among old trappers and mountain men, who as a whole shunned bathing as they would an Indian ambush. But quite often they had to neutralize skunk odor. This they did by soaking their clothes in a creek for several days, and scrubbing their own hide with sand. This never quite removed all the odor from the clothes (mostly buckskins), so the rare fastidious trapper burned his garb—if he had a change.

With the popularity of camping rising each year, more people are going to spot these pretty little animals. Just remember to keep your distance. The perfume for desert lovers is sage, not skunk, and that's as simple and black and white. ☐

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Navajo Weaver

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WHITE WASH is a white-sand desert wash like so many other desert arroyos, but there the similarity ends.

Desert washes that are dry and colorless, devoid of all but dry, colorless and sparse vegetation and set within equally drab surroundings are to be found almost anywhere within the southwestern desert lands of this country. But White Wash, near the Green River gorge in southeastern Utah, is different.

How is it different? It is wet, not dry, with dozens of spring-seeps keeping the wash-bottom sands moist. Cool, crystal-clear spring water is common in the upper stretches of White Wash. The land that surrounds it is not just common desert. Sloping back from the winding, wet-sand wash are hundreds of acres of rolling sand dunes. Beyond these are mighty walls and domes and terraces of rounded Entrada slickrock, and still higher on the horizon are the broken, rocky strata of the Summerville and Salt Wash formations. And the whole upper end of White Wash is a maze of deep, grotto-like canyons within still more colorful slickrock.

