

917.949

TRA

Trails magazine.
1934-39.

ROSEMead 624

Title

- Trails magazine.

Publisher

- Los Angeles Mountain League of Southern California

Former frequency

- Quarterly

Publication History

- 1934-

Issuer

- Sponsored by the Los Angeles County Dept. of Parks and Recreation Camps and Playgrounds.

Rosemead Library
6800 Valley Blvd.
Rosemead, CA 91770
(626) 576-6220

CURRY'S CAMP BALDY

The Yosemite of the South

Forty-five Acres of Mountain Grandeur
45 Miles from Los Angeles



Campfire Entertainers at Curry's Camp Baldy

NEW WAGON-WHEEL CASINO AND TAVERN

California's newest and largest Dance Hall and
Dining Room, with outdoor Barbecue Patio

CABINS BY THE STREAM — RIDING STABLES

SWIMMING POOL

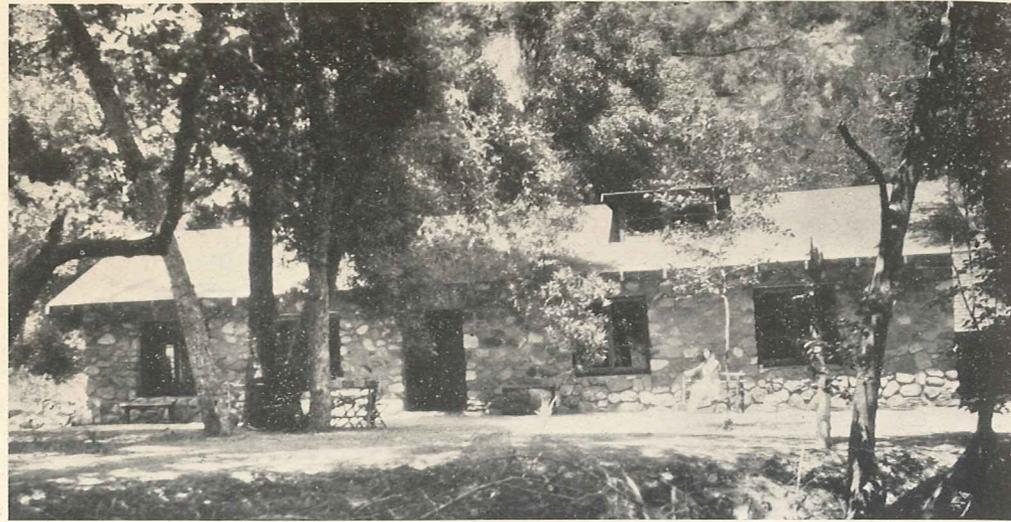
STORE — POSTOFFICE — GARAGE

RUTH CURRY & EDMUND BURNS, *Mgrs.*

Phone—Upland 1-F-4

P. O., Camp Baldy, California



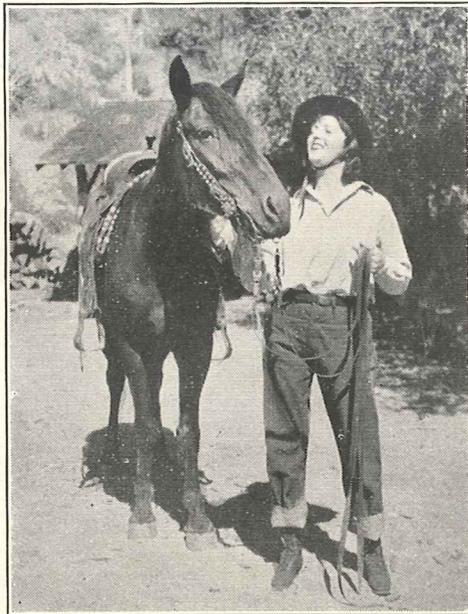


VALLEY FORGE LODGE

**THE CAMP WITH THE REAL
OLD WESTERN HOSPITALITY**

Cool and delightfully wooded location — Four bubbling streams on the grounds.

- Dinner Dances our specialty.
- Housekeeping Cabins
- Hotel Cabins
- Horseback Riding
- Trout Fishing
- Badminton
- Hiking
- Good Food
- Comfortable Beds



One hour's drive from Los Angeles via beautiful, scenic Angeles Crest Highway

For reservations call the Times Resort Bureau, Automobile Club, or Valley Forge Lodge, direct.

CHERIE DeVORE RICE & BERT RICE

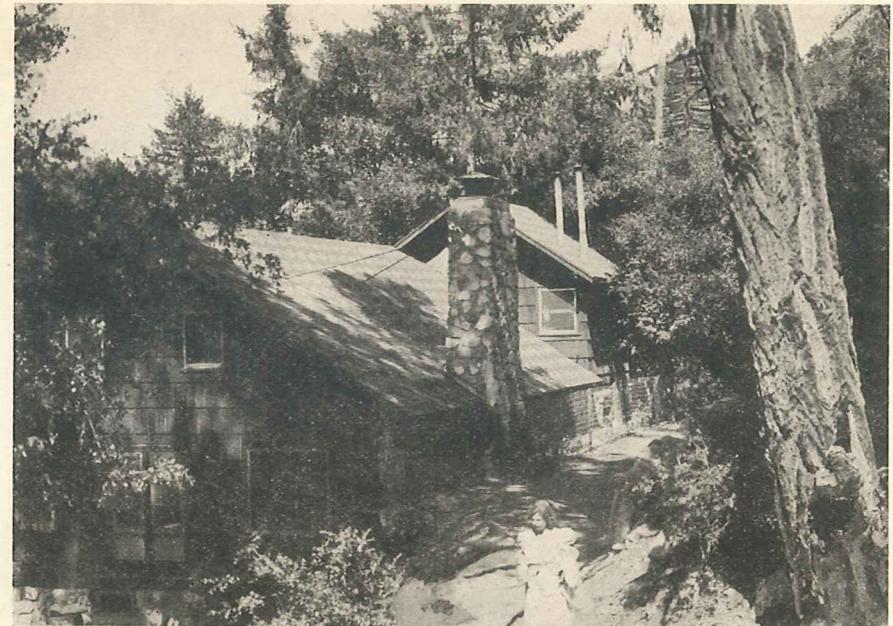
Phone 206-F-7 SIERRA MADRE

P. O. LA CANADA, CALIFORNIA

OPID'S CAMP

In Beautiful Forest at the head of West Fork of San Gabriel

MAGNIFICENT VIEW PEAKS ON ALL SIDES
INTERESTING TRAILS IN ALL DIRECTIONS
GOOD FOOD—COZY CABINS—SWIMMING POOL
OLD TIME HOSPITALITY



ATTRACTIVE NEW RECREATION LODGE

EASY TO REACH

From Foothill Boulevard in La Canada. Fifteen miles through magnificent scenery over Angeles Crest Highway, paved, wide and high gear, then one mile down into the forest on a good, two-way mountain road. 29 miles from Los Angeles. Altitude 4248 feet.

You Will Like It At Opid's

Rates Reasonable

Reservations Appreciated

Address, LA CANADA, CALIFORNIA

Phone STERLING 9929-F-2



The mountain area of our story—Summit of Mt. Wilson and the Carnegie Observatory—Canyon of the West Fork—Upper Right, the Forest on Barley Flat—On the skyline, center, Mt. Gleason; left center, Strawberry Peak.


Trails Magazine

VOL. 4 SUMMER, 1937 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.

Sponsored by
The Los Angeles County Department of Recreation
Camps and Playgrounds,

JAMES K. REID, *Superintendent*
 240 So. Broadway, Los Angeles, Calif.
 Phone MUTUAL 9211 STATION 2892

Editor and Business Manager.....WILL H. THRALL
Staff Artist.....WILL G. NORRIS
Official Photographer.....HARLOW A. R. DORMER

Entire contents copyrighted by The Mountain League of
 Southern California. Permission to reproduce any part of this
 publication must be secured from the Editor.

Price, 10c per copy; by subscription, 30c per year.

HOW ABOUT YOUR NOSE?

*"If you hold your nose to the grindstone rough
 And hold it down there long enough,
 You'll soon forget that there's any such thing
 As brooks that babble and birds that sing.
 These three things will your world compose:
 Just you—and a stone—and your darned old nose."*

This little verse, which the Editor found at a Lunch Counter in Ventura, needs no interpretation, and for you of Los Angeles County there's no excuse. We are told that no other county has such a recreation service—no other Recreation Department prepared to furnish complete information on so vast a playground area.

The mountains of Los Angeles County cover 1587 square miles. There are 2000 miles of trails, 200 public campgrounds and 35 mountain resorts. There are towering peaks, canyon gorges, tumbling streams and beautiful forests. A highway system, carefully planned to both serve the public and protect the forest, will soon take one within an easy day's hike of every part of our mountain area. Many new trails and campgrounds will serve areas now inaccessible only to the most hardy.

Where one of us today gets exercise, recreation, physical, mental and moral strength for the problems of tomorrow, on a path

through the forests and canyons, there are a hundred who would if they but knew the care-free joy of it. There's an inspiration in the wide open spaces, forests, peaks and canyon streams which sends one back to the tasks of the city with a new vision and a new force.

Thousands are finding this easy, economical way in Southern California; changing the short shallow breathing of dust and gas laden air for a full, deep breath, laden with the healing, invigorating aroma of spruce, pine and fir; sleeping under the stars on pine needle beds and renewing forgotten appetites with campfire meals.

If you don't know where to go—how to go—what to take—just ask the Editor. Our business is saving noses.

THE DANGER SEASON

Again we approach the most critical time of the year, yes of many years, in the mountains of Southern California. Abundant rains, making certain good streams and luxuriant vegetation, have also given us a mass of fine growth grass and flowers, now dry as tinder, ready to blow up at the first flash of flame.

Thousands of acres in the San Bernardino Forest, the whole valley face of the range from San Antonio Canyon to Banning, have been closed to hiking and recreation. The Angeles Forest, your forest' with the one exception of the Experimental Forest area in San Dimas Canyon, is open for your enjoyment. Why? One reason is because you were careful in 1936.

Both the Forest Service and Trails Magazine have said that you who use the mountains, you who are their good friends, you who have kept the rules of the trail and have used your influence with others who might have not, were in a large measure responsible for the splendid record of 1936.

There will be a grand and glorious feeling of vital accomplishment, throughout every agency charged with forest protection, if at the end of 1937, as he did in 1936, Wm. V. Mendenhall, Supervisor of Angeles Forest can thank you, who use and enjoy the mountains, for splendid cooperation and NO FIRES.

Did 1936 just happen? Are you who go really helping to protect your forest playground? Or will you pass on to your children and to your children's children the charred ruins of those beauty spots which you have enjoyed? We who are responsible for forest protection have confidence in you.

1937 WILL TELL THE STORY.

CABIN LANDMARKS OF THE ANGELES

In the Winter 1937 number we told the story of the building and development of the Mt. Wilson trails and the beginnings of the Mt. Wilson Resorts and the Harvard Astronomical Observatory. In this number we bring you the story of the Mt. Wilson Toll Road Company, from its inception in 1890, as revealed by the record books of that organization, and the beginning and development of the Carnegie Solar Observatory, now the Mt. Wilson Astronomical Observatory, the greatest astronomical plant in the world. Also the early history of that part of San Gabriel Canyon which lies back of and adjacent to the Mt. Wilson Range.

MOUNT WILSON—The Observatory and The Toll Road Company

By WILL H. THRALL

History records that Benjamin Davis Wilson was born December 1, 1811, at Nashville, Tennessee, that he spent the years from 1833 to 1840 in trading and trapping in Texas and New Mexico and, in 1841 arrived in Los Angeles with a company of twenty-five. One authority states that he walked, leading a mule loaded with his earthly possessions, reading and studying as he trudged along. Little did he know of the honors which, in his name, would come to the land of his adoption, or of those which that land would bring to him.

He was, without doubt, a splendid type of pioneer gentleman and must have very soon gained the confidence of Southern California's best people, for we find him in 1844 married to Senorita Ramona Yorba, daughter of Bernardo Yorba, owner of the great Rancho Santa Ana. Though he had not accepted the religion of the Spanish, he evidently earned their respect and admiration and was familiarly called by them Don Benito. He bought, from Don Juan Bandini the Jurupa Ranch, now the site of Riverside and some time later a large part of the Rancho San Pasqual, including all of the present site of Pasadena east of Fair Oaks Avenue, and a part of San Marino.

Don Benito was a great developer and though he did not start the wine industry, he was undoubtedly the one who put it on a commercial basis. He also did the same for the citrus industry and at Alhambra opened the first farm sub-division to be equipped with piped water for the irrigation of orchards and vineyards. He built on the hill where the Huntington Library and Art Galley now stand, what was then the finest home in the region.

