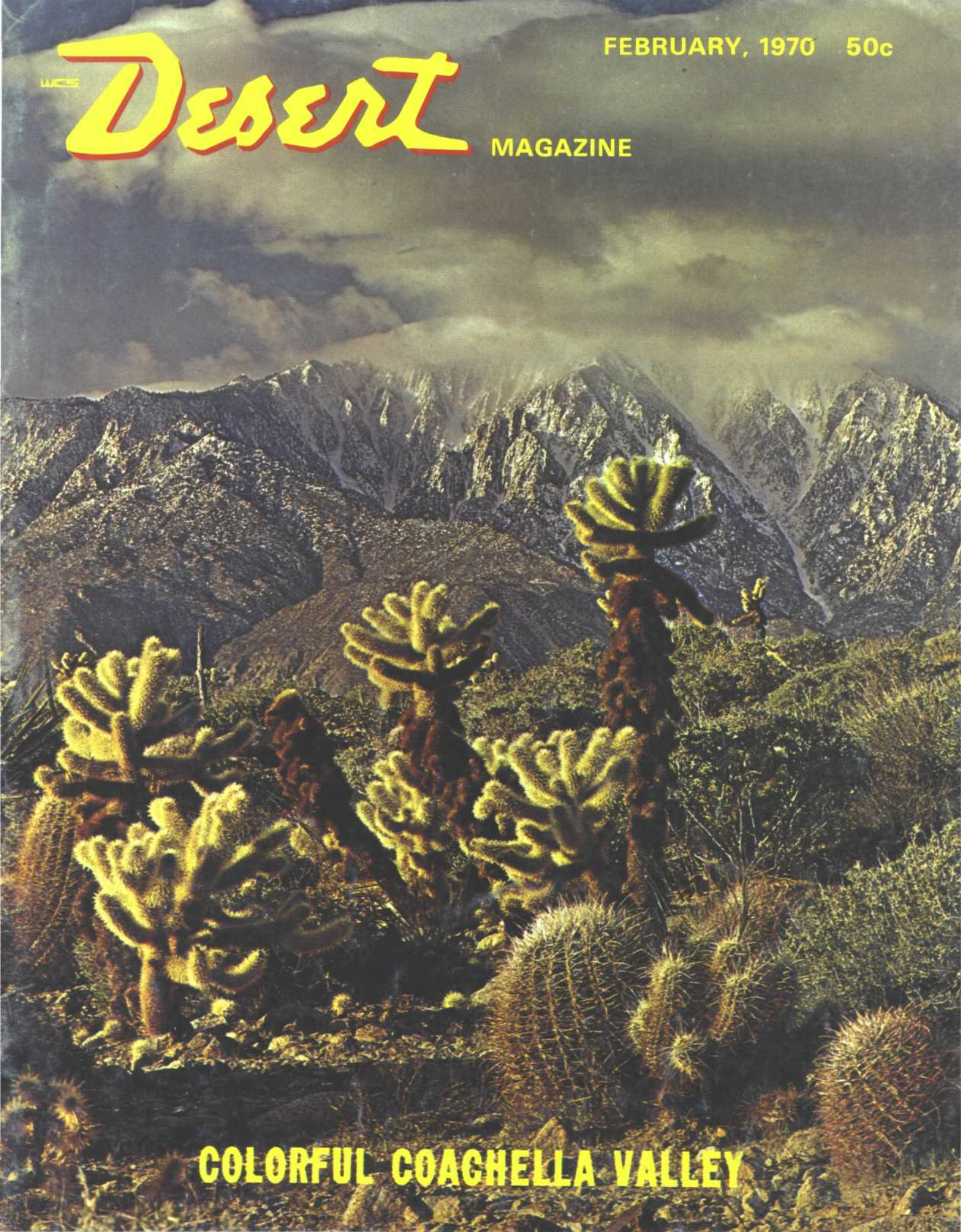


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Volume 34, Number 2 FEBRUARY, 1970

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The warm sun highlights Cholla cactus on the Coachella Valley floor with towering Mt. San Jacinto in the background. Photo by David Muench. Santa Barbara, California.

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# A Peek in the Publisher's Poke

**F**EBRUARY IN the Coachella Valley of California is not just another month. It is an experience. The warm days with clear blue skies and the cool evenings with the sky full of glittering stars is a never to be forgotten memory. It contains the glamor city of Palm Springs, winter home of many of the celebrities of stage, screen and television; the playground of presidents and the home of the much-publicized Bob Hope Desert Golf Classic.

But all these are pale beside the quiet soul that IS the desert—The silence of a canyon, the wind rustling through the dry palm fronds, the shifty glances from a lizard as he warily watches your approach, the dunes of sand broken only by the ripples that the wind has created or the fragmentary tracks of some of the desert's smaller residents. This then, is the magic that brings one back again and again to bask in the sun, camp in its silent places or just drink in its immenseness with your eyes or your camera lens. In these hurried and harried days, the desert can be a most calming influence—a natural tranquilizer you might call it. Because the bulk of our readers are Californians and because they are located in the Greater Los Angeles and San Diego areas, we feel this issue will provide them with a variety of things to see and places to go which can be accomplished by a weekend trip. The nine-to-five, Monday-to-Friday worker just does not have sufficient time, except on vacation, to make trips entailing hundreds and hundreds of miles of driving without arriving home more worn out than when he left. With this in mind, this issue is dedicated to the Coachella Valley which can be reached by the bulk of our readers in less than two hours.

With the sporadic rainfall this past fall the wildflower crop is still a nebulous thing although I personally feel it will be an excellent one for sand verbena which, in certain areas, literally create valleys of purple between softly rolling dunes and, interspersed with the greasewood bush, make a setting hard to believe. For the latest information on the wildflowers please call the office or drop by if that's possible.

Two notable recreation areas are making their initial appearance this month. California's first Ranch Kampground of America is having its Grand Opening in February. This establishment is fully detailed in a feature article by Jack Pepper appearing on page 18. The second facility is a development of the Coachella Valley County Water District which has built a reservoir for irrigation water and turned it over to the County of Riverside for development as a recreation center.

Add to this the County Fair and National Date Festival and you will see why February in the Coachella Valley is an experience!

Here's a little tale about some DESERT Magazine subscribers that I feel should be repeated: This couple has been rockhounding and collecting for many, many years and related the thrills they had in discovering this specimen and that. During the years they have accumulated a considerable collection of some very interesting stones and fossils and they told us that when they get too old to go collecting they will take one last trip and put it all back in their beloved desert for some future rockhounds to delight in finding. A beautiful thought from beautiful people.

*William Kuyper*



# Rambling on Rocks

by Glenn and Martha Vargas

**A**LTHOUGH THERE is very little of any type of good gem material or mineral specimens in the *immediate* area of Coachella Valley, it has a high concentration of rockhounds.

Within its confines are three active organizations devoted entirely to earth science activities. In conjunction with the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival, in Indio, February 13 through 23, there is a sizable mineral and gem exhibit largely sponsored and carried out by two of these organizations. Each year this exhibit contains the finest lapidary work and mineral specimens owned by residents of Riverside County. There are some open classes that attract excellent exhibits from other areas.

At one time, two school districts in the Coachella Valley, through their adult departments, offered classes in lapidary and jewelry making. The classes at Coachella Valley Union High School were started 24 years ago. Despite a number of moves necessitated by school expansion, classes were always available and popular. Classes at the Palm Springs Unified School District started 17 years ago in a remodeled warehouse.

Seven years later they were moved to excellent quarters in Cathedral City. At the opening of the College of the Desert, with campus at Palm Desert, the two laboratories were combined at the Cathedral City location and became an off-campus branch of the college. The lapidary laboratory is very complete. Anything from the softer recognized gem materials up to the hard types (excluding diamond) may be cut, polished, and set into jewelry.

Almost any conceivable shape of cabochon, various types of flat surfaces, and

simple to intricate carvings can be accomplished and brought to the desired polish luster with comparative ease. Classes in faceting, the ultimate of gem cutting, are also offered. There are few other regions of like population that can boast of such a complete set of lapidary laboratories.

All of this rockhound activity must be based on something else if there are no minerals to collect within the valley. Part of the answer lies in the fact that excellent collecting areas are not too far away. The closest is about 75 miles, and many others ranging at distances up to 200 miles. Within these radii are to be found the coveted fire agate at two locations, various other agates, geodes, and mineral crystals.

One of these locations, the Wiley Well district, is probably the best known. It certainly is one of the most popular. The well itself, a sort of "unofficial" headquarters, lies on the northern edge of a vast collecting field. This watering place fills an important place in the history of the region, with rockhounding only a small part of the story.

With the decline of mining activity in the region, the well became one of the important centers for the cattle and sheep men who used the region for grazing, especially during the years of good fodder resulting from better-than-average rainfall. It was only logical then, that the modern counterpart of the prospectors, the rockhound, saw the well as an important landmark and watering place.

The collecting fields lie to the south and southwest of the well. Immediately to the south is the popular Coon Hollow, the location of fire agate. This field was discovered nearly 30 years ago, and is still popular. Immediately to the south of Coon Hollow, and lesser known, is the area of Twin Buttes, or The Thumbs. The name stems from a peculiar-shaped double mountain easily seen from a long distance. Here is found agate nodules and agate geodes of wide variety.

To the south and west of the well lies one of the West's largest geode deposits. These are in the Black Hills of Imperial County. The best known of these is the Hauser Geode Beds, but there are others with romantic-sounding names: The Strawberry Patch, The Giant Geode Beds, The Straw Beds, The Potato Patch, The Cinnamon Roll Beds, and others. Some

of these were named from the shape of the geode, or the color of its contents.

To reach the Wiley Well area and the beds we described take Interstate 10 east from Indio. Fifteen miles before Blythe a good gravel road, marked with a "Wiley Well" sign, goes to the right for six miles to a crossroad. This is Wiley Well.

The greatest reason for the seeming Coachella Valley paradox lies in the valley itself. First, the agricultural areas of the valley are growing, with new residents arriving constantly. Second, the Palm Springs area is well known as a resort and retirement attraction to which has flocked a large number of retired and semi-retired people. Those new to Coachella Valley, whether retired or not, look for something to occupy their spare time. Many of them are delighted to find rockhounding a "going concern," and the distances to the activities are within reason and fairly free from traffic problems. Many individuals are "wish-to-be" rockhounds that will jump at the opportunity to get into the activity they have looked at from afar. □

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## Book Reviews

by Jack Pepper

### DESERT LANDSCAPING IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY

Published by Neel's Nursery

Although this book was compiled for residents of Riverside County's Coachella Valley, it is applicable to all desert areas in the sea-level geographical range.

It was compiled under the direction of Eric Johnson, who, starting with this issue, will have a monthly *Desert Gardening* column in *Desert Magazine*. Planting and maintaining gardens, whether they be the native desert plant variety, or the cultivated, calls for an entirely different operation than gardens in the coastal or higher elevation areas.

The book is a concise guide as to when to plant, what to plant and how to care for gardens. Sections include care of shrubs, conifers, trees, roses, citrus, vines, palms, ground covers, lawns and many others. Regardless of the size of your desert garden, this book will save you money and time. Large format, paperback, color and black and white illustrations, \$1.50.

### DUTCH OVEN COOKBOOK

By Don Holm

Paul Revere not only warned the British were coming, he also designed the original Dutch Oven. Later, traders from Holland bought large quantities for barter with the Indians and the frontier settlers. This is how the utensil came to be known as the "Dutch" oven.

If you have never used a Dutch oven, after reading Don Holm's book you are going to turn off the kitchen stove and head for the backyard for a cookout. Of course, you'll have to get a Dutch oven first, and even this information is supplied.

First of its kind in print, *The Old Fashioned Dutch Oven Cookbook* is primarily an outdoor cookbook specializing



in old-fashioned Dutch oven cookery and sourdough recipes. The book goes into the subject thoroughly, first explaining how to build the right kind of fire for the oven, how to season the oven and how to take care of it.

While explaining these and other camping shortcuts, the author brings in interesting historical incidents which are illustrated with clever cartoons.

There are numerous tempting recipes including pot roasts, mulligan stews, and dishes made from fish of various kinds, bear meat, buffalo, venison, upland birds, rabbit, woodchuck and many more.

There is material on sourdough cooking, with recipes for starters, flapjacks and biscuits of various kinds. Other recipes include those of a few outdoor writers of the Pacific Northwest and also how to make jerky.

Don Holm is wildlife editor of the Portland Oregonian and has spent his life exploring and writing about the outdoors. Veteran outdoor chefs, amateur backyard cooks and those who have never had the thrill of eating food prepared under the open sky will find this book leading toward new culinary adventures. Heavy paperback, 106 pages, \$3.95.

#### 50 YEARS IN DEATH VALLEY

By Harry P. Gower

The history of Death Valley is primarily the history of borax and the men who made—and lost—fortunes developing and shipping the product throughout the world. Although known principally as a cleansing agent, borax has many other uses such as in medicine and glass manufacturing.

One of the men who was actively engaged in this battle against the elements of Death Valley is the late Harry P. Gower who spent 50 years as a production engineer in the mining camps.

Among the many prospectors, adventurers and financial tycoons brought to life once again in this book are Francis Marion (Borax) Smith and William T. Coleman, both of whom played a major role in the development of California.

Published by the Death Valley '49ers, this is an exciting first-hand account of the battle for borax and the history of Death Valley. Paperback, illustrated, 145 page, \$2.95.



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# White Man's Pueblo

by Laura Raef



**T**HE UNIQUE pueblo "castle-turned-museum" jutting out of the side of a mountain in Desert Hot Springs, California, is best described as an extremely remarkable feat—as extremely remarkable as its builder, Cabot Yerxa.

From a distance, this Hopi-designed cliff dwelling practically camouflages itself with its own muted, gray-like hues which blend with those of the surrounding desert. Then, like a genie popping out of a bottle, the rambling pueblo emerges from out of the mountainside into a spectacular view.

Cabot Yerxa, famous in the desert for his paintings of Indians, designed his Pueblo from ancient cliff dwellings of the New Mexico Indians who lived over a thousand years ago.

He started his building before the

birth of the city—now known for its healthy mineral waters—and continued to build, adding room after room, for a total of 24 years.

Yerxa deviated only slightly from the Hopi Indian style of construction. One change he made was building stairways inside rather than the Indian-style ladders on the outside. Ancient dwellings had only one window and one door in each room, but Yerxa included two and sometimes three in most of his—with exception of the cave rooms which have none at all.

The east wall on the ground floor is 24 inches thick at the bottom and 10 or more inches at the top. It has no doors nor windows. The sun rises but does not shine into the downstairs rooms until sunset.

All 35 rooms of the four-story rambling cliff dwelling have a different roof level. Altogether there are 150 windows, and 65 doors and 17 of these doors lead to the outside.

Yerxa included four small apartments inside his pueblo. These were often occupied by artist friends. His fourth floor studio towers above the canyon walls, bringing into view nearly all of Coachella

Valley. However, the canyon opens out toward Mt. San Jacinto which gives every room a view of Riverside County's highest mountain.

The castle is built over a hot water well. The pump, located in Yerxa's workshop, lifts the 128 degree water to a tank behind the pueblo. The building is 300 feet above the desert floor but only 140 feet to water.