White Wash has vegetation, too. Sub-

Utah's

W



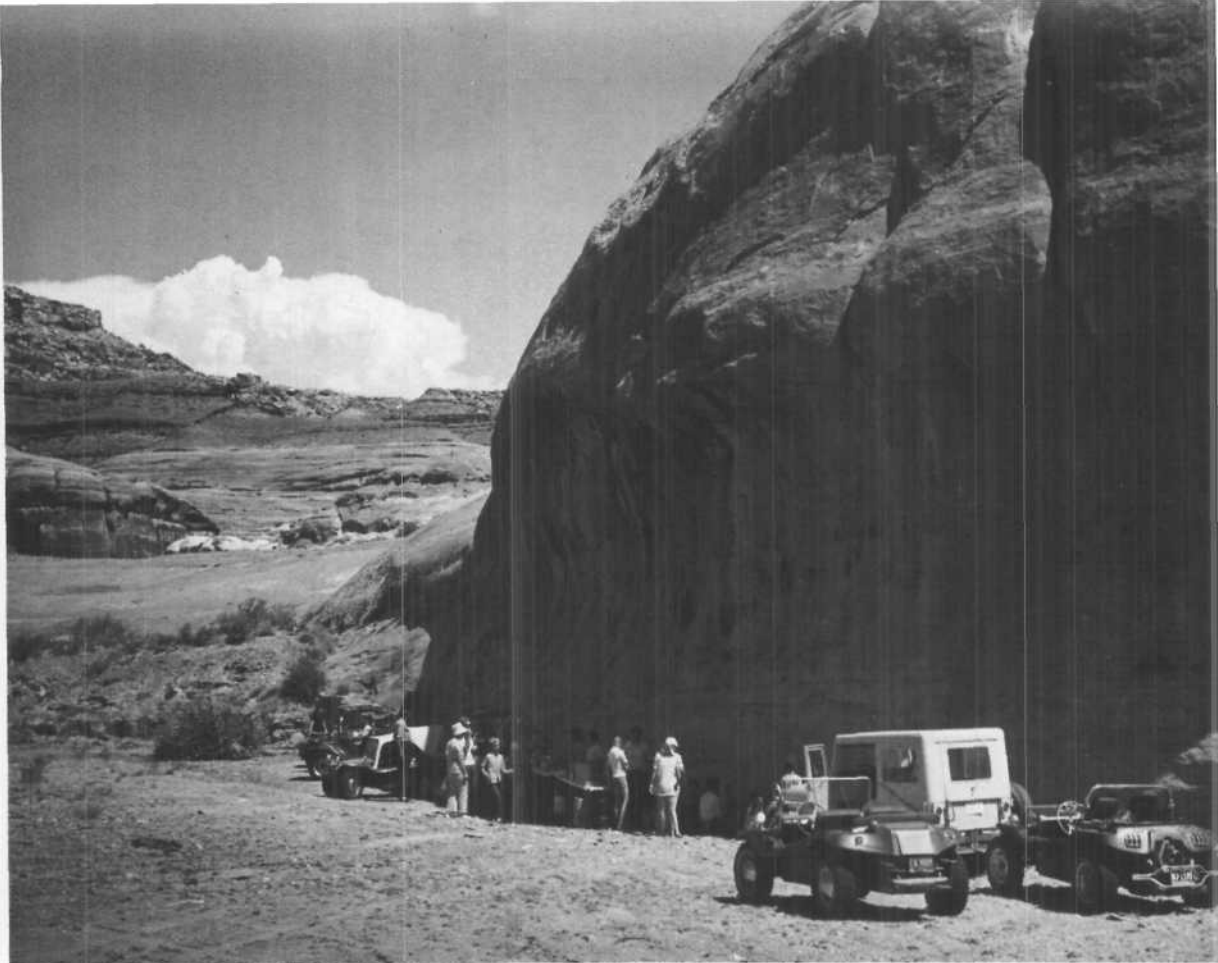
by

F. A. Barnes

Left: White Wash is strange. Rolling desert dunes lie against massive walls and terraces of salmon-hued slickrock, yet seeping springs provide enough moisture to keep the wash damp and cottonwoods growing among the dunes. Spring-fed pools and streams occur in the deep and narrow grottoes of the upper wash.

Desert Magazine

Opposite page: White Wash offers hill-climbing as well as dune-running. Right: Because of its remoteness, very few people enjoy the beauty and recreational potential of White Wash. Occasionally, an off-road vehicle group may spend a day there, exploring the mysteries of the complex desert canyon, but for the most part, solitude prevails.



White Wash

surface moisture feeds water-loving tamarisk and riverwillow. Cottonwoods thrive in the midst of rolling dunes, kept healthy by the water that seeps below the sand. And in the spring and fall, desert wildflowers abound in the sage-and-sand flats and on rocky terraces.

Another difference is color. White Wash is white, yes, but only in the arroyo bottom. And even there the plentiful moisture often darkens the pure white sand. The high walls and terraces of Entrada sandstone that bound this desert wash are salmon-hued, and the living dunes that lie between the wash and rock, vary in color from white to desert rose.

Bright-leaved cottonwoods add touches of green, as do other shrubs, patches and streaks of snow-white sandstone marble the red-hued rock and the clear skies of southeastern Utah provide a canopy of deep blue over an already vividly colorful scene.

Yes, White Wash is a place of color. *September, 1973*

life and variety, but it is also a place for family recreation. It has something to offer almost everyone who loves the desert.

For those who enjoy the use of off-road vehicles, there are pink sand dunes to run, many branching canyons to explore by following the wash bottom, and endless miles of slickrock ledges to travel. For hikers, the choice is endless too, and kids love nothing better than to slide or roll down the soft, clean dunes, dig in the moist wash-bottom sand, wade in the trickling streams of the upper wash, splash in the rain-filled potholes that dot the slickrock or clamber up the ascending terraces.

Rockhounds find White Wash fascinating too. The lower several miles are littered with shards of agate, petrified wood and other curious minerals from the rock formations that lie just above and below the Entrada sandstone. Keen eyes may even spot a fragment of dinosaur bone, or the oily-seeming surface of a gastrolith.

Those who are interested in animal life

will find, with patience, the traces of many species: desert fox and coyote, rabbits, pocket squirrels and skunk, packrats, bats and several species of lizards and birds. And, of course, deer. Butterflies, beetles and other insects abound for much of the season, and "hummingbird" moths flit from blossom to blossom in the spring and fall. Deep, wide holes in sandbanks give evidence of badger, or some such predator, in search of rodents for a succulent meal, and occasionally a golden eagle can be seen soaring on high, or a broad-winged hawk almost as large.

In the rainy seasons, spring and fall, still another type of life can sometimes be found in the water-filled slickrock potholes. Then, tiny eggs that have been dormant in the dried sediments of the potholes, perhaps for years, come to life. From these eggs hatch desert shrimp, shaped like inch-long horseshoe crabs, and the feathery motes of fairy shrimp. Tiny black tadpoles also appear as if by magic.

For the very few days before the rain-filled pools evaporate in the hot desert sun, they host a busy horde of life. This life must run its full cycle very quickly in order to leave new clusters of hardy eggs in the drying mud, eggs that may then wait patiently for years before enough rain falls to once again start the cycle of life.