He was particularly interested in education

and in many ways came to the assistance of the struggling schools of that time. He bought the old Army Barracks at Wilmington and in them established Wilson College, first in the Southwest. On his old home site at Lake Vineyard now stands one of the great libraries of the world and that same ranch included the site of California Institute of Technology. He was the last owner of Rancho San Jose de Buenos Ayres (now the location of University of California at Los Angeles).

As told in this magazine, in the Winter Number 1937, because of the need of fence lumber, shakes and staves for wine barrels, he built the first good trail to the summit which now bears his name, though he was never the owner of any part of Mount Wilson. It is perhaps more than a coincidence that four of the greatest institutions of science and learning in Southern California are located on land which he once owned or was instrumental in making accessible.

Impatient of the slow progress of the trail from Sierra Madre which he was building with Mexican and Indian labor and arriving at the end of construction, just beyond the present site of Orchard Camp, about noon one day in April 1864 he decided to push on and see for himself what this mountain top was like. With his children's tutor, William McKee, and leading their horses loaded with a small amount of food and equipment, he arrived at the summit before dark and finding, by their account, a well beaten bear trail, followed it to a spring just west of the summit, where they camped for the night.

The following morning they found, a short distance below their camp, the ruins of two log cabins, all except the lower logs of which

had been burned and which both Wilson and McKee decided, from the type of construction, must have been built by Americans. The ruins were later seen and reported by Don Benito's step-son, E. S. Hereford, who superintended the job of packing lumber from the peak to the valley.

History tells us that bandits and horse thieves infested the valley from 1835 to 1875, robbing stores and citizens, stealing stock which was later sold in Texas, New Mexico, and Central and Northern California. Governor Alvarado reported in December 1840 that white outlaws had stolen 4000 horses from the Missions of San Gabriel and San Luis Obispo and numerous private ranchers. Many have told of stolen stock, taken by almost impassable trails to hidden valleys and mountain meadows of the main range, of bandits and murderers who escaped to the forest strongholds of the high country, the last of these the bandit gang which, on February 16, 1894, held up and robbed the Southern Pacific train at Roscoe.

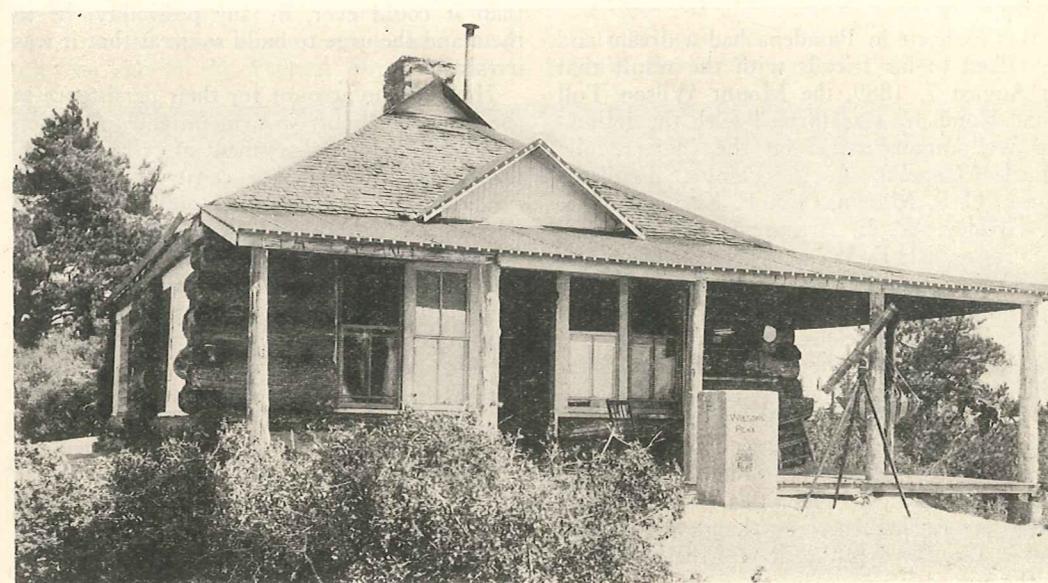
There is a grove of enormous alders in Valley Forge Canyon, half a mile above Valley Forge Lodge, which if they could but talk, could tell an interesting story, for carved in their ribbed and gnarled old trunks is a record of mountain travel covering perhaps a hundred years. Many of these names and dates have been made illegible by years of growth, but dates of sixty years ago are still easily read.

So on evidence which we cannot doubt there were trails, of a sort, across the mountains before Wilson's time, used at first by the Indians, later by bandits, explorers, hunters and prospectors. Somewhere along the valley slope a trail led over the forested summit, and what route would be more logical than that followed and improved by Don Benito and his Indian crew in 1864?

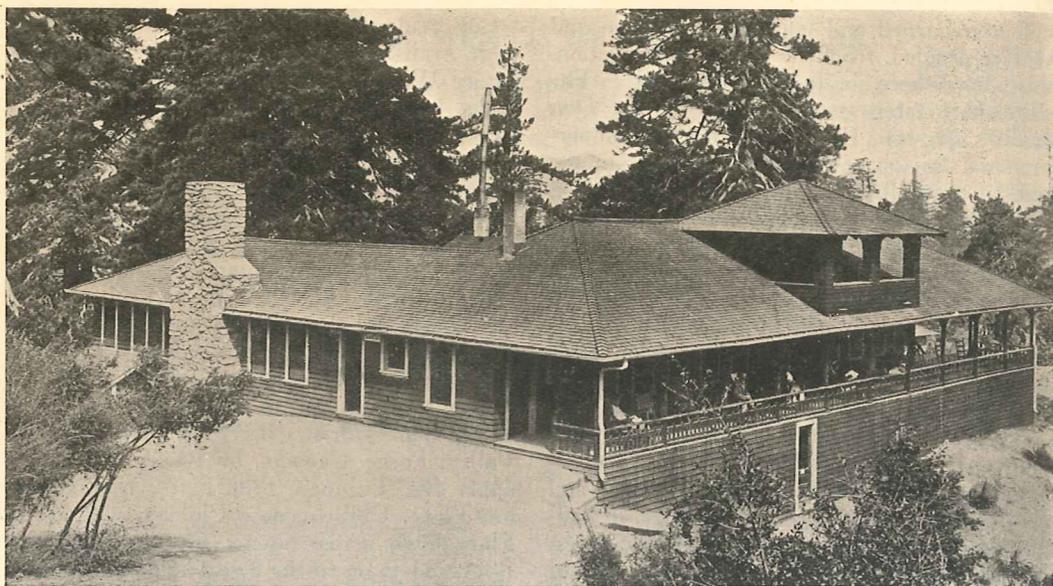
From that summit, down past the spring by that trail which he called a bear trail, past the cabins which he found in ruins and the later cabin and blacksmith shop which his timber crew built, down the old "Rattlesnake Trail," part of which is still in use, to the West Fork of the San Gabriel. Then up that stream to Valley Forge Canyon, to Barley Flats, the upper Big Tujunga, Pine Flats (now Charlton Flat), Chilleo (now Chilao), and Horse Flat, down across Squaw Flat to the Little Rock and so on to the desert; through a beautiful high country, the story of which will appear in a future number of Trails Magazine.

As the foothill towns grew in population and importance there also grew a feeling that there should be easier and better routes to the forested summits. Many enthusiastic hikers and campers were finding their way to the top by the old Wilson Trail from Sierra Madre and by a very rough and difficult trail, which started just east of Precipice (Eaton) Canyon, north of Pasadena.

Crude resorts were starting along these



The old Casino and the 3/4-inch Telescope used by Dr. Geo. E. Hale the winter of 1903-04.



The First Mt. Wilson Hotel—Built in Summer 1905—Burned March 25, 1913.

trails and on the summit, A. G. Strain had filed a homestead on Mount Wilson, including the spring and the site of Don Benito's camp, and early in 1889 started Strain's Camp. Then came the scientists to test Mt. Wilson as a site for an astronomical observatory and those in charge giving three reasons why it was not a suitable place for this undertaking; inaccessibility, insufficient water supply and rattlesnakes which, they stated, infested the region.

But someone in Pasadena had a dream and he talked to his friends with the result that on August 7, 1889, the Mount Wilson Toll Road Company was formed with the following well-known names on the charter roll: Charles Copelin, A. J. Painter, Benj. S. Eaton, C. S. Martin, Geo. F. Kernaghan, G. A. Greeley, W. E. Arthur, H. H. Rose, G. E. Prosser, M. E. Wood, J. A. Buchanan, P. M. Green, James R. Riggins, J. W. Hugus, R. Williams, D. R. Risley, L. C. Winston and O. S. Picker. The ultimate objective was a road but first came the trail, which was later widened to six feet and then to the crooked 10-foot road, over which was transported the tremendous machinery and equipment of the Snow telescope, later the 60-inch and finally the great 100-inch. Over this road also have safely passed hundreds of thousands of visitors in the 25 years that it was the only road to the top.

As I have carefully studied the minute book

of the Mount Wilson Toll Road Company, covering the records of all meetings for 47 years, ending with the gift of the road to Los Angeles County and the change of name to Mount Wilson Hotel Company on June 15, 1936, it reads to me like the dream of a few men who visioned something of great value which they must develop and make of service to their community. Something of far greater value to Southern California and the world than it could ever, by any possibility, be to them and the urge to build so great that it was irresistible.

How else to account for their persistence in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles, their standing for assessment after assessment, the desperate search for construction funds; funds which could be had only from those whom they could instill with their own enthusiasm and mostly on personal, unsecured notes which were seldom paid when due. The struggle year after year against increasing indebtedness, the sinking of personal fortunes in the big idea and the final development of a great resort and a great observatory for Southern California, which now, after the builders are gone, returns a small amount above the cost of operation, but which never can, never will, pay a dividend on the time and money expended.

I will not attempt to give the story of the financial struggle, for to do so would fill a magazine by itself, but one fact is outstanding

throughout the records: in the entire 47 years there was never a dividend. With little realization of its eventual magnitude they arranged for the first astronomical tests by the Harvard University and later negotiated the arrangements with the Carnegie Institution of Washington, D. C. When they leased to Dr. George E. Hale 40 acres of the mountain top, 99 years for \$1.00, with the privilege of another 99 years for the same, and agreed to share the additional expense which this construction would bring to themselves, already heavily burdened, they no doubt expected to, in some way, benefit by this new venture but, in back of it all, was the idea that they were securing something of inestimable value for Pasadena and Southern California.

Of the old company many dropped along the way because unwilling or unable to carry on, but those who started and those who later took up the burden in the face of past experiences and with no reasonable prospect of profit, deserve much more of public approval and acclaim than they have ever received.

The old log building here pictured was the Observatory headquarters during the preliminary tests with the 3¼ inch telescope. Later used in connection with Mount Wilson (Martin's) Camp it was known as the Observatory Casino, and after the burning of the first hotel on the summit was used as the main building until the new hotel was built.

The first or Harvard Observatory which, from May 1, 1899, to late in 1890, housed the 13-inch telescope, stood on a point about one-half mile west of the present hotel and now the site of the Federal Forestry picnic

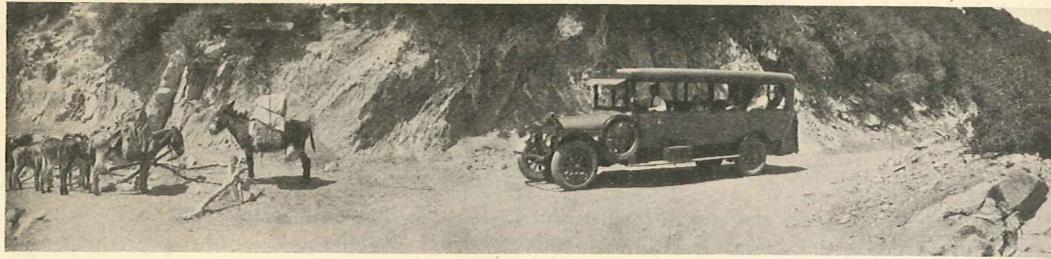
ground. This was long known in Pasadena as Signal Point because it was from here that parties signaled to friends in the valley their safe arrival on the summit.

In October, 1890, thirteen of the original stockholders withdrew from the company and by July 21, 1891, five stockholders, J. W. Vandevort, R. T. Vandevort, C. S. Martin, George A. Greeley and H. W. Magee, had acquired all the stock. On September 24, 1894, William R. Staats came into the company as Secretary-Treasurer and at the same time W. S. Wright was made the company attorney. On May 15, 1895, J. H. Holmes, who built the Hotel Green in Pasadena and managed it for 25 years, purchased 20 shares of stock and as he had, previous to this, purchased a quarter interest in 240 acres on the mountain, it was thought advisable to make him a director. On June 1, 1897, he was elected President of the company and remained in that office until his death on November 5, 1936.

