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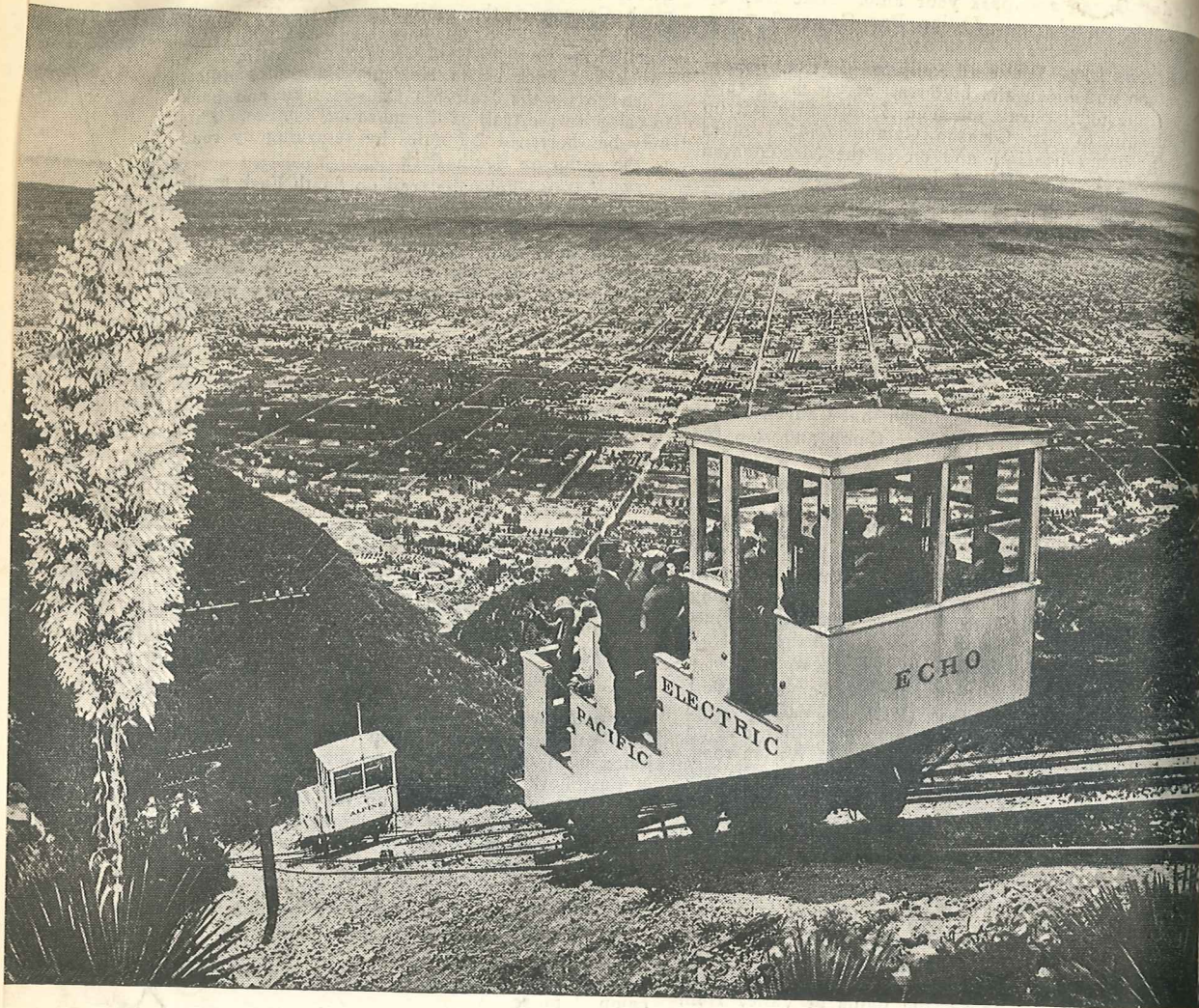
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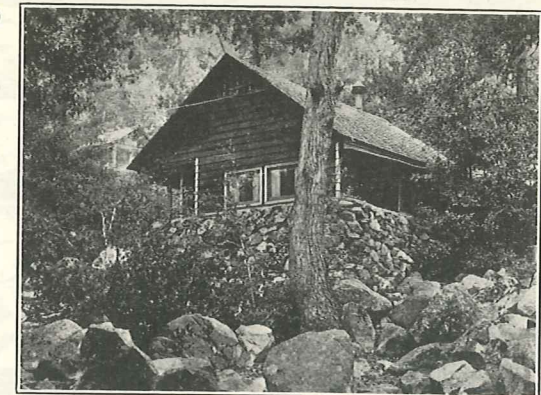
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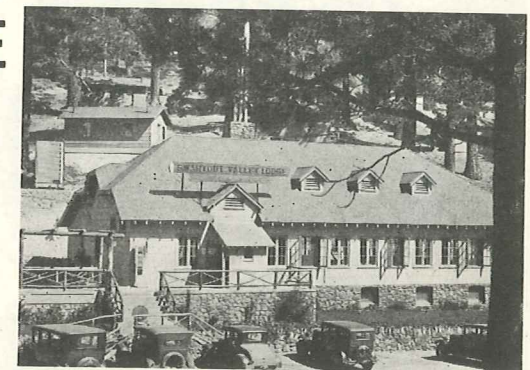
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CAMP RINCON STORE IN EARLY 1900's



## Trails Magazine

VOL. 3

SUMMER, 1936

NO. 3

Published Quarterly by  
THE MOUNTAIN LEAGUE  
of Southern California

A non-profit organization of representatives of Public Departments and Outing Clubs, formed for the purpose of stimulating the development and use of mountain trails and other facilities for outdoor recreation in Los Angeles County.

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### A HAPPY THOUGHT

Much of the old history of the San Gabriel Canyon is of a happy, interesting and sometimes thrilling time and it was certainly a happy thought of your editor when he chose Cornelius Smith of Azusa to give the readers of Trails Magazine the story of those times.

Mr. Smith was born in Azusa 55 years ago, has lived there most of his life and his earliest memories are of happy days spent along the San Gabriel River. He knows The Canyon, knows the old settlers who helped make its interesting history and, to use an old saying which is particularly appropriate, "he talks their language." He has had considerable experience in newspaper and magazine writing, has been instrumental in bringing much favorable publicity to Azusa and The Canyon, is now and has been for several years Azusa's outstanding Chamber of Commerce Secretary.

The cover picture of this number is of Wawona Cabin, still standing in the beautiful forested basin west of Crystal Lake. It was the happy gathering place of early days Occidental College students, many of whose names appear in our story. This picture and several others in this issue, are from a most remarkable collection, photographed by Mr. Smith during many years.

### THE WORLD'S GREATEST MOUNTAIN PLAYGROUND

Every activity of the Department of Recreation Camps & Playgrounds of Los Angeles County, every program and every member and employee of that splendid organization, is dedicated to a healthier, happier citizenry and to the preservation for all the people, of the wonderful natural playground which nature has provided.

Federal Forestry, County Forestry and the Department of Recreation are working in complete harmony and cooperation to preserve and develop this greatest mountain playground in the world, not only for use of the present generation but for a future population of 10,000,000 people.

There are probably only a small percentage of the citizens of Los Angeles County who realize the extent of these operations, the tremendous importance of this development, or the number now served by these agencies. Following are some statistics, most of which our citizens may read and quote with pride, some to which they should give serious thought:

National Forest within the County, 643,836 acres. Mountain area under County Forestry Dept., 375,680 acres. Total, 1,019,516 acres, or 1,587 square miles. Total burned in 20 years, about 600,000 acres.

Forest protection roads closed to auto travel but open for hiking and riding, about 750 miles. Trails for foot and horseback, 1,250 miles. Total 2,000 miles. It is 80 miles by trail from Magic Mountain to Mt. San Antonio, nowhere under 4,800 feet and reaching over 10,000 feet elevation. Of the great Pacific Crest Trail from Canada to Mexico, 140 miles is in Los Angeles County. There are 200 forest campgrounds and 35 mountain resorts.

There are 17 named peaks over 7,000 feet high, 4 over 9,000, 1 over 10,000. The deepest canyon in Southern California is the Great Gorge of the San Gabriel, between Mt. Baden-Powell and Mt. San Antonio, 6,600 feet deep, 7 miles across the top and the stream in the bottom 3,000 feet above sea level.

In 1935 2,000,000 persons visited the Angeles Forest area, either to hike, picnic, occupy their cabins or camp for a while. This does not include those just driving through to reach other points. The total who hiked 10 miles or more reached about 140,000.

This great playground must be protected from fire.

DO YOUR PART AND MORE.



## CABIN LANDMARKS OF THE ANGELES

In this number we continue the old history of the San Gabriel Range with a story of the San Gabriel Canyon of 30 to 80 years ago. This story is necessarily limited and incomplete; many important names and incidents have been mentioned only briefly or not at all. From those who were unavoidably left out we ask their indulgence and kindly consideration.

The mines and mining days of The Canyon which have scarcely been touched on will be covered more completely in a later number of Trails Magazine. It will take books to tell the story of The Canyon as it should be told, and we understand those books are now being written.

To those citizens of Azusa, of The Canyon and many others of Southern California who have helped to make this story possible, we here express our thanks and appreciation.

## THE OLD SAN GABRIEL AND SOME OF THOSE WHO MADE ITS HISTORY

By CORNELIUS SMITH, *Secretary Azusa Chamber of Commerce*

Out of dim memories of the past come the almost forgotten names and locations of the hardy pioneers who made the early history of our beloved San Gabriel Canyon. Mining, hunting, fishing, its healthy atmosphere and glorious scenery, have been an irresistible attraction for a century and a half. Along its tumbling streams and between its towering canyon walls, many thousands have made their permanent or leisure time homes. Modest cabin and pretentious lodge alike have felt the wrath of the elements; have been destroyed by floods and fire. Many a humble abode has been abandoned to be taken up by others in the struggle for livelihood.

The first name given it was Azusa Canyon, and the first white man to inhabit the area surrounding the canyon was Henry Dalton, an Englishman, who purchased large land holdings from the Mexican owners in 1844. Soon thereafter were built near the mouth of the canyon the buildings of the ranch home, the walls three feet thick, of adobe brick made by the Indians, the beams, rafters and shakes for the roof hewn and split from the forests of the canyon. Across the road were the winery, stables, corrals and barns filled with the harvested grains and hay.

The road from San Gabriel Mission wound its way through the brush covered plain, passing the then palatial home of the Daltons, to the canyon. This old adobe was for many years a center for social and public gatherings of the pioneer days and here there was always a welcome for the traveler, food and bed for himself and horses, and a hearty "God keep you" as he went on his way.

