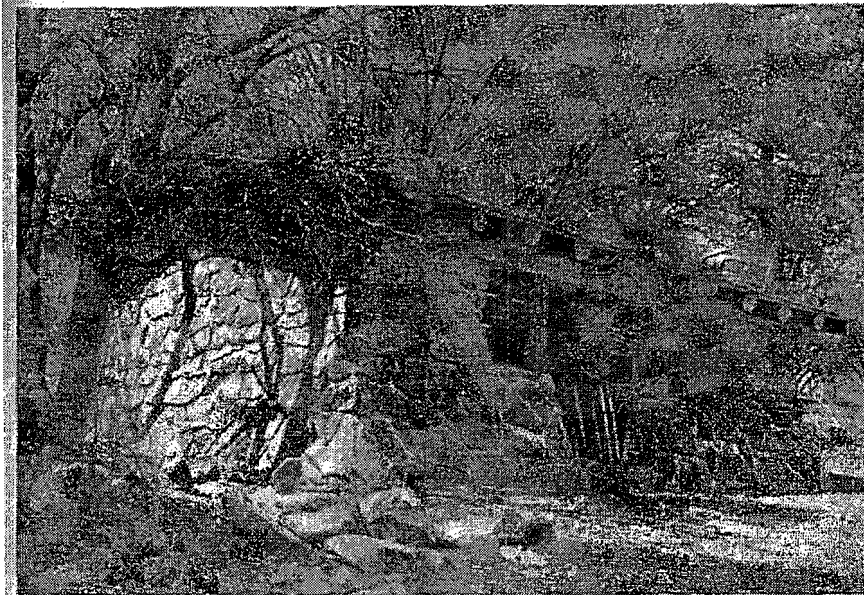


Cuyamaca State Park Improvements Described

The Game Farms



Toboggan and ski shelter, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Additional camping facilities, some recently completed, others in process of construction, in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park will increase the possibilities for recreational use of this beautiful forest and mountain park in San Diego County.

During 1938 a camp was completed and dedicated to the use of character-building organizations for women and girls. It occupies about 25 acres of openly wooded hill slopes on the south shore of Cuyamaca Lake.

There is a large lodge with a recreation hall and a kitchen, and quarters for the camp director, nurse and cook. A large combination building has bath showers and laundry facilities. There are two pools, one for wading and the other for swimming.

In the summer the Girl Scouts of San Diego, Orange, and Imperial counties use the camp.

The cost of these improvements was approximately \$25,000, which was jointly financed by State, Federal, and private funds.

Now under construction is a men's and boys' organization camp, with improvements paralleling in number and cost those at Camp Tapawingo, the name given the women's and girls' camp. Material costs are being financed through funds raised by a camp committee, while the labor and construction supervision are Federal and State contributions.

When completed this camp will be used under the direction of the Boy

Scouts of San Diego and Imperial counties. It occupies the former site of a large Indian village, Hal-cu-cu-ish, meaning "tough-strong," a name well-suited to a mountain camp for boys.

New facilities are also being provided in the Green Valley camp ground in the park. A combination building, similar to those in the organization camps, will be completed before the summer season this year.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is a forest reserve consisting of a mixed forest of conifers and broadleaved species, broken by large meadows and chaparral.

Park headquarters are at Stonewall Lodge, Green Valley, 176 miles from Los Angeles via San Diego. Two campgrounds, with 75 camp units, a picnic area, an ample supply of drinking water, and modern sanitary facilities are provided.

During a part of the winter snow falls in sufficient quantity to provide for sports such as skiing and tobogganing. A snow shelter is provided in the park.

In a brief summary of the historical background of the park, District Park Superintendent Guy L. Fleming says:

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park includes the major portion of a large land grant given to Augustin Olvera for political services by Governor Pio Pico, last Mexican Governor of California, about 1842. It was named

Last month proved to be one of the driest Februarys in many years and considerable irrigation was necessary to get breeding pens in condition for the season's work, August Bade, chief of the Bureau of Game Bird Propagation, reported.

All birds now are in the mating pens and a few Chukar Partridge eggs have been laid. No pheasants have laid eggs.

Breeding stock for the 1939 season will consist of 1900 pheasants, 1224 partridges, 1374 quail and about 30 wild turkeys.

State owned rearing pens, 343 in number, are being cultivated, seeded and conditioned this month for the season.

An instance of vandalism occurred in Redding when all electric wiring to the brooders was stolen.

Bird distribution in February included 85 pheasants.

Rancho Cuyamaca for an Indian village, near the present site of the women's and girls' camp. These Indians were never under Mission rule.

In 1837 a company of Mexican soldiers attacked the Indians and forced them to accept the "ways of civilization." Soon after the coming of the Americans, these Indians and other tribes of the mountain area were forced to leave their homes and go onto reservations selected by Government agents.

Early in 1850 American settlers obtained parcels of Rancho Cuyamaca from Olvera. Some time before 1855 a mail and stage line was put into operation between San Diego and Fort Yuma.

The route of this mail trail crossed Rancho Cuyamaca and, following a precipitous, rugged canyon, dropped down into the desert and joined the emigrant trail from Fort Yuma to Los Angeles. This San Diego-Fort Yuma stage line was the forerunner of the famous Butterfield Stage Company.

About 1879 gold was discovered in the northern part of Rancho Cuyamaca. This strike became the famous Stonewall Mine and during its years of active operation produced more than \$3,000,000 in bullion for its owners.

Near the mine grew the village of Cuyamaca, which, in 1890, had a population of more than 500 and boasted a hotel, store, post office, saloon and schoolhouse.