Chronology of Canebrake Canyon, California



Compiled by Diane and Mark Robinson
Artwork from 1935-1939 by Ivan Messenger
February 2020

Dedication

In memory of Patsy R. Whitely Stafford



Pat Stafford starting the history collection

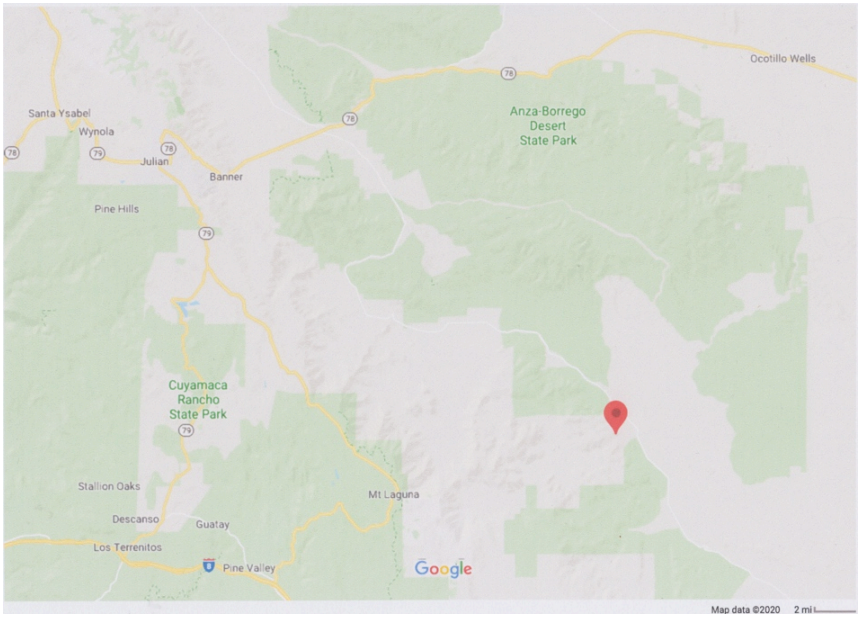
Patsy “Pat” Whitely Stafford was drawn to Canebrake Canyon upon her first visit as a teenager in the mid 1940s. For the rest of her life she gave to this community in many ways, the most notable of which was to gather, protect and organize its historical materials. This she did for decades. Without her dedication, much of the Canebrake story would have been lost.

Introduction

Canebrake Canyon, a successful "recreational" homestead tract in San Diego County, is located on Highway S2, 38 miles southeast of Julian, California. The Bureau of Land Management established the original tract of about one hundred 5-acre parcels in 1944 under the Recreational Homestead Act, authored by Paul B. Witmer, manager of the California Land Office in Los Angeles. [Ainsworth, E. (1955). *Five Acres of Heaven. Retrieved from URL.*] The original filers gained title to their parcels by making improvements to the land rather than paying a purchase price. After 1959, filers were able to buy the remaining unclaimed parcels outright, without an improvement requirement. Original owners are referred to as "patent holders" because the document of ownership issued by the Federal Government is called a land patent rather than a deed. The community covers about 500 acres and cannot grow because it is surrounded by BLM land and the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. This is a true wilderness setting.

Many "recreational" homestead settlements have fallen into disrepair and turned into ghost towns while Canebrake Canyon has survived and flourished. Residents often ponder the question, what is it that has held this community together through thick and thin? Aside from a shared love of the desert, the answer is water. It was surely Canebrake Creek, a year-round stream at the time, that led the BLM to choose this site, but when the stream retreated during times of drought, people joined together in search of a reliable source of water. In that pursuit they formed the Canebrake Improvement Association and later the Canebrake County Water District. The crowning jewel of such community spirit is McKenney Hall, dreamed of in the 1950s, completed in 1972 and enjoyed to this day.

The following chronology includes accounts of original Canebrake homesteading families still living here and those of some residents of note. However, the dreams, hard work, community spirit and dedication of the hundreds of families who have come over the years are the magic that has made this community thrive against all odds.



The official land records website for the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) General Land Office (GLO) offers information about the federal land patents granted to individuals in Sections 3 and 34 of the San Bernardino Meridian in the State of California. Sections 3 and 34 constitute the geographical area known today as Canebrake Canyon. The BLM GLO records show there are 73 patent holders in Section 34 and 21 patent holders in Section 3. A total of 94 patents were granted in Canebrake Canyon.

U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management. *General Land Office Records, Land Patents.* Retrieved from URL.

BLM GLO Records for Section 34, page 1



Search Results - BLM GLO Records 2/4/20, 10:47 AM

Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
1131492	ALBINO, FRANK J	3/29/1951	063806	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½NW¼SW¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1148638	ARNOLD, VAIDA	12/29/1954	076239	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SE¼SE¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1133586	ATEN, DALE M	1/4/1952	073073	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	SE¼SE¼SW¼SW¼	34	San Diego
04-73-0040	BERTRAND, ALFRED F	11/13/1972	04-73-0040	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SW¼SE¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1154654	BISSELL, GEORGE A	9/30/1955	063778	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½SW¼NW¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1131070	BUCHEIT, ANDREW JOSEPH	2/6/1951	065068	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SW¼SE¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1134042	CALLENDER, CARL C	2/20/1952	074906	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½SE¼SE¼SE¼	34	San Diego
CARI 001912	*CANEBRAKE CNTY WATER DISTRICT*	*5/28/1970*	*4700239*	*CA*	*San Bernardino*	*014S - 007E*	*W½NE¼NE¼SE¼*	*34*	*San Diego*
04-2001-0001	CANEBRAKE COUNTY WATER	10/12/2000	04-2001-0001	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½NE¼NE¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1148602	CHRISTIANSEN, HARRY WILLIAM	12/23/1954	093699	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½SE¼SE¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1154129	CHURCHILL, RAY W	9/6/1955	095494	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½NW¼NE¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1134137	CONDON, GORDON LEWIS	3/4/1952	067664	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½SE¼SE¼SW¼	34	San Diego
1215155	COOPER, RALPH EUGENE	12/8/1960	0120198	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½NW¼NE¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1134525	DAVIS, FREDERICK C	4/15/1952	063805	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½NW¼SW¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1148626	DAVIS, LUELLA DEE	12/29/1954	068909	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½NE¼NW¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1134046	DREW, CHARLTON F	2/20/1952	079984	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½NE¼NW¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1136050	DUFFY, GEORGIA NEWTON	8/1/1952	081573	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½NW¼SE¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1200841	EICHELBERGER, REGINALD A	10/27/1959	0165479	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½SE¼NE¼SW¼	34	San Diego
1151586	FELKER, EUGENIA C	4/14/1955	070802	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½NE¼NE¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1201975	FORREST, CHARLES DAVID	11/18/1959	0165996	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	NE¼SE¼NE¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1131149	FOSTER, J ALAN	2/14/1951	065284	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½NE¼SE¼SW¼	34	San Diego
1207370	GAUDET, LORETTA L	4/7/1960	0120911	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½SE¼NE¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1177417	GILLIN, JOSEPH F	12/9/1957	0116339	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½NE¼SE¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1210735	HAFEMANN, WILLARD	7/12/1960	0116635	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½SW¼SW¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1170959	HALCOMB, HERMAN WISEMAN	5/8/1957	064476	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½NW¼SE¼SW¼	34	San Diego
1200839	HARRIS, FOREST D	10/27/1959	0165477	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½NE¼SW¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1130917	HAYS, THOMAS NATHAN	1/17/1951	055024	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½SE¼SW¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1148692	HELMICK, EUGENE R	12/29/1954	095248	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½NE¼SE¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1161672	HOMELKA, ANNA REHOR	7/16/1956	075647	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SE¼NE¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1162653	HUNTER, ELISABETH KEACH	7/30/1956	096791	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½NE¼NW¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1179575	JUDY, CHARLES HAMILTON	2/13/1958	0116557	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½NW¼NW¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1148616	KOCHEL, GEORGE	12/29/1954	066089	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SW¼NE¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1213330	KRUPICKA, EDWARD	10/3/1960	0120979	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½SW¼NE¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1148245	KUHNEL, GEORGE	11/30/1954	075177	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½NW¼SE¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1210736	LILES, PEARL M	7/12/1960	0119733	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½SE¼SW¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1134008	LOU, EDWARD E	2/14/1952	065351	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½SW¼SE¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1161595	LUCAS, FRANCES R, BALLANTYNE, FRANCES R	7/13/1956	071969	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SE¼NE¼SW¼	34	San Diego
1153989	MACDONALD, ALICE M	8/31/1955	081251	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½NE¼SE¼SE¼	34	San Diego
CALA 0081251	*MACDONALD, ALICE M*	*8/31/1955*		*CA*	*San Bernardino*	*014S - 007E*	*E½NE¼SE¼SE¼*	*34*	*San Diego*
1171897	MACON, JULIA NETTLES	5/29/1957	0146341	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SW¼SW¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1138558	MASTIN, GUY N	3/31/1953	061704	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SE¼SW¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1179157	MAUS, GEORGE	1/31/1958	0124701	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½SW¼SE¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1154659	MCCORNACK, WILLIAM CHARLES	9/30/1955	077860	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½SW¼SW¼SE¼	34	San Diego

https://glorecords.blm.gov/results/default_pf.aspx?searchCriteria=typ...7|rng_dir=E|sec=34|m=27|sp=true|sw=true|sadv=false&resultsTabIndex=0 Page 1 of 2

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1154586	MCGRATH, JAMES PERCY	9/28/1955	0104819	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½NW¼SE¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1213877	MCINNIS, ALVIN H	10/25/1960	0129555	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½NW¼SW¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1170252	MILES, JENNIE MATILDA	4/16/1957	0107569	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½NW¼SW¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1200837	MURPHY, THOMAS JOSEPH	10/27/1959	0165475	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	SE¼SE¼NE¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1200842	NEMARD, CLIFFORD WELLINGTON	10/27/1959	0165480	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	SW¼SE¼SW¼SW¼	34	San Diego
1150154	NOBLE, DORIS IRENE	3/1/1955	080657	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SE¼NW¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1161737	NOBLE, WALTER LEE	7/16/1956	081575	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SW¼NE¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1133246	PALMER, DEAN F	11/8/1951	064896	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SW¼SE¼SW¼	34	San Diego
1148621	PETERSON, ALBIN K	12/29/1954	067653	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½NE¼SE¼SW¼	34	San Diego
1148644	PONSFORD, EDGAR J	12/29/1954	080377	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½NE¼SE¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1161618	REHOR, JOSEPH A	7/13/1956	076611	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½NE¼NE¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1168432	RIDER, MARGARET	1/25/1957	0146330	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½NE¼NE¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1154582	ROBINSON, FRANKLIN HERBERT	9/28/1955	096081	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SE¼NE¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1210733	ROBINSON, PAULINE M	7/12/1960	0115946	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½SW¼NE¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1148611	ROGERS, DEE J	12/29/1954	064685	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½NE¼SW¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1216284	ROGERS, WILLIAM W	1/11/1961	074907	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½SE¼NW¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1171328	SCANLAN, WALTER J	5/15/1957	0117901	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SE¼NW¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1133575	SHERIDAN, JOHN JAMES	1/4/1952	054852	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½SW¼SE¼SW¼	34	San Diego
1148608	SHERIDAN, JOHN JAMES	12/29/1954	054927	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SE¼SE¼SW¼	34	San Diego
1210737	SINGLETON, PHILIP	7/12/1960	0119735	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SE¼SW¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1153977	SMITH, DOROTHY I	8/30/1955	081572	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½NW¼SE¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1200840	SMITH, RONALD SILVANUS	10/27/1959	0165478	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½NE¼SW¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1177419	STEWART, WENDELL E	12/9/1957	0116556	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½NW¼NW¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1151362	STOAKS, CHARLES K	4/6/1955	065380	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SW¼NW¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1200838	SUTTON, JEANETTE ELEANOR	10/27/1959	0165476	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SW¼NW¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1148627	SWANSON, MARGUERITE K	12/29/1954	069197	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½NW¼NE¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1148630	TODD, REBA B	12/29/1954	072392	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SE¼SE¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1216287	TREMPER, AUGUST ROYAL	1/11/1961	097774	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½NW¼NE¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1161703	WAUGH, HARRY HURD	7/16/1956	079299	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½NE¼NW¼NE¼	34	San Diego
1162943	WIER, WILBER H	8/8/1956	0103524	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½SW¼SW¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1148614	WILLIAMS, CONNIE LEO	12/29/1954	065573	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	E½SE¼NW¼SE¼	34	San Diego
1148612	WRIGHT, ARTHUR R	12/29/1954	064712	CA	San Bernardino	014S - 007E	W½NE¼SW¼SE¼	34	San Diego



BLM GLO Records for Section 3

Search Results - BLM GLO Records 2/4/20, 10:51 AM

Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
1150555	ALOTTA, JOSEPH M	3/10/1955	066440	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 23	3	San Diego
1151361	BONAVENTURA, CORINNE V	4/6/1955	064901	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 17	3	San Diego
1214406	CAMPBELL, JAMES DEAN	11/10/1960	0142340	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 6	3	San Diego
1201950	CONDIE, MARY LLOYD	11/18/1959	0165953	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 34	3	San Diego
1162340	CRAWFORD, WINONA T	7/24/1956	066496	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 36	3	San Diego
1154658	CRESWICK, HARRY LEON	9/30/1955	073072	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 7	3	San Diego
1163590	DAVIS, DONNA V	8/23/1956	077869	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 10	3	San Diego
1148613	EGGER, LUDWIG J	12/29/1954	065271	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 18	3	San Diego
1148617	GOLDMAN, KASPAR R	12/29/1954	066439	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 22	3	San Diego
1162257	LESLIE, CHARLES HERBERT	7/20/1956	091925	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 9	3	San Diego
1200844	MALLORY, MARGUERITE J	10/27/1959	0165482	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 20	3	San Diego
625562	MASON, ABNER O	4/16/1918	01676	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 37	3	San Diego
						015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 37	4	San Diego
1148625	MCLEAN, EDWARD A	12/29/1954	068546	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 16	3	San Diego
1201951	MIHAYLO, CORNELIA ANNA	11/18/1959	0165954	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 37	3	San Diego
1201942	MIHAYLO, GRACE IRENE	11/18/1959	0165942	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 33	3	San Diego
1148632	MILLER, JOHN H	12/29/1954	073104	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 8	3	San Diego
1168471	NEYENESCH, LOIS	1/28/1957	0146342	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 35	3	San Diego
1136529	ROPER, ELEANOR R	10/1/1952	073325	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 21	3	San Diego
1170924	SCHESSLER, JOHN LEE	5/7/1957	055664	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 5	3	San Diego
1200843	TAMBURRO, KATHERINE BANCHIERE	10/27/1959	0165481	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 11	3	San Diego
1150312	WHITELY, FRANCIS L	3/4/1955	072951	CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 24	3	San Diego



Native Americans

Native Americans

"Canebrake has been inhabited since the late prehistoric times by Kumeyaay Indians."

