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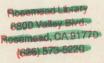
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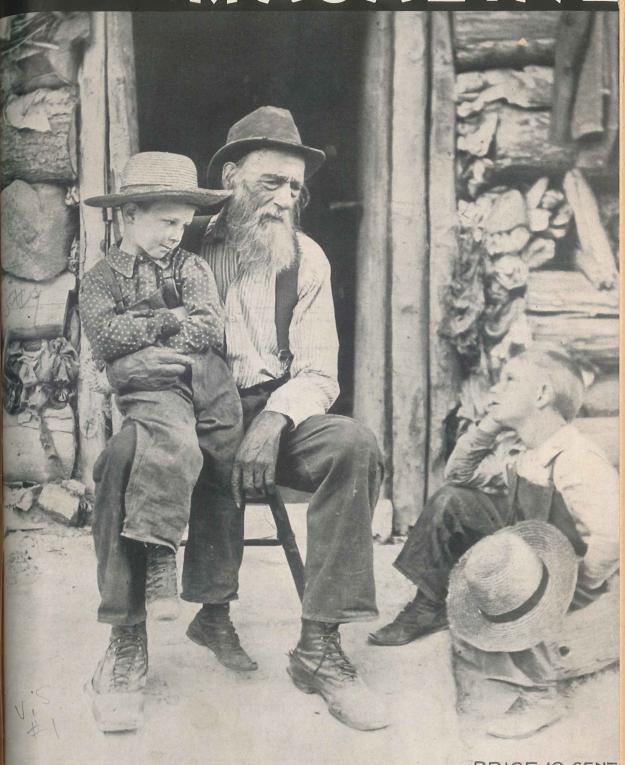
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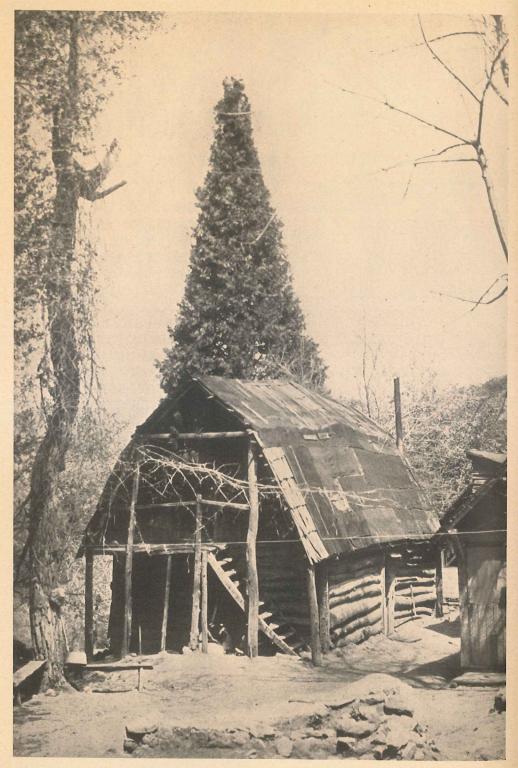
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-Photo by Carl H. Bauer



Trails Magazine

VOL. 5

WINTER, 1938

NO.

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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BUT IT COULD BE BETTER

For all of you who are interested in the preservation of our forest playground, and we assume that means all readers of Trails Magazine, there has been much of encouragement and satisfaction in reports which have lately appeared in the local press.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture says: "During the fire season just passed the burned acreage has been reduced 70% from the average of the last five years." The Fire Warden of Santa Barbara County reports "an exceptionally low loss from forest fires." Our own County Forester, Spence D. Turner, reports that "in 1937 there was a 76% decrease in area burned and 92% decrease in watershed damage," and he thanks the general public for their increasing co-operation.

We have just passed through a season of great fire hazard and many things have helped to build this splendid record. Better fire fighting facilities, better training and greater mobility of fire fighting crews, more and better fire roads, and fire breaks, but greatest of all and prominently mentioned by all forest protection agencies, has been the understanding

and co-operation of those who use and enjoy the mountains,

The following table of the number of fires and their causes is taken from the 1937 report of the Angeles Forest. Travelers, just passing through on main highways, 11; special use permittees, 3; industrial permittees, 2; hunters and fishermen, 2; ranchers and residents, 9; miners, 1; other causes, 32; a total of 60. And here are the causes: Lightning, 9; debris burning, 4; smoking, 19; autos, 6; burning buildings, 9; industrial, 1; campfires, 1; miscellaneous, 11.

We wish to particularly call attention to the splendid record of hunters and fishermen, a very encouraging change from some of those of the past. Also that, though 702 smoking areas have been established throughout the forest in the past five years, cigarettes are still the greatest menace to our mountain playground. Though there was only one man caused fire to each 275,436 visitors, we can and must do better.

In an interview with William V. Mendenhall, Supervisor of the Angeles Forest, he stated that during 1937, on the nearly 700,000 acres under his supervision, there had not been a fire that could be ascribed to purely recreational hiking and camping, and he wishes to thank all who, by their splendid co-operation, have helped to make this possible.

Trails Magazine and the County Department of Recreation wish to express our appreciation, also our belief and trust that you will keep up the fine record of 1935-36-37 throughout 1938.

1938

Trails Magazine asks your support for three principal objectives for the coming year:

A continued campaign against preventable fires in our forest playground. On this we hope to make an interesting announcement in the next number.

A 35,000-acre addition to the primitive area of the Angeles Forest. This, with the 33,000 acres of the Devil Canyon-Bear Creek Primitive Area, will make a total of 68,000 acres, less than 10% of the total area of the Angeles Forest.

An extension of the Game Preserve boundaries to include all of that area most intensively used for recreation. The reasons for this are obvious to all who hike and camp in those areas during the hunting season.

CABIN LANDMARKS OF THE ANGELES

Again we bring to our readers another installment of the interesting and colorful history of the Angeles Forest. This time it is the old story of Big Tujunga Canyon and some of its early settlers. For many of the facts here given we are indebted to Dr. Homer A. Hansen, builder of Hansen Lodge, Odo B. Stade, writer of western stories and co-author of Viva Villa, R. B. Waterman and Phil Begue, forest rangers of the old San Gabriel Timberland Reserve. To Charles A. Whittington, for the use of a story of the Colby Ranch written by his grandfather, Albert M. Roe, then a special writer for the Los Angeles Times, and to many others for information and pictures which have made this story possible.



On the Big Tujunga Trail

OLD DAYS ON THE BIG TUJUNGA

By WILL H. THRALL

Big Tujunga Canyon, though devastated by fire more often and more completely, perhaps, than any other area of the mountains of Los Angeles County, has always been a leading favorite with mountain lovers of Southern California. This second largest canyon watershed in Los Angeles County, 87 square miles in area, repeatedly burned in the great fires of 1878, 1896, 1900 and 1919, and many others of less consequence has, through it all, managed to preserve places of great beauty and interest.

A new era for the canyon started with the completion of the County Flood Control dam in 1931. With a regulated flow of water and a beautiful stream all the year, the canyon trees have made a splendid growth and thousands of happy campers and picnickers now enjoy the fine campgrounds which have been created in the groves along the stream.

Of the Big Tujunga of the days that are gone, the record is none too clear. We know that it played a big part in the early Spanish and American settlements, that it furnished water for early days farming, timber for long forgotten cabin and hacienda, grazing for herds of the old days and refuge for many a lone outlaw or bandit band.

