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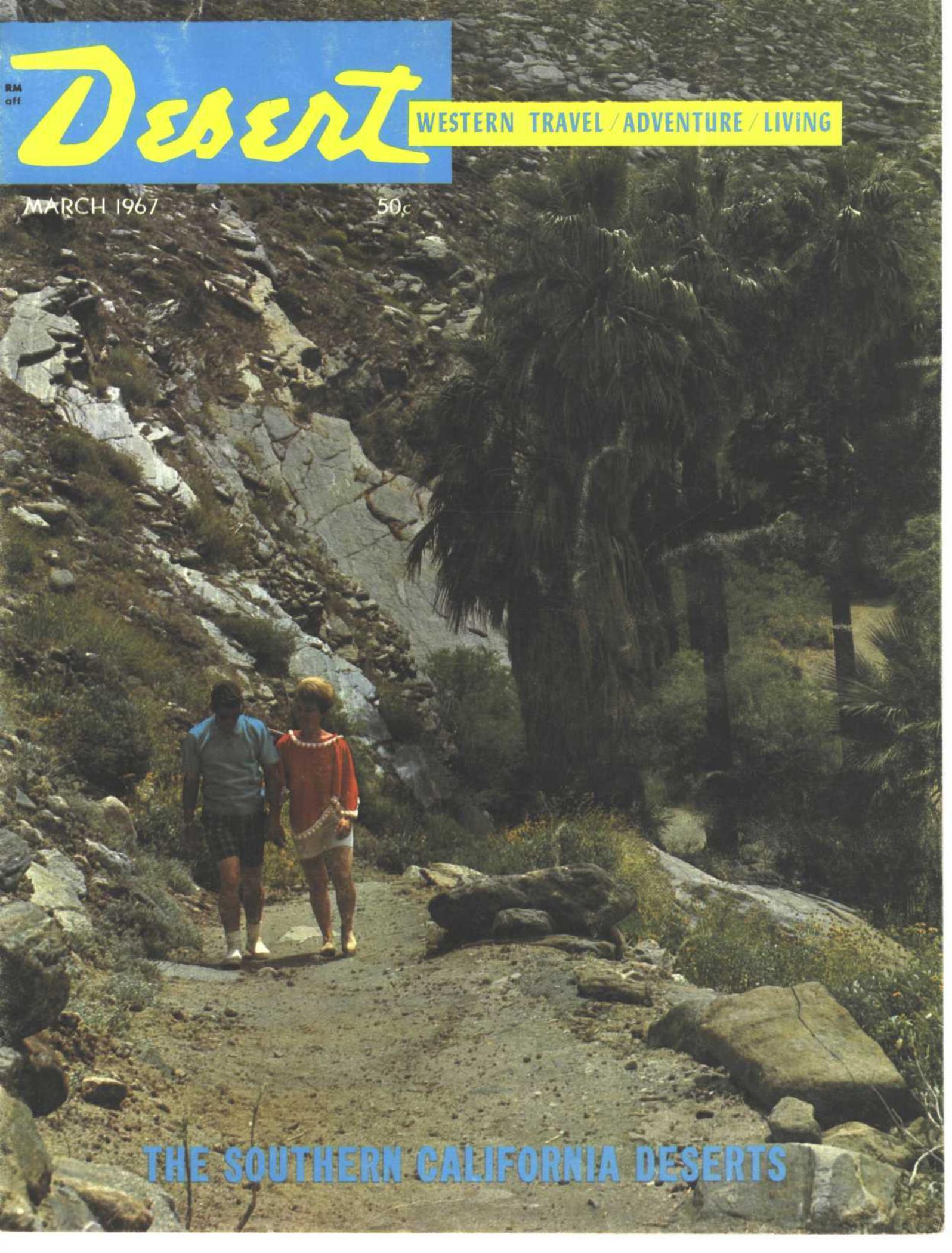
DESERT

WESTERN TRAVEL / ADVENTURE / LIVING

MARCH 1967

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THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DESERTS



Ancient Hunters of the Far West

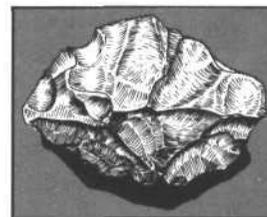


Reconstruction of head of La Jolla Man from evidence of burials.



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Dr. E. L. Davis of the University of California Archaeological Survey in Los Angeles describes the latest methods of establishing the pattern of Man's arrival and survival in the Great Basin.

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THE COVER

Just 120 miles south of Los Angeles and 100 miles from San Diego, the Coachella Valley is surrounded by fascinating mountains. Where the mountains meet the desert there are dozens of picturesque coves with winter walking and picnicking an ideal pastime.

Unusual Books of Interest

New Books for Desert Readers

The Colorful Butterfield Overland Stage reproduces 20 stage coach paintings by Marjorie Reed Creese, world famous painter of horses and stage coaches. Text by Richard F. Pourade, author of five volumes on the history of San Diego County. Both have personally traveled over much of the famous route and bring vividly to life the story of the Butterfield Stage and its dramatic history. 8½x11 Album Format, Heavy Art Paper, 4-color Dust Jacket, 48 Pages. Just published. **\$6.75** (plus 27 cents tax for California residents.)

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Lost Desert Bonanzas by Eugene Conrotto. A compilation of a quarter of a century of lost mine facts and maps from the pages of Desert Magazine. **\$6.50** (plus 26 cents for California addresses.)

Three Paths Along a River by Tom Hudson. A history of Indian, Spanish and American cultures and conflicts along the San Luis Rey River of San Diego County in southwestern California. A former newspaper publisher, Tom Hudson spent years gathering the material and presents it in vivid form. **\$6.00** (plus 24 cents tax for California addresses.)

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THE NEVADA ADVENTURE,
a History
By James W. Hulse

While tracing man's experiences and experiments in Nevada's rugged mountains and desert regions from prehistory to the atomic age, this book covers prehistoric Indians and their search for subsistence in the challenging land, the earliest explorers who blazed trails across the Great Basin, the early Mormon pioneers and the colorful miners who followed them and gave Nevada its greatest impetus. Also included is an account of the state's achievements in the modern era—ranching, tourism, and atomic testing. Maps and photos illustrate the book's fifteen chapters and the material is well developed and presented with a fair amount of sparkle. Nevada has been somewhat neglected by historians and this is a welcome volume for admirers of the Silver State. Hard cover, 306 pages, \$7.50.

**ARIZONA, a Guide to the Grand
Canyon State**

This revised edition of the famous work originally prepared by the WPA has been updated by Joseph Miller. Here are identified and described locations and activities of man from the time he built stone houses in the shelter of cliffs to the present day. Followed are trails of Spanish explorers, prospectors for gold when Tombstone and Bisbee were frontier towns, and those of modern health seekers to the spas and cities of Arizona. Transportation facilities, accommodations, sports facilities, annual events, hunting and fishing and an excellent thumbnail history of each community is included, including spots of interest, historic buildings, important mines, dams, and even customs of native Indians as they pertain to individual locations. Illustrations show the rugged terrain of off-beat areas, the flora and fauna of the desert, industrial developments and the changing facades of growing cities. An excellent and highly recommended book. Hard cover, 532 pages, \$7.95.

Books reviewed may be ordered from the DESERT Magazine Book Order Department, Palm Desert, California 92260. Please include 25c for handling. California residents must add 4% sales tax. Enclose payment with order.

CALIFORNIA'S UTOPIAN COLONIES
By Robert V. Hine

Although California's history is rampant with utopian idealists, this is the first book to deal exclusively with their stories. Some of them fell close to the lunatic fringe, but all had stalwart followers who tried to live the good life according to the edicts of their chosen leaders, and all enjoyed a short period of apparent success. None lingered long enough, however, to make a lasting impression upon California society today. For the most part they were based upon socialistic ideas for a communal economy or upon various interpretations of theology. California provided an ideal physical climate for such endeavors because living was less costly here than in colder climes and many of the complexes were developed with an eye open to agricultural possibilities in order to feed the "flock." This is paperback, a Yale Western Americana selection, 208 pages, \$1.45.

BOBBED WIRE
By Jack Glover

This sounds like a sort of unimportant thing to write a book about, but when you get into it, it is astonishing how interesting bobbed wire is. This is an illustrated guide to the identification and classification of bared wire with over 150 illustrations. The first types of wire were crude boards hung lengthwise in the fences with nails driven through. Other types were of flat ribbon wire with short spikes on both sides. When the idea of barbed wire caught on, several inventors patented products for displays in country fairs. With its merit proven, millions of miles were strung. The unusual types

succumbed long ago and our present fencing materials are basic, but this book with its dated illustrations is a handy one to have when you are attempting to arrive at a date for certain old ranches, mines and so forth. The book has been produced in a limited edition and is only of specialized interest. Paperback, 49 pages, \$5.00.

WM. B. ROOD

By Harold and Lucile Weight

In this small paperback, containing Rafael Pumpelly's 1869 map delineating the West of Rood's time and historical photos, the authors have compiled copies of personal letters and published early articles pertaining to the life of this Death Valley 49er, Arizona pioneer, Apache fighter and Colorado River rancher. It is a fascinating assemblage of material, slanted mainly toward the treasure of the Los Yumas, believed to be concealed among the ruins of Rood's ranch. This is often referred to as the Cibola Treasure and there is an old superstition that whoever spends a night in the ruin, pursuing the treasure, is pursued in turn by the ghostly spectre of Rood charging across the land on a white steed.

A number of rumors revolved around the death of this popular pioneer, some questioning the fact that it was accidental. This little book sorts fact from the fiction and is entertaining to read. \$1.50.

FIRE OVER YUMA

By Peter Odens

Third in a series of his paperback histories of desert areas, this one covers the country along the lower banks of the Colorado River. Starting with the prehistoric Indians who pecked their mysterious marks on towering rocks, the author moves up in time to the arrival of the Spanish, their troubles with the Mohave and Yuma tribes of Indians, the steamboat era along the river when great mines brought wealth and colorful characters, both honorable and dishonorable, to the area, and finally the day when mining was dead, but cross-country travel kept things popping while plunderers ransacked ranches and highway robbers held up stages. It is a fine contribution to collections of stories relating to the California-Arizona border. Illustrated with photos, 59 pages, \$1.00.

A FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

By Robert Stebbins

A Peterson field guide series sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Federation, this volume answers a great need for a concise, illustrated pocket guide directed to field identification in western North America. Included are all the species of reptiles and amphibians west of the eastern boundaries of New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Saskatchewan north of the Arctic Circle. Condensed descriptions point up major characteristics of turtles, lizards, snakes, etc. for identification and give significant details of habitat and range. Many illustrations are in color and there is a fine series of range maps to graphically illustrate what kind of a monster you may expect to find and where. Hardcover, 279 pages, \$4.95.

A GALLERY OF CALIFORNIA MISSION PAINTINGS

By Edwin Deakin, edited by Ruth Mahood

These fine, full color reproductions of mission paintings by Edwin Deakin, a native of England who settled in San Francisco in 1870, depict California's twenty-one missions as they appeared before the turn of the century and before restorations projects began. The originals are now owned by the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. Miss Mahood, chief curator of history at the museum, has included with each reproduction a brief but interesting summarization of the history, individual problems, political intrigues, local disasters, secularization and restoration of each mission. There are also chapters discussing Edwin Deakin's artistic stature and a text on the history of the mission period. This is a fine, beautiful book for collectors of Californiana. Hard cover, 58 pages, \$7.50.

WHEN BUFFALO RAN

By George Bird Grinnell

First published in 1920 and long out of print, this narrative recounts true incidents and experiences in the life of a Plains Indian boy. It describes his growth into a warrior and his relationship to his family and his tribe. It tells of lessons learned on the prairie and of the natural beauty of the land before the white men came, when these Indians lived together, hunted buffalo and deer and developed a unique philosophy to fit their own simple existence. Hardcover, 114 pages, \$2.00.

Other New Books

recommended by the

Desert Magazine Bookshop

TERRIBLE TRAIL: the Meek Cutoff, 1845 by Clark and Tiller. Narrates the tragic tale of the Meek emigrant train and lays the groundwork for a solution to the Blue Bucket lost gold. \$4.00.

CREATIVE ENAMELLING and Jewelry-making by Katharina Zechlin. Wonderful hobby book packed with smart ideas and instructions. Hardcover, \$3.95.

TURQUOISE AND THE INDIAN by Edna Mae Bennett. Folk lore with maps about turquoise mining, both Indian and Spanish, in the West. \$5.00.

HIDDEN VALUE IN COINS by Burton Hobson tells the stories behind valuable coins and identifies many from all over the world. Hardcover, \$3.95.

BOTTLE RUSH U.S.A. by Lynn Blumenstein. An excellent book for identifying old bottles with photographs of over 700 items and current price list. Background bottle information. 184 pages, paperback, \$4.25.

THEY ALL DISCOVERED AMERICA by Charles Michael Boland. Tells of Phoenicians, Romans, Chinese, Irish, Viking, Scotch and Welch pre-Columbian discoverers of America. Interesting and controversial. Hardcover, illustrated, 384 pages, \$4.95.

ANCIENT HUNTERS OF THE FAR WEST based upon forty years of research by the late Malcolm Rogers. Brings together what is known of Early Man in North America. Illustrated in full color. Large format. \$9.50.

SIX FACES OF MEXICO edited by Russel Ewing. In the textbook tradition, covers the history, people, geography, government, economy, literature and art of Mexico, each aspect covered by an authority in that field. Large format, illustrated with photos and maps. Very up-to-date. \$10.00.

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Figtree John Was a Bluffer



he valley sun beat down with its ultraviolet rays on the 136 year-old head of Fig Tree John and his fat wife, probably his third of fourth, as they traveled the desert road by buckboard. Ahead of them lay the Indian village which is now the thriving city of Palm Springs.

John and his wife were dressed in their best for it was fiesta time. John wore an old blue army uniform with large brown buttons, a cast-off from some northern soldier during the Civil War. On his head, at a precarious angle, perched a tall, stove-pipe hat, his most highly prized possession. Leaning against the seat was the cane he affected as part of his "formal" costume and beside him sat his squaw, fat, sweaty, reeking of garlic and dressed in bright calico with a red bandana about her head.

This is a picture of Fig Tree John and his wife, both now gone to their Happy Hunting Ground.

One hundred and thirty-six years is a long, long time for a man to live, but Fig Tree John was that age when he died in 1927. Most of his life was lived in the vicinity of Palm Springs and he knew it when not a single white man lived there. He had acted as guide and scout for General Fremont; a fact which entitled him to more prestige than his fellow tribesmen.

His real name, as far as one can learn, was Juanita Rayon. When ending with an "a," a word such as his first name denotes the feminine gender, but John insisted it be spelled that way as that was the name bestowed upon him by his parents and it would be disrespectful to change it. His nickname, Fig Tree John, was bestowed upon him because he was the first man to plant fig trees in Coachella Valley and there were many about the rancharia near Salton Sea where he lived.

I recall seeing him once when the Indians held their annual pow-wow at the home of Mrs. Eliza Tibbetts, in Riverside. He sat at the end of a long table in her shady yard. The table was heaped with barbecued meat and delicacies enjoyed by the natives, but not even at the table would he remove his "topper." This was his emblem of dignity. When Mrs. Tibbetts said grace, he looked

straight ahead, never batting an eye. His features, in repose resembled the unbending texture of the granite rocks of the hills among which his life was spent.

His thoughts? Who can know?

Perhaps he thought of his past glories, when acting as scout and guide to the famous explorer, General Fremont. Again his mind may have reverted to the days when the Indian was lord of all the land west of the Rockies, long before the white man came. Mayhap he looked at the palefaces and thought, "We beat one off and always two more came to take his place."

In his attitude to the white man, he never unbent. His domain was vast, limited only by the distant horizon of mountains. Any infringement on what he considered Indian territory, he bitterly resented. The spring at his ranch was fenced. His friends were permitted the use of his blue, clear waters, but no

strangers. His word was law for many years.

But time passed. As members of his tribe learned the white man's ways, he withdrew even from tribal members. Fig Tree John's suspicions of the white man never were completely allayed. His dislike, however, did not prevent him from saving the life of a hereditary enemy. The man had made a trip into the desert in mid-summer and almost perished from heat and lack of water. Staggering into Fig Tree John's ranch more dead than alive, the Indian succored him and nursed him back to life. Usually, though, he resorted to threats of violence to keep the white man from his place, enforcing his commands with a show of a 44-49 Winchester. The gun was never loaded, but trespassers didn't know that.

In the deluge of 1905-7, when the Colorado River jumped its channel and formed the Salton Sea, Fig Tree John's original ranch was covered by the rising



by Retta Ewers

waters. He then moved to Agua Dulce Springs. He could bluff the white man off his property but he couldn't stop the waters!

All Indians love to trade and John was no exception. He took keen delight in concluding a sharp horse trading deal and it was seldom anyone got the better of him. He could tell the approximate age of a horse by the way it walked or trotted. If he needed any further proof, he propped its mouth open with a short mesquite stick and examined its teeth. If its teeth were unworn and sound, it was probably a two-year-old, but beyond that, their molars began to show age by the manner in which they were worn down. You couldn't fool Fig Tree John.

If food were scarce, Fig Tree John traveled to the different settlers' homes and told them he needed food. Usually they divided their own meager supply with him. When he was flush with a few extra dollars, he went to a store and bought his produce, buying one article at a time and paying for it before deciding on the next. That way he figured he wasn't spending so much.

Fig Tree John spent much time in the Indian village which is now Palm Springs. He took part in the council of the Cahuilla and offered his advice, but that was before the white man had learned of the health-giving quality of desert waters and desert sunshine.

Tourists often asked to take Fig Tree John's picture—rigged out in his old army uniform, top hat and cane, but he didn't grant the favor without extracting a price. By this he maintained his dignity and his sense of not giving anything of himself for nothing.