In 1856 another adobe dwelling for the ranch foreman was erected about a mile from the mountains on the bank of a tree-lined ditch which brought irrigating water from the canyon, and a few years later Mr. Dalton moved his family to this location. Here at the stream crossing weary stock could be watered. Here also suspended from a huge alder tree on the bank, was a gourd dipper for public use and thousands of native Indians, Mexicans and mountain bound travelers enjoyed dripping coolness from the same container, years before the discovery of the microbe.

At the mouth of the canyon was the H. C. Roberts home, built in 1859 of rough board siding and roof of split shingles. An orchard of oranges, peaches and pomegranates surrounded the house and a cactus fence, some of which may still be seen, bordered the road. Native Indians and Mexicans came for miles in the ripening season to gather the fruit of this hedge for food.

Here were the stock corrals and equipment for the pack-trains which carried supplies not only to the Roberts' store and extensive hydraulic mines on East Fork but for many of the inhabitants of the Canyon as well. Here also fourteen children were born to the Roberts family with only a mid-wife in attendance, and here Mrs. Roberts lived to the good old age of 94.

In 1861 Roberts built the first building on the property later so well known as Follows Camp and in it ran a general store for the miners, where practically the only medium of exchange was gold from the diggings. The big San Gabriel gold-rush had started in 1858

and a horde of miners were pouring into the canyon, building their shacks and stone cabins along East Fork, where many of them were later destroyed by fire and flood. Mexicans, Indians and Whites toiled for the yellow dust and at this time came those who were to have a large part in its later history, among them William and Cornelius Potter, W. G. Ferguson, Buell, Bonus Smith, H. C. Roberts, Mark Lorenzo and Bertoldo.

### William Potter Came in 1860

William (Bill) Potter, carpenter and blacksmith, came with G. Brown in 1860. Brown built at Brown's Gulch, near where County Flood Control Dam Number 1 is now building, and he and Potter remained intimate friends until his death in the '70s. He was cared for during his lingering illness by the Potter family and other canyon neighbors, and given a typical mountain burial at the mouth of the canyon which bears his name. From this grave under a live oak, a wooden cross marked the head, all surface signs have long been effaced, but his friend Potter never, during his lifetime, let a Decoration Day pass without the grave being cleared, a laurel wreath paced on the cross and the grave decor-

ated with such mountain flowers as bloomed near by. The Brown cabin was of stone and mud mortar with split shake roofing hewn by the hand of his friend Potter.

William Potter's first mine was at what was then known as Tom Driver Hill, near the narrows, in the main canyon, the exact location not now known by the family. The great flood of 1861-62 drove Potter and Driver from their workings, washing away their dwelling and most of their tools. In 1863 Potter went to San Bernardino, where he was married, returning later to work for five years with W. G. Ferguson at hydraulic mining, and lived with his bride on Ferguson Flat. In the '70s Potter acquired the property later known as Mountain View, and built there in 1878 from hewn timbers, hand-sawed lumber and split shakes one of the most pretentious homes in the canyon.

At about this time Charlie La Strand brought from the San Gabriel Mission, grape vines, fig and other fruit trees and planted the first fruit orchard in the canyon on the Potter Ranch. Later he planted an orchard at Lower Rincon and at other places throughout the canyon planted grape vines among the



FIRST CABIN OF THE CREEL CLUB

On the roof—Henry W. O'Melweny, H. L. Macneil, Wm. Cardwell, Fred A. Walton, Judge W. P. Wade, James Cuzner. On the ground—J. Q. Tufts and Mary Persinger.





*First Cabin of Pasadena Bait Club on West Fork.*

trees, the plants being furnished by the Fathers of San Gabriel Mission. The story of these plantings by La Strand was forgotten and later travelers supposed the tree clinging vines with their purple clusters were wild, but "he had built his house by the side of the road and had been a friend to man."

Early in the '80s Ephrim Bloss came to the Canyon and soon after came his father Alvy Bloss, a millright from Nevada City, with the rest of the family, and in 1887 located on the property now occupied by El Encanto Resort (The Enchanted). The little cottage erected by Bloss and still standing, served for years as a mileage marker for Canyon folks, being just 2½ miles from Dalton Hill. Mr. Bloss built the mill for the Victoria Mill and Mining Company and also the flume which carried water from the Casey tunnel to the ditch at the canyon mouth. Alvy Bloss later sold his holdings in the canyon to G. O. Newman, chief engineer of the Pacific Light and Power Company, and it is now owned by the son, Miller Newman, now and for many years in the U. S. Forestry Service, and whose wife, a daughter of Henry C. Roberts, conducts there the justly popular mountain lodge "El Encanto."

Charles Hoag, next in the Canyon, originally included in his holdings the Bloss place, but thinking he held too much property relinquished the lower portion, proving up on 95 acres, which place is still owned by his widow, Mary J. Hoag of Azusa, a daughter of William Potter.

The first residence built by Mr. Hoag in 1870 was from logs taken from timber cleared from the property, and the first orange orchard planted in the canyon consisted of twelve seedling trees planted in the '80s. The present orchard was planted in 1908. Mr. Hoag raised honey and did placer mining on the property.

#### **The Silver Mines**

Next of interest was the mill of the Victoria Silver Mine, built in the early '90s. Cook house, dining room and bunk cabins on the west side of the river were connected with the office on the east side by a wooden bridge. The stream was dammed, forming a lake of several acres, and from this the mill and stamps were operated by water power until old mother nature took a hand and when dam, bridge and most of the buildings were washed from the canyon by one of the many floods, Sir Charles Cardinall, attorney and principle owner, ordered the mill scrapped and sold.

East of the Victoria was the Kelsey Silver Mine with buildings extending through the grove east of the mill. The mine, located by Louis Sharp, was high up on Silver Peak and the rich ore conveyed to the mill by a system of ore chutes. The property was acquired by the Pasadena Water Company and the remaining buildings demolished in 1933.

Between these two mills a winding trail led through the greasewood and scrub oak to the Holyland Cabin, two miles above the road at Swanza Spring. This was a rustic, board cabin and, like many other landmarks, was

burned in the fire of 1924. Mr. Holyland was intensely interested in his mine and spent much of his time in this secluded retreat.

Across from the Kelsey Mine stood the Wilson log cabin which was later taken over by the Los Angeles Tuberculosis Society and successfully operated as a prevention project until the building of the Pasadena Dam made it necessary to find another location.

Next above and across the stream, was Sharp's Flat and the cabin of Louis Sharp. He had a little vineyard which furnished grapes for his wine supply, but will be best remembered for his rocking chair under the trees by the stream and his merry "hello" as the stages passed by. Many will also remember the day his usual salute was not heard and Dave Beatty, the stage driver, found him dead in his chair with the daily paper across his knees.

Also remembered will be old John Slemens, who mined the river in the early days and returned after forty years to occupy the Sharp Cabin because the "spirits" told him of a pocket of gold waiting for him. The pocket, when finally found, after much hard labor, yielded \$2.63 in gold, and old John's only comment was "The spirits never lie." He will always be remembered for his pail of cold, spring water with which he met each stage load of thirsty vacationists, assuring them with each refreshing cupful that it was "given in the name of the Lord," and gratefully pocket-

ing the contribution of small change which it usually brought.

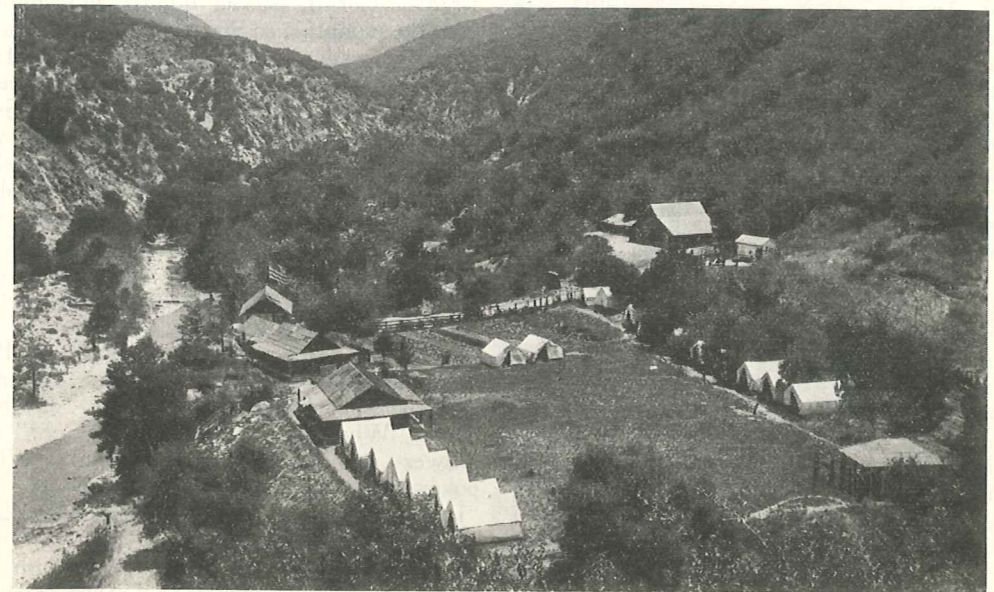
About 1880 we find George Islip locating a homestead on the west side of the river a couple of crossings above the Sharp place, and here he built a single room rough board cabin. Mt. Islip above Crystal Lake Park was named for Uncle George.

#### **The O'Melveny Home, "The Crag"**

After the passing of Islip the property was sold by the widow in 1890 to Henry W. O'Melveny and here was built the O'Melveny summer, week-end and holiday home, "The Crag," to be enjoyed by them and their friends for more than forty years until sold to the Pasadena Water Company in 1932. Lucky were those who counted themselves guests of the O'Melveny's at one of those famous broiled steak dinners such as only he knew how to prepare over the coals of the outdoor grill.

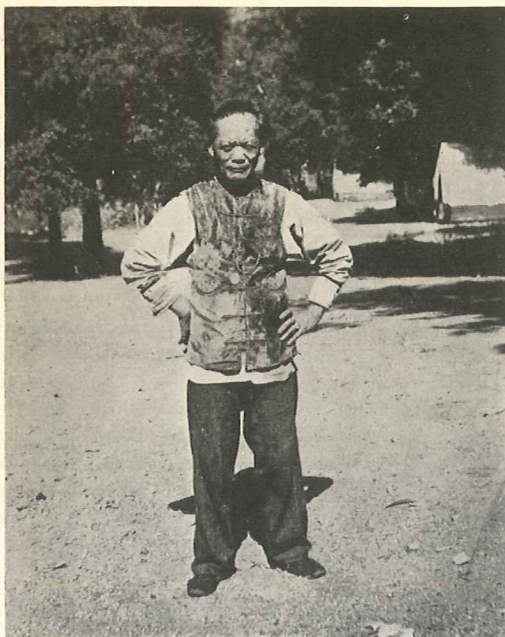
It was here a few years ago that Mr. O'Melveny imported from Holland those famous daffodil and tulip bulbs which made his garden one of the show places of Los Angeles County. People of note throughout the world have enjoyed the hospitality of the O'Melveny's and the magnificent view from "The Crag."

