SEDONA WESTERNERS
HIKING CLUB

Sedona Westerners Yearbook

1990 - 1991

Sedona Westerners

SEDONA, ARIZONA

HIKING SCHEDULE 1990-91

	SATURDAY HIKES	8 am	VEHICLE	LENGTH MILES	CLIMB FEET	RATING
Sep 15	Abineau - Bear Jaw Loop	X	HC	9	2150	D,S
Sep 29	Bill Williams Loop/	Shuttle/		8	2400	D,S
	- Little Horse	DUAL X		4	300	E
Oct 13	Sterling Cyn/Vultee Arch	DUAL	HC	5	600	E,S
Oct 27	Bear Mtn/Fay Cyn Overlook	DUAL X		6-7	1900	D,R,S
Nov 10	Boynton Cyn Mushroom	DUAL		6	700-1000	D,R,S
Nov 24	Fin Loop			4	700	D,R,S
Dec 8	Boynton-Hartwell	Shuttle X		8	1500	D,S
Dec 22	~~Jim Bryant~~ (Cancel-Snow)	~~DUAL~~		~~6~~	400	M
Jan 5	~~Lincoln Cyn (Honanki Ruins)~~	~~Shuttle~~ Cancel (Mud & Rain)		4	300	M,R
Jan 19	Robbers' Roost			5	600	M
Feb 2	Soldier's Heights Loop		HC	5	500	M,S
Feb 16	Telephone/Cookstove Loop	Shuttle		4	1000	D,S
Mar 2	Lost Wilson/Brind's Mesa Loop		HC	7	700	M,R
Mar 16	~~H. S. Canyon~~ (Cancel-Snow)		HC	6	500	M,R
Mar 30	A. B. Young	DUAL		4-6	2100	M,S
Apr 13	Secret Cyn/Bear Sign Loop		HC	8	800	D,S
Apr 27	North Wilson	DUAL		5-8	1900-2400	D,S,R
May 11	89A Switchbacks Overlook		HC	4	200	E

SUNDAY HIKES All hikes are in pairs; each hiker chooses one or the other, with the option to switch when same pair is repeated 2 wks later. LIMIT: 50 per hike.

Sep 9	{Kelly Canyon	}Repeated		2	100	E,R
	{Harding Point	}on Sep 23		2	200	E
Oct 7	{Old Schnebly Road	}Repeated		2	800	M
	{Soldier's Wash/ 3 Arches	}on Oct 21		3	500	M,S
Nov 4	{Snoopy	}Repeated		3	600	M,R,S
	{Steamboat	}on Nov 18		3	800	M,S
Dec 2	{Bear Wallow	}Repeated		3	200	E
	{Grasshopper Point Loop	}on Dec 16		2	150	E
Dec 30	{Red Tank Draw	}Repeated		2	100	E
	{Mescal Mountain	}on Jan 13		3	500	M,S
Jan 27	{Marg's Stable	}Repeated		3	300	E
	{Fay Canyon	}on Feb 10		3	200	E
Feb 24	{Cathedral Rock	}Repeated		3	400	M,S,R
	{Devil's Bridge	}on Mar 10		2	300	E
Mar 24	{Coxcomb	}Repeated		2	400	M,S
	{Pumphouse Wash	}on Apr 7		2	300	M,S
Apr 21	{Devil's Outhouse (New)	}Repeated		2	700	E
	{Turkey Creek	}on May 5	4WD	3	250	E

VEHICLE REQUIRED - HC=High Clearance, 4WD=Four Wheel Drive
HIKE RATING-E=Easy,M=Moderate,R=Rock Scramble,D=Difficult,S=Steep,#=Longer Hike
Cookouts--Oct 11 and May 9, Christmas Party (Elks)--Dec 13
All hikes leave from East end of Revco Parking Lot. Saturday hikes leave at 9 A.M. unless marked "X" for 8 A.M. Sunday hikes leave at 1:30 P.M.
ALWAYS WEAR PROPER SHOES AND CARRY WATER.
MONTHLY MEETINGS--2nd Thursday Sept through May, 7:30 P.M., all at WAYSIDE CHAPEL uptown Sedona, except Oct and May meetings are cookouts, Dec is Christmas party.

1990 - 1991
Officers

Trail Boss	Bob Freeman
Wagon Boss	Al Smeeth
Cactus Dodger	Keren O'Brien
Foreman	Barb Benson
Wrangler	Elyse Holland

Top Hands	Mike Nardello
	Susan Kriege
	Ken Matthews (Asst Cactus Dodger)
	Sam Waldrip (Old Dogie)

Round-up Boss	Claes Hultgren
Calico Queen	Nancy Bitler
Calico Prince	Jack Coombs
Prospector	Mike Nardello
Marshall	Fred Johnson
Old Timer	Sally Freeman (Historian)
Lookout (KSB)	Norm HerKenham
Ranger	Marge HerKenham
Sunbeam	Laura Morgan
Coyote Caller	Steve Hall

HIKING SCHEDULE 1990-91

	TUESDAY HIKES	VEHICLE
Sep 11	Little Horse	
Sep 18	Encinosa Loop	
Sep 25	Vultee Arch	HC
Oct 2	Red Canyon	
Oct 9	West Fork	
Oct 16	Robbers' Roost	
Oct 23	House Mountain	4WD
Oct 30	Red Tank Draw - Sacred Mountain	
Nov 6	Bear Wallow	
Nov 13	Verde Caves	HC
Nov 20	Wild Horse Mesa (Sunset Mesa)	
Nov 27	Brind's Mesa by Soldier's Pass	
Dec 4	Long Canyon	
Dec 11	Fay Canyon Overlook	
Dec 18	Loy Butte (Honanki)	
Jan 8	Wet Beaver Creek	
Jan 15	Cathedral Rock	
Jan 22	Narrow Canyon	HC
Jan 29	House of the Open Door	HC
Feb 5	Loy Canyon	
Feb 12	Secret Canyon	HC
Feb 19	North Wilson	
Feb 26	Bear Sign Canyon	HC
Mar 5	Jim Bryant	
Mar 12	Doe Mountain - West Trail	
Mar 19	Woods Canyon	HC
Mar 16	Mayan Maiden	
Apr 2	Mormon Canyon Wash	
Apr 9	Steamboat	
Apr 16	Brind's Ridge (Dry Creek)	HC
Apr 23	Mescal Mountain	
Apr 30	Coxcomb	

(original - as written)

The Abineau - Bear Jaw Loop Hike (9-15-90)

The hikers left the REVCO parking lot at 8:00 for the high country on Saturday morning. The automobile caravan went north on the Canyon road, up the switchbacks, through Flagstaff and then north on route 180 to the northern entrance to Hart Prairie Road, just past milepost 235 and then east to the beginning of Bear Jaw Trail #26 on Forest Road 416. The hike began at 10:40 at an elevation of 8,200 feet and went up the Abineau Canyon Trail to the Abineau Road, topping out at 10,200 feet a little after noon. The hikers stopped there for lunch. After lunch the hikers followed the Abineau Road for two and a half miles to the Bear Jaw trail turn off. The aspens had begun to turn gold at that elevation and at one point the Abineau Road, leading through a grove of aspens, passed under a canopy of gold. Reaching the Bear Jaw turn off, the hikers left the Abineau Road and followed the Bear Jaw trail down through dark forests of aspen and ponderosa to the cars at 3:10. The day was clear at the start, but rapidly clouded over. However, the rain that fell later that day failed to wet the hikers.

The hike was led by Al Smeeth. The hikers were Bob Freeman, Ken Matthews, Chuck Reintsma, Fred and Nan Johnson, John Sturgis, Keran O'Brien, Norm Herkenham, Vic Stockbridge, Norm Hause, Walter Fasching, Bob Boydston, Bob Muggeridge, Paula Wells, Charles Jorgenson, Claes Hultgren, Elyse Holland, Kitty McKenzie, Nancy Bihler, Kent Christiansen, Virginia Strand and Oliver Jacobson.

The next Westerners' hikes will take place on Sunday September 23rd leaving from the REVCO parking lot at 1:30 P. M. As usual, the Sunday hike offers two choices: either Kelly Canyon or Harding Point. The Tuesday hike will take place on September 18th, leaving from the REVCO parking lot at 9:00 A. M.

Hikers should always wear proper shoes and carry sufficient water. On Saturday hikes, hikers should bring lunch.

Keran O'Brien

Scribe,
Sedona Westerners

Westerners plan hikes

9-2-90

The Sedona Westerners will move into fall with a pair of hikes.

Both hikes will be Sunday, Sept. 9.

One is to Kelly Canyon and the other to Harding Point. Participants will meet at Revco at 1:30 p.m. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes.

The Dogies will hike the Little Horse Trail, Sept. 11.

Participants will meet at Revco at 9 a.m. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and wear sturdy shoes.

The first Westerners meeting of the season will be at Wayside Chapel at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13.

John Wright will be the featured speaker and his topic will be "Forest Watch."

