

SP#63

MOUNT SAN JACINTO STATE PARK
(Summary by Lois Ann Woodward)

Mount San Jacinto State Park is located in Riverside County nineteen miles west of Hemet on the upper reaches of the mountain top above Idyllwild. The park includes 14,000 acres and extends from Idyllwild on the "Pines to Palms Highway," to the summit of the mountain. Within its boundaries are preserved many beautiful scenic spots, native trees, plants and animal life.

The name San Jacinto was given to the mountain by Spanish priests who entered the beautiful valley of San Jacinto one summer on August 16, and named it, and the highest mountain peak for Saint Hyacinth, the saint whose day it was.

Mount San Jacinto is the chief peak of the range bearing its name which extending southeasterly, forms the eastern wall of the Colorado Desert from San Geronio Pass down to the Mexican border. A giant, perpetually snow-capped granite crag with great thrusts of lava, Mount San Jacinto's eastern face rears almost perpendicularly from the floor to an altitude of 10,805 feet. Deep canyons and ravines riddle and cut into the mountain's sides which thrust themselves out in huge, jagged spurs. Its rugged slopes bristle with pines. On the desert side, the trees

soon thin out graduating into chaparral, mesquite, sage and cacti.

The park area abounds in Indian lore and legend and historic incident. It was a favorite hunting and fishing ground for the numerous Indian tribes who lived on the mountain or in its vicinity. Dim trails, arrows, metate holes, rock picture drawings and carvings are some of the old relics of Indian life remaining today.

Mount San Jacinto was important in the annals of California history as a natural landmark. It was used as a guidepost for travelers across the Colorado Desert. In 1774, Juan Bautista de Anza accompanied by two priests and twenty soldiers made the first overland journey across this desert to the California settlements. The Anza trail was used by parties of colonists for California until 1782. Indians destroyed the two missions on the Colorado River in 1781 and Anza's road was closed for more than forty years because of the hostility of the Yumas. In later years the route was followed by traders, trappers, forty-niners and hundreds of pioneers and the overland mail. Some of the emigrants who crossed the desert mountains made permanent homes in the vicinity of Mount San Jacinto.

In 1937, the State acquired title to 14,000 acres on Mount San Jacinto for the purpose of a state park. The park site extends from Idyllwild to the summit. Roadways are prohibited within its remote sections.

They are penetrable only by foot or horseback. There is preserved a large area, distinctive and refreshing because it retains the full measure of its natural, primeval charm. Well made trails lead to Tahquitz Peak, Sunset Peak, Tamarack Valley, Lily Rock and Lake Hemet. Horseback riding and hiking are two pleasant recreations, Mount San Jacinto State Park has to offer its visitors. Good camping grounds are at Idyllwild and Kern.

S.P.#63

MOUNT SAN JACINTO STATE PARK
(Summary by Lois Ann Woodward)

Situated in Riverside County. Comprises 14,000 acres primitive mountain country. Extends from Idyllwild to summit Mount San Jacinto. Roadways prohibited within remote sections. Penetrable only by foot or horseback. Park site historic landmark of Anza trail, 1774. Its dedication June 19, 1937 added favorite recreational center to unit State parks.

AWM

8-23-38. J.T.

Riverside County

Book title
9.7.9
C23

Carr Harvey
The West is Still Wild
New York, 1932.

pp 27-30.

Mt. San Jacinto #63.

The best way is to go back and start this
buggy ride from the beginning.
I knew this Mexican revolution was coming. I
can smell a war as a hound puppy smells
livor. It seemed to me a good idea to amble
along in that direction and be on hand when
it broke. We started just before sunset from
Los Angeles — a late push-off to escape the
heat of the desert. The moon was shining on the
bald snow-caps of the two old saints who
guard the entrance to California — San Geronimo
and San Jacinto — as we coasted down the
long slope from Banning's Braumant into
Coachella Valley.
The Coachella is the place where Hollywood dis-
covered the desert — or where the desert met Hollywood.

8-23-38. V.F. (2)
Riverside County

Book Lib
9.7.9. Carr Harvey
C 23 The West is still Wild
New York, 1932

pp 27-30. Mt. San Jacinto #63.

To me, this sudden enthusiasm for the desert has a significance that these movie stars, who wear cowboy hair pants, and stab themselves with the primitive, do not realize. Modern civilization has been geared up to such a frightful rate of speed that it is becoming unendurable. This is particularly true of Hollywood, where a career is a brief span of a few years and where luck and circumstances play such a tragic part. We think we want the desert, whereas all we really want is to stop.

Krishnamurti, the Hindu messiah, once discussed this with me. He asked me what was the ambition of my life.