Across on the east side was Garcia's cabin, where he planted a little vineyard and worked his placer claim for small quantities of gold dust, and a few river crossings above was



*Follows Camp on East Fork.*





Wing Ling, cook at Camp Rincon 1902 to 1905. H. O. Roberts Mine, Pasadena Bait Club, Victoria Silver Mine, Buell's Camp and Switzer's Camp.

Berry Flat and the second club house of the Pasadena Bait Club. Both sites are now in the reservoir of the Pasadena Water Company.

The story of the lower San Gabriel would be far from complete without mention of Mary and Bates Persinger, who were married in Los Angeles on November 14, 1888, and moved into the canyon a month later to make their home at the old log cabin on Lorenzo Flat at the forks. The next spring Persinger took a claim on the opposite side of the canyon and the first home was constructed with lumber from the Ferguson hydraulic flume. Fruit trees were set out and a vegetable garden planted. When supplies got low in the winter it was no unusual thing to see Bates Persinger leave Azusa with a 75 to 100 pound pack on his back and take the trail over the mountain for home.

Around the forks many of the early settlers established homes, usually built of logs or of stones laid up in mud. Here was Vaughan's Corral, the slaughter house and meat market where cattle were butchered and sold to the miners and mining camps. After mining slowed down John Robb, a son-in-law of William Potter, settled on the Vaughan property, planted several acres of fruit, raised chickens and turkeys and ran a pack-train in the canyon. The flood of 1891 washed out

buildings, stock and orchard, Robb and his wife barely escaping with their lives by climbing the mountainside. In the early '90s, Fred Thorpe built a cabin here which was later acquired by Judge Curtis D. Wilbur for a summer home and by him sold to the County Flood Control.

#### The Creel Club

The year 1891 started a new era of San Gabriel Canyon history and the canyon soon became the mountain recreation center of the Southwest. The roads built in previous years to haul timbers out and mining equipment in, were becoming crowded with hunters, fishermen and recreation seekers. Early in this year a group of young business and professional men of Los Angeles formed the Creel Club, the first sportsman's club in the canyon. The original membership list included W. P. Wade, John E. Jackson, H. L. Macneil, W. H. Clark, George Safford, W. G. Kerckhoff, H. W. O'Melveny, Ed Gibson, John V. Wachtel, Alvin Jones, William Cardwell, Fred Walton, James Cuzner, J. Q. Tufts, R. H. F. Varill and George Dixon.

In December, 1889, material was hauled from Azusa for the erection of the first Club building, but that same night started the great flood of 1889-90 and before it was over all of this material washed out of the canyon. A Club House was to be built, so when the storm was over a new supply was delivered to the foot of the Glendora trail. From here Bates and Mary Persinger, with burros from the Bradley Corral, packed lumber and supplies over the mountain so that the new Club House might be ready for the Spring fishing. Mary Persinger says "packing lumber and cement over that crooked, narrow trail was no Sunday school picnic, and though the burros understood their language, and every old packer knows what it takes, people of the Automobile age wouldn't understand and we'd better not print it."

Each year new members were added, and as the Club grew the cabin was enlarged and its members were spreading the fame of the San Gabriel fishing far and wide. Mary Persinger was the cabin boss, stewardess, chef and general supervisor. When new members asked "What do we eat besides trout?" the answer was always "Ask Mary." When poker was the evening's entertainment the "jack-pot" went to Mary as additional salary. When trout plantings were sent from the hatchery at Sisson, the Creel Club, with the help of canyon residents and resort owners, distributed them. After the breaking up of

the Creel Club the property was taken over by James Cuzner, used for a few years by his family and friends and in 1932 sold to the County Flood Control. Thus ended the Creel Club in Persinger Canyon and a delightful chapter in the history of the Old San Gabriel.

In the Spring of 1890 a party composed of L. C. Torrence, H. H. Rose (later mayor of Los Angeles), Walter L. Wotkyns and Emil Kayser, packed over the Mt. Wilson Trail, then under construction, and after much trouble and hardship, reached West Fork of the San Gabriel. This was the beginning of a fishing trip which resulted in forming the Pasadena Bait Club. On the way down the canyon a site was selected and a year later a log cabin club house built under supervision of Torrence and Rose.

The original members were mostly young business and professional men of Pasadena and include such well known names as George Post, C. D. Daggett, George F. Granger, Seymour Locke, Dr. H. H. Sherk, Webster Wotkyns, Walter S. Wright, Dr. A. H. Palmer, Dr. W. L. McAlister, William Staats, Frank C. Bolt, Emil Kayser, Walter L. Wotkyns, L. C. Torrence, H. H. Rose, Theodore Welch, J. S. Torrence and A. H. Conger.

Many are the cherished memories of the outings of the Pasadena Bait Club, their families and friends, many the fine limits of trout caught from the West Fork, Devil's Canyon and Bear Creek and many the tales, humorous and tragic told by the club members. One rainy night in the '90s the party were aroused by a clamoring at the door, which on being opened, admitted Professor T. S. C. Lowe of Mt. Lowe fame and Governor H. H. Markham, who had been fishing up West Fork and lost their way in the storm while trying to reach their camp at Bear Creek. The distinguished guests were made dry and warm before a roaring fire in the fireplace and further fortified with a drink from a jug of whiskey which had been buried in the earthen floor for such an emergency.

They tell how numbers of times on opening the cabin, rattlesnakes were found coiled in the fireplace or in a corner, and that once, in the night, a kangaroo rat climbed onto the table and, wrapping his tail around the neck of the beer-bottle candlestick, dragged it about the place until the guests were in a panic of fright.

This club house was used until 1922, when a site was selected and a new cabin built, two

miles farther up the West Fork. The old cabin, so well known to all travelers of the West Fork, was burned in the great fire of 1924, leaving only the old stone chimney, a monument to the memory of many happy outings in the old days.

#### Follows Camp

Jack Follows, a sailor on a ship which plied between Liverpool and San Francisco, had a friend on the San Francisco police force who, on learning that Jack's brother Ralph was sick in England with tuberculosis, advised to bring him to California and send him to San Gabriel Canyon.

So Ralph, after a last good-bye to many friends who expected he would be buried at sea, was taken on ship on a stretcher, unloaded in San Francisco, his lungs drained by a doctor, and he was started on the way to his fountain of youth. Ralph and Jack arrived in Azusa one Spring day in 1891, and next morning rented a burro from Henry Roberts for the trip up the San Gabriel.

Those who remembered the Ralph Follows of later years will find it hard to believe that he only weighed 90 pounds and the first day was only able to reach the Roberts home at



Harry Walton and Toots Martin examine ore samples at Walton Cabin.





Main Building Coldbrook Camp in 1904.

the canyon mouth. The next day he reached the Lorenzo cabin at the Main Forks and the third day traveled to the old Roberts-Ferguson mining camp, where they rented a cabin. Ralph's health began an immediate improvement and soon passing hunters and fishermen were stopping at his cabin for meals, paying well for the service, so for three years he conducted his by-way eating house with an ever increasing patronage.

A man named Kennett, a former chief of police of St. Louis, had a few years before come west for his wife's health and had also settled on the East Fork of San Gabriel. Kennett was owed a note of considerable amount by a man in Los Angeles, and being badly in need of the money for his wife's care went in to try and collect and, in the argument which followed, killed the debtor. For this he received a 10-year sentence, but was pardoned in a few months.

Ralph Follows bought the Kennett property and there started what soon became the largest and best known resort in the canyon, "Follows Camp." In 1896 he married Miss Jennie Heaton and working together they built in San Gabriel Canyon a resort which became nationally known, and was patronized by notables from all over the world. Good home cooking, a genial friendliness and welcome, good fishing and glorious scenery were the attractions. It was said of Ralph Follows that he could do more things at one time and well than anyone who ever lived in the canyon.

A single page of the old Follows Camp register shows the following names: Henry W. O'Melveny, Jackson A. Graves, Harry Chandler, J. M. Elliott, James Bullin of the Canadian Pacific R. R., Count and Countess

Von Zimmerman, Edward Ainsley, European correspondent of Collier's Weekly; Bernard O'Connor, wholesale grocer of Indianapolis.

In the early '60s Cornelius Potter established his residence at Lower Rincon, filing on 160 acres which included the site of the resort. Here he built a log cabin and later two one-room cabins of lumber from the Buell flume. A few years later Potter brought the first honey bees into the canyon, adding to his stands whenever possible the wild swarms of the adjacent area. He also brought in cattle and pastured his herd at Pine Flat, butchering and selling to the early miners. His pack train helped many a hunting or fishing party to their selected destination. Potter was killed at Azusa when his spring wagon overturned, throwing him against a telegraph pole.

#### Camp Rincon

Camp Rincon, for many years, as now, one of the favored resorts of the canyon, was leased from Cornelius Potter in 1897 by Charles E. Smith. Building of the camp was immediately started and rushed to completion for the opening of the Spring trout season. The Rincon store was given the most prominent location, facing the main road up the West Fork, and here were unloaded and loaded all passengers and baggage arriving and departing on the stage from Azusa. Here all campers came to bid good-bye to old friends and welcome new ones—around it centered all camp activities.

Camp Rincon was everything which was expected of those days for the enjoyment of camp life, swimming pool, dance hall, croquet grounds, saddle horses, trails in all directions through the canyons and over the mountains and a central point for all good fishing streams. Old Wing Ling, a celebrated Chi-

nese cook, also an inveterate gambler, of those days, always showed up with the end of high water in the Spring, and no meal seemed properly cooked unless Wing was on the job, and he sometimes was not if he became too much interested in the game or hit the black bottle too often.

Camp Rincon was made a stock company in 1906, Potter relinquishing his property rights to the new owners, C. A. Weaver, Will Pollard, E. R. Coffman and H. D. Briggs, with Smith continuing as manager.

By the old road, in the little flat across the stream from Camp Rincon, is the little house in which Harry H. Walton, "the bee man," lived for 25 years. In Summer he sold the product of his bees to canyon visitors and in Winter worked his mine, driving a tunnel far under the mountain in search of gold. His good friend Toots Martin, an early-day Supervisor of Los Angeles County, always stopped at Harry's on his frequent visits to the canyon.

Just above the Narrows in North Fork a man by the name of Buell, built a construction camp in the early '60s and a large gang of workmen started construction on what was known as the Buell flume, which was to carry water from near Bichota Canyon, by flume and 700 foot tunnel, for hydraulic mining along the benches of the lower main canyon. When the job was completed and the water turned in it was found that the tunnel ran up hill instead of down. The mistake bankrupted the builders and no part of the conduit was ever used. The elaborate camp built by Buell stood at the site now occupied by the Hendrick Cabin. The buildings were of cobblestone walls, native timber beams and rafters and split shake roofs. The deserted dwellings have long since entirely disappeared.