Camping in White Wash is excellent. There are no developed facilities, but primitive campsites abound. Try the shelter of a big cottonwood tree, or an alcove on a slickrock terrace. In warmer weather, shaded canyon grottoes offer cool havens and water too, but be cautious about camping directly in the wash bottom dur-

ing the rainy seasons. A flash flood could be disastrous.

But please, if you do camp in the midst of the beauty of White Wash, bring out with you everything you take in, including your refuse. Don't leave litter to mar this lovely, unspoiled Eden.

Where is this desert oasis, this chromatic vacationland? Can an ordinary car get there? What is the best season to sample the unusual beauty of White Wash?

White Wash is easy to reach by graded dirt road. Except immediately following a heavy rain, any highway vehicle can get within a short distance of this desert playground. The best route is from U.S. 6 and 50 (Interstate 70). Between Crescent Junction and Green River, Utah, the Floy Wash road heads south. This turnoff is marked. In about 12 miles, this road passes a small group of structures, the first sign of civilization since leaving the highway.

Just across the road from these buildings, a bluff-top viewpoint offers a panoramic look at White Wash. To get down into the wash, continue on the road, bearing left at each of the forks that soon appear. Those driving ordinary highway passenger cars should stop above the arroyo bottom while still on firm ground, then walk the remaining distance. Those driving off-road vehicles can safely go on down to the wash bottom and beyond.

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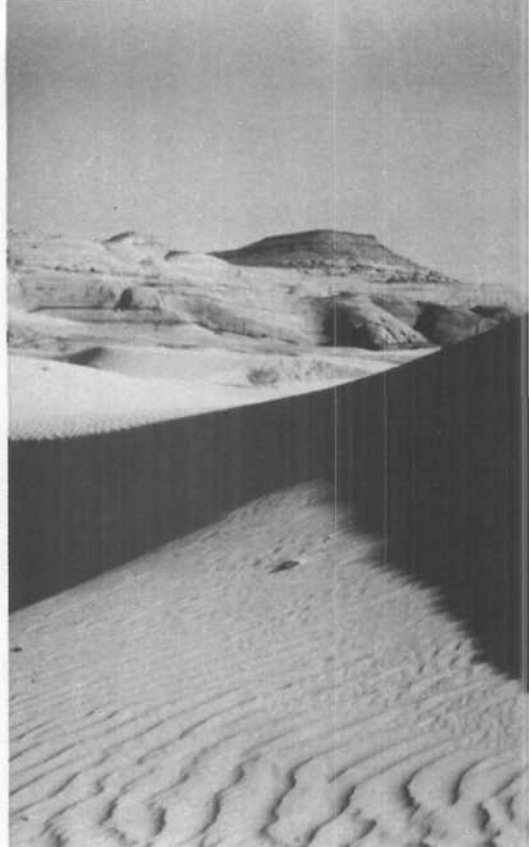
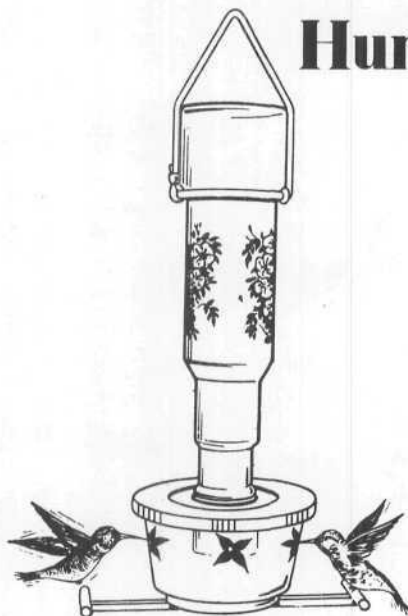
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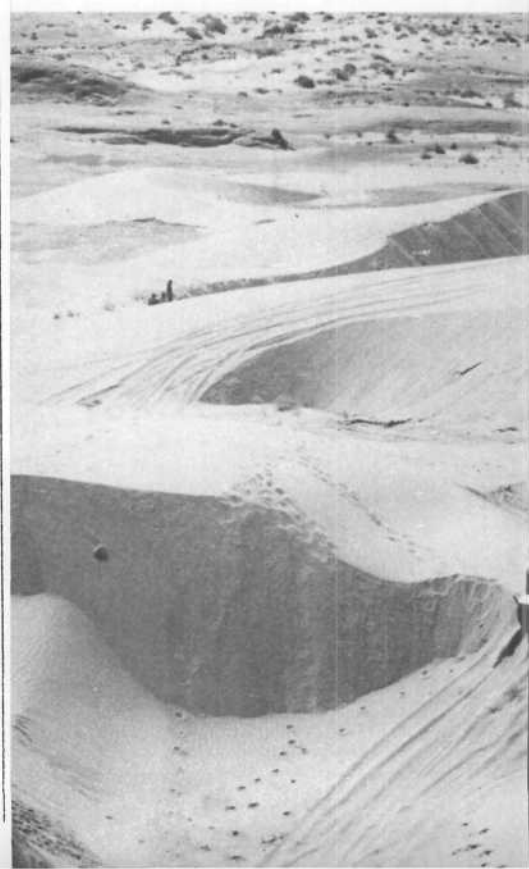
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The best seasons for exploring White Wash are spring and fall. The weather patterns vary each year, but in general, March, April and May are delightful, with occasional winds and spring storms. The fall months of September, October and November are more predictable, with calm, clear days, little if any wind, infrequent rain, warm days and cool nights.