When he started construction, he had no money for tools. Using a second-hand pick and shovel, he started digging. For a solid year, he dug a deep cavern in the mountainside. With the dirt, he filled up the canyon in the front of the mountain, which later became his front yard.

In his Model T Ford, he hauled sand, rocks and cement—along with barrels of water—up to the mountain peak. Unable, financially, to buy materials, he scoured the desert collecting old railroad ties, used nails and anything else which might be of possible value.

Excepting for a very short time when he had the help of one man, he did the work alone—even hand-mixed his cement. As soon as the construction developed to crude livability, Yerxa and his wife, Portia, moved in.



*The late Cabot Yerxa and his famous Indian pueblo into which he built part of his soul.*

Somewhere along the way, one room became an art gallery where hung paintings of his as well as his artist friends. He also turned one room into a trading post where he displayed handwork of Indians as well as Mexican artisans, books and many desert souvenirs.

In Alaska during the gold rush days, Yerxa had collected many things used by Eskimos living near the Arctic Circle. These included animal skins, metate stones, pack saddles, animal traps and many pictures taken during the gold rush to Cape Nome in the 1900s.

A museum of early day relics, Indian artifacts and beautiful bead work of Northern Indians, was established inside the castle also. Here, he displayed a tomahawk and buffalo leather shield taken from a dead Indian on the Custer Battlefield. A pair of red moccasins, decorated with porcupine quills, worn by Red Cloud, leader of a band of Sioux who

fought against General Custer, are in the museum.

As the fantastic cliff dwelling grew larger and larger, the public clamored to see the inside. Reluctantly, Yerxa opened a part of the castle to sightseers, conducting tours.

Yerxa first came to the desert as early as 1913, with only a paper bag of food and a quart of water and minus a blanket. Keeping warm at night by campfire he slept during the day on the sand while the sun warmed his body.

His first desert home was a hole dug in a bank with no roof, no door, no furniture—only the hole in the earth. Next he built a one-room cabin to be followed shortly by what he named as the "Eagle's Nest." This was half underground and had one door and one window, also atop Miracle Hill. There was a fireplace and this is where he brought his bride home to live before he started his castle.

Having sunk his roots deep in the desert, Yerxa spent much time with Indians, sometimes living with them and going to places never before seen by white man. Consequently, he became a prolific "teller

*Continued on Page 37*

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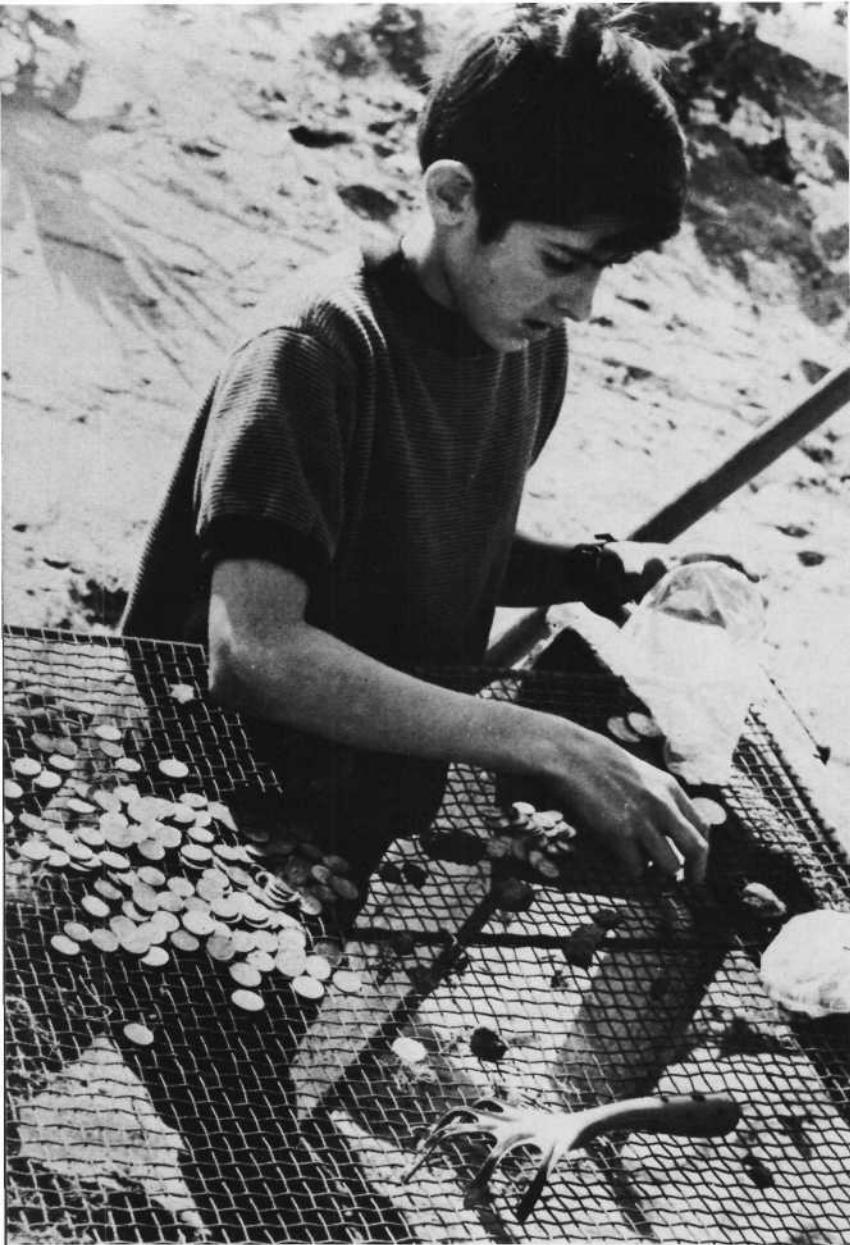
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# Weekend Treasure Hunting

by Nema Anderson

**W**E ONCE yearned to discover Lost Dutchman mines and galleons with ingots of Spanish gold, but hardrock mining and sunken ships were both a bit beyond our depth. However, we live only a weekend away from a desert, so the Mojave is our Saturday safari, and it is there we discovered the adventure of treasure hunting.

Southern California deserts hosted a number of World War II training camps. Our present "workings" are near Essex. Mitchell Caverns State Park with a campground is nearby, but a camp rig can be parked alongside the weekend screening site.

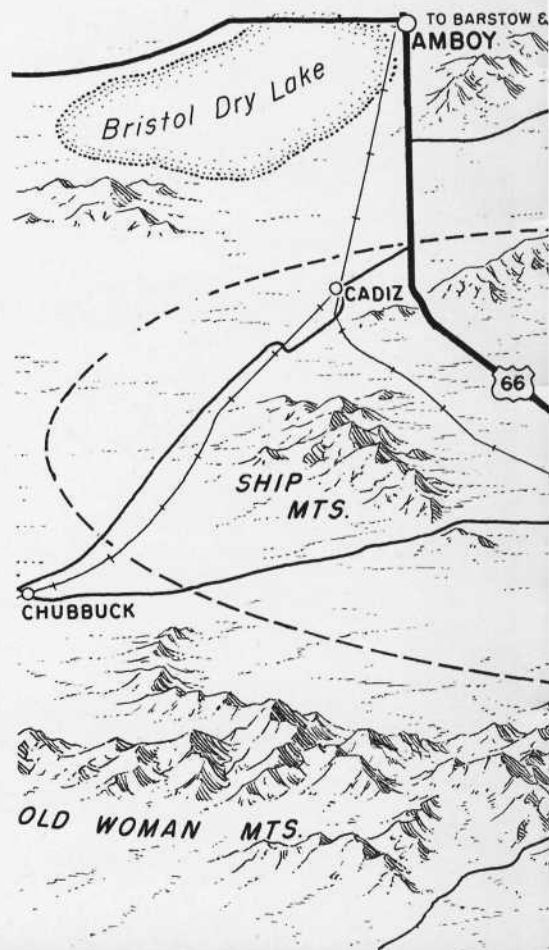
Equipment needs are two sawhorses, a screen to place across them and a shovel. Locating "paydirt" is equally simple. An area bare of its 75-year-old growth of creosote bushes is likely the 25-year-old site of tents. Here, when G.I. Joe shucked his fatigues to go to bed, is where his

pocket change was spilled.

Now his lost coins have a premium value. The current issue of *Coin Prices* lists two 1934S Peace Dollars we found at \$37.50 apiece. Of 28 Liberty Standing Half Dollars found, the same source quotes a 1921D for \$200.00, a 1919S, a 1918S, a 1923S and a 1927S for amounts of \$90.00, \$31.00, \$75.00 and \$22.50, respectively. Twenty-three others vary in value from \$1.00 to \$115.00, according to condition.

Screening has produced several Barber Head Quarter Dollars and a number of Standing Liberties. All have a premium value in almost any readable condition. Six 1934S Washington quarters are worth \$9.00 each, one 1937S is \$17.50. Numbers of the then newly minted 1942-45s have less rare-coin value but a higher silver content.

The G.I. often failed to retrieve dropped dimes and pennies that sifted into



*Rick Anderson (opposite page) sorts out the coins he found during a weekend hunting trip. "Andy" Anderson (right) uses binoculars to discover foxholes used by General Patton's troops. World War II maneuvers were held in areas on map below.*

his sandy floor. We have screened more than 200 dimes and upward of 700 pennies. It amazes us to find very old and very obvious coins such as Liberty Head-V and Buffalo nickels, Indian Head and 1909 Lincoln pennies. Perhaps the heat and war training took precedence in a soldier's mind over such mundane matters as "keepers" among his pocket coins.

We have found more than 300 Buffalo nickels. These seldom-seen nickels presently in circulation are so badly worn they are of no premium value. But it is found that one out of two lost in the 'forties are clear and readable. They are, therefore, high in premium value.

We screen an average of \$2.50 in coins a day—face value. But collector's



value can be many thousands times the coin's denomination—one instance is the humble little Lincoln Cent. *Coin Prices* currently lists it at \$145.00!

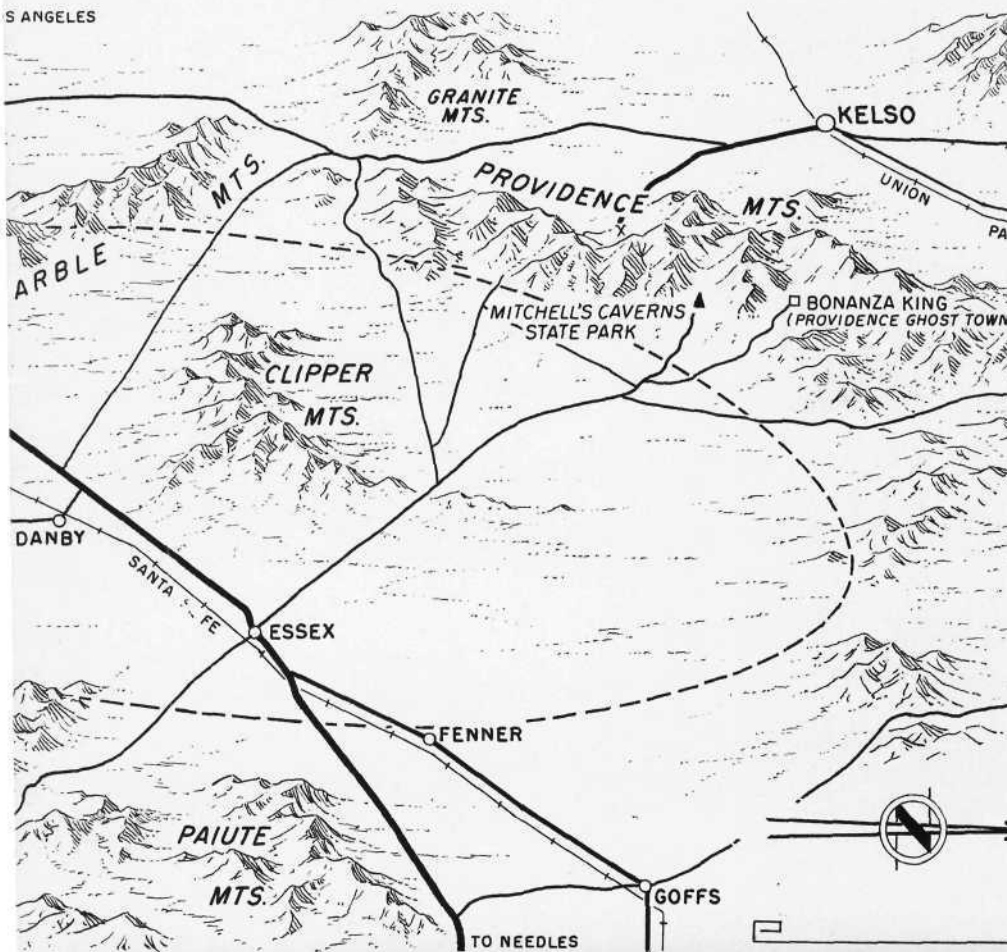
The old camps left a variety of articles to discover: helmets, bayonets, eye glasses, field glasses, watches and compasses.

There are many "dog tags" and identification bracelets, sterling silver rifleman medals, St. Christopher medals, crosses and rosaries. We find dozens of wedding rings and empty-socket ring mountings; changing temperatures causing contraction and expansion have loosened gem stones.

Exploring the desert is to discover much to draw a family close in contemplation. Our youngsters, who screen sand and classify coins as eagerly as any coin buff, speculate just as keenly on mystifying finds. Why was the partly-stripped Jeep left behind? The cache of gallon-size cans of spinach or a buried box of K ration—still fresh-smelling when opened—did the G.I. ditch chow which wasn't up to his taste?

Or we hike into the surrounding hills and find the old workings of a prospector—with an ingenious asphalted catch basin to funnel precious rainfall into his cistern, an old shaft which didn't pan out. We stand together in wonderment of a desert and of those who conquered it before us.

With cooling temperatures we shall again go treasure hunting. At this writing the melting of coins for silver is legal. It is expected that a number—especially wartime nickels, large 35-percent-silver coins—will disappear into a melting pot. How valuable then as collector's coins will the many we have found, plus those we find this season, ultimately become? □



S ANGELES



# Lake Cahuilla



**A** BRAND NEW lake with aquatic and camping facilities is being formed on the desert floor of California's Coachella Valley in Riverside County. Named after ancient Lake Cahuilla, which once spread over all of Coachella and Imperial valleys, the new lake will eventually cover 135 acres and is expected to open early in 1970.

The lake is nestled against the scenic Santa Rosa Mountains along which can be seen the travertine marks of the ancient lake which was originally named Lake Cahuilla after the Indians who lived in the area.

The lake is a recreational gift to outdoor enthusiasts from the Coachella Valley County Water District which is developing the body of water for the primary use as a terminal reservoir for its irrigation system which distributes Colorado River water to approximately 65,000 acres of farmlands in the valley.

The Coachella Valley Canal, which brings water into the valley from the Colorado River 123 miles away, ends at the western side of the lake and will keep it filled the year around. Kidney shaped, Lake Cahuilla is three-fourths of a mile long and about half that size in width. It will hold 1500 acre feet of water with an average depth of 12 feet. It is being constructed at a cost of \$1,500,000.

Under an agreement between the Coachella Valley County Water District and the Riverside County Parks Department, the latter will operate and maintain the area as a county regional recreational center with an expenditure of more than \$500,000 in county, state and Federal funds for development during the next three years.