A trail led through it, connecting in its upper to serve what was supposed to be a rich mining reaches with trails from the Arroyo Seco and Mt. Wilson. By these old trails miners, hunters and bandits crossed the range to the Ante- being built as the Palmdale cut-off, which will lope Valley, to Acton on the Soledad, and, by Aliso, Bear Trap and Arrastra Canvons, the next two years. reached the old outlaw rendezvous and strong-

ized the Soledad Toll Road Company, with quantities proved elusive and at about the the purpose of building a road across the same time the Southern Pacific Company demountain to Acton, then the southern ter- cided to complete their line into Los Angeles. minus of the Southern Pacific Railway, and The old grade, half-way up the west wall of

area on the upper Tujunga and its tributaries. The route selected was very nearly that now probably be open for automobile traffic within

This old road was completed from La Canholds of Escondido Canyon and Vasquez Rocks. ada to the head of Dark Canyon, west of Oak-At Los Angeles, in 1869, there was organ- wilde, then abandoned when gold in paying Arroyo Seco, remained plainly visible for many years until practically obliterated by the Edison Road built later for construction of a high voltage transmission line across the mountains.

It was by this old road that Tiburcio Vasquez and his band, five in all, escaped the closely pursuing posse, following the famous robbery of the Repetto Ranch on April 16, 1874. From near the end of this road, by an old Indian trail which Vasquez well knew, they escaped through Vasquez Canyon to the Big Tijunga and down that canyon to the Valley, only to be captured a few days later at the ranch of a friend near Cahuenga Pass.

Though history records that the pursuing posse were forced to turn back from Vasquez Canyon by impenetrable brush and precipitous canyon walls, old mountaineers of that time have told the Editor that it was really fear of an ambush in that ideal terrain which sent the posse back to the valley to try again, but too late, through the Big Tujunga.

THE YBARRA RANCH

Much of that part of the Big Tujunga below the Flood Control dam is privately owned, having been taken as homestead land and patented many years ago. The oldest of these old ranches is just above Trail Canyon, where there is a vineyard and a small orchard of fig and other fruit trees. This was settled in 1880 by Pedro Ybarra, member of an old Spanish family prominently identified with early Spanish days in California.

Though the little cabin he first built of rough boards and battens, with only a door but no windows in front, has no picture value, it is still in use as a store house in the home group of buildings. The old roof has been replaced with corrugated iron, the walls have been kept carefully painted and the building looks to be only a few years old. Beside it has been built the modern home, and a few years ago a still more modern addition.

Pedro Ybarra passed away in 1900 and the ranch on the Big Tujunga came to Jose, the eldest son. After his death several years ago, it was cared for by Frank, another son who died in 1937. It is now the home of a third son, Cruz Ybarra, who is assisted in the work by Tom Lucas, one of the original Ranger force of the San Gabriel Timberland Reserve.

THE HOYT RANCH

Silas Hoyt came to the Big Tujunga about for a week-end mounthe year 1888 and settled on a quarter-section

at the junction of Vasquez Canyon, known to all of the old-timers as the Hoyt Ranch. His first cabin was a pretty poor shelter and two years later, in 1890, he built the cabin which illustrates this story. Nothing is now left of either, the ruins having been buried in a landslide several years ago.

He was an eccentric old chap and many stories are told of his life and his peculiar ideas of business. He had an old gray horse named Beelzebub (Prince of the Devils) which he used in the work about the ranch and to haul his old wagon to town. He disliked the city and the rapid development of the adjacent valley areas, and only left the canyon on the few occasions when it was necessary to go.

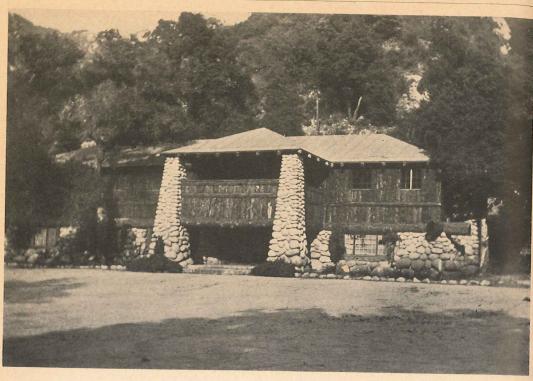
Many who visited the canyon in the old days will remember the chain with which he fastened the old gray to a big sycamore tree near the cabin door and the wild chase to capture him when he managed to get loose, as he always did if tied with a rope. One of the tasks of Beelzebub was drawing in whole tree trunks for the fireplace, which were never cut to proper length, but rolled and pulled in through the open door as they burned off in the fire.

The old man nearly lost his eyesight thru the combined irritation of wood smoke and heavy eye-brows, which not only curled into his eyes but grew so long that they hung to his cheeks below. This condition was relieved, and he was possibly saved from total blindness, when Dr. Hansen, discovering his trouble, trimmed the shaggy brows and furnished him a wash for their care.

In 1900 Lon Chapin, then an artist on the staff of the Los Angeles Times, and Earl Osborne, a prominent music dealer of Los Angeles, became interested in the Hoyt Ranch as a location tain home. They were



Jose Ybarra



Hansen's Lodge, Big Tujunga Canyon

The following poem, mounted and framed, The sickening scenes of maddening strife was left hanging on the wall by a guest at the ranch in the old days:

TO MY FRIEND-DR. HOMER A. HANSEN

A man there is, and I use the word Advisedly so at that. Who, far removed from the haunts of men, Selected his habitat.

Deep in the mountains old and wild, In a canyon rugged and bold, By oak and pine and sycamore, Where streams run clear and cold,

He built for himself of rocks and logs His simple rustic Lodge, Far from city's struggling hordes, There in the peace of God's.

And nothing of poverty, greed or lust, Of wickedness, crime nor sin, Nor hopeless, endless cares and woes Come there to torture him.

The laugh of the rich, the wail of the poor, Are not the sounds to be heard; His are the breezes through the pines, His are the songs of the birds.

Are not the sights that he sees; But his are the wonderful silent hills, The flowers, the stream and the trees.

Fear nor despondency, hatred nor want, His home has never possessed; But happiness, comfort, peace and joy Are there for the host and guest,

So here's to the canyon, rugged and bold, To the mountains, old and blue, To the oak, the pine and the sycamore, To a Man who is staunch and true.

—By F. E. DAVIS.

In the flood of January 1916 Frank H. Olmstead, then County Flood Control Engineer, was marooned at the ranch for five days, and on numerous other occasions it was cut off from the outside world by raging floods pouring through the gorge from the great watershed above. In March 1930 the County completed purchase of the property which had been under lease since May 1927 and on which the Flood Control Dam was then nearing completion.

(Continued on Page 20)

A MOUNTAIN GEM

north slope of Strawberry Peak is a group of little green meadows like a string of emerald beads, an apple orchard, a cherry orchard, a little garden of berries and vegetables and a half dozen old cabins, all on a little stream of cold, delicious water.

There are few who have hiked the trails of Angeles Forest during the past forty years but will know we are talking of Colby's Ranch. Many will have their own story of its beginning, of Delos Colby, his wife Lillian, and the beautiful daughter Nellie, of their struggle to carve a home from the wilds and the tragic end of Ma Colby, last of the family.

Trails Magazine has tried to untangle the facts from a mass of conflicting testimony, and here gives what we believe to be, in all essentials, the true story of this most interesting

Colby had been, for several years, a saloon keeper at Laramie, Wyoming, and came with his family to Southern California during the big boom of the '80s. After a year of farming on a ranch near Santa Monica, where a street now carries his name, he decided to get into the real estate business and did very well until the crash of 1888-89 wiped him out. He successfully promoted a subdivision out Central Avenue called the Vernon Park Tract and the profits from this, along with several thousand dollars invested by his mother and friends, went into the building of a hotel at 409 East Fifth street, all to be lost in the crash which soon followed. Originally called the Pullman Hotel, it later became the Parker House and is still in use, one of the remaining old landmarks of Los Angeles.