*Left: He who hesitates is lost!
A sudden stop on the crest of a dune
can leave a buggy "high-centered."
Below: The smaller dunes of White
Wash offer jumping thrills to those
with the vehicles and nerve.
Here, a buggy fan gives his
children an exciting, airborne ride.*

gorge to the west, and a whole system of wilderness canyons to the south, with enough jeep trails there to permit weeks of exploring. To the north and east, vast expanses of painted desert offer excellent rockhounding and sealife fossil collecting.

Indeed, White Wash is a unique desert jewel and, like most jewels, it enjoys a beautiful setting. ☐

Surprisingly, almost as many wildflowers bloom in the fall as in the spring in south-eastern Utah.

For those planning to visit White Wash and vicinity for more than a day or so, the nearest source of supplies and services is Green River, Utah. And if you would like to explore the vicinity using White Wash as a base, there is the Green River



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California's Alabama Hills

Continued from Page 25

existing stone. As it reached the surface, it cooled and hardened in the shape of great granite bubbles. Hidden from the highway by the hills, this land is riddled with thousands of gigantic stone monsters, carved and smoothed by the winds of millions of years.

This was hallowed ground to the ancient Paiute, who inhabited eastern California. It is said that Pot-sa-ga-wah, youthful spirits, messengers from Inyo, the abode of the Great Spirit, still congregate here amidst the unearthly granite sculpture and can be seen by the adept. In 1965 publicity pictures were taken for a concert series being held in a natural amphitheatre in the area known as Pot-sa-ga-wah Gardens. When the photographs were developed, light-forms suggesting ghost-like auras were discovered among the rocks.

Today, you can station yourself comfortably atop a rock and sit quietly, as if listening for a horn to honk in Los Angeles two-hundred miles away. With such concentration you may become aware of the "entities" which some have found to inhabit the surrounding rocks.

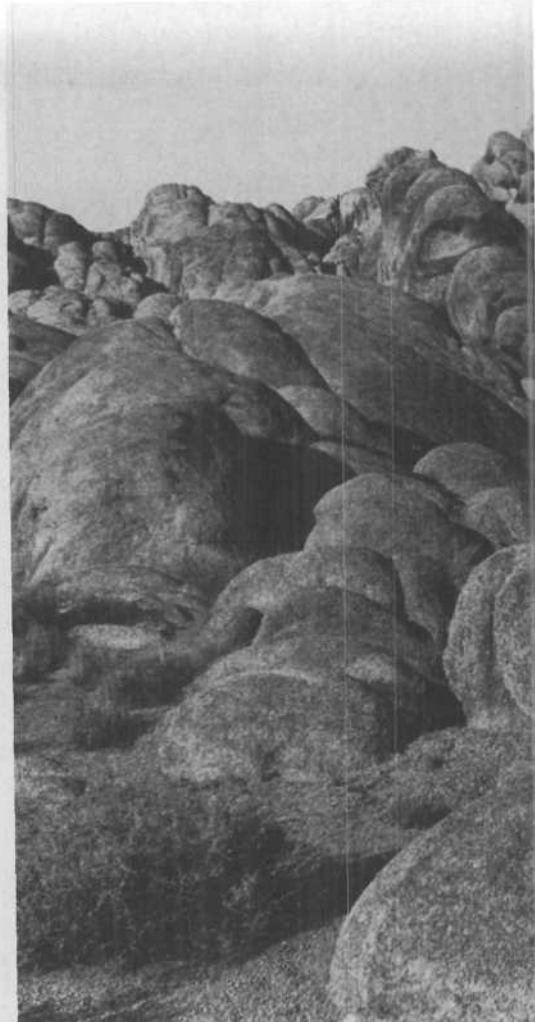
Over a century ago, after gold was discovered in the Sierra far north of here, men of the Confederacy came to these hills

seeking wealth and refuge from the scourge of war which racked their homeland. They named this place the "Alabama Hills" after their Confederate gunboat as a memorial to the struggle they had left behind. Union sympathizers retaliated by naming one of their mines "Old Abe" and by dubbing the nearest Sierra pass "Kearsarge."