He was not a "Bad Injun" as fictionists have pictured him, but he most certainly did hold resentment toward his white brothers—and perhaps he had reason. Other members of the tribe accepted the restraints imposed upon them with much complaint, but Fig Tree John was of a different caliber. He would not accept the fate dealt to his tribe. He wanted no change in his way of life. He feared only one thing—that the white man would run him from his home. Instead, flood waters did it.

Fig Tree John is gone, but his memory, like the fig trees he was the first to plant in the valley, lingers on—a colorful part of Coachella Valley's history. □

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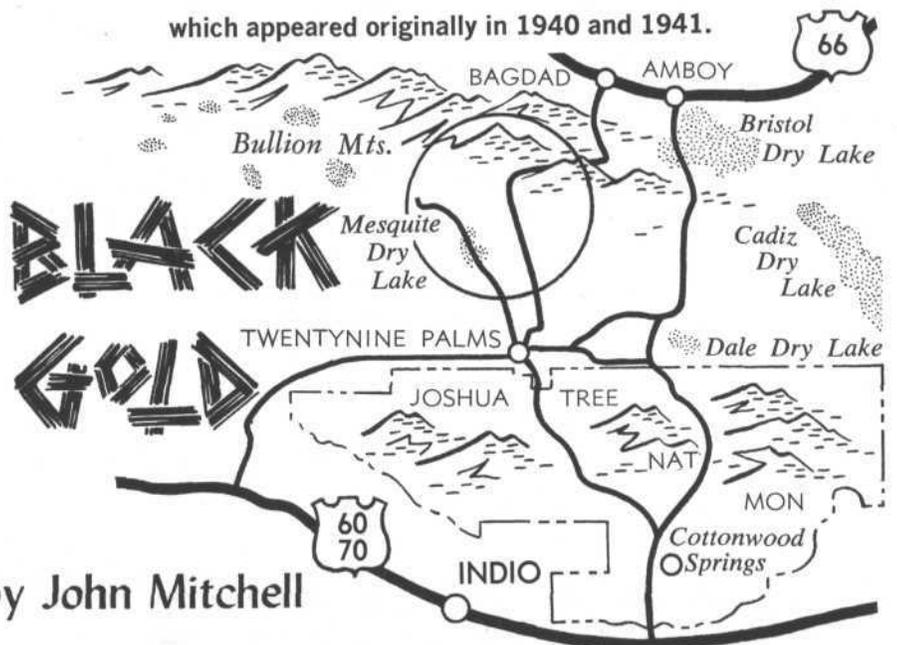
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By reader request DESERT Magazine will reprint a series of articles written by the dean of lost mine yarns, John Mitchell, which appeared originally in 1940 and 1941.



by John Mitchell



omewhere in the Bullion mountain country on the desert between Bagdad and Twentynine Palms, California, in the center of one of the many dry lakes known to exist there, stands a small black mountain in which there is said to be located, in the form of a chimney, another of the many lost mines.

The outcrop of this chimney has been broken down by erosion over a period of many thousands of years, scattering great quantities of gold nuggets over the barren ground around the foot of the mountain and among the rocks upon its sides. The nuggets, like the rocks and chunks of brown hematite of iron with which they are found, are worn smooth. The old nuggets are covered over with a thin film of manganese oxide and can be distinguished from the hematite only by the darker color and greater specific gravity.

While many men, most of whom were Indians, are reported to have seen this deposit, few of them have returned from the desert to tell the tale. Among the few said to have reached the mine and returned were two Indians and one white man. One of the Indians traded some of the black nuggets in Yuma. Peg-Leg Smith was in Yuma at the time and immediately started out to search for the mine. Whether Smith ever found the deposit is problematical. He lost the Indian's trail somewhere near Cottonwood springs, in San Bernardino county. Some time later Peg-Leg was found unconscious from hunger and thirst. He died in a coast hospital several days later without

telling anyone where he found a large black gold nugget found in his possession. It is possible Smith may have found the nugget by the skeleton of another prospector who had reached the mine and died of heat and thirst on the way out.

For many years after the death of Peg-Leg Smith, strange stories continued to come out of the desert telling of dead Indians and large quantities of black gold scattered over the desert at the foot of a small black mountain in the center of a dry lake bed somewhere northwest of Cottonwood springs.

Many years later a white man arrived in San Gorgonio pass and stated he was going to seek the lost deposit of black gold.

Enlisting the aid of a partly civilized Indian who was less superstitious than other tribesmen he cached food, water and grain for animals at intervals across the desert. After many months of preparation the two men set out across the desert in a buckboard pulled by two small Mexican mules. They camped each night at the stations where food and water had been stored and after several days arrived at rim rock where the mesa dropped off abruptly almost a hundred feet and then sloped to the floor of a valley stretched out into the distance as far as the eye could see.

A narrow crevice was found in the steep wall and through this the mules were led down to the valley below. The buckboard was then dismantled and lowered over the cliff by the use of a windlass and long rope that had been brought along for the purpose. After

loading the buckboard with food and water they again set out across this lower plain. After traveling two days their progress was halted by drifting sand dunes that blocked the progress of the mules and the wagon.

As the chimney-like mountain was now looming in the distance, it was decided to unhitch the mules and ride them the balance of the way. As they approached their destination they came upon a skeleton near which was an empty water gourd and a small pile of black gold nuggets.

Gathering the nuggets they continued to the foot of the black butte.

The igneous intrusion which formed the mountain was a jumbled mass of black heat-seared rocks interspersed here and there with large and small chunks of brown hematite of iron. Scattered around the foot of the mountain on the hard ground were thousands of small nuggets all worn smooth like the rocks and iron with which they were found. When the film of manganese was scraped off, beautiful yellow gold was disclosed.

Near the base of the mountain were thick beds of a yellowish powder that was kept in a constant state of agitation by the winds that swirled over the little valley in which the pinnacle stood. The summit of the peak was cone-shaped and full of kaolin and smooth pieces of hematite of iron. The hot rays of the sun beat down into the little valley and, reflected by the varnished rocks made it almost like an oven. As the mysterious yellow dust settled on their perspiring bodies it burned like fire, and when breathed into the lungs it almost choked them.

Since it would be impossible for them to remain for any length of time in such a place, the two men gathered as many of the gold nuggets as they could pack and after several hours arrived at the buckboard with gold they estimated to be worth \$65,000. Before reaching the outer edge of the desert again their throats and lungs were parched from breathing the poisonous yellow powder and the skin of their hands and arms began to peel off. They finally reached civilization more dead than alive. It was many months before they recovered.

The proceeds of the trip were divided equally between the two partners. The white man purchased a small ranch in California. Neither of them ever made another trip to the valley of gold, but upon his deathbed a few years ago the white man told two old friends the secret of the black gold that is said to be guarded by the mysterious yellow powder and by the fierce heat of the desert itself. □

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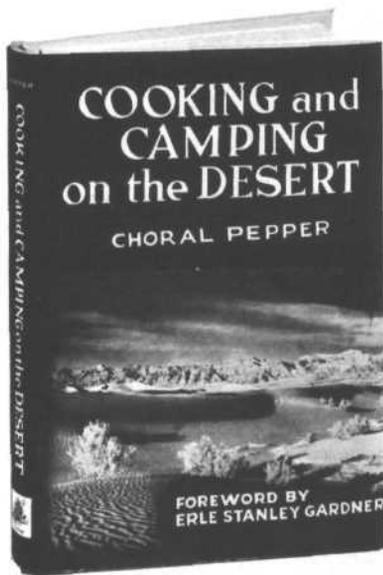
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A NEW HOLD ON HERITAGE

by Nancy Bercovitz



Everyone talks about how rich they are, but how many residents and visitors to the Palm Desert area know *who* they are?

We're talking about the

Cahuilla Indians—a tribe that is now preserving their cultural heritage for you in the Malki Museum located on the Fields Road turnoff, U. S. Highway 60-70, between Banning and Cabazon.

Aware of the rapid demise of their culture, a small group of Cahuilla Indians began in 1964 to establish this public museum on the Morongo Reservation. A board of directors composed of three Indians and six white volunteers, representing a variety of occupations, be-

gan to collect artifacts and enlist members with the express purpose of "preserving, protecting, and enhancing the Indian cul-



Diegueno granary, three feet tall, was used to store acorns.

ture of Southern California" and, in addition, providing a source of research for scholars.

The museum now has a membership numbering over 300 persons and a collection of over 3000 artifacts, many donated by Indian families. The basket collection is especially fine. Two brochures of an historical nature also have been prepared.

One wall in the museum is devoted to the display of baskets and materials used for basket weaving. This is an art in which the skill of the Cahuilla was rarely equalled. As the eminent anthropologist, A. L. Kroeber stated: "... their baskets excel those of most other tribes, in fact are probably preeminent in the continent, if not in the world..." The baskets were of varying shapes and designs. The shape was determined by the function, such as flat tray-shapes for sifting, small globular shapes for storing personal items, and large truncated cone shapes for storing foods. The designs, taken from nature, were conceived by the weaver. A star pattern and the waterdog symbol were especially popular.

The art of pottery making was introduced much later from the Colorado River people. The Cahuilla pots were made by coiling ropes of clay, patted smooth between a round stone and a wooden paddle. The pot was then baked in the sun for a day and burned in a fire for one day. The finished object is a light, thin walled, fragile porous pot. Designs used were usually linear and painted on the jar with hematite or a black material; others were decorated by making incisions around the mouth of the jar. Items manufactured from clay were cooking pots, water jars, parching trays, storage jars, ladles and pipes. Examples of most of these items are on display at the Malki Museum.

Of cultural interest is an exhibit of native plant foods used by these people. From the lower desert came such staples as mesquite and screwbean, from slightly higher came agave and yucca, and from the San Jacinto Mountains came the acorn and pinon.

The new museum's first fund raising project was an Indian fiesta held in May of 1966. The program included Indian games and a group of Plains Indians performed traditional Indian dances. The association served a barbecue to over 5000 visitors. Encouraged by this enthusiastic support, the group on the Morongo Reservation has drafted an elaborate 12-month building program published as an appeal to the Office of Economic Opportunity



under the title "Project California Heritage." The proposal plans call for a model village with running stream, a terraced well and a sampling of different aboriginal structures. Once completed, the village will be landscaped with an ethnobotanical garden containing the native plants utilized by the early Cahuilla. An extremely important phase of the program

involves employment for the youth in "vocational crafts" such as the manufacture of adobe and artifacts, and in the cultural construction of the village.

So, Twentieth Century man, on your way between Los Angeles and Palm Springs take a break—step back into the space of another century and view your cultural heritage! □



THE SPLENDOR OF PALMS TO PINES

BY FRANK TAYLOR



oint your car toward Palm Desert, the start of a highway to the clouds, if you want a two-hour motoring adventure. Your doorway to enchantment is Highway 74, the Palms to Pines Highway.

The first landmark is Seven Level Hill. Movie fans will recognize this as the location for the opening scenes of *It's A Mad, Mad, World* in which Jimmy Durante literally "kicked the bucket." The builders of the road, by intent or by accident, provided motorists with a mountain-side of views. Each turn of the grade offers a better view of the lush country below. The hill derives its name from the fact that it takes seven switchbacks to top

the summit. Because of the abrupt change in altitude, a wide variety of vegetation is apparent. Desert cacti are replaced at intervals by ocotillo, yucca, mountain mahogany, scrub oak and, eventually, the giants of the forest—ponderosa pine. Picking its way along the rim, the highway continues east through miles of scrub oak and manzanita forests interspersed with yucca, agave, Spanish bayonet, prickly pear cactus and related growth. Above the pavement, jabbing the very heavens with her bulk, lies Mt. Santa Rosa. A side trip down a trail across from the Standard Station at Spring Crest to View Point provides a startling view of famed Palm Canyon. Twisting north for 15 miles, Palm Canyon is the ancient home of the Agua Caliente Band of Mis-

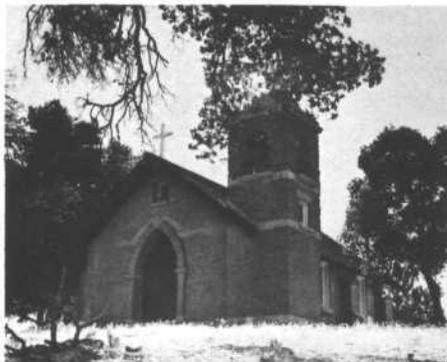
sion Indians, first citizens of the region. Locked in the heart of this strange canyon is a forest of 3,500 palms, left behind some believe when Lake Cahuilla receded hundreds of years ago. This area encompasses one of six reservations which cling to the skirts of the San Jacinto range.

The next reservation Highway 74 passes is just beyond the turnoff for Mt. Santa Rosa in Vandeverter Flat, marked by a large stand of oak trees. A mail box in front and an open gate with a cattle guard on the south side of the highway provide ingress to a startling discovery—an adobe church nestled under the spreading arms of an oak grove. The chapel is .3 of a mile from the gate. This is reservation land, so ask the family who lives across the road for permission to stop and wander about the grounds. *The Church of*

The Church of

The Church of

Hidden chapel



Overlooking Palm Desert



Idyllwild village



Saint Rose of Lima is administered to by the Catholic Fathers at Pala, 60 miles away. With the exodus of families from the flat, it has fallen into disuse. Hardly more than two remain where this bucolic region once provided farm land and homes for almost an entire tribe. Behind the church is the old cemetery. The most interesting head stone reads: Captain Manuel Tortes, 1798-1928. The title "Captain" reveals the reverence this man earned from his tribe when they gave him the honorary name. Services are held the fifth Saturday of the month only. The old bell in the tower chimes the occasion. Inside, light filters through the stained glass windows, illuminating the interior with a soft glow. Simple pews and a plank floor complete the furnishings. During the winter months a wood burning stove provides heat.

The Santa Rosa summit is reached further up the highway, marking the entrance to Garner Valley—another Palms to Pines surprise. First settled by Charlie Thomas, an early homesteader, it is headquarters today for the Garner Cattle Ranch. Paradise Valley stands at one end of the valley, Mountain Center guards the other. The tallest peak on the left, as you enter the valley from the south, is Mt. Thomas, named for the pioneer. To the north stands the backside of Mt. San

Jacinto, highest of all the San Jacinto range. Framed in this setting are green meadows, tall pines and roving bands of cattle. The grass is splashed with color from wild flowers which grow in bright patches everywhere.

Continuing along Route 74 to Mountain Center, take Riverside Route 1 to the right and start the steady climb to Idyllwild, a village tucked under the shadow of San Jacinto. This is the back door to the camping and recreation area of San Jacinto State Park. From the other side, it is reached by the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. At Idyllwild you will find smart shops and a very fine restaurant. In the summer it provides an active campus for the University of California (see DESERT, March '66).

Beyond Idyllwild, the grade drops in altitude from 5,308 to 2,349 at Banning, a gentle descent accomplished in about 40 minutes by auto.

From the junction of Riverside 1 and the freeway, U. S. 10-60 at Banning, you may go south to Palm Springs and Palm Desert, your starting point, or north to Los Angeles and beyond. If you are visiting the Palm Springs area, this trip to the clouds will reward you with two hours of constant beauty and variety. □



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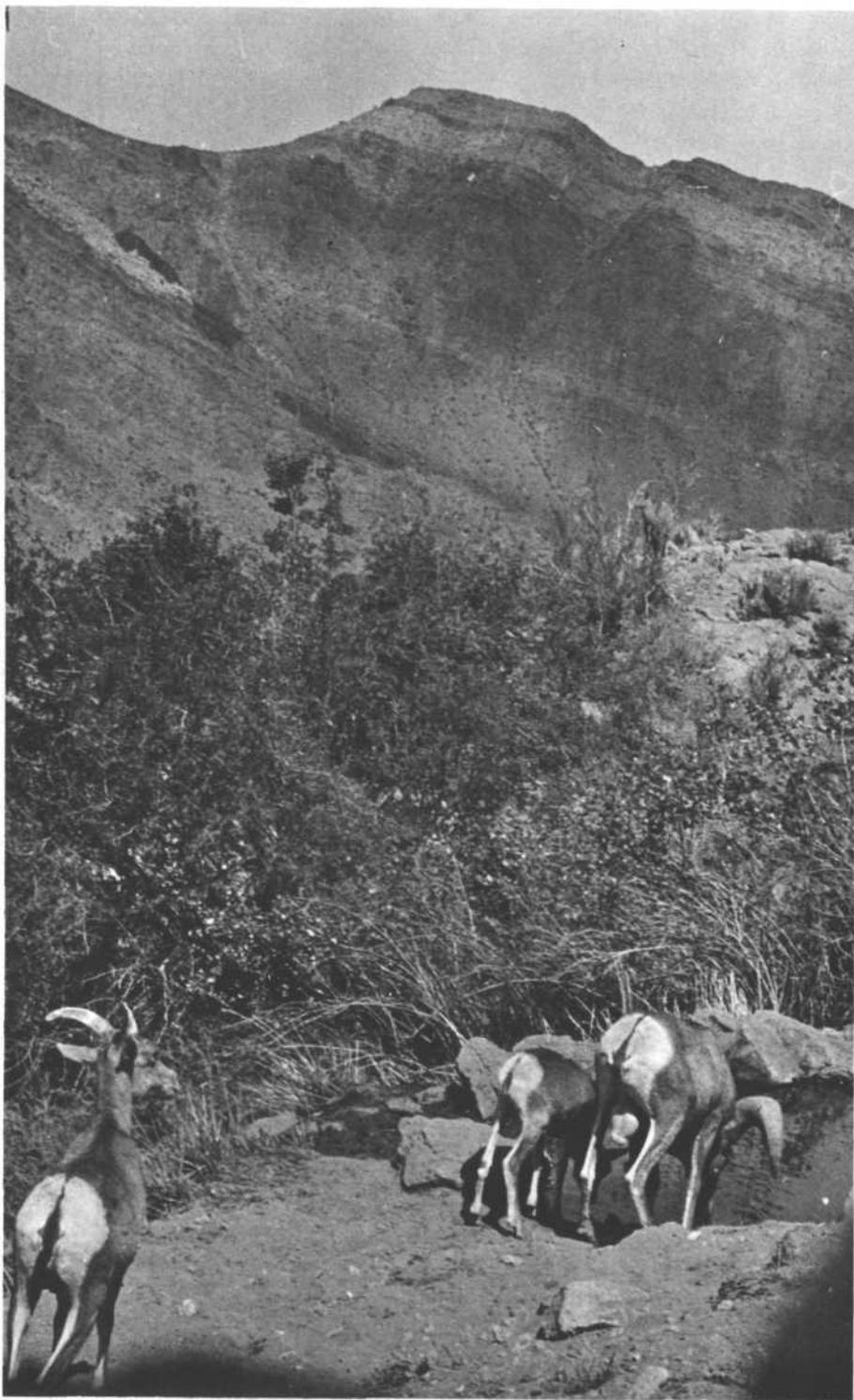
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It Couldn't Happen to a Nicer Desert



by Jack Delaney



f it were possible to roll up a section of our fascinating desert, insert it into a time capsule, and label it: Do not open until Christmas 2067; or

to wrap a generous portion of it in foil and place it in a deep freeze for a hundred years, what a pleasant surprise would greet the moon commuters of that time!

