

## Pico Blanco History

Adventure is all around the Pico Blanco section of California. It is a land of spectacular scenery. The Little Sur River, wending its way through a primitive forest of giant redwoods, a waterfall gushing from the mountainside into the river, its spaciousness, its wild tempestuous backdrop, and its latent opportunities for wilderness treks and exploration are symbolic of the area's rugged beauty.

Records show that the land was first settled by homesteaders who obtained parcels of acreage through United States government patents as early as the year 1891. These settlers were William F. Notley, 1891, Thomas W. Allen, 1891, Isaac N. Swetnam, 1894, Harry E. Morton, 1896, Samuel L. Trotter, 1901, Abijah C. Robbins, 1901, Antere P. Lachance, 1904.

Because tanbark was a lucrative source of income at that time, by 1916 the Eberhard and Kron Tanning Companies, of Santa Cruz, acquired most of the acreage from the original owners. Timber was brought out by muleback and on clumsy wooden sleds and loaded by cable onto waiting vessels at Notley's Landing, located near the entrance to the present Palo Colorado road.

Interest in preserving the abundant growth of redwoods in the area prompted William Randolph Hearst, newspaper publisher, on November 18, 1921, through his Hearst Sunical Land and Packing Company, to purchase the entire acreage from the tanning companies at a cost of approximately \$50,000.

Through the efforts of Albert M. Lester, Carmel, on July 23, 1948, the property was conveyed to the Boy Scouts of America, Monterey Bay Area Council, Inc., for \$20,000.

Today, Pico Blanco Scout Reservation stands on this land, set aside to the sole end that it be preserved as a primitive area where the American boy can have the inestimable experience of untouched wilderness and unspoiled natural beauty. It is a reservation for boys, away from civilization, intended to offset the softening influence of our modern social life, and to help in the development of America's future men to be self-reliant, of strong character, and physically fit.