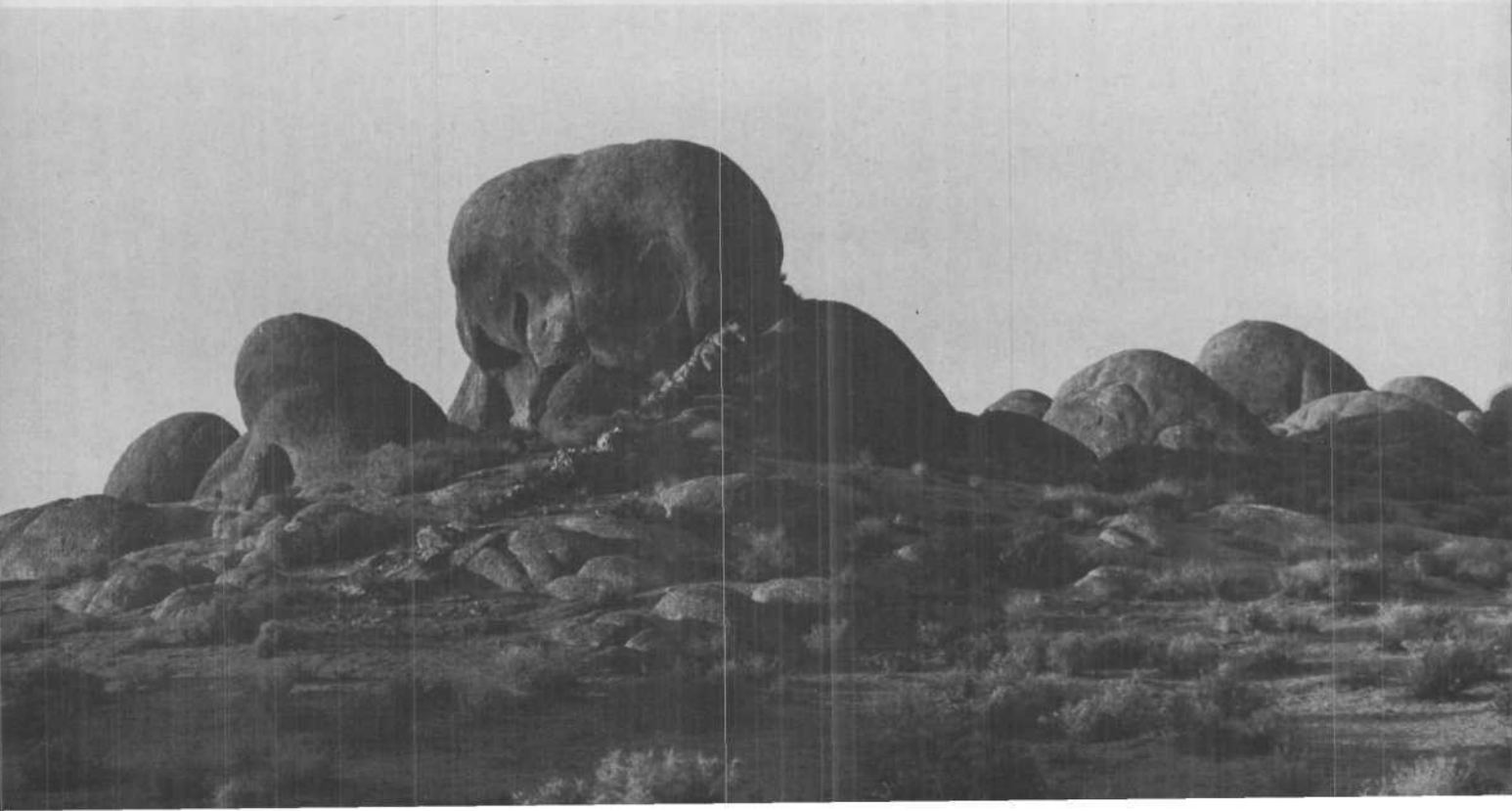
Scattered throughout the Alabamas are the remains of a once productive mining district—mine shafts with quartz tailings spilling from their mouths and picturesque old miners' shacks heaped about with middens of old bottles and rusted tin cans. Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of gold and silver were brought to the surface in days when men were hardier and the metal more precious. Most of these claims have been abandoned. A few have been kept up out of nostalgia by people willing to do the one hundred dollars worth of assessment work required each year under the mining laws.

