SEDONA WESTERNERS
HIKING CLUB

Sedona Westerners Yearbook

1970 - 1971

SEDONA WESTERNERS

May 1970 - May 1971

RED ROCK NEWS

The Voice of Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon

THE FAMOUS ROCK (COURTHOUSE OR CATHERAL)
AS ILLUSTRATED IN THE BOOK.

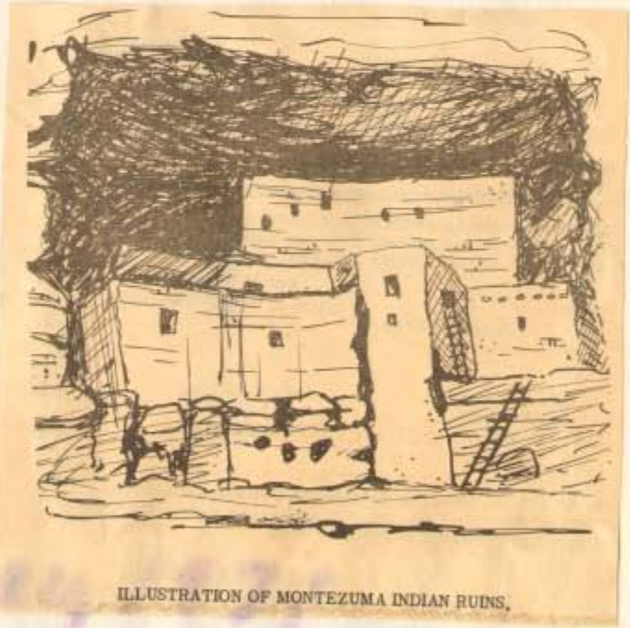


ILLUSTRATION OF MONTEZUMA INDIAN RUINS.

Sedona, Arizona Thursday, May 21, 1970

WESTERNERS HEAD FOR HARDING POINT SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 17, the Sedona Westerners and guests drove and hiked to Black Tank, where they saw four rooms of an Indian ruin with one wall about eight feet high still unmolested by vandals. There were also three small caves which appeared (from the black smoke overhead) as if there might have been Indian inhabitants at one time. The day was perfect for a trip, but no more low altitude trips will be undertaken until fall because of heat and the danger of rattlesnakes. The hike for Sunday, May 24, will go to Harding Point. This provides a spectacular overlook and is well worth seeing. The group will leave the county building at 1:30 p.m. Those making the last trip were: Charles Thompson, Gladys Allen, Hazelmarie Hines, Clara Purtymun, Charles Knaus, Ben and Lois Carpenter, Hazel Seaman, Georgia Petit, Will Coe, Lothar Kolbig, Ray Heym, Bob Every, Pauline and Judd Trask, Alice Riley Cook, Ivy M. Smith, Mitch Mitchell, Evelyne and Mike Wright.

At the election of officers during the Westerners' Meeting on Thursday evening, May 14, the following were elected: Charles Knaus, Trail Boss; Wilma Dallas, Wagon Boss; June Every, Wrangler; Bob Every, Foreman; Mitch Mitchell, Lothar Kolbig, and Nina Boyle as Directors; all to serve thru May, 1971.

WESTERNERS HIKE TO HARDING POINT

On Sunday, May 24th, the Sedona Westerners, led by Cactus Dodger Charles Thompson, made a trip to Harding Point overlooking the Switchbacks and upper end of Oak Creek Canyon. The trip was through beautiful yellow pine country with many wild flowers, squirrels and birds to be seen. One wild turkey was sighted.

No further hikes will be scheduled until September. Special events or hikes will be planned for the summer months at the Westerners' meetings on the second Thursday evening of each month at the County Building. Watch your RED ROCK NEWS.

The Soroptimist Club of Sedona has announced pancake breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31 for the benefit of the Sedona Volunteer Ambulance Fund. They will be pleased to have good representation from the Sedona Westerners.

WESTERNERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Sedona Westerners met at the Schnebly home on Thursday evening, May 28, to formulate plans and to make a tentative schedule of events for the coming year under the leadership of Trail Boss Charles Knaus.

Present plans are to announce the program for the coming month under the "Sedona Westerners" by-line or caption as has been done in the past by the cooperative editors of YOUR RED ROCK NEWS.

At the regular meeting of the Westerners in the County Building at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, Trail Boss Knaus will go into detail concerning his plans for the coming year.

Albert Thompson will recount happenings of the early days of Sedona. Probably no one in the community is more capable of giving history of this area than Albert unless it is Don Willard, Allen Bristow or Carl Richards. Questions are welcome and will be answered both by Trail Boss Knaus and Historian Albert Thompson.

Committees and appointive officers will be announted at this meeting, which is open to everyone. No trips have yet been scheduled for the summer months because of the danger of fire, rattlesnakes and heat at lower altitudes. Any trips made before September will be over territory in the higher elevations and will be announted in the RED ROCK NEWS.

WESTERNERS OFFICERS DESIGNATED

Appointive officers of the Sedona Westerners have been designated by Trail Boss Charles Knaus as follows; Roundup Boss (Corresponding Secretary), Ellsworth Schnebly; Prospector (Membership Chairman), Allen Bristow; Scout (Program Chairman), Gladys Allen; Cactus Dodger (Hiking Chairman), Charles Thompson; Calico Queen (Hostess), Georgia Petit; Star Toter (Marshall), Judd Trask; Renegade Rider (Deputy Marshall), Mike Wright. These officers will serve through May, 1971.

WESTERNERS MEET

The Sedona Westerners will meet at the County Building on Thursday, July 9th at 8 p.m. Following a business meeting, an interesting and informative historical program will be presented by Marilyn Francis, concerning the visit by the Espejo expedition to the Sedona area in 1583. The public is welcome at this meeting.

WESTERNERS ENTERTAIN PHYSICISTS AND FAMILIES

At the Posse Grounds on July 2nd, the Sedona Westerners entertained a large group of physicists and their families with a steak fry and all the fixins. The visitors had been attending a seminar in Physics of Quantum Electronics held at Prescott College and sponsored by the Department of Optical Sciences of the University of Arizona, Tucson. The seminar was directed by Dr. Stephen F. Jacobs of the University of Arizona.

The physicists represented universities ranging from California and Washington to New York, and from Canada, Germany, Norway, France and China.

Lively oldtime music was provided by Albert and Mabel Thompson, their daughter, Ellen Graves, and Ed Denton, all long-time residents of Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon. The visitors responded enthusiastically by singing along, dancing polkas and other folk dancing.

On July 3rd and 4th, the Sedona Westerners continued a custom of the past several years by operating two booths for the Lions Club at their annual carnival.

MARILYN FRANCIS WILL PRESENT PROGRAM TO WESTERNERS

At the meeting of the Sedona Westerners to be held in the County Building at 8 p.m. on July 9th, Marilyn Francis, Director of the Winged Arts Gallery, will offer a program of authenticated facts concerning the visit of Antonio de Espejo, hidalgo of Mexico, to the Oak Creek and Upper Verde River areas, in 1583.

As an enjoyable and informative part of the program, Miss Francis will present a recording of her "Rivers of Remembrance," a story of the fact and legend of Antonio de Espejo, set in rhythms. Narration is by Mark Farrington, a native of Arizona and an actor. Symphonic harpist, composer and teacher, D'Esta Williams, shaped the accompanying musical score on the twin themes of Castilian cadence and Indian imagery. With her husband, Roger Williams, playing guitar, this couple provides the musical accompaniment for Miss Francis' luminous poetry recreating the legend of Antonio de Espejo.

Miss Francis has extensively researched the history of the Espejo expedition and is eminently qualified to speak on the history of this first exploration of the Sedona region by Europeans.

The public is welcome at all Westerners' meetings.

WESTERNERS HEAR MARILYN FRANCIS

It was standing room only at the meeting of the Sedona Westerners on July 9th. After the business meeting, Marilyn Francis, Director of the Winged Arts Gallery, presented a program outlining the history of the Espejo expedition, the first Europeans to visit Sedona, in 1583.

An enjoyable part of the program was the playing of portions of Miss Francis' recording of her "Rivers of Remembrance," a story of Antonio de Espejo set to the music of harp and guitar.

RED ROCK NEWS Sedona, Arizona Thursday, July 23, 1970

WESTERNERS LEARN OF ESPEJO

Marilyn Francis spent three years researching the Verde Valley's first Spanish conquistador, the wealthy and handsome Don Antonio de Espejo. At the Sedona Westerners' July 9 meeting, she shared the results of that research, telling the story of the merchant, rancher, miner, and explorer, as learned from his and and his companion, Diego de Lujar's diaries which are still in archives in Madrid.

With 14 soldiers from various parts of Spain, several servants per soldier, and 115 horses, they crossed and followed the Rio Grande, and visited 74 Indian pueblos, following directions from the Indians as to where they might find gold. At Acoma, New Mexico, "the city in the sky," Espejo fell in love with the chief's daughter, and this got him into trouble from then on.

He traveled from Zuni to the Hopi villages, then he and four companions left the Kayenta area to come to where we live. In May, 1583, their route may have been by way of Winslow area, Mormon Lake, where they ate rabbit stew, and down the Rim possibly to Indian Gardens, and on to Montezuma Well and Castle, and winding up either at Jerome or Sycamore Canyon.

When the party found copper instead of gold, Espejo was defied and deserted by his difficult and headstrong lieutenant, Gregorio Hernandez.

Espejo, his Indian maiden, and a few others were met by arrows when they tried to return to Acoma and to obtain food at another pueblo where their predecessor Spaniards had murdered some Indians. His party was then led down the Rio Grande and as far east as the Pecos River, thence to their starting point.

Here he was greeted by the mayor who put him under arrest because he "didn't have a permit," and took everything Espejo had brought back, including the Indian girl. One of Espejo's companions convinced the mayor they had really been trying to do something for Spain. Espejo took the Indian maiden and started for Spain to present his case to the King, hoping to be made governor of the Arizona- New Mexico areas. He died before reaching Havana.

His diary leaves a record of Espejo as the leader of a small band of conquistadores who named Oak Creek the River of the Parrots, and the Verde River the River of Kings.

Many complimentary comments were heard on Mrs. Francis' dramatization of history, and on the part of a recording of her book, "Rivers of Remembrance," to be published this year by Windfall Press of Chicago.

It has been scored for harp and guitar and has been presented at the Phoenix Art Museum, and the Phoenix Little Theatre. She provided the variety in programs that new trailboss Charles Knaus promised the Westerners, by presenting a bit of Sedona and Verde Valley history some 300 years further back than the "Early Days" recalled in the Sedona Westerner book by and about oldtimers.

WESTERNERS ENJOY STEAK FRY AND PICNIC

On Sunday, July 12th, about forty members of the Sedona Westerners enjoyed a steak fry and picnic in the cool shade of huge sycamore and cottonwood trees at the Charles Thompson homestead near Indian Gardens in Oak Creek Canyon. Ollie Simon presided at the barbecue grill while Myrtle Smith brewed cowboy coffee for the crowd.

WESTERNERS MEETING AUGUST 13

At the regular meeting of the Sedona Westerners to be held at the County Building August 13 at 8 p.m., Fletcher Fairchild will reminisce concerning the years from around 1907 to 1923 in the Sedona, Flagstaff, Camp Verde and Prescott areas.

Fletcher is a native of Flagstaff and spent his boyhood years there and in the Sedona country. He punched cows, was driving "For Hire" cars (they would be called taxis today) in Flagstaff in 1913, served as guide for Zane Grey from 1915 to 1917, and worked for United Verde Copper Company in the early 1920's. He first visited Sedona in 1908.

Fletcher's reminiscences will delight all who desire to learn more of the history of the Sedona area during the first quarter of the present century.

HEAR FLETCHER FAIRCHILD

The Sedona Westerners and their guests gathered at the County Building on Thursday evening, August 13. After the business meeting, they were served tasty delicacies by Florence Smith, Wilma Dallas, Nina Boyle and Ollie Simon.

Following this period of socializing, the group listened attentively and with interest as Fletcher Fairchild recounted incidents, both humorous and tragic connected with history of THOSE EARLY DAYS, chiefly in Flagstaff. Fletcher came to Sedona in 1908 but lived much of his lifetime until a few years ago in California. During his youth and early manhood, he worked during the summers at various places in the Verde Valley, and in the Oak Creek Canyon area.

He drove the first 'taxi' in Flagstaff, transporting some of the more prominent people of that time, including Irvin S. Cobb; Marshall Field; Fred Harvey, Jr., son of Fred Harvey of Harvey House fame; Oscar Meyer, Jr. - (you have eaten his choice meats); Carter Harrison, one-time mayor or Chicago; John Longworth and his wife, Alice Roosevelt Longworth; William Randolph Hearst, of the Hearst newspaper chain; Mary Roberts Rinehart, novelist; Jimmie Swimmerton, who used to have the strip "Little Jimmie" in the Sunday funnies when many were youngsters; and Zane Grey.

Fletcher made many trips with Zane Grey while he was writing his novels of the West, with emphasis on Arizona. Fletcher received enthusiastic applause for his talk.

Although he talked for more than one hour, he had not run down with experiences of the early days, some tricks he and his young friends had played on the Chinese in Flagstaff, how the country has changed since then (probably for the worst) - and how the old-timers are fast passing from the picture.

Probably Carl Richards, Fred Metz and Don Willard, Albert and Charley Thompson could corroborate all that Fletcher told. Few know more about the past of this area than those men, and probably no one has kept a more accurate record than Albert Thompson.

The regular Westerners' Sunday trips will begin on Sept. 6, when the group meets at the county building at 1:30 to go from the summit of Schnebly Hill to the base of Mund's Mountain.

It might be added that Fletcher Fairchild had taken a course in Creative Writing for four years and will be happy to talk to anyone concerning THOSE EARLY DAYS.

SEPTEMBER HIKES

Sept. 6 Top of Schnebly Hill and Jack's Point
Sept. 13 Sycamore Canyon **
Sept. 20 West Fork of Oak Creek
Sept. 27 Several Indian Ruins in Boynton Canyon

Hikes are scheduled to leave at 1:30 P.M. except **Sept. 13th which leaves at 9:30 A.M. (Take light lunch and canteen.)

PUBLIC INVITED
MEET AT COUNTY BUILDING

SYCAMORE CANYON WILL BE NEXT WESTERNERS HIKE

Because of the unprecedented deluge and the possibility of bogging down on the rim until spring, the Sedona Westerners' trip to Jack's Point was necessarily called off. The group which had gathered, not knowing that the trip had been cancelled, went to the Indian Ruins above Cornville and enjoyed a pleasant day with good roads.

Those making the trip on Sunday, September 6, were: Charles Thompson, Paul Rudesill, Charles Knaus, Bill and Hazel Seaman, Ollie and Rose Simon, John and Mary Blair, Margaret Pope, Mike and Evelyne Wright, Myrtle Walton, Alice Carnahan and Renee Behrens.

The trip scheduled for Sunday, September 13 will leave the County Building at 9:30 a.m. and go to some interesting places in Sycamore Canyon. Bring your lunch and a canteen of water. Visitors are welcome to see this beautiful area of our country.

RED ROCK NEWS Sedona, Arizona Thursday,

WESTERNERS WILL HEAR "HERMIT OF SYCAMORE CANYON"

The story of the "Lost Spanish Mine of Sycamore Canyon" will be related by Jerry Graves of Cottonwood following the business meeting of the Sedona Westerners at the County Building on September 10th at 8 p.m.

Jerry Graves and his deceased partner, Joe Dixon, were the mysterious "Hermits of Sycamore Canyon" for some twenty years following World War II as they prospected in the vastness of the canyon. Mr. Graves will tell of the finding of the Great Stone Face fifty years ago and how that find led to the discovery of the legendary mine. He will relate anecdotes of his experiences and tell of the hardships and of the pleasures of prospecting in Sycamore Canyon under near pioneer conditions.