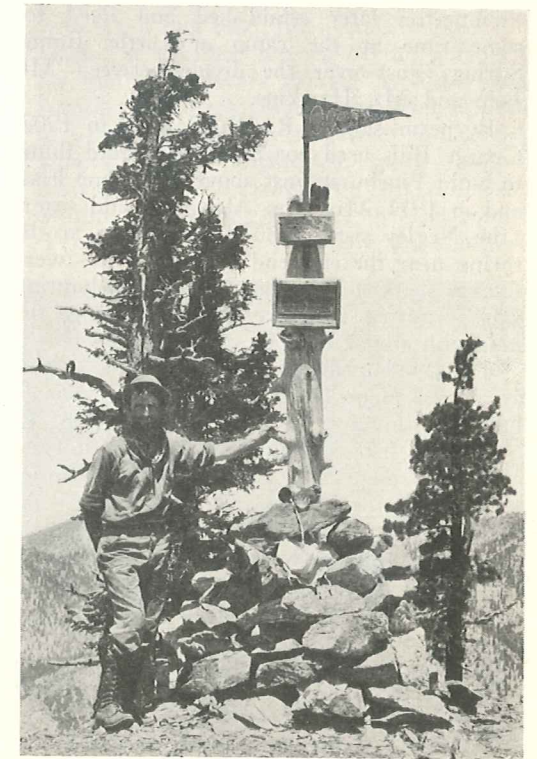
In the early '70s, W. P. Barnes, Oliver Justice and E. L. Burdick filed on quarter-sections on Pine Flat, now Crystal Lake Park, and erected a monument in the center of their holdings, planning to find some one to take the other quarter, but being unable to find a fourth sufficiently interested the plan failed. In 1876 R. W. Dawson made his first trip to Crystal Lake, then known as Sycamore Lake, and about 1890 filed on water rights of the area. He built a stone cabin south of Mt. Islip on the upper trail to the lake as a cookhouse for the construction crew on a flume and cement ditch to bring the water from the big spring at the foot of Mt. Hawkins across the upper flat to the lake, thinking that the combined

water would be sufficient to run a power plant. The Pacific Light and Power paid him \$5,000 with \$15,000 more to be paid later, but the lake, which had been supposed to be a live spring, proved to be only a run-off from surrounding slopes and the deal fell through.

#### Coldbrook Camp

Dawson sub-leased his lease at Sycamore Flat, now Coldbrook Resort, to A. A. Beatty, better known as Doc Beatty, for resort purposes. A steep rough road was built and Squirrel Inn, the first resort on North Fork, was opened for Summer trade in 1901. The stage time from Azusa was nine hours, *roughly*. Mt. Hawkins, east of Crystal Lake Park, was named for Miss Nellie Hawkins, a beautiful and popular waitress at Squirrel Inn.

In 1904 R. W. Dawson took over the management, renamed it Coldbrook Camp, and secured a U. S. Post Office under that name. This same year Eslies Smith was brought to Coldbrook more dead than alive, but the pitch laden air, working a miracle, cheated the grim reaper and Eslies now has a position with the City of Pasadena. Mt. Smithie, to the west of Coldbrook, bears his name.



Percy V. (Pete) Goodell and Occidental Monument on Mt. Islip.





Cabin of Covina Outing Club on Bear Creek.

The Coldbrook Camp register also bears its portion of celebrities, and looking over its pages we find the names of George Ide, the Hoosier writer, Swinnerton and Bud Fisher, famous cartoonists, Judge Chambers, John and Ethel Barrymore, and many others. Swinnerton later established and lived for some time at the camp at Little Jimmy Springs, just over the divide between Mt. Islip and Mt. Hawkins.

By permission of R. W. Dawson in 1907, George Bills used boards from the old flume to build Pinehurst, just above East Pine Flat, and in 1911 Mrs. Jim Alexander and sisters (the Negley sisters) built their cabin at the spring near the east end. These sisters were famous shots, and in those days when hunting was permitted here, were always among the first with a buck hung in camp.

The last hunting lodge to be erected in this area was Campo De Los Pinos at Big Cienega by the following: Roger P. Dalton, S. E. Skidmore, Jake Wilsford, Will Zerrell, Fred Williams, Al Weik, Chester Savage, Willeford Clark, Joe Dalton and Bob Hefling. As many as five bucks were brought in in a day. Much of the meat was jerked and the Coldbrook Stage carried many a buck to friends in Azusa. This camp was a favorite spot for breakfast with sunrise parties on the way to Mt. Islip and the sun had a way of often breaking through the trees before breakfast was finished.

#### Wawona Cabin (Our Cover Picture)

Wawona Cabin, in its beautiful setting south of Crystal Lake, the most pictured log cabin in the San Gabriel Range, was built by

students of Occidental College in 1909, the outgrowth of a happy camping party held on Pine Flat the year before. Some of those who built and enjoyed the cabin were William (Bill) Bacon, Arthur W. Buell, Robert G. Clelland, Percy V. (Pete) Goodell, James C. McClung, John W. Nevins, Arthur P. Clapp and Dan S. Hammack. At times in the old days as many as two dozen students, properly chaperoned, have vacationed under the great trees of this ancient lake bed.

Ninety pack loads of lumber, cement and supplies were packed up that old heart-breaking trail from Coldbrook Camp to Wawona. The walls were of logs cut on the ground, the trees for which were marked for use by Ranger Bob Hyatt. Dan Hammack proved to be useless with tools, so the packing job was given to him. He used four animals and made two trips a day; looks like they put one over on Dan. Bill Bacon, John Nevins and Pete Goodell proved the best carpenters, so under supervision of an expert builder, Jean Bosorrdet, they built the cabin. To Pete Goodell goes the honor of building most of the monument which stood for many years on the summit of Mt. Islip. Wawona Cabin was given up by the Occidental group when this 1360-acre forest park was taken over by the Los Angeles County Department of Recreation, Camps and Playgrounds in 1932.

The Covina Outing Club built, at the forks of Bear Creek in 1906, one of the most substantial club houses of the San Gabriel. The walls were of carefully selected river stone laid by experienced masons, the gables of rustic siding and roof of shakes brought from Wis-

consin. The original members were John Hutchinson, R. M. Montoon, R. C. Pollard, Frank H. Fabric, Elmer McDowell, Walter Hodges and Henry Phillips. They found in this secluded spot wonderful fishing and hunting and the big stone cabin sheltered many a happy outing of the members, their families and friends. This was one of the few cabins of the western division which escaped the fire of 1924 and was used as a supply station for the U. S. Forestry forces in that area.

Mark Lorenzo came in the early mining days and first lived at Ferguson's Flat, working at hydraulic mining for H. C. Roberts and Uncle Billy Ferguson. He with such mountain characters as Domingo Aruizu, Bertoldo, Jose Maria, Don Filipe, Bogus Smith and others, all living in crude stone cabins along the banks of East Fork. After the hydraulic period he moved to near the spring at the Main Fork, which soon became known to all mountain travelers as "Lorenzo's." Here he built two cabins, one on the west of the road of old flume lumber and east of the road a real log cabin.

#### Bedtime Stories

Lorenzo's was the end of the first day's journey by pack-train from Azusa and here, around the campfire the old timers matched stories of hand-to-hand encounters with mountain lion or grizzly, causing many a tenderfoot a restless night as, rolled in his blankets under the stars, he listened to the hoot of an owl or the bark of a prowling fox.

Bertoldo, an Italian, had built a cabin just above Lorenzo's, but soon left it for his min-

ing claim on the main river above Cattle Canyon. Here he built, in the early '70s, on a little bench high above high water, a little cabin of rock and mud, which still stands. On a fertile flat down nearer the river he planted a vineyard and later built the home which still stands there surrounded by vines and fruit trees. During prohibition days, officers raided his place and destroyed his wine supply, which broke the old Italian's heart and he soon passed away in the County Hospital.

#### John Knox Portwood

John Knox Portwood, or John Knox, as he was known to most Canyon folks, furnishes the only tragic note in our story, and about his doings, good and bad, there was a wide difference of opinion. He came to the Canyon in 1895 and built in Cattle Canyon above Camp Bonita, the cabin, now occupied by Ben Heaton, in which he lived until a bullet from the gun of Ranger Charlie Nevatney ended his career on June 13, 1920. He made his living by mining and packing, and if the road was in fair condition, drove a team of four burros hitched to a light spring wagon.

According to the story gleaned from those who knew him best, John Knox wished to be known as a killer, boasted of the notches on his gun and always carried it, either hung from his belt or concealed in his wagon. When in liquor he was very talkative, and to those who were best acquainted, spoke freely of his exploits. He claimed he was run out of Virginia for killing a man; that he went to Texas and there got two more and another in



John Knox Portwood and His Burro Team.





Trogden's on Iron Fork, 1898. 1—George Trogden. 2—Unknown. 3—Pearl Trogden. 4—Ralph Follows.

Arizona; he came to California and killed a man at Inglewood and on Christmas night, 1917, at Trogden's Camp on Iron Fork he shot and killed one of the Miller brothers, who were mining at the Narrows. Soon after this a skeleton found, covered with logs and brush, in Coldwater Canyon, was laid to him but never proven.

After a court hearing Knox was cleared of the Miller killing, principally through a spy story which he told on the witness stand, implicating Miller, who was a German, with one Franz Schulenburg, whose activities were then being watched by secret service men. Knox was himself killed by Nevatney when he drew his gun on Ranger Frank Dunne, who had gone to question him about threatening letters sent to two residents of the Canyon, Mrs. Blanch Cole and daughter Marjorie.

Trogden's on Iron Fork was, and still is, one of the best known cabins in the San Gabriel. George M. Trogden went to Iron Fork in 1898 as agent of the Pacific Light and Power Company to measure water flow for a proposed electric power project. His first cabin, built that year, still stands and is used by his son-in-law John Hibsche and family for summer outings. The old cabin of flat stone with canvas roof has been added to, roofed with shakes and other cabins built about it.

Trogden's is in the heart of the highest mountains and most rugged scenery in Southern California and surrounded by ranges from 7,000 to 10,000 feet high. A quarter-mile away is the main stream of the San Gabriel, which here tumbles for eight miles through

a gorge a mile deep. It has always been a great trout stream and every sportsman of the old days who made Iron Fork was sure of a welcome from Uncle George. The bacon grease was always kept ready and he could brown a trout to perfection or make a deer steak the envy of any chef.

Oliver (Old Hickory) Justice, one of the last of the old time miners, built his cabin of rock and shakes on the East Fork just below Iron Fork. He was the first postmaster of the Azusa district in the '70s and for several years previous had been president of the school board. After saloons were voted out of Azusa he lived a hermit's life in the Canyon and was found dead in his cabin by Ranger Trout on June 29, 1929. Up on the rafters in his cabin was found a coffin which Justice had built for himself, from native lumber, in readiness for his call. He was buried by canyon friends on the mesa above Trogden's, and one may look from the grave down through Iron Fork to his cabin by the river.