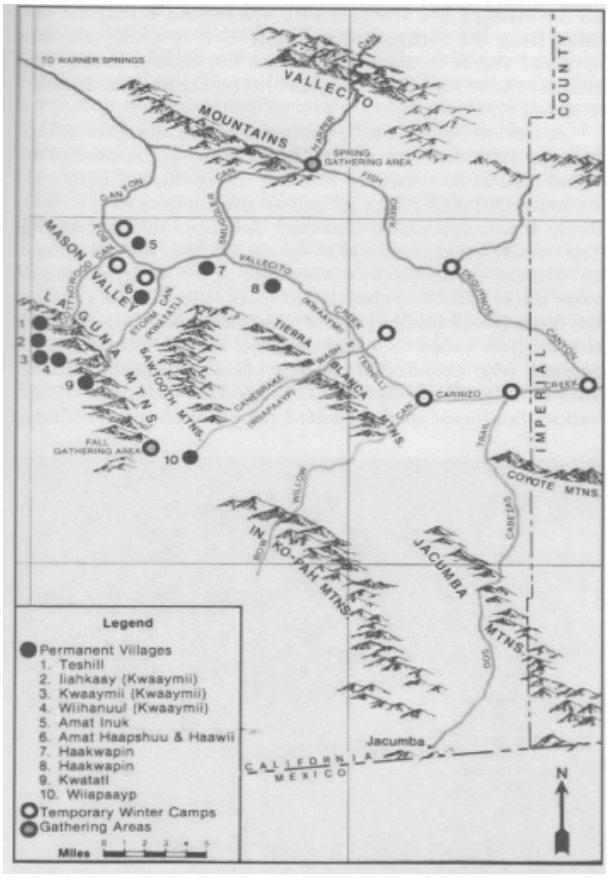
Lindsay, D. (2001). *Anza-Borrego A to Z People, Places and Things.* San Diego, California: Sunbelt Publications, Inc. p. 105.

Reference was made to Kumeyaay presence in a 1966 law brief as follows:
"…for approximately 100 years prior to the filing of this law-suit [Canebrake County Water District v. Crawford, 1966], a visible and apparent trail or road has existed in Canebrake Canyon. The approximate location and route of this trail or road is marked in the attached Exhibit "A" [unavailable]… this trail or road was first used (and is still used) by the Indians to reach their Reservation which is located to the South of the Canyon."

Canebrake County Water District v. Crawford. 298522 State of California (1966).

"The *Wiiapaayp* people moved down the Canebrake Wash to Palm Spring, not far from Vallecito Creek."

Cline, L. L. (2008). *Just Before Sunset*. San Diego, California: Sunbelt Publications, Inc. pp.13, 15.



Map showing Wiiapaayp route through Canebrake Wash

"A light dusting of snow caps the Laguna Mountains, a part of Anza-Borrego's western barrier. Unlike the mountains which are composed of granite, the badlands in the foreground consist of sediments deposited under an ancient sea."

Remeika, P. (1984). (postcard). Anza-Borrego Desert History Association, Borrego Springs, CA 92004.



"Indians would walk down 6,000 feet from Mt. Laguna and the Cuyamacas and winter in the desert. Canebrake Canyon is at the base of the mountains. The bad lands [*sic*] in the foreground."

Pat Stafford's Memories of Tom Lucas.

"Tom Lucas was the last of the Kyamaii [*sic*] Indian tribe in Laguna Mts. The tribe used to walk down the mountain and winter in the desert."

Pat Stafford's Memories of Tom Lucas

“The Kumeyaay were the first of the historic Indian groups to enter the Anza-Borrego area 1,500-2,000 years ago from the Colorado River…They brought with them the knowledge of pottery making…”

Lindsay, D. (2001). *Anza-Borrego A to Z People, Places and Things*. San Diego, California: Sunbelt Publications, Inc. p. 214.



Shards found in 1950s in Canebrake Canyon

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National Conservation Lands Kiosk at Kwaaymii Point, Mount Laguna, California

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior 2018



Enlargements of Text from Kwaaymii Point Kiosk

What is a Cultural Landscape?

A cultural landscape portrays how people have used and adapted resources over time. The *Wiipuk Uun'yaw* trail shows how the local indigenous people made use of this diverse landscape physically and spiritually. Plants are one cultural landscape resource used for many different purposes. In this region, pinyon and oak provided nuts for food at higher elevations while mesquite beans, melons, yucca, and agave were gathered near the desert floor. Yucca, agave, and various grasses were all used to make fibers for baskets, sandals, and other textiles.



Baskets and sandals made using resources gathered near Kwaaymii Point.

Above photographs courtesy of Carmen Lucas.
Kwaaymii on the Trail, painting to right by SuSaan Lucas Garcia ca. 1972.

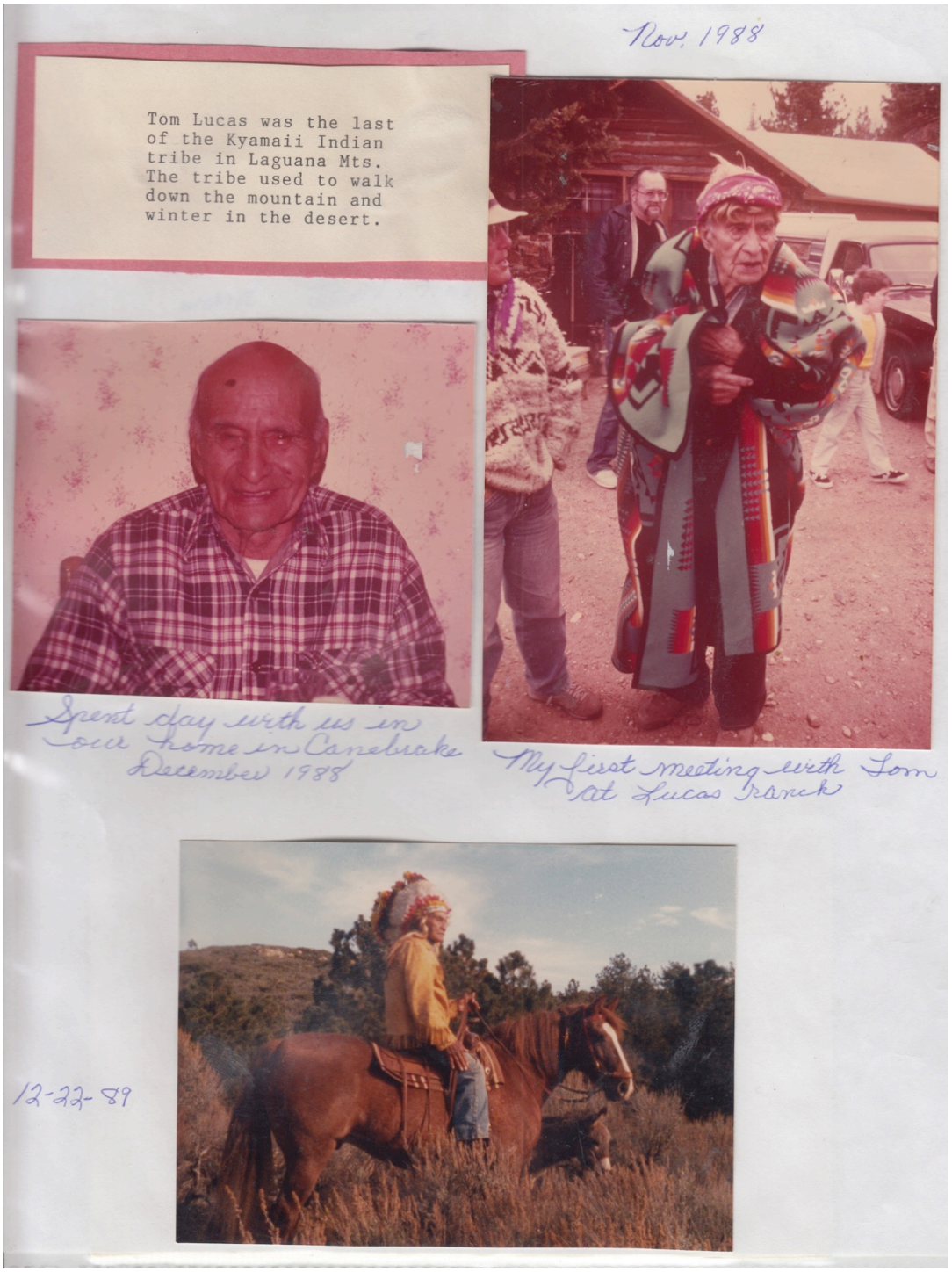
Wiipuk Uun'yaw

The Desert Path

The oral traditions of the local Kwaaymii and Kumeyaay people describe a rich history of trail systems stretching from the Pacific Coast to the Colorado River. Trails were vital to the seasonal collection and trade of resources, as well as, having close ties to tribal spiritual beliefs and cultural lifestyles. The view from Kwaaymii Point illustrates the journey experienced on one of these trails, *Wiipuk Uun'yaw*, or the "Desert Path." This trail was utilized by the Kwaaymii and Kumeyaay People as they travelled from their villages in the Laguna Mountain range to their homes in the desert below. Various stops along the trail were used to gather supplies and as places for prayer and reflection. Thanks to Tom Lucas, a Kwaaymii descendant, the memory of *Wiipuk Uun'yaw* and use of this diverse landscape from prehistory to today continues to be preserved.

The *Wiipuk Uun'yaw* trail is a listed site on the National Register of Historic Places.

Tom Lucas, 1903-1989. "With the death of his mother in 1924, Lucas became the last remaining member of the Kwaaymii, a sub-tribe of the more numerous Kumeyaay…"
"Thomas Lucas," obituary, *The San Diego Union*, 24 December 1989.



Tom Lucas became the last remaining member of the Kwaaymii
Pat Stafford's Memories of Tom Lucas

Tom Lucas Accounts

My association with Tom Lucas began after we bought the Butterfield Store & moved to Canebrake permanently in Feb. 1980.

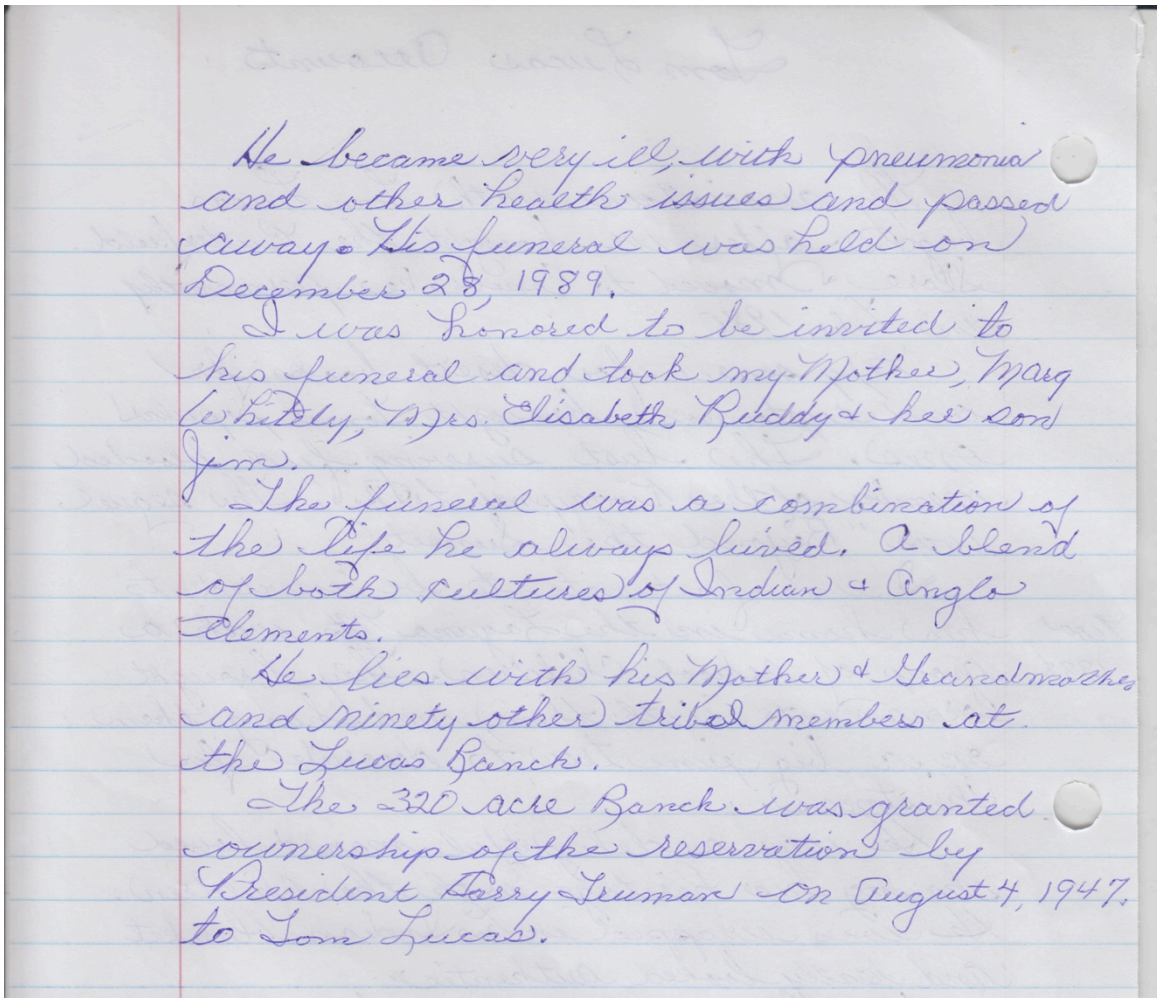
My search for desert books for our customers brought Toms popular ones. "The last surving full blooded member of the Kwaaymii tribe". The sequel was "Beyond the Sunset."

I was fortunate to be invited to
Nov 1988 his home in the Laguna Mts. with a group of school children. They brought ornaments with them and hung them on a big pine tree to decorate for Christmas.

He was a delightful man & loved sharing his heritage with the children. He was wrapped in his Indian blanket and really looked authentic.

We became very good friends over much correspondence. We invited Tom & his daughter Carmen Lucas to come to our home in Canebrake. He used to drive cattle down the mountain through Canebrake.