Following the Espejo expedition in 1583, Spanish miners worked in Sycamore Canyon during the 18th century, leaving in 1767. One hundred and fifty years later evidence of their work in Sycamore Canyon was rediscovered. Mr. Graves will bring the story up to the present.

Prior to his settling in Sycamore Canyon, immediately following World War II, Mr. Graves was an adventurer, a sailor and a traveler. He will also tell something of this life as a background to his later life as a prospector.

The Sedona Westerners will hike up Sycamore Canyon on September 13th and at that time will see much of the area that Mr. Graves will have talked about.

GRAVES TELLS OF SYCAMORE CANYON MINE (1970)

At the meeting of the Sedona Westerners on September 10th, Jerry Graves of Cottonwood presented an exceptionally interesting program when he spoke to an overflow audience about his experiences in seeking and finding the lost Spanish mine in Sycamore Canyon. He remarked that he is now 78 years old and had never before talked to an audience. This lack of experience as a public speaker was certainly no handicap. He had a thorough knowledge of his subject and held his audience spellbound for ninety minutes.

As a prelude to the main subject of his talk, Mr. Graves spoke briefly of his years of work as a seaman and ten years as owner of a boatyard in Seattle. He sold out his boatyard soon after Pearl Harbor and volunteered for service in ship repairing at Pearl Harbor.

After World War II, Mr. Graves learned the story of the Lost Spanish Mine of Sycamore Canyon and teamed up with his now deceased partner, Joe Dixon, to explore the mine. Mr. Dixon had discovered the lost mine in 1920 but for many reasons had been unable to prove the discovery.

In 1945, Mr. Graves and Mr. Dixon secured the use of the old Packard ranch at the mouth of Sycamore Canyon and repaired the stone and log cabin for living quarters. They filed mining locations to protect their property rights and thereafter prospected and worked for more than twenty years and succeeded in entering the old Spanish mine workings and with pick, shovel and wheelbarrow cleaned many of the old tunnels and rooms, seeking the ore worked by the Spaniards and any gold that might have been abandoned when the Spaniards were forced out by the Apaches and by the banishment of the Jesuits by the Spanish Government in 1767. Mr. Dixon was psychic and often had visions, many of which were revealing. His original discovery of the lost mine was the result of such a vision that had revealed the location of the Great Stone Face that was a marker for the location of the mine. The nose of the profile in rock pointed to the entrance to the old Spanish mine. After cross-cutting to the old Spanish tunnel and then cleaning the tunnel toward its entrance, that entrance was found to be under a large rock slide exactly where the stone face indicated.

Mr. Graves and Mr. Dixon were conservationists and did not believe in taking life. In their more than twenty years in the canyon they never killed a deer, a quail or any other harmless wild life. They went to Clarkdale for needed supplies by fording the Verde River on foot and riding the train into town. When some claim jumpers were caught attempting to break into the mine, a well-placed load of bird shot quickly discouraged their efforts. This incident led to the report that "Those old hermits always shoot at people who come down into the canyon."

After Joe Dixon died a few years ago, Mr. Graves moved to Cottonwood and also secured his present partner, Dick Hoy of California.

Mr. Graves expressed confidence in eventual success, but he is philosophical, saying, "If I lose, OK and if I win, OK, but I'll always regret it if I don't find the answer after long years of searching and backbreaking labor."

The climax to this program came on September 13th when "the last of the hermits" as Jerry Graves calls himself, led a large group of the Westerners on a hike up Sycamore Canyon. He pointed out such interesting places as Geronimo's hideout, the location of the walled-up entrance to the Spanich tunnel concealed beneath a rock slide, the stone profile of the Indian head that marked the location of the ancient mine, a sycamore tree growing out of a cottonwood tree, the ole swimmin' hole for nudists only, the ruins of Indian cliff dwellings, and various other places of interest. During the trip, he regaled the group with stories of incidents occurring during the past quarter of the 20th century and pointed out the location of a very steep trail up which five of the group clambered to view Indian ruins and the remains of an old Spanish fort.

The trip helped the Westerners to better appreciate the work which has been done from the time Joe Dixon and Jerry Graves started digging by the dim light of carbide lamps to the present day when their drift is illuminated by electric lights; an air compressor lightens their efforts and other modern machinery adds to the ease of daily labor.

Those making the trip were: Charles Thompson, Clara Purtyman, Ted and Wanda Tinkler, Bob and June Every, Charles Knaus, Doris M. Roberts, Edith L. Goranson, Jessamine Roberts, Nina Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Watson, Margaret Pope, Wilma Dallas, Alice M. Carnahan, Alice Harris, Pauline and Judd Trask, Ed and Caroline Long, Lothar Koltig, Walter and Bertha Womack, Cherie De Haven, Bob Conibear, Lucille Juanarena, Lucia and Elmer Utke, Charles Huntting, Jerry Graves, Grace and Marvin Everett, Mr. and Mrs. H. Smoke, Mitch Mitchell, Ralph Holmes and Ellsworth Schnebly.

The entire group extends its gratitude to Jerry Graves and his partner, Dick Hoy, for their courtesy in showing and explaining what has been and is now being done.

WEST FORK INVADED BY WESTERNERS

Thirty-two people left the County Building at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday to go up West Fork of Oak Creek. Because the recent heavy rains had washed out the steel mat over which cars had been crossing, it was advisable to park along the highway rather than to cross the creek until the mat has been replaced. Some of the group marvelled at the tall pines which were reaching between the canyon walls in an effort to capture some sunlight. Others enjoyed the tiny flowers and tender grasses which range cattle would enjoy much more, and which ranchers need after such a hot, dry summer. Crossing and re-crossing the stream was another challenge in balancing on rocking stones.

As usual, an outing with a convivial group was the highlight as each contributed to pleasant discussions and reminiscenses. Those who had never before been up West Fork were astounded at the beauty of Nature; those who had been there previously still revel at Mother Nature's incomparable handiwork.

To prove the popularity of the region, the members were happy to meet none other than Mr. and Mrs. Len Ingebrigtsen and their daughter who is a coed at our own NAU. Choosing our university shows her mature judgment. Both Mr. Ingebrigtsen, who has long been an outstanding personality on KOOL in Phoenix, and his charming wife, are pleasant conversationalists and those of the group who were privileged to meet them were happy because each "becomes a part of all whom we meet." The trail is not yet littered with the usual trash, although bits of it are in evidence. Readers, please do your bit to keep this beautiful canyon retaining its pristine grandeur.

Those making the trip were: Charley Thompson, Alice Harris, Charles Knaus, Clay and Caroll LaFon, Bob Every (and they missed June), Pauline and Judd Trask, Richard T. and Margaret Terry, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Lambert, Dacotah LaFevre, Margaret Pope, Alice Carnahan, Lucia and Elmer Utke, Edith L. Goranson, Doris Roberts, Jessamine Roberts, Allen Bristow, Fred Flynn, Caroline and Ed Long, Renee Behrens, Mary O'Neil, Audrey and Richard Feeney, Bill, Susan and Carol Jones.

Next week, the Westerners will journey to the Indian Ruins in Boynton Canyon, leaving the County Building at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 27. Visitors are welcome.

WESTERNERS HIKE TO INDIAN CAVES

On Sunday, September 27, 32 Westerners and guests caravanned by jeep, passenger car and truck into Boynton Canyon, where they hiked to three Indian ruins, and saw a total of nine. They viewed the spectacular scenery and the traces of pioneer homestead habitation.

Making the trip were Charles Thompson, Clara Purtymun, Eileen Ludwig, Richard and Audrey Feeney, Bill Jones, Charles Knaus, Stanley Hammill, Renee Behrens, Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Nelson, Judd Trask, Pauline Trask, Alice Harris, Dick Terry, Margaret Terry, Naomi Elder, Wilma Dallas, Helen Barker, Roy Buckman, Nina Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. Martin J. Kotiba, Alma Taylor, Gladys Allen, Lucia and Elmer Utke, Alice Carnahan, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schimberg, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Lambert.

SEDONA WESTERNERS
OCTOBER HIKES

Oct. 4 White Horse Lake - Depart 9:30 a.m. Take lunch.

Oct. 11 Sugarloaf Ruin south of Cornville.

Oct. 18 Sycamore Pass.

Oct. 25 Mingus Mountain.

Hikes depart at 1:30 p.m. except as otherwise indicated.

PUBLIC INVITED

MEET AT COUNTY BUILDING

WESTERNERS HIKE

On Sunday, October 4th, the Sedona Westerners traveled to Ruin Mountain near White Horse Lake south of Williams. The low mountain, hidden among tall Ponderosa pines, was found to be capped with huge lava rocks and boulders and at one area the openings between the rocks had been closed by manmade loose rock walls to form what appears to be a fortification. Opinions vary as to its origin.

Those on the trip were delighted by the scenic vista across the Verde River canyon between Jerome and Perkinsville, the inspiring view of the distant Chino Valley, and jewel-like White Horse Lake and the peace and beauty of the Ponderosa forests in the lake area.

Making the trip were: Charles Knaus, Nina Boyle, Gladys Allen, Ed Long, Will and B. Coe, Alice M. Carnahan, Alice Harris, Charles Thompson, Doug Mann, Elmer and Lucia Utke, Allen and Stella Bristow, Mike and Evelyne Wright.

WESTERNERS WILL HEAR CLARA PURTYMAN RELATE ANECDOTES OF PIONEER LIFE

The Sedona Westerners will meet at the County Building at 8 p.m. Thursday, October 8th. Following a short business meeting, Clara Purtyman will relate anecdotes of pioneer life as experienced by her. The program will be presented as a conversation between Mrs. Purtyman and Nina Boyle.

Clara Purtyman was born Clara Thompson in 1887 just below where the King's Ransom Motel now stands. Her parents moved to the then wild and isolated Indian Gardens when she was three months old. Clara grew up in the Oak Creek country. She attended the first school to be held at Red Rock in 1891. Marrying Albert Purtyman in 1903, they first settled at the still-existing log cabin across Oak Creek from present Junipine, in 1906. They were to live in that cabin several times in following years. They lived in Lonesome Valley for a time, in the mountains east of Dewey, at Humboldt and other places, but, except for a small amount of travel, never departed very far from the Oak Creek country.

Mrs. Purtyman will tell Miss Boyle about the necessary and difficult chores of pioneer living and of the simple amusements before the days of modern conveniences.

Nina Boyle, though not a Western native, has a sincere interest in and appreciation of pioneer Western history and her conversation with Mrs. Purtyman will bring back memories to all who lived in pioneer days and will provide younger listeners with a better appreciation of their heritage.

SEDONA WESTERNERS HAVE INTERESTING MEETING

Following the reading of the minutes of the interesting meeting at which Jerry Graves recounted his hardships in his search for the Old Lost Spanish (or Coconino) mine, our efficient Wrangler, June Every, was succeeded by a number of items of a routine nature. The Westerners had decided not to enter the Fort Verde Days Parade, although all were urged by Trail Boss Charley Knaus to attend the festivities at Camp Verde, which are always interesting and historically entertaining.

A number of guests were introduced and welcomed before the lunch break, consisting of coffee, juice, and delicious cake and pastries. Thanks to the host, Mitch Mitchell. After refreshments and a social period, Nina Boyle, acting as Emcee, interviewed the distinguished elderly lady, Mrs. Clara Purtyman, in a question and answer session, which brought the following facts:

Clara Purtyman, daughter of Jim Thompson, was born April 7, 1887 below the hill on which the King's Ransom now stands. Soon after, her parents moved to Indian Gardens after her father had travelled the long, trail-less path from what is now Sedona to Indian Gardens in a fight to clear land on which to raise crops. The man who helped him in this up-hill task was the old bear hunter, Richard Wilson. Since none of his family could shoot and since Mr. Thompson did not enjoy hunting, the family had little protection, but were not in danger very often, as the Indians had been moved to San Carlos. Clara said that she and others in her family had seen bears from time to time, and that once when her father had to go to Prescott, he had asked Mr. (Bear-Hunter) Wilson to go to Sedona and take care of the family for eight days, but that Mr. Wilson was A W O L and the family was left with no protection. A search revealed Mr. Wilson's body, with his face in the water of a small pool in Wilson Canyon. He had been dragged from a tree and mauled by a bear. Because he had been dead so long, he was buried on the spot.

To make both ends meet, Mr. Thompson moved several times to where he could find work by hauling wood and other things. Before Clara was six years old, she went to school on the Schuerman Ranch. She later went to a "summer school" at which the first teacher at Lower Manzanita Camp Ground was Ellsworth Schnebly, uncle of the present-day Ellsworth Schnebly. They played ordinary games and got as much exercise as they could get today with a gym teacher supervising them with expensive equipment.

The pupils in school then were either Thompsons or Purtymans. The children all had to work in the field or garden, with the oldest brother, Frank, playing the part of a Simon Legree, to the dismay of the younger laborers. The family had ducks, chickens, pigs and some horses. They would have to go to Cottonwood to get their mail and would go up Thompson's Ladder (near Albert Thompson's present home) to go to Flagstaff. They kept a wagon on top of the mountain. Clara had to carry her baby in her arms up that steep "Ladder." To prevent the chickens from scratching the corn out of the ground, Clara's mother sewed scraps of old overalls which were tied to the feet of the chickens, but scratching wore them out too fast and the corn suffered.

For food during the winter, the Thompsons dried corn, pumpkins, string beans and even tomatoes.

Before Clara's wedding to Albert Purtymun, when she was sixteen years old, the Purtymun and the Thompson boys dragged lumber down the "Ladder" for a platform on which to dance. The dance lasted three days and nights, and "a good time was had by all."

Later, Clara and her husband lived in Flagstaff, Lonesome Valley and at Cherry Creek, Humboldt, and on Mingus Mountain working in mines, cutting mining timbers, on a smelter, and any other job available.

In 1953, Clara and her husband celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary above Indian Gardens where Mr. Purtymun died in 1961. Clara Purtymun is still one of the outstanding hikers among the Westerners and seldom misses going on the weekly treks, usually leading the group.

She injected wit into the replies to questions put to her by Nina Boyle and told interesting and amusing anecdotes, sometimes at the suggestion of her two brothers, Charley and Albert Thompson, both of whom have pioneered this part of Arizona.

WESTERNERS JOURNEY TO SUGARLOAF INDIAN PUEBLO RUINS

On Sunday, October 11th, the Sedona Westerners journeyed to the Sugarloaf Indian pueblo ruins situated about one and one-half miles south of Cornville. This ruin compares approximately to the Tuzigoot ruin in size and like Tuzigoot, would likely date back to the 14th century or before. It is situated on the summit of a flat-topped mesa some four hundred feet high and several hundred feet in diameter on the top. The rooms were built around the edges of the mesa with an open plaza in the center. There are also two small ruins at the base of the mesa, nearer to Oak Creek.

Robert Furedy secured the trophy of the day by discovering a two-foot-long diamond-back rattlesnake. After the snake was dispatched, young Master Furedy was presented with his prize.

Making the trip were: Charles Thompson, Clara Purtymun, Alice M. Carnahan, Charles Knaus, Vera Hill, Stanley Hammill, Alice Harris, Stephen Furedy, Lucia and Elmer Utke, Dorothy Furedy, Robert Furedy, Caroline and Ed Long, Helen Barker, Ethelyn Libkie, Nita Schimberg, Elsie Turner, Lucille Juanarena and her grandchildren, Lisa, Pam and Carl Nix.

On Sunday, October 18th, the Westerners will drive to the summit of Mingus Mountain, departing the County Building at 1:30 p.m. The trip to Sycamore Pass will be made on October 25th. This change of schedule is made so as to see the fall foliage on Mingus at its best.