Nearly all of the land in the Alabama Hills is under the supervision of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), much of it having been declared public recreation land in 1969. A few thousand expensive acres at the southern end of the Alabamas are under private ownership and have been the scene of haphazard residential development over the last decade.

Movie fans will recognize the Alabamas, for they formed the scenic back-



drop for many movies. William "Hopalong Cassidy" Boyd made so many movies locally that he built and lived in a cabin here. The cabin still stands along the Tuttle Creek Road which winds out of Lone Pine through the southern Ala-





*Left:
Eighty million
years ago,
great granite
bubbles rose
to the
earth's surface.*

*Below:
Strange
entities
seem to
inhabit
the hills.*

bamas. Many films, including "Gunga Din," have been shot in the Movie Flats area. This area can be reached by turning north onto Movie Road off the Whitney Portal Road about two miles west of Lone Pine.

A road maintained by Inyo County winds through the most scenic sections of the hills. It connects Movie Road and Moffet Ranch Road, which turns off Highway 395 about six miles north of Lone Pine (at mile marker No. 63). Many jeep roads lead off the county road and through the exotic rock formations.

Nothing beats a moonlight hike through the Alabama Hills, when the rocks become a three-dimensional Rorschach to test anyone's fantasies. ☐

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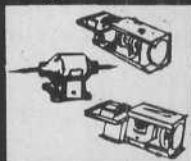
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QUARTZ GEMS: A Variety of Colors

IN OUR last column, we pointed out the large number of names given to different types of quartz. The same is true for quartz gems. It should be obvious that if there are a large number of names, there must be a fairly large number of types. This is true, and quartz offers a good number of gem types. In order to have a number of specifically different gems of any one mineral, there must be definite differences, and color is the most obvious characteristic that will accomplish this.

It must be borne in mind that the gem types discussed below are all quartz (silicon dioxide) with only a small amount of impurities. Each gem is usually cut from a crystal. If there are impurities present, they may cause or effect the color, but they never alter the chemical makeup.

The most obvious and well-known quartz gem is amethyst. The name is derived from the Greek, *a-methystos*, meaning without drunkenness. At one time it was thought that a person wearing an amethyst gem could consume large quantities of alcoholic beverages and not become drunk.

Behind this interesting name hides a large group of shades of purple. The lightest color, sometimes only just perceptible purple, is called Rose of France. Why the name, we are not sure. If it ever

was found in France, the supply was very small. Today's source is Brazil. Even though of a very light color, gems of this variety are interesting.

A medium light color is known as Bahia, named from a Brazilian location where it is found. A medium color is known as Rio Grande do Sul, again named from a Brazilian locality.

The finest of all is called Siberian amethyst, named for its first occurrence in Russia. The present supply of this very deep color is again Brazil, but we have recently seen very fine material from Africa. Not only does Siberian amethyst have a deep color, but gems show red flashes through it. They are very spectacular.

Each of these shades of amethyst make good gems, but prices are higher for the darker ones.

Citrine is the yellow to orange color of quartz, with many variations of the colors, and a good list of names attached to them. The lightest colors do not ordinarily command separate names, and usually go as light citrine or some other like name. A medium color is often called golden. Certainly, it does not resemble gold, but the usual popular meaning of the word golden. A fine light to medium orange is called Bahia citrine, and a deep orange to nearly red is called Rio Grande do Sul. You will recognize these last two names as having been used for amethyst—and they come from the same places. In fact, these two shades of citrine were once amethyst. They were changed from amethyst by heating to somewhere between 400 and 500 degrees Centigrade. This heating, if carefully done, results in a certain mineral magic—presto, citrine from amethyst.

Citrine often masquerades under another name. The medium shades quite closely resemble another mineral—topaz. True golden topaz is not common, and

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commands a high price. Someone's reasoning went like this—we have plenty of citrine, very little topaz. why not substitute? This was done, and a very large number of buyers have been fooled. The practice is illegal in our country, but if one steps across any border where gems are sold, citrine still is sold as topaz. This deception was so widespread and successful that we seldom see a true topaz gem in the hands of the average jewelry buyer. Many of these were beautiful citrines, guaranteed and insured to be genuine golden topaz!