Since this isn't possible, the Palm Springs Desert Museum decided several years ago to hold a part of our Colorado Desert "as is" for present and future generations to enjoy. The project, originally consisting of 235 acres of desert terrain, complete with many species of native plants and animals, has been known as the Native Desert Reserve. Recently, the United States Bureau of Land Management approved a cost-free lease of 50 additional acres adjacent to the property already leased by the Desert Museum. The total area, 285 acres of virgin land, running from Palm Desert toward La Quinta, California, will be developed into a unique desert exhibit.

To clarify a point of confusion, this is not the Deep Canyon Desert Research Area, which consists of 10,000 acres of federal government and University of California land. The Deep Canyon region is fenced, with a locked gate at the entrance. Signs reading: No Trespassing, Closed To The Public, and Do Not Enter, lead one to feel that he is not wanted here—the locked gate at the entrance further reinforces this feeling. Obviously, this research area is not for the week-end outing crowd to explore.

On the other hand, the Native Desert Reserve, which is being renamed the

Living Desert Center of the Desert Museum, is being held and developed especially for the benefit of residents and visitors to Southern California's Coachella Valley. At the present time, the site of the Living Desert Center is only a nucleus of the grand setting that will prevail in the not too distant future. However, it rates high with art classes, scout groups, and many individuals as an enjoyable spot for one-day or part-day outings. It is located in Palm Desert and is easily accessible by a short drive up Portola Avenue about a mile and a half from Highway 111, to the entrance sign on the left side of the street. At the entrance is a garden with various plants of the desert, identified by marker stakes.

Identified plant life includes the Brittle Bush, which was burned as incense by the early padres and chewed by the Indians, the Creosote Bush, a widespread and successful desert plant, the Sandpiper Plant with short rigid spines on the stems and leaves of a sandpaper texture, Desert Willow from which medicinal tea has been made, Arrowweed, used by Indians

for arrow shafts, baskets, and other needed items, and Emory Dahlia whose flower heads, when crushed, yield a saffron-yellow dye used by Indians in art work.

Also growing here, and identified, are a number of plants that might be called Nature's supermarket. The seed pods of Honey-pod Mesquite served as a staple food for the Indians years ago, as did the seeds of the Border Palo Verde. Catsclaw and Desert Lavender are delicious bee food, and therefore are good sources of people food—honey; Sweetbush flowers are relished by Chuckawalla; Burrobush is a preferred food among donkeys and sheep; and the seeds of Desert Mistletoe simply send the birds. Evidently, Nature is a good provider—there are at least 20 other varieties of native plant life in the Reserve.

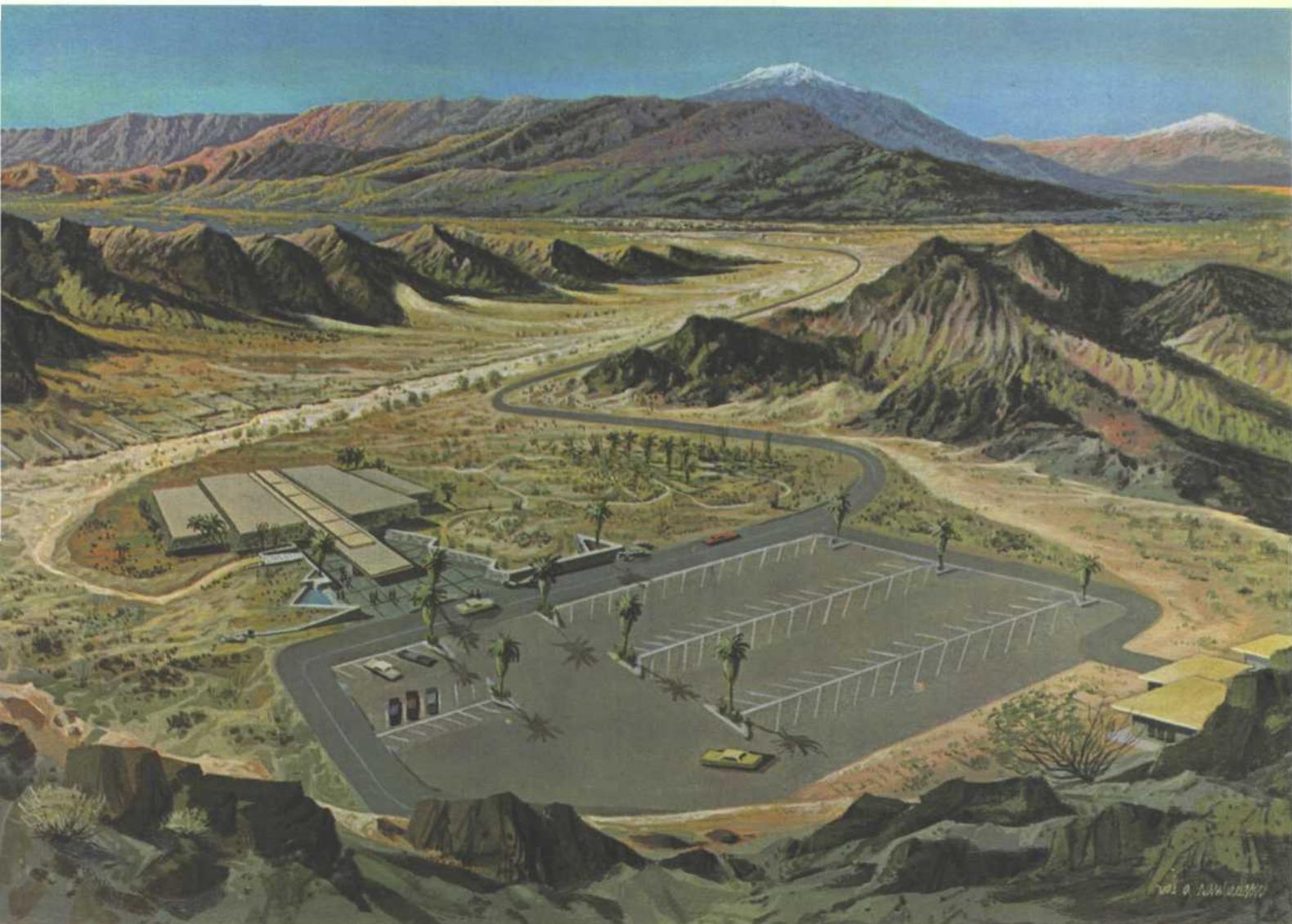
The three main trails, forming a triangle, total about a mile and a half in length. Guzzler Trail leads to Quail Guzzler where rainwater is stored for use by quail, other birds, and small animals. Occasional Lake Trail leads to Levee Trail. A short hike along this path brings

one back to the starting point. Adjacent to Levee Trail is a blind with an artificial pond where photographers may shoot animals which come along for a drink of water—with cameras, naturally.

This is a typical Coachella Valley environment. To the biologist, it is known as the Lower Sonoran Life Zone, and is part of an average elevation of 500 feet to 4000 feet above sea level. The animal and bird populations are composed of typical desert creatures, such as road-runners, Gambel quail, cactus wrens, kangaroo rats, the pocket mouse, grey foxes, coyotes, jackrabbits, diamondback rattlesnakes, sidewinders, and many other non-household pets.

In the late spring, summer, and early autumn, when desert atmosphere is a bit toasty, the native creatures burrow underground in the heat of the day where only a foot below the surface the temperature may be 50 degrees cooler. At night, however, they freely cavort, or whatever animals do at night. The mountain slopes above the Center extend almost to the summit of the Santa Rosa mountains.

The living Desert Center will be constructed on the Desert Museum's 230-acre tract near Palm Desert, California



This area has been designated by the State of California as a refuge for desert bighorn sheep.

In order to fully appreciate the potential of this unique project and the ambitious plans for its future, one must consider the man who is dedicated to its development. In this world there are many dreamers, and many doers. Each serves a purpose, but the ideal situation is where an individual possesses both attributes. Such a person is Frederick W. Sleight, director of the Palm Springs Desert Museum and its leader in the development of the Living Desert Center.

The Museum was started in 1938 on a small scale by a group of interested, civic-minded citizens. About five years ago it was expanded into a two-story building with an art gallery on the second floor, and the Marcuse Memorial Auditorium for the presentation of films, lectures, etc. It is now a \$650,000 contemporary cultural-resource center devoted to the Arts and Sciences, affording a stimulating variety of exhibitions, film series, lectures, field trips and school services. The Palm Springs Desert Museum's field of interest covers practically the full range of academic subjects, offering the participant refreshing experiences in beauty and depth.

The temples of the Egyptian priests around 3000 B.C. were museums and treasure houses. Whatever there was of value in the life of the community was sheltered there. A museum can be a dark, dull, musty resting place for mummies; or a light, interesting, living institution that serves as an exhibition place for objects of lasting interest. Mr. Sleight is in accord with the latter definition. He feels that visual education adds enjoyment and interest to the satisfaction of learning and that the recent trend in this direction is a break-through in the problem of imparting knowledge.

Thus far, all that has been discussed actually exists and may be enjoyed by Coachella Valley residents and visitors. However, plans for the future are so impressive and exciting that they warrant mention here. They are concerned with conservation of natural resources, which is defined as the prevention of waste of man's physical environment, including wildlife. One of the outstanding leaders in conservation of natural resources was Theodore Roosevelt. Even though one-fifth of the world's land is desert, our own region is in a class by itself and should be preserved.

About a dozen years ago, a well-known desert-minded individual recognized this

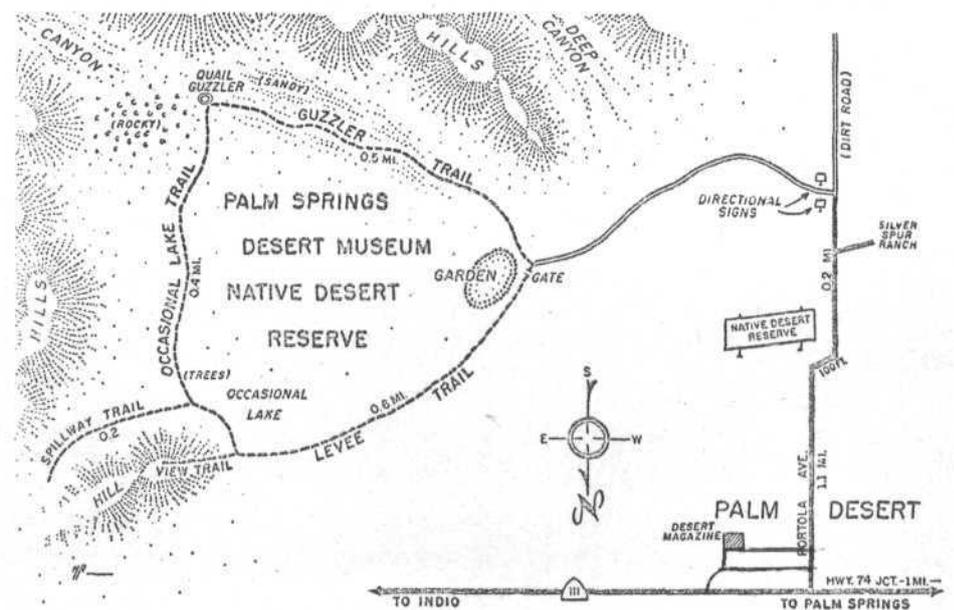
fact and did something about it. Philip L. Boyd, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Desert Museum and a regent of the University of California, was concerned with the changing face of the desert and decided that it was high time that a portion of it be labeled, "do not disturb." He was responsible for the Native Desert Reserve, with its nature trails and native plant display. At present, Philip Boyd heads a special committee within the board of directors of the museum in directing the development of the new concept of desert conservation.

The Living Desert Center of the Desert Museum will be an integrated, total display of the Colorado Desert's living situation as it is today. Its purpose will be to preserve and interpret a typical portion

in a small auditorium within the building. An adequate parking area for automobiles will be provided at the entrance.

Visitors to the Living Desert Center of the Desert Museum will view live mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and plants in natural outdoor settings. Bighorn sheep, coyote, deer, foxes, mountain lion, and other animals common to this region, and the adjacent mountains will be shown in their native environment, with the illusion that they just happened to stroll down to the water hole. Retaining barricades will be camouflaged in such a way that the visitors will feel that the animals are free to roam the area, or even depart to the mountain top at will.

A paved road will lead to the entrance of the Living Desert Center. From here,



of the native environment. Dramatic stories of sand dunes and giant alluvial fans will form a portion of the geologic interpretation, while at the same time the role of ancient man in this arid region will be displayed. Also, dynamic exhibits and programs in the interpretation building will explain the origin of the desert, the "how" of our mountain creation, and the strange role of weather in controlling the desert scene.

Native materials will be used in the construction of the Center's main building. These will blend into the surroundings. An effort will be made to keep the structure from appearing that it was "placed" on the site. It will actually be a part of the desert. This building, to be located at the Center's entrance, will feature exhibits, dioramas, and displays keyed to the area. Also, films and slide presentations of the desert will be offered

hiking trails and equestrian paths will provide the visitor with an opportunity to tour the Center on foot, on horseback, by bicycle or tricycle, or even by surrey. The most important restriction will be that the desert animals must not be disturbed, frightened, nor distracted from regular living habits. After all, this is their land, and we will be their guests.

Mr. Sleight says, "We must move now to preserve a portion of Nature's gifts, together with man's achievements in art, music, and science in order to realize a total result of the good things in life. Through this aggregate of cultural influences we may look forward to a better life ahead." When the Living Desert Center of the Desert Museum is completed it will be truly a living institution. The question won't be "have you seen it"—but rather, "do you see it frequently?" □



Flying saucers land here.

by June Pearson



his is a rock to make a bad little boy stop and think a bit. It is located on the high desert, about sixteen miles north of Twentynine Palms

Highway or Highway 62, between Yucca Valley and Joshua Tree. It weighs more than the Los Angeles City Hall. It is far enough from Hollywood to keep it from being colossal, but it is a giant and it is properly named Giant Rock.

George Van Tassel, who has been its companion for the past 18 years, said, with a kind of quiet pride, "It is seven stories high." The events which have transpired since it was thrust through to the surface of the earth make a person wonder what it withstood in the past. It is like a glacier; a lot of it is under ground.

Our knowledge begins in 1929 when Frank Critzer, an American of German descent, left the fishing fleet in Santa Monica and went to the high desert for his health. In his search for a site on which to settle, the jutting rock caught his attention.

Most persons coming upon such an oversized boulder would have granted it a right to sole occupancy of the land, but Frank thought differently. His plan was not to live within its shadow, but to penetrate it, and for him it became a haven and a grave.

He opened up a mining claim there and tackled the solid stone with chisel and dynamite. He hollowed a home out of its very heart, down underground. He had to haul water from a neighboring well, but he made concrete steps down into his primitive shelter. In the hot desert summer cement cracks and buckles, but Frank managed to mix an especially fine, hard, cement and his work still

This is a true story about

Mr. Van Tassel who lives in a rock

and has a

Time Machine



Inside the rock.

stands. Many have tried to learn his secret, but he worked and lived alone, almost as uncommunicative as the rock, offering nothing, asking nothing, and telling nothing. With his underground dwelling completed, he was cool in the summer, warm in the winter and with tons of granite overhead, he didn't have to worry about the roof leaking when it rained.

Freed of the upkeep that goes with an ordinary home, he turned to his outer surroundings. By building some remarkably straight roads and creating an airport on the naturally smooth, dry lake nearby, he provided himself with an income. Seeing his windsock flying, pilots began to land there for one reason and another. Soon he was servicing and repairing planes.

So large a rock is interesting, but a rock with a human tenant is a definite attraction. People around the high desert began to pack picnic lunches and drive out to visit Frank and marvel at his ideas and accomplishments.

This phase in the existence of the rock lasted for 13 years. It ended abruptly and tragically on July 25, 1942. Three deputy sheriffs from Riverside County arrived to investigate the allegations that the 59-year old man had either stolen gasoline, tools and dynamite from Garnet, Banning and Palm Springs, was a German spy, or had failed to register for the draft. The deputies said they followed Frank into his underground home and questioned him for 30 minutes. They further stated that



The Time Machine.

when they told him they were taking him into Banning, he touched off 200 pounds of dynamite and blew himself to bits. The blast set off some ammunition which started a fire that burned for hours.

According to newspaper accounts at the time, the law enforcement officers sustained cuts and bruises and some temporary deafening caused by being in the confines of the stone cavern when the explosion occurred. There was no evidence found to indicate the "mystery man" of the desert was guilty or innocent of the charges that might have been levied against him. What was once a cozy shelter became an empty cavity and the rock stood, ignored, for five years.

In 1947 George Van Tassel left the busy Los Angeles area and went, with his wife and three daughters, to the desert. He had been employed for 27 years with Howard Hughes and Lockheed as a flight test engineer. He leased 2600 acres, including the rock, from the government. The three rooms down-under

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with their piped air ducts were no longer deserted. The rock rang with the sounds of children.