Extensive plans are now being drawn for development of the lake for fishing, boating, picnicking, swimming and camp-

ing. California State Fish and Game officials will stock the lake with trout during the winter months and warmer month fish during the rest of the year. There will be a fishing pier and eventually marina and boat rental facilities.

A swimming beach is located at the southwest section of the lake with bath houses and other facilities. The lake is too small for water skiing. Large areas, including the 100-foot retaining dikes, will be planted with shade trees and picnic facilities, according to County Parks Director Peter Dangermond.

Several acres of newly-filled ground near the southeastern corner of the lake will eventually be used as a site for travel trailers and campers. Final plans call for the development of hiking trails into the scenic canyons of the Santa Rosa Mountains.

The lake can be reached by taking Jefferson Boulevard south from State 111 between Palm Desert and Indio. □

# TREASURE WITH WINGS



by  
Elta  
Shively

I FOUND TREASURE in our back yard—a glorious array of tiny iridescent birds hovering in mid-air only a few inches from my face, staring me in the eye as if sizing me up. It came about when one of my grandsons gave me a hummingbird feeder for Christmas one year. Living in Coachella Valley, we would see one or two hummingbirds at a time and I often wondered if a feeder would really “attract them by the dozens” as various advertisements on bird feeders stated.

We placed the feeder near a window so we could watch the birds from our dining area. Within minutes a hummingbird discovered the feeder, claimed it as

his own private property and chased other birds away when they came near. Since that particular type of feeder could accommodate only one bird at a time, we simply had to get more feeders.

We soon discovered the disadvantages of a feeder with only one downward tube for the bird to get the nectar. The slightest breeze swings the feeder enough to lose the nectar. The dripping makes a mess on shrubs, window panes and ground. It also attracts ants and bees which discouraged the hummingbirds as well as ourselves. Orioles, Western tangers, finches and sparrows will perch on the tube and try to drink from the tiny

opening even though we provide water elsewhere for them to drink. This causes the liquid to drip out rapidly.

In our local pet shop, we found the feeder shown in the photo. This has feeding holes for four birds—and does not drip. This was so successful that we purchased several. At first, some of the birds were rather timid and only one bird would be feeding while others awaited their turn. Eventually they overcame their timidity. Now we make a game of seeing which feeder has the most birds at one time.

The fascinating little hummingbirds have no fear of people. They let us know when the feeder is empty and hover



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around us when we replace the sugar water. We entertain guests in the patio with the hummingbirds as the main attraction—perching wherever they please. How thrilled nine-year-old Warren was when one finally settled on his outstretched finger! Sometimes we can almost pet the birds when they are feeding. Ruby-throated and Costa's are the tamest.

Each dive-bomber seems to have its own personality. One always uses the same perch; one is rather timid; another retreats between feedings to a particular twig on a certain oleander. "Piggy" spends such a long time drinking that one can almost see him expanding like a balloon. He uses a perch at the feeder, relaxing and preening his feathers between drinks, staying for several minutes. It seems that some prefer perches while

*Hummingbirds like to preen  
their feathers between sips and  
will constantly return to  
feeder. Two photos by  
Lloyd Shively.*

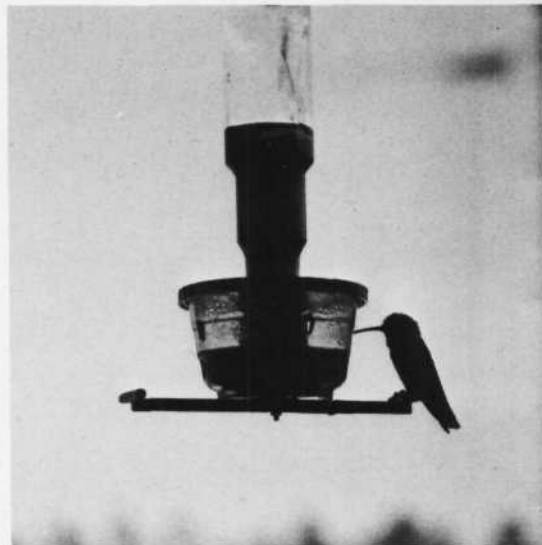
others always hover when feeding. They zero-in on their favorite spot with no trouble whatsoever.

Although we placed our feeders in sheltered spots, the hummingbirds are undaunted by rain. They take a bath while perched on a branch near the feeder, fly to the feeder, then back to the

branch for more bathing.

With the first rosy flush of dawn—and again at the last lingering light of dusk—these remarkable little birds are at the feeders. From early December through March, they are numerous throughout the entire day. During summer months the birds are rather scarce. They are attracted to bright colors, especially red. However, in the desert where colors are often only browns and greys, they will go to green plants.

Seeing the little "helicopters" at such close range, we were anxious to identify them. Research convinced me that is something for the experts. Costa's hum-



mingbird is probably the easiest to identify because the throat feathers project greatly at the sides. In silhouette, they look like misplaced horns. Irridescence varies greatly depending upon the age of the birds, sex, angle of light, etc., thus making it difficult for amateurs to identify the various species of which there are more than 300. The Ruby-throated is common throughout the United States, and it is the only one found east of the Rocky Mountains. The Southwest has 15 different hummingbirds.

The courtship of a pair of hummingbirds is something to see. His campaign-promises made during the vertical and horizontal flight, facing the female, mean nothing. She builds the tiny nest 1 1/2 inches in diameter, lines it with soft material; lays the two pea-sized eggs; spends two weeks incubating the eggs—and then feeds her babies all by herself. The male deserts her entirely after courtship.

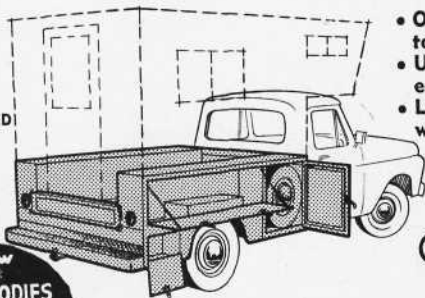
The babies look like worms or insects. They are not much larger than a bee and



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are ready to fly in two or three weeks. I accidentally discovered their nest in an Italian cypress. Hummingbirds do not exist on nectar entirely. They also eat insects and can be seen darting after them in mid-air.

Colliers Encyclopedia (1962, Volume 12, page 354) states "The young obtain sustenance by thrusting their bill down the parent's throat." However, National Geographic Society photos, in their book *Stalking Birds With Color Camera* (1962), show the mother bird thrusting her bill deep into the baby's gullet. Could it be they don't want to waste precious food?

The tongue, which distinguishes hummingbirds from other bird groups, is nearly as long as the bill. It is a sort of double-barreled tube, split and fringed at the tip.

Rufous is found farther north than any other hummingbird and it winters in Mexico. Anna's hummingbird stays in California all year, but cannot nest in some parts of the state because Argentine ants, which have been introduced into the state, kill and eat the baby birds.

Some species of hummingbirds have pleasant little "songs" and one is fortunate to be close enough to hear it. This is not the zzzzz's frequently heard. It is thought there may be some relation between the size of the vocal cords in the tiny bird and the pitch produced. Research may some day prove they sing

*A hummingbird zeros in on a feeder. Author says each bird has its own personality. Some fly and others sit while feeding.*

at a pitch too high for human ears to hear. It is rather strange to see the throat movement which resembles that of a singing bird and yet no sound is heard.

Although we can't hear the hummingbirds sing, the feeders have given us many hours of pleasure and relaxation. I wouldn't be without a feeder. □

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It seems strange that hummingbirds can neither walk or run—yet their aerial maneuvers are unequalled by any other bird. Arizona's Blue-throated hummingbird has been known to chase hawks in defense of its own. Two male hummers may fight an actual "duel" by ramming into each other until one falls to the ground where the fight will still continue until one gives up and flies off. This establishes the male's territory. There is no evidence to support the statement that hummingbirds will peck out a person's eyes.

The Broad-tailed will usually be heard before it is seen. One hears the whirr of the wings—75 or more beats per second in flight and many more when dive-bombing. The primary wing feathers narrow to "slots" at the tip and air passing through the slots produces that special whirr. Practically fearless, hummingbirds become air-borne and accelerate to a speed of 30 miles an hour in 2/10 of a second.

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# FOCUS

In addition to the areas featured in this issue, there are many more recreational, scenic and



Indian Dancing



Aerial Tramway



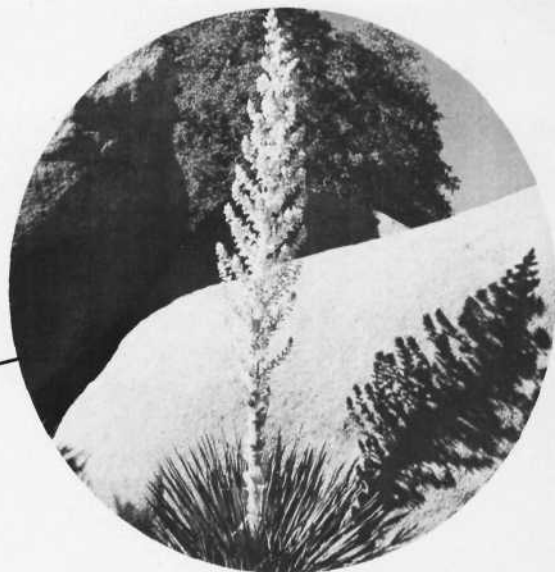
Palm Canyons



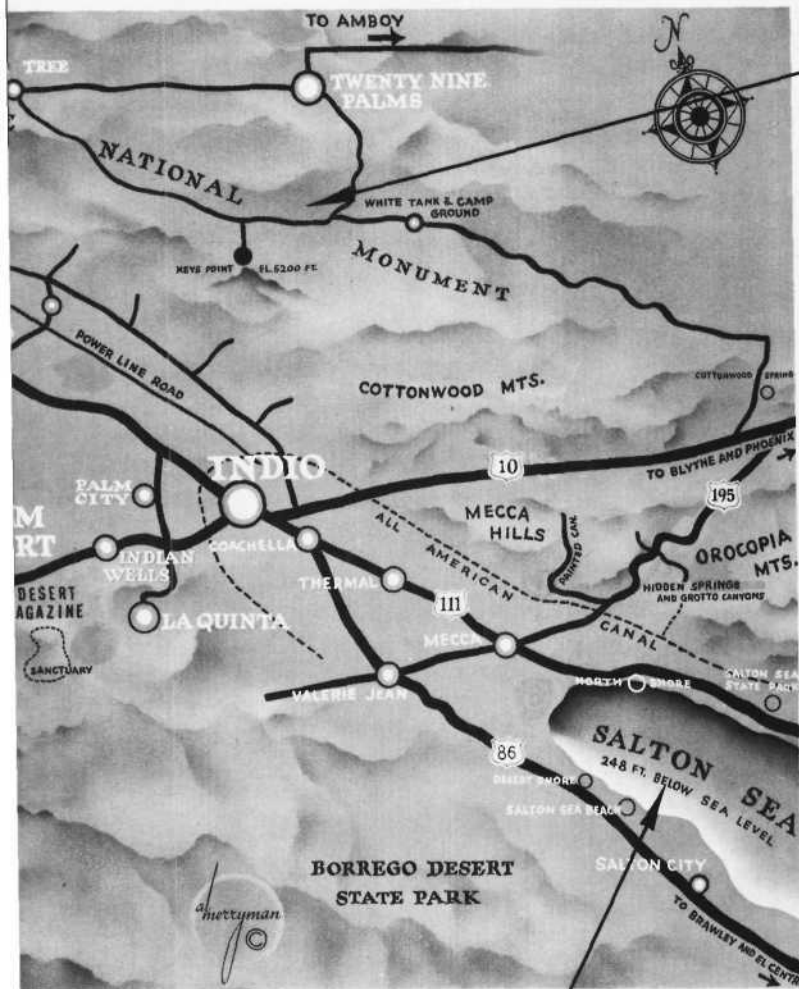
Hiking Trails

# ON FUN

cultural places for family fun in and around the Coachella Valley, some of which are listed here.



Photography



## PALM SPRINGS TRAMWAY

From the Valley Station, 2000 feet above sea level and Palm Springs, the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway cable cars carry passengers in just 18 minutes to the 8000-foot station in the scenic San Jacinto Mountains where a panoramic view of Coachella Valley is matched only by the sight of the San Bernardino Mountains more than 50 miles away.

During the ride from the valley to the mountain station, four complete geological life zones—the equivalent to life changes observable on a motor trip from Sonora, Mexico to the Arctic Circle in Alaska, can be seen. The Mountain Station has an Alpine Restaurant, cocktail lounge and gift and apparel shops. Hiking trails lead to Long Valley and 11 campgrounds.

The Tramway is open seven days a week from 10 A.M. until 6 P.M., November 1 through June 1. During the summer season it is open the same hours, but closed Tuesday and Wednesday. Fares are \$3.25 per adult, \$2.25 for ages 13 through 17 and \$1.00 for youngsters from 4 to 12 years old.

Adjoining the Valley Station is a complete Animal Park with tigers, elephants, zebras, deer, monkeys, baboons and many other animals. Many of the animals have appeared on television and there are acts daily. Admission is \$1.50 adults and \$1.00 for children. Open from 10:00 A.M. until dusk.

## MALKI MUSEUM

Located on the Fields Road turnoff, Interstate 10, between Banning and Cabazon, the Malki Museum was established by the Cahuilla Indians to preserve their heritage and to acquaint others with their culture and history. The Cahuillas lived in Riverside County long before the Spanish first came through the area in the 1770s. There are more than 3000 artifacts, majority of which were donated by the Indian families. The basket collection is especially fine, as is an exhibit of native plant foods. Indian dances and other festivities are held in the area throughout the year. They have also published several books (see Page 2) on their history and culture.

## BERGMAN MUSEUM

The late Harry Bergman spent more than 50 years of his life collecting artifacts and historical objects from Alaska to Mexico and Central America. Many of the relics are from the immediate vicinity and include Indian artifacts and objects

*Continued on Page 36*

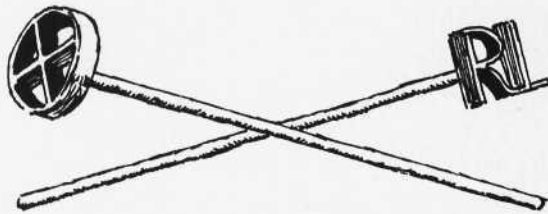
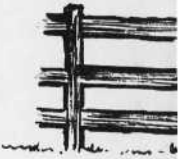


Boating





# DUDE RANCH

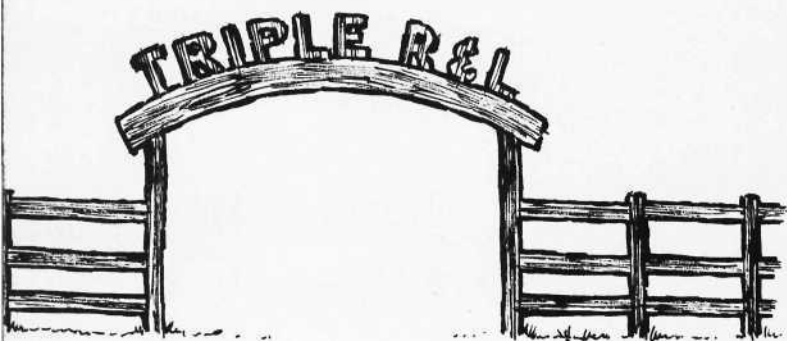


There's a new concept in weekend camping in which the family-on-wheels is offered all recreational facilities of a dude ranch—plus spacious individual areas for campers or travel trailers. This is the first such ranch-style campgrounds to open in California spreading over the Coachella Valley in Riverside County.