He later went to San Diego in an attempt to regain some of his losses, but staved only a few months, as there, too, the boom had collapsed. Returning to Los Angeles broke but far from beaten, he spent his last \$13.50 for food and supplies and, with a pair of old horses hitched to a buckboard, started for the Acton area in search of gold. In 1889 he joined the gold rush into upper Big Tujunga and built himself a crude cabin on a little flat west of Wickiup Creek and a short distance south of the Tujunga. Here he lived during most of 1889-90, washing the stream gravels for gold, at times taking as much as ten to fifteen dollars a day in nuggets and yellow dust, until sud-

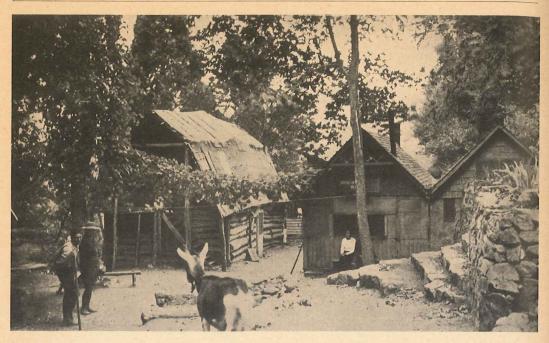
Hidden away in a mountain glen on the denly the pay-dirt failed, the placer had been worked out.

In those days all supplies had to be brought over the mountain from Acton, down Mill Creek over the old Monte Cristo Mine road and packed for several miles over a rough trail to the Big Tujunga. From several places along this road and trail Colby could see the natural meadows and luxuriant vegetation around the springs in Coldwater Canyon, and on one of his many hunting trips he was guided by a Mexican miner whom he had befriended into this little valley.

He was charmed with the spot and its possibilities and determined that he would there build his home, if he could find a feasible trail route over the mountain to Switzer's Camp on Arroyo Seco, then a flourishing mountain resort. In the Spring of 1891, on one of his few trips into the outside world, he met the author of this article in Riverside, told him much of the story so far given and described in glowing terms the beauty of the place, the towering summit and great granite cliffs of Strawberry Peak, the beautiful forest about its base, the springs, the stream, the meadows and the splendid isolation of this little valley.

In the Autumn of 1891 Colby filed his claim with the Land Office, built the first cabin of what was to be the new home, and later the two-story log cabin which still stands. In 1896 the wife and daughter were moved in from Los Angeles to make the ranch their home. He had to clear most of the land, a prodigious task, but Colby was a giant among men and a natural pioneer. Both he and his wife were descendants of old pioneer families who had helped settle Michigan. His training had fitted him for just such a life and he could turn his hand to anything necessary.

Once the first crops were in he built a reservoir on the mountainside, led the water to it from springs at the upper end of the valley and, on the bank of the stream near the cabin, built him a sawmill, operated by water from the reservoir, and this sawmill is still in use. Within a few years he had cleared most of the tillable land, had planted orchards and fields of alfalfa and had added to his buildings a kitchen and dining room, bunk house, barn and stables. All of the lumber came from the woodlot above the ranch and was sawed in the mill by the stream.



The Old Buildings at Colby's.

-Photo by Carl H. Bauer

Acton or up sixteen miles of narrow, crooked trail from the mouth of Arroyo Seco, a tough job for both men and animals, but nothing daunted him. "How did you do it?" he was asked. "See that flywheel?" pointing to part of the sawmill machinery. "That was the hardest. It weighs 600 pounds. I lashed it to a long pole, each end fastened to a packsaddle on a donk's back. Nellie kept the donks going while I walked alongside to help balance the load. We had to shift it many times on short turns, and once, when it broke loose and rolled down the bank, it took me and Nellie all the next day to get it back on the trail." That is the story of practically all the heavy equipment on the ranch.

When news came in 1897 of rich gold strikes in the Klondike, Colby, with his neighbor, Captain Elbridge Fuller of the Monte Cristo Mine on Mill Creek, started for Alaska. Unlike another neighbor, Captain Lester Loomis of Alder Creek, he did not reach the Klondike proper but went to the storm which blocked the trails and provisions Stickeen diggings and there had a serious illness from which he never fully recovered.

The wife and daughter at their isolated mountain home, did all they could to keep the

Everything from the outside world had to work by Tom Clark, an old mountaineer who be packed in either over the main range from had cabins all over the back country, and who built the first cabin at what is now the Loomis Ranch on Alder Creek.

To help with expenses and use up some of the produce of the ranch, which must be packed on the backs of burros 20 miles over mountain trails to market, they decided to advertise a resort for hikers and hunters. Colby's soon became a popular headquarters for the mountaineers of that day and did a flourishing business for several years, until the creation of the game refuge cut down the patronage and a big part of the revenue.

The pluck and initiative of these two women is deserving of more than passing notice, and the stories which are told would fill a book in themselves. When a serious forest fire had every available man busy, Nellie, then but a slip of a girl, handled the pack train over the mountain trail, many times at night, packing supplies and equipment for the fire-fighting crews. One winter when a party of visitors were caught at the ranch in a heavy snowwere running low, the women led them out over the trail, using shovels to clear the way across dangerous cliffs and through deep drifts.

A year passed with no news from Alaska ranch going, and were assisted with the heavy and the family had almost given up hope of Colby's familiar hail was heard up the Strawberry trail. He had returned broken in health and empty handed.

In early Spring of 1905 a party of Government engineers appeared at the ranch with the news that they had come to run the lines, and two years later, in 1907, sixteen years from the time he built the first cabin, he was granted his homestead rights. During all these years the only evidence of his ownership had been the smoke from his chimney. His status had been that of squatter only.

Soon after he was given legal possession of the land he began planning for a larger and more permanent home on a terrace just above the earlier buildings, and it was finally completed early in 1914. It was in the burning of this house in 1928 Ma Colby lost her life.

Nellie had married a young chap from Los Angeles who, a few months later, enlisted in the Spanish-American war and never returned. She never recovered from her disappointment and grief and died in 1914, the first to be buried in the little plot between the cabin and the woodlot. Her beauty brought many suitors to this mountain home, among them Joe Argay, then chef of the California Club. He with both the place and the beautiful daugh-

seeing him again, when one night just at dusk ter. In 1911 he gave up his job in the city, moved to the ranch to help with the work and has been there ever since.

Alexander McBain Rex joined the ranch staff as cook in 1913 and many of the old timers will remember his good meals, his fluent speech and innumerable cigarettes. He was there until 1917, when Odo B. Stade took over his domain for a few months, Rex returning in late Autumn to remain until 1920.

With the World War in 1917, and the later decrease in hiking in the back country, came a falling off of trade and along with many of the old camps, Colbys experienced hard times. Mounting prices and practically no revenue worried Colby a great deal and was probably one of the causes of his rapid decline. He died in May of 1918 and was buried beside his daughter in the little plot on the hillside.

Ioe Argay stayed with Ma Colby, since he had given his promise to Nellie that he would look after her parents. Practically alone with all of the heavy work, Joe did his best, but soon nature was reclaiming parts of the fields and orchards and a series of dry years did the rest. The ranch was steadily going down; Ma Colby brooded more and more and presfirst met the Colbys in 1904 and fell in love ently her friends found that her mind was failing. In the Winter of 1928 she died in



-Photo by John Opia

Ma Colby, the Old Barn and the home that burned.