Along down the canyon stream are the old buildings or the rock pile remains which once sheltered a hardy race. Winald Dalton, Judge Strunk, Chicken Findlay, Mountain Charlie, Trubidour Rodriguez, W. T. Heaton and many others who toiled for the yellow dust.

The Old San Gabriel has been a place of romance and tragedy, of wealth and poverty, of happy leisure, restfulness and contentment. Its beauty and its lure is perhaps best told by one who also enjoyed it in the old days, who scorned man made abode and rolled up in his blankets under the stars wherever he chose to make his camp, and was lulled to slumber by the music of the singing stream, our beloved poet, E. A. Brininstool, and Canyon Folks think that his greatest poem is that here given you, "Up In Ol' San Gabriel."



Oliver (Old Hickory) Justice.

### "UP IN OL' SAN GABRIEL"

Quit yer diggin' so like thunder; drop yer bizness  
cares a while;  
Stop a-thinkin' 'bout yer troubles; work your face  
into a smile.  
If yer appetite has failed you an' yer clean down  
in despair,  
What you're needin' is a tonic in the shape of  
mountain air.  
Better drop yer cares an' worries, an' quit workin'  
for a spell,  
An' hunt fun an' recreation up in ol' San Gabriel.

Git out in God's glorious mountains, free, away  
from every care,  
An' fill up yer tired carcass with a sniff o' moun-  
tain air;  
Where the canyon streams come bubblin' o'er the  
rocky, shelvin' beds,  
An' the timber-covered peaks lift up their brown  
an' rugged heads.  
Hike away back where the wary, gamey, speckled  
brook trout dwell,  
In the rock-ribbed, windin' canyons up in ol' San  
Gabriel.

Never mind the ol' typewriter—let it rest a month  
er two;  
Slam yer roll-top down an' lock it till yer summer  
fun is through.  
Don yer oldest duds an' streak it where the hem-  
lock an' the pine  
Fill the atmosphere with odors when you git to  
timber line;  
Back into that mountain fastness that's without a  
parallel,  
In the wild an' craggy confines up in ol' San  
Gabriel.

You kin soak yer hide in gladness where the  
swirlin' waters play,  
An' the summer winds go sighin' in a dreamy  
sort o' way;  
You kin loaf away the hours where the trout  
stream sings along,  
O'er the mossy rocks an' pebbles, with a liltin'  
croonin' song;  
You kin cast a line an' come back with some big  
fish yarns to tell—  
Reminiscences of summerin' in ol' San Gabriel.

You kin sleep the sleep of infants in yer blanket  
bed at night,  
When the star-world beams in beauty an' gives  
out its twinklin' light;  
You kin dream sweet dreams o' pleasure when yer  
lyin' at yer ease,  
An' be lulled to happy Dreamland by the whispers  
of the breeze;  
An' the sacred, blessed stillness casts a soothin'  
somber spell  
In the night time o'er the camper up in ol' San  
Gabriel.

Drop yer trials, quit yer frettin', git away a month  
er two;  
What you need is recreation if you're feelin' glum  
an' blue.  
You can't allers have the pleasures of this earth,  
you know, my friend,  
An' so what's the use by frettin' to be hastenin'  
the end?  
If you want a taste o' heaven, drop yer bizness  
fer a spell,  
An' go out a'rusicatin' up in ol' San Gabriel.

—E. A. BRININSTOOL.



## HISTORY OF THE ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST

By W. L. SEARS, Senior Forest Ranger

(Continued from Spring Number)

## CORRECTION

In the first installment of this story, which appeared in the Spring Number, paragraph 2, page 9, should read as follows:

"Everett B. Thomas, one of the first three forest rangers appointed in California, was later promoted and became the second forest supervisor of the San Gabriel Reserve. He served until 1905 and was succeeded by T. P. Lukens, who served from 1905 to 1907 and who was in turn succeeded by R. H. Charlton from 1907 to 1920, when he was detailed to special work for two years, during which period S. W. Allen served as supervisor."

The early history of forest fires in the region now covered by the Angeles National Forest is lacking in detail. It is well known, however, that the whole area had been repeatedly burned over from time to time. It is also known that sheep men in an endeavor to secure more feed for their flocks burned certain areas in the headwaters of the San Gabriel Canyon. However, most of the early fires were started through carelessness by hunters and campers leaving their camp fires burning and settlers allowing fires to escape when clearing land for cultivation. A careful search has been made in the early histories of California and old newspaper files, and although we find many reports, they are entirely lacking in detail.

Dana, in his book "Two Years Before The Mast," states that on his way to Santa Barbara in 1936, great forest fires were encountered in the Coast Range Mountains of Southern California. No definite location was given. In 1872, forest fires burned in the mountains practically from June to September. The locations of these fires were always indefinite, but mention is made of the San Fernando Range in which (probably Pacoima and Little Tujunga) fires were burning for weeks at a time.

In 1878 there were two cattlemen from Texas who set the whole country afire in the Soledad Canyon, sweeping the cover from the mountains for the purpose of producing more feed for their cattle. They followed this practice until 1884. That winter there was a

very heavy rainfall which caused great floods from the denuded areas, and the Southern Pacific Railroad Company lost all its roadbed, together with all bridges, in the Soledad Canyon. After that episode, those cattlemen disappeared from the vicinity and forest fires ceased for a while.

In the summer of 1878 old residents report a very disastrous fire in the La Canada and La Crescenta territory. It was started by a Mexican headman employed on the Verdugo Ranch and burned over the entire San Rafael Hills, the Verdugo Hills and then spread to the Sierra Madre Mountains, burning continuously until extinguished by the rains in the fall. This fire burned over that part of the San Gabriel Reserve from La Canada to the mouth of Big Tujunga Canyon, over the top of Mt. Lukens and into the Big Tujunga Canyon as far east as Alder Creek. While this fire was in progress newspaper accounts stated that the City of Los Angeles was encircled with fire, that ashes fell in the streets and the sun was darkened by the pall of smoke which hung over the city. No attention was paid to these fires after they reached the mountains. The people in the cities considered them beautiful sights to watch at night.

In 1880 a fire was started in the vicinity of the Santa Anita Rancho and Lucky Baldwin had 200 men fighting it. No mention was made as to the extent of the area burned. In 1892 two large fires were reported burning in the Sierra Madre Mountains—one northeast of Duarte and the other in the mountains back of La Canada.

The year 1896 was an exceedingly bad fire one; the temperature through the summer was high and the season was the driest since 1876. A fire broke out in the Big Tujunga Canyon above Hoyt Ranch and burned out portions of Clear Creek, then dropped over into the Arroyo Seco Canyon and completely burning out the head of that canyon from the mouth of Dark Canyon. It then spread south to Brown Mountain and into Millard Canyon before it was checked. In all, this fire covered 11,000 acres. At the same time this fire was burning, another occurred in the Little Tujunga Region of which little can be learned. Another fire burned out Little Dalton Canyon and all the west side of the Big Dalton. No effort was made to extinguish this fire, allowing it

to burn itself out. After the fires of 1896 Mr. B. F. Allen was placed in charge of the San Gabriel Reserve. During his first year there were no serious fires, but in July 1898 a serious fire broke out in Little Bear Canyon from a hunter's campfire. It covered some 2,400 acres of brush and timber and burned intermittently for three weeks. There was a total of 150 men fighting this fire, many of whom were furnished by the Pacific Electric Railway Co., who had interests at Alpine Tavern and Mt. Lowe.

In 1900 a very serious fire occurred, starting from a steam well boring outfit on the Santa Anita Rancho at the mouth of Big Santa Anita Canyon. It burned out all of that canyon, the Little Santa Anita Canyon, around Mt. Harward, crossed the West Fork of San Gabriel Canyon near its head, and swept north to Barley and Pine Flats, going down the Big Tujunga Canyon nearly to Colby Ranch. It was known as the "Big Fire" and burned over 22,000 acres.

Between 1903 and 1913 there were no large disastrous fires. In 1913 there were twelve forest fires which covered an area of 4,338 acres, all caused by brush burners. Four thousand acres of this total was in the Sunland burn in Haynes Canyon and on Mt. Lukens. While only 4,000 acres were burned over in this fire, great damage resulted from the erosion caused by the flood in 1914.

Between 1913 and 1919 there were no

serious fires, but 1919 was thus far the worst fire season in the history of Southern California. Two very large fires started in this year. One was started by a miner in San Gabriel Canyon and covered 60,000 acres before the rain came and put it out. It started on September 12 and was put out September 27. At the same time, a large fire was burning in the Big Tujunga and covered 75,000 acres. This fire started on September 15 and was put out on September 27. Very high north winds were responsible for the rapid spread of these two fires.

The next serious fire occurred in 1924. There were twenty fires this season, covering an area of over 50,800 acres. The large San Gabriel fire covered 50,000 acres and burned from August 31 to October 16. The cost of this fire was more than \$224,000.00; the most costly one of all time. These fires were followed by several dry years, so little damage was caused from erosion.

The fires of later years are well known to the residents of this vicinity and will not be discussed further.

The early history of the Angeles National Forest has been most interesting. There is a great deal more that could be written regarding the naming of topographical features, the building of trails and the first ranger stations, the early mining activities; but as space will not permit, it becomes necessary to omit these interesting features.



A Ranger of the days that are gone.



## PSALM OF A SIERRAN

By ETHEL SEVERSON, *Southern Chapter,  
Sierra Club*

Come with us, O city dweller, and thou shalt be transformed: thy nails shall be broken and thy hands shall become grubby and thine immaculate clothing shall be as the beggar's rags; thy beard shall grow apace and thy pride therein shall be ill-concealed; thy nose shall glow as a beacon in the wilderness.

Thine oatmeal shall mingle with thy prunes, and thy coffee shall be flavored with the dregs of thy soup for thou wastest not thy cup between; thou shalt shiver in the frosty nights and thou shalt long in vain for one chocolate soda, one juicy steak, one hot soapy shower; thou shalt roll up thy bed each morning and pray that thy dunnage exceeds not the weight limit.

Thy muscles shall become as bands of steel, thy skin the hue of copper; thine eyes shall sparkle as the stars and thy smile shall be free and frequent; thy heart shall thrill to cassiope by a waterfall, to the morning light on the peaks, and to moonlight on granite walls; thy troubles shall be as phantoms of a forgotten life; thou shalt without surprise or disappointment find and expect beauty everywhere as one expects the coming of day and night; thou shalt know how divine can be a pause for rest on a log by a tumbling stream; thou shalt find in every moment food for thy hungry soul; cold mountain water shall be nectar, and hard-tack ambrosia, and camp shall be heaven at the day's end.