# FOR CAMPERS

by Jack Pepper



WITH ITS wide open spaces and thousands of acres of public land where you can wander without invading private property, the deserts of Southern California for many years have been favorite areas for weekend campers and explorers.

Within these deserts in San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial and San Diego counties you can make a "dry" primitive camp on unrestricted Federal land, or take advantage of the designated public campgrounds such as those along the Salton Sea or in the Anza/Borrego State Park. In both cases family recreational facilities are limited.

Today there is a new concept in weekend camping in which the family-on-wheels is offered every type of recreational opportunity, including horseback riding, rodeos, square dancing, swimming, rock hounding, buckboard riding, and overnight cookouts with fireside singing and tall tales spun by cowboy wranglers.

The first such ranch campground to be opened in California is the 44-acre Triple R & L spread which lies on the Coachella Valley floor in Riverside County between the Santa Rosa and Little San Bernardino Mountains. The boundary of the Joshua Tree National Monument is only a few miles from the ranch.

Until recently the Triple R & L was a working ranch with no accommodations and serving only a limited number of riders and rodeo fans. Today, it is a "dude ranch," but not the type usually associated with easterners—it only caters to owners of campers and travel trailers.



Thousands of new campers and travel trailers are being sold every month in Southern California and additional thousands in other parts of the West. As these new families-on-wheels head for the "wide open spaces" state and national campgrounds are becoming as crowded as the metropolitan areas from which the outdoor enthusiasts are fleeing.

Although new campgrounds are being built by local and Federal agencies, the demand far exceeds the new facilities and has created a major recreational vacuum. Recognizing this vacuum and the potential market, private industry has recently started building private campgrounds and offering facilities not available in public areas.

One of the most aggressive of the new private enterprises is Kampgrounds of America. Organized in 1963, it is the largest privately owned public campground franchise system in America. The RKOA Triple R & L Ranch—at a cost of \$1,000,000—has constructed new recreational facilities and is now a member of Kampgrounds of America. The "R" before the KOA means it is a ranch-style campgrounds with all the trimmings of a western guest ranch—and that's exactly what the Triple R & L provides for camper and travel trailer families.

There are complete stables with horses for both outsiders and campers. Overnight riding trips are conducted to Pioneertown in the High Desert area along with one-day trips and campfire steak fries for both rides. Riding lessons are provided by experienced wranglers on excellent horses.

*Community building (right) of the RKOA Triple R & L is in the center of the 200 camp sites. Drawing (below) shows layout of the spread which once was a working horse ranch.*

The newly developed camping ranch has 200 sites for campers and trailers. Each site is 60 by 40 feet and is complete with water, cement and grill barbecue pit and a large picnic table. Rates are \$4.00 a night for a camper or trailer with \$1.00 extra for each person over four people. Showers and other facilities are nearby.

A large swimming pool with three separate sections for adults and children, a recreational area, a square dancing pavilion and the community hall are provided without charge. There is also a general store and laundromat. Programmed entertainment is scheduled nightly. Future plans call for the construction of a ghost town with franchised stores and other entertainment.

Located on Indian Avenue, the RKOA Triple R & L campgrounds is two miles east on the North Palm Springs turnoff from Interstate 10, approximately 120 miles from Los Angeles.

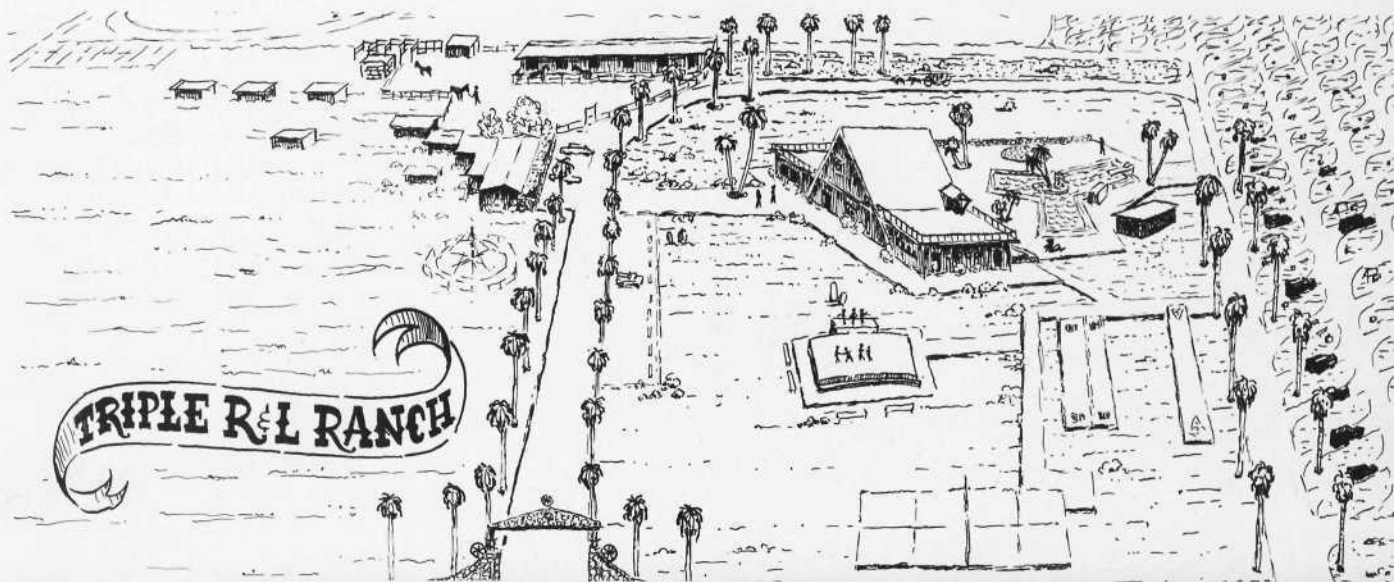
Manager of the new campgrounds is a 43-year-old rancher whose only absence from horse trading and exploring the Southern California deserts was the time he spent as a Marine in World War II and the Korean conflict.

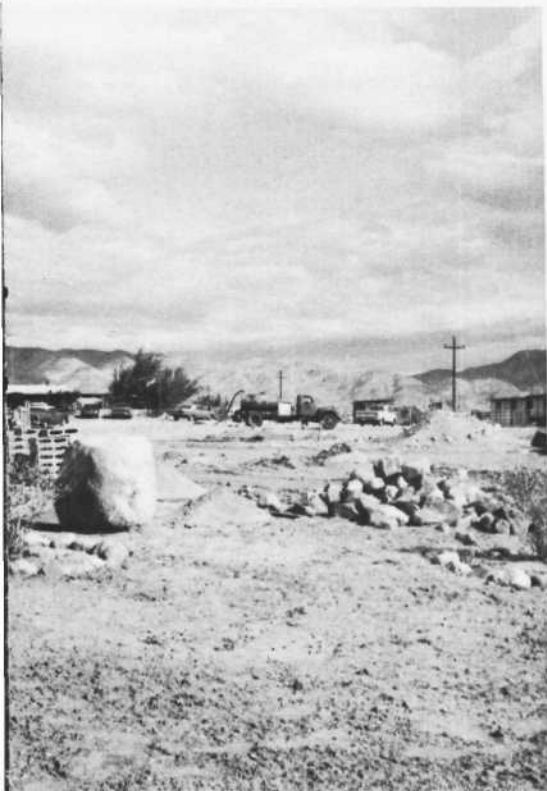
Fred Warehime and his wife, Lois,



and their partners, the ABC Cigar Company of San Francisco, purchased the 44-acre ranch six years ago from Les Moore, a former Riverside County Deputy sheriff who homesteaded the acreage in 1912. Today the Warehimes live in the same adobe and brick house that Moore and his wife, Lynn, built 57 years ago. Next year it will be converted into a restaurant and cocktail lounge—complete with the Indian paintings, western artifacts and giant fireplace which equals the television version of a western ranch in the 1800s. It is called "Stone Jug."

A colorful character in his own right, Fred Warehime described Les Moore as





"one of the last of the two-fisted sheriffs and fighters of the old west." Moore met his wife, a daughter of the English ambassador to Mexico during the United States-Mexican War. She was brought up in European society and was an accomplished musician and pianist. Moore transported her to his Coachella Valley homestead which she loved from the day she arrived.

A year later, as she and her husband were building their adobe home in the middle of the then barren desert, the young bride's father arrived. In contrast to his English attire, Lynne's appearance was less than immaculate. As she placed stones on the planned fireplace she asked her father how he liked her new home.

"It looks like a stone jug," he replied. Lynne and Les Moore promptly named their home—which brought them love and freedom for 50 years—The Stone Jug. The phrase "stone jug" in England means prison.

If there is anything farther from a prison, it is the Triple R & L Ranch and RKO campgrounds. It's strictly a "Howdy Pardner" atmosphere with the wranglers and ranch employees dressed in Levis and the guests allowed their complete freedom either to be alone or join others in exploring the wide open spaces of Southern California's land of adventure. □

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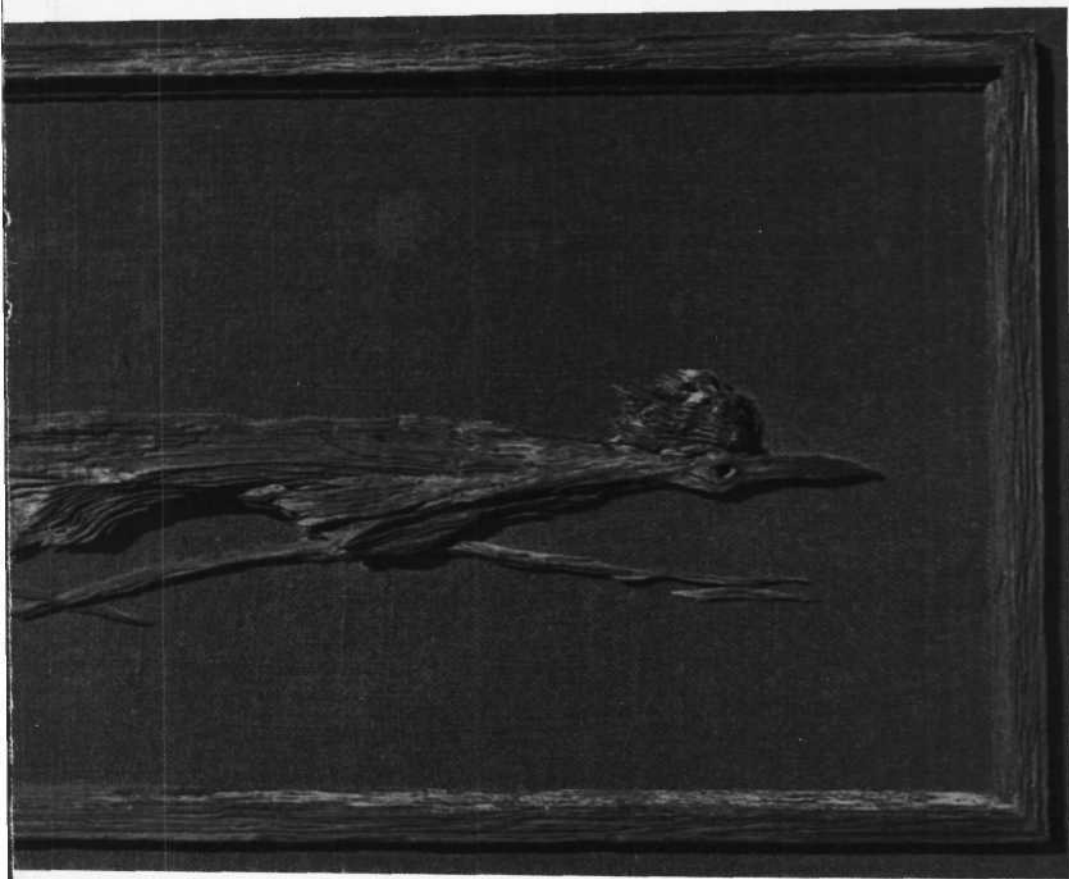
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# try in Ironwood

by Jack Pepper

**F**OR HUNDREDS of years the desert ironwood tree has been a source of survival for Indians, prospectors and explorers. Today it is becoming a source of beauty for Western homes and gardens.

A talented woman with an unlimited imagination uses slips of the ironwood to make relief-mosaics of native desert birds and animals. Another ironwood admirer, a retired business executive, photographs the trees in their natural settings and then creates modern designs comparable to the finest sculpture in art galleries.

Others who are also fascinated by the beauty and design of the wood, which is apparent even in its rough form, now display their favorite pieces in gardens and patios. The cardinal rules of ironwood collectors are: *Never* cut or break a live tree; use only the slips on the ground or the roots and branches which have died, and only take home that which you will use.





*David Ball, right, a retired business executive whose hobby is photographing and sculpturing ironwood, and the author admire one of the giants of the desert. Notice how this "dead" piece is twisted and gnarled. Ironwood tree (right) being strangled by mistletoe.*

Ranch in Rancho Mirage where her works of art can be viewed.

True carried a canvas sack in which she places the ironwood slips. She spends hours looking for the right forms which eventually become the wing, eye, body or head of one of her creations.

Back in her Rancho Mirage workshop, True spreads the pieces out before her frame, which she makes out of masonite and colored burlap. She uses desert sand and small plants for the landscape. Spending days on one creation, she tries one piece and then another until satisfied with the form. The slips are then cemented together and the final creation anchored to the frame.

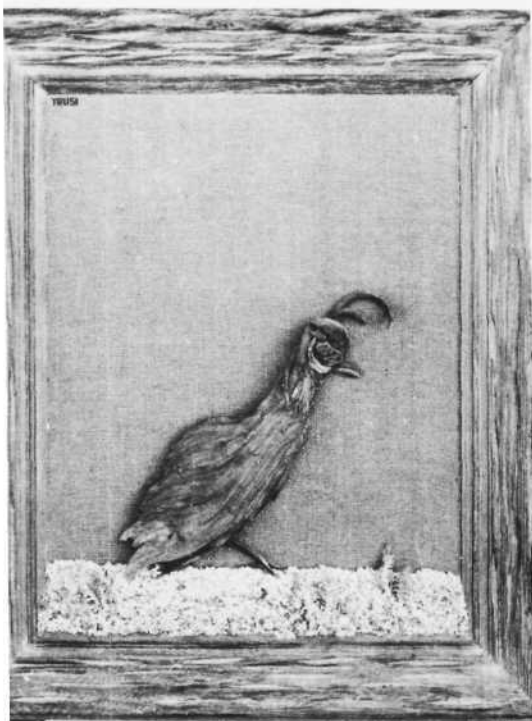
As True exclaimed delight in slips she was finding, David and I wandered off in another direction looking for the gnarled and twisted roots and branches



The "dead" pieces of the ironwood tree are more interesting than the live tree. For these pieces have actually been strangled to death and in the process of trying to "breathe" they twist and turn, creating the unusual and beautiful designs of the wood.