Joe Argay and The Hermitage.

-Photo by Carl H. Bauer

the ruins of her burning home and was buried beside the other two. A monument erected by distant relatives, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Moulton, marks their resting place.

Mrs. Colby having died without a will, the property went to the Moultons as the nearest relatives, depriving old Joe of the home which all mountain folks supposed would be his. Sad in heart but unwilling to leave the place which held so many memories for him, and to which he had given the best years of his life, he moved off the ranch and built himself a squatter's cabin by the stream near the north boundary. There he has lived for several years in the cabin known to all mountain hikers as The Hermitage, and there he has given cordial welcome to all who traveled the trail. For many years he has faithfully kept the weather and rainfall records for the United States Weather Bureau and the Los Angeles County Flood Control. On the night of December 29, 1937, The Hermitage burned with all its contents, Joe barely escaping with his life.

The ranch was operated for a time by the Moultons and later regained some of its old popularity as a mountain resort under the management of F. C. Thomas, now owner of Sturtevant's Camp. In August, 1936, the property, 320 acres, was sold to H. K. Koebig of Los Angeles and has been re-named Sleepy Hollow Ranch.

OUR COVER PICTURE

Old Silas Hoyt in the doorway of his cabin on the Big Tijunga. His story of bears or Indians, or was it of Vasquez the Bandit, has captured the rapt attention of his youthful audience. This surely typifies old mountain history as few pictures could. This picture and that of the Hoyt cabin which illustrates the story, were passed on to the Editor by Dan Alexander, well-known scenic photographer and for twenty years owner of the Photo Studio at Camp Baldy. They were taken many years ago, and the artist is not known. Perhaps some of our readers will supply the name.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The increased cost of publishing Trails Magazine makes it necessary to discontinue the special subscription price to Outing Organizations. Beginning with this issue the price will be the same to all subscribers, 30 cents per year. Back numbers, 10 cents per copy.

We believe our friends will agree that Trails Magazine for 1937 was an outstanding value to all who use and enjoy the mountains of Southern California and we hope and expect to keep up that standard.

"THE WIND"

From "Songs of the Trail"

By HENRY HERBERT KNIBBS

The wind marched down the canyon with the lightnings in his hand;
He thrust the trees aside as he let the lightnings ride
When he loosed them where the dripping walls below Chilao stand.

He tore the autumn music from the cottonwoods of gold
In the hunger of his march from each cloudy arch to arch:
His silver horses spurned the black that down the canyon rolled.

He struck the sullen water; choked the pool with blinding leaves:

His fingers, edged with white, raked the stars from out the night:
He filled and tilted overside the heavens' flooded eaves.

Then he bent his head and listened, and the listeners grew still:

The huddled quail a-quiver in the thicket by the river,

The buck that stamped and trembled on the trail along the hill:

The rabbit in the aspens and the fox among the fern,

And the rattler on the ridges where the manzanitas burn.

Then he smote the drum of Silence as he rose from off his knees,
Shook the rain from out his eyes, shook the rafters of the skies,
Fluted music of the giants in the hollows of the trees,
Droned a dirge along the mountain where the stunted timber dies.

Strode untrammeled through the Narrows, matched his thunder with their own:
Ripped the rotting log asunder, drew the flotsam down and under,
Stooped and thrust his lusty shoulder to the rocking river stone;
Cast the stinging spray before him as he marched along, alone.

Jose de la Crux Y'Barra of Tejunga and the vine,
Crossed himself in sudden dread as he cowered in his bed,
Then he shivered to the table and he poured a glass of wine:
The ruddy embers flickered and the floating ashes fled,
Fluttered softly in the shadows, settled softly on his head—
As the wind drew wild staccato from the shingle and the door,
And the creeping ghost of Winter creaked and chattered on the floor.

Deep and dead the moon lay strangled in the meshes of a cloud,
And the hoofs of silver horses struck a flame along the land:
Struck the cabin of Y'Barra—and the wind he flung a shroud:
Shook the granite with his tread as he trampled along the sand,
Marched from out the midnight canyon with the lightnings in his hand.



TO A JOSHUA TREE

(An impression at Rancho Verde) Art thou nature's grimace to a peaceful desert plain? Symbol of frantic gesture-flung in vain? God made no such! What means thy strange, weird, grotesque die, Thy ghostly outline-stark against night's sky? Nothing?—or much?

Surely thy attitude's not all in tragic vein, Thy mission not alone to portray pain! There must be more Of message in thy grim, tense look, In those sharpened, bladed leaves that form thy book

Which some abhor!

Yes-I read a reaching-out for better things,-Not always found-without the aid of wings-But worth the reach; And if in one direction thou didst miss-Thou turn'st another way to seek their kiss, The world to teach

That striving against obstacles and odds Can yet produce those fair, white flower-pods Which crown thy limb. -And so I see upon thy grotesque face Something of beauty,-much of grace, Less of the grim! -EVERETT W. MATTOON.

THE JOSHUA'S ANSWER

Should it occur to attach such name to me As fool, buffoon or jester-mayhap all three, Then clown of the desert would I be. And like clown of old each twelve-Month round Forsaking my calling for a time, be crowned With ermine white of majesty.

'Tis often said, "Wise man or fool, 'tis hard to tell," Takes only the change from gown to cap and bell. Then why wouldst doom me sad? Why not grant that 'tis a joy to see So brave struggle 'gainst desert destiny. To make the whole world glad. -WILL H. THRALL.

THE JOSHUA TREE

(Yucca Brevifolia) By WILL H. THRALL

tory in the records of Captain Pedro Fages, who in 1772 wrote of them as date palms. Colonel John C. Fremont, in reporting his expedition into California in 1844, called them "Yucca Trees" and "the most repulsive tree in the vegetable kingdom." Neither had seen them in bloom, which is first described by Dr. C. C. Perry, botanist, in 1874.

The name "Joshua" is supposed to have been given them by the Mormon colonists as they crossed the desert returning to Utah from the San Bernardino colony in 1857, when they likened them to Joshua pointing the way to the Promised Land. Always grotesque and unusual in appearance, they are without doubt a relic, perhaps the only one holding true to original form, of a prehistoric vegetation.

The finest area of Joshua forest in the Southwest, and the largest and oldest Joshua trees are both, without doubt, located in Antelope Valley, near the northern boundary of Los Angeles County.

The best real Joshua forest is probably that dense growth of fine trees north and west of Fairmont, and about thirty miles west of Lancaster. Starting at the mouth of King Canyon, where it empties from the Portal Range into west Antelope Valley, between Fairmont and Neenach, this grove extends northeast, in a belt from one to three miles wide, for a distance of about eight miles.

The largest and oldest Joshuas known are in a large area of open scattered forest surrounding Saddle Butte and eighteen to twenty miles east of Lancaster. The largest tree of this area and the largest ever known was burned on June 14, 1930, by a careless automobile party who were eating lunch in its shade. This old patriarch was 581/2 feet high, 20 feet around the trunk and, some who are considered authority have stated, was probably the oldest living thing in the world.

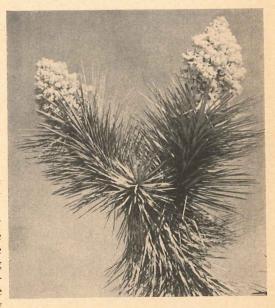
There are several trees in this grove nearly as large and surely of great age, but as the Joshua has no growth rings and as yet there has been no certain rule found for determining their age, we may never know it even approximately. The plant first appears as a little cluster of short, dagger-like leaves, which very slowly lift from the ground on a straight,

This interesting plant first appears in his-sturdy trunk. As this grows the dead leaves close about it in a tight thatch which usually, after the first flowering, falls off, leaving the trunk bare and rather deeply scored or cracked, every part of the plant having the appearance of great age.

