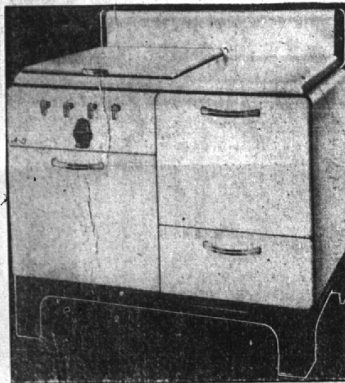


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Norman Lyle, Jr. Describes Mountain Trip And Journey Through The Saguaro Forest

Editor's Note: Norman Lyle, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Lyle, 1247 Franklin, writes of a mountain trip and journey through a national forest in his second article detailing his experiences while visiting friends in Tucson, Ariz.

By Norman Lyle, Jr. Towering almost two miles in the air is Mount Lemmon, highest landmark in the vicinity of Tucson. This lofty peak is located in the Catalina mountain range to the north of the city, and it is a whole day's journey from the city limits to its summit and return.

As one gets well into the foothills of the range, a change in altitude becomes noticeable by the pressure on one's eardrums. The flat desert scene shifts abruptly to surroundings that might be found on any of the higher sand dunes along Lake Michigan. Giant pine trees cover the upper half of the mountain, and the underbrush is entirely different from that found on the plains. Arizona is a state of striking contrasts. On a hundred mile drive the scenery is so varied and changes so swiftly that one can imagine one's self in any of half a dozen states in the union. And yet, if one chooses, one can drive a whole day in desert country that never varies, that is always sand and rocks and cactus.

The road up Mount Lemmon follows a course that twists and turns itself into unbelievable gyrations. In places, almost as if riding in the back seat, became gloriously sick, and ultimately reached a state of mind where nothing could persuade us to look out the car windows. The loss was ours, for the view from this road is truly wonderful.

One can see the beautiful San Pedro valley, up which Coronado and his men wandered in search of the Seven Cities of Cibola, fabulous cities of gold. According to the legend, the Indians of the cities only from a distance, being blocked in their attempt to approach by the Indians. One can also see the Canon del Oro, or Canyon of Gold, supposed to hold the secret of the lost mine with the iron door. Harold Bell Wright has written an interesting novel centered about this mine.

For one stretch of seven miles, the road up the mountain is so narrow and treacherous that a block system is necessary. Cars going up and cars coming down the road alternate in one-hour periods, and any car violating the set hours is subject to heavy fine. It is well nigh impossible to pass another car on this length of road.

The air atop the mountain is cool and scented with the smell of the pines, and once the top was gained, our spirits soared again. A shorter trip of another sort is that to the Saguaro Forest, fifteen miles outside Tucson. Recently this forest was designated a National Monument. It is in this particular territory that the giant saguaro cactus abounds. Mile on mile they grow, great green cacti, rising 15 to 40 feet high, and often weighing close to ten tons. This cactus grows no place else in the United States, with the exception of a scattered few in California. Generally branched, some of these cacti have been so warped and twisted in their growth that they resemble weird prehistoric monsters, or plant life of another world. Like green pillars they stand row on row. The smaller forms of desert vegetation make the desert a more interesting place than it is.

The saguaro flowers in April and May. The knobby buds grow high on the cactus, almost inaccessible. The flowers are at first a creamy white, and gradually change to a carmine red, very pretty against the cactus green. The Indians gather this fruit and make jam and jellies from it. The fruit is fairly sweet to the taste, and has hundreds of small seeds in it.

When we drove through the forest, we saw an old Indian man and woman gathering some of the late fruit. We stopped to watch them. Both were equipped with long poles, at the ends of which were fastened small cross pieces. With these they pulled the fruit loose from the top of the saguaro, and gathered it as it fell to the ground. Mr. Hallett and we boys followed the old man, and he was very reticent when we attempted to talk with him. We watched him for a short time, and gave the case up as hopeless. Returning to the car we found that Mrs. Hallett and the old woman were chatting away. The Indian woman became shy and also reticent when we came up, but it takes a woman to talk to a woman. But she did give us some choice bits of fruit to sample, and told Mrs. Hallett all about the method for preparing the saguaro jelly.

doing so. The cowboys, of whom a goodly number were Mexicans, were the "real thing," and very picturesque in their Sunday best. Today I ate a tamale for the first time. We discovered a little Mexican restaurant tucked away in an obscure corner of Tucson, and the old cook sold us four tamales for twenty-five cents. The tamales consist of beef, chili, and corn meal, wrapped in corn husks. The meat and chili are wrapped in a thin layer of meal and then with a husk. Another layer of corn meal is added, and the whole is wrapped and tied with another husk. In eating, it is warmed, and then one unwraps the husks, saving the corn meal to eat with the meal and chili. It was rather hot, but I found it really delicious, and look forward to my next.

EXPLOSION INJURES BOYS New York.—Three Jamaica youths were seriously injured and two others mildly burned while they were experimenting with highly explosive chemicals prepared for celebrating the Fourth of July. One of the boys, a chemical student, had mixed the chemicals and they were preparing to test them by blowing up a tree stump when the mixture exploded prematurely. One of the boys lost both hands, another his left hand, and two were knocked unconscious by the blast.

FINDS DEAD OFFICER'S RING. Caldwell, Ohio.—While pulling weeds on her farm three miles east of Ava, Mrs. Faye Larson found a ring bearing the name of Zachary Lansdowne, commander of the dirigible Shenandoah, which crashed on September 3, 1925, near Ava. Commander Lansdowne was one of those killed in the crash of the dirigible.

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