And what is this deadly strangler that kills parts of the mighty ironwood—a tree that may live to be hundreds of years old and is one of the hardiest in the world? It's the mistletoe, one of the desert's most destructive parasitic plants, which finds lodging in the mighty giant and eventually kills the branch to which it is attached.

I saw several examples of this recently when I accompanied Mrs. True Slocum, the imaginative artist, and David Ball, her ironwood associate, during a collecting trip near Desert Center in Riverside County. Mrs. Slocum, who prefers to be called by her given name, and her husband, Si, manage the White Sun Guest



*One of True Slocum's creations is this quail. She uses desert sand and tiny plants for foreground. Background is colored burlap. She also makes her own frames.*

which he takes home. He also spends days patiently sanding and polishing until he has brought out the golden grain which is set off by brown and black streaks. He never cuts the wood, preferring to work with the natural shape.

While David was looking for samples, I sat under one of the mighty ironwoods and read a fitting tribute to these works of Nature written by Cap Smith in the December, 1955 issue of Desert Magazine:

"The indomitable ironwood needs few favors. The searing sun, the broiling heat reflected from sky and soil, are indispensable. Moisture it must have, but the deep beds of sand in the washes hold a little moisture for a long time and the tree's root are far reaching. If rain does not come for a year or two or even five, it will turn the edges of its leaves to the



*After collecting slips of ironwood from a desert trip, True Slocum spreads them before her and then starts matching and fitting the pieces in the form of birds. Type of creation evolves as the pieces fit together.*

sun and grimly hang on.

"Its iron heart is practically impenetrable to termites. Even after death its indestructible roots will hold it upright, a silver black ghost against the pastel colors of the desert—a monument to itself as durable as marble.

"A man who has lived much of his life on the open desert never stands under one of these ancient trees without thinking, 'Just the place to camp. Bed roll there. Fire there. Grub box in that crotch, canteens on this limb. Water cans in the shady spot.'

"He thinks too of what the ironwood tree has meant to him and to other men who have traveled the desert before him: shade in almost shadeless land; browse for burros, fuel for campfires and even nutritious beans when other food sources failed."

A source of survival while living, in death the venerable ironwood tree is a source of beauty and as such lives forever. □



*Mrs. Henry Reans, of San Bernardino, uses natural ironwood pieces to decorate her patio. They can be either used in their natural state or sanded and polished.*



# Through Borrego Badlands

by Richard A. Bloomquist

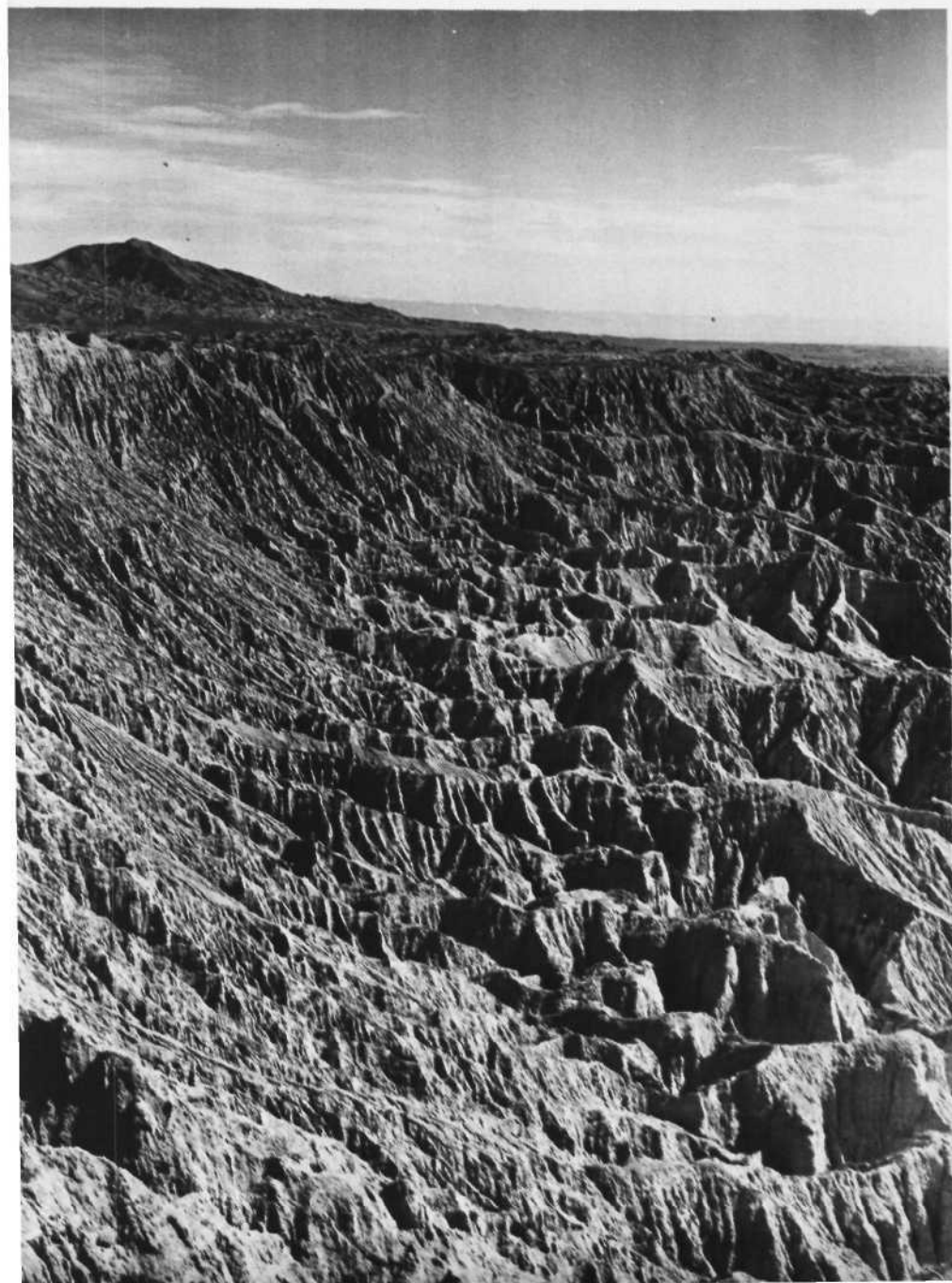
**I**N THE Colorado Desert of southeastern California lies a tract of land some 20 miles wide by 15 miles long known as the Borrego Badlands. The region once lay beneath the sea; then it was pushed up and eroded by wind and rain. Today it is a maze of sunshot hills and arroyos which embody much of the mystery and contradiction of the American desert.

From the highway, these Badlands appear devoid of color or interest, yet seen close-up in a jeep or on foot they reveal much beauty and hidden treasure: graceful smoke trees and palo verdes; oases of native palms; remote springs; and petrified wood, fossils, calcite crystals, and concretions.

Man has created a portion of the legacy of the Badlands, too. The Indian has left trails and potsherds. Anza paused at Borrego Spring ("San Gregorio") twice during the 1770s while opening an overland route to California. Pegleg Smith may have found, and lost, his three hills of black gold somewhere in the Badlands, and in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries burro prospectors added the lore of their wanderings to the land.

Even today this country is little changed. It still lies under the spell of silence and enchanted distance.

I had long been intrigued by the Borrego Badlands. I had driven the Truck-haven Trail and many of the sandy washes, and had camped in the shade of smoke trees and desert willows. Wanting to get still closer to the land, I decided upon a long, one-day circle hike through



*Large concretions in Anza/Borrego State Park's Pumpkin Patch (right) and surrounding formations gives one the feeling he is on the moon.*

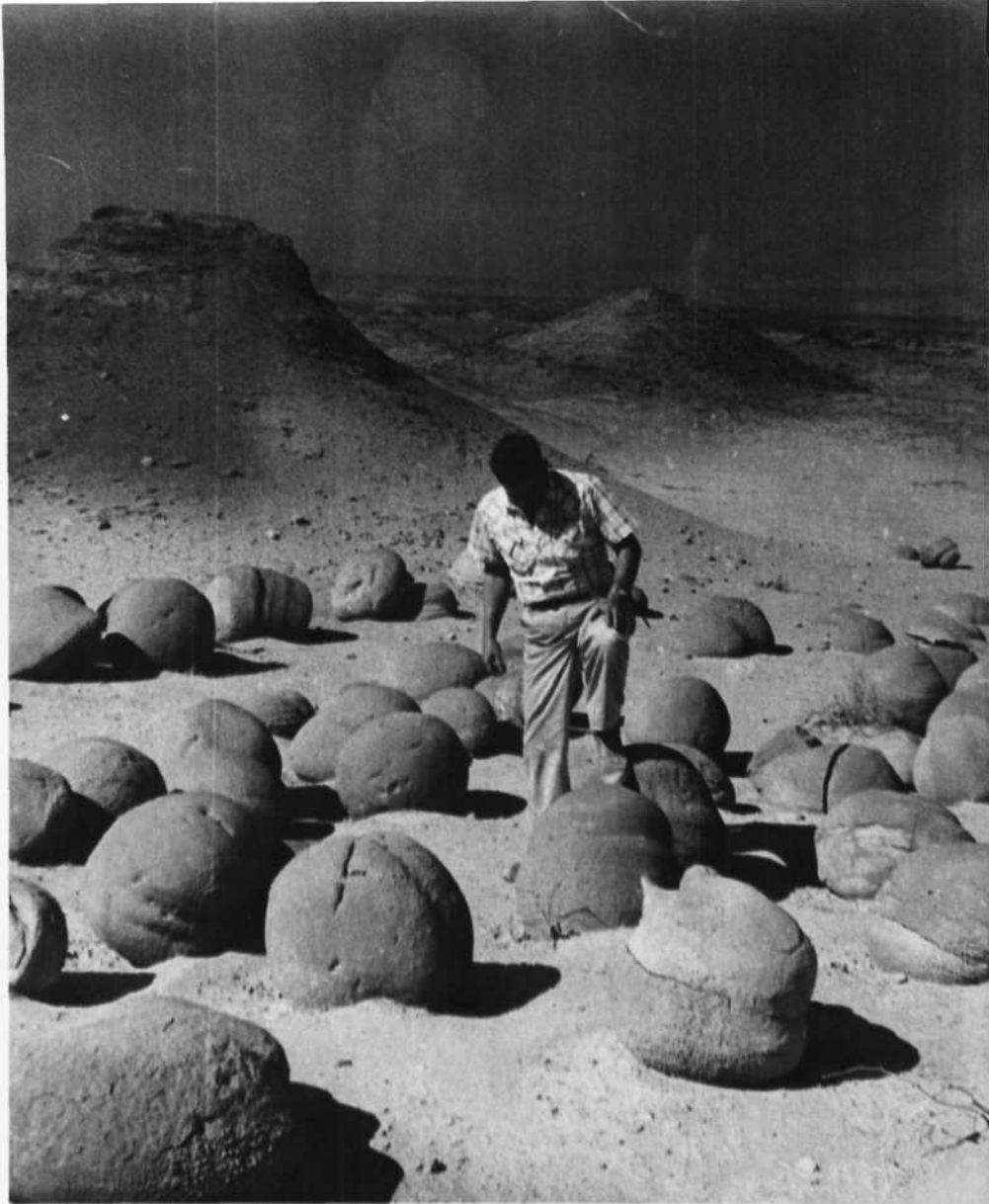
*An aerial view of the Borrego Badlands (opposite page) graphically shows how the land has eroded from flash floods and winds.*

the heart of the Badlands. Base camp would be at Barrel Spring, three miles northeast of Ocotillo Wells.

I drove to Barrel Spring on a pleasant day in late March. Once a barrel on top of a spring-formed sand dune protected water for travelers, but I could find no trace of the covering or the water. Today the place called "Barrel Spring" consists of many low, mesquite-covered dunes, and is an attractive campsite when the air is calm and not overly warm. During times of wind and heat, however, its openness and lack of shade make it uncomfortable. From the spot there is a fine panorama of the Badlands and the Santa Rosa range to the north.

A fraction of a mile to the west is Squaw Peak, a volcanic crag amid the surrounding sedimentary rock, small in size yet rich in desert legend. Prospectors have seen a mysterious light at Squaw Peak (and at other locations, too), a light sometimes described as a luminous sphere (the famed "Borrego fireball"), and sometimes as a lantern held by an enormous skeleton. Some have said the skeleton is the ghost of Pegleg Smith, still searching for his lost hills of gold.

From Barrel Spring I planned to hike in a northeasterly direction toward Tule Wash. Upon striking it I would return to camp in more or less a straight line. Borrego's Badlands are a relatively easy corner of the desert in which to navigate on foot. They are neatly bounded on all four sides: Santa Rosas to the north, Borrego Valley to the west, Highway 78 to the south, and Highway 86 and the Salton Sea to the east. There are prominent



landmarks to guide the traveler who is familiar with them: the Santa Rosa range itself, indicating north like a compass; Font's Point and Clay Point; Squaw Peak and Borrego Mountain; and the outlines of hill and mesa. Also, every wash in the heart of the Badlands, if followed downstream, leads eventually to a paved road.

With this route in mind, a canteen over my shoulder, and a lunch sack folded under my belt, I began my exploration of the Badlands. About one mile from Barrel Spring I came to abandoned Wolfe Well, with its rusted casing protruding from the ground. Just beyond rose Shell Reef, thick with fossils from the days when this sector of the desert lay beneath the sea.

I skirted the eastern flank of the Reef, then entered a region of grey hills and hummocks cut by numerous shallow washes. They marked the beginning of the concretion country, thousands of acres littered with countless sandstone forma-

tions of varying shapes and sizes. In one spot the forms were all rounded and of the size of marbles, while in another they were comparable to baseballs.

Other locales had their own peculiar configurations, and sausages, donuts, and dumbbells dotted the landscape. Still other areas cast up shapes which challenged the imagination: some might be likened to whale bones, some to ducks or geese, and some to pieces of pipe. Many were abstract forms, resisting classification. Adding to the wonder of the concretions was the land's complete separation from the world of man. No jeep treads, trail bike tracks, or footprints marked the desert here.

Passing through still more concretions, I reached Tule Wash and the Pumpkin Patch. There were man-made tracks here, for the wash is a main route of travel for four-wheelers exploring the Badlands. At the Pumpkin Patch the concretions are mostly round, and reach or surpass the

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Seventeen Palms oasis was a welcome site for Spanish explorers and prospectors for its shady palms and water. Today the water is gone, but it is a favorite meeting place for desert explorers.

size of pumpkins. Less than three miles down Tule Wash from this point is a giant sand dune, as well as the shore line of vanished Lake Cahuilla. Lake Cahuilla was far larger than the Salton Sea, and probably did not disappear completely until around A.D. 1500. Shells of organisms which lived in its fresh waters still abound on the desert floor. Indians camped along the receding shore line, leaving fish bones from ancient feasts which can be seen today.

My trail lay upstream, toward Seventeen Palms. After another mile I crossed into the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Up to this point the route had run through public domain land, neither a part of any park or other government reservation, nor owned by private citizens. Yet the boundary sign meant little in this country; beyond, the land was still fascinating and free.