Westerners hike Sunday

9-2-90

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Hiking season is on with Sunday trips to the pines

Westerners' season opens with two walks above switchbacks

9-9-90

The hiking season began for the Sedona Westerners with two hikes to the pines above the switchbacks.

Trail Boss Bob Freeman sent Sunday's hikers off to either Harding Point, led by Norman Hause or to Kelly Canyon, led by Norman Herkenham.

On the way to Kelly Canyon, 32 hikers looked at the mess left by some inconsiderate campers. There was still a smoking fire in a firepit, blue tarps strewn around, and garbage that had not been packed out — it was all over the area, evidently eaten by animals.

The hikers put out the fire when they returned, with the water left in their canteens.

Hikers noted the many flowers still to be seen including, Thurber's potentilla, paintbrush, and Mexican campion. (cont.)

Herkenham gave a description of a composite. He said the area where the hike began, Pump House Wash, led into Kelly Canyon which, if traversed all the way, would lead to I-17.

The hikers were: Al and Phyllis Smeeth, Sam Curry, Ken and Glenda Matthews, Sam Waldrip, April Machnicki, Hope Maliniak, Elizabeth Parks, Don Hooven, Marshall Cook, Debbie and Lee Steinman, Walt Fanning, Bob Muggeridge, Kathie Matchett, Chuck Reintsma, Marilou Foster, Mary and Burt Turner, Jim and Alice Evans, Ralph and Joan Kramer, Eleanor Enfield, Cheryl Harter, Lad and Libbie Vagen, Sheila Conway, Bob Freeman and the Scribe, Sally Freeman.

9-9-90

Those on the Harding Point trip were: Marcie Zant, Martha Hodges, Bill and Gloria Hohe, John Hanson, Dick and Jan Dunham, Jack Leahy, Ed Bintz, Mick and Tish Siemion, Sue Ray, Marilyn Erickson, Paula Wells, Elyse Holland and Charles Jorgenson.

The Westerns will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, at Wayside Chapel.

The first Saturday hike will be Sept. 15, leaving at 8 a.m. from Revco parking lot for Abineau-Bear Jaw Loop.

Participants should bring lunch, plenty of water, and wear sturdy hiking boots.

Westerners hike Bear Jaw Loop

9-15-90

The Westerners' auto caravan had a long trip to Bear Jaw Trail.

After leaving the Revco parking lot at 8 a.m., they went up the canyon's switchbacks, through Flagstaff; then they went north on Hwy. 180 to the northern entrance to Hart Prairie Road, just past milepost 235.

Next they went east to the beginning of Bear Jaw Trail 26 on Forest Road 416.

The hiking began at 10:40 a.m. at an elevation of 8,200 feet and went up the Abineau Canyon Trail to the Abineau Road, topping out at 10,200 feet a little after noon. The hikers stopped there for lunch.

After lunch, the hikers followed the Abineau Road for 2½-miles to the Bear Jaw Trail turnoff.

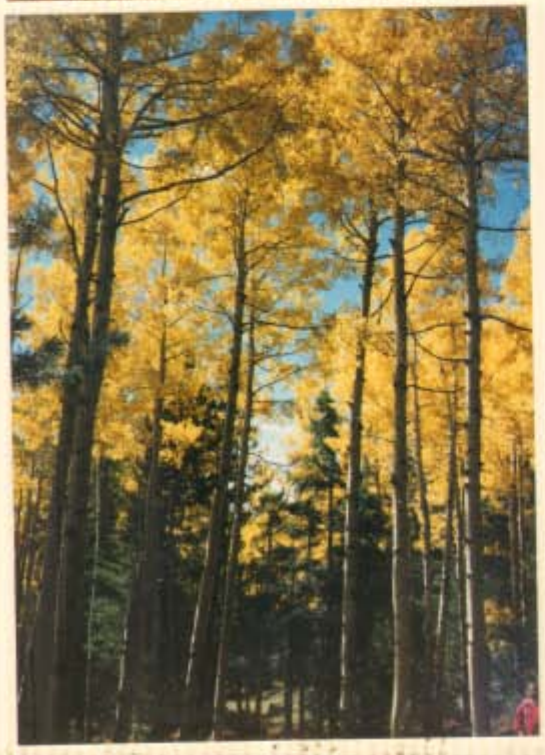
The aspens had begun to turn gold at that elevation, and at one point, the Abineau Road leading through a grove of aspens, passed under a canopy of gold.

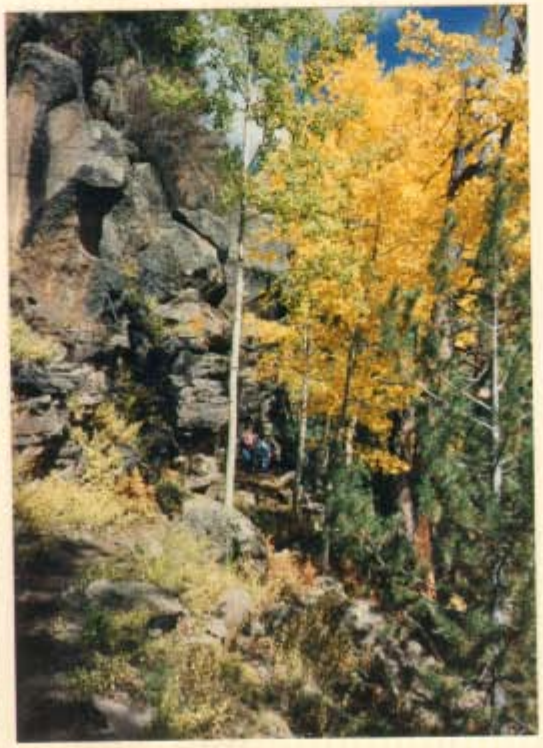
The hikers followed the Bear Jaw Trail down through dark forests of aspen and ponderosa to the cars, arriving at 3:10 p.m.

The day was clear at the start, but rapidly clouded over; however, the rain that fell later that day failed to wet the hikers.

The hike was led by Al Smeeth. The hikers were Bob Freeman, Ken Matthews, Chuck Reinstsma, Fred and Nan Johnson, John Sturgis, Keran O'Brien, Norm Herkenham, Vic Stockbridge, Norm Hause, Walter Fasching, Bob Boydston, Bob Muggeridge, Paula Wells, Charles Jorgenson, Chaes Hultgren, Elyse Holland, Kitty McKenzie, Nancy Bihler, Kent Christiansen, Virginia Strand and Oliver Jacobson.

9-29-90- Little Horse





Hikes tackle Harding Point, Kelly Canyon

9-23-90

The threat of rain was subsiding as the Sedona Westerners drove off to trailheads above the switchbacks.

Hikers split into two groups, with Paul Knopf leading the Harding Point hike and Bill von Ofenheim leading the Kelly Canyon hike.

After a short detour from the parking area to an overlook above West Fork Canyon, the Harding Point hikers set off down an old logging road.

Half-way to their goal, they detoured to inspect a "trick tank," a system for collecting precipitation and directing it to a stock watering trough.

The goal, an overlook into Oak Creek Canyon, was not to be reached. Ponding across the road and into the trees discouraged further progress, so the group returned to the cars.

Hikers were Al Smeeth, April Machmicki, Hope Maliniak, Shelley Uram, Norm Herkenham, Ken Matthews, Keran O'Brien, Tony Sclafani, Dick and Rhita Suhe, Bill nd Charla Cupit, Byron Maxwell, Veronica Vaughan, Lydia Kirkley, Ruth Upton, Kathie Matchett, Elizabeth Parks, Yvonne Prostor, Raymond Prostor, Richard Huffer, Burt and Mary Turner, and Claes Hultgren, scribe.

Those hiking Kelly Canyon were Esther Lugo, Victoria Giampa, Fred and Nan Johnson, Bill and Gloria Hohe, Al and Ruth Clem, Norm Hause, Bob Muggeridge, Hal and Shirley Driggs, Joh Sturgis, Jack Coombs and Barbara Benson.

Saturday, Sept. 29, the Westerners will have two options. One is the difficult Bill Williams Loop and the other choice is the easy Little Horse Trail. Both hikes will leave from the Revco parking lot at 8 a.m.

The next Tuesday hike will be to Red Canyon on Oct. 2. Hikers will meet at the Revco parking lot at 9 a.m.

Participants for all of these hikes should bring lunch, plenty of water and wear sturdy hiking shoes.

The fall cookout will be Thursday, Oct. 11, at Montezuma Well. The last day to sign up for this event will be Sunday, Oct. 7.

Westerners hike trails to the west of Flagstaff

9-29-90

It was a beautiful Saturday morning when the Westerners drove off to trailheads west of Flagstaff.

Hikers split into two groups upon leaving the Revco parking lot. Mick Siemion led one group to Little Horse out Hwy. 180. Norm Hause led the other group to Bill Williams Mountain.

Bill Williams Mountain is 9,264 feet high and is 6 miles southeast of Williams. The group hiked up the south side of Bill Williams on the Benham Trail, which starts near the Perkinsville Road.

The Benham Trail is an old, well-engineered trail that was used to service the fire tower on Bill Williams before the road to the top was built. The trail has recently been restored.