On July 17, 1890, the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County granted a franchise for a toll road from Eaton Canyon to Mt. Wilson, but many difficulties were encountered in starting, and on November 11 the time was extended with the provision that at least one mile of trail (not road) must be built each month. They must take stock in the Precipice Canyon Water Company in order to secure the necessary water and right of way; had hoped to secure the necessary tools from the old Harvard Observatory but could find only five picks, finally called for bids for construction and the job was awarded



Toll House and Gate at foot of Old Toll Road.



Transportation—Old and New.

to Thomas Banbury, the trail to be completed in 90 days at a cost of \$3,100.

May 19, 1891, a contract was signed with Wiley and Greeley of Pasadena for the transportation of passengers and baggage. June 6, 1893, it was voted to widen the trail to a six-foot road at a cost not to exceed \$20,000. March 28, 1895, William Morgan purchased the transportation contract and also the privilege of collecting toll. March 24, 1896, the Authorized Capital Stock was increased from \$50,000 to \$200,000 with \$76,608.86 paid in. Strain's Camp and Camp Wilson, better known as Martin's Camp, were purchased. January 7, 1901, they paid to the United States Land Office \$800 to clear the title of 640 acres on the summit which they had previously bought from A. G. Strain. George Snyder tries to patent his 160 acres at the Half Way House and the company must take steps to protect their right-of-way. May 19, 1902, Strain's and Martin's Camps, Henniger Flat and the Toll Road leased to Wm. Sturtevant and Charles Grimes.

In October, 1903, Henniger Flat was leased to T. P. Lukens for a U. S. Forest Experiment Station and by the middle of 1904, 250,000 young trees were growing on the Flat and plans under way to plant about 10,000 on the mountain side the coming winter. This was the start of reforestation in Southern California.

On May 25, 1905, Mount Wilson Post Office was established with H. E. Bassett, the camp manager, as postmaster and the contract was signed for construction of a hotel building and forty cottages.

January 18, 1906, the company acquired the Forestry lease to Sturtevant Camp in the head of Big Santa Anita Canyon, had leased from W. P. Caley the burro corrals and transportation buildings at the foot of the Mount Wilson and Sturtevant trails and all transportation was coming from Sierra Madre. At

the meeting of May 30, 1906, it was decided to widen the road to 10 feet and on May 1, 1907, a loan of \$15,000 was negotiated to finance this improvement. The privately owned holdings of the company, on the mountains, now comprised 1050 acres.

The Mt. Wilson Hotel was totally destroyed by fire on March 25, 1913, and in 1915 a new hotel was built to take its place. In 1918 the site of Martin's Camp was leased to the Army Air Service for a signal station in connection with Balloon School at Ross Field, Arcadia. In 1920 it is recorded that the Hotel has at last begun to show a small return.

A. C. Childs, who has had the management of Mount Wilson Hotel for many years, was made a director of the company in 1924, secretary in 1927 and became president of the company at a meeting held November 9, 1936.

The completion of a 30-foot paved drive, five miles through the forest from the Angeles Crest highway at Red Box, has not only opened to the automobile an easy and safe route to Mount Wilson and the great Carnegie Observatory, but has brought to all who travel one of the great mountain views of the world.

The names of those old pioneers who spent their energy and their money to help make and keep the mountain playground we enjoy today should be gratefully remembered by the citizens of Los Angeles County and Southern California.

OUR COVER PICTURE

What could be more appropriate than the dominant feature of Mt. Wilson, the great dome of the 100-inch telescope and this glorious photograph by William Grimes, veteran cameraman for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Our readers will join us in appreciation of the artistry which produced such a picture and in thanks for permission to use it.

ASTRONOMY ON MOUNT WILSON

By ALFRED H. JOY, *Secretary of the Observatory*

It is nearly fifty years since Mount Wilson was first chosen as a site for astronomical observations with large telescopes. After photographing the eclipse of the Sun at Willows, California, on January 1, 1889, observers from the Harvard College Observatory decided to move part of their equipment to Southern California and part to Peru, South America, for testing the possibility of improving observing conditions by locating at high altitudes above a considerable proportion of the earth's atmosphere.

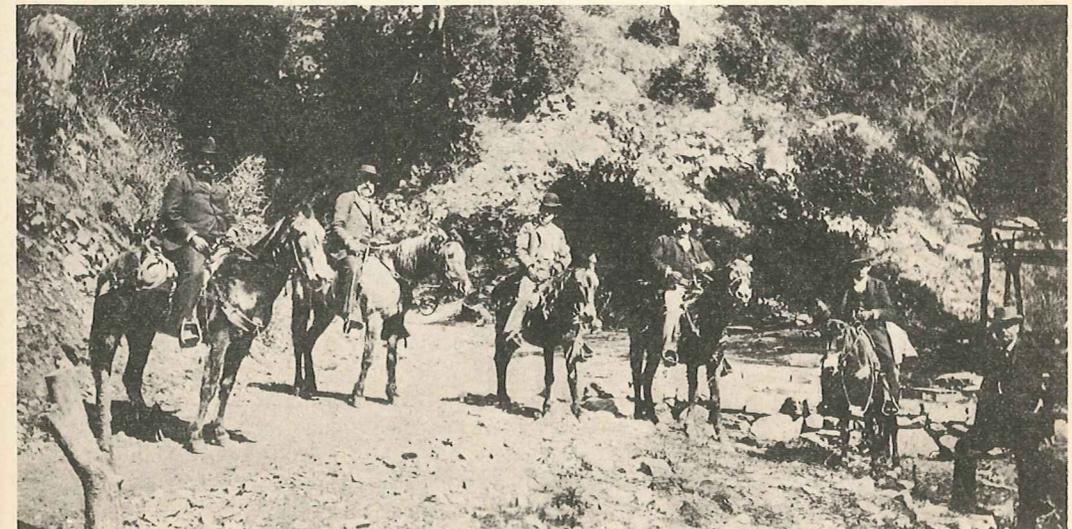
Funds had been provided by Uriah A. Boyden of Boston and a 13-inch refracting telescope of 16 feet focal length was built by Alvin G. Clark for this purpose. It was so designed that it could be used either visually or photographically by turning over one component of the lens. On January 23, 1889, W. H. Pickering of the Harvard staff accompanied by Mr. Clark, the builder of the telescope, and a number of volunteers from Los Angeles spent a night on Mount Wilson.

There was no road to the summit at that time, but it was decided that atmospheric conditions were good enough to warrant the erection of the proposed observatory on the mountain. Considerable difficulty was experienced in transporting the heavy equipment up the old Wilson trail, but within three months the telescope and dome had been erected and shelter was provided for two observers.

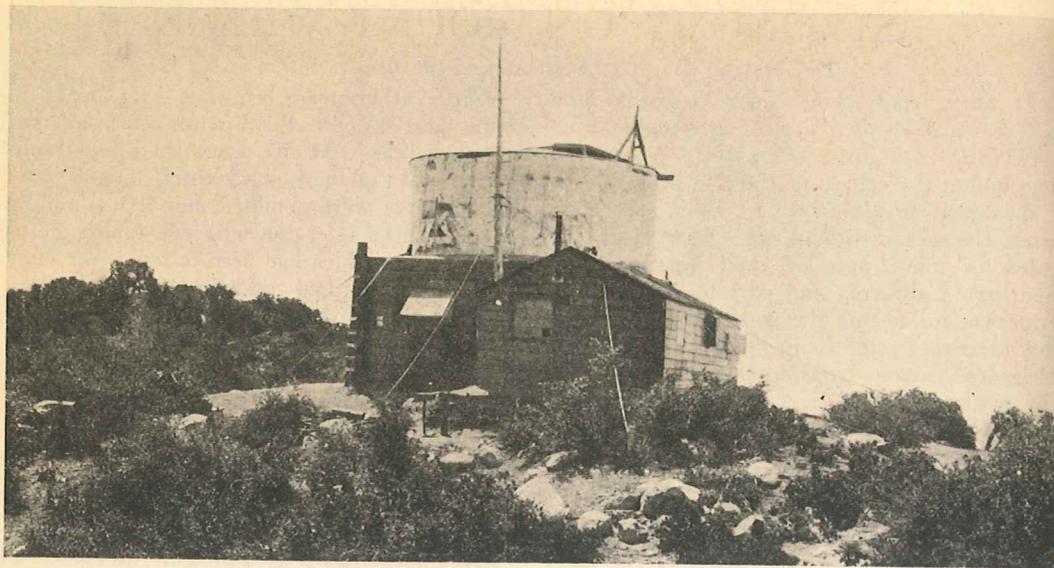
Observations were begun in May by E. S. King and Robert Black and continued for about a year. Many successful photographs of the moon, planets, star clusters, double stars and nebulae were obtained, but it was finally decided to transfer the telescope to the Peruvian station, which had been tested at the same time and which had the added advantage of a view of the southern sky.

The story has been passed down that the Mount Wilson station was abandoned by the Harvard observers for three reasons: it was, they said, (1) inaccessible, (2) without water, and (3) infested with rattlesnakes. None of these objections has weight at the present time. They could hardly have been expected to foresee that fifty years later astronomers would be complaining that it is too easily accessible to motorists and that observations are impaired by smoke and lights of growing towns and cities.

Soon after this episode another important astronomical undertaking was developed in connection with the University of Southern California, but the plans failed on account of lack of financial support. A 40-inch telescope, the largest in the world at the time, was projected and the glass for the lens ordered from Europe. The glass disks were delivered to Alvan G. Clark in Boston and later bought and finished for the Yerkes Observatory of the University of Chicago under the super-



Investigating party from Harvard University on way up Mt. Wilson—1889.



The Harvard Observatory on Mt. Wilson—1889-90.

vision of Dr. George E. Hale, who afterward came to California to start the present Mount Wilson Observatory. The Yerkes telescope is still the largest refractor in the world. It is located near Lake Geneva about 90 miles north of Chicago.

After the Yerkes Observatory had been in operation for several years, Dr. Hale felt the need of attempting astronomical observations under better atmospheric conditions than those prevailing in the Middle West. Professor W. J. Hussey of the Lick Observatory was asked to investigate sites in California, Arizona and Australia. Mount Wilson was recommended from the standpoint of clear sky and quiet atmosphere while at the same time it was within reasonable distance of cities where instruments could be made and supplies obtained.

The suitability of the location for astronomical observations was thoroughly tested by Dr. Hale in the winter of 1903-04, with the aid of a $3\frac{1}{4}$ -inch telescope. In April, 1904, the Carnegie Institution of Washington granted sufficient funds to install the Snow telescope on Mount Wilson and observations were actually begun with this instrument about a year later, in 1905. Smaller temporary instruments were employed until the permanent equipment was available.

Realizing the possibilities of the situation, the Trustees of the Carnegie Institution of Washington decided to support the new observatory as a major research department of the Institution. Dr. Hale was appointed Di-

rector and several of the staff of the Yerkes Observatory, including the present Director, W. S. Adams, F. Ellerman, G. W. Ritchey and F. G. Pease, joined him in pioneer work on the mountain. Plans were immediately laid for a considerable establishment both on Mount Wilson and in Pasadena.

In its beginning, the undertaking was expeditionary in character, but, as new instruments were developed, new fields of research were opened and it was seen that for solar problems more than one or two sun-spot cycles would necessarily pass before solutions could be hoped for. With the building of the large reflectors, almost limitless possibilities for new investigations of stars and nebulae presented themselves, involving objects farther and farther out in the depths of space and requiring indefinite periods of study.

The location of the Observatory on Mount Wilson was made possible through the courtesy of the Directors of the Pasadena and Mount Wilson Toll Road Company, which owns a large part of the summit of the mountain and conducts a hotel on the grounds adjoining the Observatory. A long-term lease granted by this company to the Carnegie Institution of Washington allots to the Institution, for scientific purposes, a portion of the land at the top of the mountain and provides for an equal division of the water supply which is found near the Observatory grounds in sufficient quantity for ordinary purposes.