Farther up Tule Wash I was surprised to find a tall and brilliantly painted clump of desert asters along the edge of the arroyo. Other flowers had long since faded, but the aster plant was in its full glory.

I angled north, past Five Palms and into the Arroyo Salado, the Badlands' "salt wash." Turning into a little tributary of the main wash, I reached the celebrated oasis of Seventeen Palms, with its spring of brackish water. Indians once



used the waterhole, leaving trails still visible nearby. Later, the spring was a favored rendezvous of the burro prospector and a focal point in the search for Pegleg's black gold. The late Henry E. W. Wilson passed this way many times during his intermittent fifty-year quest for the lost bonanza. The little grove has always seemed the classic palm oasis of the California desert—rich in lore, remote, hidden from view until the last moment, and then providing with its palms and water such a sharp contrast to its surroundings. I ate lunch and rested in the shade of this peaceful and storied oasis.

From Seventeen Palms I returned to camp at Barrel Spring by the most direct route, crossing the extensive low mud hills immediately south of the waterhole. From the tops of the first hills I climbed I could see the mesquite dunes at Barrel Spring, six miles distant as the crow flies.

There were some abrupt pitches at the beginning, but the footing was good and by scrambling with hands and feet I was able to get up and over. Then I picked up the first slender drainage channels running toward the south. These embryonic washes were at first only inches wide, but wide enough to allow one foot





# THE DATE FESTIVAL

You don't have to travel thousands of miles to visit Arabia and to see handsome shieks and pretty damsels of the Sultan's Court and Queen Scheherazade and her Court of Beauty.

All of these spectacular pageants will be presented in Indio, California during Riverside County's 1970 National Date Festival, February 13 through 23. During these 11 days the community celebrates the Arabian Nights theme with the residents dressing in colorful costumes of the Near East.

Since its inception in 1947 as a small county fair, the National Date Festival has increased in size each year until today it attracts thousands of visitors from throughout the United States. And because of its spectacular displays and pageants, it is one of the most photographic exhibitions in the nation.

In addition to the pageants, the fair presents exhibits of the recreational, industrial and agricultural aspects of Riverside County. The annual rock show is considered one of the best in the West.

Dates and citrus are shown in colorful displays along with a varied collection of desert dry arrangements in the floriculture area. A fine arts department features desert paintings. There is also a daily Junior Fair and Livestock Show.

On the outdoor entertainment side there are daily rodeos, camel races, ostrich races and a National Horse Show and on February 22 a giant parade is staged. Indio is located in Coachella Valley, the nation's major date producing area and a winter resort. It is approximately 125 miles from Los Angeles via Interstate 10 and State 111.

Daytime temperatures in the area are in the 80s during the day, but drop to the middle 40s during the night, so warm clothing is advised while watching the outdoor pageants.

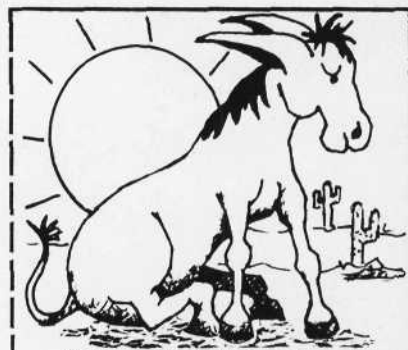
During the festival, accommodations are at a premium so reservations should be made in advance. Listings of hotels, motels and trailer parks can be obtained by writing to the Indio Chamber of Commerce, 82503 Highway 111, Indio, California 92201.

to be put ahead of the other. The mud hills rose sharply on either side, and over large tracts not a single living thing grew. Slowly the channels broadened, becoming a foot wide, then two, until finally they were full-fledged arroyos. Vegetation began to appear more frequently, too. Soon the hills opened up and the nearly level floor of the desert was just ahead.

The journey through the mud hills had been a memorable one, memorable for the terrain itself and for the absolute naturalness of the landscape. Not a track or a signpost or a piece of litter broke the spell. It was good to feel this purity, for the desert is fragile and much of its appeal lies in total wildness.

It was well into the afternoon when I reached Barrel Spring, ending a hike of some 17 miles. Soon twilight came to soften the colors and deepen the peace of the desert. There was much to remember: rocks shaped like baseballs and pumpkins, fossils formed in the sea, oases of wild palms, the mud hills, the lore of Indians and burro men.

The Badlands still are a land of mystery and silence and enchanted distance, a land for which, at twilight, the haunting and elusive melody of the oboe would be fitting accompaniment. □



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# Desert Gardening

by Eric Johnson

**I**N THE Coachella Valley you will notice the strong climatic differences when you see the kinds of gardens that grow side by side and the wide variety of plants that grow so well. In all areas from Palm Springs to Indio you find the rock, gravel, cactus, palm and native plant combination adjacent to the green lawn, colorful flower border, fruitful citrus, and lush looking vines.

The Coachella Valley gardener who prefers the more simple life joins the desert. The more dedicated and plant oriented home gardener develops a luxuriant setting, holds the desert back with walls or hedges and creates a green and colorful oasis. Often you see a blending of the two kinds of garden.

Gardening seasons are different. In the Coachella Valley the important gardening season accelerates in the fall in distinct difference to the usual spring planting activity found in other climes. You take advantage of the favorable fall weather by feverishly planting annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, vines and rye grass lawns from October first to the middle of November. It is a well known desert gardener's experience that plants established during the fall and winter season move into the warming trend of late February with the brightest and showiest array of color seen anywhere.

The pioneer and rancher of the past planted poplars, eucalyptus, elms and tamarix for wind protection and shade. He planted figs, dates, grapes and citrus for food. With new surges of home development the desert gardener and nurseryman have tested many kinds of plants and found new friends that thrive in the wind, heat, short winter cold and sandy soils. Skyline palms, tall spreading shade trees, flowering trees, shrubs, vines, annuals, and acres of lawns in home gardens and golf courses are vigorous indicators of the current growth.

Palms are versatile, adaptive, capture interest with distinctive features and are the sign of both oasis garden as well as desert garden. Because palms are generally clean, use them around patio and swimming pool areas. Their trunks and fronds create strong accents during the day and at night their spectacular fans or feathers can be silhouetted with lights.

The great value of vines such as bougainvillea and many others is in the masses of color and green cover they produce as a foil for blank walls and fences. The seasonal color range covers the entire year. Some vines even provide ground cover for steep slopes, others have tendrils that cling to most any support.

Roses are high on the list for space in Coachella Valley gardens, for they provide long season bloom for both garden show as well as for flower arrangement. Many old favorites continue to be planted, however the work of rose hybridizers increases the number of forms, colors and types available each year.

Trees create more than just favorable garden environments, they also give a garden more personality. In addition, their value increases the potential of many kinds of flowering shrubs and annuals that could not survive under the severity of summer heat conditions. Use them to buffer wind as well as to reduce temperatures. Accent their stem structure and foliage with night lighting. Orchid trees, red flowering bottle brush, jacaranda and crepe myrtle are just a few of favorites.

Junipers, pines, arbovitae, and cypress plants have earned a real place in our gardens for they are widely adaptable, easily maintained, and add stability to most any planting. The role they play in both oasis and desert gardens increases as more varieties are developed and used in gardens.

Citrus trees offer the desert gardener evergreen foliage, fragrant flowers in season and both decorative and edible fruit. The high heat requirements are readily met in Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley. Under these conditions full flavor and juiciness develop better here than in any other area.

The best advice for the development of any kind of garden in the Coachella Valley is to use the experience that neigh-

bors have developed as well as that of professional landscape architects and long established nurserymen. Fewer errors and less experimentation will be achieved when you relate with those who have gardened in the area for long periods of

time. A number of horticultural books are available to the new as well as experienced desert gardener that provide excellent material for study and use in learning more of the requirement of gardening in the Coachella Valley. □

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*Rocks are stacked like giant playing blocks at Cap Rock in the Joshua Tree National Monument. They are favorite climbing areas for youngsters.*

I LOOKED ACROSS Queen Valley where the Joshua Trees stuck up like twisted and gnarled fingers of a pre-historic era and I was glad. I was glad that the Mormons had named those overgrown members of the lily family for the biblical Joshua. Every time I look at the outstretched arms supplicating the heavens I think what a fine reason it was for naming them.

When I first announced my plans to go to Joshua Tree National Monument everyone said, "You're going alone? You'll be scared to death . . . You won't stay." I wasn't really alone. I had Brandy, my red long-haired Dachshund and he took over as the head of the tent. He even tried to confiscate my sleeping bag but we had a little talk about it and he decided I could use it.

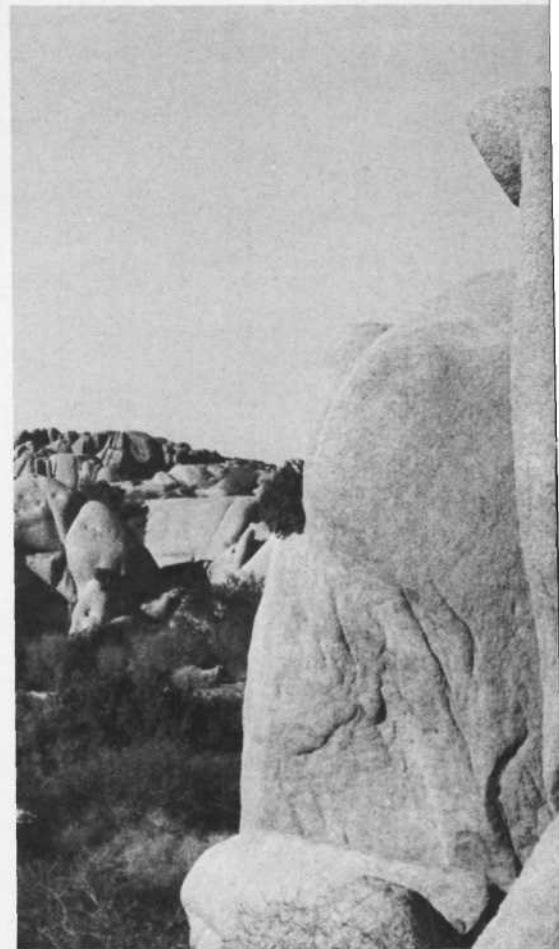
I camped at Jumbo Rocks campground in a cozy little nook under a Hollyleaf Buckthorn that provided shade and rustling sounds. I hung a couple of little brass temple bells in the tree and the desert winds made them chime with a happy sound.

That evening in front of my campfire, civilization's problems slipped from my shoulders like a worn coat and the desert had me in its grasp. Two friendly little desert mice, big-eared and white-footed, stopped by and looked me over. Then, with old lady fastidiousness, they went about picking up succulent dainties from

under the bushes. Desert cottontails hopped in and out of the shadows as an off-key coyote howled in the background. It must have been a young one as he hadn't mastered the fine art of blood chilling howls and was still trying to find the right notes.

Rising with the sun the next morning, Brandy and I headed toward Cholla (choh-yah) Gardens west of Jumbo Rocks on the road leading to Interstate 10. The road starts dropping down into the basin of the Colorado Desert. It's almost like sliding down the side of a giant saucer. On the right in the Hexie mountain range buildings belonging to the Golden Bee mine can be seen. At one time there were plenty of prospectors in this area so if you go hiking watch out for old mine shafts and prospecting holes.

A little farther on there is a large garden of Cholla cactus. It is sometimes called the "jumping" or "teddy bear" cactus. The Cholla is pale green and the soft looking white thorns that coat it gives it a cuddly, friendly appearance. On your first encounter you may be tempted to feel it. Please don't. The joints break off easily and the hooked thorns have been known to even penetrate shoe leather. Cactus Wrens build their nests in the arms of these spiny plants and the pack rats use the fallen joints for front doors to their burrows as added protection against their enemy, the Kit fox.



After following the nature trail at Cholla Gardens I took a few pictures of Pinto Basin. This was once the home of a primitive man called the Pinto Man who lived along the ancient lake shore. Then I headed up out of the Colorado desert toward the higher Mojave.

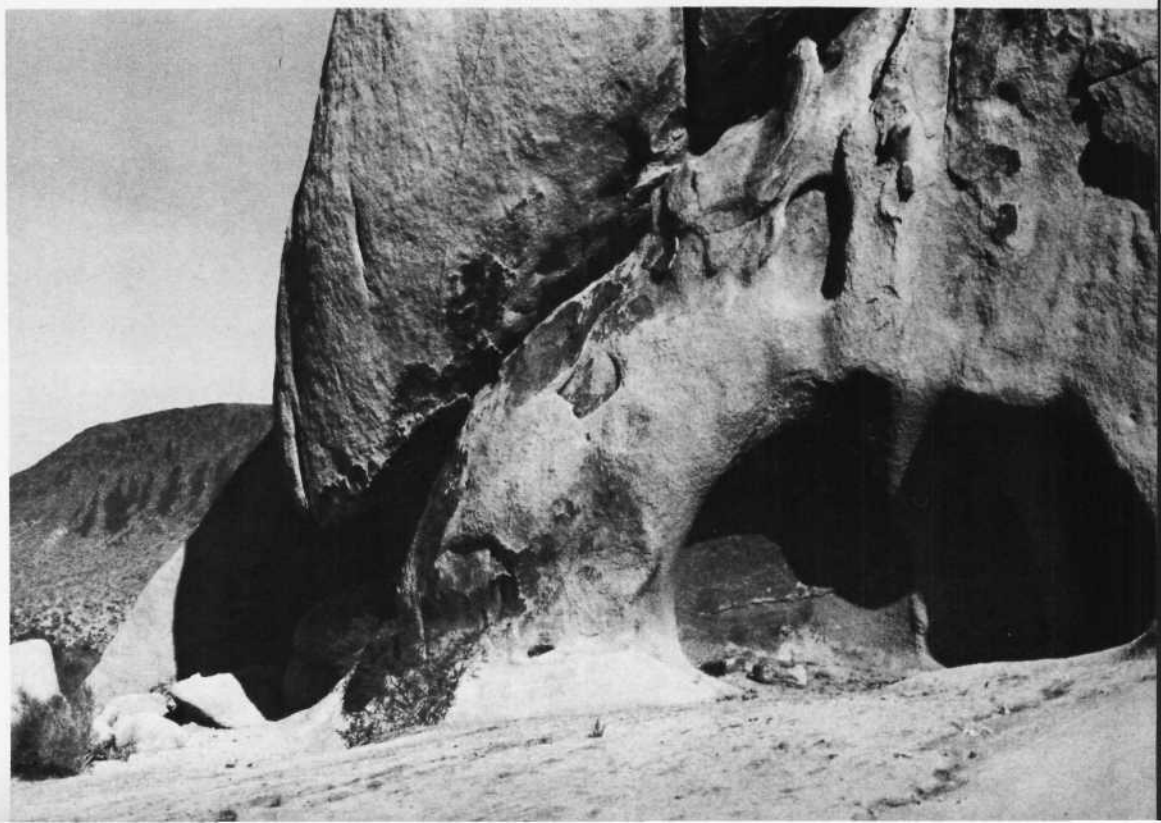
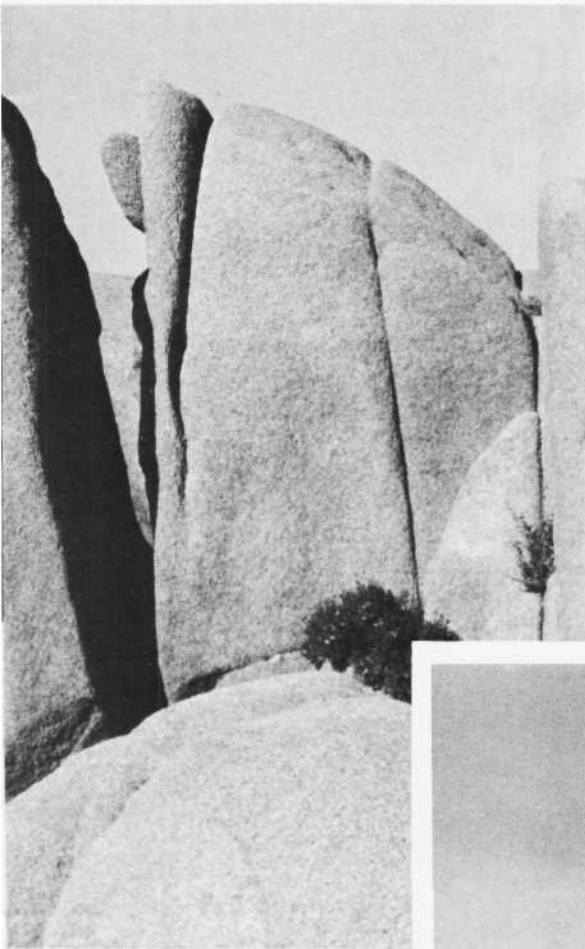
As I neared the White Tank campground I decided to pull in and look it over. It has six campsites and a short (1/8th of a mile) nature trail up to Arch Rock. One of the interpretive texts on the trail describes the area as "hills