After enjoying lunch and the magnificent view from the top of the mountain, the group hiked down the north side of the mountain on the Bill Williams Trail, which is much steeper than the Benham Trail.

It only takes three and a half miles to cover the 2,000-foot change in elevation that the Benham Trail does in four and a half miles.

For those interested in history, Bill Williams Mountain was named for the noted character of unsavory repute who acted as a guide for Fremont during his disastrous experience in the San Juan Mountains in 1848 where he was trying to find a pass for the Pacific Railroad to cross.

Eleven men were lost in a blizzard in a high mountain pass to which Williams led them.

Those hiking Bill Williams were Chuck Reintsma, Ken Matthews, Norm Herkenham, Bill and Gloria Hohe, Keran O'Brien, Fred and Nan Johnson, Ted Brees, John Sturgis, Art Theiren, Jack Stratton, Barney Goss, Al and Ruth Clem, Bill von Ofenheim, Paula Wells, Al Smeeth and Scribe-for-the-Day Norm Hause.

Those hiking Little Horse were Bob Freeman, Guin and Sam Waldrip, Jack Leahy, Tish Siemion, Barbara Sturgis, Erm Kramer, John and Marge Schaeffer, Bob Muggeridge and Vina Darling.

Tuesday, Oct. 9, the Dogies will meet at the Revco parking lot for a hike to West Fork.

Sunday, Oct. 7, the Westerners will have the choice of two hikes: one up Old Schnebly Road and the other to Soldiers Wash and the Three Arches.

Westerners hike Old Schnebly Road, Soldier's Wash

10-7-90

Fifty Sedona Westerners took advantage of a cool overcast Sunday afternoon to hike Old Schnebly Road and Soldier's Wash-3 Arches.

Al Smeeth led 30 hikers up Old Schnebly Road. The 800-foot climb was quite a challenge, for many of the hikers who are senior citizens.

The goal was to reach the rim of the mountain, where all had a really extraordinary view of Sedona.

Many familiar formations of the red rocks, such as Mund's Mountain, Bear Wallow, Teapot Rock, Capital Butte, Chimney Rock, etc., were in view.

Old Schnebly Road gave a floral display of Golden Eye (Veguiera). It was abundant and spectacular, with the beauty of bright yellow and golden colors.

Up on the rim there was evidence of an old Civilian Conservation Corps camp established in the 1930s. There was also a ruin of an old cabin — the fireplace still intact — which was used for an old Western movie. The two-mile hike took about 2½ hours.

Old Schnebly Road hikers were Joella Jean Mahoney, Sam Waldrip, Paul and Joyce Knopf, Phyllis Smeeth, Marshall Cook, Norm Herkenham, Elizabeth Parks, Erm Kramer, John and Marge Scheffer, Jim and Jeannine Bethanes, Keran O'Brien, Herb Hansen, Sheila Conway, Carl Breitmaier, Ed Jaskulski, Burt and Mary Turner, Jack Coombs, Carlos Mattson, Ruth Upton, Charlene Nestel, Kent Guthe, Len and Gwen Silvern and Scribe Ed Bintz.

Ken Matthews led 20 hikers on Soldier's Wash-3 Arches trail.

The hikers were Oliver Jacobson, Esther Lugo, John Hanson, Maxine and Mark Rossman, Byron Maxwell, April Machnicki, Hope Maliniak, Fred and Nan Johnson, Norm Hause, Joan Kramer, Barbara Benson, Violet Machin, Glenda Matthews, Bob Muggeridge, Irwin and Michele Nuttelman, Paula Wells and Charles Jorgensen.

Saturday, Oct. 13, the Sedona Westerners will hike to Sterling Canyon-Vultee Arch Trails. High clearance vehicles will be necessary.

Participants will meet at 9 a.m. at the Revco parking lot. Bring lunch, water and good hiking shoes.

Joella Mahoney

Esther Lugo Sheila Conway

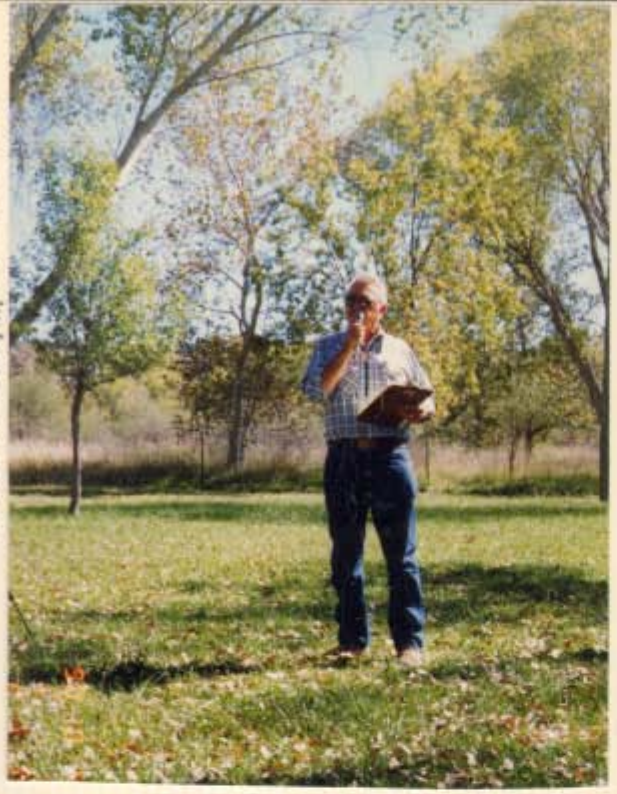
Mike Nardella

Jack Coombs

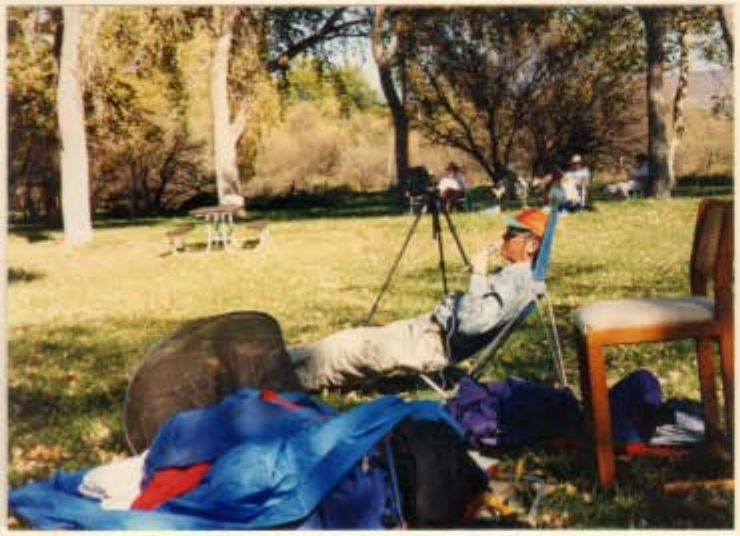
Norm Herkenham
Al Clem (OK)
Bob Freeman
Norm Hause
John Schaeffer

10-11-90
Cookout
Photos by
Nancy
Bihler

Bob Freeman - Trail Boss



Al Sinreath - Wagon Boss



Bill Von Offenheim
Program
Photos by N. Bihler

Hikers trek to Soldier's Wash, see Three Arches

10-7-90

Fifty Sedona Westerners took advantage of a cool overcast Sunday afternoon to hike Old Schnebly Road and Soldier's Wash-3 Arches.

Al Smeeth led 30 hikers up Old Schnebly Road. The 800-foot climb was quite a challenge, for many of the hikers who are senior citizens.

Many familiar formations of the red rocks, such as Mund's Mountain, Bear Wallow, Teapot Rock, Capital Butte, Chimney Rock, etc., were in view.

Old Schnebly Road gave a floral display of Golden Eye (Veguiera). It was abundant and spectacular, with the beauty of bright yellow and golden colors.

Old Schnebly Road hikers were Joella Jean Mahoney, Sam Waldrip, Paul and Joyce Knopf, Phyllis Smeeth, Marshall Cook, Norm Herkenham, Elizabeth Parks, Erm Kramer, John and Marge Scheffer, Jim and Jeannine Bethanes, Keran O'Brien, Herb Hansen, Sheila Conway, Carl Breitmaier, Ed Jaskulski, Burt and Mary Turner, Jack Coombs, Carlos Mattson, Ruth Upton, Charlene Nestel, Kent Guthe, Len and Gwen Silvern and Scribe Ed Bintz.

Ken Matthews led 20 hikers on Soldier's Wash-3 Arches trail.

The hikers were Oliver Jacobson, Esther Lugo, John Hanson, Maxine and Mark Rossman, Byron Maxwell, April Machnicki, Hope Maliniak, Fred and Nan Johnson, Norm Hause, Joan Kramer, Barbara Benson, Violet Machin, Glenda Matthews, Bob Muggeridge, Irwin and Michele Nuttelman, Paula Wells and Charles Jorgensen.

Saturday, Oct. 13, the Sedona Westerners will hike to Sterling Canyon-Vultee Arch Trails. High clearance vehicles will be necessary.