WESTERNERS ENJOY HIKE AND FALL COLORS

Forty-three Westerners and welcome guests enjoyed a trip from the summit of Mingus Mountain to the micro-wave installation which overlooks the Verde Valley on Sunday, October 18. While autumn colors elsewhere have been disappointing, the maples with their flaming crimsons, other yellows and browns with golden leaves interspersed presented a spectacle not to be forgotten. After shooting some pictures, marred only by beautiful bluish haze and afternoon shadows covering the brilliant autumn display nearest the hills, the group hiked about half a mile to a spot where Jerome, Clarkdale and the entire Verde Valley reveal themselves. What a panorama! In the distance rose Mount Elden, topped on the left by Arizona's tallest physical feature -- the San Francisco Peaks - Kendrick Mountain, Bill Williams Mountain, and other lofty prominences.

In the crisp, clear air where a jacket was not exactly necessary, but not uncomfortable, groups chatted or listened to the leaders, Allen Bristow and Mitch Mitchell, and to Trail Boss Charley Knaus point out spots of interest as they viewed scenes which millions of people are denied.

The piece de resistance came when Marvin and Grace Everett served hot coffee, (water, if you chose it) and delicious cookies to the entire group -- not a SMALL day's work of preparation in itself. Thanks to you, Marvin and Grace, and to the leaders.

Those going on the trip were: Charles Thompson, Eileen Ludwig, Selden Buckford, Lorene B. Coon, Myrtle Smith, Ed Long, Charles Knaus, Mitch Mitchell, Alice Harris, Nina Boyle, Vera Boyle, Will Coe, B. Coe, R. W. Snyder, Alice Snyder, Ollie Simon, Rose Simon, Paul J. Potter, Richard Newnham, Bessie Neil, Emma Lou Russell, Ruth D. Stewart, Alma Good, Lila Jankus, Lucia and Elmer Utke, Ellsworth Schnebly, Lothar Kolbig, Myrtle Kolbig, William Harvey, Margaret D. Krebs, Gladys Allen, Helen Barker, Fred B. Flynn, Margaret Smoke, Harold Smoke, Marvin Everett, Grace Everett, Betty Waldo, Myrtle Waldo.

On Sunday afternoon at 1:30, Oct. 25, the Sedona Westerners will leave the County Building to go visit the Indian Ruins in Sycamore Pass.

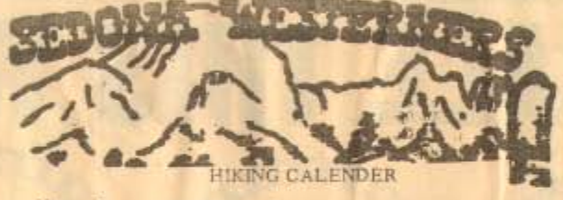
IDEAL WEATHER ENHANCES HIKE

With the elements cooperating, the Sedona Westerners left the county building at 1:30 p.m. for another delightful outing under Sedona's azure skies, with little or no wind and an ideal temperature. Forty people trekked up Hart Well Canyon to the cave where the cattle watered before the spring (and many other springs in Arizona) went dry. A slight trickle of water gives evidence of what was once a flowing spring. Petroglyphs abound on some of the perpendicular rocks indicating that some Indians had at one time done their home work on the walls in lieu of a blackboard.

A four-mile hike up the canyon and back revealed some autumn colors while congeniality, as usual, prevailed. When William Cullen Bryant wrote his immortal lines: "Go forth under the open skies, and list to Nature's teachings, while from all around Earth and her waters and the depths of air -- Comes a still voice --", he must have been thinking of some place like our own locality, which abounds in beauty of colorful reds in grotesque or graceful formations.

Members and guests making the trip were: Charles Thompson, Alice Harris, Lucille Juanarena, Clara Purtymun, Myrtle Smith, Margaret Krebs, Lorene Coon, Selden Bickford, Charles Knaus, Bill and Hazel Seaman, Helen Barker, Dr. Ed Long, Will and Bea Coe, Dorothy and Tom Watson, Eileen Ludwig (the girl from the Chamber of Commerce who is always ready with any information), Ellsworth Schnebly, Lila Jankus, Hazel and Jack Lytle, Vera Hill, Margaret Pope, Ruth Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Durland, Ida Jane Roberts, Lothar and Myrtle Kolbig, Russell Petit, Mabel Nyhart, Pauline and Judd Trask, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Shimberg, Mike and Evelyne Wright, Lucia and Elmer Utke.

On Sunday, November 8, the Westerners will leave the County Building at 1:30 p.m. and make the trip to Vultee Arch. Come one and all.



HIKING CALENDER

Nov. 8	Vultee Arch
Nov. 15	Cottonwood Basin Indian Ruins - Depart 9:30 a.m. Take lunch.
Nov. 22	Sacred Mountain
Nov. 29	Robber's Roost

Hikes depart at 1:30 p.m., except at otherwise indicated.

PUBLIC INVITED MEET AT COUNTY BUILDING.

WESTERNERS HIKE TO VULTEE ARCH

Thirty-five Westerners and their guests drove to the small meadow on the road to Vultee Arch Sunday afternoon, Nov. 8, and hiked about two miles up to the spot where the Sedona Westerners, in cooperation with the Vultee Club of California, had placed a bronze plaque in memory of Mr. Gerard and Mrs. Sylvia Vultee in 1969. This trip is rewarding for anyone at any time, but a warning should be sounded to drive with care, as the roads have been carved badly by the rains on the weekend of September 5, and there are many high centers and places to hang up or scrape the oil pan or rear and front bumpers.

With a clear sky and slightly cool temperature, the hikers had to resort to moving rapidly, since most of the trail leads thru Arizona cypress, pines, firs, sycamores and other trees, including both regular and live oak. The hike from the parking area takes about fifty minutes going UP and about 40 minutes returning, if one does not sit for a rest or breathing spell. Tracks of various wild animals are always evident, but no one reported seeing any live animals that day. View of the lordly Vultee Arch from the vantage point of where the bronze plaque rests is superb, with one large evergreen in line for photographers to make a beautiful picture. The towering rock walls of the canyon are, in themselves, worth the effort expended to get to the red sandstone slab on which the plaque rests. This plaque was erected thru the courtesy of the forest service in memory of a man who had done much for aviation. Westerners are all grateful that, so far, no one has vandalized the attractive bronze plaque.

Those making the trip were: Helen Barker, Lila Jankus, Myrtle Smith, Selden Bickford, Cliff and Clo Gordon, Eileen Ludwig, Lorene B. Coon, Nora and Harry Stine, Harold and Catherine Markus, Lew and Moonie Goddard, Ernesta Pease, Charles Knaus, Ed and Pearl Blizek, Lothar Kolbig, Stephen and Ellen Forder (Stephen Forder is the only Sedonan who is a member of the Vultee Club), Garnette and Robert Ross, Caroline and Ed Long, Gladys Allen, Lucia and Elmer Utke, R. W. Snyder, Hilda Strickland, Clara Purtymun, Charles Thompson, Marvin and Alice Closter, Renee Behrens, and Ellsworth Schnebly. Eileen Ludwig of the local Chamber of Commerce does an excellent job in informing tourists of these opportunities to see our back country -- and the visitors are grateful to her.

WESTERNERS HEAR ARCHAEOLOGIST PETER J. PILLES

The feature of the Sedona Westerners' meeting on Thursday, November 12 was the showing of a group of slides and an interesting talk, followed by a question and answer period all by Mr. Peter J. Pilles, Jr., archaeologist at the Museum of Northern Arizona. His talk was on the archaeology of the neighboring territory, but he explained that too little is known about Sedona itself. He began by showing a map of the Verde River as it winds thru Central Arizona to join the Salt River. Mr. Cosmos Mindeleff made a very early survey of the Verde Valley which dates back to 7000 B.C. When the early Indians had destroyed too many buffalo and other big game, the Indians were forced to live on smaller game which did not supply enough meat to go around.

In 300 A.D. the Indians had made no pottery in the Verde Valley. Two types of metates, Basin and trough, were shown on slides. Shell work and stone carving had been carried on extensively in Casas Grandes, in similar manner to assembly plants today. Shells in different stages of carving and shaping were found in different rooms and the carving of stones was done similarly, one operation at a time. Traders from Casas Grandes in Northern Chihuahua carried these shells, stone objects, copper ornaments and other trading stock northward all over the Southwest, and such objects have been found widely scattered. These traders sometimes served as spies for the emperors of the Aztecs. To quote Mr. Pilles, who is a graduate of Anthropology at Arizona State University, "Casas Grandes was the New York of the Indians where many rooms were used with shells, copper and other objects found in various stages of production." Mr. Pilles has worked with the Arizona State Museum in Tucson, the Pueblo Grande Museum of Phoenix, in forty-seven sites of the Sinagua culture, in ruins near Flagstaff, Payson, Winslow and on the Navajo Reservation.

Mr. Pilles showed slides of ruins where vandals had recklessly and wantonly destroyed ruins, broken artifacts, and made it impossible for archaeologists to garner any information for history. He stressed the importance of leaving ruins-yet-to-be-discovered unmolested until those with know-how and authority are notified of these places so that history of the earlier dwellers may be obtained and enlarged.

When Southern Indians migrated northward from Mexico, they brought their knowledge of ball courts and built them at Wupatki, Flagstaff and a few other places. When Sunset Crater erupted in 1066, it buried ruins of pit houses which have been discovered beneath the cinders.

Irrigation canals have been found in many places as near as Montezuma Well, while farming was done along almost all rivers and alluvial plains before the people moved out. The Hopis have a legend of having moved south into the Red Rock Country. The area was abandoned between 1400-1425 when drought drove the settlers out. Evidence indicates that Chavez Pass was started about 1275 A.D. In 1582, according to records left by the Spanish explorers, the Apaches were then living in the Verde Valley. Pictographs are paintings and are found ONLY IN THE RED ROCK AREA -- never in the Verde Valley. PETROGLYPHS are carvings.

If everyone in the world would listen to and heed the warnings sounded by Mr. Pilles, there would be no more vandalizing of ruins and history would be more complete and interesting. Those who appropriate pots, bowls, arrowheads, beads, etc. may put them on a shelf and show them as "trophies of the hunt" to a few favored friends, but the world never is privileged to see many artifacts as it would were they stored in museums.

Thank you, Mr. Pilles, for much more than an hour of your valuable time.

The refreshments were made over a period of days by Mrs. Long's baking and Dr. Ed Long's cooperation. Thanks to the Longs who had anticipated another full house and were ready for all comers.

, November 12, 1970

WILL HEAR ARCHAEOLOGIST

At the Sedona Westerners' meeting on Thursday, Nov. 12th, at the County Building, 8 p.m., Peter J. Pilles, Jr., archaeologist at the Museum of Northern Arizona, will talk about "The Archaeology of the Sedona Region," covering the prehistory of the area. The public is invited.

SEDONA WESTERNERS MEET THURS.

The Sedona Westerners will meet Thursday, November 12th at the County Building at 8 p.m. Following a short business meeting, Peter J. Pilles, Jr., archaeologist at the Museum of Northern Arizona, will talk about "The Archaeology of the Sedona Region," covering the pre-historic history of Arizona as it relates to the Verde Valley and specifically to the Sedona area. He will explain the goals of archaeology and contrast them with the deplorable practices of irresponsible pot and relic hunting that has destroyed so much of the remains of pre-historic man in Arizona. Information will be presented to guide the Westerners in what to look for when visiting pre-historic ruins in order to make their trips to such ruins more meaningful.

Mr. Pilles is a graduate of Arizona State University with major in anthropology. He has accumulated an impressive amount of experience with the Arizona State Museum of Tucson, the Pueblo Grande Museum of Phoenix, and the Museum of Northern Arizona at Flagstaff. Among the projects on which Mr. Pilles has worked are forty-seven sites of the Sinagua culture, archaeological studies of sites near Flagstaff, Winslow, Payson and several sites on the Navajo reservation.

This program will be of special interest to all who support the Westerners goal of unearthing and preserving the history of the Sedona region thereby effectuating a better understanding of our heritage.

WESTERNERS TREK TO COTTONWOOD BASIN

On Sunday, November 15th, forty members and guests of the Sedona Westerners trekked to an ancient Indian cliff dwelling in Cottonwood Basin. Although the trip involved more than forty miles, one-way, of which five miles were over the most primitive of primitive roads and a hike into a canyon several hundred feet in depth, the group expressed great satisfaction in seeing the three-story cliff dwelling at the end of the arduous trip.

The ruin probably contained seven or eight relatively large rooms in its original state. The walls are constructed mostly of rounded river rock laid in adobe mortar and are standing in quite good repair. At many places the adobe plaster still shows the finger and hand prints of the Indian women who built the walls. The floors and roof have dropped away due to decay of the wooden rafters. The ruin is believed to be of about the same age as Montezuma Castle, about 600 years or more old.

The Westerners were exceptionally fortunate in having Peter J. Pilles, Jr., archaeologist from the Museum of Northern Arizona, as a guest on the trip. Mr. Pilles explained the many interesting features of the ruin and the indications of the manner of life of its ancient inhabitants. His presence did much to enhance the pleasure of the trip.

The Westerners are unanimous in hoping that this ruin will remain free from further vandalism. According to Federal and State laws, vandals of antiquities are subject to $500 fine and 90 days imprisonment.

Making the trip were: Clara Purtymun, Charles Thompson, Helen Barker, Margaret D. Krebs, Alice Harris, Myrtle Smith, Allen Bristow, Cliff and Clo Gordon, Jack and Hazel Lytle, Nina Boyle, Bob Every, Charles Knaus, Verne and Marquette Vaughan, Mitch Mitchell, Alice M. Carnahan, Will and B. Coe, Olive O. Meining, Delcie Parker, Lorene B. Coon, Ed Long, Selden Bickford, Judd M. Trask, Eileen Ludwig, Mildred Westrup, Louise Meginness, Bill Seaman, Gladys Allen, Dot Watson, Tom Watson, Lucia Utke, Mike and Evelyne Wright, Darrell and Florence Smith, and Dorothy and Howard Seamans.

WESTERNERS HIKE TO SACRED MT.

When the Sedona Westerners and their guests, numbering exactly FORTY people, left the County Building at 1:30 Sunday, November 22, the question uppermost in their minds was, "Why is it called 'Sacred Mountain?'" When they returned at 5:00 p.m. from the thirty-nine mile trek, the question was still unanswered. If anyone, anywhere, can answer that question, will he please write the history in a "Letter to the Editor"?

With another perfect day for hiking and another congenial group, all went well and pleasantly with no accidents or trouble of any kind, mechanically or otherwise, altho the road, between the Beaver Creek Ranger Station and the Military School, which leads to Sacred Mountain, is entirely too rocky and brushy for any car.

The group followed the well-marked trail circling the hill to the north, wandered around among the many ruins of the lost civilization littered with millions of bits of broken pottery and dozens of parts of shattered metates and other tools, stumbling over lava, limestone, and a few red sandstone, well-shaped rocks which the poor toilers had to carry up the hillside from probably two miles. The view into the hazy south was unobstructed except by smog. Northward and in other directions, everyone could see the country which brings so many people to our area to visit and to settle, ultimately.

In descending, some took the more hazardous, steep and rocky route for more exploring while others retraced their steps over the well-marked, much travelled trail.

All in all, this was another highlight of wholesome pastime where the group communed with nature, as William Cullen Bryant wrote in his immortal poem, "Thanatopsis":

"To him, who in the love of Nature holds
Communion with her visible forms, she speaks
A various language; for his gayer hours
She has a voice of gladness, and a smile
And eloquence of beauty; and she glides
Into his darker musings, with a mild
And healing sympathy, that steals away
Their sharpness, ere he is aware. . ." She spoke to all of us. Next week's trip to Robber's Roost will be written by an ace reporter, Mrs. Gladys Allen.

WESTERNERS CLIMB TO ROBBERS ROOST

Of the eighteen Sedona Westerner hikers to Robber's Roost and other caves near Sycamore Pass on Sunday, November 29, only two were Arizona natives. The others represented 9 states, and one in Mexico.