In many respects Mount Wilson has proved

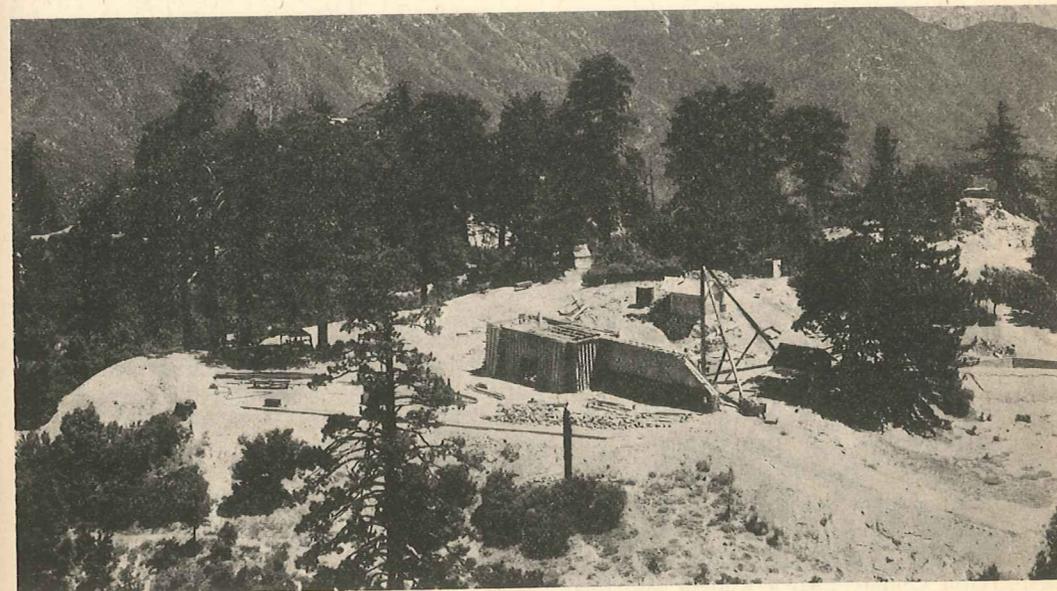
an ideal location for a large observatory. It is high enough above the valley to be free from most of the haze and fog which is common in the lower altitudes, and yet it does not experience the severe cold and storms which occur in the highest mountains. Its location between the sea on the southwest and the desert on the northeast makes for moderate temperature changes and low wind velocities, which are essential features of good observing conditions with large instruments. Observations may be made on an average of 290 days per year.

The accessibility of the mountain makes it possible to maintain the offices, library of 13,000 volumes, laboratory, and shops in Pasadena. The astronomers live in the city and go to the mountain only on those days when they use the telescope. The Observatory automobile-truck carries supplies to the mountain and furnishes transportation for the scientific staff, except for a few days after winter storms when the road is blocked by snow or rock slides. Storms occur mostly in the winter months, while the summers are, in a large degree, calm and cloudless. The minimum temperature recorded on the mountain is 7° F. The annual precipitation has a large range, but averages about 30 inches. The mountain is covered with a dense growth of chaparral and a considerable number of large spruce, pine, and oak trees, which protect the mountain sides from the direct rays of the sun and thus diminish air currents which might be det-

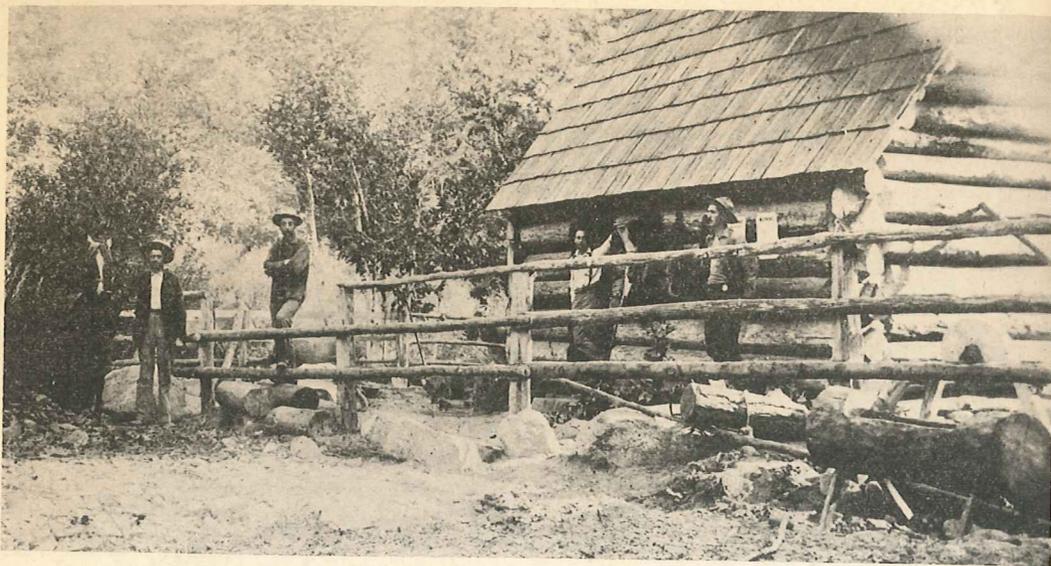
rimental to the best conditions of "seeing."

From the first a definite program of research and instrumental development was planned by Dr. Hale. It was hoped that investigations might be inaugurated which, on account of poor climatic conditions or lack of sufficient equipment, could not be attempted at other observatories existing at that time. Intensive studies of the Sun were to be undertaken and investigations were to be extended to the distant stars and nebulae. In carrying out these aims the tower-telescopes were developed for studying the Sun, and the 60- and 100-inch telescopes, the largest in the world at the time they were built, were constructed for gathering light from faint and distant stars and nebulae. The wisdom of this fundamental program and the enthusiasm with which it has been carried on during a period of more than thirty years is apparent to those who have followed the work of the Observatory.

The staff of the Observatory consists of twenty astronomers and about 50 assistants, electricians, mechanics, and computers. The investigations of the staff are described in more than five hundred major articles which constitute the "Contributions from the Mount Wilson Observatory." Studies of the sun, moon, planets, stars, clusters, and nebulae have covered a wide range. With the assistance of instruments of great light-gathering power, researches have been extended to fainter and more distant objects.



Building the base for the 100-inch Telescope.



West Fork Ranger Station at Short Cut Canyon—Photo in 1890.
Left to right—Louie Newcomb, Phil Beque, Jack Baldwin, Willard Sevier.

THE UPPER WEST FORK

Though travel in the Upper West Fork figures in the earliest history of Spanish settlement of the San Gabriel Valley, there seems to have been no really old cabins and very little of its early history is known today. In the story of Mt. Wilson we have told of the early Indian trails across this area and how they were used by bandits, miners, hunters and fishermen.

It seems to have been the lure of the speckled beauties of the stream which brought the first cabins and the first authentic history which has come down to today. Many whose names have figured prominently in the history and development of Los Angeles County and Southern California have fished its tumbling waters and camped in beautiful wooded nooks along its course. To many who no longer fish, the names of the West Fork, Devil Canyon and Bear Creek bring memories of wonderful sport 25 to 50 years ago.

West Fork Ranger Station

On December 20, 1892, President Harrison signed the bill which made the San Gabriel mountains a National Timberland Reserve and in 1900 one of the first, perhaps the first, of the old log cabin Ranger Stations was built on a little flat where Short Cut Canyon joins the West Fork. Louie Newcomb of Sierra Madre and Chilao, then a Ranger and then, as now, one of the best informed on the local

mountains, superintended its construction and was for three years the Ranger in charge, later going to the station at Sturtevant Camp, which was built in 1903.

After the big fire of 1924 the old station was abandoned for a time, but was reoccupied in the Spring of 1936 and again takes an important place in the protection of our forest playground. The picturesque old cabin still stands at the crossing of two trails very important to mountain recreation.

On the upper West Fork of San Gabriel River are two well-known resorts which have been developed from rather crude beginnings and over many years; both wonderfully attractive, though as different as two mountain resorts can well be in their immediate surroundings and building development.

One is set in the canyon bottom along a singing stream where the West Fork spreads into a little forested flat at the junction of Valley Forge Canyon; the other set on a beautifully forested slope against the north face of towering San Gabriel Peak and with splendid views out through the canyon and across the ranges.

Valley Forge Lodge

About a mile down the canyon from the old log cabin Ranger Station is the site which, for ten years, was occupied by Camp West Fork. The permit for this resort was orig-

inally issued on August 2, 1913, to J. R. Nevins and Ernest DeVore and on October 2, 1916, the name of Cherie DeVore was substituted for that of Nevins. In the summer of 1924, on account of trouble over ownership of the site, the permit was cancelled, buildings and equipment moved to a location three miles up the stream and the name changed to Valley Forge Lodge.

This resort has for years been the outpost for a great primitive area and under the capable management of Cherie DeVore, though until lately accessible only by trail, has been deservedly popular with lovers of nature. Now that a good mountain road connects it with Angeles Crest Highway at Red Box, beautiful West Fork Canyon has been brought close to the city dweller, but Valley Forge Lodge still remains a gateway to the wild.

Opid's Resort Camp

Opid's Resort Camp, on the West Fork of the San Gabriel Canyon, one mile east of Red Box Divide on the Angeles Crest Highway, is today one of the best known and best appointed of all the camps in the San Gabriels, but its growth has in no way resembled a mushroom—it has taken time, work and untiring energy. Its history is an interesting story of faith and accomplishment.

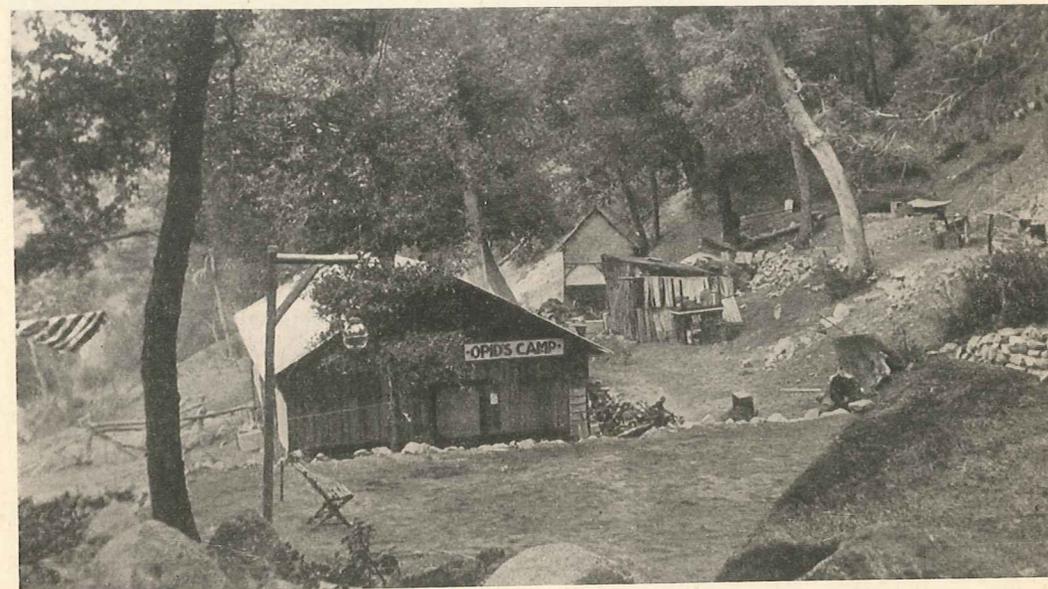
Before John T. Opid was married and during the time he was in the employ of the U. S. Forest Service, he "worked trail" between the Red Box Divide and Barley Flats.



Interior of the Lodge at Valley Forge.

From most of that trail he could look directly into the canyon, known then as Stoney Gulch and later as Rocky Gulch, which heads on San Gabriel Peak and Mt. Disappointment, and forms part of the head of the West Fork of San Gabriel Canyon. The canyon was filled then, as it is now, with wonderful spruce, oak, bay and maple trees and had a stream of water which ran throughout the year, and he conceived the idea that this location would be ideal for a recreation camp. Opid's family also fell in love with it, and in 1911 his father, Ludwik Opid, took out a Forest Service cabin lease.

A tiny cabin was built out of hand-split cedar shakes from trees cut in the vicinity, and in 1913, when John Opid married Miss Eleanor Town, daughter of a pioneer Cali-



Opid's Camp in 1915—This building still in use as the Dining Room.

fornia family, their honeymoon was spent at the tiny cabin and in looking over the district. In April of 1914 they took out a resort lease from the U. S. Forest Service and began the creation of the resort which bears their name.