> Its average growth is about a foot in ten years (Cornell) and it develops a root system which goes to great depth, protecting against both drouth and violent desert winds. It produces the first flower cluster at the average height of eight to ten feet, and until then does not branch. After flowering the terminal bud divides into two, and thereafter each flower cluster starts a new branch, those which manage to survive and grow forming the spreading, irregular tree, so interesting to all who view them, the most grotesque vegetation of the Southwest.

It flowers in early Spring, usually in March, and the larger trees are covered with clusters of beautiful, creamy white lilies, very like little vucca blooms, only shorter and thicker. Following the flowering, the fruit develops in great, dark green clusters, each pod as large as a good sized lemon. As these grow ripe

(Continued on Page 20)



The beautiful bloom of the Joshua

monga probably yields the most spectacular. Here one has the privilege of standing on a comfortably level and spacious summit perched on the very edge of the valley. The 6000foot drop to the vineyards and orange groves of Etiwanda is truly breath-taking. This slope forms one of the most consistently steep mountains in California.

The most difficult part of the hike was the 2000-ft, descent from the summit of Sugarloaf into Icehouse Canyon. The rock slide which heads between the double summit was found to make a rather dangerous route due to the instability of practically every rock stepped on—no matter what size. It was very disconcerting to hop out onto large boulders weighing many tons and feel them start moving. Furthermore, a very difficult section of brush separates the lower end of this scree slope from the Icehouse Canyon road. Avalanches have been doing their best to clear a path here, but several good winters of roaring and slithering brush smashing remain before the job is complete.

The four miles from Icehouse back to Man- and brown they sometimes open on the tree, ker Flat form the only portion of the trip but more often fall to the ground intact to where it was necessary to follow a road. Well hold their seed secure until opened by the buf-

Of the views from the various peaks, Cucagraded trails were used on all other parts of the hike except a few sections where no trails exist. Such were: Sierra Club Ski hut to the Backbone trail, Cucamonga Saddle over Bighorn Peak to Kelly's Kamp, and Ontario Peak over Sugarloaf to Icehouse Canyon. The seasoned hiker familiar with this region will find that this circuit has the makings of a very exhilarating day's journey.

HANSEN'S LODGE-

(Continued from Page 10)

The buildings, after standing empty and neglected for several years, have lately been assigned to the Sheriff's Department and are being thoroughly overhauled and repaired. With other buildings now under construction, they will soon be part of a big recreation camp for underprivileged boys, and under the care of Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz and his efficient assistants, will take over the job of making healthier, happier and better future citizens for Los Angeles County.

THE JOSHUA TREE-

(Continued from Page 17)

feting of the elements.

On account of the great age of a number of the trees in the area surrounding Saddle Butte, in the desert east of Lancaster, the County Federation of Women's clubs are asking that Los Angeles County make of this a Desert Park, to preserve for future generations these interesting old trees, which may finally prove to be the oldest living things on earth.



A Fruit Cluster of the Joshua Tree.

ANGELES FOREST NEWS

To Honor a Pioneer-

A movement initiated at a meeting of Forest Conservation Club has received favorable comment and general support looking to the erection of a monument to Professor Thaddeus Lowe, a former citizen of Pasadena, world famous for his record of balloon aviation as well as for inventions in gas manufacture, refrigeration, etc.

Professor Lowe spent his entire fortune in construction of Echo Mountain incline railway and the high line to Mt. Lowe tavern. It is proposed to erect a monument on a promontory easily seen against the skyline above Altadena on the Echo Mountain trail.

Charles E. Warner, Executive Secretary of the conservation club has written Roger Jessup, Fifth District Supervisor, asking that the matter of the monument be presented to the entire Board of Supervisors for action. It has been referred to the County Forest Department for recommendation and they have contacted the club secretary.

Figures are being obtained as to cost of a suitable monument, after which the matter again will be presented in greater detail to Mr. Jessup. It is possible a portion of the cost will be raised by popular subscription. The Huntington Land and Improvement Company will be asked to donate a small plot of ground to the county for a permanent monument site.

Citizens desiring to support this movement in any way are invited to contact Mr. Warner at 279 Grand View St., Pasadena. Phone, NIagara 4638.

Colby Ranch Trail-

Colby's, now Sleepy Hollow Ranch, has been closed to all who travel the trails. The buildings and greater part of the orchard and meadow have been enclosed with a barb wire fence and gates at the entrances are locked. A rather rough, up and down, trail leads along the brush slope on the west side of the valley, crossing the meadow to the old trail leading to the Big Tujunga about half way between the Colby Cabin sand the Hermitage.

Big Santa Anita-

The high-water trail from Chantry Flat to Roberts Camp, by-passing two stream crossings near First Water, is to be widened and improved for Winter use. The old log bridge

across Winter Creek at Roberts has been replaced with a new and better one and travel through the canyon during high water will now be much easier.

Strawberry Peak-

Those who wish to enjoy the magnificent panorama from Strawberry Peak but have denied themselves that pleasure on account of the danger of the old cliff trail, will find that up the east slope, from the saddle between Mt. Lawler and Strawberry, though steep, to be perfectly safe. Many are reaching it now by the Colby Trail from Red Box, and the hike to the summit and return is easily made in a day.

Short Cut Canyon Camp-

The road down the West Fork of San Gabriel Canyon is now open for public auto travel to Short Cut Canyon, 21/4 miles below Valley Forge Lodge and about 5 miles from Red Box. Many interesting trails radiate from that point.

Below the Snow Line-

For those who wish to keep away from the snow now is a good time to visit Saddle Peak, Mesa Peak or Castro Peak in the Santa Monica Mountains. Also those interesting rock formations along the edge of the desert, Vasquez Rocks, the great boulders of Soledad Canvon, Devil's Punch Bowl and from Lone Pine Canyon north to the desert along the west side of Cajon Pass.

New One-Day Hike-

The completion of the Forest Service road to South Hawkins Peak adds a spectacular new hike from Crystal Lake Playground. South Hawkins, standing right out in the middle of the great San Gabriel watershed, commands a magnificent panorama of the highest peaks and ranges in Los Angeles County. The round trip distance is fifteen miles whether the return is made by the road or north over the main summit and back by the Mt. Islip trail.

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Outing Club News

WOMEN'S ATHLETIC CLUB OF GLENDALE

Hiking Section

Though this splendid hiking group have failed to furnish us with their customary news story, your Editor met them on the trail a few days ago when they were returning from doing their day's good deed, and is going to tell about it.

They were climbing the long hill north of Strawberry Peak, about fifteen of them, on their way back to their autos at Red Box, and when the Editor reached The Hermitage, a half-mile below Colby's, he found Joe Argay sitting by the ruins of his home with a happy, though peculiar, look on his weather-beaten old face.

A few days before he had lost everything in the burning of his picturesque old cabin—clothing, bedding, winter supply of food, new radio and two dogs who had been his companions for years, had barely saved himself and a three months old puppy, and I said "happy though peculiar look."

"Say, it's good to see you fellows. Meet any one up the trail? Now just wouldn't it happen that way? The day I don't shave and clean up and look kinda half-way decent, here comes a lot of women, and what do you suppose they brought? Clothes, inside and out, from hat to shoes, and a lot of food, too. Do you know, a fellow has no excuse to be looking like a bum just because he's living back here in the wilds, even if he has just burned out."