Rose quartz is a favorite material for the fashioning of cabochon gems, and has been known for centuries. This is the only quartz color variety not cut from crystals. The lack of crystals is due to the inclusion of minute needles of another mineral—rutile. These needle-like crystals are arranged in the quartz in a hexagonal pattern. Most evident, they impart a pink color, but also they help make gems show what appears to be an internal star.

This information on rose quartz has been known for a long time, and was used as a standard explanation for any pink form of quartz. About 25 years ago, pink crystals of quartz were found. They were very transparent, and contained no rutile needles. The consternation in the ranks of mineralogists was understandable. The real difference between the two has not really been satisfactorily explained. The new type presently is called pink quartz, but in our minds it is a case of poor semantics. We use the two terms, however, for want of better ones.

Smoky quartz is very common, not highly desirable, and thus does not claim a list of varietal names, even though it has a variety of shades. Most is simply called smoky quartz, but a deep black is called morion.

An interesting intermediate form between citrine and smoky is called Cairn-

gorm. This was named after County Cairngorm in Scotland. Today's supply is from Brazil. One could get an interesting debate going as to whether Cairngorm is smoky citrine, or yellowish smoky quartz. A Scotsman would settle it quickly by claiming that if it came from Scotland it is Cairngorm, and the color is not important. If it is from anywhere else, it is NOT Cairngorm.

Smoky quartz gets into the topaz act also. The same reasoning about a plentiful supply of smoky quartz was also applied—even though there is no such thing as a smoky color of topaz! We have seen many smoky quartz gems that were called smoky topaz.

A green quartz is known, but the locality is unknown, and the supply was infinitesimal. Interestingly, one area in Brazil produces an amethyst that will turn green upon heating. A part-green amethyst has been found on the surface in Africa, and it is conceivable that the heat of the sun made the change.

The Brazilian material has been sold under two names. Prasiolite, referring to the green type of agate called prase, and as vermarine, a combination of the Latin (also Portuguese) word *verde* for green, and *marine*, an allusion to sea water. We prefer the latter, as it stands more or less alone and does not refer to another gem material. Gems of vermarine are not spectacular, but captivate the collector's interest.

The colorless form of crystalline quartz (rock crystal) is not often cut into a gem as color is really the only important characteristic that quartz can offer a gem. Granted, a colorless quartz gem will sparkle, and we have seen persons mistake them for diamonds, but marketwise there is no value. In the final analysis, color is the most important attribute of most gem minerals, and quartz has a good share of the possibilities. □

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Flopped Camper . . .

Just thought you would like to know the photo of the camper on page 20 of the June issue is flopped. (Check the license plate). However, still recognizable are a DROF and a PEEJ. Tsk, tsk, tsk.

RON McCORD,
Azusa, Calif.

Pretty sharp eyes there, Ron. I'll try not to FOOG any more.—Ed.

A Reader's Thoughts . . .

I love the desert and "slickrock" country, so eagerly await the monthly issue of "Desert".

The color photos are interesting to me, as are the travel articles on areas I have been or plan to go to. Thought the July cover was poor, however, even if it was of beautiful Canyon Lake.

Enid Howard's photos are outstanding. Her writing really "zips", too. The Baja article and others she has written give the impression she's really trying to share her feeling with the reader. Leaves one with the impression: "I've gotta go there, and soon."

I'd like to see less on California and more on Arizona and Mexico.

Keep up the good work.

CHESTER KNIGHT,
Phoenix, Arizona.

Thank you for the kind words. However, I definitely do not share your thoughts regarding the July cover. There are also no restrictions on the geographic location of any article in the magazine and manuscripts about any part of the Great Southwest will be considered. An effort is made with each issue to include something for all the readers to enjoy.—Ed.

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 8 & 9, BOTTLE AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW & SALE sponsored by the San Bernardino County Historical Bottle Club, San Bernardino Convention Center. Dealers, competitive and non-competitive displays, drawings and door prizes. Admission 50¢, children under 12 free with adult. Contact: Lloyd Crow, 224 N. Olive, Rialto, Calif. 92376.