The afternoon was clear and cool. Hikers climbed the faint path, some finding fossil shells along the way. Near the top of the monolithic red sandstone butte, the steeply side-inclined access was negotiated for those who wished it, with the help of a rope, to avoid accidental slips.

As the last two cars of the group prepared to leave, one tourist hiker discovered he had locked his ignition keys in his camper. A hasty mustering of all available keys and tools finally resulted in his taking off a portion of the door stripping to retrieve his keys.

States of former residence of the cosmopolitan group included Indiana, Michigan, Georgia, California, Iowa, Illinois, New York, Connecticut and Tennessee. Ages ranged from 12 to plus-eighty.

Those making the hike were: Charles Thompson, Clara Purtymun, Alice Harris, Marjorie Whited, Ethelyn Libkie, Helen Barker, Ford Grant, Catherine Markus, J. H. Markus, Will and B. Coe, Virginia and Richard Stouf, Alice M. Carnahan, Gladys Allen, Bob Every, Lothar Kolbig and Renee Behrens.

RED ROCK NEWS Sedona, Arizona Thursday, December 17, 1970

WESTERNERS TO HEAR JORDAN

"Anecdotes of a century of Verde Valley and Sedona Living," presented by Walter Jordan, will entertain the Sedona Westerners and their guests at the meeting on December 10th at the County Building at 8 p.m. Mr. Jordan will relate many of his own experiences and will narrate stories told him by his father and grandfather. There will be stories of Indian scares and many tales of pioneer life in Arizona.

Mr. Jordan was born at the family home on Rattlesnake Hill, across the Verde river from the slag dump of the old Clarkdale smelter. As a young man, he farmed in the upper Verde Valley and at the Woods Ranch near where Woods Canyon crosses the present Black Canyon highway. In 1928, he went into partnership with his father on property at the north end of Jordan Road in Sedona and bought out his father a year or so later. His orchard was started in 1933.

In the meantime, Mr. Jordan had met the young teacher at the Beaver Creek School, Ruth Marie Woolf, a native of Kentucky, but an Arizona resident since she was ten years old. They were married in 1930 and still live at their Jordan Road home.

This program will be another highlight in the historical series being presented by the Sedona Westerners.

WALTER JORDAN RELATES AREA HISTORY

Beginning with the birth of his mother, Annie T. Bristow, in 1869, and continuing until the present, Walter Jordan did an amazing job of relating some of the history of the Verde Valley and Oak Creek for about an hour on Thursday evening, December 10 at the County Building. He entertained and educated a capacity crowd. Altho he has always been an avid reader and has kept his finger on the pulse of public events, because of a recent operation for cataracts, Walter was obliged to talk without notes -- which he would have been unable to read. Relying on his memory, with an occasional suggestion from his wife, Ruth Jordan, he gave the following story: His mother left Missouri with nine wagons drawn by oxen on April 26, 1875 headed for the Verde Valley which had been seen by a friend sometime before. At Stoneman Lake, they were scared stiff by a naked Apache, with no physical harm to anyone. They settled first at the Clover Leaf Ranch. On the first Sunday in October, 1869, Walter's grandfather preached the first sermon in Arizona under a tree and preached his last sermon there in 1920.

They stopped at a spring named Beaver Head, about eleven miles south of Sedona west of Highway 179. To help make a living, the elder Mr. Jordan killed quail and other game such as ducks, and geese. By selling this wild game, one winter he made a net profit of $500.00 when that was a good sum of money. Walter's father and mother were married in 1889 and built a two-story house on Rattlesnake Hill across the Verde River from the Slag Dump of the old Clarkdale smelter. He hauled fruit and vegetables to the THEN thriving city of Jerome, nine miles away, often having to cross the Verde when it was running high. Walter got most of his schooling in an old school house on the Upper Verde. Later, he went to a school above Indian Gardens taught by Ellsworth Schnebly, uncle of Ellsworth Schnebly (now living in Sedona) and who lived at the Jordan home, walking down to Sedona on weekends to fish and visit with his brother and sister-in-law, Carl and Sedona Schnebly.

As a boy, Walter saw many Mexicans hauling or transporting juniper wood on burros to the people in Jerome. (Butane was unknown at that time.)

Ed Jordan hired a man to drill a well, with horses doing the work, and struck ARTESIAN WATER near Tapco. The well provided artesian water for 51 years until some oil well drillers tried to find oil and punctured the water vein, which drained the artesian well.

In 1906, while sitting at home, the Jordan family felt the house rock, and Walter, at school, felt the quake shake the school house, scaring and driving the children from the building.

Stella Jordan, Walter's oldest sister, wanted pictures of some Apaches who refused to have their pictures taken. When she asked them why, they explained that they were too dark. Stella

(continued on page 13)

(continued from page 11)

assured them that they would not look black, took their pictures, and later showed them to the Indians. Thereafter, she was deluged by Indians who wanted their pictures taken. (Today it will cost you perhaps one dollar to get permission to take a picture of an Indian on the reservation, or it may wreck your camera if you fail to pay.)

In those days, copper was sold for 14 1/2 cents per pound and people were well off, but when copper dropped to SEVEN cents per pound, W. A. Clark bought the property and built the smelter and the railroad (or had the Santa Fe do it). Even with prosperity, Father Jordan's orchard produced more fruit and vegetables than Jerome could consume. He had been raising Ben Davis apples, which were not selling. Someone advised him to rename them "Globe Beauties" and Phoenix bought all he could haul down there. With the railroad running to the smelter in Clarkdale, Walter got a job for $3.50 per day in 1912 at the mine. Smelter smoke ruined crops, so the farmers were advised to sell out and move "six miles away" where they were assured the smoke would give them no trouble. Rather, Jordan sold his farm to W. A. Clark and Mother Jordan bought 48 acres north of Bridgeport. Walter bought 193 acres six miles away from the Clarkdale smelter at Clemenceau. In 1914, Jimmy Douglas bought land and started a tunnel near the United Verde Mine. Four years later, the entire Verde Valley was gassed with smoke and crops were ruined, when the smelter at Clemenceau started operating. One hundred ten farmers organized to combat the smoke menace. Most of them sold out or settled for a small amount of money. Eight of the farmers pooled their resources and sued for $100,000.00, finally appealing to Judge William Howard Taft of the United States Supreme Court, where they won their case. They were obliged to sign papers then, saying that they would not farm within fifty miles of the smelter, but Father Jordan bought land at Sedona and farmed.

George and Walter Jordan later worked as partners in getting an irrigation ditch dug which, with a turbine, could pump water on the land now owned by Walter Jordan. Altho his father had doubted that this could be done, Walter was proud when he saw the water running on his fruit and vegetables. His orchard was started in 1933.

A many young men do, Walter became interested in a young lady, Ruth Marie Woolf, who was teaching school at Beaver Creek School (which is still operating). Walter and Ruth were married in 1930 and still live at their home on land watered by the turbine which Walter installed laboriously and successfully.

Space does not permit the recounting of numerous amusing or hair-raising anecdotes which Walter related. If you missed this meeting, you have only yourself to blame, as it was as interesting as many and much more interesting than most meetings.

Without Walter's being aware of it, his narration was being taped by his youngest daughter, Mrs. Ruth Jackson of Phoenix. Perhaps you can have her run the tape for you.

December 3, 1970

SEDONA WESTERNERS

DECEMBER HIKES

DEC. 6 Inscription Canyon - Depart 9:30 a.m.

Take lunch.

DEC. 13 Red Canyon - Palatki Ruin.

DEC. 20 Red Tank Draw - Indian Petroglyphs

DEC. 27 No Hike

Hikes depart at 1:30 p.m. except as otherwise indicated.

PUBLIC INVITED
MEET AT COUNTY BUILDING

RED ROCK NEWS . Sedona, Arizona Thursday, December 10, 1970

WESTERNERS VISIT INSCRIPTION CANYON

While part of our nation was shivering or shovelling snow, the Sedona Westerners and their guests, a total of twenty-nine, drove 158 miles and walked down a dry stream bed about a mile as they basked in the sunshine. Why? They were hunting and they found the petroglyphs in Inscription Canyon, a few miles northwest of Chino Valley, the prosperous little farming area north of Prescott.

The difficulty encountered lay in deciding which petroglyphs were genuinely ancient and which had been carved or scratched by some juvenile who is adept at carving on his school desk. It is felt that if some of the energy used in defacing archaeological masterpieces could be diverted to some constructive work in the school room, civilization in general might be better advanced. The bed of the wash was littered with beautiful sparkling colored stones with mica adding the holiday glitter as the rays of the afternoon sun brought out the sparkle and various colors. The hike is not difficult and is rewarding one time. Probably few would want to repeat the long drive, even in the cool, clear air of northern Arizona.

Those making the trip were: Charles Thompson, Gladys H. Allen, Alice M. Carnahan, Ollie and Rose Simon, Lew Goddard, Ann Galezio, Clara Purtymun, Alice Harris, Norman Godfrey, Lothar Kolbig, Olive Meining, Margaret Krebs, D. H. Parker, Raymond Nolan, Emma Nolan, Charles Smith, Dr. Ed Long, Hazel Seaman, Elmer and Lucia Utke, M. Renee Behrens, May Luthan, Robert Terhune, Helen Barker (guide on this trek), Myrtle and Betty Waldo, Marvin and Grace Everett, and Ellsworth Schnebly.

Next week, if our beautiful weather continues, the Westerners will take guests to Red Canyon, Palatki Ruin, leaving the County Building at 1:30 p.m.

WESTERNERS VISIT ROBINSON RANCH

Sunday, December 13, the Westerners left the County Building at 1:30 and went to the Joe Robinson Ranch in Red Canyon, after Charles Knaus had been given permission by Mrs. Robinson. The ruins are amazing and in a fair state of preservation as compared with others which have been sadly vandalized by irresponsible pot-hunters. According to the rules of courtesy, "No one took anything except some interesting pictures and left nothing but mini, midi and maxi tracks." Thanks to the Robinsons. One group climbed up the sides of a sheer cliff to get around it while others chose to believe that "the longest way 'round is the sweetest way home" and walked about a mile up a wash admiring the steep red canyon walls and grotesque formations, one of which resembled some monster out of space fiction.

Those making the trip were: Dick and Audrey Feeney and family (why don't more families take their children?), M. Renee Behrens, Jim Tomlin, Selden Bickford, Charles Thompson, Charles Knaus, Alice Harris, Lorene Coon, Cecil Cooper, Helen Barker, Lew Goddard, Nina Boyle, Ed Long, Herb Martin, Ira L. Davis, Gladys H. Allen, Betty and Ford Grant, Ray and Emma Nolan, Wilma Dallas, Stephen Forder, Charles Smith, Connie and Harvey Carey, Kermit Korn, Judd M. Trask, Henry J. Goerke, Ruth Martin, Elmer Utke, Bob Every, Alma Good, Hazel Seaman, Ellsworth Schnebly and Ray Hehm.

This Palatki Ruin is on private property and is not to be visited without permission. It was first studied by J. W. Fewkes in the 1890's. Reports were published by the U. S. Bureau of American Ethnology in 1896 and again in 1912.

RED ROCK NEWS Sedona, Arizona Thursday, December 17, 1970

WESTERNERS SCHEDULE OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS PARTY

Trailboss Charles Knaus announces a Christmas party will be given by the Sedona Westerners on December 22, Tuesday night, at the Sedona School. Theme will be an old-fashioned party gathering with entertainment, music and dancing, with Albert and Mabel Thompson and Edward Denton supplying the oldtime music; coffee and punch; and with Mike and Evelyn Wright and their group of square dancers, the Sedona Swingers, providing entertainment.

Calico Queen Georgia Petit and B. Coe will be hostesses at the front door. Alice Carnahan and helpers will hostess the tables for a potluck dinner. Party chairmen are Florence Smith and Myrtle Smith. Mrs. Smith is having the junior girl scouts help by making the decorations. The Westerners are planning a surprise for the girls at the party. Star Toter Judd Trask and his wife Pauline will be on hand to help.

The party will start at 5:30 with each person bringing enough food for four, and his own table service. Dinner will be served.

RED ROCK NEWS Sedona, Arizona Thursday, December 31, 1970

WESTERNERS CHRISTMAS PARTY FEATURES DANCERS

The Sedona Swingers square-danced, the Herb Martins round-danced, and the Arnold Borlins folk-danced, to make the Sedona Westerners' Christmas party a happy occasion on December 22, at the Sedona School building.

Albert and Mabel Thompson and Edward Denton played old-time favorites, such as Red River Valley and Put Your Little Foot Forward, on accordion, guitaro and piano.

A buffet dinner table was presided over by Florence Smith and Pauline Trask. B. Coe and Lorene Coon were greeting hostesses. Party chairmen were Myrtle Smith, Florence Smith and B. Coe.

The Sedona Swingers' squares were called first by Pete Leightner of Cottonwood, and included the spontaneously-called hoe-downs, and "Money, Marbles, and Chalk," Sedona school principal Don Kelsey, arriving a bit late due to snow in the Flagstaff area, called hoedowns, "Mary Ann" and "You Don't Care."

Graceful and lively folk dances executed by the Borlins, who have seen them in their native lands, were: a Mexican "Corrido" dance; the German "Marklander;" and the Austrian "Zillerthaler Laendler."

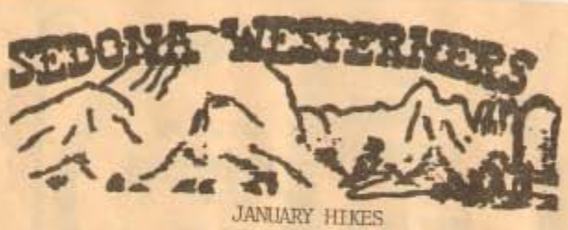
Herb and Ruth Martin, who met through Herb's interest in round-dancing, performed "Siesta in Seville," "Moon River," a waltz; and "Pearly Shells," a two-step round dance.

Ice cubes for the punch were by courtesy of the Chic Allens of the gourmet and liquor store.

Taking part in the square dancing were Diane and Hugh Duerson, Evelyn and Mike Wright, Helen and Doyle Bladon, Janice and Millard Dickison, Jo and Pete Leightner, Dorothy and Claude Wigent, Bonnie and Jack Bowie, Charlotte and Cal Willis. Myrtle Smith joined the group by invitation.

Cadette Girl Scouts, honored by the Westerners with gifts because some of their group helped decorate the tree for the party, were: Jackie Lemieux, Jacquie Sommers, Elizabeth Sharman, Elizabeth Denton, Madelyn Wall, Veronica Mose, Chris Budd, Sarah Bryan, Maureen Husberg, Tammy Wigent, Leanne Wallisch, Tracy Beeler, Laura Lynch and Sandra Lynch.

RED ROCK NEWS Sedona, Arizona January 1971



JANUARY HIKES

Jan. 3 - No hike.

Jan. 10- Indian caves near Clear Creek.

Jan. 17- Beaverhead Station and Fort.

Jan. 24- Nolan Tank.

Jan. 31- Woods Canyon.

WESTERNERS TO HEAR PANEL DISCUSSIN ON ECOLOGY

Ecology, once a relatively obscure word, has become a household word and almost a fetish of the news media and the politicians. Many erroneous and half-truths are being bandied about concerning the environment. Recognizing this fact and being vitally concerned with preservation of our way of life, the Sedona Westerners, at their meeting January 14th at the County Building, 8 p.m., will present a program on "Environmental Quality in the Sedona Area" by a panel consisting of Harner Selvidge as chairman, assisted by Ruth Detzer, B. R. Seaman and W. C. Standfill. Half of the program time will be allotted to answering questions from the audience.

Mr. Selvidge, of Sedona, is vice-chairman of the Coconino County Air Pollution Control Hearing Board. He is a nationally - known meteorologist and owns Meteorology, Inc., of Los Angeles, California. He holds degrees from Harvard and M.I.T.