Now there's a hiking club for you, and they do hike, every week, a regular schedule throughout the year.

They're not the only ones who have helped Joe Argay in his time of need. The Sierra Club members have also taken him \$15.00 worth of food and more clothes; Mr. and Mrs. Brown, caretakers at Sleepy Hollow Ranch kept him with them for a few days and have furnished him with a radio, and we are sure there are others of whom we have not heard.

CALIFORNIA TRAILS

During the coming year California Trails will continue its campaign for the permanent preservation of the remaining wilderness of the state in its natural primitive condition.

It is expected that, with the co-operation of other interested organizations and individuals, California Trails will be able to oppose successfully a resumption of construction on the proposed trans-Sierra highway and on the Kings River highway. The two roads, if completed, will penetrate one of the finest unspoiled regions in the west—the only real wilderness left in California.

California Trails will also try to secure the assurance of state officials that smaller primitive areas in California will be set aside to remain forever without roads or commercial establishments.

Those interested in joining California Trails, or in helping in this campaign, are asked to communicate with Martin Litton, 345 East Redondo Boulevard, Inglewood, California.

SCHEDULED TRIPS OF SIERRA CLUB POPULAR

By E. STANLEY JONES

To the lover of the out-of-doors the scheduled trips of the Sierra Club offer a wide diversification of activities: skiing, ice skating, hiking, rock climbing, mountaineering, along with frequent trips to the palm canyons of the deserts. The current schedule is full of such offerings and the popularity of such trips is evidenced by the interest and attendance of members and guests.

At the weekly dinner-meetings of the Club, announcements of coming events are made, talks given and pictures shown on the various activities, with special emphasis on the technique of the sport. Of special interest were the recent color pictures of the rope climbing of the Cathedral Spires in the Yosemite National Park by outstanding mountaineers of the Club. This picture demonstrated to a marked degree the technique of "roping up," and the use of rock climbers "hardware" such as carabiners, pitons and hammers. Pictures on the technique of skiing have also been of great help to the beginner, to whom instruction is freely offered by those more advanced and skilled. Further information relative to the many activities of the Sierra Club is available at the Club headquarters, Room 315, 751 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles.

SKI MOUNTAINEERS SECTION OF SIERRA CLUB

The present season is a very busy one for the Ski Mountaineers Section of the Sierra Club. In Northern California the name and badge will be used by expert skiers of the Sierra Club. Plans are being made in San Diego to organize a Chapter of the Sierra Club by Phil Faulconer of 848 Rosecrans St., San Diego; at Scripps College in Claremont Phyllis Ross is organizing a group of Sierra Club skiers; at the University of California at Los Angeles Wolfgang Lert and Helen Henderson are leaders in the Ski Club. Otto Steiner is Director of the Lake Arrowhead Ski School.

At a recent benefit showing of the "Ski Chase" in co-operation with other skiing clubs about \$200 was raised for the proposed San Gorgonio Ski hut. The north slopes of Mt. San Gorgonio (11,485) Southern California's highest peak compares favorably with the most famous ski resorts in Europe. The proposed site is at 8,300 feet elevation and is the terminus of several splendid ski runs, including from the top of the Big Draw, a run of more than 3,000 feet elevation difference. The Ski Mountaineers have been skiing regularly near Rock Creek Lake in the high Sierras and on top of Mt. San Antonio in spite of poor snow conditions.

Skiers are especially invited to join the Sierra Club. The Ski Section membership chairman is Dick Jones, 112 North Avenue 57, Los Angeles, Telephone CLeveland 66982.

GLENDALE COMMUNITY HIKERS

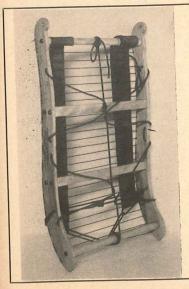
This fine club is starting 1938 with a far more ambitious program than it has before attempted and has issued a splendid schedule of one-day and over-night trips interspersed with moonlight hikes, breakfast hikes and social events.

At the business meeting of December 3, 1937, the following resolutions were adopted: First: Each member receiving quarterly bulletins to pay twenty-five cents to the treasurer, payable quarterly, semi-annually or annually in advance. No charge to be made for bulletins given to prospective members or for advertising purposes.

Second: The Board of the Glendale Community Hikers to consist of General Chairman and four members. General Chairman and two members elected each year at the annual meeting, the board members to be elected for a term of two years, the general chairman to be a member or ex-member of the board. General Chairman or members of the board may be re-elected.

Third: The official list of hikers as of January, 1938, will be considered active members. This list to be checked each quarter by the board.

Prospective members are always welcome and information as to rules, meeting place for trips, and all club activities may be obtained from R. W. Haight, Chairman, 420 So. Lincoln Ave., Glendale, California. Glendale phone, DOuglas 4872; Los Angeles phone, VAndike 8785.



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ROAMER HIKING CLUB

EARL DIXON, President

The Roamers, at their November election of officers, elected Earl E. Dixon as its 1938 president. Keith Peterson was elected first vice-president and Purl Deavault second vice-president. Frederic Gumz was elected secretary and Joan Stone treasurer. These officers have valuable knowledge of the Southern California mountains and will, no doubt, promote much interest in them. New committees were appointed to serve the Club for the following six months.

The enviable record made by the officers of the Club during 1937 give the officers for 1938 a high mark to try and beat. Every new officer and committeeman is conscious of this, and with the continued support and co-operation of the entire membership, 1938 holds good promise of giving the Club one of the best years of its history.

Anyone interested in our Club should inquire for our latest "schedule," which gives brief outlines of the coming events and dates. Hiking being paramount of the Club's activities, social events are not overlooked. Parties, dinner-dances, roller skating and monthly business meetings with entertainment are also on the schedule.

A postcard or phone call will start a "schedule" on its way to you.

Inquire of Miss Florence Kennett, Chairman of Publicity Committee, 1727 E. 69th St., Los Angeles. Phone JE 4015.

THE NATURE CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

This club schedules interesting trips into the out-of-doors, for hiking and nature study nearly every week. Transportation by Club bus or private auto.

Dinner meetings with lectures and entertainment are held each Tuesday evening at Boos Bros. Cafeteria, 530 South Hill Street, at which friends and prospective members are welcome.

A printed monthly bulletin is issued which gives the program for all meetings and the date and schedule of all field trips.

For information on outing trips write or phone to Frank C. Davis, Hike Committee Chairman, 1011 No. Louise Street, Glendale, California. Phone DOuglas 1244.

THE YUCCA HIKING CLUB OF MONROVIA

RICHARD LEJON JOHNSON, Sec'y

116 N. Alta Vista Ave., Monrovia, Calif.

Color effects of extraordinary beauty have glorified panoramas of mountain and valley from high points reached by the Yucca Hiking Club on their weekly trips through Autumn and early Winter. Particularly was this true on the Christmas week hike from Red Box to Strawberry Peak, where the great panoramic circle included the islands off shore, from Santa Cruz to San Clemente and a crescent of distant peaks from Mt. San Antonio to Palomar.

A fascinating study in gradations and shadings of blues, lavenders and purples was the picture observed from Disappointment Ridge just above the rim of its ancient dry lake. Along the trail from Oak Wilde to Switzer's the yellow greens and gray greens of the slopes were accented by the white grays of the sheerly cut cliffs and the red stems of the manzanitas. This trail showed the first flowers of spring, a white-flowered currant, a silktassel bush, manzanita, sumac, a lone little milkmaid (Dentaria).