After an enjoyable meal and his sing song Stories of the old days, he sat outside under our palo Verde tree. I can still picture him soaking in his memories, saying "Ah Canebrake"!



He became very ill, with pneumonia and other health issues and passed away. His funeral was held on December 28, 1989.

I was honored to be invited to his funeral and took my Mother, Marg Whitely, Mrs. Elisabeth Ruddy & her son Jim.

The funeral was a combination of the life he always lived. A blend of both cultures of Indian & Anglo elements.

He lies with his Mother & Grandmother and ninety other tribal members at the Lucas Ranch.

The 320 acre Ranch was granted ownership of the reservation by President Harry Truman on August 4, 1947. to Tom Lucas.

"My association with Tom Lucas began after we bought the Butterfield Store and moved to Canebrake permanently in February, 1980… He used to drive cattle down the [Laguna] mountain through Canebrake."

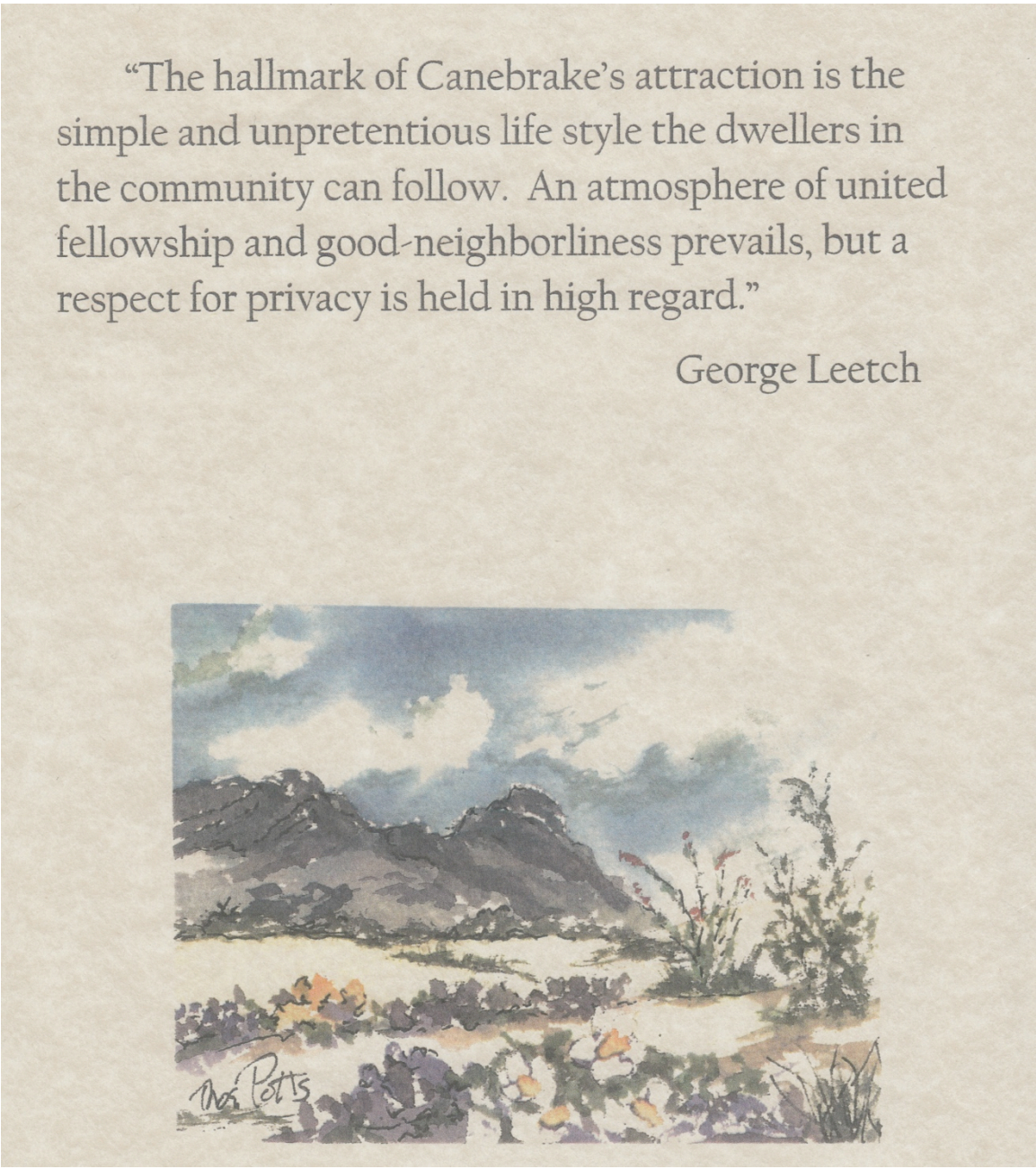
Pat Stafford's Memories of Tom Lucas – "Tom Lucas Account."

Homesteaders

Homesteaders

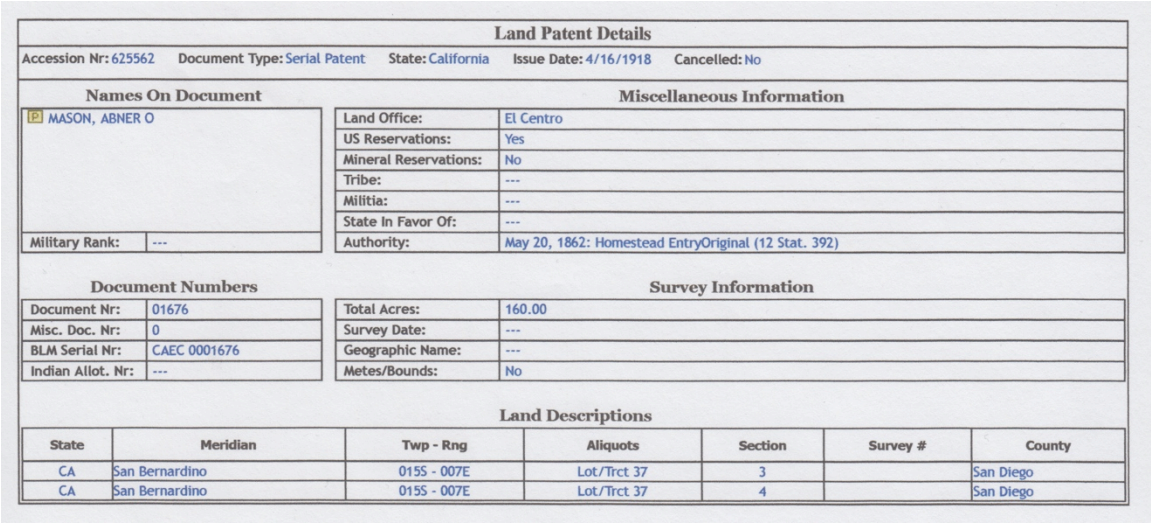
"The hallmark of Canebrake's attraction is the simple and unpretentious life style the dwellers in the community can follow. An atmosphere of united fellowship and good-neighborliness prevails, but a respect for privacy is held in high regard."

Quote from George Leetch; Watercolor by Tom Potts.



1918 Abner O. Mason BLM patent 625562, April 16, 1918; Brothers Abner and Moses Mason were the original homesteaders of Upper Canebrake Canyon. Their property was later acquired by Robert "Bob" Crawford.

Leetch, G.; J. Leetch. (1992). *A Collected History of Canebrake, California.* Julian, CA: Sponsored by Canebrake Improvement Association. p. 10.



Land Patent Details

Accession Nr: 625562 Document Type: Serial Patent State: California Issue Date: 4/16/1918 Cancelled: No

Names On Document

MASON, ABNER O	
Military Rank:	---

Miscellaneous Information

Land Office:	El Centro
US Reservations:	Yes
Mineral Reservations:	No
Tribe:	---
Militia:	---
State In Favor Of:	---
Authority:	May 20, 1862: Homestead EntryOriginal (12 Stat. 392)

Document Numbers

Document Nr:	01676
Misc. Doc. Nr:	0
BLM Serial Nr:	CAEC 0001676
Indian Allot. Nr:	---

Survey Information

Total Acres:	160.00
Survey Date:	---
Geographic Name:	---
Metes/Bounds:	No

Land Descriptions

State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Section	Survey #	County
CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 37	3		San Diego
CA	San Bernardino	015S - 007E	Lot/Trct 37	4		San Diego

1918 Abner O. Mason BLM Land Patent details

1933 "Crawfords (Bob and Grace with family) came to Canebrake from San Diego in 1933."

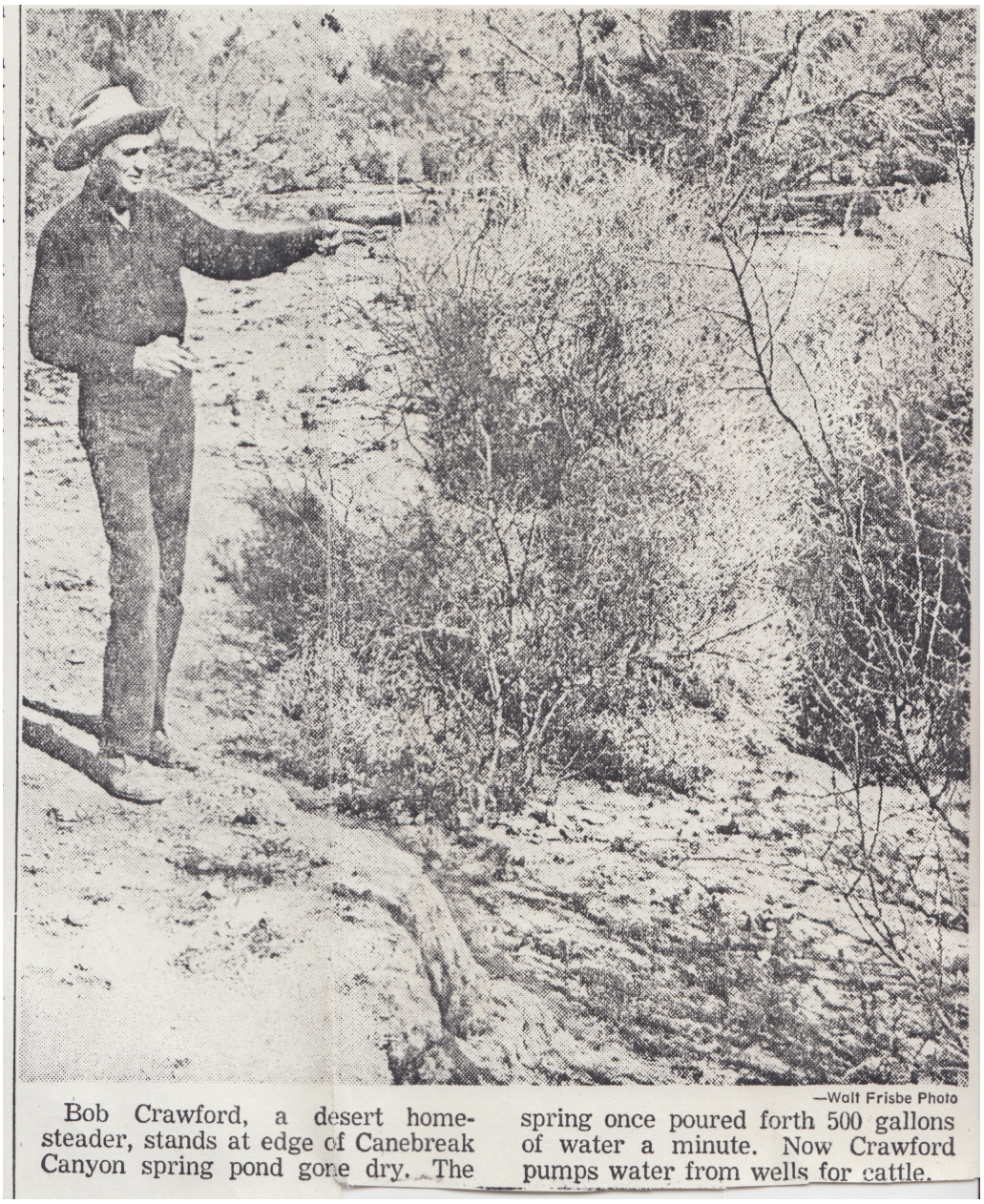
Crawford, Bob. Personal interview. 21 June 1982.

> It was in 1933 when the doctor told Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crawford that Bud, their eldest son then eight, would never recover from an illness unless he were taken on the desert to live. This was during the depression, so it was a case of making the best out of nothing. They packed their personal belongings and set up camp in the Cane Brake [*sic*] Canyon where they had previously filed a claim for 80 acres. (This article was originally written in 1953.)
>
> Kuphaldt, B. (1985). 'Time & Herefords Healed the Wounds of this California Family,' *Mountain Empire Monthly* 1985, pp. 22-25.

Robert Albert Crawford and his family began ranching in the Upper Canebrake Canyon and purchased 160 acres from the Masons; He was a well known local figure - cattle rancher, early Agua Caliente County Park ranger, and a participant in the restoration of the Vallecito Stage Station.

Leetch, G.; J. Leetch. (1992). *A Collected History of Canebrake, California.* Julian, CA: Sponsored by Canebrake Improvement Association. pp. 16 & 17.

Bob Crawford



—Walt Frisbe Photo

Bob Crawford, a desert homesteader, stands at edge of Canebreak Canyon spring pond gone dry. The spring once poured forth 500 gallons of water a minute. Now Crawford pumps water from wells for cattle.