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SEPTEMBER 22 & 23—DELVERS SILVER JUBILEE FOR '75. Delvers Gem and Mineral Society presents its 25th anniversary show at Simm Park, 11614 S. Clark St., Bellflower, Calif. 90242. Dealers, special exhibits demonstrations, snack bar, ample parking, admission free. Show chairman: Jerry Ames 1234 Arlington St., Anaheim, Calif. 92801.

SEPTEMBER 29 & 30, "JUBILEE OF JEWELS," 14th annual show sponsored by the Carmel Gem & Mineral Society, Exhibition Building, County Fairgrounds, Monterey, Calif. Dealers, special exhibits, demonstrations, refreshments. Admission, 50¢, children under 12 free when accompanied by adult. Dealer space filled. Show chairman: Bob Mullnix, P. O. Box 5847, Carmel, Calif. 93921.

OCTOBER 5 - 7 WASATCH GEMS SOCIETY SECOND ANNUAL CARNIVAL OF GEMS, Utah State Fair Grounds, Commercial Exhibit Building No. 3, North Temple and Ninth West, Salt Lake City, Utah. Show Chairman, Joseph Cipponeri, 1849 David Blvd., Bountiful, Utah 84010.

OCTOBER 6 & 7—DESERT GEM-O-RAMA, presented by Searles Valley Gem & Mineral Society. Trona Recreation Hall, Trona, Calif. Camping space available, \$1.00 fee. Dealers, field trips and Searles Lake crystals. Admission free. For more information, contact Jenny Langner, 654 Trisha Ct., Ridgecrest, CA. 93555.

OCTOBER 6 & 7, SOUTH GATE CARNIVAL OF GEMS sponsored by the South Gate Mineral and Lapidary Club, South Gate Park Auditorium, 4900 Southern Ave., South Gate, Calif. Free parking and admission. No dealers. Write Harry Hensel, 1830 E. 68th St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90001.

OCTOBER 6 & 7, "EARTH'S TREASURES" sponsored by the Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society, National Guard Armory Bldg., Ridge Rd. and Nevada City Highway, Nevada City, California. Admission free. Prize drawings, demonstrations.

OCTOBER 6-7, SIXTH ANNUAL NATIONAL PROSPECTORS & TREASURE HUNTERS CONVENTION, sponsored by the Prospectors Club of Southern California, Inc. will be held at Galileo Park in California City, Calif., (approximately 100 miles north of Los Angeles). There will be five competitive events, with everyone invited to participate. The latest in prospecting and TH'ing equipment will be displayed, and many well-known personalities in the TH'ing field will be on hand. Admission free to convention. No charge for parking or camping. For those who do not wish to camp, there are restaurant and motel accommodations in California City. For further information contact: S. T. Conatser, PCSC Convention Chairman, 5704 Eunice, Simi Valley, CA 93063.

OCTOBER 6-7, THE HI-DESERT GEM & MINERAL ASSOCIATION'S 2nd annual show hosted by Yucca Valley Gem & Mineral Society; Joshua Tree Gem & Mineral Society; Hi-Desert Rockhounds of Morongo Valley and Oasis Rock Club of 29 Palms, will be held at the Yucca Valley High School, 7600 Sage Ave., Yucca Valley, Calif.

OCTOBER 7-13, 6TH ANNUAL NATIONAL SILVER STREAK RALLY, Golden Village, Hemet, Calif. All Silver Streak owners, whether club members or not, invited to rally. For further information, contact V. L. Cooper, rally coordinator, Silver Streak Trailer Company, 3219 N. Chico, So. El Monte, Calif. 91733.

OCTOBER 12-14, ANNUAL TUCSON LAPIDARY AND GEM SHOW. Sponsored by the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, Inc. Tucson Rodeo Grounds, 4700 block South Sixth Ave., Tucson, Arizona. Dealers. Show chairman: Milton Reiner, 2802 East 10th St., Tucson, Ariz. 85716.

OCTOBER 18-21—PLAZA OF GEMS AND MINERALS, sponsored by the Pomona Rockhounds Club. Montclair Plaza Shopping Center, San Bernardino Freeway and Central Ave., Montclair, Calif. Thurs. & Fri., 10-9:30; Sat. 10-6; Sun. 12-5. Geo. Beaman, 1295 Loma Vista, Pomona, Calif. 91766. Dealers, guest exhibits, working demonstrations, free parking and admission.

OCTOBER 20 & 21, WHITTIER GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY'S 24th Annual Gem Show, Palm Park, 5703 S. Palm Ave., Whittier, Calif. Free admission and parking. Publicity Chairman Pearl Stroh.

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