The Icehouse Canyon trail to Cedar Springs through an imposing forest whose most impressive citizen is the reputedly largest Incense Cedar in the San Gabriel Mountains, and a fine view of snow covered Ontario Peak. Mt. San Antonio by way of the now cable-protected Devil's Backbone, before the snow came. The East Fork of the San Gabriel from Devil Gulch to Iron Fork, with the great moss and fern covered dripping cliff as the object of greatest interest along the way. Sunset Trail to Echo Mountain and Millard Canyon to Dawn Mine, both dry and dusty before the rains came. Two of the club hikers, Richard Johnson and Eugene Adams, made a Christmas holiday climb to the lookout tower on Mount Gleason from the Arrastra Canyon road on the north.

January 22nd is one of the most important dates on the calendar of the Yucca Hiking Club of Monrovia. It is the birthday of its founder, the late Rev. Edward Payson Rankin, and this year's flag-raising ceremony on Monrovia Peak, which custom he began some sixteen years ago, was in commemoration of him, whose passing occurred last April at the age of 92.

The weekly hiking groups vary in number from six to twenty persons, and it is planned to continue through the spring months, when weather conditions permit. The usual hiking day is Wednesday, the customary starting point and time, Foothill and Myrtle, at 9 a.m. There is no advance schedule and the program is determined from week to week. No membership dues and visitors are welcome.

FOREST CONSERVATION CLUB

By CHARLES WARNER

Trail Day was observed by the Forest Conservation Club on Echo Mountain, Sunday, January 9th. This arterial trail of Angeles Forest was dedicated by the Club more than two years ago and is highly used by regular hikers and also by many just learning to hike. Its promience above the homes of Altadena inspires residents to action.

While this trail has stood well, still the storms of winters have brought down slide material and washed out one end of an important switchback. The trail workers placed the trail again in good condition for travel. Several clubs co-operated, namely, Sierra Club, Boy Scouts, Angeles Chaparral Club and Nature Club.

Friday evening, January 21, a social meeting will convene at the home of Wilfred Herms, 5663 Rangeview Ave., Highland Park. Sunday, the 23rd, a hike of Mt. Lukens, meeting at 9 a.m. at the end of Lincoln Ave. car line, Pasadena. Friday evening, February 18th, quarterly meeting at Warner residence, 279 Grand View St., Pasadena. Sunday, February 20th, Griffith Park, meeting at Colorado and Orange Grove, Pasadena, at 9 a.m. Friday evening, March 18th, social gathering at home of Miss Rachel Wells, 1093 Avoca St., Pasadena. Sunday, March 20th, Bayley Canyon, meeting at Colorado and Lake, Pasadena at 9 a.m.

Further details may be obtained by phoning NIagara 4638. Well-intentioned lovers of the outdoor, properly garbed, are welcomed on club hikes.

SAN ANTONIO CLUB

This hiking club, for men only, starts its nineteenth year with ambitious plans for improvement and equipment at Big Spruce Cabin, its mountain headquarters on Bear Canyon, and with unusually attractive schedule of trips for the next twelve months.

January 16, the hike was to the Lookout on Mt. Josephine, with splendid views from all the high points. February 19-20 will be a week-end at Big Spruce Cabin with short hikes in the neighborhood. March 20 a hike along Los Pinetos Ridge from Pacoima Canyon Road to Los Pinetos Spring. April 16-17 a night under the stars in beautiful Shake Canyon Campground and a hike on Sawmill Mountain.

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

CARAVAN TO MUSTANG

Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley B.S.A.

By H. BENJAMIN ROBINSON

For the fifth season, the Department of Camping of the Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley Council sponsored and directed a Winter Caravan in which some 300 Scouts and their leaders participated. Under a motorcycle escort provided by the State Motor Patrol the caravan left Pasadena, headquarters of the Council, and proceeded to Palm Springs and then to Andreas Canyon on the Palm Springs Indian reservation. Special camping privileges were secured from the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The campsite was one of great beauty and picturesqueness, situated beside a large stream among the giant palms and queer rock formations. Hikes and exploration trips were made in Palm, Murray, Andreas and Tanquitz canyons, as well as rock climbing expeditions. A herd of mustang was sighted on one trip and three mountain sheep on another.

Campfire programs which were typical of desert camping were held at the mouth of a large Indian cave. Stories and experiences of frontier days by men who knew the early west were greatly enjoyed.

Each caravaner received the coveted caravan brand on his favorite piece of camp equipment. This branding ceremony has become a traditional part of each of the Council's major camping trips.

A Death Valley caravan will be the Department's next activity on April 11 to 14, with the Council "Training Camporee" at Santa Anita Recreational Park in Arcadia on May 13 and 14 to follow.

Trail Trips

Pacoima Dam-For a Thrill-1/2 Day

Second highest dam in the world, 372 feet. Often a waterfall 150 to 200 feet high, from outlet valves, dropping to a 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, ¼ mile. Trail on the right leads to top of the dam, ½ mile, and around the cliffs above the lake to Maple Canyon, 2 miles farther. Total hike, optional.

Vasquez Canyon-1/2 Day

Turn from Foothill Blvd. on Mt. Gleason avenue and drive up Big Tujunga Canyon, about 9 miles from Foothill Blvd., to Vasquez Canyon trail to Oakwilde, marked. Trail starts at Pinecliff, formerly Hoyt Ranch. Hike this trail to Grizzly Flat, 2 miles, and return. Less if desired, as the trail is interesting from the start. Plenty of water. No fires allowed. Total hiking distance, 2 to 4 miles.

Dark Canyon-1/2 Day

Drive Angeles Crest highway to ½ mile beyond Woodwardia Canyon bridge and take the Dark Canyon trail either way from the road. Right leads to Oakwilde, 1½ miles, or left leads over the ridge to Vasquez Canyon and Grizzly Flat, 2 miles. Water in the canyons either way. No fires allowed. Total hiking distance, 2 to 4 miles.

Colby Canyon-1/2 Day

Drive Angeles Crest highway to Colby Canyon trail, .3 of a mile beyond the road to Switzer's Inlet. Hike trail leading north from highway through Colby Canyon to Forestry campgrgound, 1.5 miles, and return by same route. Beautiful little canyon. Plenty of water. Total hiking distance, 3 miles.

Los Pinetos Ridge—by Little Tujunga Canyon Road—1 Day

From the corner of Foothill Blvd. and Osborne avenue, west of Sunland, drive the little Tujunga Canyon road to the summit of Little Tujunga-Pacoima divide. Here drive the middle of three roads, down into and across Pacoima Canyon and on to the summit of the Placerita Canyon divide and park the auto.

Hike trail turning west (left) from the road, up a north slope, through fine spruce forest, to the summit of the Los Pinetos Ridge, 2 miles. Here turn west (right) along the summit to the Los Pinetos trail, 2.7 miles, and north (right) down this trail a quarter mile to a spring in the canyon.

Return to auto by same route. Carry water, one quart for each two persons sufficient, from auto to spring. Cold lunch, as no fires allowed in this area. Total hike, 10 miles.

Las Cienegas Campground—by Trail Canyon 1 Day

Drive the Big Tujunga Canyon road to Trail Canyon and up the road in Trail Canyon, one mile, to a parikng place at the end. Trail starts directly from end of road, passing Tom Lucas campground, 2 miles, to Las Cienegas campground, 1.5 miles. Along the first of the trail there is a beautiful

gorge and waterfall and the last half-mile is, in Spring and early Summer, through shoulder high banks of ferns. A fine Spring trip. Plenty of water. Total hiking distance, 7 miles. If planning to use fire at the camp secure a permit before starting or at a Ranger Station on the road in.