There was no electricity there then, but Van Tassel built a cafe and installed a light plant. The girls attended school in Twentynine Palms and by the time Sandra, the youngest, had graduated from high school, she had traveled a distance equal to three times around the world on the school bus.

Mr. Van Tassel built a cafe and now ever increasing numbers of people come by plane and car. They are from all stations in life, both military and civilian, and they come for varied reasons. Some love the quiet of the open desert. These come in cars and campers to stay a few days or weeks. They pay nothing for the space they take, but usually give something for the water they use and the facilities that are provided. There are others who are rock hunting and here they find garnets, copper sulphate, agate and jasper. These can be picked up from the surface, but for those who are willing to dig, there are ruby, amethyst and striated quartz specimens. It is a great place to go with just a tent and a passenger car because the way in from the highway is a good, bladed road. There is, however, a stiff penalty for any over zealous rock-hound trying to haul off the Giant Rock.

Within the area of the Van Tassel domain are startling contrasts. Close to the big rock are mountains of smaller rocks piled one on top of the other which appear to have been dropped from the sky by a lordly spaceship. Nearby are the hardened deposits of volcanic action. Here, on one occasion, astronauts came to practice for a manned landing on the moon. Struggling over the black, jagged terrain, they could easily believe that they had been suddenly transported to our satellite. Their maneuvers completed, they ate at the Van Tassel cafe and visited while the residents of the high desert thought they were on the carefully guarded Twentynine Palms Marine Base.

In addition to tourists viewing the rock and rock-hounds looking for gem stones, there are those who come because of their interest in unidentified flying objects. Giant Rock and George Van Tassel have been hosts for years to the world renowned Flying Saucer Convention. George's knowledge of aircraft led to a natural interest in the phenomenon and a desire to solve the mystery of their source and motive power. The clear atmosphere and open space make observation easy, so every fall, usually in October, between 6,000 and 15,000 people from all over

the world converge on the plains around the rock.

For two days the wind-swept desert is aswarm with chuck wagons selling food and drink to believers and curiosity-seekers alike. Portable rest rooms are strategically located and the company who provides them is somehow able to state exactly how large a crowd has graced a particular gathering.

Mounting the high podium, authorities on U.F.O. lecture on the subject and those who have written books on the subject discuss their publications. The effort to find a true answer to what thousands of reliable people have reported seeing has occupied many serious students. As evidence of this is the continuing interest of the huge audiences Mr. Van Tassel has lectured before during the past nine years, in the United States and Canada. He has also appeared on more than 300 radio and TV shows and uncounted articles have been written about the conventions.

Upstaging the rock as a landmark is the "Dome" at the entrance to the convention grounds. In front of it is a sign which reads:

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The reason for the building being without metal is because Integratron generates an electrical field that encompasses the entire structure. The Integratron is not a healing device, but it is said to retard aging. Its purpose is to re-energize living matter by recharging cells. The "Dome" is the College of Universal Wisdom, a branch of the Ministry of Universal Wisdom. Religion and Science merged, G. W. Van Tassel, presiding minister. This is a non-sectarian and non-profit organization for religious and scientific research. They print a bi-monthly booklet called the *Proceedings*. While the "Dome"

The Brain Behind the Line

by Arnold Marquiss



hose idea it is, is a little like who's on first, but out here in California we think the person who originated the idea that today virtually circles the earth was a woman—a young woman who brought her ailing husband to the Imperial Valley just after the turn of the century.

She was Dr. June McCarroll and she gave up a promising practice to live in the desert of Coachella Valley. To be near her husband, she became a government doctor for five Indian reservations. When she arrived from the East, friendly Indians warned her about mingling with the Indians and about the opposition of the medicine men. She strapped on a six-shooter big enough to blow a man to kingdom come, carried it in a holster in plain sight and conveyed the idea that she would not hesitate to use it.

Doc June became known all over the valley, chugging over the desert roads in a Model T Ford. One day, between Indio and Palm Springs, a truck-driver bullied her little Model T right off the narrow concrete pavement.

Stuck there alone, she had some ideas

is reported to be six times stronger than an ordinary building, it would still be pitting a puny strength against the solid stability of the rock.

In the Giant's largest room, with its rough-hewn walls, there are blackened

about wider roads but a little later, on the road to Kane Springs, she noticed something. Here the road was constructed of two sections, separated in the middle by a joint. Doc June noticed that at this point the passing cars had no trouble staying on their own side. That joint in the middle was the line of demarcation.

If there was a definite line down the center of all roads, she reasoned, it would be easier for motorists to stay on their own side, and it would promote safety.

She took the idea to the County Board of Supervisors. They tabled it. She took it to every civic body that would listen to her. They gave her lip service, but nothing more. She presented the idea to her own women's club, and she was invited to address other women's clubs in the area. The women got up a petition and sent it to Sacramento.

The state highway department jumped at the idea. Without waiting for legislation, they painted a white line down the center of the road five miles long on Highway 99 in front of Doc June's house.

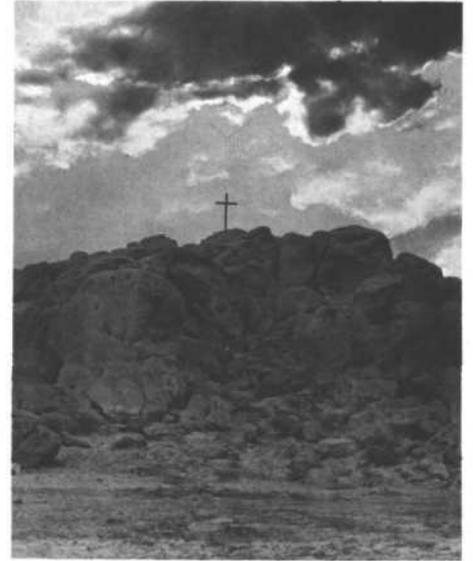
That was the first white highway line in California. Today the white line, and lines of many other kinds, are used on highways all over the world. □

spots which testify to the explosion that rocked the rock. In the family of rocks, from pebbles to boulders, this giant is unique. Without sound or movement, it has attracted thousands of interested and interesting people. □

Borrego Springs boasts this cross. Situated high above the tiny community on the bare hills, it marks the end of a rough trail pursued by rock hounds. Coyote Canyon may be seen to the north, the Salton Sea to the east, and the vast Borrego desert to the south.

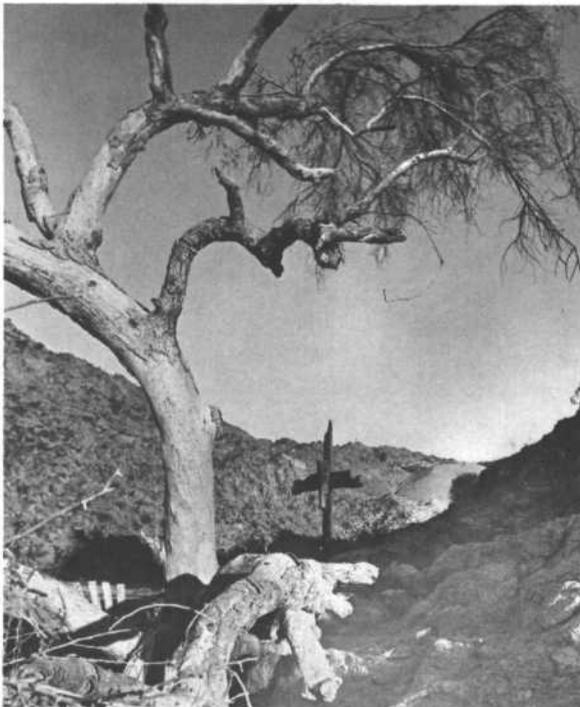


Sunset at Thousand Palms is punctuated by the rough hewn cross on the low hill above the oasis. The oasis, with its hidden lake and home of desert philosopher Paul Wilhelm is one of the desert's most photogenic spots. The cross was built by Wilhelm's sons before they left home. "We're leaving paradise," they told their father. "We want this cross to remind us of what we left."



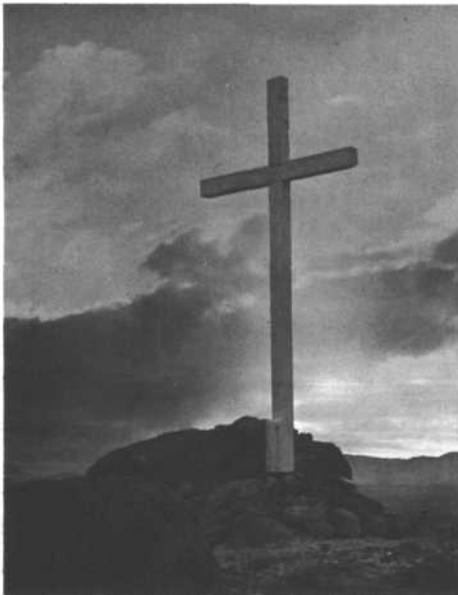
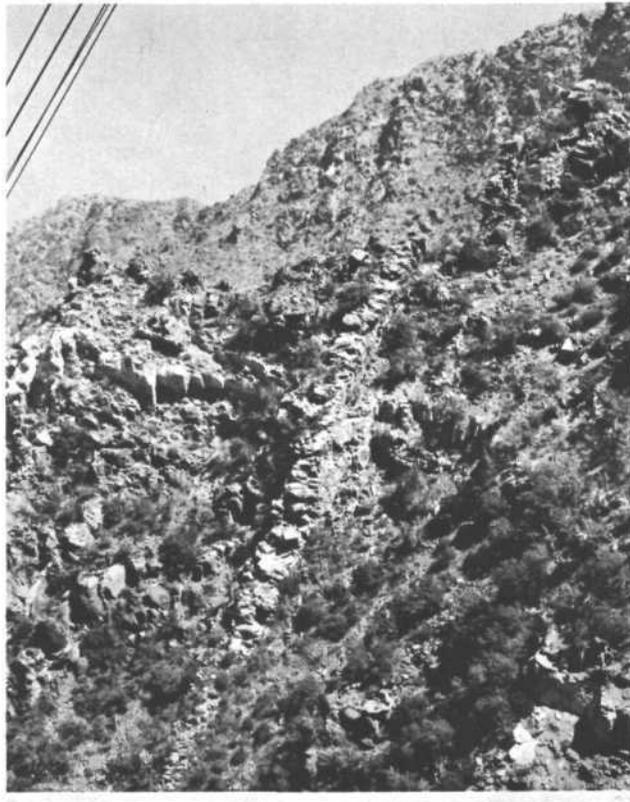
DESERT CROSSES

by Frank Taylor



Dead Indian Wash at the foot of Seven Level Hill, less than four miles from Palm Desert is the location of this rough cross. Using a chunk of Palm frond with a burning iron, the builder inscribed a protest to "Bombs and civilized man." A tiny shrine is located next to the cross. The wash may be found on the right hand side of the road by turning off Highway 74 just before the first small bridge. The cross is on the right about one block up the wash.

A natural stone cross lies high on the slopes of Chino Canyon, next to the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway route. It was caused by what geologists term a "dyke." It is the highest of all desert crosses—over 7000 feet above sea level.



Coral Point, directly behide Travertine Rock at the Imperial, Riverside County lines is the site of Easter sunrise services each year. It commands a view of the Coachella Valley and Salton Sea. The point is doubly interesting because of the tufa deposits encrusted on the rock, which were mistaken for travertine by an early explorer. Prehistoric petroglyphs, and some unfortunate historic ones, may be seen on these rocks.

Erected by horseback riding clubs, this cross presides over Highway 111 at the southern city limits of Palm Springs. A graded road approaches it, but becomes impassible half way up the incline. It is a good hike, as the view in three directions is dramatic and exciting.

A lonely cross high on the hills above Ransburg, California stretches its arms in the sun. Natures offering of hot sand and desert wild flowers graces its foot. Behind the cross is the empty cabin of a miner who never returned. Who built the cross? Nobody knows.



Photo opposite page: Andreas Canyon is one of nature's many beauty spots near Palm Springs.

GORGEOUS GORGES

by Jack Delaney



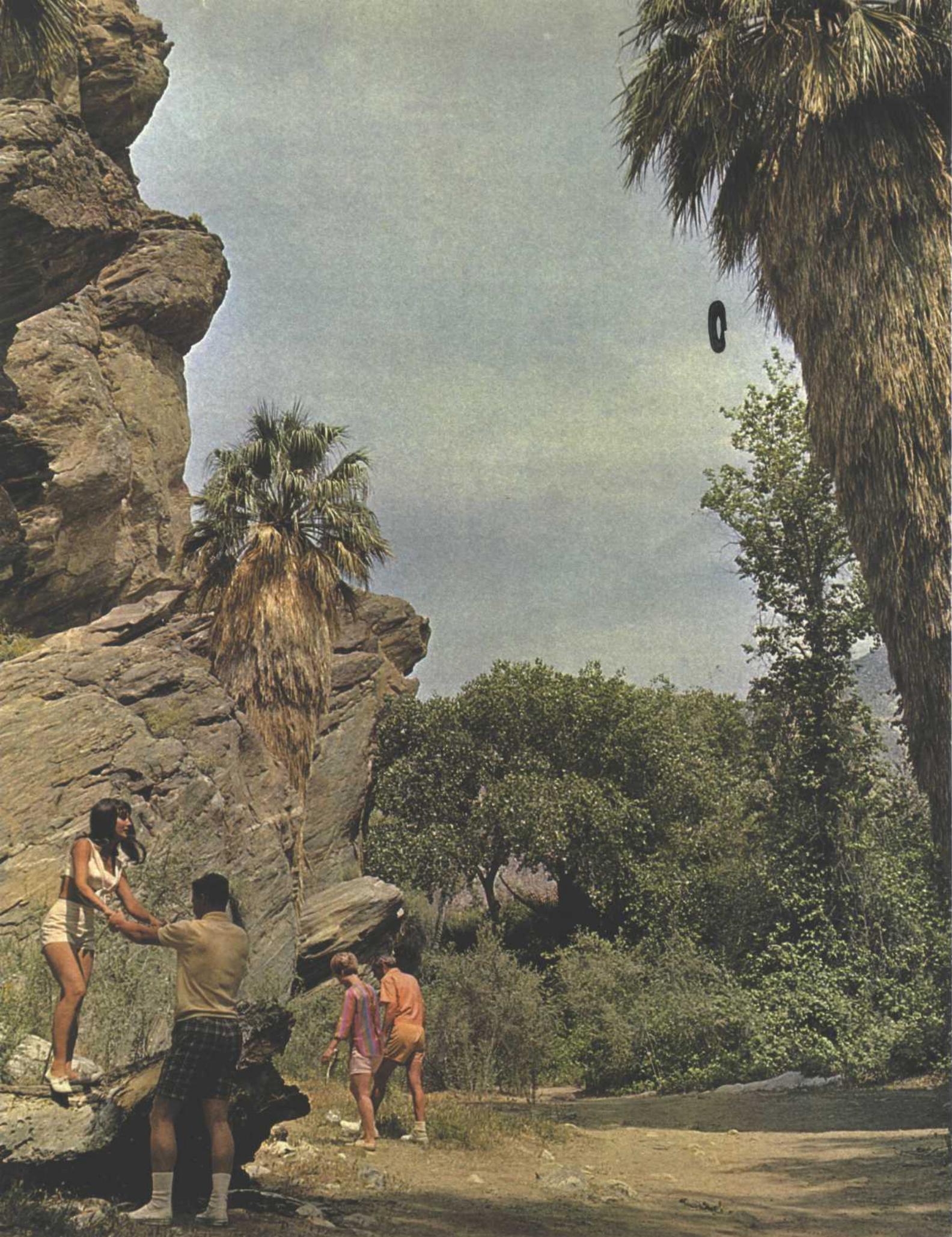
any moons ago, when the moon was an inspiration rather than a destination, small bands of Cahuilla Indians struck out in various directions from the mountain top, seeking the end of the rainbow. The group that is now known as the Agua Caliente tribe of Mission Indians found it in the canyons adjacent to Palm Springs. Incidentally, they also discovered that the "pot of gold" story is true!

Tahquitz Canyon, Andreas Canyon, Murray Canyon, and Palm Canyon were designated as permanent tribal reserves by the Congress of the United States in 1959. The Agua Caliente Indian Reser-

vation is located at the south end of Palm Springs, in the Coachella Valley of Southern California. Many visitors to this desert land of sunshine and fun are unaware of the rugged attributes and artistic charm hidden away in the recesses of the San Jacinto mountains. They should take advantage of these unusual opportunities for recreation. The reservation is open to the public from mid-October to mid-May each year.

Remarkable Tahquitz Canyon is only about a mile and a quarter south of Ramon Road, along the base of the San Jacinto mountains. It is on Indian land but not within the reservation, so the season schedule and admission fee do not apply to this bit of heaven. Anyone who can walk a short distance over an easy hiking trail may experience the thrill of Tahquitz, winter or summer, without even a token charge for the delightful treat. He should park his car on





Ramon Road, west of Palm Canyon Drive (toward the mountain) and plan on a hike of about one hour each direction.

Starting on what might be called a rough road, he will reach a path in a few minutes that leads toward the canyon. Upon arriving at a fork in the path, the south side of the stream should be taken. Suddenly, an "out of this world" scene appears a short distance ahead. Tahquitz Canyon represents one of the area's most spectacular sights—the phenomenon of a roaring 60-foot waterfall on the desert! It is an unbelievably beautiful and inspiring lost world of privacy and serenity.

Because of its natural beauty this canyon was selected as the Shangra-La location for the motion picture, *Lost Horizon*. In one scene, the heroine rode a white horse into the pool below the waterfall and then appeared, still on the horse, at the top of the falls. With no intention of spoiling a motion picture illusion, it must be stated that the horse received major assistance in his ascent to the top of the falls. In fact, hikers are warned that climbing above the falls is dangerous—the rocks are slick and stretches are treacherously loose underfoot.