Mrs. Detzer, also a resident of Sedona, is a member of the Arizona Town Hall and of the League of Women Voters.

Mr. Seaman is a graduate of the University of Michigan. Before retiring to Sedona, he was a real estate broker in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This work, together with his extensive travels, have made him very cognizant of population problems and their effect on the environment.

Mr. Standfill, of Flagstaff, is Coconino County Sanitarian and has extensive knowledge of the sewage disposal problems of Sedona.

This program should dispel some of the misconceptions concerning environmental problems and acquaint Sedona residents with ecological facts.

WESTERNERS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SPRING LIKE DAY

If you had been watching the horizon above the cliffs near the Clear Creek Camp Grounds about 4:00 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10, you would have observed three stalwart figures who might have been mistaken for Indian scouts or spies scanning the country below for an approaching enemy, but it was only Lothar Kolbig, Ray Heym and Bob Every, while more than fifty others were meandering here and there giving the appearance that the hillside was in bloom with gay varied colors of garb.

The group were Sedona Westerners and their guests who were rejoicing over cool, clear weather following almost a week of nights when their water pipes either were frozen or had threatened to freeze. Mother Nature had provided another ideal day for an arduous climb up the steep slopes abounding in caves and ruins, into which almost everyone peered apprehensively wondering whether or not he was to be greeted by the hiss of a rattlesnake, or the warning of some other wild animal.

Those who had been there previously recalled the time when an unfortunate fall resulted in the death of a Girl Scout leader and a hasty breaking up of camp to return to the Valley of the Sun in sorrow over what had been, like today, an ideal day to enjoy the great outdoors.

Those making the ROUND - TRIP of 67 miles were: Charles Knaus, Trail Boss, Cliff and Clo Gordon, Henry J. Goerke, Mr. and Mrs. Kirkwood Christian, Charles Smith, Nina and Monty Colladay, Lorene B. Coon, Lew Goddard, Ray Miller, Loreee Hammial, Doug Hammial, Margaret and Bert Oliver, Dr. Ed Long, Hazel and Bill Seaman, Ray and Peg Franklin, Georgia and Russ Petit, Stanley and Virginia Ulewicz, Will and B. Coe, Lucia and Elmer Utke, Alma Good, Lothar Kolbig, Margaret De Soller, Betty Borlin, Ford and Betty Grant, Clara and John Burnett, Wilma Dallas, Nam and Delores Christiansen, Jack and Hazel Lytle, Vera Hill, Pauline and Judd Trask, Ray S. Heym, Bob Every, Florence Smith, Helen Barker, Mrs. Cunningham, Herman and Helen Janetzky, Dana and Esther Morganson, Ellsworth Schnebly and some other guests who did not register, unfortunately.

Next week's trip will go at 1:30 p.m. to Beaverhead Station and Fort. Everyone is invited, but children must be accompanied by parents or responsible adults.

POLLUTION CONTROL DISCUSSED

By Ellsworth Schnebly

Pollution control was discussed with reckless and studied abandon at the meeting of the Sedona Westerners on Thursday evening, January 14. Both the pros and the cons gave their opinions fearlessly from the developers' viewpoint as well as from the viewpoint of those who have settled here and realize that overpopulation of the area will bring serious problems from many angles. Mr. Stanfill, Coconino County Sanitarian, re-emphasized what he has stated many times in previous years that the soil can hold only so much sewage and that when there is no more room underground for waste that it will float to the surface. At that point our homes will be worthless and those who have built Sedona in the past will be driven out for an unsanitary and unlivable mess.

When the saturation point has been reached and wastes begin to flood our yards and render the air unbreathable, we shall then know that someone has done a distinct disservice in encouraging countless thousands to move into our area. It is not that Sedona is not beautiful and it is not that others should be unable to enjoy what we old-timers enjoy, but it is merely a matter of common sense in eventually limiting homesites. Just as the Governor of Oregon has welcomed people to visit his state, he realizes that Oregon, like California, will become polluted. Mr. Dana Morgenson, during the question and answer period, stressed the dangers which attend mass migration into any region. He said that he hoped Sedona would not become another Southern California whose wonders have lost their pristine attractiveness because of too much smog and pollutants. The smog which drifts up into our area from Phoenix at times should warn us of what is to happen. The fact that Lake Erie has become almost as useless for life as the Dead Sea should sound another warning. Fish, from the West coast as far as ten miles out, have been killed. The oysters from San Francisco, have been inedible for three-score years or more.

Much ado about something was woven into the discussion with the mention of the power plant near Page. We must have electricity and power for our everyday needs, but as Mr. Selvidge said, "Every good thing brings attendant evils." Eventually the evils overcome the good.

Bill Seaman, who is perhaps as well-informed and as widely read (himself a graduate of the University of Michigan) came to the defense of industry, without which none of us would have jobs or conveniences. He pointed out that there are ways of using pollutants, but that the cost will be enormous and that all of us will squirm when we have to pay the bills. Just as we face an increase in the price of everything following a STRIKE, we shall inevitably face tragic increases in costs and a decreasing standard of living as we seek to control the pollutants which are rampant.

Mrs. Ruth Detzer, a member of the Arizona Town Hall and the League of Women Voters, gave a very good presentation, as women see the frightening problems which confront us increasingly as the days speed by. With one woman and three men on the panel, she seemed to be at an unequal disadvantage, but presented her observations factually and forcefully.

The conclusions reached seem to be that just as a burgeoning increase in the world's population is threatening extinction for all of us, Sedona's crisis will "become worse before it becomes better" and an unlimited increase in the population will threaten our very lives.

WESTERNERS TREK TO BEAVERHEAD

Sunday, January 17th, thirty-three members and guests of the Sedona Westerners trekked to the site of the Beaverhead Stage Station on Dry Beaver Creek, approximately thirteen miles south of Sedona.

Nothing remains of the old stage station except a small heap of red sandstones that formed a part of the old fireplace chimney, but upon arriving at the site, Trail Boss Knaus told the group something of the history of the station which was established in the early 1850's and was used until 1879 and possibly into the mid-1880's. This was a station on the military and stage road that extended from Fort Marcy at Santa Fe, New Mexico to Fort Whipple at Prescott, Arizona. Knaus traced the route of the old road from Fort Marcy to Fort Whipple.

A hike was then conducted along the old road, which can still be easily traced, westerly from the station to the summit of the divide between Dry Beaver Creek and the Beaverhead Flats with a climb to an old fortification on top of a high hill that served as a guard post for the station.

Making the trip were: Charles Thompson, Ollie and Rose Simon, Charles Knaus, Henry Goerke, Margaret D. Krebs, Bob Every, Lorene Hammial, Lew and Nonnie Goddard, Lothar Kolbig, Charles Smith, Freeman Davies, Bill and Hazel Seaman, Cliff and Clo Gordon, Judd and Pauline Trask, Ed and Caroline Long, Alice Harris, Will and B. Coe, Alma Good, Betty Borlin, Elmer and Lucia Utke, Carl and Vela Richards, Ford and Betty Grant and Gladys H. Allen.

Caught by the lens of L. H. Goddart's camera are the sunny smile and gentle goodwill of Clara Purtymun, center, a lifetime honorary member of Sedona Westerners. She is shown here on a hike to Red Canyon, with her brother, pioneer homesteader and orchardist, Charley Thompson, and Mrs. Helen Barker of Clarkdale. A favorite hiking companion of the Westerners, Clara will be 84 in April. Her quick step and alert interest add to her mountain-climbing ability. Although she has lived in many places, she has known Indian Gardens in Oak Creek Canyon from the time of birth there to pioneer parents in the home of her grandparents, the Abram James, just under the hill from the present King's Ransom Motor Hotel.

Thursday, January 28, 1971 RED ROCK NEWS Sedona, Arizona

43 HIKERS ENJOY IDEAL WEATHER

The un-named chasm west of Nolan Tank was the goal of 43 Sedona Westerners and their very welcome guests on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 24, with ideal weather predominating. The Easterners present remarked how different it would have been in the East at this time of the year. From the County Building to where the cars were parked near Nolan Tank was a distance of 16.2 miles, after which the group walked over rather rough terrain for a mile or more. As usual, some of the more hardy, daring souls descended into the cavern for further exploration. The five who went down were: Ray Heym, Bill Seaman, Lothar Kolbig, Elmer Utke and Will Coe.

A warning should be sounded to those who venture too near the edge of such sink holes. Alma Good slipped on some loose pebbles and could have fallen into the pit had she not managed to catch herself in time. The cattle watering at Nolan Tank interested some of the hikers, who had not seen cattle for some time, except perhaps in a zoo.

Following the return hike to the cars, eighteen people drove to the old homestead near the base of the Coxcombs and to Greasy Spoon Tank to complete their pleasant afternoon.

Those making the trip were: Charles Knaus, Ed Long, Robert and Virginia Watts, H. C. and Mary Ladd, Charles Smith, Helen Barker, Cliff and Clo Gordon, Lorene B. Coon, Charles Thompson, Henry J. Goerke, Ray Heym, Bob Every, Dick and Peg Franklin, Jack and Hazel Lytle, Lew Goddard, Bill and Hazel Seaman, Lothar Kolbig, Betty and Ford Grant, Pauline and Judd Trask, Vera Hill, Charles and Helen Chandler, Lorene Hammial, Lucia and Elmer Utke, Gladys Allen, Irma Hepner, Margaret Krebs, Will and B. Coe, Betty Bortin, Lila Jankus, Alma Good, and Ellsworth Schnebly.

The January 31 trip will leave the County Building and go to Woods Canyon at 1:30 p.m. It is NOT an all-day trip.

February 4, 1971

WESTERNERS VISIT WOODS CANYON

The Westerners and their guests numbering forty - five drove 9.7 miles, just off to the left of Hwy. 179 where they parked most cars (except Jeeps) and then hiked for about three miles up Woods Canyon to where Dry Beaver was running a rippling stream of snow-clouded water. At this spot, Don Pratt had halted his Jeep Tour so that his tourists could enjoy their lunch.

A few curious and hardy hikers followed the Hot Loop Trail half way to the top of Horse Mesa. This Hot Loop Trail was literally covered with deer tracks, although it might be devoid of any deer in hunting season.

The canyon walls or cliffs on each side of the trail were made up of interesting formations while the floor of the canyon was littered with broken and twisted logs or chunks of wood. If there were a way to get a truck in to the place, it would be a wood-hunter's paradise, and all fireplaces in Sedona could burn all winter on the scattered stumps, chunks and limbs, many of which are all ready for the fireplace.

Most interesting, perhaps, was sitting and watching Dry Beaver flow as much water as Oak Creek now runs. Bea Coe climbed a sycamore tree and saw where the creek divided into three streams for a short distance.

Those making the trip were: Charles Knaus, Margaret Krebs, Myrtle Smith, Clay LaFon, Clo and Cliff Gordon, Gladys Allen, Bob and Margaret Oliver, Amy and Lewis A. Vincent, Edith Robins, Eileen Ludwig, Lorene Coon, Charles D. Chandler, Lothar Kolbig, Charles Smith, Will and B. Coe, Alma Good, Lew Goddard, Bill and Hazel Seaman, Charles Thompson, Henry J. Goerke, Pauline and Judd Trask, Alice Harris, Bob Every, Mrs. George C. Potter, Evelyn Wright Ollie Howard, M. Renee Behrens, Mr. and Mrs. George M. Spence, Benny Denton, Lila Jankus, Edith Cunningham, Rose Lang, Nina Boyle, Lorene Hammial, Madelyn Wall, Elizabeth Denton, Helen Sand and Ellsworth Schnebly.

NEWS Sedona, Arizona February 4, 1971

SEDONA WESTERNERS MEET FEB. 11

The Sedona Westerners will meet at the County building, 8 p.m. Feb. 11th. Following a business meeting, Jim Jones, early-day cowboy, rancher and predatory animal hunter, will narrate experiences in the Rim country from the Blue River to Barney's Pasture, in conversation with Albert Thompson, Oak Creek Canyon pioneer.

Jim Jones, now a resident of Cottonwood, was born on the WY Bar ranch on Blue River near Blue postoffice some fifty miles north of Clifton, Arizona. His boyhood was lived in the isolated and beautiful Blue River country during the early days of this country. As he grew to manhood, he worked as a cowboy, a smoke chaser for the U. S. Forest Service, a bounty hunter for predatory animals, and owned and operated the KK Bar ranch on the Blue River. His work ranged from the Blue River to the Rim country near Sedona during the years when the six gun was sometimes the law. After 1939, Mr. Jones worked for four years for the Phelps-Dodge Corporation at Morenci, Arizona; fire chief at Clifton for eleven years; drove stage; farmed for a short time; and then moved to Happy Jack, Arizona where he worked for a lumber company until retirement.

Having spent a considerable portion of his life in some of the most isolated parts of Arizona and coming from a family that settled on the Blue in 1880, Mr. Jones will relate many reminiscences of pioneer life on ranches and in the woods, tales of outlaws, and other experiences.

Albert Thompson as born and raised at Indian Gardens in Oak Creek Canyon before the turn of the century. He still lives on Oak Creek at the mouth of Munds Canyon and has experienced the pioneer days of the Sedona area to the fullest. He is a student and writer of Sedona history and is the author of several articles in the Sedona Westerners' book "Those Early Days."

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Sedona, Arizona Thursday, February 18, 1971

WESTERNERS TAKE ARDUOUS HIKE

The Sedona Westerners and their guests, thirty-two strong, drove 12 miles down Highway 179, drove off the East side of the highway, parked their cars, and then hiked up a long tiresome, boulder-strewn trail for about two and one-half miles to the top of the Mogollon Rim, following the old Military and stage coach Road over which vehicles travelled from Fort Marcy at Santa Fe, New Mexico to Fort Whipple (now Prescott). Traffic over this route was suspended when Arizona became a state in 1912, but the road bed is still easily distinguishable in many places, where the boulders have been piled on either side. Alice Harris, the intrepid chauffeur, drove a Jeep up farther than some people cared to walk, and then hiked, finding a rather modern hub-cap, which had mysteriously been discarded where no car could go. Lothar Kolbig took first prize for finding a well-worn horseshoe of the 1900-vintage - a trophy which anyone in the crowd would gladly have accepted had he wanted to part with it.

In 70-degree weather, hiking up hill with no breeze, the hikers were well lathered and were happy to be back home in the shower or tub. Every weekend during 1971 has given us ideal weather, even tho we regret seeing blossoms on so many fruit trees this early in the year.

Those making the trip were: Charles Thompson, Charles Knaus, Charles Smith, Margaret Krebs, Dr. Ed Long, Lila Jankus, Alma Good, B. Coe, Will Coe, Betty Borlin, Gladys Allen, Bob Every, Lorene Hammial, Lothar and Myrtle Kolbig, Pauline and Judd Trask, Connie and Harvey Carey, Jane and Chan Chandler, Lorene B. Coon, Nina Boyle, Henry J. Goerke, Nita Schimberg, Elsie Turner, Elaine Endres, Barbara Yoakum, Delmer J. Yoakum, Alice Harris and Ellsworth Schnebly.

One of the girls, who is unacquainted with hiking over exceedingly rocky terrain, failed to wear proper hiking shoes and wore her shoes completely out. Fortunately, Harvey Carey supplied an extra pair of shoes with which she could limp home. It is easy to misjudge weather and traveling conditions, so all hikers should go prepared with water, proper

WESTERNERS VISIT "TENT ROCKS"

RED ROCK NEWS Sedon

About eight miles south of Camp Verde is an interesting wasteland composed of "tent rocks" or conical formations from about six to fifteen feet high. Some of the cones have windows and other have small recesses resembling amateur caves hollowed out. According to Trail Boss Charles Knaus, the material from which these are made is "tuff", a volcanic formation. Chunks of lava are scattered over many acres and the "tents" themselves cover many acres. Walking down the slopes is hazardous as the spheroids are as treacherous as walking on ball bearings. Therefore, hikers should beware and avoid a fall.