Condor Peak—Elevation 5430 feet—From Big Tujunga—1 Day

California Condors sometimes seen.

Turn north from Foothill Blvd. at Mt. Gleason avenue, drive up Big Tujunga Canyon to Vogel Flat, 7.5 miles, and park the auto in the Forestry campground.

Hike the trail north from the campground up the west slope and follow this trail to within a half mile of the summit and south side of peak, 6 miles. From here climb to the monument on the summit along a thinly brushed ridge, or follow the trail around to the north side, to the crest of the Trail Canyon-Fox Creek Divide, and climb the last half mile through scrub forest of oak and spruce, no trail on either side for last half mile to summit.

There is a beautiful bed of ferns and a small stream 3.6 miles on the trail. Carry water from here and a cold lunch, as no fires allowed in this area. Total hike, 13 miles.

Big Tujunga Narrows—From Flood Control Dam—1 Day

Drive Big Tujunga Canyon road to parking place below the dam and leave auto. Hike up road a half mile to trail, up east (right) slope around the dam and reservoir, dropping to stream level at Josephine Creek, 3 miles, then follow trail up canyon to Edison road crossing, 2 miles, and if intending to use fire, lunch here. If carrying cold lunch go on to Big Tujunga Narrows, a half mile, and lunch there. Return by same route. Secure fire permit at Tujunga Ranger Station on road in. Water most of the way. Josephine Falls, 1 of a mile east of trail on Josephine Creek, 150 feet sheer drop, in high water one of most beautiful in Southern California. Total hike, 11 miles.

Mt. Lukens (Sister Elsie Peak)—Elevation 5081 feet—From Angeles Crest Highway—1 Day

Trail easy and interesting—magnificent view from summit, particularly when the higher ranges are covered with snow.

Drive Angeles Crest highway to Mt. Lukens trail starting west (left) near Ranger Station and 3.5 miles from Foothill boulevard. Hike to the summit, 6 miles, and return by same trail. Carry water and lunch. No fires. Total hike, 12 miles.

Upper Big Tujunga—by Colby's Ranch— From Angeles Crest Highway at Red Box—1 Day

Drive Angeles Crest highway to Red Box and park auto. Hike Barley Flat road north (left) to trail turning west (left), a half 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 by trail around west side of orchard and meadow, continue

to Camp No. 15 on the stream in Upper Tujunga, 1.3 miles. Return by same route. No water between Red Box and Colby's. If planning to use fire, secure permit before starting. Total hiking distance, 12 miles.

Strawberry Peak—Elevation 6150 ft.—From Angeles Crest Highway—1 Day

For a wonderful view. Two ways. The Alpine climb by the Cliff Trail is by Colby Canyon to the crest of the divide, 2.6 miles, around the west slope, 4 of a mile, and turn right to the summit, 1.5 miles. The last 1000 feet in elevation is steep and dangerous; it is signed by yellow arrows painted on the rock; be sure you follow them and don't try any other route. No water after leaving the stream in Colby Canyon. Return by same route. Total hike, 9 miles.

The safe way. Drive to Red Box and park auto. Hike the old Barley Flat road a half mile, turn left on Colby Ranch trail to the saddle between Strawberry Peak and Mt. Lawler, 2 miles, and find a steep trail leading west, up the ridge to the summit, 1.5 miles. Return by the same route. No water after leaving the auto. Total hike, 8 miles.

Mt. Gleason—From The Big Tujunga—2 Days

Drive from Foothill Blvd., by Mt. Gleason avenue, turning north half way between Sunland and Tujunga, up Big Tujunga Canyon and park the auto near the junction of Trail Canyon. Hike up Trail Canyon, first mile by road and then by trail, passing Tom Lucas campground, 3 miles, and Las Cienegas campground 1.5 miles to the Forest Service road at Pacoima junction on the divide, 2.7 miles. Follow this road, right from the junction, up to Deer Spring campground, 3 miles, and camp for the night.

Second Day—Leaving all equipment at camp, hike to the Lookout Tower on the summit of Mt. Gleason, 1 mile, return to camp for equipment and retrace your route to Pacoima junction, 4 mile, and back by Trail Canyon to the auto. Or at Pacoima junction keep on the high trail around Iron Mountain to Yerba Buena campground, 4 miles, on down to the Forest Service road, 2.5 miles, and left, down this road to the mouth of Trail Canyon and the auto, 3.5 miles.

Last water going up is at Las Cienegas. There is no water on the high trail coming back, but water a short distance off the trail, first at Indian Ben camp in Pacoima on trail turning right at Pacoima junction, next at Yerba Buena Spring on trail turning right to Yerba Buena camp.

Secure map and camp fire permit before starting or at Ranger Station on the canyon road. Hiking distance, first day, 10 miles; second day, 12 or 15 miles

Tujunga Narrows—Falls Creek—Fox Creek 1½ Days

Tujunga Canyon road to the gate below the dam and park auto. Hike trail up the east (right) slope around the dam and reservoir, dropping to the stream level at Josephine Creek, 3 miles, then up the Big Tujunga to a campground near Fox Creek, 1 mile, or at Edison Road crossing 1 mile farther, and make camp.

Next day leave all equipment in camp and, car-

rying lunch, go up to and explore The Narrows, a beautiful gorge, then turn back to the Edison Road and west, crossing Falls Creek and around road to Fox Creek trail, where the high power line crosses, 1½ miles, down trail to Fox Creek, 1 mile, and then up stream, ½ mile, to the Falls. Here, when there is a good stream, is a beautiful 200 foot waterfall.

Return to camp, secure equipment and back to auto by route followed coming in. Water most of the way. Secure fire permit at Tujunga Ranger Station on road in.

Hiking distance, first day, 4½ miles; second day, 12½ miles; total, 17 miles.

Big Tujunga Canyon and Colby's Ranch— From Angeles Crest Highway—2 Days

Drive Angeles Crest Highway to the new Palmdale road at the head of Clear Creek and park the auto. Hike this road and the Edison road, passing the L. A. Schools Forestry School, 1 mile, to the Big Tujunga crossing, 5 miles, and here stop for lunch. Hike up the road a short distance west of the stream to a trail turning north (right) around the mountain to a Forestry campground at the forks of Mill Creek, 3.5 miles.

Second day take the trail leading over the ridge to Camp No. 15 on the Big Tujunga, 2.2 miles, and from there the trail through the Colby Ranch, 1.3 miles, and have lunch before leaving the stream in Coldwater.

Where the trail divides, at the upper end of the ranch, take the right-hand trail passing west of Strawberry Peak, down Colby Canyon to the Angeles Crest Highway and back to the auto, 6.5 miles.

Water at convenient distances all the way. Hiking distance, 10 miles each day. Secure a map and campfire permit before starting, as there is no station on this route.

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.

BIG PINES LODGE

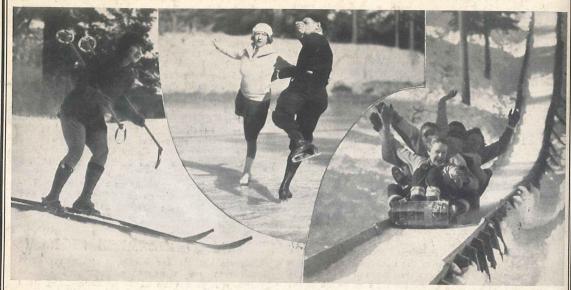
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