39 Westerners hike to Vultee Arch

10-13-90

Thirty nine Westerners met Saturday for a hike along the Sterling Canyon trail at Vultee Arch

Nancy Bihler led the hikers to the huge rock formation below the natural sandstone arch where a plaque is located commemorating aircraft designer and manufacturer Gerald Vultee and his wife Sylvia.

The Vultees were killed in the crash of their small plane in a blinding snowstorm in 1938 about one and one-half miles from the arch named in their memory. The bronze plaque was dedicated to the Vultees by the Sedona Westerners on Sept. 27, 1972.

Part of the group climbed to the arch and then the whole group continued up Sterling Canyon on a wooded, cross-country path to a secluded lunch spot below two caves.

After lunch, those who met the challenge of the climb to the caves found remains of an old-time bootlegging operation. Then the group headed back to the trailhead.

The next scheduled Westerners hike is Sunday, Oct. 21, with a choice of Old Schnebly Road or Soldiers Wash/Three Arches.

Hikers should meet at the Revco parking lot at 1:30 p.m. with water and sturdy hiking shoes. The Tuesday, Oct. 23 hike is to House Mountain and hikers should meet at Revco at 9 a.m.

33 take Soldier's Wash hike

The Sedona Westerners, led by Nancy Bihler, hiked to Soldier's Wash Oct. 21.

Bihler and 33 hikers journeyed to Three Arches at Soldier's Wash, with several side trips on the way.

The first stop was at Devil's Kitchen, where Marge Herkenham told the group about the formation of this sink hole in 1880.

10-21-90

The next stop was at the grave of an unknown soldier or Indian scout. The Westerners have placed a marked head with *Quien Sabe* meaning, "who knows."

One final steep climb, and most of the hikers arrived at the 3 Arches. Some were content with the view from the base, but several climbed farther to the top of the mesa behind.

Norm Hause also led nineteen hikers up Old Schnebly Road that same day.

Saturday, Oct. 27, the Westerners will hike to Bear Mountain - Fay Canyon Overlook, leaving from Revco parking lot at 8 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 30, the Dogies will meet at 9 a.m. at Revco for a double-header hike to Red Tank Draw and Sacred Mountain. Bring lunch, water and good hiking shoes for both hikes.

10-16-90 - Dogies - Robbers Roost

Westerners take hike to Fay Canyon

10-27-90

The Sedona Westerners most recent hike was to Bear Mountain, with some hikers proceeding to Fay Canyon.

The main group was led by Tom Hager, while the group going to Fay Canyon was led by Sam Waldrip.

The trail led up the mountain along an old cattle trail to the first bench and then to an overlook into Red Canyon.

They crossed a saddle and climbed two successive knobs, reaching the top at 11 a.m., for an early lunch.

The top of Bear Mountain afforded a magnificent 360-degree view of the surrounding lands on a clear day.

One of the hikers said she thought she had died and gone to heaven, it was so beautiful.

After lunch, the hikers went down and across a razor-backed ridge to look into Fay Canyon, then down a steep slope to a point on the canyon rim over a cave once occupied by bootleggers.

The next Westerners hike will be Sunday, Nov. 4, leaving from the Revco parking lot at 1:30 p.m.

As usual, hikers have a choice between two hikes; either "Snoopy" or "Steamboat."

The upcoming Tuesday hike will be Nov. 6, to Bear Wallow.

Hikers will leave at 9 a.m. from the Revco parking lot.

The next Westerners meeting will be at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 8, at the Wayside Chapel in Uptown Sedona.

10-16-90
Scout Kachina Trail

Westerners hike Snoopy, Steamboat

11-4-90

Under the usual clear skies of Sedona, 28 Westerners headed toward the two hiking mainstays of Steamboat and Snoopy last Sunday.

The hikes, which offer an excellent view of Sedona and a brisk workout that most hikers enjoy, will be repeated Nov. 18.

Norm Herkenham lead the way up Snoopy, while the 35 Steamboat hikers followed Kitty McKenzie.

The Snoopy hike begins with Marg's Draw, which is also named Marg's Stable.

On the way up, Herkenham gave the group the old "horse" story.

According to the tale, the old mare would hide when it was time for new shoes, because it meant a long trip to Camp Verde as a member of a wagon team.

WHEN THE group came upon the Snoopy Trail, the green trees surrounding Oak Creek, the Twin Buttes (north side), the entrance to Jim Bryant and Cathedral Rock (regular Westerners hikes) soon became visible.

With a few extra puffs, they pressed on to reach the top (almost 5,000 feet at the Fort Apache limestone level), and a look at the other side.

Straight down was the Y intersection, Uptown Sedona, Brin's Ridge and The Fin, which will constitute a regular full-day hike Saturday, Nov. 24.

In the distance, they saw the Chimney and the Coxcombs, an area that many people want to preserve.

Herkenham then led 12 brave hikers for the short but tricky climb to Snoopy's Belly. Here, several newer hikers were initiated into the Belly Club.

EACH TUESDAY at 9 a.m., the Dogies meet at Revco for a full-day hike.

Scheduled for Nov. 13 are the Verde Caves. 13.

The next weekend hike starts at 9 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 10 at Revco.

The destination is Boynton Canyon Mushroom, which provides some grand views and interesting trails.

This is a dual hike. Choose your pace — normal or fast.

Full-day hikes require good boots, plenty of water and a lunch.

The Westerners monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 8, at the Wayside Chapel.

You can also sign up for the Christmas party Dec. 13 at the Chapel.

The Thursday speaker is Paul Lindberg, who will discuss the geology of the Colorado Plateau.

Westerners take rigorous mushroom hike

11-10-90

It was a warm, sunny morning as 47 Westerners began a rigorous hike to the Boynton Canyon Mushroom.

Fearless leader Norm Hause set a fast pace past the Enchantment Resort, eager to leave civilization behind.

The group proceeded to the wilderness area and began rock scrambling and climbing up through a geological rock unit called the Schnebly Hill Formation.

GEOLOGIST AL Smeeth said the formation was deposited across the region by sea sediments about 270 million years ago.

He answered questions about crossbedding, and pointed out the spectacular views of the slightly higher Coconino sandstone, a phenomenon due to the compacting and solidification of sand dunes which occurred about 260 million years ago.

As the excursion continued, hikers encountered rough, steep terrain enveloped by loose rock, causing footholds to slip and slide, especially when a three-foot black and yellow snake wriggled past them down a water run-off channel the hikers were carefully attempting to scale in Rattlesnake Gulch.

After a strenuous and precarious ascent along narrow, precipitous ledges, past pictographs and into five Indian ruins believed to be inhabited by the Sinagua Indians from 1200 to 1400, the group went on to the base of the famous Mushroom.

THIS RED-ROCK formation has gained its top-heavy, mushroom-like shape due to weathering and erosion.

Those who did not wish to climb to the top of the Mushroom stayed at the bottom with Bob Freeman, current Westerner trail boss, and leader of the shorter hike.

The 39 more adventuresome members clambered to the top for a most welcome lunch, where spectacular views of Boynton Canyon, Secret Mountain, the Bear and Mingus Mountain were admired.

Hause finally led the troops down the cautious descent. Fanny slides down the steep slopes were not uncommon, and tree and brush hand-grips were needed as they slid down a different route, named the *Wilbur Thomas Memorial Trail.*

NORM HERKENHAM, the botanist/zoologist of the group, pointed out unusual plant life on the way down, including his pet plant, Osterhout's potentillo, a fern-like plant which only grows in the shade.

Other interesting specimens included creeping barberry, myrtle boxleaf and wire lettuce.

He also said that the large manzanita called pringles manzanita found in the area of the hike are quite different from the smaller pointleaf manzanita.

At the last rest stop, the two Norms told the group incredible bear stories which gave everyone the last spark of energy needed.

ALL ARRIVED safely at the trailhead with seven miles and six hours of new and incredible experiences to remember.

The Mushroom hike, which took place Nov. 10, is one of the group's most challenging hikes.

Sunday, Nov. 18, there will be a dual hike with a choice of either Snoopy or Steamboat as destinations.

Hikers should meet in the Revco parking lot at 1:30 p.m. with water and sturdy hiking shoes.

For the hike to Wild Horse Mesa, Tuesday, Nov. 20, hikers should meet at Revco at 9 a.m.

Westerners climb up Steamboat Rock

Erm Kramer led 24 Westerners on a climb up Steamboat Rock Sunday. 11-18-90

Kramer said the hike was strenuous, and that he felt lucky to get there and back without losing any of the hikers.

The Westerners will hike the Jim Bryant Trail Saturday.

The group will meet at Revco parking lot at 9 a.m., and should bring lunch, water and wear good hiking shoes or boots.

Tuesday's hike will be to Brind's Mesa via Soldier Pass. Meet at Revco at 9 a.m.

WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE: Nov. 30 - Dec. 6

A publication of the Sedona Red Rock NEWS

THE SEDONA SCENE

11-30-90

COVER

Sedona offers its residents and visitors some beautiful views, from the backyard or just driving through on the highway. If you're looking for the best, most memorable aspects of Sedona, you can't do much better than a hike with the Sedona Westerners. On a recent Saturday hike along Fin Loop Trail, some people journeyed into the rocks north of Uptown Sedona.