There is a legend which an old Indian told Allen Bristow many years ago to the effect that the Indians would not go near the tent rocks because there were mysterious sounds or spooky groans coming from them. Some people investigated and found that when the wind blows into the holes or thru the holes in those conical formations, that actually weird sounds do issue from them, thereby giving the impression that the ghosts of departed souls may be moaning.

Mrs. Kay Johnson, leader of the Girl Scouts who have been sponsored by the Sedona Westerners, took a group of girls on the trip. (Incidentally, the girls are insured against accident and were accompanied by a responsible adult as their leader.)

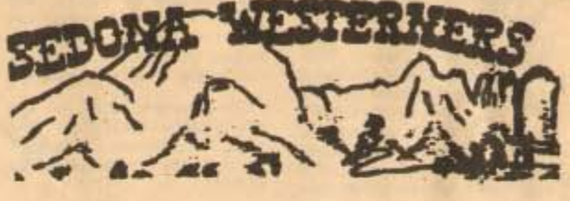
Anyone who has not seen this curious area has missed something. Those of us who have been there two, three or four times still find interesting spots, especially with a congenial group in ideal spring weather which has favored us every Sunday during 1971. We hope, for the benefit of fruit growers, that such mild weather does not persist and kill the fruit crop again this spring.

Those making the trip were: Charles Knaus, Esther and George Spence, Lewis and Amy Vincent, Charles Smith, Dr. Ed Long, Myrtle Smith, Benny Denton, Charlie Chandler, Doug and Lorene Hammial, Harvey and Connie Carey, Nina Boyle, Roste E. Brown, Bob L.D. Bailey, Jeston Bailey, Lorene B. Coon, Henry J. Goerke, Lila Jankus, Betty Borlin, Stella Mae McMenamin, Jane and Chandler, Mrs. Kay Johnson, Jacque Summer, Veronica Mose, Beth Denton, Julia Allen, Carole Lydick, Betty Waldo, Myrtle Waldo, Chris Budd, Florence Smith, Ellsworth Schnebly, and a few others who did not sign the register.

SEDONA WESTERNERS

Feb. 21- Site of Horn Saloon at Copper Canyon

Feb. 28- Red Tank Draw - Indian petroglyphs.



SEDONA WESTERNERS

HIKING CALENDAR

March 7 - Grief Hill. Depart 9:30 a.m. Take light lunch.

March 14 - Doe Mountain.

March 21 - Indian ruins along old Fort Whipple-Fort Marcy military road. Depart 9:30 a.m. Take light lunch.

March 28 - Soldiers Pass arches.

ALL HIKES DEPART AT 1:30 P.M. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE INDICATED. TAKE CANTEEN. PUBLIC INVITED.

MEET AT COUNTY BLDG.

WESTERNERS VISIT RED TANK DRAW

Twenty-four Sedona Westerners and guests visited Red Tank Draw (Rarick Canyon) on Sunday, February 28th. A short hike along the boulder-strewn creek bed revealed the very interesting and well-preserved petroglyphs depicting deer, antelope, turtles, snakes, scorpions and many esoteric symbols of unknown meaning. This picture writing is probably 600 or more years old. The canyon was found to be greatly changed by the floods of last September, but this proved a bonus to many Westerners who found interesting driftwood.

Following the visit to the petroglyphs, the group climbed White Mesa to White Mesa tank and enjoyed the view across Red Tank Draw toward the summits of Gray Mountain and Wilson Mountain north of Sedona. The hike covered a total round-trip distance of about four and one-half miles in the crisp, clear air.

Making the trip were: Charles Thompson, Charles Kraus, Clara Purtyman, Stella Mae McMenamin, Ed Long, John Freeberg, Louis and Elmer Utke, Will and B. Coe, Ford and Betty Grant, Allen and Stella Bristow, Irma Hepner, Gladys Allen, Vera Hill, Dick and Peg Franklin, Betty Berlin, Bob and Jeston L. Bailey, Bob Every and Ray Heym.

WESTERNERS MEET MARCH 11

The Sedona Westerners will meet at the County Building at 8 p.m. on March 11th. Following a business meeting, Virginia Webb of the Soda Springs Ranch at old Rimrock will reminisce about her life in that area.

Mrs. Webb's father, Robert Finnie, homesteaded the Soda Springs Ranch in 1881. Her mother, an early-day school teacher in Flagstaff, arrived about fifteen years later.

Mrs. Webb has spent the greater part of her life at the Soda Springs Ranch where she was born. She attended the Beaver Creek school near Rimrock and during periods when no school was available there, went to school in Pasadena, California. Later, she attended the old Normal school at Tempe, Arizona, the forerunner of present Arizona State University.

Mrs. Webb operated a guest ranch at Soda Springs for thirty-seven years. Her life at the ranch and her extensive knowledge of the Rimrock area from pioneer days to the present will provide the background for interesting and entertaining vignettes.

Westerners Hear Interesting Stories from Old Timer

One of the Sedona Westerners' most interesting talks was reminiscences of Mrs. Virginia (Paul) Webb, who was born at Soda Springs Ranch, which her parents, Robert and Flora Weatherford Finnie, settled on in 1881.

Mrs. Virginia Webb spoke for more than an hour so interestingly that no one wanted her to stop, as she told of her first view and memories of Oak Creek when she was coming down Schnebly Hill and stayed with Mrs. Sedona Schnebly at the age of 4 1/2 years. She spoke of Mrs. Schnebly's bustling around preparing meals and doing her housework. As she came down Schnebly Hill, a black horse was eating the hay on which she was sitting in the wagon.

A then-distant neighbor was Mrs. Page who, like Mrs. Finnie, enjoyed growing roses. Mrs. Finnie had the first rose garden in the valley and was given a rose by Mrs. Page. This rose was always called "Mrs. Page" and still has its pink blossoms each year.

In those days, there were very few or no fences and wild horses were plentiful. Cowboys had built a fence across a narrow pass on Munds' Mountain, where they drove their tame horses to stay during the winter to prevent their being stolen by the herds of wild horses which roamed at will.

Although some Spanish names of places have been retained, Mrs. Webb deplores the loss of the old Spanish names and the Anglicized "mis-pronunciations" which are all too common.

She showed two books copyrighted from the nineteenth century which give interesting and factual accounts of early days: ARGONAUT TALES by Judge Edmund Wells of Prescott, who gave all proceeds from the sale of the book to the Boy Scouts. In the book, Judge Wells gave accounts of such famous frontiersmen as Pauline Weaver and other scouts, trail blazers and some prominent Indians. Mr. Sloan wrote another book, "Memories of an Arizona Judge." Another which should be read is ON THE BORDER WITH CROOK, by Burke. Mrs. Webb regrets that someone has tried to name the new highway along the Tonto Rim the "Zane Grey Highway", inasmuch as Zane Grey had nothing to do with the highway and was probably never on it. Crook had laid out the trail which was called "Crook's Trail." She urged all interested to preserve old place names by writing to the Arizona Historical Society or the Parks Department and requesting that Crook be given recognition by having the Highway named in his honor.

A Mr. Walker started what is now known as the Ward Ranch. There were three guest ranches on Beaver Creek many years ago. One was the Soda Springs Ranch operated by the Finnies. Numerous notables had made it their headquarters during vacations and/or visits to Arizona. Mrs. Lawrence from Washington, D.C. bought a ranch and made the late Bruce Brockett manager and a partner. Upon the tragic death of her son, Marcus J. Lawrence, Jr., Mrs. Lawrence endowed the Marcus J. Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Cottonwood, which was more recently expanded and enlarged into the pride of the Verde Valley. When Larry Mellon was visiting at Soda Springs, he offered to match all monies raised, dollar for dollar, and thereby helped in giving the Verde Valley its hospital, where most of us have at some time or another received treatment. Mr. Walker McCune later gave large sums of money toward building the new hospital and expanding its facilities. Mrs. Webb feels that the people of the Rimrock area deserve much credit for having made the hospital possible, as much of the money came originally from that community.

The first irrigation ditch was taken from Beaver Creek on the ranch where Mrs. Inja Mc Sparron lived until recently. "Uncle" Wales Arnold took that water from Beaver Creek and farmed. At one time, a settler went out to kill a deer but did not return. His body was found a few days later with 100 arrows in it, proving that there were unfriendly Indians in the area in those days.

Two of the early families were of German origin, the Schroeders and the Schuermans (whose ranch is still south of Sedona). The Schroeders were "thrifty people" who raised geese, turkeys, chickens and cows. One old gander was so vicious that Mrs. Webb took the long way home to avoid him when she was a child. A parrot found its way to the Schroeder Ranch and stayed, attracting the interest of Mrs. Webb and other children as well as adults, even though it never learned to speak. Schroeder's Buttes are still important landmarks.

Robert Finnie, a Scotchman from Canada, first tried raising cattle near Flagstaff. He went to Beaver Creek in 1881 by stage coach first to Wickenberg and Prescott where he carried a letter of introduction to the territorial governor, as Prescott was then the capital city of Arizona.

Bill Back came to the ranch near Montezuma Well in 1883 and irrigated the land from the steady stream which still flows from Montezuma Well. The government now owns the land. Riley Casner took water from a spring and started what is now the Beaver Creek Ranch where the Southwest Military Academy trains boys.

Mr. Casner and Mr. Singleton had threatened each other until once when they met and began shooting at each other, but missed and both fled the scene while Virginia Finnie and her brother David, watched, terrified, from behind some rocks. The Finnies and a few other early settlers got their mail from Beaver Head Station, which was carried there by the Army. A few flagstones still mark the location of the old building where that station was located, off to the right of 179 as you travel south.

While the Blue Grade Road was being made passable, a road camp was located there. Virginia and her older brother David would haul a wagon load of fruits and vegetables to the Whites and Indians who were working there. They were overjoyed when they went home with ten or twelve dollars from that load of food.

Lyman S. (or Tom) Drumm, as he was called by most early settlers, settled at Stoneman Lake. Mrs. Drumm was brought from the East with her two children by her husband. A victim of tuberculosis, she had to lie in the wagon and be cared for by a loving husband. She recovered and led a normal life in Arizona.

A notable battle at Squaw Peak, together with other lesser skirmishes, led to the Apache Indians being taken to San Carlos where they were required to report to the officials each day. Those who reported faithfully to Army Headquarters and proved to be trustworthy were called Tonto Apaches and were allowed to return to the Beaver Creek area. Because Navajos and Apaches were enemies, very few Navajos ever came to Beaver Creek. However, one young Indian, Navvy Dave, came from the Navajo Reservation and worked several months for the Finnie family. One night he went to a gathering where a group of Navajos 'carved' on him until he was in critical condition. Navvy Dave then returned to the Reservation, promising the Finnies that he would send word to them when he returned to his Navajo homeland in safety. He had not been gone long before twenty Apaches came and searched everywhere for him in spite of the Finnies' having told them that he was gone. Twelve years later, several Navajos came in a car and reported to the Finnies that Navvy Dave was safe on his reservation.

Virginia Finnie and her husband started a guest ranch where she trained Indian girls to do the work, because white girls did not want to live that far from towns or their homes. Once, with a perfectly clear sky, an Indian girl, Louise Jackson, announced that there would be rain that evening, because the Indians were going to have a rain dance. She shut all windows, and although there had been a long, dry period, a good rain fell soon after. An unarmed man, Sheriff Lowry, was sent to bring in Mexican Curly, a draft-dodger during World War One. Walter Jordan and Virginia Finnie verified the account that Mexican Curly killed the sheriff and was later caught and killed.

Maisie Jackson, an elderly Indian woman who lives on Beaver Creek today, said recently, "Virginia Webb, you and I are the only old-timers left around here."

Virginia Webb talked knowledgeably, easily, and interestingly to a crowd who regretted having her stop recounting anecdotes of early days.

THIRTY-FOUR WESTERNERS EXPLORE

On Sunday, March 7th, thirty-four Sedona Westerners and guests explored the old Fort Marcy-Fort Whipple military road at Hull Hill and Grief Hill south of the Cherry Creek-Dewey road and re-lived history of one hundred years ago. A five-mile hike up rugged Hull Hill and around the westerly and southerly sides of Grief Hill resulted in the finding of three breastworks that were probably places of refuge in a battle with Indians, the sighting of a small herd of deer, and a panoramic view of many miles along the Verde Valley. A very old road was found that is believed to be a portion of the old military road. This road was traced for some two and one-half miles and its general direction determined for a greater distance. The site of the historic Grief Hill massacre was not found but perhaps it will be on a future trip.

Making the trip were: Charles Knaus, Myrtle Smith, Clara Purtymun, Cliff and Clo Gordon, Bob Every, Allen Bristow, Henry J. Goerke, Clay LaFon, Jack and Hazel Lytle, Ted Frey, Will and B. Coe, Eileen Ludwig, Olled and Marge Westphal, Hazel Seaman, Nick Burtnyk, Lothar Kolbig, Judd Trask, Harvey and Connie Carey, Evelyn Carlson, Frank and Virgia Miller, Gladys Allen, Helen Sand, Rose Lang, Edith Cunningham, Alfred and Charlotte Coxley, L. D. and Jeston L. Bailey.

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Thursday, March 18, 1971

The Sedona Westerners are busily engaged under the direction of Trailboss Charles Knaus, in readying committees, equipment, and arrangements for the Easter breakfast which traditionally serves those attending the Easter Sunrise services on Table Mountain.

WESTERNERS AND GUESTS ENJOY HIKE

Only 23 Westerners and guests turned out Sunday, March 21, for the all-day trip, up the Black Canyon Highway to the Stoneman Lake exit, where they turned to the left and went under the highway over some rather rough country, a drive of 25 miles, where cars were parked, and hiking over lava boulders and cobblestones replaced sitting on upholstered Bodies by Fisher. Some hiked probably four miles while others, who parked farther away, made a five-mile hike, to the first interesting site, which appeared to be a crude rock wall, evidently used as a fortress, since it was near a Camp Ground approximately half way between Stoneman Lake and the old Beaver Head Stage Station near Dry Beaver Creek, west of 179.

Three sections of the walls were still standing, each of which had a port hole through which those inside evidently watched for an approaching enemy. The western side of the small enclosure was a precipitous cliff which might be scaled with difficulty, but which could be guarded easily by one man bouncing stones on the skulls of climbers. Unfortunately, Nature or vandals had demolished much of the walls, although those standing are still taller than a man and would offer some protection from a Communist invasion by infantrymen, armed only with bows and arrows or B-B guns. No evidence of broken pottery was found here. Farther down south was a small ruin, the walls of which have been levelled, with evidence of digging the ruins. Bits of pottery, chiefly in solid colors, were scattered everywhere, but very few pieces of the broken pots -- undoubtedly cast by an irate squaw whose buck did not return on time from the local pub -- had colorful designs on them.

This first day of Spring was ideal for hiking. Those making the trip were: Charles Knaus, Clara Purtymun, Nina Boyle, Margaret Krebs, Dr. Ed Long, Tom and Mildred Hopkins, Charlie and Catherine Kacsur, Henry Goerke, Judd Trask, Lew Goddard, B. and Will Coe, Bill and Hazel Seaman, Jeston and Bob Bailey, Jack and Hazel Lytle, Lorene and Doug Hammial and Ellsworth Schnebly.

The beer bottle clan had been over the terrain previously, as is usually the case. The Westerners have an established policy of leaving no litter -- by carrying all sacks or cans home with them. In spite of the drought, delicate wild flowers were in evidence.

WESTERNERS WILL HEAR EXPERIENCES OF EARLY-DAY TEACHERS

The Sedona Westerners will meet at the County Building, 8 p.m., Thursday, April 8th. Following a business meeting, Ruth Jordan and Ellsworth Schnebly will talk about early-day schools and their experiences as school teachers.