The name Tahquitz is a magic word to the Indians—many legends abound around it. The most popular is that Tahquitz was a powerful but bad leader who lived in the canyon. He feasted on little children! The tribe caught him and disposed of him, but he returned in spirit to cause the people trouble—he is still up the canyon. He is responsible for train wrecks, automobile accidents, and all sorts of disasters. To this day, when he is irritated, he sends a "Tahquitz Twister" roaring down the canyon, a wind that whips the palm trees and stirs up the sand, to notify the people in the village that he is upset!

Majestic Andreas Canyon, named for old Chief Andreas of the Cahuilla Indian tribe, is within the Agua Caliente Indian reservation and can be reached by a paved road all the way. After the visitor passes through the reservation toll gate

at the end of South Palm Canyon Drive and pays a small entrance fee, he should drive a short distance ahead to the Andreas Canyon directional sign, then turn right. A drive of about a mile on this road will bring him to the mouth of the canyon. If he feels like hiking along a winding trail he will find a picturesque waterfall about a mile up the canyon.

Should he not be disposed to hiking the trails, he can still enjoy the entrance area by relaxing on a picnic bench beside the vigorous stream that courses through the canyon. In addition to picnic facilities and a wading pool, there are numerous hiking and riding trails and a tremendous display of cottonwood, sycamore, and native *Washingtonia* palm trees. At some time in the past, great granite stratifications were upthrust from the yielding sands to produce some of the most dramatic rock effects in any of the canyons.

One of the famous rock ledges was used by the Indian women over 100 years ago to grind mesquite beans and seeds for the family supper. Mortar holes can still be seen in the rock ledge and remnants of old Indian pictographs are present near the foot of the cliff. Upstream a short distance are modified rock shelters which housed the Indians long ago.

A legend that could be related to this canyon concerns a very fine young woman, the Moon Maiden. She taught the people, especially the girls, to dance and play games. She taught the girls and women to rise early and bathe in the pool before the men arose. She was good and everyone loved her. One night she went up in the sky where the people couldn't find her. They were very sad. Then a few evenings later they saw her in the pool smiling up at them. They thought she was in the water until they looked up to the sky. According to the legend, this was the "first time of the new moon."

Primitive Murray Canyon is just south of Andreas Canyon, but is less accessible by road. However, the visitor may leave his car at the Andreas parking area and hike over a good trail to this canyon.

Upon reaching the mouth of Murray, he will discover that it is far more imposing than the entrance to Andreas. Its rocky sides are far apart and the space between is a wilderness of cacti, flowering shrubs, and rocky boulders. A placid mountain stream and many glorious palms add to this attractive setting. It is wild and mysterious and one of the largest of the Indian canyons.

This rugged, interesting spot was named for Dr. Welwood Murray who was a rugged, interesting pioneer. He started a trend by building the first hotel in Palm Springs, in 1886. It has been rumored that a band of wild ponies has been seen, on occasion, in Murray Canyon. Perhaps they are descendants of some of the Indian ponies that traversed this land in the early days. The canyon offers many picnicking spots, but no comfort or other convenience facilities are provided. It is an ideal area for hiking, exploring, and bird watching, with perhaps some wild pony watching for those who like to watch wild ponies.

Fascinating Palm Canyon is one of the outstanding attractions in the Palm Springs area. In fact, it is the best known of the Indian canyons and the most popular palm oasis of the entire Colorado Desert. It is a 15-mile-long desert gorge through which courses a stream of icy snow water running off the mountains, with small pools of natural hot mineral water bubbling up through the sand. The fact that hot and cold running water was available probably appealed to the Indians when they discovered Palm Canyon years ago.

To reach this ancient and delightful place, just drive along the main road of the reservation to its end. Ample parking space is available and a little trading post is operated for the benefit of souvenir hunters. From this point, the visitor may hike down a short trail to the canyon floor and into a forest of 3000 wild *Washingtonia* Palms, some of which are 50 to 60 feet in height. These range in age from seedlings to 300 years, with a few as old as 2500 years. This is a beautiful canyon. The palms are magnificent, the geology is impressive, and birdlife is abundant.

The visitor will also see trees which are typical of California's lower elevation: willows, sycamores, alders, and tamarisk. Looking higher on the canyon slopes he will see mesquite and catsclaw, which often have desert mistletoe entwined in their branches. Also, there are creosote bushes and various types of cactus. Many of the palms are clothed in ground-sweeping "skirts."

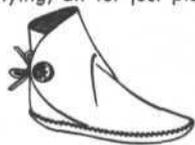
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Palm Canyon was a special source of food supply for early Indians. There were at least 60 varieties of edible wild plants and seeds. The Cahuilla women, in searching for food, carried baskets suspended from the top of their heads by a net made of yucca fiber. They gathered acorns, mesquite beans, and palm seeds which were later ground into flour. Though no longer a source of food, Palm Canyon provides the camera fan with unlimited photographic material and the visitor with a sight that is not easily forgotten.

A recent promising project involving portions of Indian land is the proposed highway from Palm Springs through Palm Canyon and other virgin terrain to Highway 74, intersecting around the Pinyon Flats area. The road, about 15 miles in length, will feature an absence of sharp curves and turns, and will cut driving time to Idyllwild and the coast about 20 minutes. Two approaches from Palm Springs are being considered—Palm Canyon Drive and Sunrise Way. The Agua Caliente Indians, who have an interest in the project, are not offering opposition to it, but appear to favor the Sunrise Way approach.

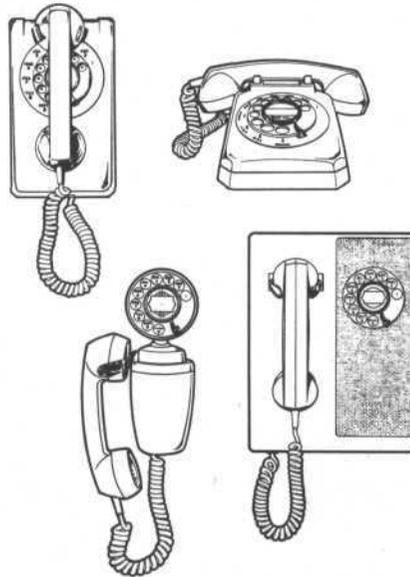
Francis Crocker, popularly known as the "Father of the Tramway," has been the sparkplug for this idea from its inception. His contagious enthusiasm rubbed off on so many other civic leaders and businessmen that success of the project is practically assured. Senator Cologne proposed it as a state highway some time ago, but after a preliminary survey of traffic, etc., the state decided against it. Riverside County is now sponsoring a new detailed survey which should be completed soon. The next step will be to obtain the necessary rights-of-way. When completed, it will be part of our county road system.

This thoroughfare will open up six townships for recreational activity, mountain cabins, and permanent homes. Several mesas along the route would lend themselves ideally to residential development. The weather is perfect. There is no windy situation such as exists in some of the pass regions and, since the whole area is part of the Desert Water Agency, water is available throughout for future development. The road will go from 400 feet up to 4000 feet elevation, passing through many life zones, permitting future residents to choose the level they prefer or the elevation that is best for their health. It will expand the desert area in livability, beauty, and accessibility.

In the beginning *Um Naw*, the good

spirit of the Indians, created the canyons especially for their enjoyment. At intervals since, various earth movements have changed the canyons, but these changes have been in the direction of grandeur and charm. The red man has generously shared his blessings with the white man

(both are *tan men* on the desert). If the proposed projects, mentioned above, and other ideas which might develop, open this beautiful region to a greater number of appreciative people, it is likely that *Um Naw* will rejoice in his teepee in the happy hunting grounds up above. □



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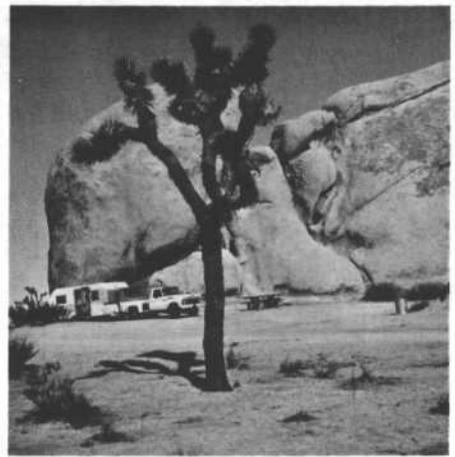
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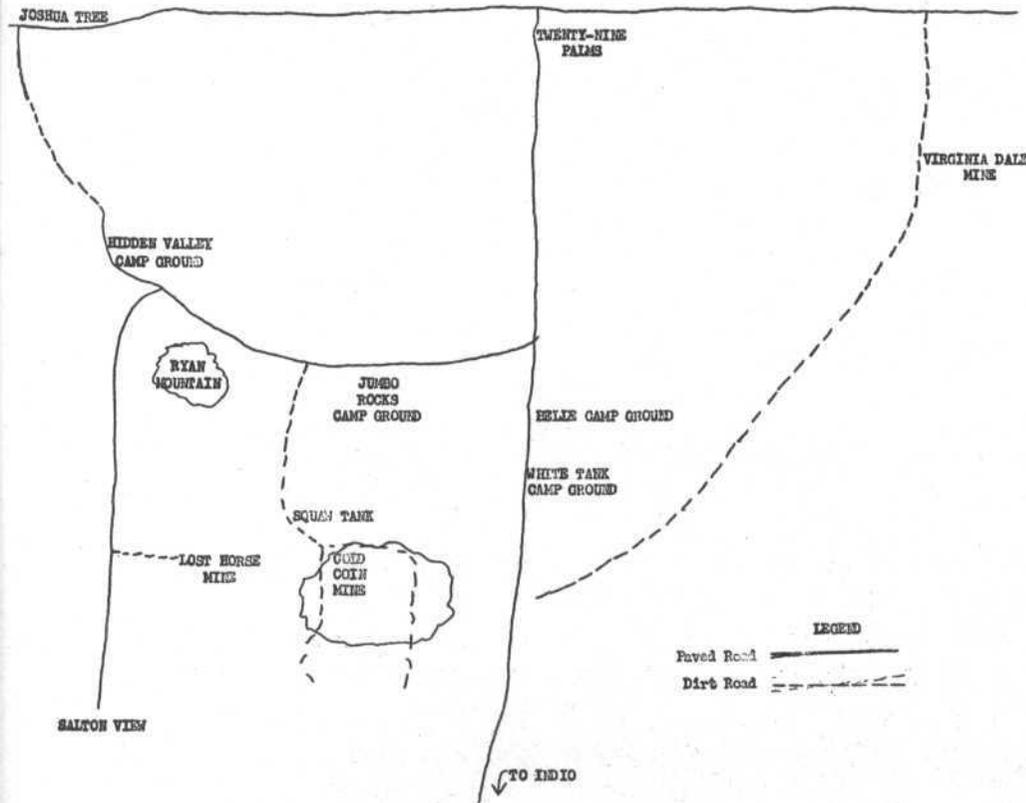
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If you really want to see the desert Travel the Back Roads



Top photo: Camping areas are well-planned in the Joshua Tree Monument. Bottom photo: Bill Keys engraved this stone for grave of early miner.



by Bill Barnard



portions of Joshua Tree Monument are accessible by paved roads, but much of the park remains relatively untraveled. Unaccustomed to driving desert trails, most motorists hesitate to leave the pavement for the unknown. This is regrettable, for the real beauty and solitude of this area is best appreciated from "back roads."

The Monument is open year round and the roads are clear. Summer temperatures are warm, but not unbearable. Winter nights may be freezing with day temperatures pleasant. The advantages of the off-season visit is the probability of completely unoccupied camp grounds. Though no firewood nor supplies are available in the Monument, water may be obtained at Cottonwood Spring and near

Ryan Mountain on the paved road between Jumbo Rocks and Hidden Valley Camp Grounds. The towns of Twenty-nine Palms and Joshua Tree are not far away.

Our method for exploring the Monument and its environs is to park the trailer at one of the camp grounds and go forth from there with trail bikes or our four-wheel drive truck. For safety's sake, when riding bikes we never ride alone. Regardless of mode of travel or time of year, we take water and, when possible, extra gas and oil. The locations described in this article are sites which I enjoy seeing time and again; they are representative, but by no means the only places to see. To locate these, and other points likely to be interesting, we use U.S. Geodetic Survey Maps, which are detailed and complete. Places within the Monument boundaries must be reached via marked trails and roads. To attempt a cross-country route in a conventional drive vehicle is impossible and in any case, would virtually guarantee the driver

a free trip to the United States Commissioner who may give a choice of a fine or jail.

Lost Horse Mine is a well preserved mine site three miles east of the paved Salton View Highway. The road is primitive, but easily traversed on trail bikes, four-wheel drive vehicles, or pick up trucks. There are several versions about the discovery of this mine. The most credulous goes back to the 1890s when horse thieves used the area for re-branding stolen animals.

Three prospectors were camped by a spring adjacent to the present mine site when their horses disappeared. While searching for them, one of the men found a vein of gold. He did not tell his companions about the discovery, but took an ore sample. When the three reached town, the prospector sold the mine site to a John Lang. Lang included the other two prospectors in a partnership and they commenced mining operations. The mine was profitable. A man named Ryan bought out the two original prospectors.

Operations continued with Ryan and Lang as partners until Ryan supposedly caught Lang in the act of hi-grading the mine. Lang was forced to sell to Ryan and Lang moved into a shack elsewhere in the Valley. Later, Lang died in the desert, destitute. His body was found by Bill Keys who buried him in a grave next to what is now the Salton View Highway, near the turnoff to the mine site. The headstone was hand chiseled by Keys and only recently put on the grave. Those visiting the mine might be interested in the 42nd State Mineralogist Report of 1945, which advises the shaft is about 500 feet deep at an 85° angle. Horizontal shafts radiate at 100 foot intervals to the 400 foot level. The vein varies from several inches to several feet wide. Approximately \$350,000 in ore was produced through the 10-stamp mill at the mine. Lack of water and increased operating costs were prime factors in the decision to abandon operations.

The Gold Coin Mine is located in the misnamed Pleasant Valley and is one of my favorite sites. It is reached via Squaw Tank, with the road entering the Valley from the northwest. The trail past Squaw Tank is posted, indicating infrequent patrols by Monument Rangers. It is an easy road to drive. When I first visited this site, the cabin had fallen down, but the wood was still there. Nearby was an old Auto Club sign (naturally, shot up by vandals) which indicated distance and direction to Indio, Banning, etc. Although the sign showed the directions,

only faint tracks remained to remind the visitors of travelers of years ago. The sign has been removed and all that now remains is an outline of the rock foundation where the cabin once stood. The cement foundations for mine equipment have withstood the ravages of time. The horizontal shaft is only about 50 feet deep. The mining operations terminated in part, due to the low grade ore. Caution should be exercised, as next to the trail and near the mine is a poorly marked vertical shaft of unknown depth, into which a car could fall.

The Dale District, of which the Virginia Dale Mine is a part, is mentioned for those who cannot reach the Lost Horse Mine. This area has good dirt roads and the Virginia Dale is within easy walking distance from the main dirt road. Hoist and winch structures are still standing, as well as the old bunk and cook houses. The mine has had intermittent operations from the 1890s, with the latest in 1937. Ore removed from the mine was treated by amalgamation and cyanidation. The large volumes of water required for the ore processing was pumped from a well several miles distant. A State Division of Mines Report estimates the gold concentration at contemporary value is about \$12 a ton.

Words and pictures cannot describe the feeling for the desert; they can only excite the imagination and stimulate the desire. So, with maps in hand, drive off the pavement and see beauty on the back roads of Joshua. □

Relics of old Virginia Dale Mine are still intact.



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by Jack Delaney



Can you tell a fire agate, imbedded in milky white chalcedony, from a fried egg—sunny side up? Do you know the difference between a geode and a hard-boiled egg with a dirty shell? Can you distinguish a conglomerate from a chunk of fruit cake? Do you enjoy abusing the tires of your car, and even the car itself, on occasion? Do you feel exhilarated upon arising before daybreak? If so, why not buy yourself a rock hammer and a "booty" sack, and strike out after some of the "gemmy" stuff.

Personally, I struck out on the "arising before daybreak" bit. To me, any time before 8 a.m. is still midnight. After slight exposure to rock hunting, I seriously question the need to rise at 5:00 a.m. The rocks aren't going anywhere, they have been resting for centuries; so why is it necessary to sneak up on them

while they are sleeping—or rather, while we are sleeping!

My slight exposure to the hobby consists of a couple of recent outings with a couple of rock hounds. Ventures into the realm of rocks is a popular activity in and around the Coachella Valley of Southern California. Our trips took us to Pebble Terrace (about 10 miles toward the mountains from Palo Verde, in the Blythe region) and to an area along highway 78, about 13 miles west of highway 99, near the Borrego Badlands. The first location yielded some interesting stones, including fire agates, and the second rewarded us with a generous supply of petrified wood.

Actually, it was the hope of finding arrowheads that attracted me to these hunting grounds, but none were seen. My collection of three, found more than 20 years ago at the base of Mt. Konocti in Lake County, is still a collection of three. Also, I entertained a secret hope that I might stumble onto some black gold and

start a whole new series in DESERT Magazine entitled, "It's A Secret, Only Twelve Of Us Know It!" However, my efforts resulted in no finds that would justify a yell of "Eureka."

A field trip or two with an expert can be enlightening to the non-rock hound. For instance, he wonders why his friend pounces on innocent little rocks and smashes them with his hammer. He may think of the Chinese restaurant gourmet who pounces on a fortune cookie, and after crushing it is rewarded with a handful of crumbs and a tape reading, "Better to have crumbs in hand than rocks in head!" His rock hound friend has persistence—he'll continue to smash rocks until he finds a gem that will repay him for the effort expended.

When the learner finds a beautiful specimen and is convinced that it is the real thing, the expert will rule it out as "not gemmy." When, after an intensive search, he comes up with what he knows is petrified wood, his friend examines it and agrees it is wood, and it is petrified, then he always adds, "but it isn't agatized." The newcomer to the rock pile soon learns that in order to properly judge a stone, the surface must be wet. Here again, he can learn the most efficient technique from the old timer.