"Ranks of Desert Cattlemen Thinned by Time, Changes" 1964

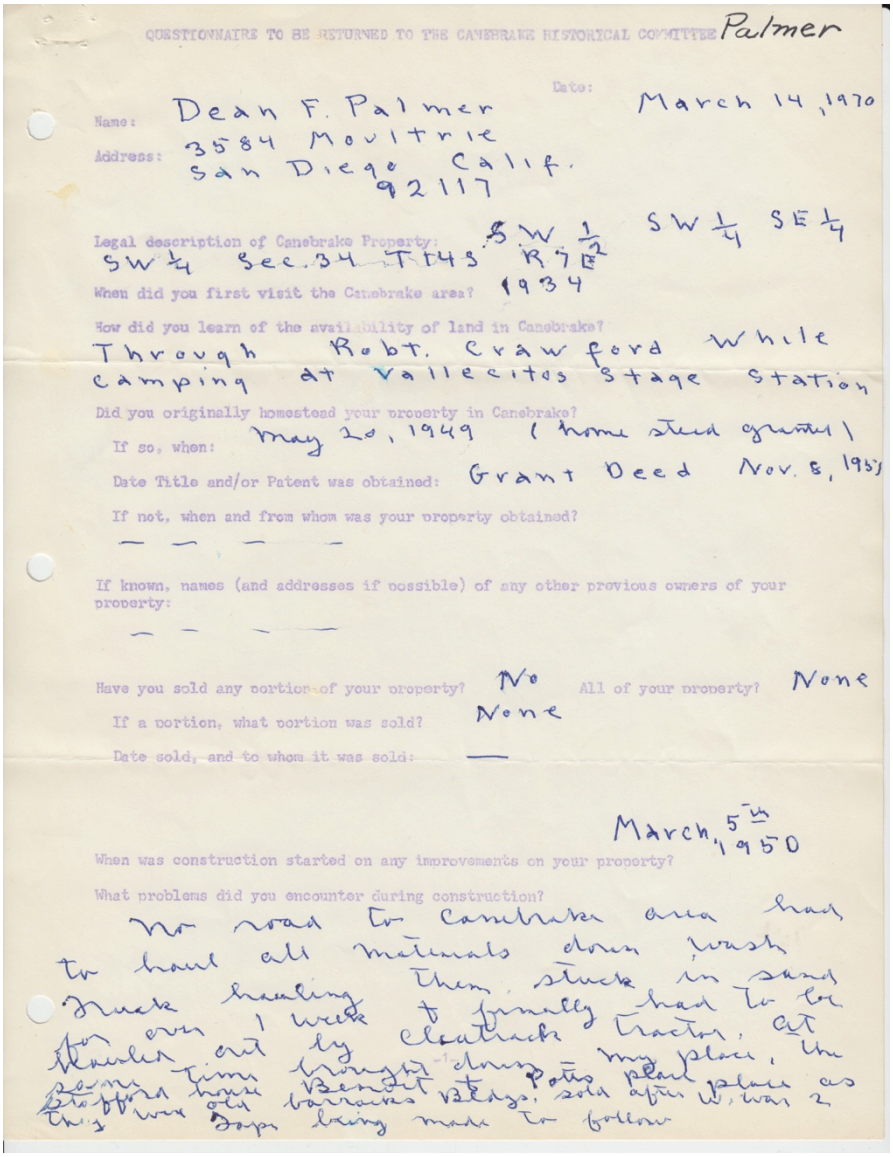
Jennings, B. 1964, February 25. Ranks of Desert Cattlemen Thinned By Time, Changes, *The San Diego Union.*

1935 Dean F. Palmer, named as agricultural inspector for Carlsbad, California in 1929 and served as San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner from 1941-1961, made his "first trip down to that part of the desert [Canebrake Canyon] in about 1935. At that time Canebrake Creek was running, a nice babbling creek where I would camp and sometimes not see a soul for a week or more."

Leetch, G.; J. Leetch. (1992). *A Collected History of Canebrake, California.* Julian, CA: Sponsored by Canebrake Improvement Association. p. 74.

Mr. Palmer responded to a questionnaire sent out to Canebrake residents in 1970 that he learned about the availability of land in Canebrake "through Robert Crawford while camping at Vallecito Stage Station."

1970 Palmer Questionnaire, page 1



QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE RETURNED TO THE CANEBRAKE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE Palmer

Date: March 14, 1970

Name: Dean F. Palmer

Address: 3584 Moultrie
San Diego Calif.
92117

Legal description of Canebrake Property: SW 1/2 SW 1/4 SE 1/4 SW 1/4 Sec. 34 T14S R7E

When did you first visit the Canebrake area? 1934

How did you learn of the availability of land in Canebrake? Through Robt. Crawford while camping at Vallecitos Stage Station

Did you originally homestead your property in Canebrake?

If so, when: May 20, 1949 (home stead granted)

Date Title and/or Patent was obtained: Grant Deed Nov. 8, 1951

If not, when and from whom was your property obtained?

— — — —

If known, names (and addresses if possible) of any other previous owners of your property:

— — — —

Have you sold any portion of your property? No All of your property? None

If a portion, what portion was sold? None

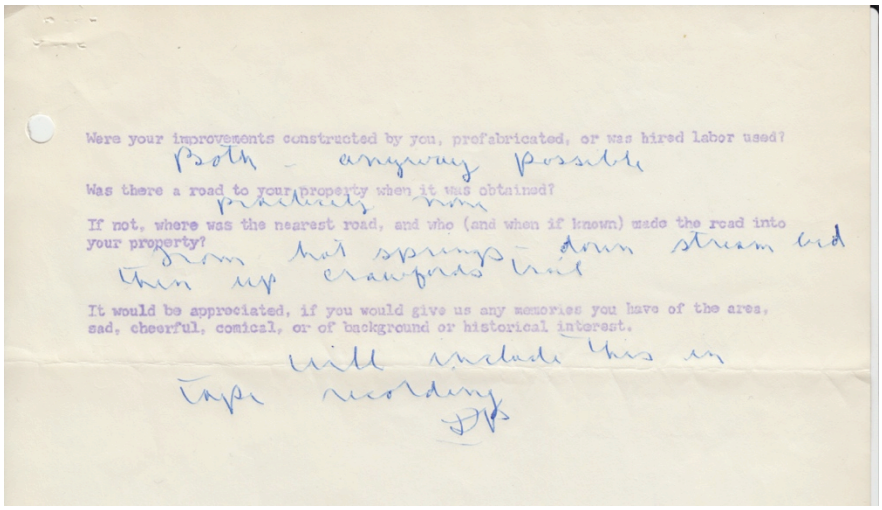
Date sold, and to whom it was sold: —

When was construction started on any improvements on your property? March, 5th 1950

What problems did you encounter during construction?

No road to Canebrake area had to haul all materials down wash truck hauling them stuck in sand for over 1 week & finally had to be hauled out by cleatrack tractor. At same time brought down my place, the Stafford house Benoit & Potts place place as they were old barracks bldgs. sold after W. war 2 Tops being made to follow

1970 Palmer Questionnaire, page 2



Were your improvements constructed by you, prefabricated, or was hired labor used?
Both - anyway possible

Was there a road to your property when it was obtained?
practically none

If not, where was the nearest road, and who (and when if known) made the road into your property?
from hot springs - down stream bed then up Crawfords trail

It would be appreciated, if you would give us any memories you have of the area, sad, cheerful, comical, or of background or historical interest.
will include this on tape recording
DP



1938 Small Tract Act of June 1, 1938, "Jack Rabbit Homestead Act," was passed by Congress and approved June 10, 1940 by Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior. "This law differs from the long established homestead and desert claim acts in the fact that with the exception of business sites, the five-acre tracts to be leased or sold by the government under this enactment are not intended to provide a livelihood for the occupant – but are primarily for home, recreational and health purposes."

Henderson, R. (1940 August). Here are the Rules for the Five-Acre Tracts…*The Desert Magazine*, pp. 33, 34.

The applicant did not purchase the 5-acre parcel immediately but instead, applied for lease of the property. The lease forms were submitted to the Land Office along with a filing fee of $10.00. In addition to the lease purchase, it was necessary to pay full rental for the entire lease period of five years. This was paid for at $5.00 a year per tract. The full rental for the entire lease period was a total of $25.00. In order to achieve ownership and patent deed to the five-acre tract it was necessary to build a cabin with a minimum of 400 square feet or make other improvements to the property. There was no requirement as to continuous residence on the tract.

The land which was available for the five-acre tracts was in general, unsuitable for farming or pasturage. It was set aside by Congress for such purposes as home, cabin, health and recreational sites.

Leetch, G.; J. Leetch. (1992). *A Collected History of Canebrake, California.* Julian, CA: Sponsored by Canebrake Improvement Association. p. 97.



Form 4-123
(NOV. 1948)

(To be executed in ~~duplicate~~ triplicate

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Serial No. L. A. 065573

LEASE UNDER SMALL TRACT ACT

7929

Act of June 1, 1938 (52 Stat. 609, 43 U. S. C. Sec. 682), as amended

APPLIED
JUN 1 1949

This indenture of lease, entered into as of JUN 1 1949 by and between the United States of America, party of the first part, hereinafter called the Lessor, acting in this behalf by the Manager, District Land Office, Los Angeles, California

and

Connie L. Williams
of 2nd Street P.O. Box 322
Carlsbad, California

party of the second part, hereinafter called the Lessee, pursuant to the terms and provisions of the Act of June 1, 1938 (52 Stat. 609, 43 U. S. C. Sec. 682a), as amended, and the regulations thereunder, all of which are made a part hereof.

WITNESSETH:

That the Lessor, in consideration of the rents to be paid and the covenants to be observed as herein set forth, does hereby grant and lease to the Lessee an exclusive right and privilege of using for cabin site purposes the following-described tract of land:

E½SE¼NW¼SE¼,

Section 34, , Township 14 S., , Range 7 E.,

S. B. Meridian, Calif., containing five acres, together with the right to construct and maintain thereon all buildings or other improvements necessary to the full enjoyment thereof for the purposes for which this lease is given, for a period of five years. Upon filing an application for renewal of the lease, not more than six (6) months or less than sixty (60) days prior to the expiration thereof, the Lessee or his duly approved successor in interest will be accorded a preference right to a new lease, upon such terms and for such duration as may be fixed by the officer signing this lease, if the terms of the lease have been complied with and such officer shall determine that a new lease should be granted. The Lessee or his duly approved successor in interest may purchase the above-described land at or after the expiration of one (1) year from the date of this lease, provided the improvements required hereunder have been made and he has otherwise complied with the terms and conditions of this lease. The purchase price shall be $50.00, plus the cost of survey, if any, necessary to describe the land properly. In no event may an application to purchase be filed prior to the expiration of one year from the date of this lease.

In consideration of the foregoing, the Lessee hereby agrees:

(*a*) To pay the Lessor, in advance, ~~annually~~ $ 25.00

(*b*) To construct upon the leased land, to the satisfaction of the Regional Administrator, improvements, which under the circumstances are presentable, substantial, and appropriate for the use for which the lease is issued. Plans for improvements may be submitted to the Regional Administrator for approval in advance of construction.

(*c*) To observe all State, county, and other laws and regulations which are applicable to the premises, including sanitary laws and regulations and laws relating to the cost and maintenance of partition fences, and to keep the premises in a neat and orderly condition.

(*d*) If pursuant to the lease, the site may be used in whole or in part for business, to conduct all business operations in an orderly manner and in accordance with the requirements of the laws of the State in which the land is located, as well as the laws of the United States, and not to discriminate against any

16—57501-1

employee or applicant for employment because of race, creed, color, or national origin, and that he will require an identical provision to be included in all subcontracts.

(*e*) Not to commit waste or injury to the land, or to devote it to any occupation or use other than the purposes for which this lease is issued.

(*f*) To take all reasonable precautions to prevent and suppress forest, brush, and grass fires.

(*g*) That neither he nor members of his family, or employees, will set fires that will result in damage, and that fires will be extinguished before the premises are left unattended.

(*h*) Not to cut timber from the leased lands without first obtaining permission through the District Land Office. Such permission will not be granted except where the timber is to be cut to clear the lands or to make improvements.

(*i*) To take all possible precautions to prevent pollution of waters on and in the vicinity of this tract.

(*j*) To observe all laws and regulations for the protection of game animals, game birds, and nongame birds, and not to disturb such animals or birds unnecessarily.

It is further understood and agreed:

(*k*) That there is reserved to the United States all of the coal, oil, gas, and other mineral deposits in the leased land; that any deposits of coal, oil, gas, or other minerals subject to the leasing laws in the leased land may be disposed of under applicable laws and regulations in force at the time of such disposal; that the right of prospect for, mine, and remove the other kinds of minerals that may be found in the leased land shall be subject to such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior and that until such rules and regulations have been issued such reserved deposits will not be subject to disposition or prospecting. That there is reserved to the United States, pursuant to the provisions of the Act of August 1, 1946 (Public Law 585, 79th Cong.), all uranium, thorium, or any other materials which are or may be determined to be peculiarly essential to the production of fissionable materials, whether or not of commercial value, together with the right of the United States through its authorized agents or representatives at any time to enter upon the land and prospect for, mine, and remove the same.

(*l*) That nothing contained in this lease shall restrict the acquisition, granting, or use of permits or rights-of-way under existing laws.

(*m*) That the Lessee will not enclose or obstruct in any manner, or erect or maintain signs or buildings on any highways, roads, or trails commonly used for public travel.

That this lease is taken subject to the rights of others to cross the leased premises on, or as near as practicable to, the exterior boundaries thereof, as a means of ingress or egress to or from other lands leased under authority of this act. Whenever necessary, the Regional Administrator may make final decision as to the location of right-of-way.

(*n*) That authorized representatives of the Department of the Interior at any time shall have the right to enter the leased premises for the purpose of inspection, and that Federal agents and game wardens shall at all times have the right to enter the leased area on official business.

(*o*) That the Lessee shall not sell or remove any timber growing on the leased land, for use elsewhere.

(*p*) That this lease is granted subject to valid existing rights.

(*q*) That this lease shall be subject to cancellation by the Manager of the District Land Office for failure of the Lessee to timely make any required payment of annual rental, or for failure of the Lessee otherwise to perform or observe any of the terms, covenants, and stipulations hereof, or of any of the regulations issued under the Act of June 1, 1938, where such default has continued for thirty (30) days after written notice thereof by the Manager of the District Land Office.

(*r*) That upon the cancellation of this lease for any reason, or upon its expiration, unless a renewal is requested, the Lessee will be allowed a reasonable time, to be determined by the Manager of the District Land Office, within which to remove his improvements from the land, or to make other disposition theref. Upon the failure of the Lessee to take such action, the improvements will become the property of the United States.

(*s*) That the Lessee will not assign this lease, or any interest therein, nor sublet any portion of the leased premises, without prior approval of the officer signing the lease and will not speculate in the privileges herein granted. The approval of a transfer will be withheld, if it is for speculative purposes.

(*t*) It is further covenanted and agreed that each obligation hereunder shall extend to, and be binding upon, and every benefit hereof shall inure to, the heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns of the respective parties hereto.

(*u*) That no Member of or Delegate to Congress, or Resident Commissioner, after his election or appointment, and either before or after he has qualified, and during his continuance in office, and that no officer, agent, or employee of the Department of the Interior, shall be admitted to any share or part in this

16—57501-1

(Aug. 1948) 350 Cancelled

lease or derive any benefit that may arise therefrom; and that the provisions of Section 3741 of the Revised Statutes (41 U. S. C. 22), and Sections 114, 115, and 116 of the Criminal Code, approved March 4, 1909 (35 Stat. 1109, 18 U. S. C. 204–206), relating to contracts, enter into and form a part of this lease, so far as the same may be applicable.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF:

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

By Paul Blehm

Manager, District Land Office

(Title)

Witnesses to signature of Lessee:

Robert W. Landis

Mrs. R. J. Sullivan

Connie L. Williams

Lessee.