Ruth Jordan has lived in Arizona since she was ten years old. She graduated from the old Tempe Normal, now Arizona State University, and later did additional work at what is now Northern Arizona University at Flagstaff. She started teaching school at the Beaver Creek school at Rimrock and taught at Ash Fork and Tempe. During World War II, she was persuaded to assist by teaching at Sedona. She had married long-time Sedona resident, Walter Jordan, in 1930.

Ellsworth Schnebly first came to Arizona as a small child in 1901 and except for some intervals as a child, while going to school, and during periods of military service, he has lived in Arizona since 1901. He served in the army during World War I and upon being discharged in 1919, started his teaching career at Chambers, Arizona. He moved permanently to Sedona in 1929. Starting in 1956, he was a teacher and later principal at the Cottonwood School for a total of eight years before retirement. Later, he was persuaded to teach at the Beaver Creek School and remained there for four years until his second retirement in 1969.

Mr. Schnebly is a graduate of Colorado Teachers College at Greeley, Colorado with graduate work at Northern Arizona University.

Mr. Schnebly's mother was Sedona Schnebly for whom the town of Sedona is named.

This should be an especially interesting program with two early-day teachers comparing notes, particularly as Mrs. Jordan started her career at Beaver Creek and Mr. Schnebly finished his at the same school.

EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST

The Sedona Westerners will serve breakfast Easter Sunday, April 11th at the Elks Club.

A cowboy pancake breakfast, it will be served from 7 a. m. to 10 a. m.

The public is invited. Donations are adults: $1.50 and children, $1.00.

WESTERNERS HIKE TO SOLDIER'S WASH CANYON

On Sunday, March 28th, thirty-seven Sedona Westerners and guests hiked up Soldier's Wash Canyon to the arches. There are three arches, two arranged as a two-story arch. All open into a cave formed by the splitting away of a great slab of red sandstone from the main cliff. The trail leads for one and one-half miles through thick growths of beautiful Arizona cypress and manzanita. Enroute, the water-filled "potholes" in the sandstone bottom of the canyon were viewed. On the return trip, some of the party took side trips to the Devil's Kitchen and to the grave of an "unknown" which was fenced and marked by the Sedona Westerners several years ago. The Devil's Kitchen is a huge sinkhole or cave-in that occurred in the early 1880's. It is approximately seventy feet in diameter by sixty feet deep. There is a fifty-foot coniferous tree growing from the bottom.

Making the trip were: Charles Knaus, Rosie B. Brown, Stella Mae McMenamin, Charles Thompson, Catherine and Charlie Kacsur, Gene and Marilynn Edgecomb, Suzie Collins, Judie Hyslop, Bob and Jeston L. Bailey, Clara Purtymun, Peter B. and Zola L. Hernandez, Henry J. Goerke, Edgar Long, Monty Colladay, Lew Goddard, Cliff and Cleo Gordon, Charles and Helen Chandler, Doris M. Roberts, Edith L. Sorenson, Will and B. Coe, Gladys Allen, Rose Clark, Irma Hepner, Paul Rudesill, Bob Every, Ray Heym, Mr. and Mrs. Ike Padfield, Judd and Pauline Trask.

WESTERNERS VISIT SITE OF OLD HORN SALOON

Believe it or not! With the past March, 1971 being the driest March in weather history, a group of Westerners found a babbling brook about three feet wide merging into a series of falls which dropped about fifty feet in a wash southeast of Camp Verde. The group drove to the remains of the old Horn Saloon which was active in the 1880's and perhaps in the 1870's. The remaining rocks show the outlines of the foundation while the old barrel hoops, broken liquor bottles and other tell-tale evidence would lead a "revenooer" to conclude that at one time a saloon was operated there.

Legend has it that the owner did not like pennies and would drop them thru a crack in the floor. This is substantiated by evidence of digging all around the place. Perhaps someone lost a gold piece too. This Horn Saloon was built at a remote place because liquor could not be sold on the reservation. Above the saloon or up the wash were the foundations of some buildings, with parts of an old car, frying pan, broken bits of a cast iron stove, bows from an old car top, and other items which showed that someone, perhaps a prospector or rancher or trapper, had once lived at the foot of the road leading down the steep incline untold years ago. Still farther up the wash was a rock wall enclosing a well of water, fed by a spring, which ran over and continued down the wash until it seeped into the sandy soil. This was all on the old stage road which ran from Fort Verde to Prescott in the days of yore.

Some adventurous rock hounds found Aragonite, a crystallized calcium carbonate and pseudomorphs. One keen-eyed hiker found a hollowed rock which he could easily hold in his hand, with a tiny limesone stalactite in it. Near the spring and the falls, newly-leafing cottonwood and other deciduous trees were showing signs of Spring. The question is how much longer will this water try to flow without any rain or snow to feed the springs.

Those making the trip were: Charles Thompson, Charles Knaus, Lorene B. Coon, Babe Brown, Alice Harris, Lew Goddard, Miriam Bronson, Stella Mae McMenamin, Bob Every, Bill and Dorothy Hays, Caroline and Ed Long, Adele Baer, Reed and Sally Lewis, Lothar and Myrtle Kolbig, Jim and Lorayne Spoor, Tom and Mildred Hopkins, Edna Pfanner, Nita Schimberg, Elsie Turner, Will and B. Coe, Paul Rudesill, Jack and Hazel Lytle, M. Renee Behrens, Rose Mark, Lorene and Doug Hammial, Cris and Jack Sherman, Florence and Darrell Smith, John and Mary Carmichael and Ellsworth Schnebly.

SEDONA WESTERNERS'
COWBOY BREAKFAST

(PANCAKES, HAM, SCRAMBLED EGGS & COFFEE)

EASTER

Sunday, April 11, 1971
7 AM to 10 AM

ELKS CLUB

ADULTS $1.50
CHILDREN $1.00

- Public Invited -

APRIL HIKES:

April 18- Lake Montezuma Ruins.

April 25- Pfau Millsite and nearby mines.

Depart 9:30 a.m. Take light lunch.

ALL HIKES DEPART AT 1:30 p.m. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE INDICATED. TAKE CANTEEN. PUBLIC INVITED.

MEET AT COUNTY BUILDING.

WESTERNER'S EASTER BREAKFAST

Continuing a tradition of many years, a COWBOY PANCAKE BREAKFAST with trimmin's of ham, scrambled eggs and coffee will be served by the Sedona Westerners at the Elks' Club on Airport Road from 7 to 10 a.m. Easter morning. Adults - $1.50; children - $1.00.

Proceeds from the Westerners' Easter breakfast are always donated to some worthy community cause.

Old-timers in Sedona always look forward to the Westerner's Easter breakfast. New residents and visitors will find it a most enjoyable happening.

SEDONA WESTERNERS MEETING

Jordan and Schnebly Reminiscence

Thursday evening, April 8 was a meeting of reminiscences when Mrs. Ruth Jordan and Ellsworth Schnebly, two ex-teachers, talked to the Sedona Westerners. Listeners undoubtedly recalled what Lewis Carroll wrote in his nonsense poem: "The Walrus and the Carpenter" -- "The time has come," the Walrus said, "to talk of many things: Of shoes - and ships - and sealing wax - and cabbages and kings - And why the sea is boiling hot - And whether pigs have wings -" Thus "many things" were discussed by the two teachers as they recalled days of yore. Mrs. Ruth Jordan and Miss Virginia Finnie were students at Arizona State College (then a Normal School prior to 1923 - the year in which both were graduated). At that time, neither was married. Miss Finnie is now Mrs. Paul Webb of the Soda Springs Ranch, which her family has owned since before the turn of the century. Ruth Jordan was invited for a never-to-be-forgotten two weeks' hospitable visit at the Finnie home and in 1923-1925 taught at the Beaver Creek School. At that time, Virginia Finnie taught at the West Verde School which was separated from the Middle Verde School because there were no bridges over Beaver Creek, and wading was often over the shoe-tops.

Interestingly, although they never met, Ruth Jordan was in summer school at Colorado State College in Greeley during the summer when Ellsworth Schnebly was granted his A. B. degree and his second Life Certificate.

To come from Tempe, Arizona to Beaver Creek or Rimrock, Ruth Jordan was obliged to travel by Santa Fe Railroad to Clarkdale or to Drake (then called some other name) and hope that someone would be there to meet her and take her the long distance to Soda Springs Ranch where she stayed during the school year. The friendship between Virginia Finnie and Ruth Jordan has continued through the years.

Houses at that time had no running water, and baths had to be taken in wash tubs, but Soda Springs - THEN AND NOW - SUMMER AND WINTER - flowed at the same temperature, 72 degrees, and made an ideal, clean bathtub, where the residents had the comforts enjoyed - but PAID for by us today. Ruth later taught at Ash Fork in 1925-1926. In 1929, she and Ellsworth met for the first time, after both were married and have been neighbors and friends since.

Ruth told of putting on plays at the Beaver Creek School and showed a photo album which was a copy of those which she gave to each of her fourteen pupils as a memento of their school days. To present atmosphere, Ruth appeared in an "eleven - gallon" hat (which almost engulfed her), leather jacket and garb which was the customary apparel of that day. In introducing her, Trail Boss Charles Knaus emphasized this feature. She told of having to go fourteen miles to Camp Verde for necessary groceries and mail, over rough trails. (Roads, then, were a non-entity.)

Like most young people, she and Virginia enjoyed horseback riding and Virginia later became quite an equestrian, after the Soda Springs Ranch became an extremely well - known "guest ranch" and Virginia would lead parties for miles to points of interest on horseback. Arizona then had free state textbooks, but did not have the "frills" which sometimes detract from the essentials. Because of having had trouble with the Jordan irrigation ditch, which is frequently damaged or clogged or broken by vandals, and because of having to sit up until 5:30 a.m. to watch the thermometer so as to get help in case of freezing temperatures which would damage or kill all fruit, Ruth was fatigued and agreed to continue her talk at the meeting on May 13. Ruth was an interesting and intensely well-posted speaker. Come and hear more details at the next meeting.

Ellsworth told of his early days in Sedona, beginning when he and his parents arrived in October, 1901 with his younger sister, who was later dragged to death by a well-trained and tame cow-pony. Although there were Indians around, there was no trouble at that time, even though T. C. Schnebly was alarmed when he saw his two children sitting on the corral gate one day talking to an Apache, who proved harmless and unable to speak English, but the three seemed happy and communicative. Carl Schnebly bought the ranch which had been homesteaded earlier by Frank Owenby and which had an unpainted ranch house of one story on it. Having been used to larger two-story houses in Missouri, Carl Schnebly began construction of a two-story frame house with a full basement, the walls of which were of creek boulders. This house had two fireplaces as shown by the old pictures. The old ranch house was then used as a play house by the children, with some space taken for storage. Because travellers came through occasionally, the twelve-room house (not counting the basement) was converted, at times, into what someone has called the "Schnebly Hotel". One room was later set aside as a store and post office, after the Post Office Department had established SEDONA as a post office in 1902. This was the first post office in the area and was named after Mrs. Carl (Sedona) Schnebly, at the suggestion of her brother-in-law, Ellsworth Schnebly (uncle of the Ellsworth Schnebly who still lives in Sedona). Because Carl Schnebly made trips to Flagstaff or to Jerome or Cottonwood twice a week, the neighbors (who lived from three to ten miles away) asked him to bring their mail and certain staples such as sugar, flour, salt, coffee which they could not raise on their productive and very fertile farms. They all canned produce from their gardens and orchards sufficient to carry them through the winter months, but could not make their shoes, hoes, or many other necessities.

Having taken the first irrigation ditch out of Oak Creek in what is now the immediate area of Sedona, T. C. Schnebly planted an orchard of apples, apricots, peaches, plums and berries which bore unusually soon. This fruit with vegetables gave him a wagon-load to take to market twice a week. Since the shortest distance between two points is a straight line, Carl Schnebly wondered why he should drive a day's distance SOUTH to the Blue Grade to get to Flagstaff NORTH of Sedona. Accordingly, he scanned the hillsides between Sedona and the top of what is now known as Schnebly Hill, and without any instruments, laid out a road-way. He and the neighbors contributed about $1000 and interested Coconino County in giving more aid, so that the one-way wagon trail (precarious in many places) was dug out with pick, shovel, giant powder, and slip scrapers. Sedona was now on a trail directly to Flagstaff and a trip to Flagstaff could be made in ONE day. Eureka! Up to that time it had been an enigma of how to get from "here to there" as the traveller once asked a farmer, "How do I get from here to Edna?" The farmer, after babbling, struggling to explain, scratching his head, was so perplexed that in desperation he said, "You just can't get there from here, stranger." The Schnebly Hill road (which was not named by T. C. Schnebly, but by his delighted neighbors) was the precarious way to get from "here to there" and has been improved at times since, but the lower part still follows the same general lines as built by a few ambitious workers with simple tools and NO MACHINERY. At that time, no one thought of taking a thirty-minute "coffee break" every fifteen minutes, nor did men get paid for portal to portal, nor did they take two hours off for their noon hour, as has happened once or twice in recent history.

A high-priced survey crew and present-day labor would still have been working on that road over which travel would not yet have been possible. Several years later, the Oak Creek Canyon Road was built and in the late thirties, it was oiled, so that the newcomers would not have to undergo the hardships of some of the old-timers, as the Thompsons, the Schuermans, the Chavez family, the Armijos, the Purtymuns, and others who did not grumble when faced with some seemingly insurmountable adversity.

There was a school then north of Indian Gardens, but Indian Gardens was a day's drive from Sedona and only the Purtymuns and the Thompsons were able to attend school there. The quality of the school is shown by the quality of those still living who were schooled there. Perhaps the most authentic historian in this area is Albert Thompson who started in the small school. His articles of a few years ago were interesting, informative, and accurate besides being skillfully written.

Indian artifacts were abundant and almost anyone could find something during the course of a two or three-hour's walk. Thinking that more artifacts would be available "manana", our parents gave our collections away to visitors, and "tomorrow never came."

There was no law requiring secret ballots in those territorial days. Many of those voting would ride up and vote on a cloth ballot without even getting off their horse. No one was paid to vote and no one cared how anyone else voted.

Their idea of a picnic was an all-day's trip to Montezuma Castle, Soda Springs, Montezuma Well, or a shorter trip to Devil's Kitchen (which is northwest of Sedona) or to the nearby Indian ruins which have since been vandalized by those who are not interested in leaving something intact for future generations to enjoy. Game of all kinds was abundant. There was no game and fish commission to put pike in the lakes to eat the large trout, nor was there anyone who wanted mountain lions, wolves and coyotes to increase in numbers to kill off the livestock.

The first large house in Sedona, built by Ellsworth Schnebly's father and his helpers, was sold several times and finally burned to the ground. It was located probably 200 feet south of where the present Sedona Ranger lives, southeast of the Sedona School.

At one time, there were at least five one-room school-houses within ten miles of Sedona: Red Rock School; the School at Pendleys; a School on Grasshopper Flat; one at Big Park; and one in Sedona, near where the present expanded plant is. In 1947, out of a clear sky, and near to where Ellsworth Schnebly was (about a mile above Sedona), someone said that lightning struck the Sedona schoolhouse, which burned (except for the stone walls) to the ground during the summer. The present structure was then started and has been enlarged from time to time as the need arises, or as the population has exploded.

Until after World War Two, most of the water used for drinking came from Oak Creek. Mrs. Hart had a standpipe down just north of where the present bridge crosses Oak Creek at the intersection of the Schnebly Hill Road. There was little or no pollution. People drove under that standpipe and filled their water tanks. Later, Mr. Kenneth de Vos bought some land on the west side of Oak Creek below town, had a well dug, and put a pipeline out to supply some homes on Grasshopper Flat with a pump. Soon after the war, Mr. Carl Williams and his sons brought well-drilling equipment into the community and, it has been said, never struck a dryhole because they refused to drill where it was - to them - apparent that there was no water. George Jordan once had a driller at work just east of where the Valley National Bank is. After going to considerable depth, the bit came to an underground cavern and dropped many feet. No water was found there. George Jordan then drilled wells down near Oak Creek from where water is now pumped. After George had worked at all hours of the day and night laying the pipelines, where most of them still run, Sedona had its first water company, to which it owes gratitude to the farsightedness of a philanthropist, George Jordan.