The mark of the pro is in the method by which he conducts the saliva test. The novice drops the saliva from his mouth and rubs it around the stone with his thumb! The pro picks up the stone and licks it with his tongue! On our trips, we saw many rocks on the ground with a gloss, or sheen, on the upper surface. It was explained that this covering is desert varnish caused by the elements, but I wondered if the lifting and licking of these rocks through the years had something to do with their glossy appearance.

The first formation of rocks occurred before there was any life on earth. According to H. G. Wells, in *The Outline of History*, the oldest rocks must have been formed before there was a sea, when the earth was too hot for a sea to exist. He also stated that the markings and fossils in the rocks, and the rocks themselves, are the first historical documents; and that it has been only within the last couple of centuries that man has begun the serious and sustained deciphering of these long-neglected pages of his world's history.

During the Neolithic stage of our culture, about 10,000 or 12,000 years ago, there were polished stones and arrowheads. Jade and amber, and even

Continued on Page 37

When it comes to dates,

It's the end-product that counts

by Jack Delaney



Industry — shministry— who cares? I came here to relax, swim, sunbathe, play golf, and guzzle a few date shakes. This is the reaction you may receive upon advising a new arrival to the Palm Springs area that he will have an opportunity to learn all about the date industry. Certainly, no fault can be found with his outlined program; but it could be pointed out that date-shakes are not made with avacadoes.

Quite often a visitor to this sunny sandpile loves fresh dates, but has no interest in the details or problems of the industry. His attitude is that, whether dates or yo-yos are produced, the end-product is all that matters. Naturally, the desert dweller is proud of this important industry, but it would be a waste of time to try to impress every tourist with facts, such as: more than 90% of all the dates in the United States are grown in the Coachella Valley of Southern California, or that there are 220,000 healthy palms here that produce in excess of 48 million pounds of fruit annually.

A better idea might be to start with the end-product by sweetening him up with a few *Deglet Noors*, the light brown date with a firm, chewy texture; then ease into a story related to the introduction of the industry into the United States. It is known that the Department of Agriculture sent horticulturists on exploratory journeys to the flip-side of the world for scientific snooping around the beginning of the century. They brought back offshoots of the finest varieties of dates, but not without some difficulties. The following episode, supposedly true, sounds like an action scene from a late-late movie on television:

"Suddenly, in the middle of the night, the Arabs swooped down on the camp of California date importers with blazing rifles and flashing scimitars. The importers had gone to the Persian Gulf area of Arabia to obtain offshoots from a well-protected garden in which a rare variety of date was being grown. All went well until a native in the palms, in whom they

had confided, proved to be a snake in the grass and informed on his new-found friends. In the darkness of the night the Americans managed to escape with their lives, and a few of the precious offshoots."

Don't be disturbed if your friend doubts the authenticity of this story. So did the author, until he learned the following from another source: "Because the date is sacred to all Mohammedans, perhaps sensing a new competitor in the making, the Arabs were not too anxious to

cooperate. In spite of this fact, offshoots from the finest varieties were obtained; though some of them had to be taken out in the dead of the night. One date importer left a civil war raging in his wake!"

If he is still skeptical, just launch into another story for him to doubt, this time with a romantic tinge. Hand him a *Khalasa* or two and explain that this date, the quintessence of delight in the days of King Solomon, was conceded to be the very finest the world had ever known. At that time it was grown only in the royal



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gardens of Sheba, on the Persian Gulf of Arabia. When the Queen of Sheba offered a gift of Khalasas to King Solomon, he was so impressed that he blessed the seed of this rare date that it should never fail to bear fruit so long as time should last.

This moving story should move your out-of-towner, especially when he bites into another Khalasa. A relatively small quantity of this luscious gem is produced in the Coachella Valley. It is too delicate for commercial handling so, in order to experience the taste treat that impressed King Solomon, it is necessary for one to live in, or visit, the locality where it is grown. Sometime in the past, offshoots of this variety were obtained from the royal gardens of Sheba for our present day enjoyment. If your friend does not respond to the romantic aspects of the industry, why not try factual points as outlined in history.

Hand him a *Thoory*, the rather large grayish colored date which is the best of the so-called dry dates in the United States, and try to impress him with the statement that dates are man's oldest cultivated fruit. Sun-baked bricks, made more than 5000 years ago in Mesopotamia, record directions for growing the palm tree. Date palms were so valuable in many parts of the Old World that they passed as wealth from father to son, and even formed a daughter's dowry. In other words, a young man could enjoy a few dates with an Arab's daughter and wind up with the whole tree!

After the laughter subsides, if the visitor is in a receptive mood, tempt him with a *Khadrawy*, the delicious mahogany colored inverted sugar date that can be enjoyed even by diabetics, and launch into another serious fact related to the history of the date. The Koran, sacred book of the nearly 400-million men and women who follow the teachings of Mohammed, states (in reference to the birth of Jesus), "And the pains of childbirth came upon her (Mary) near the trunk of the palm tree." A voice told her, "Shake the trunk of the palm tree and it shall let fall ripe dates upon thee, ready gathered."

While your guest is in a serious mood, give him a *Halawy*, the amber colored soft date that is frequently used in cooking, but delicious in its natural state. Tell him about horticulturist Roy W. Nixon's observations when he represented the United States at a meeting on date culture in Libya in 1959, sponsored by the United Nations. He noted that, "In the Fezzan (the southern province of Libya)

dates are stored in very crude fashion by merely burying them in sand. A hole about four feet in depth and width is dug, filled with dates to within about a foot of the ground level and then covered with sand." This primitive method is not used in the Coachella Valley.

If your tourist friend is reaching the stage where he is "feeling his dates," push him along a bit with a *Barbee*, the unique date that is round in shape with a rich delicate flavor—the equivalent of a palm tree fig. The quality of this variety is the standard by which other dates are judged. While under the influence he might sit still for a few details on the industry, such as: there are male and female palm trees; the average garden is laid out with one male tree to 49 female trees per acre; the hand pollination of the female blossoms is necessary because the birds and the bees ignore the palm trees.

If he brightens up from all of this sexy detail, why not push sex a little further. Give him a *Dayri*, the almost black, long, slender date with a distinctive taste, and continue. The proper sex balance is controlled by use of offshoots rather than seeds. An offshoot from a male tree grows into another male tree, and the female offshoot develops into a female tree. The use of seeds would result in a random selection of boy and girl trees. Since the female trees produce the fruit and the male trees are needed only as servicemen, it is economically important that the proportion of gals to guys be maintained.

If your tourist friend has been attentive he has now absorbed many facts about the date industry in this Colorado Desert area, along with several samples of the end-product. Even though the information was administered by a tricky osmosis process he should be willing to admit that the end-products are tops. An appropriate slogan for the Coachella Valley date industry would be: "The way to a tourist's heart is through his taste buds."

As a grand finale, give him a *Medjool* or two. This is the clincher! It is dark brown in color and is the largest in size of the imported varieties grown in the United States—it sometimes weighs as much as two ounces each and is the ultimate in delicacy of flavor and softness of texture. This is the supreme treat of the date world. The only other suggestion that could be offered is that he take his wife to one of the attractive shops along Southern California's Highway 111, or Interstate 10, and—have a date with an angel! □



Although once blasted by road builders, fine examples of petroglyphic art may still be seen at this remote site near Palm Springs.



ome of California's finest petroglyphs had been preserved for centuries in a dry wash near Joshua Tree, California, known locally as Coyote Hole, until a flood control project nearly destroyed them. Today only a few of these marks and figures remain.

Coyote Hole is a strange combination of gully and canyon. Centuries ago, when the Pinto Basin was a headquarters for local Indians, Coyote Hole was an important water hole. The site borders present day Joshua Tree National Monument, but for some unexplained reason was left out of the boundaries set by President Roosevelt in 1936 when he saved the giant park for future generations. Yet, even without the federal government protection there seemed to be little likelihood the petroglyphs would be disturbed. Army engineers studied the area and decided a flood control dyke was needed to protect Joshua Tree from winter rain run-offs by diverting the water to other locations. After consulting with park rangers, the work was put up for bid and a contractor hired to blast the rock and erect the new levee. No mention was made of the petroglyphs, as it was not anticipated that they would be disturbed. However, the contractor selected one of the best walls of engravings and began systematically blasting it to dust. What hundreds of years of weather and exposure to the elements had been unable to do—destroy the priceless works—dynamite accomplished in seconds.

Those not ruined outright were dam-

aged by flying chunks of stone. Desert varnish on others was shattered by the force of the explosions in the tiny canyon.

Tipped off by a local resident who stopped at the site, the Southwest Museum asked an amateur archeologist, Mrs. Victor Kingman of Twentynine Palms, to investigate Coyote Hole and try to stop the contractor. At first the contractor refused to believe he was hurting anything of value. When Mrs. Kingman produced photographs taken before the blasting and then showed him what had actually been blasted away, he moved his men to another part of the canyon where no petroglyphs would be molested.

Still unprotected by the government, the petroglyphs now suffer another fate—that of wandering marksmen who use the area for target practice. Where distinct figures of men, animals, plants, snakes and ritual engravings could once be found, only ugly scars remain in many places. Those in places not easily reached are still relatively safe, but each year the precious symbols grow fainter. Eventually Nature will erase the signs in Coyote Hole with blasts of wind and rain and hot rays of sun. There are still enough visible to make a trip to see them rewarding, however, and it is a wonderful place for a secluded picnic or solitary walk among silent reminders of the past.

To reach Coyote Hole, take the main road leading to the entrance of Joshua Tree National Monument from the center of town (Joshua Tree). About three blocks from the intersection of Twentynine Palms Highway and the monument

PREHISTORIC POP AT COYOTE HOLE

by Frank Taylor

road is the Community Building. Turn left here and follow the paved street as it curves southeast to a big turnaround, where it ends. A number of small trees have been planted here and some grass is trying to survive in the hard ground. A short distance away is the levee bank you will have to cross before reaching the entrance to Coyote Hole.

The best signs are about 1/6 of a mile up the wash on the right hand side. The rocks here are covered with marks and you will have no trouble finding plenty of petroglyphs to study. Take care in climbing. Some of the rock disturbed by blasting is likely to slide. As you walk up the bottom of Coyote Hole, follow the east side, as the finest engravings are here. They appear in unlikely places, but it is fun to poke around the boulders where you might make a fresh discovery. There seems to be no particular method for placing symbols and drawings. The entire area is a potpourri art gallery which defies interpretation by archeologists. No one can determine their age, either, nor who the artists were.

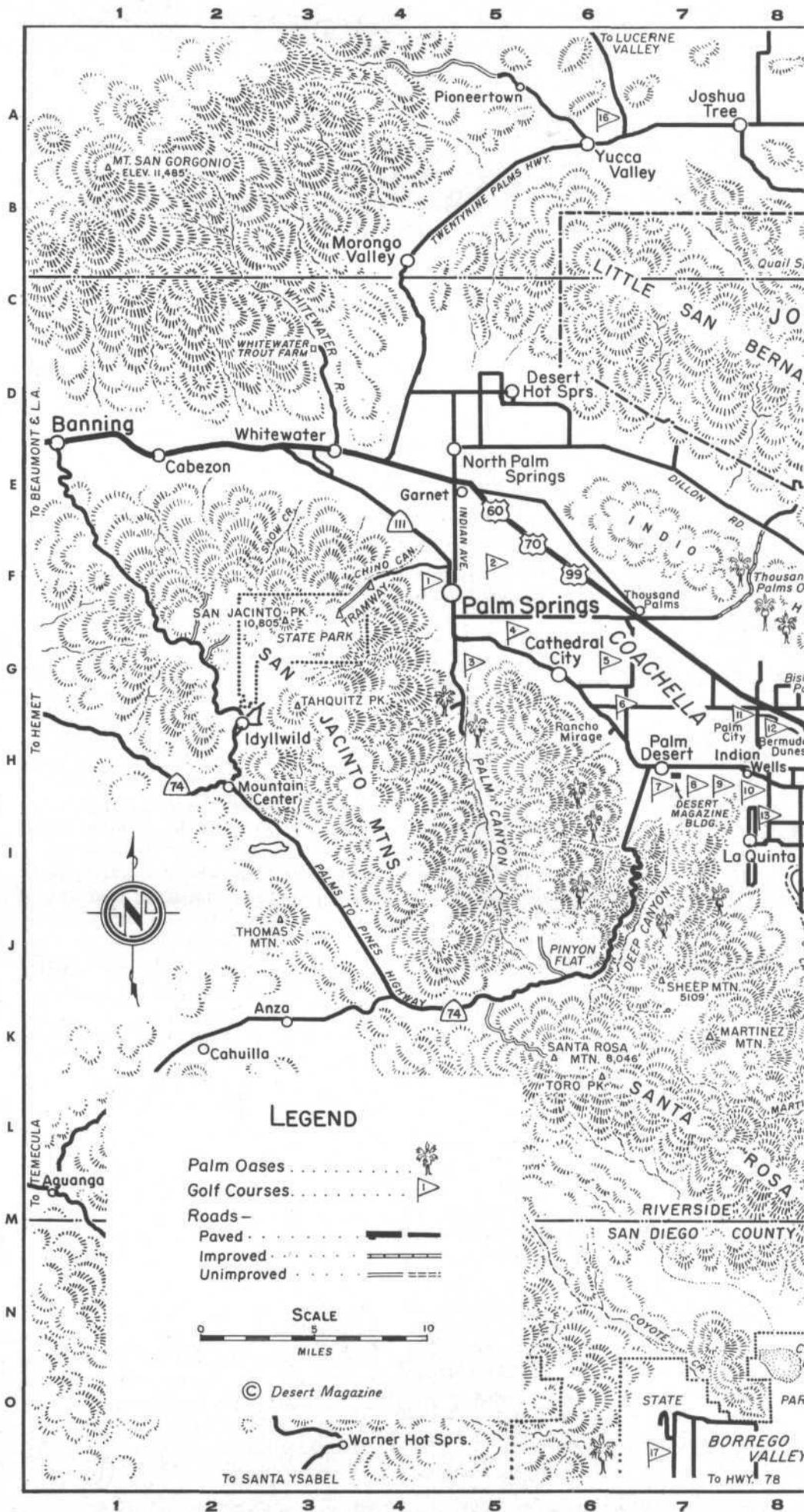
It is hoped that future legislation will protect Coyote Hole by including it in the present boundaries of Joshua Tree National Monument. It is hardly more than a whisper outside the borders now.

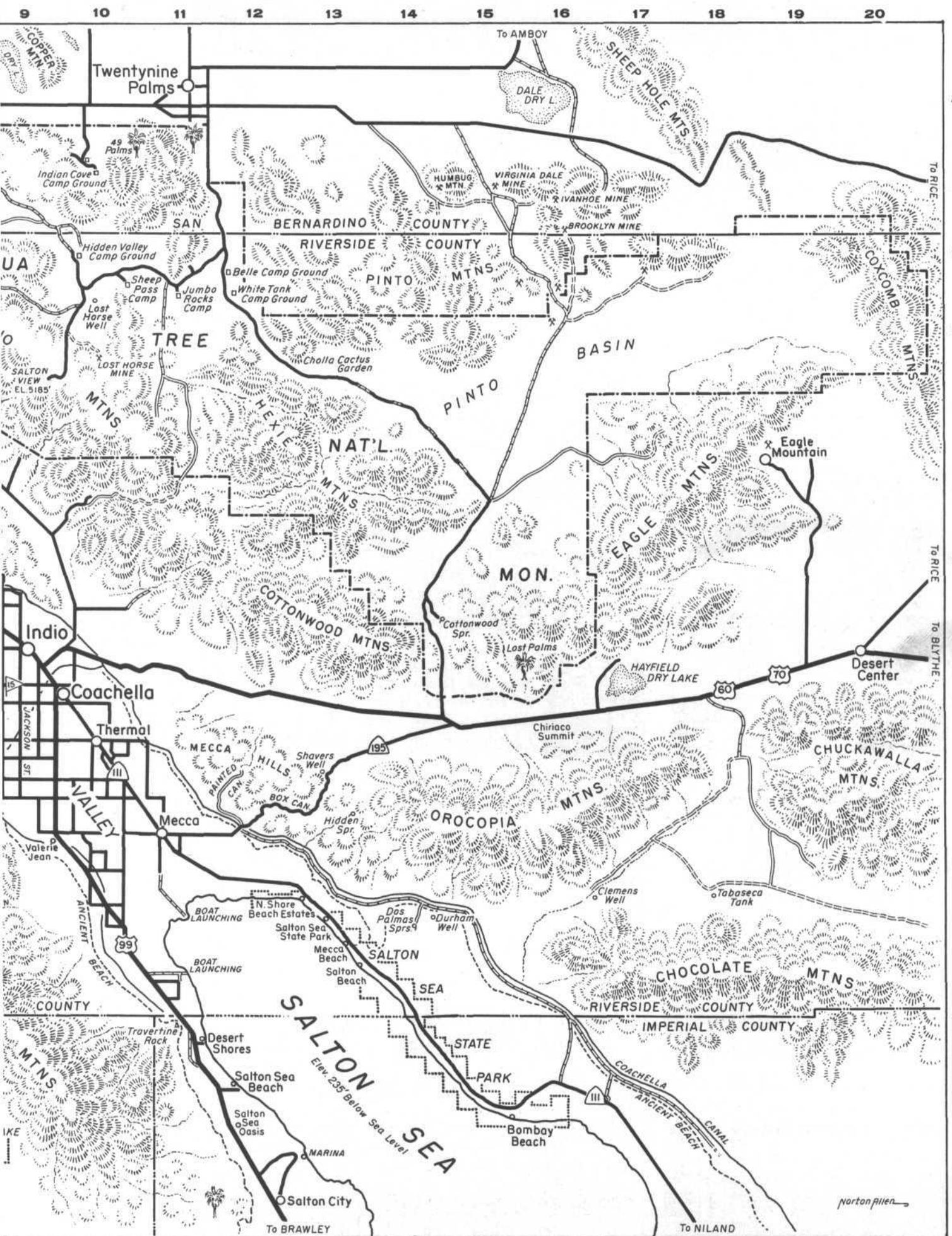
Few trips are more rewarding for those who want to absorb some interesting archeology within a short drive of Los Angeles or the Palm Springs area. There are few of these picture libraries left anywhere in the world. We are fortunate to have this one so close to our doorsteps. □

Guide to COACHELLA VALLEY



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Twin Buttes, Arizona

BY LAMBERT FLORIN



opper mining began in
what was locally called
the Borracho Mines some
time in the early 1870s.
Located in the mountains
26 miles south west of

Tucson, Arizona, miners named the town
that developed Twin Buttes for a pair of
nearby peaks. Mining there was sporadic
for the first three decades, as little money
was available to small-time Mexican oper-
ators and dogging was done mostly by
pick and shovel methods. When the cop-
per veins thickened, activity increased
until the deposit pinched out. Then
everybody indulged in a siesta.