## BIG PINES TRAIL MARATHON

Before this number reaches our subscribers the Big Pines Trail Marathon, the longest, highest and most grueling foot-race in the world will have been run and won.

The course is for 44 miles over the mountains and through the forests, with a total climb of more than 10,000 feet, in places at grades of 1,500 feet to the mile. The start and finish line is the Davidson Arch at Big Pines, elevation 6,864 feet. The lowest point reached is 6,500 feet and the highest 10,080.

The runner who covers this course in near record time may feel proud of the accomplishment and he who wins is deserving of an Olympic crown. A complete account of this year's race will appear in the Autumn Number of TRAILS.

## PRELUDE

Before the Easter dawn on Sunrise Hill,  
In the San Gabriel mountains, stood the cross  
Flood-lighted, as a beacon, to fulfill  
A memory of the world's great gain and loss.  
The watchman climbed the hill in blackest night,  
Through snow and chaparral the trail made way;  
Emerging suddenly into that white light,  
He rested at the cross, awaiting day.

From peaks above a rushing herd of deer  
Came leaping down. Then each one stopped,  
transfixed,

'Til all the herd of twenty seemed to peer  
At the lighted cross with awe and wonder mixed—  
And then went down. So did nature's signs  
Prelude the Easter service at Big Pines.

—L. REED LEWIS.

## TWO VALUABLE BOOKS

Two books have lately come to the Editor's desk which we are glad to call to the attention of our readers.

One is "Wild Flowers of Southern California" by Carl Thurston, published by the Esto Publishing Co. of Pasadena, California. A new kind of flower book, so arranged that it requires little if any knowledge of botany, an easily understood shortcut to the name, locality and habits of 1500 flowers, trees and shrubs of Southern California, and with 547 illustrations from photographs by the author.

The other is "Cookery In Camp and On The Trail," by Ernest A. Dench, editor of Hiking and Camping Forum in *Nature Magazine* and one of the best authorities in the United States on everything pertaining to trail outings. Here are 24 pages of camp and trail supply and equipment lists, tested camp menus, concentrated foods and beverages, camping specialties, where and how to get supply catalogs and cook books of great value to hikers and campers. Copies may be had for 10 cents. Address Forum Editor, *Nature Magazine*, 1214 16th Street, Washington, D. C.

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## Outing Club News

## HOLD BIG CAMPING EVENT

Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley Council, Boy  
Scouts, at Crystal Lake Recreation  
Park, May 2-3, 1936

Nearly seven hundred Scouts and their leaders arrived at the end of the road in San Gabriel Canyon, near Crystal Lake, on Saturday, May 2, to participate in the Annual Council Camporee. There were 91 Patrols, all equipped with back packs ready for the hike into camp. Before starting up the trail to "Big Cienega," their camp site, each group was carefully instructed as to methods of building fires and other forest rules. Inspection of packs with particular attention to a shovel and axe per patrol, was made. The patrols were joined by a field radio and telephone unit which established communication with the various parts of the huge camp. A complete first aid unit, well equipped, was also on hand as well as a pack train of burros, under the guidance of a group of Eagle Scouts. Upon arriving at the camp site the patrols were allowed to select their own camp.

Saturday afternoon games, appropriate to the mountain area, were played. Campfire in the evening provided a lively and delightful time, with songs, stunts and stories. Rangers Tuttle and Richards of Crystal Lake Recreation Park delighted the Scouts with their fine program of songs and stories and information about forest conservation. On Sunday morning a special field mass was attended by Catholic Scouts while Protestant Scouts attended church. Following church several hundred scouts hiked to Little Jimmy Springs on the slopes of Mt. Islip, where they enjoyed a fine snow fight.

The scouts broke camp about 1 o'clock, endeavoring to remove all trace of their camp. Throughout the trip primitive camping was stressed, with special emphasis on conservation and preservation of our forests. All scouts reported that they had learned a great deal by their experience. Interest in real back pack camping in the back mountain area was certainly stimulated.

It was through the special cooperation of James K. Reid and Ranger Tuttle of the Los Angeles County Playground and Recreation Department that it was possible to hold the Camporee in the beautiful mountain area on Mt. Islip.

FOREST CONSERVATION CLUB  
OF PASADENA

Practical civilian cooperative use and conservation of mountain forests, summarizes the "raison d'être" of Forest Conservation Club, a Pasadena-conceived institution which has, however, a number of members living in Los Angeles. The club's first meeting and first hike were held December 17, 1933, at Mt. Lowe Tavern and Mt. Lowe summit respectively. Since then the club has conducted one-a-month Sunday trips designed to accommodate the old, the young and the middle aged. During most of this time it has also held weekly evening picnics at Pasadena parks in summer and at the Warner residence in winter.

The outstanding accomplishment in a conservation sense is the completion of Echo Mountain trail which starts near Poppy Fields station of Mt. Lowe Railway in Altadena and continues to a point back of the upper landing of the railway incline, almost directly opposite the famous Sunset trail to Mt. Lowe. This trail permits residents of Altadena and upper Pasadena to walk from their homes directly into the heart of Angeles National Forest. The necessity of the Echo mountain connection with upper trails is evidenced almost every day by the extent of foot traffic now going up Echo.

This club has in prospect other forest developments, including present effort to enlist cooperation of Pacific Electric Railway in providing drinking water for thirsty hikers on Echo Mountain trail. It is hoped also to secure two more good trails from the Pasadena region into the forest, thus doing away largely with present hit-and-miss hiking of inexperienced persons over a thousand or so veritable fox-runs. This travel now exists despite fences and trespass signs, and the Forest Conservation Club hopes to make this undesirable traffic legitimate and desirable through providing good trails and educating new hikers to correct forest procedure, a never-ending task of all good mountaineering organizations.

All interested in practical civilian forest conservation accompanied by the right kind of forest and mountain enjoyment and recreation are invited to get in touch with the club at 279 Grand View St., Pasadena, or by phone to NIagara 4638 or TErrace 8457.



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Member of Sierra Club and  
Big Pines Ski Club

## SUMMER CAMPING POPULAR

By TALLMAN H. TRASK, Scout Executive

Early indications are that the five sessions of Summer Camp scheduled for Camp Cherry Valley on Catalina Island will run to capacity.

Cherry Valley is an historic spot on an historic island. More than fifty years ago a British Syndicate spent several million dollars in mining at this site. Today the old mine tunnels and shafts serve a modern Boy Scout Camp as storage space and for sanitation and garbage disposal.

It is estimated that between eight hundred and one thousand Scouts and Leaders will spend ten days at Camp Cherry Valley, where a fleet of thirty canoes, war canoes, row boats, etc., await them. Other camp activities will include swimming, hiking, campfire programs, test passing, fishing, seamanship, handicraft, reading, games, nature study and other activities too numerous to mention.

Following Camp Cherry Valley a group of Senior scouts (first class and fifteen years of age or over) will make a High Sierra pack trip up through Onion Valley, over Kearsarge Pass and then a week among the lakes. Excellent leadership has been provided for Camp Cherry Valley and the Pack Trip.

## CLIMBING WITH SIERRA CLUB

By ARTHUR B. JOHNSON, Chairman Rock Climbing Committee, Southern Chapter

"To explore, enjoy and render accessible the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast; . . ." The creed of the Sierra Club is a mountaineer's creed and all who follow its creed must be mountaineers to a more or less degree. Every peak and spire, every ridge and height flaunts a challenge in the face of the mountaineer and explorer, but many refrain from answering due to inexperience and lack of knowledge of climbing.

So far the Rock Climbing Sections of the Club have been dedicated to spreading knowledge of rock climbing and providing practice, the best that could be found locally. Results are more than pleasing when those who have had advanced climbing for two years or less turn in the following records in one month: Memorial Day week-end in Yosemite Valley, breasting rain and storms, tow parties of three scaled the precipitous southern face of the Washington column for the fourth and fifth ascents, while another party of four was turned back by rain after 800 feet of difficult climbing. Still two more parties of three were turned back by weather on the Church Tower. June 9th three climbers backpacked up Lone Pine Creek over snow and ice to make the fifth ascent of the East Face of Mt. Whitney. Again on June 16th three others followed with the sixth ascent, two thousand feet of excellent climbing, classed as very difficult by European standards. Of the fourteen persons to have climbed the East Face only two have not been Sierra Club members.

Climbing and mountaineering does not stop with perfection in rock climbing, but involves the infinite conditions of snow, ice, and glacier climbing, route finding, itinerary, commissary and expedition planning. With such in mind, the committees are planning trips to give as much experience as possible along these lines with the facilities at hand. Among these trips is a five-day knapsack trip into the Sawtooth Range of the Sierra and two week-end trips to Mill and Snow Creek Canyons.

To come to grips and gain first-hand experience with all phases of mountains and climbing one must go far afield from Southern California. Before the year is out Club members will have ranged over peaks from Baja California's desert Picacho del Diablo to Canada's Mt. Waddington, whose frigid ice crusted precipices have turned back thirteen

(Continued on Page 25)

## NATURE CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The 1936 convention of Federation of Natural Sciences, sponsored by the Club and directed by Dr. H. J. Andrews, vice-president, was held at Junior College, from June 20 to 24. The program covered unusually interesting subjects well handled by outstanding speakers and scientists.

This club has had some interesting trips and hikes during the spring months. In May went to Crater Camp, and also to Devil's Punch Bowl, with W. H. Thrall, editor of this magazine, being our guide on the last named trip. Our main summer trip starts August 1st, to Mt. Lassen, lasting two weeks. Stops will be made at various interesting points en route like Lake Tahoe, Donner Lake, Muir Woods, Big Basin, Morro Bay, etc.

Our weekly meetings will be discontinued during July and August, resuming September 1st, at Clifton's, 648 So. Broadway, Tuesday evenings. There will be field trip July 12 to Point Fermin, and July 25 another field trip to Elysian Park, where study trees and shrubs. For information concerning this club's activities, telephone Mrs. Viola Poole, Parkway 6473.

## ROAMER HIKING CLUB

This popular club has enjoyed the usual fine schedule throughout the Spring with beach parties, skating parties, moonlight hikes, sunrise hikes and some just hikes which were also fine.

Here are the remaining events and dates on the Spring and Summer schedule: Weinie bake, August 1st; dig out the old moth eaten suit and join the sand fleas for a grand evening of games and swimming. For reservations, phone Lupe Bustamante, RO 4217. Business meeting August 12. Beach party August 16; time and place given later.

Roller skating party August 22; don't miss the time of your life! Thrills and spills! Boy! will we have fun? Tickets must be purchased from Social Committee members. Meet at 8 p.m. in front of Rollerdom Skating Rink, 11150 Washington Place, Culver City. Price, 40c. Labor Day September 5-6-7. Save the date. Details later.

The Autumn Schedule will be ready for distribution about September 1. For information about Roamer Club activities contact Al Crossley, President, 1421 Echo Park Ave. Phone MUtual 9418, or Alice Fenner, Secretary, 963 W. 46th St., CEntury 28588.