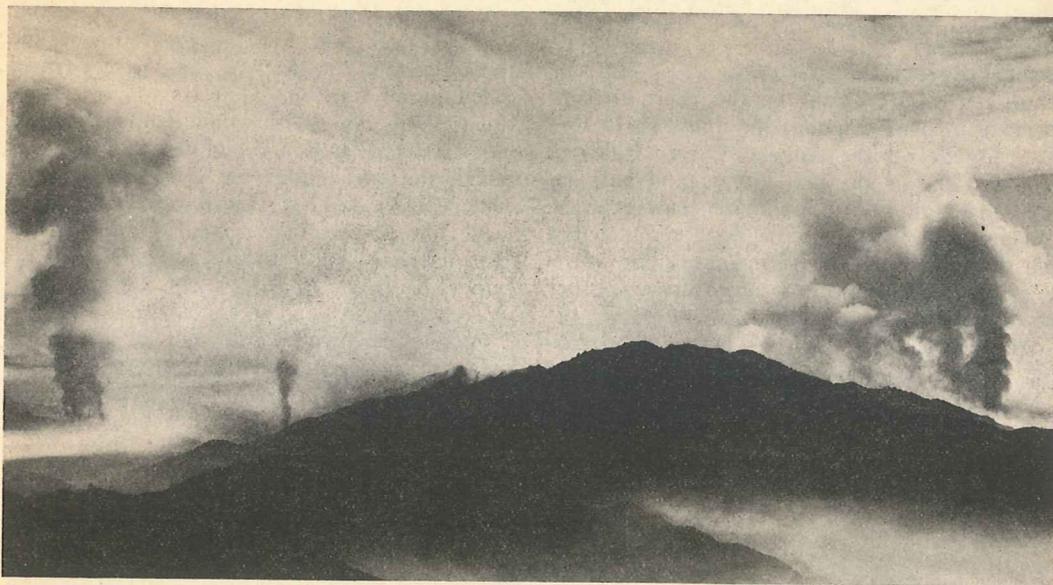
The first route of travel was from Mount Lowe Tavern over the pass between San Gabriel Peak and Mt. Disappointment to the Red Box Divide and over a steep, brushy trail into the West Fork. About two years later a trail—with 11 switchbacks—was built up the slope of Disappointment to meet the Government Trail. Later a much easier trail was constructed along the slope of San Gabriel to the saddle between San Gabriel Peak and Mt. Wilson, which opened the route directly to Mt. Wilson and via Eaton Canyon to Mt.

Lowe.

The main building—which is today used as dining room—and cabins were constructed from hand split cedar shakes cut in nearby canyons and on Barley Flats, four miles distant, and with short length corrugated iron, packed in on the backs of burros, for roofing.

During the early years of Opid's a fine vegetable garden was maintained until the deer became too numerous. For, after all and in spite of fences, deer do prefer garden truck to having to forage a wider area. On January 1, 1915, this district became a portion of the State Game Refuge. The State also sent in trappers for mountain lion. Between these trappers and the residents of the

(Continued on Page 20)



The great 1924 fire from Mt. Wilson.

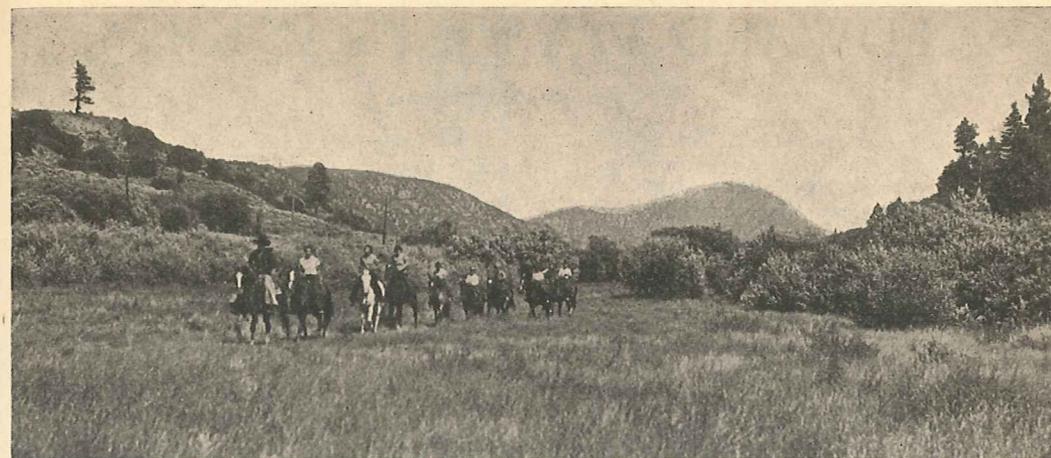
—Photo by Ellerman

THE SUMMER OF TWENTY-FOUR

Smoke and dust, fever and sweat,
The damndest season I've put in yet;
All you can hear, or think, or do,
Is fighting fire the season through.
All other work has gone to pot,
Our working plans are completely "shot."
(Suffering cats, will it never rain!)
My heart has a knock, my nerves are frayed,
My stomach's gone, my feet are splayed,
My eyes are dimmed from the back-fire smoke,
My lungs are sore, and my back is broke.
(Out in the West, where men are men,
It hasn't rained since God knows when!)
A column of smoke and a windy day;
It mushrooms up and drifts away.
But under that pillar of pearly gray,
Is the same old fight in the same old way.
Thirst and sweat, worry and grime;

She's jumped the line time after time
With a rip and a cackle, a rumble and roar;
We call for help and try once more.
(When winter comes, we won't be sore!)
The open spaces are free and deep,
The mountain slopes are long and steep;
The darkling canyon and rocky peak
I've climbed them all, 'till my legs are weak.
Scenery is what some folks may desire,
But it's rotten stuff on a forest fire.
(Oh, sunny Cal. is a joyful land;
It is like H—! Ain't Nature grand!)
A holiday for me would be,
On a southern isle in a balmy sea,
Where I could sleep, and eat, and shave,
And bathe myself in a purple wave;
In its tropical rains with its glad downpour,
I'd dream of the Summer of Twenty-four.

—R. W. "BUMMER" AYRES, *Adm. Asst.*
California Region—U. S. Forest Service.



Bridle Paths for Recreation and Beautification

By JAMES K. REID, *Superintendent*

Los Angeles County Department of Recreation Camps and Playgrounds

Californians, and especially those who live in Los Angeles County, have a heritage that dates back to the earliest days when horseback riding was the principal means of transportation. What was a necessity yesterday is today developing into a modern recreational activity that enlists more enthusiasts each year. With this thought in mind the Department of Recreation Camps and Playgrounds, of Los Angeles County, is undertaking what is expected to produce a vast systematic program of bridle paths that will rival any similar plan known of in the West.

In the development of a comprehensive system of bridle trails throughout the county, the importance of a unified scheme is evident. Each particular district has its own distinct problems, but all are bound together by common interests. This department of county government is proceeding upon the principle that in the formulation, adoption and carrying out of a county-wide system of bridle paths its function is to serve as a central coordinating agency. Horseback riding is becoming more and more popular and has the enthusiastic support of a host of prominent citizens who are eager to assist in the working out of a program that will not only give a new recreational outlet but will beautify the county.

Preliminary studies made by this department indicate that the Flood Control rights of way offer an appropriate place for the development of bridle paths. Such a plan, if adopted, offers the wild and natural environment that is so desirable and at the same time

gives the sense of safety and security to the equestrian by permitting the mount and rider to pass under various bridge structures and not have to cross heavy traffic thoroughfares as is now necessary in so many districts.

Besides opening up a system of bridle trails the planting of trees and shrubbery along the paths would create a "green belt" of beauty and eradicate what is now an ugly scar traversing the county at different locations. It would also enhance property values. Many such questions are being considered by this Department in its efforts to submit to proper authorities for consideration, a plan that will include every good feature and still retain the fundamental idea of holding down maintenance costs.

Engineering studies are being made with a view to working out some of the following ideas, plus many others which space does not permit discussion of: The construction of properly designed ramps to permit the mounts to pass under bridge structures; high standards of design to provide the best treatment possible, considering the scenic value, utility and safety; proper treatment to settle dust and eliminate erosion; proper selection of shrubbery to minimize maintenance costs; establishment of rest camps at proper intervals, equipped with comfort stations, hitching racks, watering troughs, tables, benches and drinking fountains; elimination of having to double back over the same trail, thereby adding interest to the ride; elimination of all hazards

(Continued on Page 20)

EDWARD PAYSON RANKIN

By RICHARD N. JOHNSON

*"Isn't it strange that princes and kings
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings
And common people like you and me
Are builders of eternity?"*

The Editor often wonders how many now living think of life in the words of this little poem, or if the proportion were greatly increased what added happiness it might bring to the world. In the evening of his life, from 75 to 92, at an age when most of us feel that our debt to the world is or should be paid, Edward Payson Rankin did more for his fellow men than most of us do in a lifetime.

What the soft rosy gold of evening's mellow alpenglow means to the mountain traveler at the end of a long day's trail, the inspiring glories of California's mountains meant to Rev. Edward Payson Rankin when, at the retirement age of 75, he came from the prairies of Illinois to round out the evening of his life in the little town of Monrovia, at the foot of the San Gabriels. His life had been one of inspiring service as teacher and minister, and every activity, spiritual, mental, moral and physical, had been on consistently high levels.

It must naturally follow that from his new home he would "lift his eyes unto the hills" and with their challenge gain a new life interest, an appreciation of their inestimable value to the growing communities at their foot and an answer to the question of what to do with his retirement years. The flow of life from his beloved mountains helped to extend the evening of his life and its benign influence over many years when, on April 12th last, he went out into the hushed dawn of a new day, at the age of 92.

His first approach was through the trail-side plants and flowers—and his quest took him ever farther and higher. He studied their botany, history, legendary lore and economic uses—until he became recognized authority on the plant life of the mountains. He carried his studies into the chaparral, the "Elfin Forest" and to the coniferous forests of the higher slopes.

His own story of the first attempt to climb Monrovia Peak on his 75th birthday has already been told in the Winter 1937 issue of TRAILS MAGAZINE. He did not try again until his birthday anniversary, January 22, 1923, when, with two companions, he planted the first United States flag on the summit. Each year he carried a new flag to the peak and

*"Each is given a bag of tools,
A shapeless mass, a book of rules,
And each must make ere life is flown,
A stumbling block or a stepping stone."*

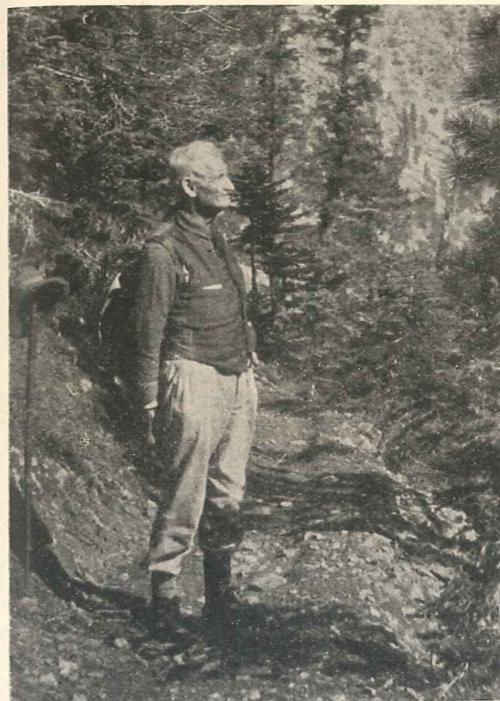
—By R. L. SHARPE.

raised it there with appropriate ceremony, at first on make-shift poles, but at last on a permanent steel pole, erected by the Monrovia American Legion on the occasion of his ninetyth birthday in 1935. In January, 1936, Mr. Rankin visited the peak for the last time. The 1937 ceremony, delayed by unfavorable weather, was held on April 24th, when it became a memorial tribute to a beloved citizen, in the presence of some fifty persons.

From Mt. Wilson and Monrovia Peak he looked longingly over the peaks and ranges to the north and east, at that time accessible only by trail. His first long hike into that back country came in June, 1925, in company with the writer. Mr. Rankin was then eighty years of age, and it was with the keenest enthusiasm that he made his observations along the 100 miles or thereabouts of new trails covered during the eight days out. For the next ten years these trail companions made an annual event of their week or two in the back country, covering practically every trail from Strawberry Peak, Mill Creek and Mt. Pacifico on the west, to Mt. Hawkins and Crystal Lake on the east, hiking from 100 to 125 miles on each trip.

The flowers and birds were given the greatest amount of detailed study. All flowers were a delight to him, but especially the Fremontia (Tents of Gold) on Horse Flats, the showy "Snow plants" under the pines of Chilao, the handsome but ill-scented Namas, but he was a friend to all the flowers and kept a careful list of varieties observed on each trip.

Under Mr. Rankin's leadership the Chaparro Hiking Club was brought back to a flourishing condition, though its place in the community has now been largely taken by its offshoot, the Yucca Hiking Club of Monrovia, with a program better adapted to the average persons' hiking ability.



Edward Payson Rankin.