See story on page 3.

SYMPHONY

The Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra will present two performances of *A Holiday Spectacular*, under the direction of Harold Weller. The performances will be at NAU, at 8 p.m, Friday and Saturday, December 7 and 8. See story on page 14.

CONCERT

The Verde Valley Chorale will be augmented with special singing group combinations for its seasonal fall concert. The concert, at Los Abrigados Resort at 8 p.m., Monday, Dec. 3, is given on behalf of the Friends of the Sedona Public Library. See story on page 14.

TV LISTINGS

Your week long TV program guide begins on page 4.

WHAT

A list of community events, art shows, entertainment, lectures and classes taking place begins on page 2.

Cont. →

Sedona Westerners offer very memorable hiking experience

11-24-90

MEMBERS OF the Sedona Westerners hiking club, above, survey the scenery from a plateau along the Fin Loop Trail. The trail, winding into the rocks north of Sedona, overlooks all of Uptown and West Sedona. The trail includes a walk across the face of one of Sedona's most intriguing rock formations, below, as it takes hikers 700 feet into the rocks north of the city, from a trailhead near the rifle range.

Sedona offers its residents and visitors some beautiful views, from the backyard or just driving through on the highway.

But if you're looking for the best, most memorable aspects of Sedona's scenery, along with a great time getting to the vantage points, you can't do much better than a hike with the Sedona Westerners.

Easy or difficult, all-day or half-day, two miles or nine miles, a climb of 100 feet or of 2,400 feet — whatever type of hike you're interested in, you'll find it during the organization's nine-month hiking season.

The Westerners is a non-profit organization of adults who hike for an endless variety of reasons, from staying young and healthy to learning and sharing all they can about the geography and history of Sedona.

On a recent Saturday hike along the Fin Loop Trail, about 29 persons journeyed into the rocks north of Uptown Sedona, above the rifle range, at 9 a.m.

The trail wound four miles up and around the rock known as the Fin, including a 700-foot rise. The hike is graded at difficult, steep and includes a number of rock scrambles.

Phil Balsey was the group leader.

Hikers made their way through trees and over sand, rocks and boulders, through cool shadows and the warming sunlight. They reached a plateau about 10 a.m. and stopped for a coffee break.

Balsey and other veteran Westerners including the group's President Bob Freeman and Jack Straton, the "tail-gater," who made sure no one lagged behind and got lost, pointed out landmarks in the rocks and in the flats.

Stretched out below was all of Sedona. Behind and to either side rose the majestic rock formations, looking a lot bigger and changed in appearance somewhat from the closer vantage point.

The group arrived at the summit, a spot between the Fin and the rocks of Wilson Mountain, about 11:45 a.m. and ate lunch. Then they headed back down to complete the loop. The hikers were back at the trailhead by 1:30 p.m.

Many of the Westerners' hikes are shorter and less rigorous, though some are longer and tougher. All offer a taste of Sedona's beauty.

The Dec. 8 hike, for example, the Boynton-Hartwell Trail, is eight miles in all.

The group hikes on Saturdays, Sundays and Tuesdays. Members gather in the east end of the parking lot near the Revco drug store in West Sedona for a quick organizational meeting and then it's off to see the country.

Saturday hikes are generally all day. Sundays the group splits and takes two shorter hikes that are repeated later in the season schedule.

The hikes slated for Dec. 2, for example, the Bear Wallow and Grasshopper Point Loop Trails, are three and two miles, respectively, with climbs of up to 200 feet.

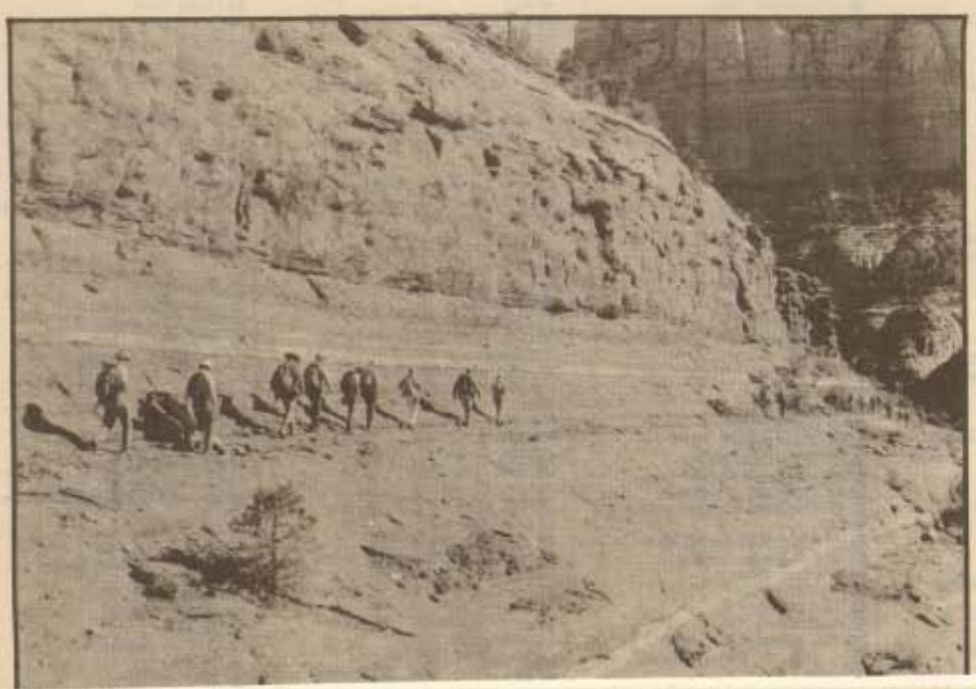
Both are graded easy.

Non-members of the organization are welcome to join the group as guests on up to two hikes. After two, hikers are expected to join the organization.

To contact the group, simply go to the Revco parking lot on any of the hike days, the meetings there are usually at 9 a.m., or call the group's president.

Hikers should wear appropriate footwear and should carry their own water and bring food if necessary.

The Westerners season began Sept. 9 with two-mike hikes on the Kelly Canyon and Harding Point Trails, and runs through May 11. It concludes with an easy four-mile hike to the 89A Switchbacks Overlook.



Getting there

Sedona Westerners Hikes

WHAT: Hikes ranging from easy to difficult in and around Sedona

WHEN: Saturdays, Sundays and Tuesdays through May 11. Most hikes begin at 9 a.m.

WHERE: Hikers hold an organizational meeting prior to each hike at the east end of the Revco parking lot in West Sedona.

COST: Hikers may take two hikes as guests, free of charge. Thereafter they will be asked to join the organization.

Westerners take all-day hikes

12-8-90

The Westerners' all-day Boynton-Hartwell Canyons expedition covered over eight miles.

It featured a 1,500-foot climb and earned a difficult rating from the Westerners — a rating newcomers should not take lightly.

The Sedona Westerners get together a couple of times each week to take hikes of varying levels of difficulty — some easy, some not so easy.

Keran O'Brien made it clear that the Dec. 8 hike was "not so easy."

THE GROUP would drive out to the Boynton trailhead, then the vehicles would be moved nearly six miles to where the hike would end.

O'Brien encouraged anyone who didn't feel entirely ready for the hike to wait for a shorter, less strenuous one.

"This is a long hike, and the hardest part is in the middle. There is a steep climb like a ladder, with no rungs or rails," said O'Brien.

With that word of warning, 28 Westerners set out for Boynton Canyon.

DON HOOVEN led the hike and set a good pace.

The trail started out fairly flat and easy, winding above the Enchantment Resort, but became merely a footpath as hikers climbed into the ponderosa pines.

Hooven showed the group several Sinagua Indian ruins high up on the face of a red rock wall. A short way up the rock scramble, they stopped to rest.

The view was spectacular when the Westerners finally completed the climb.

LOOKING DOWN between the walls of Boynton Canyon, they could see Chimney Rock, Airport Mesa and Gibraltar Ridge off in the distance.

Participants then regrouped and prepared for the long descent into Hartwell Canyon.

The steep terrain and soft, loose earth made for slow going, but gave them time to appreciate the beautiful blanket of pink and rose maple leaves that covered the ground. There was also mistletoe and tree-sized manzanita.

The pace slowed a bit as the day wore on, and the group seemed to rest a little bit longer and a little more often.

BY THE TIME they reached the end of the hike, all were happy to be able to stand together and enjoy the last few minutes of Arizona sunshine.

The Westerners hike almost every weekend on either Saturday or Sunday. Hikers should wear sturdy shoes and carry water.

Westerners hike Fin Loop Trail

11-24-90

It was a brisk Saturday morning when 29 Westerners headed up the Fin Loop Trail.

The skies were clear and the sun warmed things up in a hurry. The hikers shed sweaters and jackets soon after they left the trailhead.

Phil Balsey was the group leader, and did a fine job of selecting the proper fork in the trail as there were several tricky turns at the beginning of the hike.