WESTERNERS PARTICIPATE IN FOUR-IN-ONE TRIP

In spite of chilly and sometimes threatening weather, thirty-eight Sedona Westerners and guests participated in a most enjoyable four-in-one trip on Sunday, April 18th.

The first stop was at an Indian pueblo ruin overlooking the Lake Montezuma Country Club. This ruin, situated on private land and accessible only by permission, is about the same size and very similar in appearance to Tuzigoot near Clarkdale and is probably about the same age.

The next stop was atop a high hill across the valley and northwesterly from the Country Club. These ruins are an excellent example of Indian remains that are almost buried and would probably not be recognized by the uninitiated.

Both sites afford excellent views of the Lake Montezuma area.

Leaving Lake Montezuma, the group went to the edge of the Montezuma Castle reservation to see the many-million-years-old tracks of mastodon, dinosaur, saber-toothed tiger and other unknown prehistoric animals which are preserved in limestone there.

A final stop was made on the Rimrock road just easterly from the junction of Highway 179 and the Interstate highway. A short but exceedingly steep climb to the top of a flat-topped mesa revealed extensive Indian ruins, both pueblo type and cave dwellings. These appear much older than those first visited near the Country Club and are notable for having almost no remaining artifacts.

Making the trip were: Charles Knaus, Charles Thompson, Alice Harris, Cliff and Cle Gordon, Loreen Coon, Rose Mark, Lothar Kolbig, Bill Hayes, Dorothy Hayes, Gladys Allen, Paul Rudesill, Ferd and Betty Grant, Loreene and Doug Hammial, Will and B. Coe, Mounie and Lew Goddard, Betty Borlin, Tom and Mildred Hopkins, Judd and Pauline Trask, Bob Every, Maynard and Jeanne Clark, Jack and Hazel Lytle, Nita Schimberg, Irma Hepner, Lucille Juanarena, Carl Nix, Pam Nix, Darin Nix, Nina Boyle and Gretchen Teeple.

The styrofoam balls with red ribbons, for car antennas, which were contributed by Vi Hall to the Sedona Westerners, are helping to identify the cars on weekly caravan-hikes.

HIKE INTO CANYON -- Members of Sedona Girl Scout Troop, accompanied by their Scout leader, Mrs. Kay Johnson, and other adults here, are shown as they were ready to board busses and cars for a trip to Havasu Canyon. They slept the first night, Thursday, on the rim of the canyon, then hiked down into the canyon for two overnight camps there. They returned Sunday.

GIRL SCOUTS SPEND WEEKEND IN HAVASU CANYON

Scout Cadette Troup 674 spent the weekend in Havasu Canyon. 16 girls and 6 adults left Sedona Thursday and camped Thursday night on the rim of the canyon. Friday, they hiked down into the canyon and made camp. Saturday was spent exploring.

They hiked and climbed to Mooney Falls, a really beautiful spot where they went swimming. They also went to Havasupai Falls and had another swim. Saturday night, the ranger was their guest for dinner. Sunday morning, everyone was up at 5:30 a.m. and breakfast and packing were finished at 8:30, when the first hikers headed up the trail to the top. About 3 p.m., all were out on top again.

It was a wonderful experience and one everyone will remember always. Troop 674 and all adult Scouts wish to express sincere gratitude to Tex Dallas, as a representative of the Sedona Westerners, for his participation. His presence was a reassuring comfort and a pleasure to all. They are also grateful for his transportation and for pictures, which the girls hope to see sometime.

Mrs. Myrtle Smith, liaison between Girl Scouts and Sedona Westerners, was an inspiration and a joy to all.

Mr. and Mrs. Tim (Tim and Kathy) Schwepker acted as trail master and First Aid, and their help and leadership were greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Kay Johnson and Mrs. Marge Edwards were the Girl Scout Leaders. Mrs. Edwards, before coming to Sedona, was active in Leader training and while in Sedona was a Scout Leader. It was a great loss to Sedona Girl Scouts when she moved away. Her participation in this hike was appreciated.

Those of Cadette Troop 674 making the hike were: Beth Denton, Madelyn Wall, Chris Budd, Jacque Sommers, Veronica Mose, Lora Thomason, Laura Lynch, Sandy Lynch, Maureen Husberg, Tracy Beeler, Kim Cochran, Laura Lockin, Cindy Jeffries, Sarah Bryan, Jackie Lemieux and one guest, Crickett Johnson from Junior Troop 764. Three girls of Cadette Troop 674 were not able to go and were missed by all. They had worked and saved to help the Troop make the trip. They are Tammy Wigent, Elizabeth Sharman and Leiann Wallich.

WESTERNERS TRAVEL INTO BLACK HILLS

A group of the more hardy Sedona Westerners and guests braved the strong winds on Sunday, April 25th and traveled into the Black Hills on the west side of the Verde Valley along the road to Cherry, where they visited the remains of the old Pfau mill and viewed four small, inactive mines nearby. This involved a difficult five-mile, round-trip hike through manzanita thickets and over rugged terrain. From the higher ridges there were magnificent views of the Verde Valley.

The Pfau mill is said to have been a ten-stamp gold mill, but nothing remains today except the many stone walls that once supported the stamps, boilers, engines and other heavy equipment. Most of the walls are in an excellent state of preservation.

The mines visited consisted of one small open pit, two tunnels and a shaft. Some copper oxides and sulphates were observed in small amounts, and lots of quartz, but obviously such quartz did not contain much mineral of value as evidenced by the lack of operating mines. In observance of sensible safety rules, the tunnels were not entered.

In spite of the very dry season, several small springs were found in the canyons.

Making the trip were: Charles Knaus, Rose Mark, Ed Long, Bill and Dorothy Hays, Lew and Monnie Goddard, Bob Every, Frank and Agnes LaRiviere, Lorene and Doug Hammial, Bill and Hazel Seaman, Gladys Allen, Jeston and Bob Bailey.

WESTERNERS VISIT INDIAN PUEBLO

On Sunday, May 2nd, the Sedona Westerners traveled to the confluence of Oak Creek and the Verde River and also visited the nearby Indian pueblo ruins.

From the top of a high cliff, a visually impressive bird's-eye view of the two streams, with the panoramic expanse of the Verde Valley as a backdrop, was enjoyed. The calm and peaceful appearance of the water encouraged many of the group to linger.

The nearby Indian ruin is on private property and has been protected to the extent that there has been limited damage by vandals. It is to be hoped that this protection can continue as this ruin is one of the better-preserved ruins in the vicinity of Sedona. Many walls are still standing and the outline of the many ancient rooms is very easily traced. Just over the rim of the cliff facing Oak Creek, there are several small caves that were also Indian homes. These were reached by a combination of ladders and rather hazardous trails.

On top of the cliff bordering the Easterly side of the Verde River and only a short distance upstream from the mouth of Oak Creek, numerous potshards offer evidence of Indian occupation but the houses have been either destroyed or buried during the six hundred or more years since the Indians were living there.

Those making the trip were: Charles Thompson, Alice Harris, Charles Knaus, Margaret D. Krebs, Ed Long, Harvey and Connie Carey, Wilson and Helen Meengs, Lorene B. Coon, Rose Mark, Gladys Allen, Alma Good, Betty Borlin, R. W. Snyder, Ethel Nickelsen, Charles Huntting, Selden Bickford, Charles Chandler, Carl Ryden, Paul Rudesill, Betty and Ford Grant, M. Renee Behrens, Mrs. John Lightfoot, Mrs. Wm. Hoffmann, Mrs. Lou Balch, Jeston and Bob Bailey.

SEDONA WESTERNERS

MAY HIKES

Sunday, May 2 - Confluence Oak Creek and Verde River. Indian Ruins.

Sunday, May 9 - No hike. Mother's Day.

Sunday, May 16 - Hunanki Ruin - Loy Butte.

Sunday, May 23 - Old Homesteads.

Sunday, May 30 - No hike.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKE IN SEPTEMBER.

ALL HIKES DEPART AT 1:30 P.M. from County Bldg. TAKE CANTEEN. PUBLIC INVITED.

WESTERNERS MEETING

On Thursday, May 13th, 8:00 p.m., the Sedona Westerners will meet at the County Building. Following a business meeting, Ruth Jordan, an early-day school teacher at the Beaver Creek school near Rimrock, will continue her talk about early days in the Rimrock and Sedona areas. The first portion of her talk at the Westerners' April meeting was so well received that she was asked to return in May to continue her most interesting reminiscences.

Albert Thompson, a recognized authority on early-day Sedona area history, will give something of the history of Boynton canyon and present a very thoroughly-researched paper about the name of the canyon, there being considerable difference of opinion as to its correct name.

DR. LONG ELECTED TRAIL BOSS OF WESTERNERS

6-3-71

The Sedona Westerners on May 13 elected for the coming year Dr. Ed Long as Trail Boss (President), Lew Goddard as Wagon Boss (Vice-President), B. Coe as Wrangler (Recording Secretary), Georgia Petit as Foreman (Treasurer), and the following Top Hands (Directors): Lothar Kolbig, Olin Mitchell and Bob Walsh.

An impressive Four Freedoms flag ceremony was presented by five girls of leader Kay Johnson's Troop 674 of Girl Scout Cadettes, which is sponsored by the Sedona Westerners. Myrtle Smith is laison between the Westerners and the troop. The five girls were Chris Budd, Tammy Wigent, Beth Denton and Madilyn Wall, with Leanne Wallich as narrator. The ceremony was presented for the Westerners in appreciation of their being such good sponsors, and for furnishing one of the packhorses used in the troop's recent camping trip in Havasupai Canyon. The girls, in uniform, displayed many merit badges, particularly Madilyn Wall and Ruth Denton. All will receive a large Canyon badge for their Havasupai trek.

In the program which followed, Albert Thompson read an historical account of the naming of Boynton, or Boyington, Canyon, which he had written.

Mrs. Walter (Ruth) Jordan gave the second part of her reminiscenses of school teaching at Beaver Creek School. She thinks the movies and TV give a distorted picture of the rural West. The image she formed as teacher and as a boarder at the Soda Springs Ranch was of fine, helpful pioneer families who led hospitable and interesting lives, even in a remote location. And of cowboys and students who forded streams on horseback; of picnics and plays; and of a fire put out by a student before help came.

The Red Rock School held classes from 1891 to 1947, when a class of eight pupils completed the 8th grade. Albert Thompson's sister was one of the first students, and his daughter was in the last class at Red Rock. The daughter presented a letter of appreciation to Ruth Jordan, who also taught in that school, on behalf of her students.

WESTERNERS VISIT HUNANKI PUEBLO RUIN

A pleasant spring afternoon, Sunday, May 16th, lured the Sedona Westerners on a leisurely visit to the Hunanki Pueblo ruin situated in the base of the tall, red cliffs of Loy Butte. Though very badly vandalized by thoughtless and ignorant people, the ruin is still an impressive example of Indian architecture of more than six hundred years ago. The ancient stone dwellings extend for several hundred feet along the base of the cliff and enough evidence remains to indicate that portions of the pueblo were three and four stories in height. Had this ruin been protected and restored in the manner of Montezuma Castle, it could well have been just as imposing.

The Hunanki Pueblo was studied by Dr. J. W. Fewkes of the Smithsonian Institute during the 1890's. Reports of the studies were published by the U. S. Bureau of Ethnology.

Other highlights of the trip were graciously conducted tours by Mrs. Hancock through the extensive and beautiful cactus garden that she has spent years in creating at the Hancock Ranch and to the water supply for the ranch. This latter is a huge picturesque water-filled basin surrounded on three sides by red cliffs towering several hundred feet. It is a prehistoric water supply for the Indians, enlarged by later construction of a concrete dam.

Making the trip were: Charles Knaus, Margaret D. Krebs, Rose Mark, Louis Komuvas, Ed Long, Myrtle Smith, Will Coe, Nelson and Helen Meengs, Hazel Lundahl, Jack and Hazel Lytle, Lew and Monnie Goddard, Bob Every, Ray Heym, Lou Balch, Lucia and Elmer Utke, Ford and Betty Grant, Selden W. Bickford, Paul Rudisill, Connie Carey, Margaret and Harold Hicks, Bob and Jeston Bailey, Betty and Arnold Borlin.

Westerners Explore

Sunday, May 23rd found the Sedona Westerners exploring the juniper-clad slopes between Doe Mountain and the Coxcombs. Two old abandoned homesteads were visited and the weird but beautiful red rock formations of the Coxcombs were viewed at close range. Nothing remains at the old homesteads but tumble-down walls of red stone and the many broken remains of the tools and utensils of living. These artifacts provide a somewhat hazy picture of the people who once struggled to create homes in this isolated area and arouse a feeling of sadness in the beholder as thoughts turn to the hardships and possible broken dreams of the homesteaders.

Making the trip were: Charles Knaus, Rose Mark, Henry J. Goerke, Ed Long, Nelson and Helen Meengs, Charles Thompson, Alice Harris, Virginia and Phil Zebold, Lucille Juanarena, Voniece Nix, Grady Nix, Pam Nix, Bill and Hazel Seaman, Ellsworth Schnebly, Kermit and Jean Korn, Will Coe, Ruth Stevens, Dorothe Dutton, Lew Goddard, June and Bob Every, Louis Komuves, Jack and Hazel Lytle, Lorene and Doug Hammial, Connie Carey, Joseph Boyd, Ray Heym, Betty and Ford Grant.

THIRTY-SEVEN HIKERS SCALE DOE MOUNTAIN

Red Rock News 3/18/71

Do you NEED or desire the exercise of your hill-climbing muscles? If so, you can get all you want in a 20-mile round-trip drive from the county building.

Thirty-seven Sedona Westerners and their guests negotiated the gruelling climb up the northwest slope -- oops!-- it was a walll--- of Doe Mountain in crisp, cool air Sunday, March 14. Once on top, in a very brisk, chilling wind, the group hiked around the edge of Doe Mountain, enjoying an unobstructed view of the countryside from all directions. Church Rock, Bell Rock, Court House Rock, Chimney Rock, Black Mountain, Jerome, Cottonwood, Clarkdale, Table Mountain with its Sedona Airport are all visible from the 5000 foot elevation and there is no smog or pollution. Even the ubiquitous beer can or bottle was not in evidence. Nor were any deer or other animals taking their constitutionals.

Don't hang your jacket or other extra garment on a bush on the way up as you may miss it and have to go back up after it. Carry your extra wraps around your neck or under your arm. This is a trip not recommended for August weather.

On Sunday, March 21, weather permitting, the Westerners will go from the County Building at 9:30 a.m. to the Indian Ruins along the old Fort Whipple-Fort Marcy Military Road. Take water and lunch. Everyone welcome.

Watch the Red Rock News for future outings sponsored by the Sedona Westerners.

Those making the ascent and even more painful descent were: Charles Knaus, Margaret Krebs, Charles and Katherine Kaesur, Clara Purtymun, Bill and Hazel Seaman, Ed Long, Henry Goerke, Will Coe, Clay and Carol LaFon, Jack and Hazel Lytle, Mike Ceballos, Lorene and Doug Hammial, Jeston and Bob Bailey, Lew Goddard, Ford Grant, Nick Burtnyk, Elmer and Lucia Utke, Harvey, Connie Carey, Rose Mark, Irma Hepner, Ray Heym, Obed and Marjorie Westphal, Pauline and Judd Trask, Betty Borlin, Irene and Oswald Diedrich and Ellsworth Schnebly.

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