BIG PINES TRAIL MARATHON
A Bunion Derby in the Wilderness

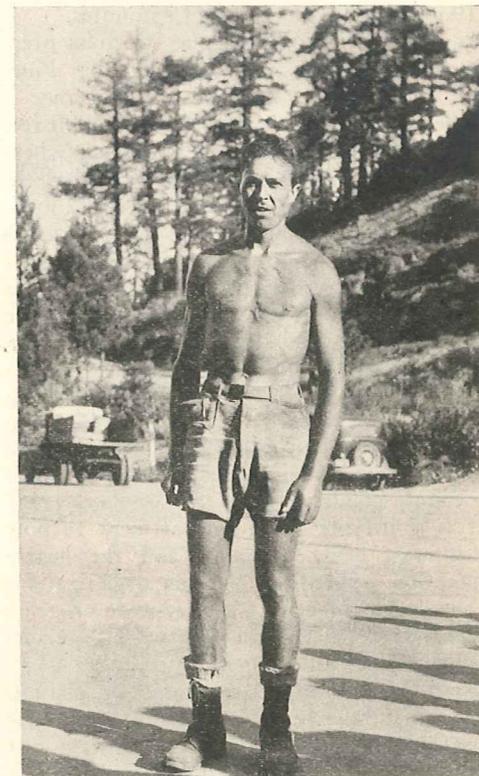
By ROY M. TUTTLE

Sports writers pick headline stories from Olympic Marathons, where the flags of all nations float in the afternoon breeze, uniformed musicians play martial music, cheering crowds spur the runners on their way and, high above all glows the eternal flame of the Olympic Torch. An Olympic Marathon is a gruelling test of man's endurance over any course, with all the trimmings, and we give full credit to the fine physical fitness, the stamina and courage which carries on to victory.

Comes now another type of marathon, even more exhausting; a terrific test of man's endurance; forty-four miles along forest trails and over granite peaks of the highest mountains in Southern California. This most unusual race is run each year in the month of August, on a night when the moon is full and round; starts from the Davidson Arch in Los Angeles County's Big Pines Recreation Camp, at an elevation of 6864 feet above the sea and each contestant must carry on his person, ten percent of his own weight in addition to food and water.

As the starter's gun barks the zero hour, the runners lope off up the mountain and the world's toughest race is on. Forested trails lead higher and higher, up across Wright Mountain, 8000, Pine Mountain, 9661, and then above the forest to our Top-o-the-World, Mt. San Antonio, 10,080 feet above sea level. A short pause to sign the record, perhaps a rub down or tape for a blistered heel; a look ahead through the moonlight to Mt. Baden-Powell, the next objective, only seven miles away across canyons a mile deep, but twenty miles down and up by that steep and crooked trail. Down again to Wright Mountain, west the length of the Blue Ridge range to the head of Big Rock Creek, then up four miles over 38 switchbacks to the top of Baden-Powell, elevation 9389, where another first aid crew awaits, another rub-down if necessary, another signature on the register and away on the last twelve-mile lap to the finish line.

No fanfare of trumpets, no martial music, no flags or cheering crowds. Onward and alone through the silent night; a silver moon lights their wooded paths, an owl hoots its



Paul V. Engelhardt, winner of Big Pines Trail Marathon 1934-35-36.

mournful call, a red fox slinks across the trail wondering at this midnight intrusion. Ahead, where road crosses trail, headlights of the Ranger Patrol car appear through the trees; lights of checkers and judges at the stations along the course and, on the lofty summits of San Antonio and Baden-Powell, occasional flares beckoning ever on, like the Olympic Torch of old.

Short-wave radio units at strategic points report the progress and condition of the runners as we in the checking stations marvel at the physical and mental courage which carries them hour after hour through the night at such a pace. Dawn breaks in the eastern sky while weary runners still plod onward, not too fast now, conserving waning strength for the finish which may mean victory and a new record. Who knows?

This unique Bunion Derby of the Wilderness, only race of its kind in the world, is now in its fourth year. In August, 1934, it was won by Paul V. Engelhardt, 41 miles in 14 hours, 45 minutes. 1935, with 3 miles added, making the course 44 miles, Engelhardt won again in 13 hours and 32 minutes and again in 1936 with 13 hours and 13 minutes.

As TRAILS MAGAZINE goes to press preparations are under way for the Big Pines Trail Marathon of 1937 and a real race it will be. The entire course is above 6000 feet with a total lift of over 10,000 feet; where trails are rough and steep; where physical fitness, mental courage and a thorough knowledge of this High Sierra type of country is essential to finish; a race where, seemingly, only super-men can win. A Marathon minus music and glamour, but a he-man's race from start to finish. A real story for a sports writer.

BRIDLE PATHS—

(Continued from Page 17)

and placement of proper signs and mile posts so riders may better gauge distances between rest camps, stables, etc.

It is gratifying to this department to note the interest being displayed and the hearty cooperation offered by various organizations for the development of a county-wide program of bridle trails that will be mutually beneficial to all sections. In turn, we offer every assistance to individuals, groups and associations who wish to take an active part in the successful working out of such a vast program. It is only through cooperative effort and the balancing of the entire plan that a comprehensive system of bridle paths will become a reality.

You Are Invited to Be Present at
VAN DEGRIFT'S
SKI HUT OPENING
 Friday Evening, October 1, at 8 P. M.
 607 W. 7th St., Los Angeles
 Entire New Stock of Skis, Ski Clothing
 and Accessories in Advance Showing

OPID'S CAMP—

(Continued from Page 15)

district the mountain lion has become decidedly rare and deer have increased accordingly.

In 1925 a permit was granted by the State of California and work begun upon a swimming pool. The cement for this was carried in upon the backs of burros from Mt. Wilson. Since that time a bath house has been added, and just this year an attractive, ornamental fence has been erected around the pool.

In August of 1926 the first automobile road reached Opid's, coming from Mount Wilson via the Red Box Divide. This was just a narrow dirt road with turnouts, constructed by the U. S. Forrest Service to Red Box, and jointly by them and the Opids into the Camp. This may have been a narrow road but just the same it was time for thanksgiving, for it meant easier transportation—and, after years of "hazing" pack trains the Opids were in a position to thoroughly appreciate it.

The beautiful, scenic Angeles Crest Highway reached the Red Box Divide in 1934, making it possible for many more people to reach and thoroughly enjoy the beauty of West Fork Canyon. Opid's has grown steadily, from a few tents and a couple of cabins into an unusually attractive mountain resort, with cozy cottage-cabins, a fine recreation hall and everything for the comfort and convenience of its guests.

A dozen trails lead from the camp to scenic and historic spots so that the hiker may pick his trek for the day. Swimming, dancing, badminton, horseshoes, ping-pong,—or just rest, relax, sleep, eat and build up a depleted, over-worked system. At Opid's one is as far from the influence of the city as in the heart of the Canadian Rockies.

U. S. GOVERNMENT
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
 Price 15c Key Map Free
TRAIL MAP OF ANGELES FOREST
 New - Up-to-date - Half-inch scale - 50c
SO. CALIF. BLUE PRINT CO.
 114½ West Third Street, Los Angeles, California

ANGELES FOREST NEWS

Big Santa Anita Canyon—

At the special meeting of the Big Santa Anita Permittees Association, held April 26th, an assessment of \$5.00 per Permit was levied to cover the expense of maintaining a guard in the canyon. Mr. Joe Clark, who has been employed for that position, formerly operated the Half-Way House on the Sierra Madre trail and has been identified with the canyon for more than 20 years. The association was most fortunate in securing his services.

At the request of the Forest Service, blanks are now issued to all cabin owners for use when other than the owners occupy the cabin. Anyone not having a signed permit will be considered as trespassing.

Charlton Flat Campground—

Building of this beautiful camp is progressing but it is not recommended for camping this summer. Now drilling a well for additional water supply. Camp will be opened with the opening of 16 miles more of the Angeles Crest highway in the spring of 1938.

National Forest Questionnaire—

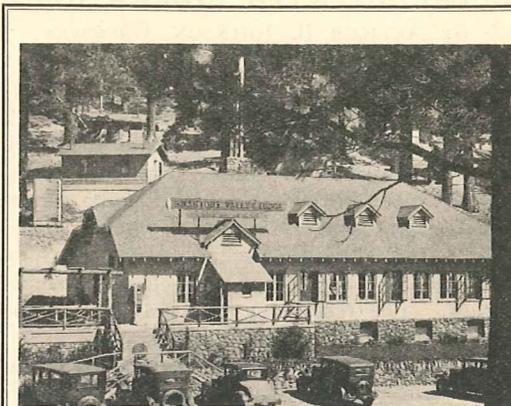
The questionnaire on recreational facilities in the National Forest, now being sent out to forest visitors, should be thoroughly studied and carefully answered. In the development, with limited funds, of this great mountain playground for your use and enjoyment, the Forest Department must know which facilities and conveniences are most desired by you who use them. If you do not receive a questionnaire ask for one from your nearest Forest Ranger or the Angeles Forest headquarters, Room 501, 751 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, California.

Big Santa Anita Canyon—

James P. Steel of Sierra Madre has taken over the Pack Train and mountain packing business formerly operated by Mrs. W. B. Corum, and has built a home at Chantry Flat, end of the mountain road from Arcadia. Here he will maintain the stables, corrals and receiving station for freight destined for points along the trail, also saddle horses for those who prefer riding to walking the canyon trails.

Mr. Steel has also been granted a permit to operate a paid parking area where, for a small fee, autos may be left in charge of a watchman. This in no way interferes with the free parking privileges at the picnic area but is a convenience for those who prefer to

leave their automobiles under guard. This concession fills a long felt want and will be popular with cabin owners.



Lodge and Cabins Big Pines Lodge

BIG PINES LODGE

STORE — FOUNTAIN — CAFE
LODGE and CABINS

SPEND YOUR VACATION IN
BIG PINES PLAYGROUND

Make Reservations at
 Room 300, 240 South Broadway
 Los Angeles
 Phone MUTual 9211—Sta. 2892



Davidson Arch from the Lodge
Center of Snow Sports Activities

The ARTS ENGRAVING CO.

(Incorporated)

308 East 9th Street
 Los Angeles, Calif.

Night and Day
Service

PHONES—
 VAndike 4771
 TUcker 4381
 TUcker 3759

Outing Club News

CLIMBING WITH SIERRA CLUB

By ARTHUR B. JOHNSON, *Chairman*
Rock Climbing, Southern California Chapter

Twenty-one members of the Club backpacked into the headwaters of Big Pine Creek over the Fourth of July week-end to attack the east faces of the famed Palisade Peaks, 14,000 foot pinnacles along the Sierra Crestline. Ten climbers in three parties picked the North Palisade, five in one party chose Mt. Sill, and a party of two selected Temple Crags. The remaining four indulged in the gentle art of High Sierra photography.

Climbing icy slopes of expansive snow fields, scrambling over boulder strewn moraines, feeling their way across the glassy surface of a glacier, creeping up precipitous rock walls, is all in the day's fun for scalers of peaks.

We had all this and more—when within a few hundred feet of our goals a storm broke and we were forced to face sleet, hail and rain, slowing our pace to a crawl of inch by inch over the slippery and wet rocks into the teeth of the storm. Then, when within a stone's throw of the summits, lightning started playing around the pinnacles, crackling like cannon in our ears, driving us to cover, for the topmost block is no welcome throne in a lightning storm. The Mt. Sill party was fortunate enough to gain the blocks near the summit before the storm broke and were just able to push to the summit before the lightning set in.

The storm held without abatement until early afternoon, forcing us to retreat in order to gain camp before darkness. Defeat only whets the desire, urging us back again and again until those lofty monarchs finally fall. Labor Day will find us climbing the pinnacles in the vicinity of Mt. Whitney.

The Rock Climbing Section cordially invites those interested to come out to our weekly climbs, where we sport and practice. For information call at Club headquarters, suite 315-6, 751 S. Figueroa St., or phone TUCKER 1411.

CALIFORNIA TRAILS

Organized to Save the Wilderness

Beginning a drive for new members, California Trails this month is opening its membership to all who will join in the campaign to save California's remaining wilderness regions from invasion by roads and commercial exploiters.

The most important task before the organization at present is the preservation of the Kern River section from the inevitable destruction of scenery and wild life that would come with the Trans-Sierra Highway, on which work has been done for several years, gradually encroaching on this area from Camp Nelson on the west side and from Lone Pine on the east. In a few more miles this road will enter the Sierra Nevada's last below-timberline wilderness.

Anyone interested in this campaign is asked to write to Martin Litton, 345 E. Redondo Blvd., Inglewood, California.

FOREST CONSERVATION CLUB

By CHARLES E. WARNER

Search for the haunts of the California Condor, greatest of all birds of flight, has called forth the best efforts of this club during the past quarter, the last and most arduous trip being that of June 26-27 by Tracy Ryon, Edward Hefflinger, Paul Kimmey and Charles Warner.

Overnight camp was made at Rancho del Potrero Alto, nine miles back in the mountains from Fillmore. Starting early Sunday, the 27th, Ryon, Hefflinger and Kimmey hiked for twelve hours over precipitous ridges and through densely brushed canyons. Returning by Hopper Canyon, past waterfalls and deep pools by a route, it is said, never before traveled, they found an old road by which they reached Potrero Alto. This Club will initiate a movement for the protection of these giant birds and their nesting places.

Friday evening, July 9, a meeting was held at 279 Grand View St., Pasadena, to complete plans for the summer outing at Tuolumne Meadows, July 18 to 31. Anyone desiring to participate write or phone to Paul C. Kimmey, 3164 Carlyle St., Los Angeles, phone Al. 4316.