They reached the first plateau about 10 a.m., paused for a coffee break and relished the view. Balsey pointed out numerous landmarks that could be seen from that vantage point.

The Westerners arrived at the summit about 11:45 a.m., chose a spot to eat lunch and traded hiking stories.

After lunch the hikers headed down the east side of The Fin to complete the loop and arrived back at the trailhead about 1:30 p.m. Jack Straton, the Westerners' "tailgater," said that all 29 hikers made it back in one piece .

"We were privileged to have Jim Anderson, sports writer for the *Sedona Red Rock NEWS*, on this hike and we hope he enjoyed the hike as much as we did," said Balsey.

The Nov. 27 hike will be to Brinds Mesa by Soldiers Pass. The hike starts at 9 a.m. from Revco.

Two easy hikes to Bear Wallow and Grasshopper Point are scheduled for Sunday, Dec 2, and leave from Revco at 1:30 p.m.

The Westerners potluck Christmas party will be Dec. 13 at the Elks Lodge.

Westerners take hike up Bear Wallow Trail

12-2-90

Clear blue skies greet 32 for easy afternoon hike

Clear blue skies greeted the Westerners when 32 hikers turned up to enjoy an afternoon hike on Bear Wallow Trail.

Historical trivia: The Bear Wallow Trail was the first trail hiked by the Westerners on June 20, 1964 — Fathers' Day.

Some say it was a way of getting dad out of the kitchen so that moms and kids could prepare a Fathers' Day feast. However, no authoritative information is available saying that the hike was all male.

The trailhead was reached a few miles up the Schnebly Hill Road. The two Jacks were in evidence.

'Speedy' Jack Coombs performed his usual speedy and efficient leadership role choosing the right trail from among many.

The other, but no less important Jack, Jack Stratton, was an excellent tailgater, keeping the troops from getting lost or falling behind.

The hike took approximately two hours.

At the first break, Al Smeath provided some interesting and informative facts regarding the geology of the area, proving rocks are even more interesting when they are named.

It was breezy and cool at the saddle overlooking the spot where bears did indeed wallow. There were great views of Wilson Mountain, Sedona and the old Schnebly Hill Road.

An eight-mile, strenuous-to-difficult loop, Boynton-Hartwell, is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 8. Participants will meet at Revco parking lot at 8 a.m.

Sturdy shoes, lots of water and lunch are essential.

The Tuesday, Dec. 11, hike will be to Fay Canyon overlook. The hike starts at 9 a.m. at Revco.

The Westerners potluck Christmas party will be Thursday, Dec. 13, at the Elks Lodge.

Westerners hike Bear Wallow

12-16-90

Sunday, Dec. 16, the Sedona Westerners made two short hikes.

Elyse Holland led a group to Grasshopper Point and Norm Hause led another to Bear Wallow.

The day was cool and overcast when the 23 hiked off of Schnebly Hill Road toward Bear Wallow.

Rain and snow were predicted, but the Westerners' luck held until the hike was completed.

Many of the wallows in the rock had water in them and and the clouds continued to intensify, warning of things to come. As the group reached the saddle, they could see the heavy clouds over Capitol Butte.

Departure from the saddle was speedy as the storm threat increased. Halfway down, hikers experienced a short snow flurry.

Saturday, Dec. 22, the Westerners will hike the Jim Bryant Trail.

Participants should wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring water and lunch.

The group leaves Revco parking lot at 9 a.m. Tuesday hikers will not hike Dec. 25.

Merry Christmas to all.

Westerners hike two trails

The Westerners, led by Oliver Jacobson, hiked the Red Tank Draw, Sunday. Sun 12-30-90

The hike with a sharp descent to a stream. There the group saw petroglyphs and pictographs.

The other Westerners group hiked Mescal Mountain. (JM?)

The Westerners will hike Lincoln Canyon Saturday, Jan. 5, and Wet Beaver, Tuesday, Jan. 8, both starting at 9 a.m. from Revco parking lot.

Participants should wear sturdy shoes, and bring water and lunch.

Lew Goddard
Died
12-90 (?)

34 Westerners hike to Mescal Mountain

1-13-91

On a balmy Sunday 34 Westerners set out for Mescal Mountain.

The hike was rated as moderate and steep.

Sheila Conway, hike leader, pointed out a mesa top ruin as well as a cliff ruin. Everyone made the steep descent with no mishaps.

The next Westerners' hike will be Saturday, Jan. 19, to Robbers' Roost. Participants will meet at Revco parking lot at 9 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 22, the Dogies will go to Narrow Canyon. Meet at Revco at 9 a.m. Other hike Red Tank Draw (28)-Karen

Hikers should wear sturdy shoes and bring water and lunch on both of these hikes.

54 Westerners hike to Robbers' Roost

1-19-91

With the promise of beautiful weather and views, 54 Sedona Westerners took an excursion to Robbers' Roost Saturday morning.

Six hours later they returned, having achieved their goal.

Led by Norm Hause and Norm Herkenham, the group drove far out Sycamore Pass Road and from there hiked up to the first of two red rock formations.

After examining the ruins of Sinagua pit houses, they continued to the Robbers' Roost formation.

The climb was quite an experience for some of the new hikers, but all successfully traversed the rock ledges.

Tailgater Jack Stratton made sure all members were accounted for.

After reaching the Robbers' Roost cave, the group broke for a leisurely lunch.

From this high viewpoint, Bell Rock and Courthouse Rock could be seen to the south; the back side of Bear Mountain, Secret Mountain and Loy Butte could be seen to the east; and Sycamore Pass could be viewed to the north.

Relaxing in the sun and viewing the vast panorama was an experience long to be remembered, said Jim Salyer, Westerners member.

The next Sedona Westerners hike will be Sunday, Jan. 27 and will be a dual hike, either to Marg's Stable or Fay Canyon.

Hikers will leave from Revco parking lot at 1:30 p.m., and should wear sturdy shoes and carry drinking water.

Hikers search for Marg's Stable

1-27-91

Under the guidance of Kitty McKenzie, 40 Sedona Westerners drove up Sombart Lane last week in search of Marg's Stable.

As explained, an early settler's horse named Margaret, used to hike up there after the local blacksmith had installed her new set of shoes.

She knew that after the shoes, was long trek to Flagstaff hauling a heavy load of fresh vegetables up old Schnebly Road.

The horse is long gone, but the group did encounter a small herd of cattle. Some had horns, but none were sounded.

After going both up and down many times, they reached a resting spot which was 300 feet higher than the starting point.

Some of the group waited there while the others climbed to a higher ledge for a better view that looked to the saddle behind the chapel, the southern end of Sedona and Mingus Mountain.

On the return trip via a different route, two hikers stopped to have prickly pear thorns removed from various portions of their anatomy by volunteers.

The next escape into the wilderness will be Saturday, Feb. 2. The group will meet in the Revco lot at 9 a.m. for the Soldier Heights Loop hike.

This hike has a total walking distance of five miles with an elevation gain of 500 feet. It is rated as moderate but steep.

A high clearance vehicle will be required to reach the trail head. All hikers should bring a lunch and water.

Sturdy hiking shoes are required. Neither bare feet nor tennis shoes are allowed.

Westerners hike Soldier Heights

2-2-91

High-clearance vehicles were appropriate for the Westerners' drive out Dry Creek Road to the Soldier Heights' trailhead.

The trail began as an easy walk through a forested wash.

Norm Herkenham, the leader, warned of tougher times ahead and took a divergent brushy trail that led to several vista points new to most of the hikers.

They skirted a deep gash in solid rock in which two wild cherry trees grew.

In a second narrow chasm, a ponderosa pine was growing far below its usual elevation. It was extremely tall, with few lower branches, seeking the sunlight above the deep ravine.

Herkenham pointed across the broad Soldier Wash to the Three Arches, the destination of a favorite hike.

The trail led around two mesas which the Westerners have named Soldier Heights.

To reach the high level chosen as a lunch stop, each hiker performed a strenuous scramble up a steep slope in his or her own fashion.

The rewards were rest, lunch and spectacular views.

Herkenham gave a brief geology talk about the gray Fort Apache limestone sandwiched between red sandstone layers in this region.

As sandstone is softer, it erodes faster. Although limestone is harder, it is water-soluble.

The indentations that cover the chunks of limestone lying about are caused by tiny pools of water dissolving the rock and, as each dimple enlarges, it holds more water, therefore growing deeper.

The 45 hikers traveled down and around Soldier Heights, pausing occasionally for views including distant sunbathers, and the more distant Devil's Bridge.

Herkenham took one group on a side trip up to Indian ruins while the others were led by Norm Hause back to the trailhead.

The next hike will be Sunday, Feb. 10, with a choice between Marge's Stable and Fay Canyon, two easy hikes.

Meet at the Revco parking lot before 1:30 p.m. with water and shoes suitable for hiking.

The Tuesday hikers, led by Sam Waldrip, will meet at Revco at 9 a.m., Feb. 12, to explore Secret Canyon. Water, lunch and hiking shoes are required.