*Continued on Page 38*

# OVER THE ROCKS

## JOSHUA STYLE

by Betty J. Tucker



*Formations cast  
strange and beautiful  
shadows (above) at  
Ivanpah Tank.  
Rock cave at Squaw  
Tank (right) was  
once Indian home.  
Note mortar hole at  
left of cave.*

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# It's Never Too Late For A Date

by Jack Sheppard

THERE'S NO such thing as a wild date," may not be true in Hollywood, but it is a fact in Riverside County's Coachella Valley where 90 percent of all the dates in the United States are which produce more than 48 million grown by 220,000 cultivated palm trees pounds of the delicious fruit each year.

Relative to the dating game, however, there is one similarity between Hollywood and Coachella Valley—the dating participants are male and female. Just as it was thousands of years ago, cross-fertilization of the date palm is the only way of propagation.

Each tree is either a male or female and since the female blossoms have no odor and therefore do not attract bees, which may pollinate other plants, fertilization must be done by hand. Wind will cause some pollinating, but it is not selective.

A date orchard can be compared to a harem, since there is usually only one male tree to 48 female species per acre. Date palms may live to be hundreds of years old. The scientific name is *Phoenix dactylifera*, and the mythological definition of "phoenix" is "rising from the ashes after fire."

Since the dates you eat today are products of years of experimentation and

cross-breeding, Coachella Valley date growers are very selective and proud of their products. Hand polination is conducted by cutting the male pollen-bearing blossom stem into short lengths and then inserting them into the cluster of female blossoms, of which there may be 25 to 30 on each tree.

When stems holding the female blossoms curve downward and fruitation proceeds, young date clusters are covered with sheets of brown paper (you can see these as you drive along State 111 between Palm Desert and Indio) to prevent blackening of the fruit by rain. At picking time ripe dates are carefully selected from those that are not ready to pick, as all do not mature at the same time. Each tree might have to be picked eight different times to gather all of the fruit.

So you can see there is no such thing as a "wild date" in Coachella Valley. However, the flavor of the individual dates—and the delicious date shakes which are a meal in themselves—vary to suit your individual taste. And the only way to decide which you like best is to stop at the many date shops along State 111 and around Indio. Most shops are open 10 months of the year and are only





*Polinating and picking dates is a much more difficult task than eating the delicious fruit. There is one male tree to 48 female.*

closed during July and August.

While you are munching on a date, you'll be doing the same thing your ancestors did 8000 years ago in Babylonia—and possibly even before. There are many references in the Bible to the date palm which scholars believe originated in the fertile valley of what today is Iraq. The date was a source of life long before Christianity—the birth of Apollo is supposed to have taken place on the Isle of Delos under a palm tree where his mother, Leta, had gone for the delivery of the child of Zeus.

Dates were eaten and revered by people throughout the Eastern world, including Egyptians, Greeks, Hebrews, Romans, Arabs and Assyrians, all of whom used it as a basic nutritional food. A camel can exist on dates and water alone—and whoever heard of an overweight camel! A pound of dates contains twice the food value of an equal amount of meat and three times that of fish.

Although dates date back 8000 years or more in the Old World, they were not introduced into the United States on a commercial basis until 1912 when the first offshoots were brought from Algeria. The Spanish missionaries brought some date palm seeds with them to Mexi-

co and Baja California and their efforts can still be seen around Old Town in San Diego, but these dates are not of the cultivated quality of Coachella Valley

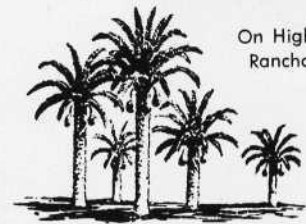
And the stalwart and farsighted pioneers who believed the deserts of Coachella Valley were ideal for growing dates didn't have an easy time during their safari to the Old World to bring back the "forbidden" fruit, as recorded in this story:

"Suddenly, in the middle of the night, the Arabs swooped down on the camp of the California date importers with blazing rifles and flashing scimitars. The importers had gone to the Persian Gulf area of Arabia to obtain offshoots from a well-protected garden in which a rare variety of date was being grown. All went well until a native, in whom they had confided, proved to be a snake-in-the-grass and informed on his new-found friends. In the darkness of the night, the Americans managed to escape with their lives and a few of the precious offshoots."

It has taken more than 8000 years to develop and bring this nutritional food to California so the next time you are in Coachella Valley have a treat—it's never too late for a date! □

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## FOCUS ON FUN

Continued from Page 17

left by the early Spaniards. The charm of this museum is the helter-skelter and hodge-podge displays, such as a giant rattlesnake skin lying next to a World War I German helmet and next to this an old flintlock rifle. It has one of the best Indian arrowhead collections in California. The museum is on State 71 between Aguanga Valley and Anza in Riverside County, only a hour's driving from Palm Desert. Take State 74 from Palm Desert (known as the Palms to Pines Highway) which climbs from the desert floor into the pine-tree country of the Santa Rosa Mountains. Twenty-four miles from Palm Desert turn left on State 71 to the museum.

### WHITewater TROUT RANCH

Open the year around every day except Monday, this is an excellent picnic and one-day outing spot for the family. A mountain setting with lakes, meadows and brooks is projected here in a capsule size. The main attraction is two pools so well stocked with trout you have to fight to keep the small ones from being caught. Charge is only \$1.00 per pole, which includes rental of the equipment, a bucket, supply of bait and the cleaning and packaging of your catch. There is also a charge for each fish you catch, but it is much less than buying at the market—and more fun. You can picnic all day for 25c per person. From Interstate 10 a few miles northwest of Palm Springs take the Whitewater offramp for about five miles.

### PALM CANYONS

There are approximately 11,000 native palm trees growing in the canyons and hills in the Southern California desert. Majority of these stately palms—known as *Washingtonia filifera*—grow in the scenic canyons near Palm Desert and Palm Springs. The most spectacular is Palm Canyon, easily reached by passenger car from Palm Springs. The area is owned by the Cahuilla Indians who charge a nominal fee for the privilege of picnicking and hiking through the verdant canyons. Others are located only a short distance above Palm Desert on State 74. For detailed information on these canyons stop by the Desert Magazine or order a copy of the March, 1965 issue of Desert Magazine.

### THE HIGH DESERT

A scenic drive and circular trip from Coachella Valley through the High Desert Country and back will take you through Morongo Valley, Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms. These charming communities are located about 2000 feet above sea level along the Little San Bernardino Mountains. There is a marked difference between the native desert plants of the sea-level areas and those you will find along this route. Joshua Trees, yuccas and cholla grow among the giant sandstone formations. An easy one-day trip from Palm Desert, take the State 62 from Interstate 10, northeast of Palm Springs which takes you to Twentynine Palms. From there take the paved road through Joshua Tree National Monument (see article in this issue) to Interstate 10 and return to Indio or take the sidetrip through Box Canyon.

### PALM SPRINGS DESERT MUSEUM

The Desert Museum in Palm Springs is not a museum from the literal or static sense of the word. It is a living museum—an institution of ideas rather than things which are constantly being changed to create adventures into the past, present and future.

A few of the services and exhibits offered by this unusual non-profit, non-municipal museum include Fine Art, Primitive and Folk Art Shows; Natural History and Scientific Exhibits; Auditorium Lectures and Concerts; Film Series; Field Trips and Nature Walks; Publishing of Scientific Books; Art Classes and a Reference Library.

Two continuing exhibits are The Saga of the Desert, showing the natural history of the desert, including the fields of geology, biology and anthropology and The Hall of the Southwestern Indian which relates the Cahuilla Indians of the Palm Springs area with neighboring tribes of Arizona.

The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. and Sundays from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M. Closed Monday. General admission is 50 cents and free to members, students, teachers and children.

### SALTON SEA

Fed by the affluent waters of the canals and ranches of the Imperial Valley and the runoff from the Chocolate and Santa Rosa mountains, Salton Sea is more than 30 miles long and about 15 miles wide. It is located between Indio and Brawley with State 86 on the west and State 111 on the east.

A year around camping, recreation and fishing area, Salton Sea was formed in 1905 when the Colorado broke its banks and flooded much of the Imperial Valley. It was only through the efforts of the Southern Pacific Railroad that the Colorado was once again diverted to its main stream. The California State Recreation Area, with free public overnight camp grounds, is located along the State Highway 111 section.

As you drive along State 86 on the edges of the Santa Rosa Mountains you can see the watermarks of the ancient Lake Cahuilla, once a fresh water lake 100 miles long and 60 miles wide which disappeared from desiccation. Millions of years ago the entire area was under the ocean until the land erupted and the mountains were formed.

### ANZA-BORREGO STATE PARK

On the west side of the Salton Sea is the California Anza/Borrego State Park in the center of which is the resort community of Borrego Springs. A newly-paved highway—called the Borrego Salton Seaway—connects State 86 at Salton City with Borrego Springs which has complete recreational facilities, restaurants, motels and golf courses.

The park itself offers all types of scenery and can be explored by passenger car and four-wheel-drive vehicles. There are public overnight camping facilities in most sections of the park. In the spring it is covered with wildflowers and is a favorite area for color photographers. Maps of the area may be obtained in Borrego Springs or at the Desert Magazine Book Shop in Palm Desert.

### SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS

The Palms to Pines Highway (State 74) is one of the most scenic routes in Southern California. It leaves the desert floor at Palm Desert and winds through the Santa Rosa Mountains as cacti are replaced by flora of the higher elevations, including yucca, agave, mesquite and then, reaching the 5000-foot mark, are the verdant pine-covered meadows and mountain slopes.

During the summer it is a welcome respite from the hot desert and in the winter the snow-covered area offers family fun and sledding. The community of Idyllwild has facilities for travelers both in winter and summer. For a one-day circular trip take State 74 to Mountain Center and R1 to Idyllwild and then down the winding mountain highway to Interstate 10 and back to Coachella Valley.

If you would rather stay in warmer climate, turn left of State 74 on State 71, 25 miles from Palm Desert. Take State 71 through Anza (see article in this issue) to Aguanga, left on State 79 to Warner Hot Springs. Two miles south of Warners turn left on S3 to Borrego Springs. From there take the Borrego Salton Seaway to State 86 and then left to Indio and Palm Desert.



## WHITE MAN'S PUEBLO

Continued from Page 9

of tales," having been steeped in Indian lore.

A native of Minnesota, he was a descendant of John Cabot, the discoverer of Newfoundland. He came by his reputation as an adventurer early in life. Having left home at the tender age of sixteen, he drifted to Alaska. Friends say he operated a cigar store there during the gold rush and made a fortune. Later, he lived for two years in an Eskimo village. Then he came to Desert Hot Springs and started his castle.

He never stopped building, adding room after room. He was often heard to say, "I'll never stop building and adding on to the castle—as long as I keep building I'll never die!"

But a little more than three years ago, the desert lover's blunted pick and shovel, along with a few other crude tools, lay idle in his workshop. To the end, he was true to his word. He continued to build for 24 years, until his death at the age of 83.

After his death the building was empty until a group of professional and business men formed an organization called the Landmark Conservators, a non-profit corporation devoted to restoring and preserving landmarks of America.

They have not only restored the building, but have added many new artifacts and things of historical interest. Now called Cabot's Old Indian Pueblo, the building is open for public tours every day of the week except Mondays from 9:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. Desert Hot Springs is a few miles north of Interstate 10 near Palm Springs.

When visitors tour the strange castle, climb the narrow cement steps, try to understand its peculiar structure, they are almost certain to feel the personality and presence of the man who gave over a third of his lifetime to its construction.

With every shovelful of earth he dug, with the driving of every nail and with the crude hand-mixing of every bag of cement, there went into the castle, bit by bit, year by year, along with the man's strength, his very heart, soul and spirit.

The Cabot castle-turned-museum atop Miracle Hill stands—a tribute to a remarkable man who created a remarkable spectacular! □

## Calendar of Western Events

*This column is a public service and there is no charge for listing your event or meeting—so take advantage of the space by sending in your announcement. However, we must receive the information at least two months prior to the event. Be certain to furnish complete details.*

JANUARY 24 & 25, CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUBS 11th annual convention, Del Webb, Townhouse, Fresno, Calif.

JANUARY 30 & 31, PALM SPRINGS ANTIQUE SHOW & SALE, Riviera Convention Center, Palm Springs, Calif. Admission, \$1.25.

JANUARY 31, BARBED WIRE SHOW sponsored by the California Barbed Wire Collectors Association, Sutter Creek, Calif. Exhibits of barbed wire, fencing tools and associated items. Free admission.

FEBRUARY 1-9, TUBAC 10TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS, Tubac, Arizona.

FEBRUARY 8 & 9, PROSPECTORS PARADISE sponsored by the Orange County Mineral and Lapidary Society, Junior Exhibits Bldg., Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, Calif. Write Marshall Tinsley, 1111 Lake Ave., Huntington Beach, Calif. 92646.

FEBRUARY 14 & 15, WESTERN STATES DOG-SLED DERBY, Meadow Ranch, Utah. Featuring top Arctic dog teams from 11 states.

FEBRUARY 19-21, SCOTTSDALE ROCK CLUB'S 5th Annual Show. Scottsdale, Arizona. For information write Oren Sprague, 116 E. Del Rio, Tempe, Arizona 85281.

FEBRUARY 22, MOTHER LODGE RALLY sponsored by the Sierra Treasure Hunting Club, Georgetown, Calif. A family off-the-road rally for four-wheel-drive vehicles.

FEBRUARY 22, YUCAIPA WOMAN'S CLUB OPEN HOUSE, Yucaipa, (Calif.) Adobe Historical Landmark.

FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 1, AMERICAN INDIAN AND WESTERN RELIC SHOW AND SALE, sponsored by the California Indian Collectors, Great Western Exhibit Center, 2120 So. Eastern Avenue, Los Angeles. Antique and modern Indian arts and crafts and Western Americana items for sale, trade and display. Admission \$1.25. Write Howard Chatt, 2324 W. 25th St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90018.

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 1, ANTIQUE BOTTLE CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY annual show and sale, Retail Clerks Union Hall, 8530 Stanton, Buena Park, California. For information write Jim Sinsley, P. O. Box 10424, Santa Ana, Calif. 92711.

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## OVER THE ROCKS, Joshua Style

*Continued from Page 33*

of white Monsonite (mainly feldspar, quartz and mica) when molten intured older rocks below ground level, hardened and was later exposed by erosion. The weather in this low desert ranges from 25 to 109 degrees. The annual rainfall is between 4.11 and 7.5 inches. The humidity 13 to 38%. It averages 272 sunny days each year."

Arch Rock, seen high above, presents a combination of jointing and exfoliation. Jointing produced the narrow ridge and exfoliation of the lower part removed enough sheets to produce the opening.

The next campground is Belle. It is located on level ground and gives a more stretched-out view. It is the smallest campground with only five sites but, as with all the camps, it is very clean. In fact, Joshua Tree is one of the best cared for national monuments I have ever visited.

Ivanpah Tank is just a short drive off the main road headed toward Joshua Tree. Here fantastically shaped towering rocks cast strange and beautiful patterns as the sun and shadows set dramatic moods. Brandy and I walked down to the end of the road and looked at the remains of a cement and block dam that had formed the man-made tanks used to catch rainwater for the cattle.

There is a beautiful drive of 5.5 miles on a sandy road back to Squaw Tank. The road drops down into a valley filled with Joshua Trees, Mesquite, and desert Senna. The Senna appears lifeless most of the year but becomes a solid mass of yellow flowers in April and May. It is sometimes called the "rattlebox" because after blooming the seeds rattle in their woody pods when the plant is moved. If you brush against it you might think a rattlesnake was giving you a warning.

This is a colorful drive in the spring when the yellow cupped Evening primrose, Adonis lupine and the Cresote bush bloom. The Cresote bush gives off an odor that reminds me of hot asphalt. The Mexicans call it hediondilla, meaning "little stinker." It has beautiful yellow flowers and the plant is supposed to have medicinal value. The Pima Indians boil the leaves and use the concoction as a poultice.



At the base of the huge rock near the parking area can be seen three mortars used by the Serrano Indians to grind the Pinon and Jojoba (ho-Ho-bah) nuts. The Jojoba or "goatnut" tastes like filberts and when dried, ground and roasted was used to make a rather interesting beverage.

Mortars and grinding rocks can also be found at Indian Cove, Sheep Pass and Hidden Valley.

There is an unpatrolled trail leading off toward the San Bernardino mountains from Squaw Tank. It looked inviting so I put on my pack and went tinkling merrily down the trail. Several people have asked me why I have the three little copper bells strung on my pack and at my tent. One time I met an old desert wanderer who had bells tied to his staff. I asked him if there was a reason for them. He said, "Them rattlers give a warnin' so I give them one and we leave each other alone." I don't know how true this is but I have never seen a rattlesnake in all the times I've wandered through the desert. Besides that, the bells are cheerful.

If you like a long hike and climbing, you should try the Hexie mountain area. If you watch carefully you can find petroglyphs on the rocks along the washes of the Hexie and Cottonwood mountains. A couple I met, the Boyles of Tustin, California, had just climbed the Hexie



*Some of the largest Joshua Trees in the West are located in the Joshua Tree National Monument and in the surrounding "high desert" country. They are called the "praying tree" because of their raised arms appearance.*

John Lang discovered the Lost Horse gold mine when searching for his strayed horse. This explains the name of the Lost Horse Valley you passed through. The entrance to the Lost Horse mine is on the left of the road just a short distance from the grave. The mine had been open to the public but so much vandalism took place that it is now open strictly on a tour basis that is conducted by the Rangers during the seasonal months.

Salton View affords a spectacular view encompassing the Salton Sea which is 241 feet below sea level to San Jacinto (10,831 ft.) and San Gorgonio (11,502 ft.). If you really hit a clear day you may be able to see Signal mountain in Mexico over 90 miles away.

Hidden Valley campground is located 14 miles from the Joshua Tree entrance. This is a popular spot and usually filled to overflowing on weekends. The rocks are ideal for easy climbing and frequented by all ages of children.

Near this campground is Hidden Valley itself. This wildly beautiful, almost completely enclosed box canyon was once the hideout used by cattle rustlers. They would steal cattle from the ranchers and hide them in the canyon until they could find a convenient time to take them out and sell them. Once you see the narrow entrance you will understand why it took the ranchers so long to find this hideout.

An exhibit room and information desk manned by a helpful Ranger is located at the Visitor Center at the Twentynine Palms Oasis. Colonel Henry Washington, a government surveyor, was the first white man to visit this oasis. The palms located here were named after him.

From the Los Angeles area take Interstate 10—the one that leads toward Palm Springs. After passing through Cabazon take the off-ramp State 62 which is the road to Twentynine Palms. The monument starts two miles south of the Twentynine Palms Highway. □

and said they were the first up there since 1964. At the summit there is a can containing dates and names of the climbers.

After leaving Squaw Tank drive through Queen Valley and on the right you will see Ryan mountain. From the parking area there is a rough and rugged trail that is only 2.10 miles round trip. However it does take two or three hours and climbs to 5,461 feet. The view is spectacular.

Next along the way is the Ryan Riding and Hiking campground. It is unique in that it is not only a campground but also offers hitching rails. This is for the serious hiker or rider. A trail leads out of the back of the campground.

We cruised on down the road and came back to Cap Rock. There is a well laid out nature trail that a lot of people miss because they only stop on one side. Descriptive brochures can be purchased for ten cents at the beginning of the trail or you may borrow one and then return it to the box after you finish the trail.

Don't miss the drive up to the Salton View as it has an interesting history. If you go slowly and watch on the right side you will see a grave. Its granite headstone bears these crudely carved words, "John Lang Died Here Buried By W. F. Keys, Frank Kiler, Jeff Peed, On Mar. 15, 1925."



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Undated

# Woman's Viewpoint



**W**HO WOULD believe that weeds could look so lovely? The oval picture in the photograph is simply an assortment of pressed roadside weeds. Maybe you recognize the clover, wild strawberry, and sidebells. The flowers in this picture are pale yellow. Two other oval pictures were also made, one using pink blossoms and the other purple. How fun it is to make something from almost nothing.

What appears to be an old-fashioned frame is really an inexpensive plaster-of-Paris replica covered with gold leaf. The background is velvety velour paper. (The frames, gold leaf, and paper can be purchased at hobby stores.)

Brittle pressed weeds require careful handling because they shatter easily. It is best to break blossoms apart with your fingers. Scissors or clippers snap the stems so abruptly it often ruins the flower. Use tweezers to arrange the bits of blossoms and foliage into a bouquet on an oval piece of paper. When the desired effect is achieved, move it onto the velour. Pick up each piece with tweezers and dab a little glue on the back with a toothpick. Then carefully place it on the background. Flowers are almost impossible to rearrange after they have been set on the velour; so be cautious.

After the glue is dry, clean the velour with masking tape. Non-glare glass holds the flowers securely and makes them look almost as if they are imbedded in plastic. The back is held with an oval of card-

board cut from a shoe box. To finish with a professional touch paste an oval piece of brown paper over the back of the frame. If this inspires you to work with pressed flowers, let us know how your project turns out.

In the October issue a reader asked what she could do with pieces of broken glass she had found when collecting broken bottles. So many ideas have poured in we might have to resort to breaking a few bottles to get enough glass to try all the projects.

Mary Springer of Park City, Utah, makes long chains of colored glass to hang in the window of her newspaper office on Main Street. She outlines each irregular piece of glass with pliable electrician's wire, leaving a small space at one corner to insert an "S" hook. The pieces are all about three inches in diameter but each one is a completely different shape.

Some of the glass has been salvaged from the stained glass windows of old homes that have been torn down in her charming mining town turned ski resort.



Mary also bought new glass to get a variety of colors for her intriguing glass curtains.

Several readers, including *Desert's* secretary, Elta Shively, suggested crushed glass mosaics. Readers with creative talent could design original wall plaques. Wouldn't a collage using weathered wood, dried weeds, purple glass, and rusty barb wire look handsome in a den?

Timid souls can use crushed glass on paint-by-number kits. To make glass for

a mosaic, separate the glass according to color, and put into a double paper sack. Hammer the sack until the glass is uniformly crushed. The background for a mosaic can be wood, burlap over cardboard, cork, etc. Draw the design on the background material. Put a layer of glue about 1/8 inch thick on all parts of the design that use the same color. Sprinkle the crushed glass over the glue and let dry. Shake the unglued particles off and do the next color the same way until the design is completed. Cord can be used to outline and define separate colors.

Phil and Shirley Boyer made candle holders by gluing all sizes and colors of broken glass on short bottles and drinking glasses. They use Duco Cement because it dries clear and lets the flame shine through. The spaces between the colored glass is grouted with liquid steel applied by a toothpick.

Bertha Newcomb of Lincoln, California, had several great ideas for broken glass. One was to make old-fashioned wind chimes. She suggests cutting the glass into rectangles and suspending them from string tied to an embroidery hoop. The various sizes and thicknesses of the glass make different tones when the wind blows them.

Thank you readers, for taking time to share your ideas through our newly enlarged feature. Now will you please take a few minutes to send us your family's favorite camp recipe? Perhaps it is an over-the-fire stew, a make-ahead casserole, or a shish-kabob dessert. The May issue will be devoted to *Desert* readers' taste-tested recipes. It ought to be great and just in time for summer vacation! □

*John A. Robinson*

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## NEEL'S NURSERY...



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### New Mystery Theory . . .

I was intrigued by the mystery of the moving rocks in Death Valley as described in *The Riddle of the Racetrack* in the November '68 issue. At the time I just couldn't accept the wind theory. I now have a new theory.

Recently my son was out panning gold. When he returned home he placed his gold pan in the garage. The pan still contained small rocks, sand and some water. His plan to pan the rest after getting home was temporarily delayed by business. I noticed the larger rock-pebbles were on the edge of the pan. The next afternoon the rock-pebbles had moved to the center of the pan and the water was nearly evaporated.

My theory is the water moved toward the center of the pan, leaving the area behind the rocks dry. As a result, as the water evaporated, the rocks had a minute downhill grade and gradually moved forward a fraction of an inch at a time. If this is true, the same theory could be applied to the Death Valley phenomenon on a larger scale.

This is merely a layman's theory—what do you think?

CECIL CLARK,  
Vernon, British Columbia.

### Whose Holes? . . .

We have found in the southwestern part of the United States more than 50 drill holes in rock boulders along an old Spanish trail. Some people with whom we have talked about it say that these holes were drilled by the Spaniards years ago. The holes vary in depth from 9" to 21" and are approximately 1-7/8" to a little over 2" in diameter.

Do you have any information about holes like this, or do you know anyone who might be able to help us? We are studying the early history of the Spaniards in the southwest and this is the first time we have encountered something of this nature. We would greatly appreciate any information you can give us.

BOBB CASSELL,  
Gilchrist, Oregon.

*Editor's Note: Our research department has failed to find information on the above. Maybe a reader could help Mr. Cassell. Send your theories to us and we'll keep everyone informed.*

### Powerful Letter . . .

The letter by Mr. Arthur A. Hemler in the December '69 issue entitled *Three Hours May Be Forever* will have to go down as one of the best articles to ever grace the pages of *Desert Magazine*. How many young men are fortunate enough to have a father like Mr. Hemler?

BRIAN C. WOOD,  
Vancouver, B.C.

*Editor's Note: Mr. Wood's letter was one of many by readers who were deeply moved—as was the *Desert Magazine* staff—by Mr. Hemler's observations.*

## Letters to the Editor



Letters requesting answers must include stamped self-addressed envelope.

### Indian Burial . . .

During a trip through the Southwest last summer we met an archeologist who invited us to dig with him near Grants, New Mexico. Using a hunting knife and our bare hands we removed the dirt from the excavation. The picture shows how we found the artifacts.

The tall utensil has little ears on the side and was used for cooking; the large bowl was used for holding food and was decorated. The skull was that of a woman Indian about 30 years old. She must have been very beautiful as she had the most perfect teeth I have ever seen. Our archeologist friend said she had



been buried about 800 years. We removed the entire skeleton and found she had been buried in a sitting position with her knees drawn up under her chin. We also found turkey bones.

Evidently these people were farmers as there was an irrigation ditch nearby. They evidently departed due to a prolonged drought which lasted, according to the tree rings, about 47 years.

At Mesa Verde (Colorado) National Park there is an excellent museum showing the life of these early Indians, and evening camp fires where a ranger presents an interesting talk on these prehistoric peoples. It is well worth the trip.

A. V. SMALL,  
Augusta, Kansas.

### Crushed Editor . . .

The photography in the December '69 issue is wonderful, especially the *All Things to All Men*, but somebody got the wrong photo in for the abandoned Bodie "Rock Crusher."

It actually is an early gasoline engine, with a single horizontal cylinder. It had the then well known "hopper" type cooling system with the square box sitting on top of the cylinder.

I think the rod along the side of the cylinder is the one that works the exhaust valve. If I remember right the small weights above and below the flywheel hub, are held in by spiral springs. These, together with mechanism in the back, act as a governor.

The intake valve had no lifter, only a closing spring. It opened by vacuum, but if the exhaust valve couldn't close, there wasn't any, so it didn't open, and the gas was saved. When the engine slowed, the springs pulled the weights in, the exhaust valve worked again, and the engine would chug—chug—chug.

I could mention other things of interest to a mechanic—such as the rounded splash guard visible between the flywheels, partially covering the open crankcase; but it is unlawful to remove *anything* from Bodie, and I doubt very much if you'd want to learn how to operate it anyway, so I'd better stop right now.

CHARLES H. THOMSON,  
Apple Valley, California.

The "a once powerful ore crusher" in the December '69 issue looks more like an old one-cylinder kerosene engine to me, of the type that had a cooling water hopper (upper), a trip magneto, and an atmospheric inlet valve. If I could find one of these today, in fair condition, I'd buy it. Their old "chuff—chuff—chuff" was eminently more tolerable than the fussy clatter of today's smaller, high-speed generator units. Shades of Fairbanks-Morse.

NOEL KIRK,  
Los Angeles, California.

*Editor's Note: A thanks to Readers Thomson and Kirk and other engine experts for correcting the mistake. However, always remember, we all make an orer now and then.*

### Clean Campers . . .

On November 28, my wife and I went to Fish Creek Canyon just south of Ocotillo Wells on State 78 in the Anza/Borrego area. We drove 10 miles up the wash; there were a few hundred campers, dune buggies, jeeps, trail bikes, etc. In the entire canyon we didn't see one beer can or one piece of paper. They were the friendliest group of good campers we have met to date.

FRED RAWLING,  
Monterey Park, Calif.

*Editor's Note: Maybe the activities of the clean campers are finally influencing the neglectful ones. Let's all keep up the influence by printed word and direct contact with others.*



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