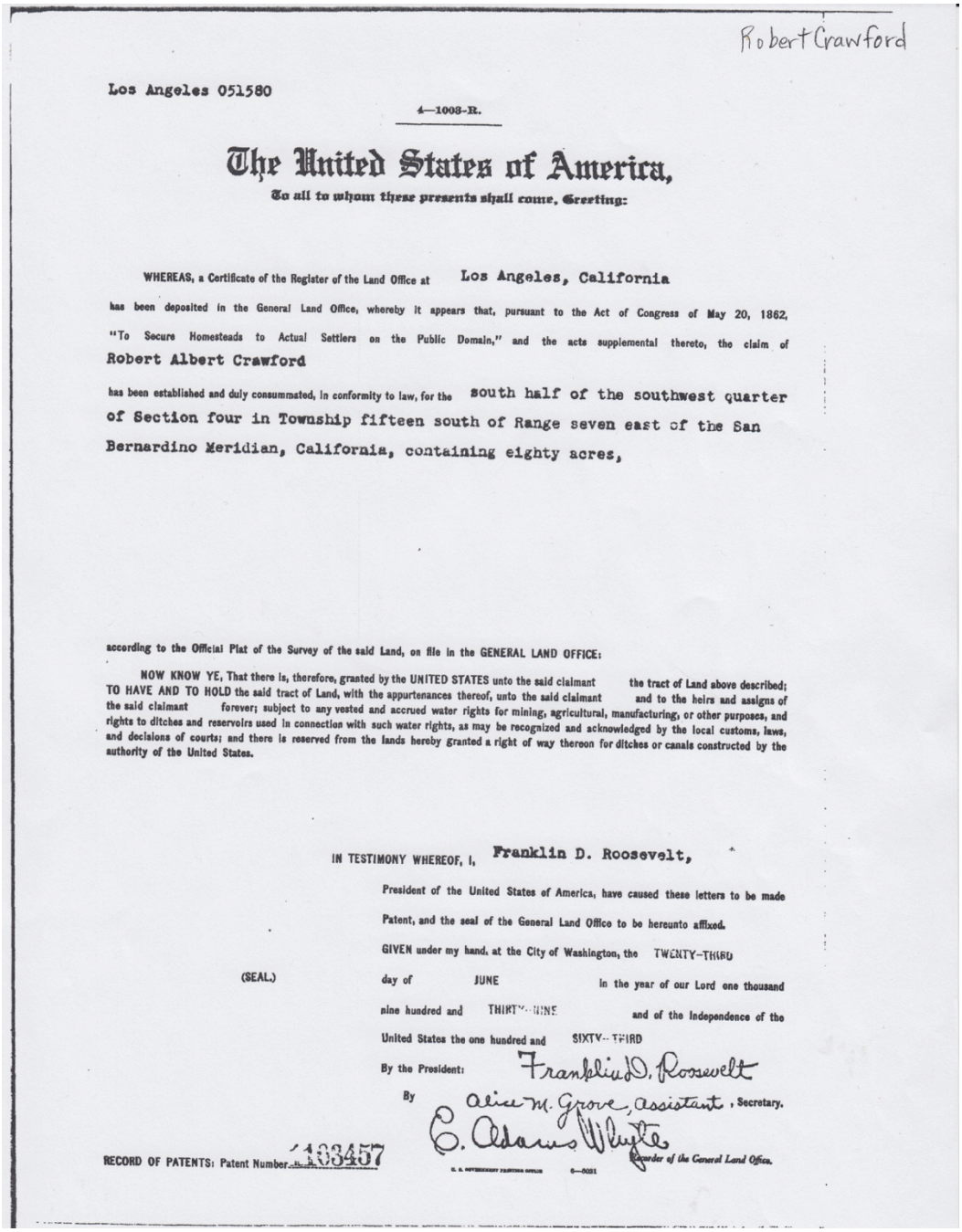
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—67601-1

3

1939 Robert Albert Crawford BLM patent 1103457, June 23, 1939
"…south half of the southwest quarter of Section four in Township fifteen south of Range seven east of the San Bernardino Meridian, California, containing eighty acres, …"

U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management. *General Land Office Records, Land Patents.* Retrieved from URL.

Robert Crawford 1939 Patent with FDR's signature



Robert Crawford

Los Angeles 051580

4—1008-R.

The United States of America,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS, a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Los Angeles, California has been deposited in the General Land Office, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress of May 20, 1862, "To Secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Robert Albert Crawford has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the south half of the southwest quarter of Section four in Township fifteen south of Range seven east of the San Bernardino Meridian, California, containing eighty acres,

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, on file in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE:

NOW KNOW YE, That there is, therefore, granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said claimant the tract of Land above described; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said claimant and to the heirs and assigns of the said claimant forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights, as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts; and there is reserved from the lands hereby granted a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the City of Washington, the TWENTY-THIRD day of JUNE in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and THIRTY-NINE and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and SIXTY-THIRD

(SEAL.)

By the President: Franklin D. Roosevelt

By Alice M. Grove, Assistant, Secretary.

C. Adams Whyte

Recorder of the General Land Office.

RECORD OF PATENTS: Patent Number 1103457

1940 *The Desert Magazine*, February 1940, p. 30, published "Desert Place Names - The Canebrakes, San Diego County."

> Local name for small mountain stream on east slope of Laguna mountains (T. 15 S, R. 7 E). The creek disappears at the desert's edge after the water flows through a narrow canyon whose bottom is choked with dense tangles of grass, arrowweed, mesquite and cane. From the abundance of cane the stream takes its name. **Remains of a stone-lined aqueduct extend for some distance along the canyon.** Mountain walls at the canyon entrance are sheared granite, whitened, kaolinized and altered and there is suggestion of a fault line along the mountain front. Half a mile upstream, by an almost impassable trail, the traveler finds rocks much more dense and unweathered. Above a small cabin the canyon bed widens into a boggy marsh, beyond which rounded hills rise, their tops in places showing many pieces of broken pottery. A pinto burro, something of a rarity, was seen here in a herd of wild burros, when the locality was visited not long ago.
>
> Henderson, R. (1940 February). Desert Place Names, *The Desert Magazine*, p. 30.



Section of Mason Ditch at mouth of Canebrake Canyon today

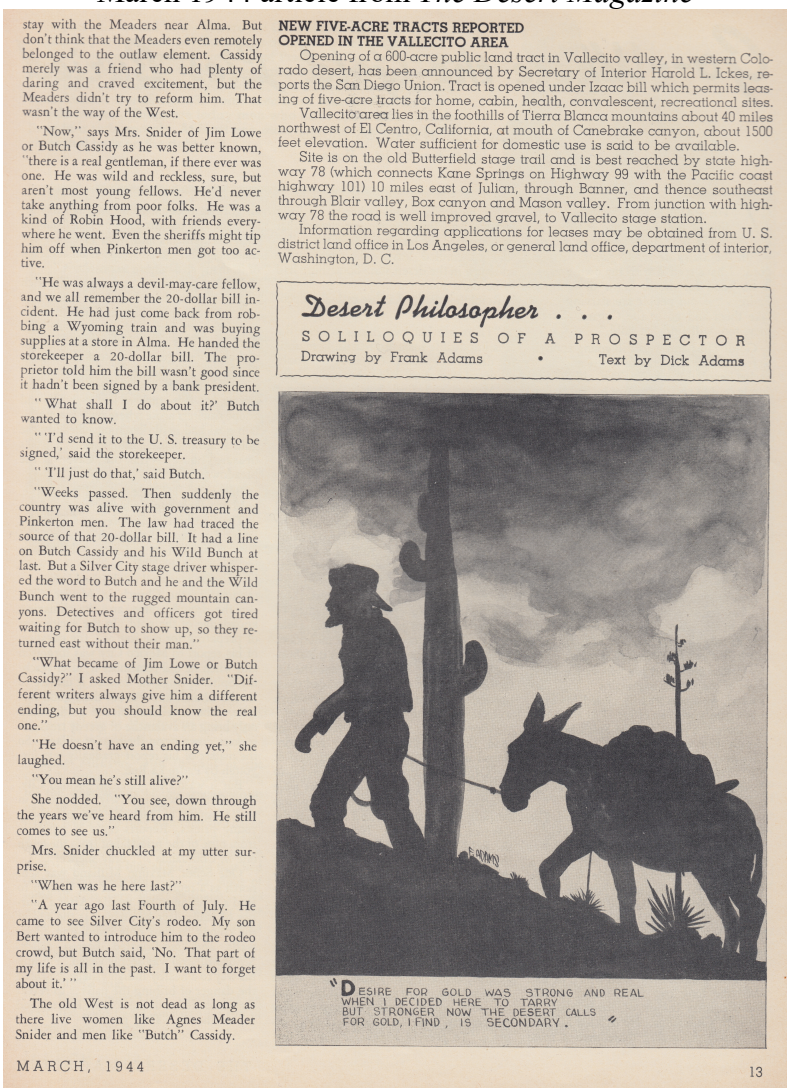
1944 Public announcement of the Canebrake Canyon Tract for homesteading is published in *The Desert Magazine*: "New Five-Acre Tracts Reported Opened In The Vallecito Area."

> Vallecito area lies in the foothills of Tierra Blanca mountains about 40 miles northwest of El Centro, California, at mouth of Canebrake canyon, about 1500 feet elevation. Water sufficient for domestic use is said to be available.
>
> Henderson, R. (1944 March). New Five-Acre Tracts Reported Opened In The Vallecito Area, *The Desert Magazine*, p. 13.

A dependent resurvey and subdivision map of section 34 is prepared and completed for the U.S. Department of the Interior General Land Office before the tract is open for filing.

> U.S. Department of the Interior GLO map surveyed by Roger F. Wilson and Charles E. Hunter, completed June 5, 1944.

March 1944 article from *The Desert Magazine*



stay with the Meaders near Alma. But don't think that the Meaders even remotely belonged to the outlaw element. Cassidy merely was a friend who had plenty of daring and craved excitement, but the Meaders didn't try to reform him. That wasn't the way of the West.

"Now," says Mrs. Snider of Jim Lowe or Butch Cassidy as he was better known, "there is a real gentleman, if there ever was one. He was wild and reckless, sure, but aren't most young fellows. He'd never take anything from poor folks. He was a kind of Robin Hood, with friends everywhere he went. Even the sheriffs might tip him off when Pinkerton men got too active.

"He was always a devil-may-care fellow, and we all remember the 20-dollar bill incident. He had just come back from robbing a Wyoming train and was buying supplies at a store in Alma. He handed the storekeeper a 20-dollar bill. The proprietor told him the bill wasn't good since it hadn't been signed by a bank president.

"'What shall I do about it?' Butch wanted to know.

"'I'd send it to the U. S. treasury to be signed,' said the storekeeper.

"'I'll just do that,' said Butch.

"Weeks passed. Then suddenly the country was alive with government and Pinkerton men. The law had traced the source of that 20-dollar bill. It had a line on Butch Cassidy and his Wild Bunch at last. But a Silver City stage driver whispered the word to Butch and he and the Wild Bunch went to the rugged mountain canyons. Detectives and officers got tired waiting for Butch to show up, so they returned east without their man."

"What became of Jim Lowe or Butch Cassidy?" I asked Mother Snider. "Different writers always give him a different ending, but you should know the real one."

"He doesn't have an ending yet," she laughed.

"You mean he's still alive?"

She nodded. "You see, down through the years we've heard from him. He still comes to see us."

Mrs. Snider chuckled at my utter surprise.

"When was he here last?"

"A year ago last Fourth of July. He came to see Silver City's rodeo. My son Bert wanted to introduce him to the rodeo crowd, but Butch said, 'No. That part of my life is all in the past. I want to forget about it.'"

The old West is not dead as long as there live women like Agnes Meader Snider and men like "Butch" Cassidy.

NEW FIVE-ACRE TRACTS REPORTED OPENED IN THE VALLECITO AREA

Opening of a 600-acre public land tract in Vallecito valley, in western Colorado desert, has been announced by Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes, reports the San Diego Union. Tract is opened under Izaac bill which permits leasing of five-acre tracts for home, cabin, health, convalescent, recreational sites.

Vallecito area lies in the foothills of Tierra Blanca mountains about 40 miles northwest of El Centro, California, at mouth of Canebrake canyon, about 1500 feet elevation. Water sufficient for domestic use is said to be available.

Site is on the old Butterfield stage trail and is best reached by state highway 78 (which connects Kane Springs on Highway 99 with the Pacific coast highway 101) 10 miles east of Julian, through Banner, and thence southeast through Blair valley, Box canyon and Mason valley. From junction with highway 78 the road is well improved gravel, to Vallecito stage station.

Information regarding applications for leases may be obtained from U. S. district land office in Los Angeles, or general land office, department of interior, Washington, D. C.

Desert Philosopher . . .

SOLILOQUIES OF A PROSPECTOR

Drawing by Frank Adams • Text by Dick Adams

1946 Pat Whitely Stafford describes her earliest visit to Canebrake in a paper she wrote August 1984.

> My first experience at Canebrake was in 1946 when my parents (Whitelys), brother and sister and I joined Joe Alotta and group in his old stake bed truck for our first trip out. The further we traveled, the more I wondered **Why?** I was sixteen and not at all impressed with this God forsaken country.
>
> I was standing against the truck rails gawking at the scenery, when I was promptly hit between the eyes by an ocotilla [*sic*] cane and knocked out. By the time we reached our destination, I had a black knot from eye to eye. The embarrassing thing was that Tom and Bud Crawford (just discharged from the Army) was [*sic*] anxiously awaiting this young girls [*sic*] arrival!
>
> Time and the desert changed my mind and the peace and beauty of the desert had me sitting by the creek and cane in my shangrala [*sic*] writing poetry. I even dreamed of how nice it would be to have the Bonaventura property someday, never realizing we really would…



Pat Whitely Stafford 1945-46 “In my Shangrila”

1951 Thomas N. Hays BLM patent 1130917, January 17, 1951; the first patent recipient of a 5-acre small tract parcel in Canebrake Canyon.

U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management. *General Land Office Records, Land Patents.* Retrieved from URL.

Tom Hays was a retired San Diego City Police officer and later served as a Deputy Sheriff in the Canebrake area. He built and operated one of the two water distribution systems that preceded the Canebrake County Water District.

"Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hays learned about Canebrake before World War II and began the agonizing process of acquiring their present home site on the alluvial fan below the canyon. By 1949 their small tract lease had been approved."