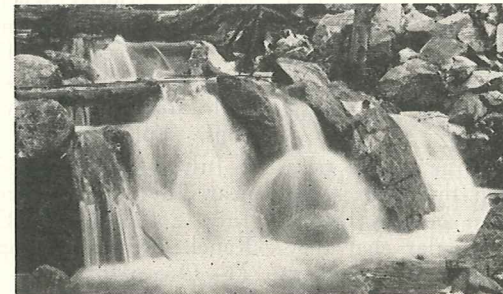
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**WOODCRAFT RANGER NEWS**

By HAROLD L. BOYNTON, *Executive Secretary*

The Woodcraft Ranger summer camps are in full swing, both at Lake Arrowhead Camp, which is situated one-half mile from Lake Arrowhead, and at Camp Ah-Da-Hi, which is situated on the West Fork of the San Gabriel River about two and one-half miles from Opid's Camp, and about one-half mile from Valley Forge. Each camp is filled to capacity for all periods, and a waiting list has had to be established. It seems that the interest in summer camping is increasing each year, and that all the organizations which conduct summer camps will have to find some way to expand their present facilities, or establish additional camping grounds.

The Woodcraft Rangers have just completed one of the most successful years in the history of the organization, both in increase in numbers and attendance at meetings, and in special activities.

**THE WOMEN'S ATHLETIC CLUB OF GLENDALE**

The "Hiking Section" seems a popular section of this splendid organization and the yearly report of this group, which has come to the Editor's desk, is good news to all mountain trail enthusiasts.

The hikers report a membership of 37 with 6 new members added during the year. There were 30 hikes with only one missed on account of rain and the total mileage was 236½ miles. The longest hike was 16 miles and the shortest 4 miles. There were five members who hiked over 200 miles each, as follows: Esther Thompson (cup winner), 236½ miles; Helen Lockwood (second prize), 222½ miles; Viora Greenewald, 217; Sadie Estabrook, 206½; Anne Van Pelt, 204½. Seven others hiked between 100 and 200 miles. Esther Thompson won the attendance prize and Anne Van Pelt a service prize.

A different leader had charge of the trips each month. An innovation this year is the sunset-moonlight hikes taken once a month and these have proved so popular that they are being continued through the summer. Usually there has been a party at some one's home afterwards.

There was a Christmas party at Caroline Joos' with Lucy Stewart as hostess. At an evening business meeting at the home of Helen Lockwood, Mr. Samuel Merrill of the Sierra Club, spoke on John Muir.

**CALIFORNIA TRAILS**

This organization exists to urge the preservation of what bits of wilderness are left in California, particularly in the Sierra Nevada.

We hope that we can help to stop the destructive Kings River Highway before it spoils the entire canyon of the Kings River's south fork. Last year a party took a pack train into the Kings River region to collect information about the road. We have visited packers of the Owens Valley to discover their attitude toward the careless building of roads in the range, and have found that there is a definite sentiment throughout the entire region against the destruction of wild life, scenery and solitude which inevitably comes with highways and resorts.

This year, as in 1934, a party will traverse the route of the proposed Trans-Sierra Highway, a road which would bring nothing new, spectacular, or strikingly beautiful to motorists and which would deprive outdoor-lovers of a region whose only attraction is its wilderness. Another party will tour the Owens Valley in order to gain more first-hand information for this campaign, which has been given impetus in the east by the American Forestry Association and the National Association of Audubon Societies.

Anyone interested in helping to oppose further destruction of our remaining primitive areas is asked to communicate with Martin Litton, 345 E. Redondo Blvd., Inglewood, California.

**GLENDALE COMMUNITY HIKERS**

This popular hiking club is out with an attractive printed schedule for the Summer months, filled with interesting entertainment for every weekend. There are five over-night trips with Sunday hikes into the best of our high areas and many moonlight and beach trips. Following are a few:

July 4-5—Fern Basin off the Banning road near Idyllwild; overnight camp and hike. July 25-26—Lytle Creek and the Glenn Ranch; overnight camp and hike. August 22-23—Overnight camp on Manker Flat and hike to Telegraph Peak. Sept. 5-6-7—Two nights on the South Fork of Santa Ana River and hike to Dollar Lake and Mt. San Geronio, elevation 11,485 feet, highest in Southern California. Sept. 19-20—Camp at Crystal Lake Park and hike to Mt. Hawkins, elevation 8,418 feet.

For information contact R. W. Haight, Chairman, 420 S. Lincoln Ave., Glendale. Phones, VAndike 8785 or DOuglas 4872.

**THE SAN ANTONIO CLUB****A Hiking Club For Men Only**

The high spot of San Antonio Club activities of the past three months was the over-night camp in Prairie Fork and the hike over the beautiful Fish Fork trail on July 11-12.

Following is the program for the next three months: August 9—A hike of 11 miles through some of the finest scenery of the West Fork of San Gabriel River, and Upper West Fork is now the best it has been in twenty years. Sept. 5-6-7—A wonderful panorama from the 8,000 foot summit of Lady Waterman Peak, the 10-mile triangle hike through Camp Rio, upper Little Rock Creek and Cedar Spring and two nights under the stars at Buckhorn Flat, the most beautiful mountain campground in the Southwest. October 4—Bear Canyon in Autumn colors. A ladies' trip to Big Spruce Cabin.

For information write or phone to Will H. Thrall, President, 400 S. Garfield, Alhambra, or Edward Coughran, Secretary, 246 S. Putney, San Gabriel.

**Back Numbers**

1935 issues of TRAILS MAGAZINE on sale at Room 300

240 South Broadway, Los Angeles

**BALDY BIGHORNS**

The placing of Bighorn registers was completed recently when aluminum boxes were located on Cucamonga and Ontario Peaks by a group of the club members. Other registers had previously been placed on Iron Mountain, Brown's Flat and Telegraph Peak. A very interesting and representative cross-section of San Gabriel hiking is set down in these registers since Brown's Flat is a popular objective while Iron Mountain is probably the most isolated and least frequented major peak in the range.

About ten years ago a small group of Pomonans banded together in taking hikes. They soon organized as the Baldy Bighorns after the mountain sheep they had observed in the rugged back country off the beaten trails. A cabin was constructed in Manker Flat as a base for their activities. It is a club tradition to hike to the summit of Old Baldy for the Easter Sunrise each year, and some of the group always make the trip regardless of the weather or snow conditions.

One of the by-laws of the club is that every member should make a trip to Mt. San Antonio for each year of his age. A few of the members have rather overshot the mark in this respect, since two have hiked to the summit more than forty times each. The scaling of the precipitous north face of Mt. San Jacinto via Snow Creek Canyon is planned for August. A trip was made part way up the canyon last year. An excursion into the Sierras is also planned. For mountain enthusiasts who would like to see a craggy, jagged, saw-toothed ridge, the Bighorns suggest a hike along the ridge from Old Baldy to Iron Mountain.

For information of this club address J. Raymond Minnick, 819 W. Holt Ave., Pomona, California.

**Climbing With Sierra Club—**

(Continued from Page 22)

parties of experienced mountaineers, and from the Sierra of California and the Cascades of Washington to the Rockies and Grand Tetons of Wyoming blazing the name of the Sierra Club across the annals of mountaineering history.

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## Trail Trips

### Pacoima Dam— $\frac{1}{2}$ Day

For a thrill. Second highest dam in the world, 372 feet. Waterfall 150 feet high. Beautiful pool and stream. Drive northeast from the corner of Maclay and Foothill, San Fernando, to a parking place at end of road in Pacoima Canyon, 3 miles. Hike up the stream to foot of the dam,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile. Trail on the right leads to top of the dam,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, and around the cliffs above the lake to Maple Canyon, 2 miles farther. Total hike, optional.

### Colby Canyon— $\frac{1}{2}$ Day

Drive Angeles Crest Highway to Colby Canyon Trail, .3 of a mile beyond road to Switzer's Inlet. Hike trail leading north from Highway through Colby Canyon as far as desired and return. Plenty of water. No fires allowed. Total hiking distance, 3 miles.

### Cedar Canyon— $\frac{1}{2}$ Day

Drive San Antonio Canyon road to Ice House Canyon and park car. Take Ice House Canyon trail to Cedar Canyon trail, 1 mile, turn left thru Cedar Flat to Cedar Spring, 1 mile, and over ridge to right,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, through beautiful forested flat. Plenty of water at spring. No fires allowed. Along this trail are many fine Incense Cedars, one 11 feet in diameter and perhaps the largest in Southern California. Total hiking distance, 5 miles.

### Sturtevant Camp by Big Santa Anita Canyon—From Arcadia—1 Day

From Foothill Blvd., Arcadia, drive north on Santa Anita avenue to the parking place at the end of the mountain road.

Hike the trail down to the stream at First Water Camp, .8 mile, up stream passing Fern Lodge, 1.2 miles, to Sturtevant Camp, 2.2 miles. Sturtevant Falls  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile above Fern Lodge, following the stream.

At Sturtevant Camp either return by same route or take trail around the mountain to Hoegee's Camp, 2.6 miles, and from Hoegee's a trail around again to the auto at the end of the road, 2.5 miles.

There are four Trail Resorts and eight public campgrounds along the trail. Water at convenient intervals. If planning to use fire secure permit at Santa Anita Ranger Station. Total hike, 8.5 to 9.5 miles, according to return route.

### Bear Creek—1 Day—By West Fork of the San Gabriel

Drive the San Gabriel Canyon Highway from Azusa to the gate on the West Fork road, .6 of a mile beyond Camp Rincon, and park the auto. Hike road and trail up West Fork to Bear Creek, 1 mile, turn north (right) up Bear Creek Trail to the only posted campground at the West Fork of Bear, 3.5 miles. This is a fine place for lunch and you may cook here if you have a fire permit. Both canyons are very fine beyond this point if you care to go farther.

Bear Creek has a fine stream, trail is mostly in the shade of fine trees, and is particularly interesting for its towering walls and many enormous boulders and beautiful pools in the stream channel. Water all the way. Total hike, 9 miles.

### West Fork of the San Gabriel—1 Day From Mt. Lowe Tavern

Take early morning car to Mt. Lowe and hike the trail around Mt. Lowe and Mt. Markham and across the cliffs at the head of Eaton's Canyon to the new Mt. Wilson road, 3 miles, then east (right) on this road 3 miles to a trail turning north (left) down into West Fork, 3 miles. Then turn west, up-stream, passing Valley Forge Lodge to Opid's Camp, 3 miles, and by trail to Mt. Lowe Tavern, 5 miles, and the late car back to the valley.

This trip is through beautiful forest along a fine stream and furnishes some wonderful views. Carry water between the Tavern and West Fork both ways. Two campgrounds and two resorts in West Fork. Trip may be shortened by going direct to Opid's Camp, or may be made much easier by staying the night at Mt. Lowe Tavern and an early start in the morning. Total hike, 17 miles.