I told him, I wanted to make enough money to go out on the desert and live.

'That's what you think you want,' he said, smiling.

8-23-38.F.V.

Riverside County ⁽³⁾

Book file
9.7.9
C 23

Cover Harry
The Nest is Still Wild
New York, 1932.

pp 27-30.

Mt. San Jacinto #63.

'What you really want is to die and keep on living. You don't want to go anywhere. You want to back out. You are trying to cash in and quit the game — and get 'keep on.'
Expertulaterig, I told him that I had no material desires. If Providence, on Christmas morning, told me to fill in a request for everything that I wanted, I should return a blank paper.

'In other words,' said Krishnamurti, 'you are like all the rest; you are afraid of your desires. You have so many desires and want so many things and want them with such agony that you are afraid to admit them to yourself. Therefore you want to run away from life to a place that you have named the desert; there is no such place.'

Perhaps there is some deep meaning in this

8-23-38. J.T.
Riverside County (4)

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C 23
Carr Harvey
The West is still wild
New York, 1932

pp 27-30.

Mt. San Jacinto #63

fact that my Apache friends could explain. Just as they have their summer homes at Malibu at the end of a prehistoric trail, so in Palm Springs have come to play in what was an old civilization. The Coachella is a beautiful valley; the most alluring part of the desert. Palm Springs, where the movie stars have their winter homes, is on a little mesa in the shadow of Mount San Jacinto which rises abruptly from the floor of the desert. It looks down upon a broad valley that is sometimes blazing with the colors of wild flowers, sometimes looks like the wine-dark waters of a lake. At sunset the mountains are a glorious pageant of changing colors — brown peaks flushed with violet and amber and scarlet.

At several periods of the geological past, the Coachella has been filled with the waters of an

Book Lib
9.7.9 Carr Harvey
C 23 The West is still Wild
New York, 1932.

8/23-38. T. T.
Riverside County (5)

pp 27-30.

Mt. San Jacinto #63

an inland sea. The floor of the desert is fertilized by the bodies of dead sea life. All along the foothills at the edge of the valley is the beach-line of an ancient sea.

One school of geologists has a sensational explanation of the vanishing of this sea. In Arizona is a fallen meteor.

Although it has never been completely unearthed, it is apparently about a mile wide and a mile and a half long.

It is embedded so deeply in the ground that diggings to the depths of seven hundred and fifty feet have failed definitely to locate all of it. There are geologists who believe that, when this grand smash took place, the San Andreas earthquake fault was torn across the face of Arizona and well into California. The waters of the inland

Dark Hill
9.7.9
C23

Cave Harvey
The West is Still Wild.
New York, 1932.

8-23/38. J.F.
Riverside County (6)

pp 27-30

Mt San Jacinto #63.

sea water spilled out through the Grand Cañon, and Mount San Jacinto was squeezed up from the floor of the desert. It is ^{whether or} not this theory is sound, the newest mountain in the world — at least ⁱⁿ our new world. In the silence of its wooded cañons you can hear the great bulk grinding and settling. The Indians say that these noises are the grumbling of Tanguitz, the mountain spirit, who is growling hungrily for another Indian virgin to devour. Under the lee of San Jacinto is Palm Springs — where Hollywood went desert. Kipling says that if you wait long enough, you can meet anyone in the world at the Suez Canal or the Liverpool docks. You wouldn't have to wait that long in Palm Springs. . . .

The desert is overwhelming. Foets are driven

8/23/38. V.F. (7)
Riverside County

Darkside
9.7.9
C 23 } Cave Harrow
The nest is still wild
New York, 1932

pp 27-30.

M. San Jacinto #63

to rhymes and cadences. Fainters smear up good
Canvases trying to express their emotions. Millionaires
build houses to show how they feel about it. Some
of their registered emotions are amazing. One
philocrat has built a Mediterranean mansion
with a sea-wall — as protection against the
swif that lashes the rocks fifty miles away
across three ranges of mountains! Another has
gone Tunisian with a pardak and carved
windows. Doubtless this is a recognition
of the shy nature of the young lady Marie Stars
who abound at Palm Springs. There are Mexican
ranch-houses without ranches. Spanish Casas
and Hopi Indian houses.
Native architecture is fairly easy when it is
seen where it grew. In the Coahuila I saw

8-23/38. FT

Riverside County (8)

Book No.
9.7.9
C23

Caro Harry
The Nest is Still Wild
New York, 1932.

pp 27-30

W. San Jacinto #63.

a house decorated with bright blues muddy
browns, and scarlets. It was charming and rest-
ful — in spite of the way it sounds. This is
because these are the colors of the desert sky,
the desert floor and the blossoms of the
ocotillo.