Near the turn of the century "The
Three Nations" began wide scale opera-
tions in the mines. American John G.
Baxter, Irish Michael Irish and Scotch
John Ellis, seeing what they called "an
inexhaustible supply" of copper ore, be-
gan by prospecting both old and new
workings. Results were so encouraging
and news releases so enthusiastic that a
group of Milwaukie financiers bought
out the whole thing, incorporating the
Twin Buttes Mining and Smelting Co.
with assets of \$1,000,000 under the laws
of Arizona Territory. Before incorpora-
tion was fully accomplished, the new
company's prospectors made a happy dis-
covery. The Morgan Mine had an ore

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body 95 feet deep, 25 feet wide and 300 feet long, with ore assaying 10%.

That same year, the company made plans to build a 500-ton smelter and construct a railroad from Tucson to the now roaring copper camp. The railroad would supplant transport by wagon and team and the new smelter would handle the huge amounts of ore pouring from the Morgan Mine and that royal trio, the Copper King, Copper Queen and Copper Prince.

By this time, Twin Buttes had acquired a newspaper, but it wasn't printed in town and it wasn't intended for local consumption. The *Twin Buttes Times*, edited and printed in Milwaukee, was aimed at stockholders. Bubbling with enthusiasm and carrying the Twin Buttes dateline for authenticity, it delivered the glad news that not only would the new railroad carry ores and supplies for Twin Buttes itself, but already applications were being received from other mining districts with requests for spurs. Among these, the *Times* said, were the Helvetia Mines in the Santa Ritas and the Lincoln Mining Company, which consisted of 31 claims in the Sierrita Mountains. The paper continuously stressed forthcoming benefits of the railroad because under territorial law, the Twin Buttes Mining and Smelting Company had to establish a second corporation, The Twin Buttes Railroad, in order to build the railroad. So stockholders, traditionally dazzled by an aura of rich paying mines, had to be infected by railroad fever, too.

Contrary to dire predictions, the projected railroad was actually built. The new Twin Buttes Railroad, connecting with the Southern Pacific in Tucson, ran in a southerly direction through Santa Clara Valley to Sahuarita. Then, swinging westerly in easy grades and curves, it ascended to Twin Buttes. Shortly after leaving Tucson, travelers on the railroad were treated to a close-up view of Mission San Xavier, that dazzling "White Dove of the Desert." The railroad advertised that it was prepared to accept general freight such as hardware, machinery,

milk, cream and meat, the latter three items, it was stressed, at "shipper's risk." For the first few years, the railroad was a huge success. Twin Buttes Mines shipped large quantities of ore of types not handled at the local smelters, freight and passenger business was good, and some of the spur extensions were actually constructed.

Then, around 1907, the line unaccountably laid off employees and some freight shipments were "lost." Dissatisfied customers complained of poor service and high rates. In a few months both mine and railroad companies were overdrawn at the bank. About this time, a Twin Buttes Mining and Smelter stock offer was made of 250,000 shares at 60 cents, the offer almost immediately moderated to 40 cents. There were few takers. Bad times had hit Twin Buttes.

By 1910, the original company was pretty much disbanded. John Ellis, one of the "Three Nation" men who had gone along with the Twin Butte setup, married in Tempe, then returned to Scotland, where he died in 1909. Michael Irish married in Tucson, then took his new bride and copper wealth to the old country. But the other member, John C. Baxter, stepped in when the company closed down operation of the Twin Buttes properties and together with Ed Bush, reopened the Morgan. The start of World War I gave their new company a big boost and the railroad once again carried a car of ore every week. This boom was temporary, however. After the war, things again declined at the Buttes.

As deposits grew thinner, general economic conditions grew steadily worse and soon Twin Buttes became a ghost town. The railroad also faded into a shadowy spectre. Of the town, little is left, and this unreachable behind barbed wire. Some "exhibits," such as our old passenger car, may be seen from the road, although we risked a close approach for photographic purposes. Seen in front of the railroad relic is a large opuntia plant that was colored a brilliant rose-violet at the time of our visit. □

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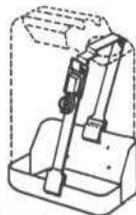
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GLAZED CORNISH HENS

Salt and pepper inside of hens and place in broiler pan or flat pan. Make a sauce of the following:

- 1/2 can frozen orange juice concentrate thawed, but undiluted
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 1/2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 1/2 tablespoons vinegar

Bring this to a boil to blend, cool and add a pinch of ginger and 3/4 cups Sherry.

Spoon about 2/3 of this over hens and let stand for an hour or so. When ready to bake, spoon the rest of glaze over hens, and bake for about 1 1/2 hours. They will brown nicely in about half the baking period, so turn them over when the tops are brown in order to have both sides browned. Oven should be 350 degrees. These are really delicious. Rather than stuff them, I make a wild rice casserole, to which I add 3/4 cup raisins. You may cook chicken breasts the same way.

CHICKEN - BROCCOLI CASSEROLE

Cook 2 packages of frozen broccoli for a few minutes, until barely tender. Drain and place in a shallow, buttered casserole or baking dish. Cover with 2 cups cooked sliced chicken, preferably white meat. Combine 2 cans cream of mushroom soup with 1 1/2 teaspoons lemon juice, 3/4 cup mayonnaise and 1/2 teaspoon curry powder (optional). Pour over the chicken and cover with 1/2 cup grated cheese and 1/2 cup bread crumbs. Dribble 1 tablespoon melted butter over this. Bake at 325 degrees for 30 minutes. Serves 8. Sometimes I use canned artichoke hearts in place of the broccoli, cutting them in half if they are large.

MANDARIN CHICKEN

- 1 fryer cut up or 4 to 6 chicken breasts
- Salt and pepper, flour to dredge chicken
- 1/4 cup margarine or salad oil
- 1 small can sliced mushrooms
- 1 tablespoon honey, 1 tablespoon Soy sauce
- 3/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 small can Mandarin oranges and juice
- 1 cup dairy sour cream
- 1/4 cup toasted sliced almonds

Season chicken with salt and pepper, and coat lightly with flour; brown on all sides in margarine or oil in skillet. Mix Mandarin orange juice, Soy sauce, honey, ginger and mushrooms with juice. Pour over chicken in skillet and simmer for about 50 minutes, or until chicken is tender. If necessary, add a little water as it cooks, so that it will not become too dry. Remove chicken from pan and keep warm. Mix sour cream with juices in pan and heat slowly but thoroughly. Place chicken on platter and pour sauce over it, then sprinkle with almonds.

ESCALLOPED CAULIFLOWER

Clean one large head of cauliflower, but do not cut up. Place in a thin white cloth and lower into a kettle of boiling salted water. Cook in open kettle for 20 minutes. Remove from water and place in buttered baking dish, careful to keep whole. Cover with white sauce to which has been added 1 cup grated cheese. Sprinkle with bread crumbs and grated cheese and bake in oven until browned.

CHICKEN BALLS

- 1/2 cup bread crumbs
 - 1 cup milk
 - 3 cups uncooked white meat of chicken put through the grinder
 - 1 tablespoon butter
 - 1/2 teaspoon chopped parsley
 - 2 eggs slightly beaten
 - 3/4 teaspoon salt
 - 1 cup slivered blanched almonds
- Soak crumbs in milk and mix with chicken, butter, parsley, eggs, salt and a pinch of nutmeg. Chill well and shape into balls 1 inch in diameter. Roll in slightly beaten egg and blanched almonds. Place in buttered skillet with 1/4 cup chicken broth. Cover and cook at low heat for 20 minutes. Mix 1 tablespoon corn starch with 1 cup cream and 1/2 teaspoon lemon juice and cook until thick. Pour this sauce over chicken balls and sprinkle with sliced almonds to serve.

JERUSALEM PUDDING

- 1 envelope gelatin
 - 1/2 cup cold water
 - 1/2 cup powdered sugar
 - 1 cup cooked rice
 - 1 pint whipping cream
 - 1/2 cup chopped figs
 - 1/2 cup chopped dates
 - 1/2 cup blanched, slivered almonds
 - 1/2 cup chopped candied almonds
- Soak gelatin in cold water for 10 minutes, then set in pan of hot water until dissolved; add powdered sugar, salt and a teaspoon vanilla and add to rice and fruit. Whip cream until stiff and fold into mixture. Chill. This may be placed in a long loaf pan and sliced to serve, topped with whipped cream.

Anyone for Hounding Rocks?

Continued from page 28

gold, were swapped by the people of that era. Around 2500 B.C. the gem and ivory work of the people of Crete were as fine as any that mankind has ever produced; as far back as the sixth century B.C. fossils were known to the Ionian Greeks; and around the same period Carthage sold precious stones to the Mediterranean people.

In our fourth century B.C. the men of Damascus could have put our present-day rock hounds to shame. It is recorded in history that there was hardly a variety of precious stone in the world that had not been found and cut and polished. Special techniques were well-guarded secrets, handed down from father to son. Moving on to the beginning of the 16th century A.D., Leonardo da Vinci was one of the first Europeans to develop an interest in, and to realize the historical importance of fossils.

It should be stated that the serious-minded rock hound of today is doing his bit toward deciphering the mysteries of history through study of the evolution of certain gem-stones. His objective is to acquire the knowledge needed for recognizing them, and a key to where they might possibly be found. He soon learns that a trip to the opal mines of Australia is not necessary. Frequent jaunts to beaches, the desert, gravel pits, river beds, quarries, glacial deposits or even somebody's backyard will probably bring rewards.

Why should rock hounds hound rocks? For the same reason that shutter bugs bug the scenery. There is therapeutic value in spending hours in the sunshine and fresh air, exploring out-of-the-way places. Also, there is satisfaction in displaying a collection of stones and artifacts while entertaining friends during the "happy hour." The expressions of interest and enthusiasm which result are gratifying to the host rock hound—after all, they are usually "over the rocks!" □

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Hints for Desert Travelers

by Bruce Barron



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YOU CAN enrich your travel experiences by allocating more time to advance planning. Start with a sectionalized county map, or a topographic map (usually available at stationers, book stores, or sportmen's store). Plot your itinerary with a colored pencil. Be copious with annotations on the points of interest. If the area is entirely new to you, spend a little time on research at the library, or at your local book store. Talk with people who have been there. A letter to the city or county Chamber of Commerce in the area will reap generous rewards on places or events

you may want to visit. Anticipation builds enthusiasm as your planning gets under way.

The desert is especially unique in its flora, fauna, geology and history. By augmenting your travel equipment with a small library of reference books, you can make fascinating new friends by getting acquainted with the unusual plants, animals, and reptiles which have undergone such strange evolutionary changes to adapt to the terrific climatological extremes. Many excellent references are available at the Desert Magazine Bookshop. □

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FREE 84 page catalog on detectors, books and maps. General Electronic Detection Co., 16238 Lakewood Blvd., Bellflower, Calif. 90706.

NEW 7TH EDITION: "Ghost Town Bottle Price Guide"—re-designed, revised, enlarged. Leading western price guide on antique bottles, \$3 postpaid to Wes Bressie, Rt. 1, Box 582, Eagle Point, Oregon 97524.

• BOOKS - MAGAZINES

"GUIDE TO Old Bottles, Contents & Prices." 250 illustrations, ads, labels plus price list, \$2.75. Valuable cross reference to "Handbook for the Bottleologist;" 1000 bottles, description and rarity, \$2.75. Richard Fike, 1135 Maxfield Dr., Ogden, Utah 84404.

A BOTTLE COLLECTOR'S Book and "The Past In Glass" by Pat and Bob Ferraro—two most complete sources available for novice and advanced bottle collectors. Illustrations, checklists, explanations. \$3.25 each postpaid. The Little Glass Shack, 3161-B 56th St., Sacramento, Calif. 95820.

INTERESTED IN Nevada's History? Here's two dandy books of Nevada's yesteryears. "Memoirs of an Old Timer"—\$1.50, and "Reviewing Nevada's Legacy"—\$1.95. Both for \$3. Several photographs in each. Write: Sagebrush Dan, P. O. Box 901-D, Tonopah, Nevada 89049.

NEVADA TREASURE Hunters Ghost Town Guide. Large folded map. 800 place name glossary. Railroads, towns, camps, camel trail. \$1.50. Theron Fox, 1296-C Yosemite, San Jose 26, California.

GHOST TOWN MAPS—New book titled "California Ghost Town Trails" has pictures, maps to California ghost towns. \$2.95. A Abbott, 1513 West Romneya Drive, Anaheim, Calif.

"GEMS & MINERALS," the monthly guide to gems, minerals, and rock hobby fun. \$4.00 year. Sample 25c. Gems & Minerals, Mentone, Calif. 92359.

"ASSAULT ON BAJA," E. Washburn, 3934 Cortland, Lynwood, Calif. \$2.00 tax included, "zest of discovery" writes Belden; "wide-eyed experience" says Powell USC.

GHOST TOWN GUIDE: Complete guide to over 100 ghost towns in California, only \$1.95. W. Abbott, 1513 West Romneya Drive, Anaheim, California.

FRANK FISH—Treasure Hunter—said Gold is where you find it. His book "Buried Treasure & Lost Mines" tells how and where to look, 93 locations, photos and maps. 19x24 colored map pinpointing book locations. Book \$1.50. Map \$1.50. Special: both \$2.50 postpaid. Publisher, Erie Schaefer, 14728 Peyton Drive, Chino, Calif. 91710.

"1200 BOTTLES PRICED"—well illustrated, complete description, covers entire field, 164 pages, by J. C. Tibbitts, first president of Antique Bottle Collectors Association and editor of the "Pontil," \$4.25 post paid. The Little Glass Shack, 3161-B 56th St., Sacramento, Calif. 95820.

BOOK HUNTING is our business, service is our product. No charge for search. Satisfaction guaranteed. D-J Book Search Service, P. O. Box 3352-D, San Bernardino, Calif. 92404.

• DESERT STATIONERY

DESERT LIVINGCOLOR portraits, notecards. 69 assorted \$6.90. Roadrunners, wildflowers, cactus, dozen assorted, \$1.50. Free brochure. Artist Henry Mockel, Box 726, Twentynine Palms, Calif. 92277.

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C-BAR-H GUEST Ranch—Rest or Play—a real western holiday. American plan includes three delicious meals each day, horseback riding, comfortable cottages, swimming pool, ranch lodge activities, hay rides, sports galore. P.O. Box 373D, Lucerne Valley, Calif. Area Code 714, CH 8-7666.

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TREASURE MAPS to Jadel Ten detailed charts to unclaimed lodes and placer deposits of jade in California. Also large hand specimens of twelve different jades for ease of field identification by comparison. Treasure kit of maps and raw jade chunks for \$10.00. (Add 40c in Calif.) Wilderness Originals, Canyon, California 94516.

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• MAPS

SECTIONIZED COUNTY maps — San Bernardino \$3; Riverside \$1; Imperial, small \$1, large \$2; San Diego \$1.25; Inyo \$2.50; Kern \$1.25, other California counties \$1.25 each. Nevada counties \$1 each. Include 4 percent sales tax. Topographic maps of all mapped western areas. Westwide Maps Co., 114 West Third Street, Los Angeles 13, California.

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EL RANCHO Galapagos Cactus Growers. You are invited to visit our greenhouses and cactus gardens on the east slope of Copper Mountain. Star Route 1, Box 710, Twentynine Palms, California. Phone 362-4329.

• REAL ESTATE

400,000,000 ACRES government public land in 25 states. Some low as \$1.00 acre. 1967 report. Details \$1.00. Public Land, 422DM Washington Building, Washington, D.C.

40 ACRES in Newberry, Calif. The land of lakes. Total price \$2950. Raw land \$100 down, \$35 per month. Owner, Box 304, Hesperia, Calif. 92345.

FOR INFORMATION on real estate in or near this high desert community, please write or visit Ralph W. Fisher, Realtor, 73644 29-Palms Highway, Twentynine Palms, Calif. 92277.

SIR'KEGIAN GEM BEDS for sale. 20 acre parcels or entire 296 acres, \$750 an acre and up. Open to offer. Owner, Box 31, Acton, California 93510. Phone 805-947-4945.

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TREASURE-METAL and mineral locators. Free 24 page booklet. GeoFinder Co., Box 37, Lakewood, Calif. 90714.

NEW 1966 Goldak treasure, coin, gold, silver locators. Goldak, Dept. DMC, 1544 W. Glenoaks, Glendale, Calif. 91201.

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NEW TRANSISTOR instrument detects buried coins, firearms, treasures, gold, silver. \$19.95, up. Free catalog. Relco A-18, Box 10563, Houston 18, Texas.

• WESTERN GOODS

ANTIQUES, BOTTLES, purple glass, primitives, relics. Frontier Trading Post, Bullhead City, Arizona. On Clearwater Drive, north of Riviera Club House. Open Saturdays, Sundays only, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

GHOST TOWN items: Sun-colored glass, amethyst to royal purple; ghost railroads materials, tickets; limited odd items from camps of the '60s. Write your interest—Box 64-D, Smith, Nevada.