### Mt. Islip—From Crystal Lake Park, with return by West Divide and Crystal Lake 1 Day

Drive the paved highway through San Gabriel Canyon from Azusa to the store in Crystal Lake Park and park the auto.

Hike the regular Mt. Islip trail over the Mt. Islip-Mt. Hawkins divide, 3.5 miles, around the north side to Little Jimmy campground,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, and up to the summit of Mt. Islip, 1 mile, 5 miles from the start.

Returning take the ridge, southwest from the Peak, down west of Crystal Lake and back past the lake to the auto, not over 5 miles.

Carry cold lunch and water from Little Jimmy Springs, or with fire permit may cook at Little Jimmy campground. Total hike, 10 miles.

### Mt. San Antonio (Old Baldy)—Elevation 10,080 feet—from San Antonio-Lytle Creek Road—1 Day

Drive through Camp Baldy on good mountain road to campground near the summit of San Antonio-Lytle Creek Divide and park auto. Hike trail from here to north, up ridge and across Devil's Backbone to the summit of Mt. San Antonio,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Carry water from spring at campground to the right of the road and near the start of the trail. Return by same trail and DON'T LEAVE IT! Total hike, 7 miles.

If transportation arrangements can be made, there is an interesting return route by the trail west from the summit by way of the Narrows, Bear Flat and Bear Canyon to the Camp Baldy Ranger Station,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles, or a total for the trip of 11 miles.

### Mt. Gleason—Elevation 6,305 feet—by Arrastre Canyon Trail—1 Day

From Soledad Canyon road, 1 mile west of Acton, drive Arrastre Canyon road past the CCC Camp. Take left-hand road at first junction, right-hand road at second junction and drive on up the ridge to a camp and picnic ground at end of road.

Hike the trail on up the ridge, down into and across a little canyon east of the buildings of the Mt. Gleason Mine and up to the Forest Service

road on the summit of the divide, 2.7 miles. Turn west (right) on this road and follow to the summit, or as you approach the top leave the road and go up through open forest, as you choose, to the Lookout Tower, 2.3 miles.

To be sure of having water, carry it from the auto as the spring about halfway may be dry. There is water at Deer Spring Camp, .8 of a mile west of the tower. Total hike, 10 miles.

### Head of Fish Fork—from Prairie Fork by Big Pines Park—1 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 Days

Drive to Big Pines Park and over the Blue Ridge road to Lupine campground, 1.5 miles above Prairie Fork Ranger Station and make camp. In morning hike the Fish Fork Trail south from camp to summit of Fish Fork divide, 2 miles, around west slope of Pine Mountain to Cedar Canyon, 1.5 miles, over a low ridge to Fish Fork, .7 of a mile, and down Fish to Cedar Canyon and a beautiful spot for lunch.

Return to auto by the same route. Carry cold lunch as no posted campground after leaving Prairie Fork. Canteen not needed as good spring one mile out on trail and good streams at Cedar and Fish Canyons.

This is a wonderful trip into high, wild country, good forests, high peaks and magnificent views. Total hike, 9 miles.

### South Fork of Big Rock Creek—from Big Rock Creek Road—1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Days

Turn right 1 mile above Hermosa Campground and drive one mile to South Fork Campground at end of the road. Half a day is ample time to reach camp and get set for the night.

In the morning hike the trail south from camp and up stream, crossing almost immediately and lifting by switch-backs to a point several hundred feet up the west wall and gradually gaining altitude along this slope to 6,700 feet on the saddle between Mt. Islip and Mt. Williamson, 6 miles from camp.

From here may return by same route, total hike 12 miles, or follow the summit trail east (left) toward Mt. Islip for one mile and down an open forested slope to the forks of South Fork and down stream to camp; no trail but passable. Total hike, 14 miles.

Carry quart canteen for each 2 persons and secure fire permit before starting or at Valyermo Ranger Station, near the mouth of Big Rock Creek.

### Pacific Crest Trail—Acton to Glenn Ranch—7 Days

This hike requires transportation to Arrastre Campground, and from Stockton Flat Campground at the finish.

First Day—Drive through Newhall, Saugus and up Mint Canyon Highway, keeping to the Soledad Canyon road where Mint Canyon turns north and continue on this road to Arrastre Canyon road, one mile west of Acton. Turn south (right) on Arrastre Canyon road, take left hand road at the first junction, right hand road at the second junction and drive up ridge to campground at end of road.

Hike trail on up ridge, down into and across little canyon east of Mt. Gleason Mine (water) to road on summit of divide, 2.7 miles. Turn west

(right) on road to Lookout Tower, 2.3 miles, and on west to Deer Springs Camp, .8 of a mile.

Second Day—Passing Lookout by trail and road east to Edison road, 4 miles. (Water at the County Camp at Little Gleason, just north of this junction and to left of road). From Little Gleason cross Edison road and take trail east along summit to road at Aliso-Mill Creek divide, 6.2 miles, east on this road to Round Top junction, 3.5 miles, and north (left) of junction take trail up Mt. Pacifico to Sheep Spring Camp, 2.3 miles.

Third Day—Over summit of Mt. Pacifico and southwest of summit find trail leading down to the road, 1.2 miles. Turn east (left) on road, passing Little Rock junction (to Sulphur Spring Camp, 1.5 miles) 2.8 miles, Horse Flat junction (Horse Flat Camp and water .4 of a mile south) 2 miles, and Cloudburst Camp, 5.5 miles, to Buckhorn Flat Camp, 3 miles.

Fourth Day—Hike trail east from camp through Cedar Spring, 3.5 miles, and over Mt. Williamson, 3.5 miles to Little Jimmy Springs Camp, 5.5 miles. Water on trail 200 yards east from Camp and also at Barrel Spring, just before reaching camp.

Fifth Day—Take a day off the route. Leave all equipment in camp and hike the trail down to Crystal Lake Park, around the lake, west to Wawona Basin, down across West Flat to Cedar Creek and back to East Flat. From the store in East Flat secure needed food supplies to take you to Swartout and return to camp. Total hike, 12 miles.

Sixth Day—On east around Mt. Hawkins to Mt. Baden-Powell, 6 miles, down to the Vincent Gulch-Big Rock Divide, 4 miles, north on the Blue Ridge road to the end of the big loop, 1 mile, and trail from here, northeast around the mountain to Jackson Lake Camp in Big Pines Park, 3 miles.

Seventh Day—East through Big Pines Park to Swartout Lodge, 3 miles, secure supplies at store, take Nature Trail southeast to the summit of Blue Ridge, 2.5 miles, east along the top, passing Guffey Camp (water), 2.5 miles, to the Prairie Forks-Lytle Creek divide, 2 miles, and down North Fork of Lytle Creek (water) to Stockton Flat Camp, on the Glenn Ranch to Camp Baldy road, 4 miles.

No sure water on trail between Little Gleason and Sheep Spring, 12 miles. Between Sheep Spring and Cloudburst, 11.5 miles except at Horse Flat Camp, .4 of a mile south. Between Cedar Spring and Little Jimmy, 9 miles. Between Little Jimmy and a spring just below the divide in the head of Vincent Gulch, 10 miles. With careful use of a quart canteen should be sufficient for two persons.

Food supply points are at Crystal Lake and Swartout Lodge. Secure camp fire permit before starting. Hiking distance—1st day, 6 miles; 2nd, 16; 3rd, 14.5; 4th, 12.5; 5th, 12; 6th, 14; 7th, 14. Total of 89 miles.

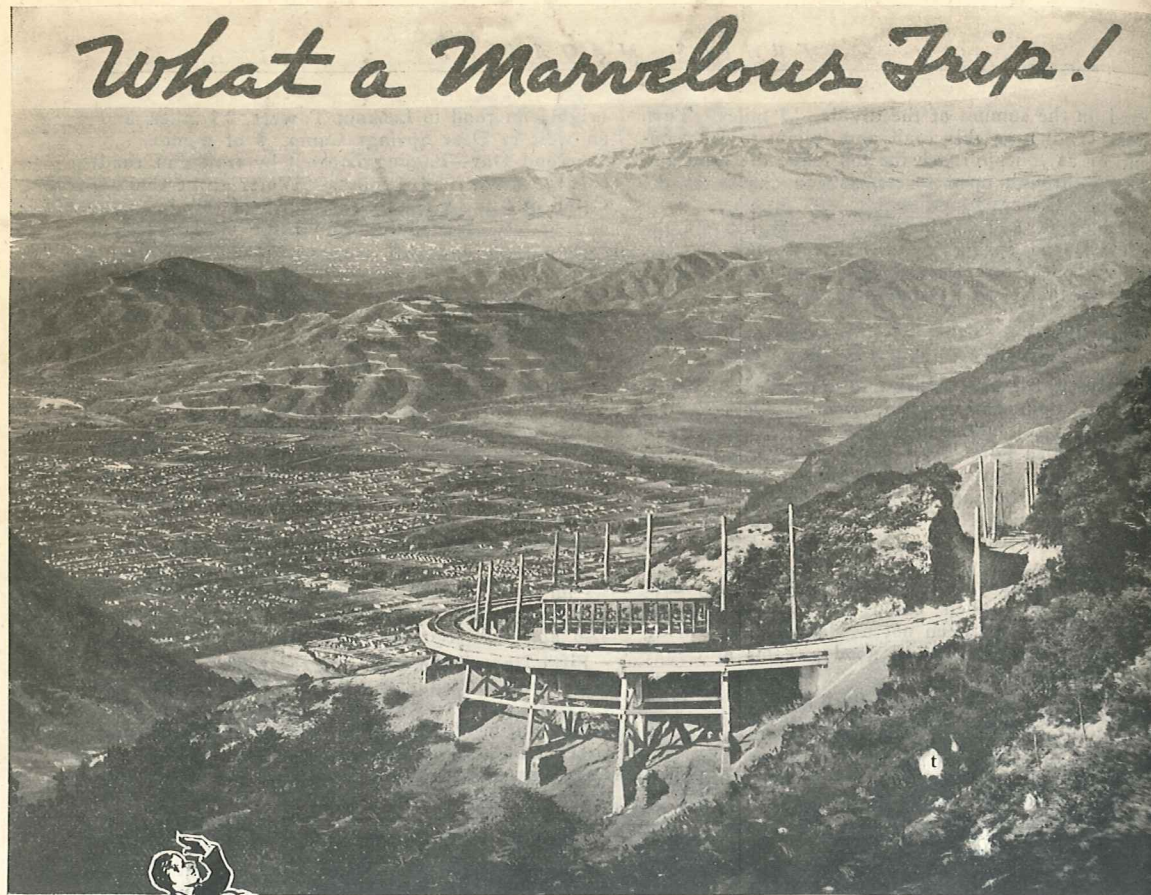
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