Saturday, August 21, a campfire social at 279 Grand View St., a sleeping bag nap on the rear lawn, hot coffee at 2 a.m. and a sunrise hike to Mendenhall Peak. We finish the day with rest and lunch in some shady spot in the canyon. Friday evening, Sept. 17, a picnic supper in Brookside Park. Sunday, Sept. 19, a hike in Bear and Paradise Canyons.

For information of Club Activities, phone NIagara 4638 or TErrace 2053, or write to 279 Grand View St., Pasadena.

LOOKING AHEAD WITH THE SIERRA CLUB

By ETHEL SEVERSON

A glance at the new Sierra Club quarterly schedule is enough to lift anyone out of the summer doldrums. There's a moonlight street dance that is a simply-must-do; there are beach parties at Balboa and at Cabrillo Beach, and for the unquenchables there is rock climbing almost weekly. The Labor Day outing to Mount Whitney is announced as the "Seventh Annual," and one is impressed by the thought that it has become truly an institution of the Sierra Club.

There is a whiff of fall in later leaves of the schedule, and one wonders if possibly the "Fall Round-up and Barbecue" will establish another tradition of the Club. At any rate, the invitation to "don your biggest Stetson, hook the old Sierra Club cup to the belt of your blue jeans, and head your bucking bronco toward Elysian Park Lodge" sounds irresistible.

Vacation reminiscence parties, ice skating, and ski movies mark definitely the end of summer and the beginning of new things. The annual banquet, and finally, the Hallowe'en party at Harwood Lodge complete an exhilarating three-months program.

Anyone interested in the activities and purposes of the Sierra Club is invited to call TUCKER 1411, or to visit the Club's Headquarters at 751 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, California.

NATURE CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

This summer's big outing will be a two weeks' trip in August, up the Coast Highway to Pfeifer's Redwood Park, through Calaveras Big Trees State Park, across the Sierras by Sonora Pass and back through the High Sierra Lakes region.

In June the Club had a very interesting trip to Boulder Dam to view some of the marvelous work of nature and man. Also a short trip to Crater Camp under a good leader; a trip which was greatly enjoyed and will be long remembered for its opportunity to study great earth movements and for its many beautiful wild flowers.

Such trips through our forests and canyons help to shorten our weeks with pleasant memories, and we watch for the quarterly arrival of "Trails Magazine" with its fine articles on our great out-of-doors and new "Trail Trips" to take.

SLEEPING BAGS

14 different kinds in Wool, Kapok, Eider Down, Goose Down, Duck Down, including special light weight, imported models weighing two to four pounds for hikers.

KNAPSACKS

12 styles Norwegian, Swedish and American Knapsacks and Pack-boards.

BASS HIKING SHOES

Boots and Shoes in various styles and grades.

Also Climbing Ropes, Ice Axes, Crampons, Swiss Edge Nails, Wind Proof Jackets, Hikers' One Man Tents and other Mountaineering Equipment.

VAN DEGRIFT'S HIKE SHOP

607 WEST SEVENTH STREET

(Across from Robinson's)

"HIGH ADVENTURE" PACK TRIP

By VICTOR E. TEANEY, *Field Executive*
Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley Council, Boy
Scouts of America

Twenty older Scout campers who have had past years of experience in their own Troop outings and in Camp Cherry Valley (Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley Scout Camp at Catalina Island) are to have seven days filled with adventure, hiking, fishing and exploring in the High Sierras, August 21 to 27.

Going by way of Independence to Onion Valley, the party will meet the pack animals and cross the famous Kearsarge Pass, nearly 12,000 feet in elevation. Base camp will be at Bullfrog Lake, one of the most beautiful in the High Sierra region and from camp, knapsack trips to various points of interest will be taken and there will be plenty of opportunity to swim and fish. Because of the nature of the trip only 20 Scouts and Scouters can be taken this year, and all applications must be approved by the Camp Committee.

Those who go will have a new experience in small group camping, giving each Scout opportunities to cook his favorite camp dish, demonstrate his "own make" gear, add to his nature logs and in many ways realize his dream of true Scout camping.

The trip will be in personal charge of H. Benjamin Robinson, Council Camp Director, and Victor E. Teaney, co-director. Scouted last year by Mr. Robison and a small party of Camp Cherry Staff members, this trip has the greatest of possibilities for individual scouting.

**THE YUCCA HIKING
CLUB OF MONROVIA**

RICHARD N. JOHNSON, *Secretary*
116 N. Alta Vista Avenue, Monrovia

Our weekly hike schedule of the past four months has been well maintained, the last June event being to Pinezanita Lodge, mountain home of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Bushnell in the Santa Ana River Valley, San Bernardino Mountains.

The three trips which rank highest in point of grandeur of scene and beauty of trail details—the Icehouse Canyon trail to Chapman Pass with an unusually prolific display of the blood-red Snow plants under the trail-side pines,—Mount Islip with its late May snowdrifts—and the Barley Flats trail from Red Box Divide looking out upon an especially impressive picture of the Mount Wilson-San

Gabriel-Disappointment Peak ridges glistening white with Spring's last heavy snowfall.

The San Dimas Lookout trail was unusually rich in spring flowers, and the trail in San Dimas Canyon always has a charm all its own. The longest trail hike was the sixteen miles from Sawpit Dam up Monrovia Canyon over the divide into Fish Canyon and on down to its mouth. The many falls along the stream in Fish Canyon give it exceptional beauty of detail. Millard Canyon was revisited. The stream crossings in Roberts Canyon were a bit troublesome because of the large volume of water. Sycamore Canyon revealed a new waterfall of delicate beauty near its upper end.

Santa Anita Canyon was the scene of several hikes—one up the East Fork to Madrone Flats, another to Sturtevant Camp with return over Mount Zion and Hoegee's Camp, etc. Two hikers went to the top of San Antonio Peak (Old Baldy) on July 6th, but the summer program will be less strenuous. Moonlight evening hikes and picnic gatherings in places where short hikes may be taken, if desired.

**WOODCRAFT RANGERS
IN THEIR SUMMER CAMP**

Woodcraft Ranger Camps are popular with both boys and their parents and this year at Lake Arrowhead the boys are looking for a grand time.

With experienced and popular Woodcraft Guides in charge of all camp activities a vacation in the forest, on the trails and lake cannot but be helpful and healthful.

Many Woodcraft Councils are continuing through the summer and members of closed Councils are welcome to visit. If you don't know your nearest Council, call Woodcraft Ranger headquarters.

**WOMEN'S ATHLETIC
CLUB OF GLENDALE**

By MRS. S. M. ESTABROOK

The Women's Athletic Club of Glendale closed its thirteenth year of activities on June 10. This was a gala event in the form of a luncheon meeting at which trophies were awarded to the tournament winners in all departments.

The hiking department was the proud winner of two trophies. This meant that two members had attended all of the thirty-one hikes held by the department between October 1st and June 1st and had hiked the greatest number of miles during that time. The win-

ners of these trophies were Miss Anne Van Pelt and Mrs. J. M. Luckey. These two women had hiked 194 miles. Mrs. W. R. McNeill won the second prize, having hiked 187 miles.

Even though many of the trips were shortened on account of storms, closed areas on account of slides and snow, enthusiasm never faltered and the 30 members of the department are looking forward to greater achievements for next year.

The department will begin activities again October 1st under the leadership of Mrs. J. R. Lockwood, who was elected chairman at the May meeting. All Glendale women who like to hike are welcome in this group and can receive further information by writing or phoning Mrs. Lockwood at 523 No. Orange, Glendale. Phone, Douglas 3917.

GLENDALE COMMUNITY HIKERS

The Summer hiking schedule of this popular club is interesting reading for those who love the out-of-doors.

July 3-4-5 a two-night camp at Crestline and hikes from that point over San Bernardino Forest trails. July 17-18 Lupine Campground in Prairie Fork and a hike around Pine Mountain to Upper Fish Fork. August 1, around Mt. San Gabriel from Angeles Crest highway, with a trip to the summit for that magnificent view.

August 14 a party at Cabrillo Beach. August 21-22 camp and hike on the west shore of Big Bear Lake. August 29 breakfast at

Saw-Pit Falls and a hike in Monrovia's mountain park. Sept. 4-5-6 camp in Wheeler Gorge, above Ojai, and hike to Nordhoff Peak. Sept. 18-19 camp at Buckhorn Flats and hike the unsurpassed Little Rock Triangle trip. Sept. 28 an easy hike up Bear Creek, fine stream, towering cliffs and enormous boulders.

For information write or call R. W. Haight, Chairman, 420 S. Lincoln Ave., Glendale, DOuglas 4872, or Los Angeles, VAndike 8735.

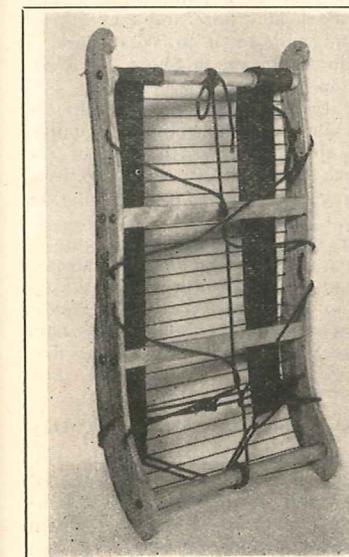
ROAMER HIKING CLUB

ERNEST READ, *President*

The Roamer Hiking Club has had some fine hikes on its schedule and covered some high peaks recently, namely San Jacinto on Decoration Day, and San Geronio (Greyback) on July 4th week-end. We made a night trip of this, starting at 1:30 a.m. on the trail, and celebrated Independence Day by snowballing at the summit. Sixteen folks made the trip, and felt much rewarded with the fine view, as the day was clear. The wild flowers along the trail were very pretty also.

We will have a number of nice beach parties in the summer, to cool off before our fall schedule begins. Cabrillo Beach and Laguna are two locations, and we have an evening weiner bake in August.

So don't forget if you wish to join us "by the sea, by the sea, by the beautiful sea," as the song goes, phone Florence Kennett, Jefferson 4015, or write to 1727 E. Ninth St., Los Angeles, for further information.

**Sierra Pack Rack**

Designed to fit the hiker's back, ease the load and please the eye.

SIERRA PACK RACK is made of selected birch, a tough, hard wood, finished in dull gloss varnish and fitted with golden brown shoulder straps, cord and lacing.

Easily adjusted to fit both person and pack.

Weight about 26 ounces. Height 22 inches; width 13 inches.

PRICE \$5.00 EACH

Distributed by

Van Degrieff's Hike Shop

607 West Seventh St., Los Angeles, Calif.

Phone VAndike 6275

Trail Trips

Dry Lake of Disappointment Ridge—½ Day

Drive Angeles Crest Highway to Red Box and take San Gabriel Peak Trail, 1 mile to first trail forks, turn right on trail to top of ridge, ½ mile, and right along top of ridge to Dry Lake, 1 mile. An interesting trip and fine views. Some very interesting rock formations. Carry water. No fires allowed. Total hike, 5 miles.

Mt. Harvard from Mt. Wilson—½ Day

Go by auto or the daily stage to Mt. Wilson. Hike the easy grade of the old Toll Road, or by the shorter but rough and steep trail to the old site of Martin's Camp on the saddle between Mt. Wilson and Mt. Harvard. Find trail leading south from the old camp out along the ridge to the summit of Mt. Harvard, wartime site of the U. S. Army Signal Station. Total hike, 3 miles.

Upper Big Tujunga, by Colby's Ranch—1 Day

Drive Angeles Crest Highway to Red Box and park the auto. Hike Barley Flat Road north (left) to trail turning west (left), ½ mile. Follow this trail around the slope, passing east of Strawberry Peak, then down through a mile of forest to Colby's Ranch, 4 miles, and passing the buildings on to Camp No. 15 on the stream in Upper Tujunga, 1.3 miles. Return by same route. Water at frequent intervals. If planning to use fire, secure permit before starting. Total hike, 12 miles.

San Gabriel Peak—Elevation 6152—1 Day

One of the grandest views in Southern California.

Drive Angeles Crest Highway to Red Box and one mile of good mountain road, down to Opid's Camp at the head of West Fork. Hike south up beautifully forested slope to the Mt. Wilson road, 1¼ miles, then east (left) on this road to Mt. Lowe trail, ¾ mile, then leaving the road turn right, by trail, across the cliffs at the head of Eaton's Canyon, to a trail junction, ¾ mile, then right again ¾ mile and right on trail to the summit, ¾ mile. Returning again to the trail junction, turn north (right) to Red Box and down to Opid's. Carry water and cold lunch as no fires are permitted in this area. Total hike, 8 miles.