• MISCELLANEOUS

MARINE COLONEL Retiring Summer 1967 interested at 47 in starting second career in Southwest desert country. 26 years mainly industrial operations in data processing, supply, procurement, transportation, storage, depot maintenance, and operation of base facilities. Equipped with beautiful wife, no in-house children, truck camper and Mustang, college grad in statistics, GCT of 151, and an acute interest in outdoor life in Southwest. Less interested in stipend than in location, challenge, and opportunity to be hewer of wood and hauler of water in environment of Desert Southwest. 2727 Duke St., No. 401, Alexandria, Va. 22314.

PURPLE BOTTLE? Instructions for purpling glass indoors, much faster than sunlight—no danger of breakage. \$1.00. Ann Brown, 6233 Warwood Road, Lakewood, Calif. 90713.

VINYL PLACEMENTS embedded with beautiful plants and butterflies, 18" x 12"—set of four: \$5.95. F. Richardson, Box 5292, St. Louis, Mo. 63115.

WANTED: LAWMEN, SHERIFF, marshal, ranger, Indian police and police badges, old or recent. For personal collection and research. G. Virgines, 454 Highview, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126.

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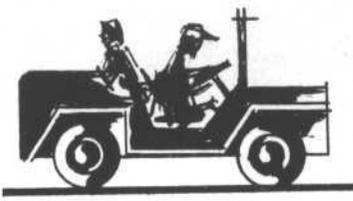
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BACK COUNTRY

COMPILED BY JACK PEPPER

OUT OF THIS WORLD!

Organized outings and meetings of 4-wheel drive, camper, trailer and gem and mineral and boating clubs in the 11 western states will be listed every month in this column. Be certain to include the following information: complete name of organization, place, hour and day or days, how to get there, and if restricted to members or open to everyone. Send information as soon as meeting has been definitely scheduled. INFORMATION MUST BE RECEIVED AT LEAST SIX WEEKS PRIOR TO EVENT. Send material to Out of This World, Desert Magazine, Palm Desert, California 92260.

TIERRA DEL SOL 4WD CLUB OF SAN DIEGO. Feb. 25-26, 1967. Fifth Annual Two Day "Desert Safari" in Borrego (San Diego County) Badlands. All 4-wheelers invited. For information write Tierra Del Sol Club, 5083 Conrad Ave., San Diego, Calif. 92117.

AVION TRAVELCADE CLUB. Feb. 6 through March 23, tentative dates for Eastern Mexico Travelcade and February 13 through March 11, Western Mexico Sports Tour.

VENTURA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY. March 4 & 5, Ventura County Fair Grounds, Seaside Park, Ventura, Calif. Admission free. Camping facilities available.

CA of 4WD 7th ANNUAL GENERAL ELECTION DINNER-DANCE MEETING. Feb. 4-5. For details write CA of 4WD, P. O. Box 5001, Sacramento, Calif.

NATIONAL 4WD GRAND PRIX, Riverside, Calif. March. For details write N4WD Grand Prix, P. O. Box 301, Fullerton, Calif.

KERN COUNTY MINERAL SOCIETY 9th Annual Gem and Mineral Show, April 15 & 16. Kern County Fairgrounds, Bakersfield, Calif. Admission free. Saturday 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. Sunday 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.

AVION TRAVELCADE CLUB Western International Rendezvous of 1967. April 5 through 9. Holiday Isle Trailer Park, Tucson, Arizona. OWNERS OF AVION CAMPERS AND TRAILERS ONLY.

PHOENIX JEEP CLUB JAMBOREE, Phoenix, Arizona. April.

AVION TRAVELCADE CLUB, Spring Rally of California Unit. May 4 through May 7. Rancho Oso, near Santa Barbara, Calif. OWNERS OF AVION CAMPERS AND TRAILERS ONLY. For information write Williard Young, P. O. Box 744, Vista, California. 92083.

INDIO SIDEWINDER 4WD CRUISE, May 6-7. A family 4WD event open to the public where four wheel drive enthusiasts are led on a cross country trip. See Erle Stanley Gardner's "The Desert Is Yours" for description. For complete information write to Sareea Al Jamel 4WD Club, P. O. Box 526, Indio, Calif. 92201.

Sound Off!

Do you have any information you want to share with other Back Country Travelers? Do you have any questions about how or where to obtain an item, how to get somewhere, condition of terrain, is a certain area restricted? Then write to SOUND OFF. Desert Magazine, Palm Desert, Calif. 92260

• •

I would like to secure plans for a dry-washer to use in some of the gravel washes near here. I am a very fair mechanic and believe I can build a small washer, mounted on a two-wheel trailer, powered by a gasoline engine to be taken to the site by pick-up.

Harley L. Reiter,
Phoenix, Arizona.

Must be the balmy desert weather as we have received several requests for dry-washer plans. For those like myself who are not mechanically inclined there are several good and light dry washers you can buy, such as the one sold by Compton Rock Shop. However, anyone knowing where readers can get plans let us know and we'll publish the information next month.

• •

There was a lost mine story in the February, 1966 issue . . . the Lost Hungarian Mine. Has this mine ever been found?

Harold Sims,
San Jacinto.

To our knowledge . . . and to the knowledge of finder-loser Mike Kovacs . . . his lost gold bonanza is still lost.

• •

I am an avid reader of DESERT. I am especially interested in lost mine stories. I think your new section will be very interesting. I would like to see an article on core drilling. Some device a man could carry and would go down about 20 feet and some drill or device that would fit on a 4-wheel drive vehicle and go down around 100 feet!

Robert Walton,
Vandenberg, Calif.

TRAVEL



What's New?

Dig That Crazy Roadrunner!!

Well, Myrtle, you see the reason Pete and I were late in getting back from our prospecting trip was we were heading back home when this bird . . . he was at least eight feet high . . . suddenly ran in front of our rig and we . . . yeah, I said eight feet and he was running like the blue blazes . . . no, Myrt, honest, we only had a couple of beers . . . now wait a minute, let me finish . . . okay, so if you don't believe me call Pete, he'll tell you . . . okay so we are prospecting buddies and have spun a few tales, but I swear . . . now dammit, let me finish . . . I was watching the road when Pete yelled "Dig that crazy Roadrunner." I looked up and there he was, beady eyes and oily looking feathers . . . no HE was oiled and it was his eyes that were beady . . . aw, Myrt, now you know anything can happen in the desert . . . remember the time you and I saw that mirage and we thought it was your old Aunt Tillie, but it turned out to be nothing but an old Saquaro . . . okay, so Aunt Tillie isn't so old . . . well, anyway, this giant roadrunner . . . you know, maybe a roadrunner and a burro got crossed . . . okay, okay . . . but anyway this big old bird ran down a wash so we naturally jumped out and started following but when we stopped there was nothing but these giant two-toed tracks and . . . okay so a roadrunner tracks aren't two toed . . . but these were and . . . now listen Myrt, I'm telling you . . . that's the trouble with you women, you never believe anything . . . you're just like an old ostrich who sticks his head in the sand and never sees or hears anything . . .



Editors Note: According to the Riverside Daily Enterprise of January 15, 1967 an 8-foot ostrich being used by a film company near Palm Desert, Calif. escaped from its cage and disappeared for several hours before being captured. On-the-spot Photo by Warren Johnson.

Remember the old Jeepster?

It's back again, but all dressed up and with 4WD on a 101-inch wheelbase with a choice of the standard 75 h.p., 4 cyl. Hurricane or the new 160 h.p. Dauntless V-6 engine.

Kaiser Jeep Corporation announced its new line of Jeepster models on January 3 for the growing four-wheel drive fun and recreation and utility markets. Models include convertible, station wagon and others.



Another new back country desert vehicle is a maverick from the snow country. Manufacturers of snowmobiles which have proven so popular in the north have replaced the front skis with small wheels and utilizing the power cleat belts for power in the back are invading the deserts. I recently drove one model, the Polaris Mustang, manufactured in Salt Lake City, and found it very maneuverable. Even smaller than my Grasshopper, they are easily towed on a small trailer and should be great for family fun.

Front mount winches for Ford's Bronco have been introduced by Koenig Iron Works, Inc. of Houston, Texas. The older six-cylinder winch and the all new specially engineered winch for the Bronco V-8 have been approved by Ford and are available at their dealers. Koenig also manufactures a heavy-duty power takeoff for the Bronco. Free brochures are available by writing to Koenig Iron Works, P. O. Box 7728, Houston, Texas 77007.

For information on roads . . . good, bad and indifferent . . . and where to go and what to see in our area be sure to stop by DESERT MAGAZINE when you are in the area. In connection with this new Back Country Travel Section we now have a Back Country Travel Headquarters at Desert Magazine for exchange of ideas and just plain jam sessions. We are open six days a week and most Sundays. See directions on back cover of this issue.

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Letters requesting answers must include stamped self-addressed envelope

More on the Mushroom . . .

To the Editor: As a geology major at the University of California I feel qualified to clear up a point about Death Valley's Mushroom Rock. I am in perfect agreement with DESERT'S policy toward fences. Now in regard to the Gillette letter (Feb. '67), the rock's worst enemy is the forces which created it, not vandalism. Prior to 1956 the rock did have a true mushroom shape. Due to the nature of the basalt of which the rock is formed, bits of water and salt are blown into the rock's pores. When the salt crystallizes from solution, bits of rock are flacked away. Even a fence couldn't save the rock from natural destruction, unless it were a solid concrete vault. Then who could see it?

STEVEN LAMBERT,
Riverside, California.

More on the Rocks . . .

To the Editor: Two items in your January Letters column prompt a reply. First, Mitty-lene Burross wrote concerning clear ruby red obsidian. This may refer to the so-called amethyst obsidian from northern California, which is a deep, clear reddish-purple. This "obsidian" is amethyst-colored glass, introduced among the Indians by early Russian traders. The red glass was quickly adopted as a substitute for obsidian, notably in the manufacture of large, chipped blades up to three feet long. Perhaps the arrowheads of ruby red obsidian were of the same material.

Second is the letter from David McCarroll, who is woefully ignorant of Southern California archaeology, for the rock studded with bed-rock mortars, as in the picture referred to in the letter, is one of the most common features of aboriginal campsites in the area. The holes in the rock are mortars, and acorns—not corn as stated—were ground in them by pounding. There is ample ethnographic documentation, including photographs, of the use of these mortars. Granted, it would be difficult to remove the pulverized acorns from the mortars, since some of them are a foot or more deep, but nevertheless, it was done. There are similar "hominid holes" in Kentucky where corn was ground, and some of these are over three feet deep.

KEN HEDGES,
Springs Valley, California.

More About Cibola Treasure . . .

To the Editor: It was nice of the finder to write you and let me know what the treasure was that I missed finding in Cibola by not getting there first. I wonder if this man knows that the treasure was far more extensive than this one cache. It was hidden in small portions by Wm. Rood and there is much, much more. If the map he recovered mentioned a burial ground or small peaks, my partner and I know where they are.

WILLIAM BALLENTINE,
Hinkley, California.

Santa Isabel Theory . . .

To the Editor: Houck's theory on the Santa Isabel (DESERT Jan. '67) is based on Kino's 1702 map which shows a mission where no mission exists. This map is a notoriously bad guide to missions of Pimeria Alta because it omits virtually all of the established missions. It is not really Kino's but an adaptation of his sketch in which the German engraver either misinterpreted or embellished certain symbols on the original. According to Ernest J. Burrus, S. J., "The whereabouts of the originals of the 1701 and 1702 maps is unknown." Thus it is impossible to tell what symbols Kino had used.

A further source indicates that the pioneer Jesuit employed a circle surmounted by a cross to indicate Indian settlements which had been partially Christianized, whether or not a mission had been established there. San Dionisio, near present Yuma, was simply one of these villages. It is unlikely that Jesuit missionaries would have chosen a place on the very perimeter of their explorations to cache a treasure—or that they ever had such riches to hide.

C. R. APPLEBY,
Escondido, California.

Editor's comment: Mr. Appleby's point is well taken. However, it might be pointed out that the inset at the top of the map, translated, reads that this map contains the "new missions" of the Jesuits, which explains why the familiar ones are absent from the map. It also expressly states that missions are indicated, not villages. C.P.

Six Fingers . . .

To the Editor: Re your June 1965 article on the six-toed people, I ran across some linguistic evidence that will interest you. See entries under *cinqueno*, *chicuace*, *chicuaz*, *chincuaque*, and *chincuas* (*chincuaaz*), in F. J. Santamaria's *Diccionario de Mejianismos* (available LA City and Univ libraries.) All are used in Mexico to refer to persons with six fingers or toes. An informant from southern Sinaloa has told me they are seen occasionally there and referred to as *cuate* (*estar cuate* or *fem. cuata*) or as "el *cuate*", "la *cuata*." Evidently the phenomenon is still present in the Mexican gene pool.

E. L. CRABTREE,
Montebello, California.

Yellow Ocotillo . . .

To the Editor: In the January issue a reader asked about a yellow ocotillo. There is a yellow ocotillo in the rock garden in the southeast corner of the park in Holtville, Calif., and I have one located near Middle Camp on the road into the Hauser geode area. I do not know whether they bloom consistently or not, but I am watching this one.

I have been a DESERT subscriber since 1937 and still like it.

ROBERT RUSSELL,
Brea, California.

Enchanted . . .

To the Editor: Thank you so much for your great magazine. My grandparents say they read it cover to cover, and so do we. Because they spend their winters in Brawley, California, your magazine helps them to find new areas to explore. We're pleased there is something we can give them which contributes so much pleasure to their lives. We, in Nevada, are also happy that you devote so much space to us. We have discovered a wealth of material through the pages of DESERT Magazine which has increased our interest in the history of our own state. Thank you again for publishing such a wonderful magazine.

BEVERLY SCEIRINE,
Yerington, Nevada.

Disenchanted . . .

To the Editor: Please cancel my subscription. My field of specialization is desert plant ecology and the results of my work are in the library of USC and of the Hancock Foundation. I am disenchanted with DESERT because of its present editorial policy. In former years, the editor maintained a rigorous authenticity in the material presented to the reader. This is no longer true. Repeatedly, I have discovered that if two versions of a story are possible, one authentic but a little dull, the other artificially romanticized, the latter is given preference. I cannot abide this. I have a deep and lasting affection for the desert. I have found there some of the most stirring spiritual experiences of my life. There are many ways to despoil the desert. The printed word is one.

PETER J. REMPEL,
Ventura, California.

Happy Readers . . .

To the Editor: The quotation at the bottom of page 4 of the current issue of the NVRC (Northrup Ventura Recreation Club Bulletin) will show you that we are thorough readers of DESERT Magazine. We believe it is the most entertaining and the most beautiful publication we have ever had the pleasure of reading.

BENSON R. SUMNER, editor,
Newbury Park, California.

Editor's comment: DESERT'S editor is quoted in the above publication as follows: "It is more exciting to have an exchange of ideas than to be right."

We have a lot of fun here and we feel awfully good when we hear that readers like Mr. Sumner are participating in the desert adventure right along with us. C.P.

PEAK BLOOMING PERIODS - - - CALIFORNIA DESERT WILDFLOWERS

JAN. FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE

• • • • • **IMPERIAL VALLEY** • • • • •
Best Areas: Holtville, Algodones Dunes, south of Hwy. 80 between Calexico and Ocotillo.
Dominant Species: desert lilies, evening primrose, lupine, phacelia.

• • • • • **ANZA/BORREGO (lower elevation)** • • • • •
Best Areas: base of Superstition Mountains, west of Imperial, Borrego Valley.
Dominant Species: desert lilies, lupine, verbena, primrose.

• • • • • **DEATH VALLEY (lower elevation)** • • • • •
Best Areas: Jubilee Pass, Hwy. 190 near Furnace Creek Inn, base of Daylight Pass.
Dominant Species: desert star, blazing star, geraea, mimulus, encelia, poppies, verbena, evening primrose.

• • • • • **COACHELLA VALLEY** • • • • •
Best Areas: North shore of Salton Sea, Box Canyon, Del Sol Road.
Dominant Species: verbena, evening primrose, geraea, hairy-leaved sunflower.

• • • • • **ANTELOPE VALLEY** • • • • •
Best Areas: Quartz Hill, east and west of Palmdale, Fairmont, Hi Vista.
Dominant Species: poppies, phacelia, coreopsis, desert aster, gilia, primrose.

• • • • • **ANZA/BORREGO (higher elevation)** • • • • •
Best Areas: Anza, Julian, Warner Springs.
Dominant Species: poppies, buttercups, lupine, penstemons, mallows.

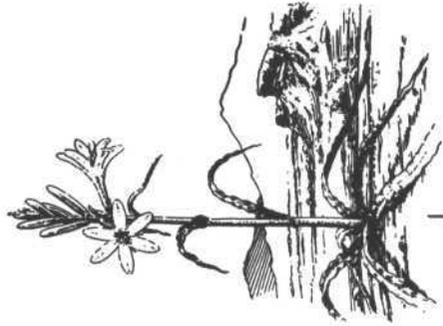
• • • • • **MORONGO/YUCCA VALLEY** • • • • •
Best Areas: along Twentynine Palms Hwy., Old Woman Springs.
Dominant Species: encelia, poppies, blazing star, yucca, joshua.

DEATH VALLEY (2000-4000 foot elevation)
Best Areas: Panamint.
Dominant Species: paintbrush, desert rue, lupine.

• • • • • **JOSHUA TREE/EAST MOJAVE** • • • • •
Best Areas: along Hwy. 66 from Barstow to Needles, Joshua Monument.
Dominant Species: desert sunflower, sage, asters, poppies, verbena, yucca, joshua.

• • • • • **DEATH VALLEY (above 4500 feet)** • • • • •
Best Areas: High Panamint.
Dominant Species: wildrose, golden rabbitbrush, Panamint daisies, mariposa, lupine.

• • • • • **OWENS VALLEY** • • • • •
Best Areas: Lone Pine, Alabama Hills.
Dominant Species: gilia, phacelia, daisies.



JAN. FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE

SOME YEARS the desert is spectacular with wildflowers; other years the blossoms are almost nonexistent (but never totally absent). A "good" wildflower year depends on three things: well-spaced rainfall through winter and early spring months; sufficient warmth from the sun; and the lack of desiccating winds.

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