Westerners divide, go on a pair of hikes

2-10-91

The Sedona Westerners took two hikes Sunday, Feb. 10, taking advantage of the lovely warm spring-like afternoon.

On the first, 35 enthusiastic Westerners were led by Norm Herkenham to Marge's Stable. The second group of 38, led by Claes Hultgren, went ip the Fay Canyon Trail.

The Fay Canyon hikers proceeded along an easy trail through a forest of manzanita and scrub oak, interrupted by an occasional ponderosa pine and alligator juniper. After a mile and a half of gradually rising terrain, the trail steepened.

A short scramble and the group had reached their destination, a sunny ledge with a great view down the canyon.

Following a short rest and a water stop, the return trip began. Approximately a mile down the canyon the group split, with half returning to their cars.

The other half of the group made their way up the steep scramble to the Fay Canyon Arch, a natural rock formation created by the action of gravity, frost and weather.

The arch is one of several in the Sedona area.

The return trip was without mishap, in spite of steep and slippery going at the start down from the arch.

The Tuesday hikers, led by Sam Waldrip, will meet at the REVCO parking lot at 9 a.m., Feb. 12, to explore Secret Canyon.

The Westerners' monthly meeting will be at Wayside Chapel at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14. The speaker will be Mike Nardello, who will give a slide presentation on Sedona from 1947 to the 1970s.

The hike on Saturday, Feb. 16, will be the Telephone-Cookstove Loop. Hikers will meet at 9 a.m. in the REVCO parking lot.

Westerners explore Grandma's Cave

2-16-91

Under the guidance of Norm Herkenham, 28 Westerners scaled the wall of Oak Creek Canyon on the Telephone-Cookstove Loop Hike Saturday.

The troops were dropped off at the trailhead while drivers took the cars up the canyon to the Pine Flat Campgrounds where the Cookstove Trail drops down from the canyon rim opposite the water standpipe.

The drivers then rejoined the troops for the rugged, 1,000-foot ascent.

Herkenham advised the group that Telephone is an official Forest Service trail, even though there is no sign marking the present trailhead.

THE TRAIL was originally established to service the first telephone line into Sedona; due to underlying limestone, the poles were held in place by piles of stones.

When the Westerners reached the rim, they hiked along limestone "battlements," with natural windows looking out over the canyon. Bits of Hwy. 89A could be glimpsed far below.

On the rim were melting snowfields which made muddy going in places. The soft ground left plenty of evidence of elk and turkey tracks.

About noon, the Westerners made a precarious descent to Grandma's Cave and had lunch at its mouth.

GRANDMA WAS an early settler who, as a little girl, would escape the heat of summer by spending time in the cave.

The cave is carved out of conglomerate rock, and the stones and boulders making up this conglomerate seem to threaten overhead.

Flashlights were produced and the spelunkers edged their way into the cave for 100 years or so to a large room.

Here tunnels lead off in many directions and a chimney, with a rope dangling from it, reached up to an unknown entrance.

AFTER EXPLORING the cave, the hikers scrambled back to the canyon rim, often going on all fours.

Back on top in a ponderosa pine forest, the wind and an overcast sky encouraged them to walk briskly while skirting several ravines on the way to Cookstove Trail.

The group was informed that the adjoining Cookstove Wash had very impressive waterfalls at certain times of the year.

The rapid descent on Cookstove Trail was probably the easiest part of the hike, said Herkenham.

The troops were windburned, tired, but well-pleased with the day's adventure, he added.

Grandma's Cave
Photo by
N. Bittler

Hikers visit Devil's Bridge, Cathedral Rock

2-24-91

The Westerners' two Sunday hikes were to Devil's Bridge and Cathedral Rock.

Cathedral Rock has three approaches — Red Rock Crossing, the famous picture site; Verde Valley School Road; and Back O' Beyond Road, the Westerner route.

Devil's Bridge — a bridge, because water flowing beneath it caused the formation, is off the old dirt Dry Creek Road.

Sunday's leader was Bill Von Ofenheim who led 20 hikers. No hikers traversed Devil's Bridge because of its delicate condition.

Trent Turner led 47 hikers up the Cathedral Rock and reached the saddle in one hour.

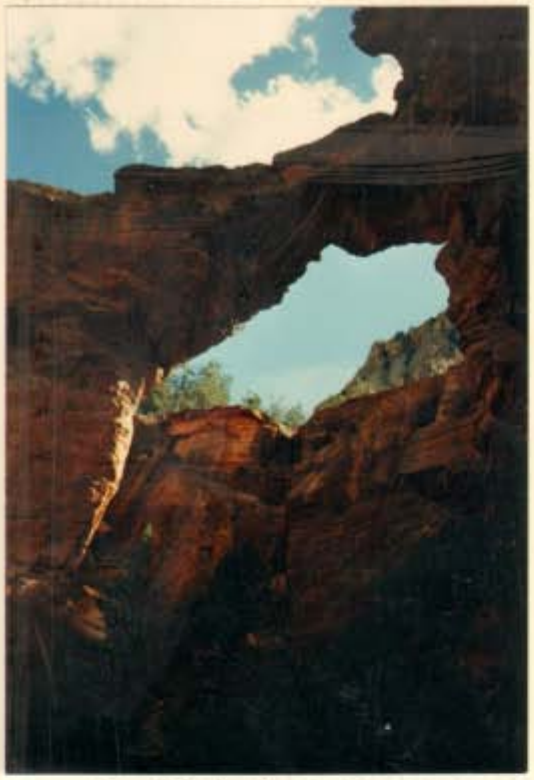
He said that the saddle is situated on the Fort Apache limestone formations and is traversed by a lava dike.

After a somewhat fortuitous descent, the hikers returned to the parking lot having experienced some mountaineering, plus the almost 360-degree view at the 5,000-foot level.

These two hikes will be repeated March 10.

The next hike is the seven-mile Lost Wilson-Brinds Mesa loop March 2.

Hikers gather at Revco parking lot at 9 a.m., wearing boots, and with extra water and lunch.



Devil's Bridge 2-24-91

Five Westerners hike to mouth of Oak Creek

3-3-91

Five Westerners left the Revco parking lot March 2 for the confluence of Oak Creek and the Verde River.

A short drive took participants to the point where the rivers met. The Verde was a creamy brown, and Oak Creek a brick red. A distinct line marked the meeting of the waters.

Below the bluff where the five stood, chaos reigned.

Upwelling and whirlpools followed one another in no apparent order as the smooth waters ran together. The waters hissed and gurgled together as, afar off, a pack of dogs barked and yelled their disapproval of the presence of the dauntless five.

The hikers then walked north and east, parallel to Oak Creek for a mile and a half through a wilderness of creosote bush and washes bearing the evidence of the recent rains, returning to the south and west, crossing the road and returning to their vehicles.

The next Westerners hike will leave the Revco parking lot at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, March 10.

Hikers will have their choice between two hikes: Devil's Bridge or Cathedral Rock. Hikers should wear sturdy shoes, bring plenty of water, and food when appropriate.

March 12, the Westerners will go to the Jim Bryant Trail.

The next Westerners meeting will be at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 14, at the Wayside Chapel.

Cathedral Rock, Devil's Bridge draw Westerners

3-10-91

The Sedona Westerns Hiking Club headed for Cathedral Rock and the Devil's Bridge last Saturday.

The Cathedral Rock hike was led by Esther Lugo, and Chuck Reintsma led the Devil's Bridge hike.

On the latter hike, 41 hikers car-pooled out to the old Drycreeek Road before making their way along the wooded trail and up the red rock ladder.

No hikers were lost on the way up, and there were several first-timers and out-of-town guests on this hike.

The next hike to H.S. Canyon will start at 9 a.m., Saturday, March 16, from Dry Creek Road because of the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The March 19 hike will be to Woods Canyon.

The club meets for a program at 7:30 p.m., the second Thursday of each month at Wayside Chapel.

Westerners hike Cockscomb's slopes

3-24-91

Gordon Bragg led a contingent of 27 Westerners up the tortuous slopes of Cockscomb Sunday.

The 360-degree panoramic view from the top was incredible, said Westerner Oliver Jacobson.

The city of Sedona could be seen in the distance. The Black Hills, Capital Butte, Bear Mountain, Doe Mountain, Robbers' Roost, Cinder Cones and other formations in Boynton Canyon were clearly visible.

All 27 members completed the arduous climb to the summit, and all returned safely.

The second group of hikers, led by naturalist Norm Herkenham, completed a hike to the confluence of Oak Creek and Verde Rivers.

The Westerners were happy to be active again after a 10-day vacation due to the recent snow, said Jacobson.

A hike to Lincoln Canyon is scheduled for Sunday, March 30.

One of the activities will be an opportunity to view the well-preserved Hononki Indian Ruins and petroglyphs.

A hike to the Mormon Canyon Wash is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2.

Both hikes will start at 9 a.m. from the Revco parking lot. All prospective hikers must wear sturdy shoes and carry an adequate supply of drinking water.

3-14-91 - Boynton Canyon

Westerners hike Lincoln Canyon

3-30-91

The Westerners enjoyed a four-mile hike to Lincoln Canyon last Saturday.