Jennings, B. 1964, February 2. Canebrake Canyon, Small City Rises In Grazing Area, *The San Diego Union.*



SAN DIEGO COUNTY

h6 © SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 2, 1964

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hays, two of the four year-round residents of Canebrake Canyon, check grapefruit on their desert homestead near Borrego.

CANEBRAKE CANYON

Small City Rises In Grazing Area

By BILL JENNINGS

CANEBRAKE CANYON — A small city has sprung up near one of the county's original cattle-grazing areas, which bears this unlikely name.

The pioneer settlers of the remote desert community are a pair of transplanted San Diegans who have grown to love the desert, as have so many others before and since.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hays learned about Canebrake before World War II and began the agonizing process of acquiring their present home site on the alluvial fan below the canyon. By 1949 their small tract lease had been approved.

This process of land acquisition has become known as the "jack rabbit" homestead movement and has gained acceptance throughout the desert and foothill areas of California. The description is generally attributed to the nature of the land involved, considered as "fittin' only for jack rabbits and tumbleweed."

5,000 Filings In 3 Counties

That may be true but there are more than 5,000 such filings in San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego counties.

The Hayses reflect the feelings of most jack rabbit homesteaders.

"We love it," Mrs. Hays said.

Their love has endured water shortages, heat up to 118 degrees in summer and complete isolation during severe winter storms.

The Hayses and another couple, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Benoit, are still the only all-year residents of lower Canebrake, which now has 91 tracts ranging up to five acres.

Canebrake Canyon proper is west of the Hays place. For well over 100 years east county cattlemen have used it for winter graze.

Hays, who likes to double as a cowboy once in a while, said the upper canyon at one time had seven or more running springs, and feed of chia, annual grass and tender brush was good.

Today, Bob Crawford, a Vallecito and Canebrake old-timer, runs a few cattle on his own acreage and leases an estimated 12 square miles from the federal government under the Taylor act, which permits leased grazing in watershed and forested areas.

Retired S.D. Police Officer

Hays, a tall, ruggedly powerful man, is a retired San Diego police officer. His strength is evidenced by his accomplishments.

"We installed 5,400 feet of two-inch waterline in 1950," he said, gesturing at a network of pipe that feeds each tree and bush on the homestead from a cienega intake up the canyon.

There are bearing orange and grapefruit trees, thriving palo verde, bougainvillia, figs and shrubs surrounding the big pumic block house.

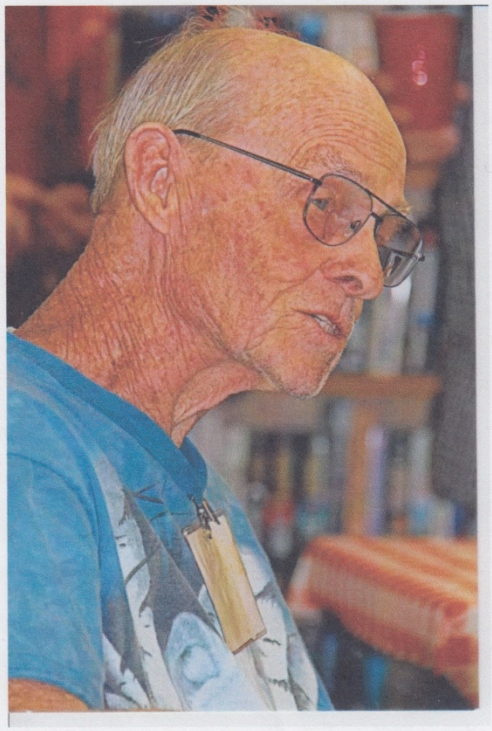
With the help of a mason from Ocotillo 25 miles down the Sweeney Pass road in Imperial County, Hays rebuilt the large home after a fire in 1958 ruined it from the window line up.

The Hayses and other property owners succeeding in bringing electricity to the remote valley, convinced the county that the old graded road from Mason Valley, down through Vallecito to Caliente should be relocated and even got it paved a few years ago.

John Petersen who retired from the City of San Diego water department was the second owner of the Hays property. He purchased it in 1986 and owned it until his death in 2014. John served as general manager of the Canebrake County Water District from 2002-2014. The Petersen Well, the Water District's second well, is named in his honor.

In Memory of John Petersen

1930-2014





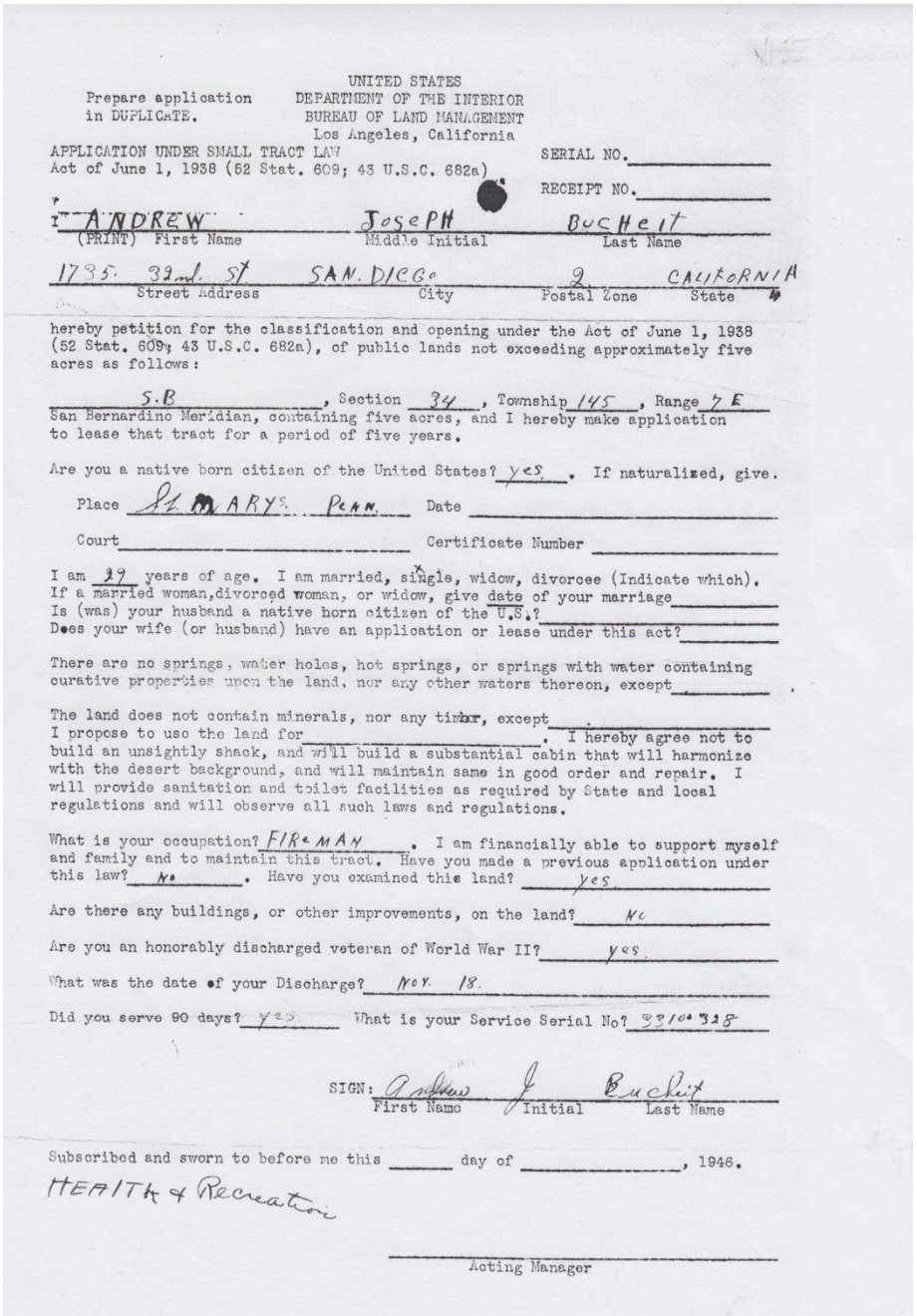
INNOVATIVE
HARD WORKING
FRIENDLY
RESOURCEFUL
GENEROUS
ACCEPTING
RELIABLE

In 1986 John purchased the historic Dominguez/Hays place and came to Canebrake Canyon. He preserved and protected the Hays house, the old water tower, and the ocotillo corral. He served the Canebrake Canyon County Water District as a member of the Board of Directors. In 2002 he gave up his position on the Board to become the General Manager of the District and served Canebrake as Water Manager until the moment of his death. John was named Canebraker of the Year and received the Bent Wrench award, symbol of his hard work and dedication.

His uniform was an old tee shirt, his car, a nineteen seventy something red VW Bug, that faithfully took him to Lemon Grove every Monday. On the job his transportation was the old red Toyota pickup which he kept going against all odds. His mission was to keep his beloved Canebrake running smoothly.

John, we miss you!

1951 Andrew J. Bucheit BLM patent 1131070, February 6, 1951; Andy and Marie Bucheit were principal participants in the formation of a community water system that would serve all of the people in Canebrake. Marie, as secretary of the Canebrake Improvement Association, meticulously recorded the development of the early community in her minutes from 1963 to 1975. Andy was elected the first president of the newly formed Canebrake County Water District in 1966. The property is still owned by the family.



Prepare application in DUPLICATE.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Los Angeles, California

APPLICATION UNDER SMALL TRACT LAW
Act of June 1, 1938 (52 Stat. 609; 43 U.S.C. 682a)

SERIAL NO. _____

RECEIPT NO. _____

I ANDREW (PRINT) First Name JOSEPH Middle Initial BUCHEIT Last Name

1735 32nd St. Street Address SAN. DIEGO City 2 Postal Zone CALIFORNIA State

hereby petition for the classification and opening under the Act of June 1, 1938 (52 Stat. 609; 43 U.S.C. 682a), of public lands not exceeding approximately five acres as follows:

S.B, Section 34, Township 14S, Range 7E San Bernardino Meridian, containing five acres, and I hereby make application to lease that tract for a period of five years.

Are you a native born citizen of the United States? yes. If naturalized, give.

Place St. MARYS. PENN. Date _____

Court _____ Certificate Number _____

I am 29 years of age. I am married, single, widow, divorcee (Indicate which).
If a married woman, divorced woman, or widow, give date of your marriage _____
Is (was) your husband a native born citizen of the U.S.? _____
Does your wife (or husband) have an application or lease under this act? _____

There are no springs, water holes, hot springs, or springs with water containing curative properties upon the land, nor any other waters thereon, except _____

The land does not contain minerals, nor any timber, except _____
I propose to use the land for _____. I hereby agree not to build an unsightly shack, and will build a substantial cabin that will harmonize with the desert background, and will maintain same in good order and repair. I will provide sanitation and toilet facilities as required by State and local regulations and will observe all such laws and regulations.

What is your occupation? FIREMAN. I am financially able to support myself and family and to maintain this tract. Have you made a previous application under this law? No. Have you examined this land? yes

Are there any buildings, or other improvements, on the land? No

Are you an honorably discharged veteran of World War II? yes

What was the date of your Discharge? Nov. 18.

Did you serve 90 days? yes What is your Service Serial No? 33104328

SIGN: Andrew J Bucheit
First Name Initial Last Name

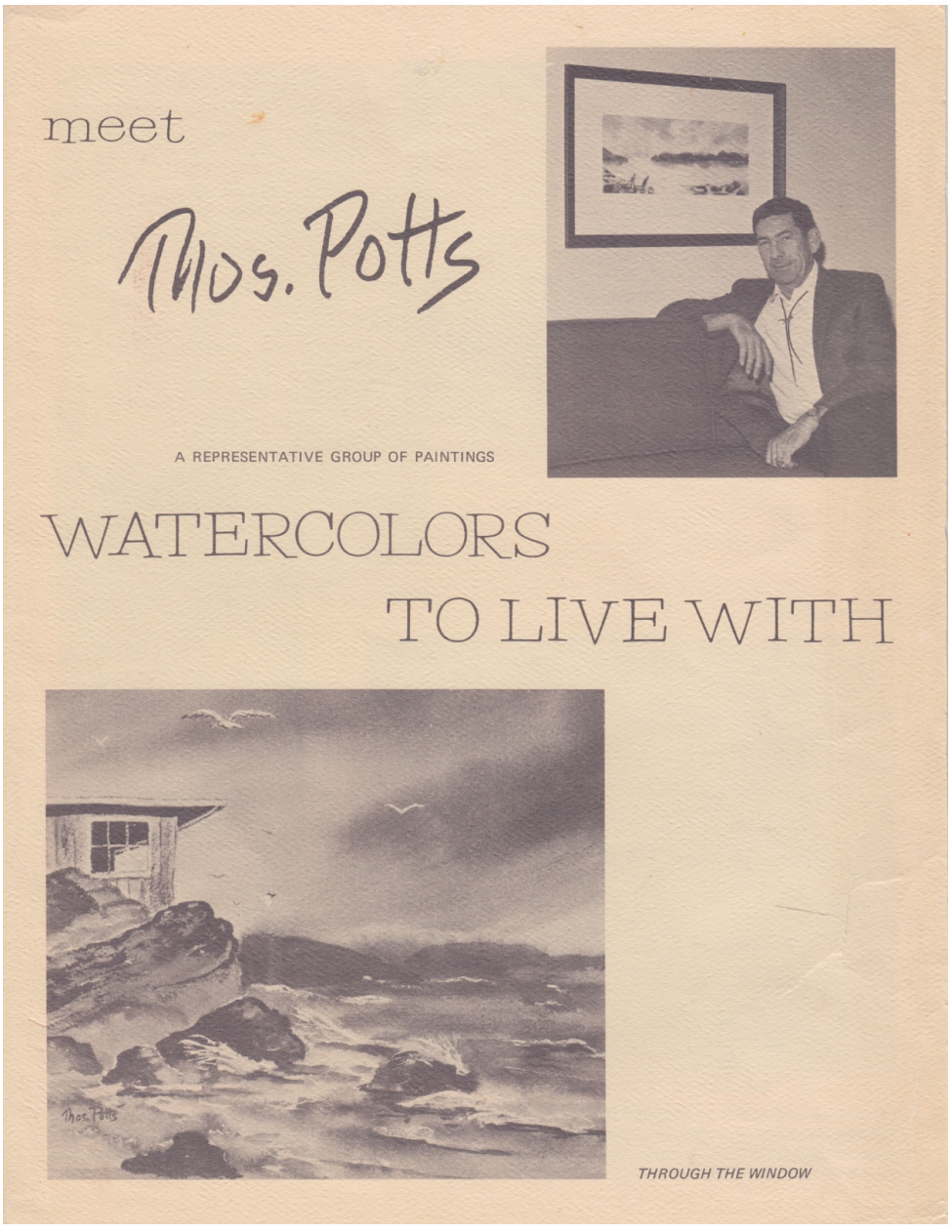
Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 1946.