Barley Flat, by Angeles Crest Highway 1 Day

Drive Angeles Crest Highway to Red Box, summit of Arroyo Seco-West Fork Divide, and park auto. Hike northeast (left) on Forest Service road to Barley Flat campground, with spring near by, 4 miles, and stop for lunch. Yellow and Big Cone pines and grassy slopes covered with wild barley. Beautiful wild flowers in season, magnificent views across the mountains in all directions. No water until camp is reached, and not always there late in summer. Carry one quart water for each two persons. If planning to use fire, secure permit before starting. Trails both east and north on which one may go farther if desired.

Return by same route, round trip 8 miles; or go east from camp to Short Cut Canyon Trail, 3.5 miles, south (right) by Short Cut to West Fork, 4 miles, then up stream through Valley Forge, 2.2 miles, and Opid's Camp, 1.8 miles, to Red Box, 1

mile. This hike is equally good starting from Opid's or Valley Forge. Total hike, round trip, 16.5 miles.

West Fork of the San Gabriel, from Valley Forge Lodge—1 Day

All the way by a singing stream and in the shade of fine trees.

Drive Angeles Crest Highway to Red Box and the West Fork road down to Valley Forge Lodge. Hike from here down the stream passing Short Cut Canyon, 2.2 miles, to Camp No. 5, 2 miles, or Camp No. 6, 1.3 miles farther. Return by same route. If planning to use fire secure permit before starting. Plenty of water along the way. Total hike, 8½ to 11 miles.

West Fork, Valley Forge, Opid's—from Mt. Wilson Road—1 Day

Drive Angeles Crest Highway to Red Box and Mt. Wilson road, east to Opid's Camp trail, 1¼ miles, and park auto. Hike this road toward Mt. Wilson, 3 miles, to trail turning north (left) from road at point where the road divides. Hike this trail down through forest to the stream in West Fork, 3 miles. Here turn up stream to Forest Campground No. 2, ½ mile, and stop for lunch or have lunch at Valley Forge lodge, ¾ mile farther on.

After lunch, continue up stream, 1¾ miles to Opid's Camp and take a trail south, through camp, up a beautifully forested slope to the auto, 1¼ miles. If planning to use fire, secure permit before starting, as will pass no Ranger Station on this trail. Carry water, 1 quart for each two persons, from auto to West Fork, plenty balance of the trip. Total hike, 10½ easy miles.

West Fork and Short Cut Canyon—from Mt. Wilson—1 Day

Drive Angeles Crest Highway to Red Box and east on Mt. Wilson road to a point .8 of a mile west of the hotel. Park auto here and take a trail north from the road and down to West Fork, 3 miles, then right, down stream to Short Cut Canyon, 1 mile, and stop for lunch.

After lunch take trail south from here, up the slope to Newcomb Pass on the summit, 3 miles, then west (right) along or near the top of the ridge to the 100-inch Observatory on Mt. Wilson, 3 miles, then passing the Mt. Wilson Hotel, take road back to auto, 1 mile.

If a little longer hike is desired a trip up to Valley Forge Resort on first reaching the stream will add 2.5 miles to the total or a short hike up Short Cut Canyon or down the West Fork below Short Cut will prove enjoyable. Carry water both to and from the stream. If planning to use fire, secure permit before starting. Total hike, 11.5 miles.

Sturtevant Camp—from Mt. Wilson—1 Day

North of the Observatory towers find a trail swinging to the right down a steep, oak covered slope to Sturtevant Camp in Big Santa Anita Canyon, 4 miles. Just below the resort take a trail up the mountain to Newcomb Pass, 2½ miles and then

west by the Rim Trail leading again to the summit directly back of the 100-inch Observatory, 3 miles. Carry water and cold lunch or get lunch at Sturtevant's. Total hike, 9½ miles.

Spring Camp and Sierra Madre—from Mt. Wilson—1 ½ Days

An all down-hill hike that's hard to beat.

Take the bus to Mt. Wilson. Explore some of this interesting mountain top and visit the Observatory. Stay over night at the hotel, enjoy the astronomical lecture, the lights of the valley, a mountain sunrise and an early morning start for the hike.

Find the trail, beginning directly back of the 100-inch Observatory, east by Newcomb Pass, 3 miles, to Spring Camp, just west of Monrovia Peak, 6 miles, and stop by the spring for lunch. Then back to the road junction and the right hand road, west of the peak, to the Santa Anita trail, 1½ miles, down this through Madrone Flat, 2½ miles, to Big Santa Anita Canyon at Fern Lodge, 1½ miles. From here down stream by the regular trail to the end of the road at Chantry Flat, 2 miles.

Find the trail above the road by Clark's Inn to the Pacific Electric line in Sierra Madre, 3½ miles. Carry water, one quart for each two persons sufficient, and cold lunch. Trip may be shortened 3½ miles by meeting transportation at Chantry Flat.

West Fork, Mt. Wilson, Bear Canyon—3 Days

From Waterman Ranger Station without equipment.

Drive Angeles Crest Highway to Ranger Station in upper Arroyo Seco and park the auto. Hike up the canyon by forest road to Red Box, 4 miles, road to Opid's Camp, 1 mile, and here take trail down the West Fork to Valley Forge Lodge, 2 miles, and stop for the night.

Second Day—Down the West Fork to the Ranger Station, 2¼ miles, find the trail south, up the slope to Newcomb Pass, 3 miles, turn west (right) on the Rim Trail to Mt. Wilson, 3 miles, and stop for the second night.

Third Day—West by the road to the Mt. Lowe trail, 3 miles, and by this trail to the former site of Mt. Lowe Tavern, 3 miles. Just above the cottages find a trail leading west around the south slope of Mt. Lowe to Bear Canyon, 3 miles, down Bear Canyon to the Arroyo Seco, 2 miles, and up this canyon passing Switzer-Land Resort to Waterman Ranger Station and the auto, 2 miles.

May get lunch the first day at Opid's, reach Mt. Wilson in time for lunch the second day with many interesting ways to spend the afternoon and evening and lunch the third day at Switzer-Land. Carry water, one quart for each two persons, between the West Fork and Bear Canyon. Hiking distance: First day, 7 miles; second day, 8 miles; third day, 13 miles.

The Main Range—6 Days

From Mt. Wilson, Opid's Camp or Valley Forge.

Drive by Angeles Crest Highway to either resort and park the auto. The first and last night camps are the same. From Mt. Wilson hike the Rattlesnake Trail, starting north from the road, ¾ mile west of Mt. Wilson Hotel, down to West Fork, 3

miles, right down stream to Short Cut Canyon, 1 mile, left, up this canyon to the divide, 4 miles, cross the road and down to the Big Jujunga, 1 mile, and up the opposite slope to the campground in Charlton Flat, 3 miles.

Second Day—Take trail leaving camp at west end, through Chilao Camp, 4½ miles, and Camp Winston, 5½ miles, to Buckhorn Flat, 3 miles, and make camp for the night.

Third Day—East from Buckhorn by Cedar Spring Camp, 3½ miles, over the summit of Mt. Williamson, 3½ miles, to Little Jimmy Springs, 5½ miles, and stop for the night in a beautiful camp just west of the springs and at the junction with the trail to Mt. Islip.

Fourth Day—Down through Crystal Lake Camp and Playground, 4 miles, and trail (not road) through Coldbrook Camp, 4 miles, to Fish Hatchery campground at the junction of the North and West Forks of the San Gabriel, 5½ miles.

Fifth Day—Up the West Fork, passing Flood Control Dam No. 2 at Devil Canyon, 9 miles, to West Fork Camp No. 6, 4 miles, and make camp for the night.

Sixth Day—On up the stream to the Ranger Station at the junction with Short Cut, 4½ miles. Then the Sturtevant Camp-Sierra Madre trail south, up the slope to Newcomb Pass, 3½ miles, and here turn west (right) by the rim trail to Mt. Wilson, 3 miles.

Or if your destination is on up the West Fork, it is 2¼ miles from Short Cut to Valley Forge Lodge, and 1¾ miles farther to Opid's Camp.

The longest distance between water will be six miles and a quart canteen is sufficient for two. Extra supplies may be secured half-way of the trip at the Crystal Lake store. Secure fire permit before starting. Total hike, 75 miles.

STANDARD DISTRESS SIGNALS

Uniform signals for hikers, mountaineers and out-of-doors people generally, suggested by the American Alpine Club of New York, have been adopted by the U. S. Forest Service and many hiking clubs throughout the nation.

The key to the code is simplicity itself. Three quickly repeated calls, audible or visible, repeated at regular intervals, is a signal of distress. Such a signal should be used only to call for help.

In the daytime, signals may be sent by waving the arm or a piece of cloth, by flashes of a mirror, or by smoke signals, controlling the smoke with a coat or blanket. By night flashes from a light may be used, or three fires may be built in a row. Audible calls, as with a metal whistle, are of course equally good for day or night.

Anyone receiving such a call should first acknowledge it with the "all clear" signal of two calls, using the same system as the person in distress; then notify others if possible and proceed to the rescue. The rescuer should continue to use the 2-call signal, and the injured person the 3-call signal.

A small card, giving briefly the code and instructions, may be obtained free by calling in person or enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope to TRAILS MAGAZINE.

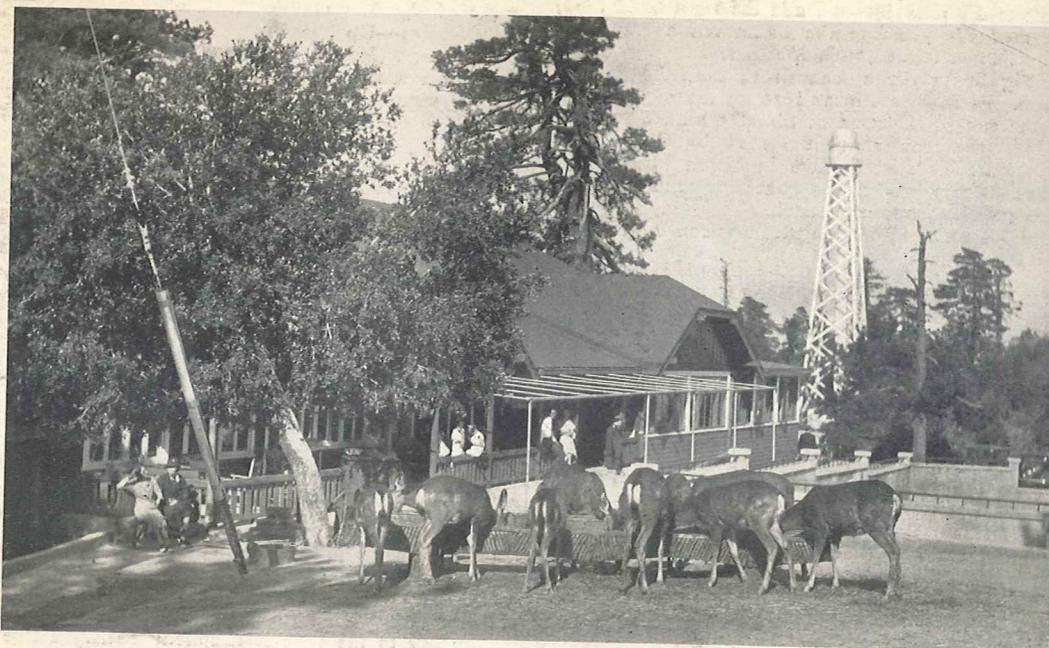
MOUNT WILSON HOTEL

6,000 FEET HIGH

"A HAVEN ABOVE THE CLOUDS"

VIA ANGELES CREST HIGHWAY — PAVED AND HIGH GEAR

Through Glendale and Montrose or via Pasadena and Flintridge to Haskell Avenue, La Canada; then 20 miles of Alpine beauty to the summit of Mt. Wilson. About an hour's drive from Los Angeles.



The Main Building—Swimming Pool—Some of the Deer and 150-foot Tower Telescope.

The Mount Wilson Observatory is not a governmental institution, but belongs to the Carnegie Institution, a private concern, the headquarters of which is in Washington, D. C.

Astronomical Exhibit open 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. 100-inch telescope 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. week days, 2:00 to 3:00 Sundays. Free public observation through 12-inch telescope and illustrated astronomical lecture at the hotel every night. Free observation through 60-inch telescope every Friday night.

FOR WINTER SPORTS AND SUMMER JOYS— MOUNT WILSON

Excellent Dining Room Service — Luncheon 75c — Dinner \$1.00
A la Carte Counter and Fountain Service
Individual Cottages — Rates \$2.00 to \$3.00 Single; \$3.50 to \$5.00 Double
Special Weekly or Monthly Rates During Summer Season
Swimming Pool — Parking Facilities FREE to Registered Guests

A. C. CHILDS, Managing Director

For reservations phone STERLING 9934-F-2

POST OFFICE, MOUNT WILSON

TRAILS MAGAZINE

18 1937

SNOW SPORTS
NUMBER

AUTUMN
1937

PRICE 10 CENTS