The 29 hikers, led by Tom Hager, began on the west side of Loy Butte at Honanki Ruins.

At the ruins, Hager explained that Honanki was named by J. Walter Fewkes, an early 1900s archaeologist. Fewkes thought he had named the ruins, "Bear House," but actually, the Native American translation is "Badger House."

Honanki is one of the area's most significant prehistoric Sinagua cliff dwellings. It was occupied between approximatley 1100-1250 A.D.

The walls feature well-defined pictographs and petroglyphs, and the masonry work remains in tact in large areas with original lentils in the doors in windows.

As the hikers continued around the west side of Loy Butte, they were detoured by water-filled washes and waterfalls. Various early spring wildflowers were also observed.

Hager then headed for a red sandstone knob for lunch where the group had a spectacular view of Loy Canyon.

The group then descended to the Loy Trail, and made a side

please turn to WESTERNERS on page 3B

trip to see some pictographs on the east side of the trail.

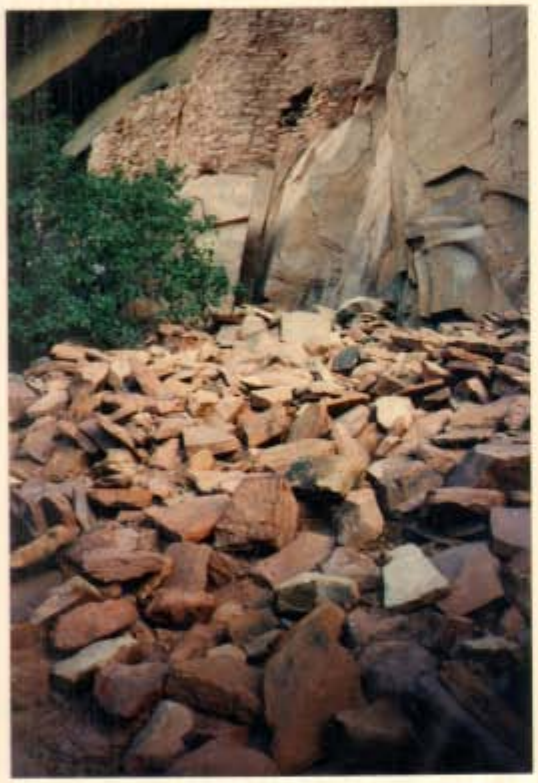
The Cliff was truly an art gallery for the Sinagua, and depicted events in daily life as well as large rattlesnakes and other native fauna.

The hikers headed for their cars, skirting the Hancock Ranch via the Loy Trail, and were satisfied with the myriad of surprises for the day.

The Sunday, April 7 hikes will be Coxcomb and Pumphouse Wash. Meet at the Revco parking lot at 1:30 p.m. with water and hiking boots.

Tuesday, April 9, hikers will meet at Revco at 9 a.m. to go to Steamboat Rock. Bring lunch, water and wear hiking boots.

The next Westerners' meeting will be at Wayside Chapel at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 11.



Kokopelli - pictograph

Westerners hike to Coxcomb and to Doe Mountain Sunday

4-7-91

The Westerners participated in two hikes Sunday — one to Coxcomb, and the other to Doe Mountain.

Doris Bragg led hikers up the steep ascent of Coxcomb, while Norm Hause directed hikers up Doe mountain.

A breezy time and fantastic view of Sedona and its surrounding area from the west were enjoyed from the summit of Coxcomb.

The April 13 hike will be to Secret Canyon-Bear Sign Loop, and will leave the east end of the Revco parking lot at 9 a.m.

The Brind's Ridge hike (Dry Creek) will start out from the Revco parking lot at 9 a.m., Tuesday, April 16.

All hikers should wear sturdy shoes, and bring water and lunch.

The next regular meeting of the Westerners will be at Wayside Chapel, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 11.

4-13-91
Secret/Bear Sign Sat
No article (?)

Hikers plan tough outing

4-21-91

On Sunday, April 21, after a dusty drive out Forest Roads 152C and 525, Phil Balsley led 30 Westerners past an almost dry tank and on to the Devil's Outhouse.

About 13 hikers went on the alternate hike to Turkey Creek.

This Saturday's hike to North Wilson is rated as difficult, steep and a rock scramble, so sturdy shoes, water and a lunch are a must. Next Tuesday Sam intends to lead the hikers up Mescal Mountain.

For more information, contact Burton Turner at 282-2602.

Hikers conquer Wilson Mountain

4-27-91

The Westerners who participated in Saturday's climb of Wilson Mountain by the north trail found it a memorable hike.

It is listed at more than eight miles with a 2,400-foot ascent described as steep and difficult.

Soon after Jack Coombs led the Westerners from the Ensinosa parking area, they met a large troop of Sierra Club members carrying shovels, rakes and other tools.

They were returning from five days on Wilson Mountain spent improving the trail and looked weary and glad to be heading home, said Coombs.

THE TRAIL led through evidence of last year's forest fire, but soon it became a pleasant way through the evergreens.

When the track became steeper and rockier, one hiker made up what he called an old Westerner saying, "The steeper the trail, the sooner the top."

Each who heard had plenty of trudging time to mull that over and to create his own version, such as "The steeper the trail, the sooner you drop."

At a "geology break," Norm Herkenham and Al Smeeth called attention to the massive wall across the canyon. Evidence of the Oak Creek fault could be seen.

A PROMINENT feature was a gray igneous dike formed perhaps 200 million years ago when molten lava was forced up through a crack in the limestone formation.

The first bench is a grassy slope dotted with rocks and junipers. Here the group enjoyed a late coffee break before following the switch-backing trail toward the top.

The hikers were glad to pause occasionally for comments by Herkenham, a professional botanist.

Included in the many plants he identified were bitterroot (Lewisia brachycalyx), springbeauty (Claytonia lanceolata), biscuitroot (Lomatium dissectum), locoweed (Astragalus lentiginosus), wallflower (Erysimum capitatum) and lousewort (pedicularis centronthera).

FINALLY, A point was reached which was declared the top. All the hikers dropped to the ground to relax and enjoy lunch near a large box holding a cache of firefighting tools.

Half the group started the long descent while the others followed Keran O'Brien a mile or so to the edge of the plateau where they looked down on the highway snaking along the bottom of Oak Creek Canyon past tiny Junipine Resort.

A second vista was of Lost Wilson (so-called because it is almost separated from Wilson Mountain). Beyond it is the Dry Creek area backed by Casner Mountain and looming faintly on the horizon is Bill Williams Mountain.

Herkenham led the group across the plateau to another point which gave a spectacular view of Sedona-in-miniature.

THOSE WHO had been impressed by a similar view from Steamboat Rock were doubly impressed as they saw that formation far below beside tiny Midgely Bridge. At this top of the world, all else seemed diminished, said O'Brien.

On the homeward trail, the hikers alternated between jolting down switchbacks and treading carpets of pine needles. This Wilson Mountain hike had combined aspiration, perspiration and inspiration.

Pumphouse Wash has been substituted for Turkey Creek as one of the hikes, Sunday, May 5. Meet before 1:30 p.m. at the Revco parking lot.

Pumphouse Wash draws Westerners

5-5-91

Chuck Reintsma led 22 Sedona Westerners on the group's last Sunday hike of the season.

Starting in a clearing above the switchbacks, the Westerners progressed into Pumphouse Wash on May 5, through stands of tall pines, dropping about 300 feet with increasing steepness to a stream bed paved with large boulders, and ending at a small waterfall above an inviting pool.

A loop around the falls and pool, involving a precipitous drop of 25 feet and much boulder hopping, brought the group back to the trail leading to their cars.

A spring cookout will be held at the Montezuma Well picnic grounds on Thursday, May 9 and the last hike of the season — Lost Wilson-Brind's Mesa — will be undertaken on Saturday, May 11.

Those interested in the hike may meet at the Revco parking lot at 9 a.m. and are advised to bring lunch, water and sturdy shoes.

The Tuesday hiking group will start the summer season Thursday, May 16, with a hike somewhere north of Flagstaff.

Those interested may meet at the Revco parking lot at 8 a.m., and are advised to bring lunch, water and sturdy shoes.

Westerners take final hike of the season

Norm Herkenham led 30 Sedona Westerners on the group's last hike of the season to Lost Wilson-Brind's Mesa Loop.

5-11-91

After parking cars in a clearing off Old Dry Creek Road, the Westerners set out on a trail that alternated between rock washes and portages across higher ground.

When the base of Lost Wilson Mountain was reached, the climb to a bench at the 5,000-foot level began. A sheer cliff lying just below the bench would have been a formidable obstacle were it not for a formation consisting of naturally occurring stair steps in a run-off slot.

The hikers followed the meandering bench, stopping for lunch in an area sheltered from the strong wind, and then continued on to Brind's Mesa.

A long stroll down the mesa brought the hikers to an old Jeep trail that led back to the cars, completing the seven-mile loop.

The first hike of the 1991-1992 season (destination to be announced) will be Sunday, September 8.