HEALTH & Recreation

_____
Acting Manager

1946 BLM application under Small Tract Act

1951 J. Alan Foster BLM patent 1131149, February 14, 1951; Thomas S. and Ruth Potts purchased the property in 1966. The original cabin was destroyed by fire in 1987 and a new residence was built and completed in 1988. An accomplished artist, Tom Potts displayed his work at Spanish Village in Balboa Park and was a member of the San Diego Watercolor Society.

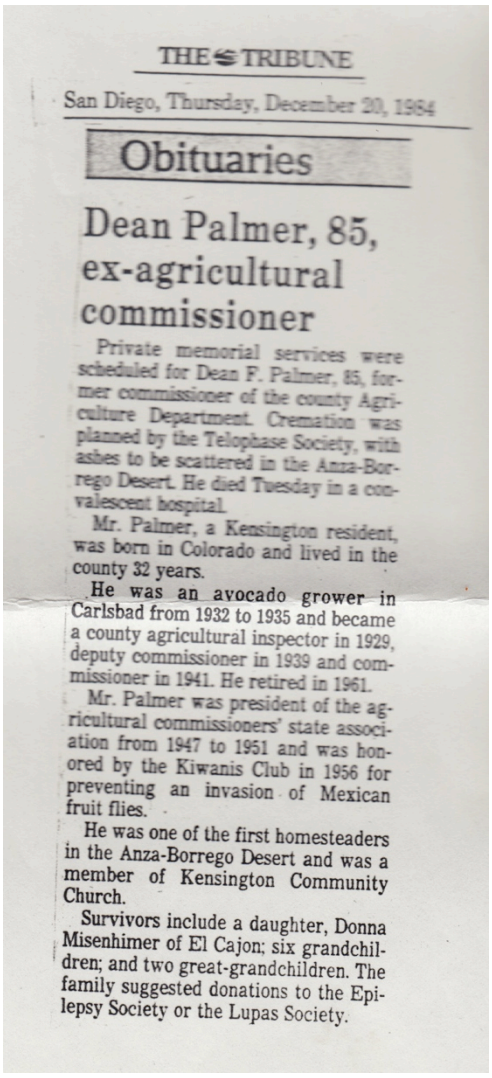


1951 Dean F. Palmer BLM patent 1133246, November 8, 1951; After his camping trips alongside Canebrake Creek in 1935, Dean Palmer eventually became one of the early Small Tract homesteaders. His obituary stated that one of his favorite independent projects "was his homesteading of land near Camelbreak [*sic*] Canyon."

"Dean Palmer," obituary, *San Diego Union,* 20 December 1984.



Palmer water tower today



THE TRIBUNE

San Diego, Thursday, December 20, 1984

Obituaries

Dean Palmer, 85, ex-agricultural commissioner

Private memorial services were scheduled for Dean F. Palmer, 85, former commissioner of the county Agriculture Department. Cremation was planned by the Telophase Society, with ashes to be scattered in the Anza-Borrego Desert. He died Tuesday in a convalescent hospital.

Mr. Palmer, a Kensington resident, was born in Colorado and lived in the county 32 years.

He was an avocado grower in Carlsbad from 1932 to 1935 and became a county agricultural inspector in 1929, deputy commissioner in 1939 and commissioner in 1941. He retired in 1961.

Mr. Palmer was president of the agricultural commissioners' state association from 1947 to 1951 and was honored by the Kiwanis Club in 1956 for preventing an invasion of Mexican fruit flies.

He was one of the first homesteaders in the Anza-Borrego Desert and was a member of Kensington Community Church.

Survivors include a daughter, Donna Misenhimer of El Cajon; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. The family suggested donations to the Epilepsy Society or the Lupas Society.

1952 John J. Sheridan BLM patent 1133575, January 4, 1952; Dr. Frank D. McKenney, a veterinarian from San Diego, purchased the property in 1959. He was a founding father of the Canebrake community and its water district. The community center is named McKenney Hall in his honor.



Sheridan cabin 1950s

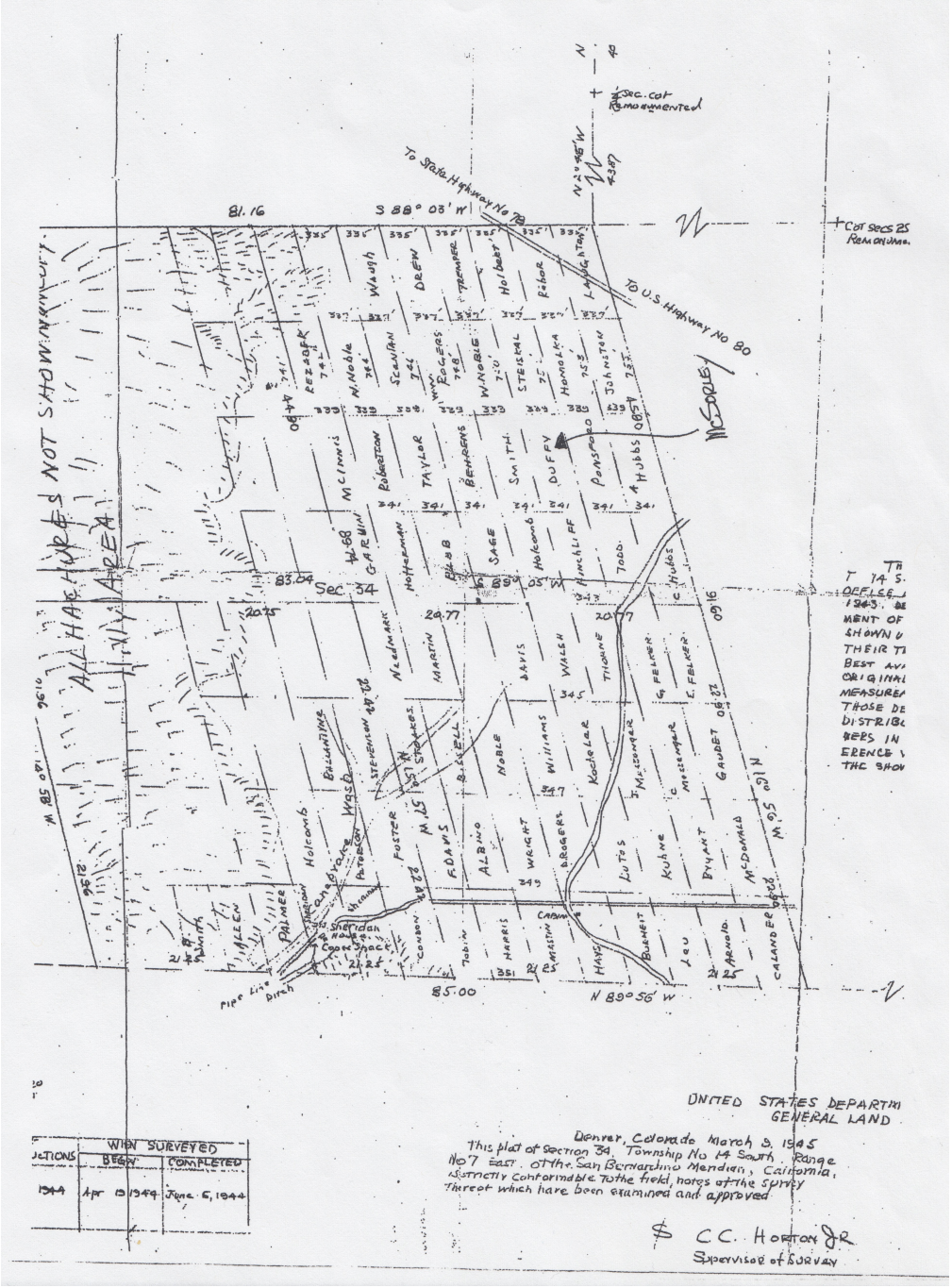


Dr. Frank D. McKenney

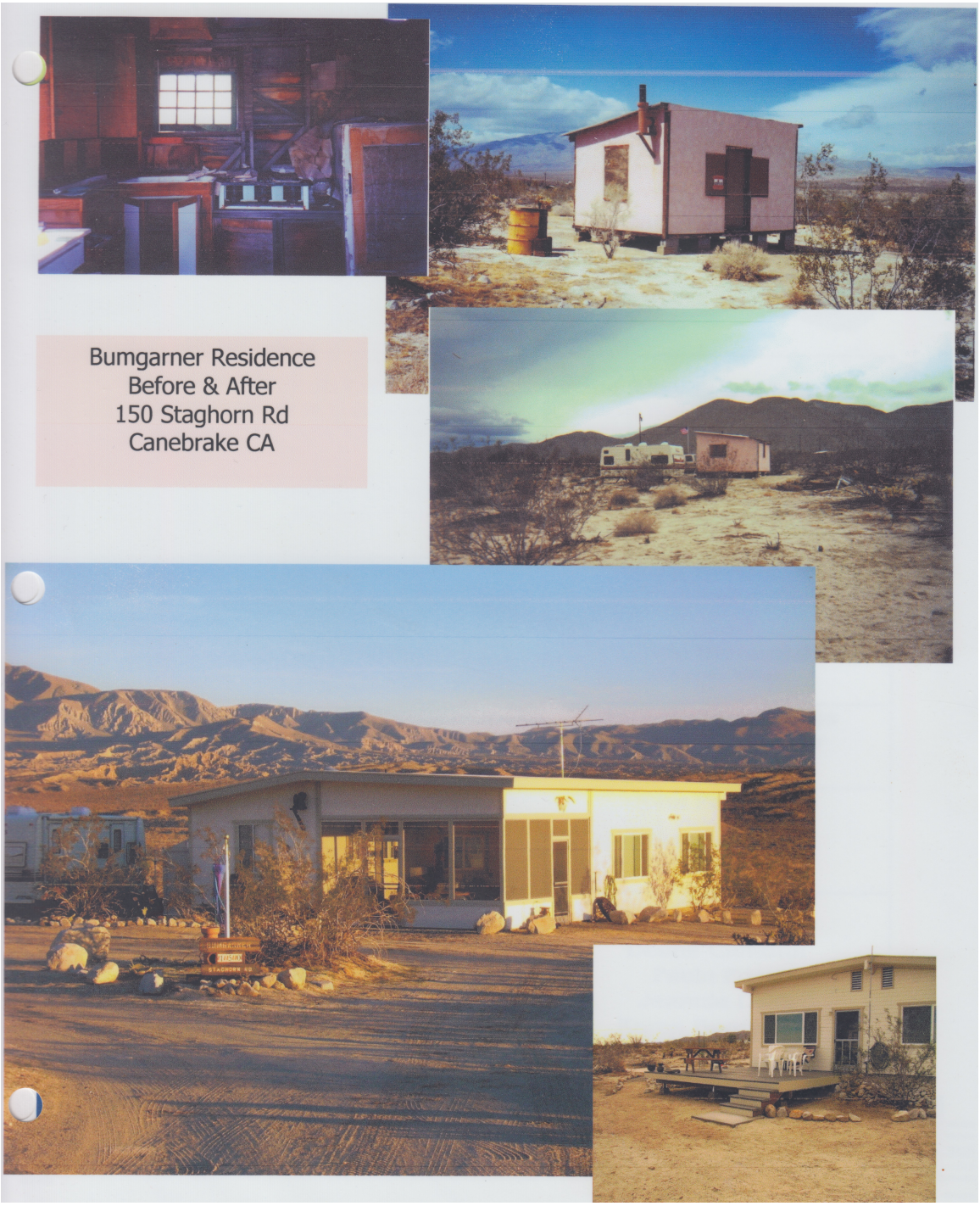
1952 This retraced map of section 34 shows the tract after it was opened for filing with names of the filers as of March 20, 1952.

A tracing made from photostat of [1944] resurvey [map]. Boundaries of individual claims estimated only and not guaranteed, names of claimholders believed correct but not guaranteed. W.W. Rogers, Oceanside, Calif., 20 Mar 1952.

U.S. Department of the Interior GLO map surveyed by Roger F. Wilson and Charles E. Hunter, completed June 5, 1944.



1952 Georgia Newton Duffy BLM patent 1136050, August 1, 1952; J. D. Bumgarner who purchased this property in 1998 found copies of the 1944 survey maps, prepared by the Department of the Interior GLO, in the original cabin when he began reconstruction work.



Reconstruction of Duffy cabin

1952 Eleanor R. Roper BLM patent 1136529, October 1, 1952; In her recollections of Canebrake, Eleanor Roper writes May 1, 1973, "My early memories of the Canebrake area …the dam which created a pond between the Egger and Whitely properties, the creek which ran down a canyon…Before we filed on land, we camped up the creek above our place. Later, while we were building, Corinne Bonaventura (Stafford property) and I took our pre-school children to shower below a large rock on their property which formed a waterfall shoulder-high… The Seversons, who helped improve our property, received ½ interest for their help, and for several years they made it their principal residence, building the second cabin on the property. Joe and Ina Potter, friends for many years, purchased their interest about four years ago…"



Roper-Potter homestead in canyon with Mason Ditch at foot of hill in background

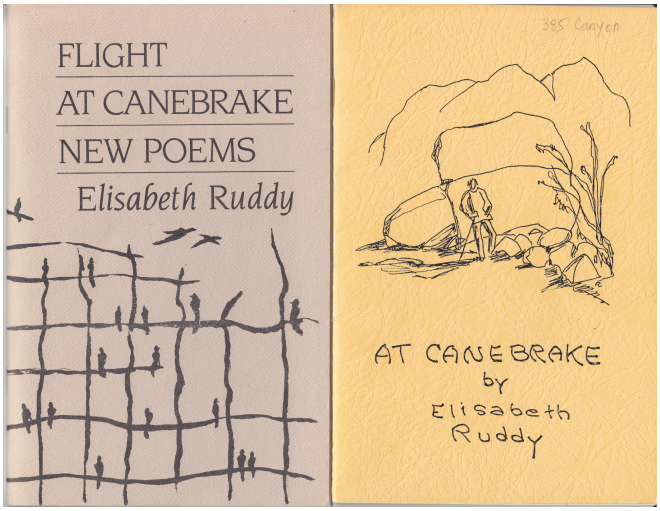
1954 Vaida Arnold BLM patent 1150555, December 29, 1954; Vaida Arnold collected and preserved communications, news articles, and photographs about Canebrake, its residents, and neighboring communities during the late 1960s through the early 1980s. The property is still owned by members of her family.



Vaida Arnold at snow-covered In-Ko-Pah Gorge 1928

1954 Edward A. McLean BLM patent 1148625, December 29, 1954; Elisabeth G. Ruddy, poet, purchased the property in 1977 with her husband Arthur. Elisabeth was inspired by the desert landscape and published several small collections of her work. In a letter to Pat Stafford, September 13, 1982, she writes from her home in Encinitas, California, "I go down and walk on the beach at least five mornings a week, to keep in shape – but it's not like walking down-canyon or up to Leaning Rock."

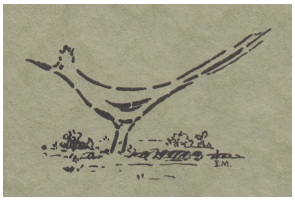
Ruddy, Elisabeth. *At Canebrake.* 1984. Ruddy, Elisabeth. *Flight At Canebrake & New Poems.* 1984.



1954 John H. Miller BLM patent 1148632, December 29, 1954; John Miller's granddaughter, now the co-owner of the property along with her two brothers, writes that "In Dec. 1951 John Miller came to Canebrake along with two friends, Dale Aten and Harry Creswick. All were veterans of World War I. After improvements the BLM turned over the property to him Dec. 29, 1954. The dwelling you see here is still the cabin that exists today. In December of 1951 the original slab was poured, a front porch was added in 1955 and a few short years later a brick bedroom…"



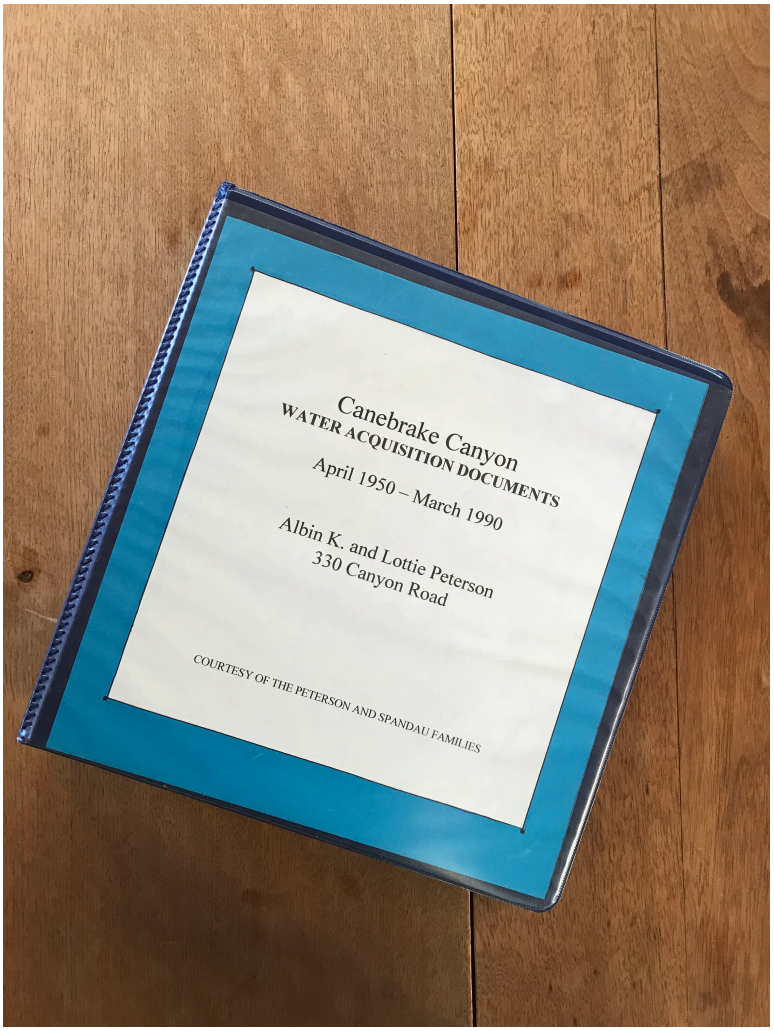
John H. Miller original cabin



1954 Albin K. Peterson BLM patent 1148621, December 29, 1954; Lottie Peterson shares some of her memories of Canebrake in a recorded interview, October 1982:

> In 1950 we filed a claim, not knowing for sure where our plot was. Every week we came from Torrance to Canebrake to establish our cabin. There was a bad sandy spot in Vallecito so my husband brought out some planks and hid them nearby so that we could use them when we got stuck in the sand.
>
> Leetch, G.; J. Leetch. (1992). *A Collected History of Canebrake, California.* Julian, CA: Sponsored by Canebrake Improvement Association. p. 75.

Albin and Lottie Peterson were early Canebrakers and their property is still owned by family members. They recognized the uniqueness of the settlement and its evolution, so they meticulously saved and filed letters and documents which their children and grandchildren continued to protect. Thanks to them, we are now able to piece together a clear picture of the history of the community.



Canebrake Canyon Water Acquisition Documents 1950-1990

1954 Connie Leo Williams BLM patent 1148614, December 29, 1954; Louise Williams responded to a 1970 Canebrake history questionnaire about her early experiences:

> All memories of this area are cheerful and happy ones. I recall that when we first used to go to the area we would camp at the spot about where the big stand pipe for water is now located. At that time there was quite a good stream of water running and we would go in bathing. It was very beautiful and I believe, as near as I can recall, there were only one or two people living there besides the Crawfords.
>
> I am sorry that I cannot add much to the history of the area except that I believe we were among some of the earliest ones to file for property in the area.

The Calhoun family purchased this property from Louise Williams. Bob Calhoun, a fire captain from Vista, CA retired with his wife in Canebrake Canyon and quickly put his leadership skills to work as a board member of the water district, president of the Canebrake Improvement Association and trusted local building contractor. All in the community thought of him as the "Mayor of Canebrake" and in times of emergency Bob was the first person to be called.



The Williams cabin was typical of those in Canebrake, not much larger than what the BLM required and equipped with a water tower and an outhouse.

1955 Francis L. Whitely BLM patent 1150312, March 4, 1955; Francis and Marjorie Whitely were some of the original small tract homesteaders in the canyon and the property is still owned and enjoyed by the family today. Francis and Marg were instrumental in organizing the Canebrake County Water District and the Canebrake Improvement Association. In April 1966, before roads were named in Canebrake, the Canebrake Improvement Association agreed to pay for materials to make uniform signs designating each person's property. Mr. Whitely volunteered to make the signs for anyone wanting to have one. By July of 1966 Mr. Whitely had completed 22 signs with the members' names.

> Mom and Dad first applied for small tract on March 22, 1948 under Congress Act of June 1, 1938 (Homestead Act). The Bureau of Land Management oversaw the Act…We set up camp on the stream. Hearing frogs croaking, crickets chirping and running water in the stream sold us all…Mom and Dad and the other homesteaders there were true pioneers. They gathered together to share their labor, resources and financial help equally for all.
>
> Whitely Stafford, Pat. *Whitely Property And History In Canebrake*.



Whitely property sign now on display in History Park

1955 Corinne V. Bonaventura BLM patent 1151361, April 6, 1955; Jimmie and Pat Stafford purchased this property February 8, 1967 and it is still owned by the family.

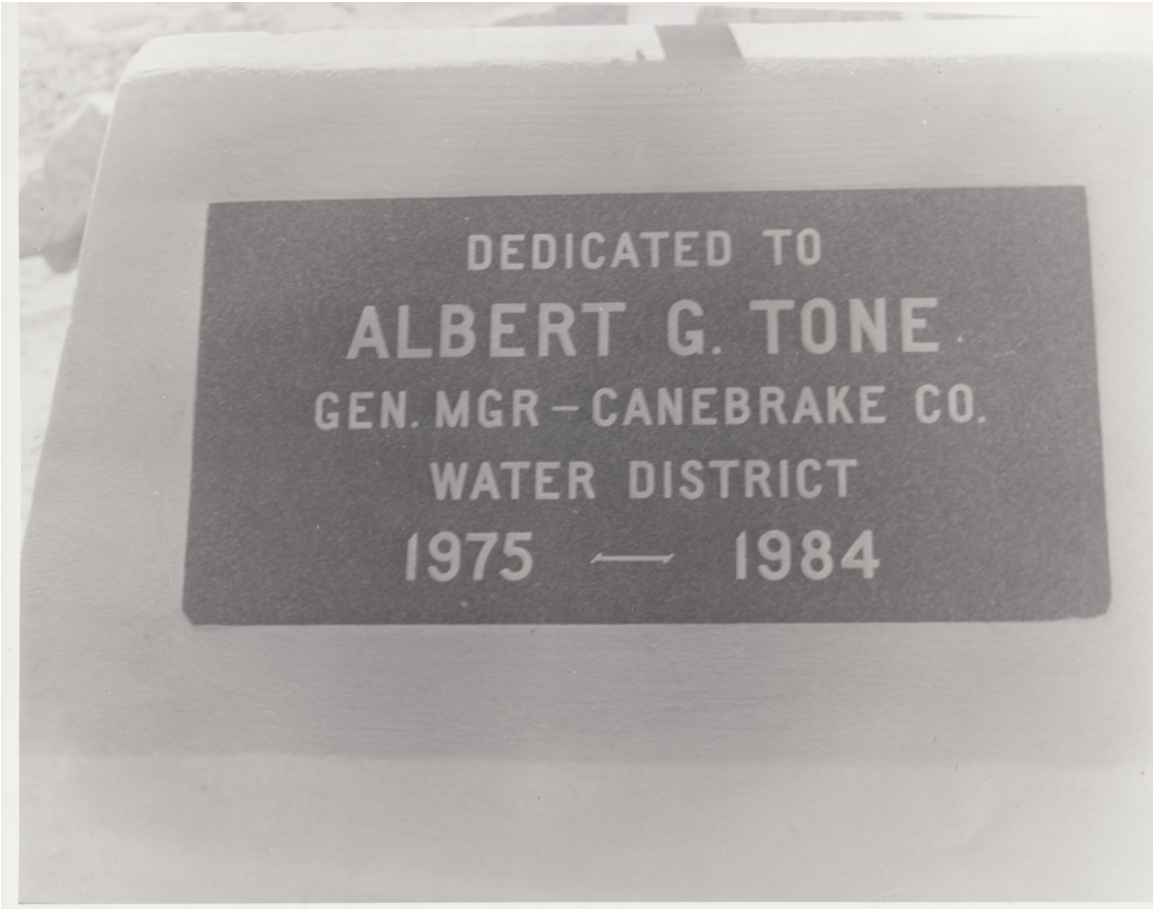
Patsy R. Whitely Stafford was the original Canebrake historian, writing journals, recording major events, and preserving documents and photographs. In her August 1984 essay, she writes that "Mom and Dad [Francis and Marjorie Whitely] purchased the Bonaventura property in __ and then we purchased part of it from them in 2-8-67 and started remodeling our 'cabin.' We started with the skeleton framework of the original Scofield barrack. You could walk thru the walls…It was torn down to the floor and even that should have been done as one corner was sitting on a huge boulder for the foundation!"

Jimmie Stafford, a Korean War veteran and restaurant owner in San Diego, came to know Canebrake when he married Pat Stafford. He and Pat retired from the restaurant business, moved to Canebrake and started a store at what is now the Butterfield Ranch Resort. He served as a water board member from December 1984 until October 1990, when he resigned to accept the position as general manager of the water district and worked in that position until 1996.



Welcome to Stafford's Crossing

1955 Dorothy I. Smith BLM patent 1153977, August 30, 1955; Retired from a career with Trepte Construction as supervisor for 26 years, Albert "Al" G. Tone and his wife Cledyth "Clete" bought this property in 1971. Al shared his talents with the Canebrake community as general manager of the Canebrake County Water District from 1975 to 1984, the year of his death. In 1979 following a long drought that dried up the water source in Canebrake Creek, Al and Clete gave the water district permission to drill a deep well on their property. It was named the Mooney Well and it continues to be a dependable source of water today.



Monument to Al Tone at base of McKenney Hall flagpole

1955 Alice M. MacDonald BLM patent 1153989, August 31, 1955; In the mid-1940s Alice MacDonald sought the health benefits of Agua Caliente Springs where she was miraculously cured of severe arthritis by the warm spring waters. In 1947 Marshal South bestowed Alice with the title of "Mayor of Agua Caliente" in an article he wrote for *The Desert Magazine.* Alice MacDonald's husband and son built a cabin for her in Canebrake where she was able to continue to enjoy the desert climate. The MacDonald family owns the property, with its original cabin, today.

South, M. (1947, July). Healing Waters at Agua Caliente, *The Desert Magazine*, pp. 4-8.



Mrs. D. J. MacDonald—the "mayor" of Agua Caliente, beside one of the pools where many have found relief from their ailments. The campers drain and clean the pool regularly.

Alice M. MacDonald at Agua Caliente 1947

1955 Ray W. Churchill BLM patent 1154129, September 6, 1955; In 1959 the first deep well in Canebrake was drilled, but not developed, on this property.

"… well down 665 feet – 8" casing. Hot water not analyzed, not tested at this time."

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1962, September 30). *First Meeting Held In Balboa Park* [*San Diego CA*]. Canebrake Canyon CA.



First deep well in Canebrake covered with a steel drum and still visible on the property



1955 Franklin H. Robinson BLM patent 1154582, September 28, 1955; The Robinson homestead cabin has been maintained in its original state by the family.



Robinson homestead, mid 1950s

1956 Elisabeth K. Hunter [Constantz] BLM patent 1162653, July 30, 1956; Elisabeth "Liz" Constantz was a legal secretary in San Diego and a community leader in Canebrake. She promoted the dream of a water system for all, the creation of the Canebrake Improvement Association, the formation of the Canebrake County Water District, and the construction of McKenney Hall, a gathering place for everyone. Liz became well known in San Diego news when she saved the "Hollywood and Vine" street sign in Vallecito Wash.

Rhoades, Frank. (1971, February 4). *The San Diego Union.*



Liz Constantz, top row on the right 1971

1957 Lois Neyenesch BLM patent 1168471, January 28, 1957; The property is still owned by family members. In response to a 2011 questionnaire they stated, "The original cement block house was built by Bob Crawford's two sons around 1957."



Finished Neyenesch cabin in the late 1950s

1957 Joseph F. Gillin BLM patent 1177417, December 9, 1957; Later purchased by George W. Leetch, an ex-professional boxer and well-known Anza-Borrego Desert State Park ranger. Together George and his wife Jean wrote, compiled, and edited a historical documentation of the Canebrake community, *A Collected History of Canebrake, California*, in 1992.

" He [George Leetch] won the Medal of Valor, California's highest award to a state employee, for a falling-rock punctuated rescue of bewildered campers trapped in the fault line confines of the canyon during a major earthquake in 1968."

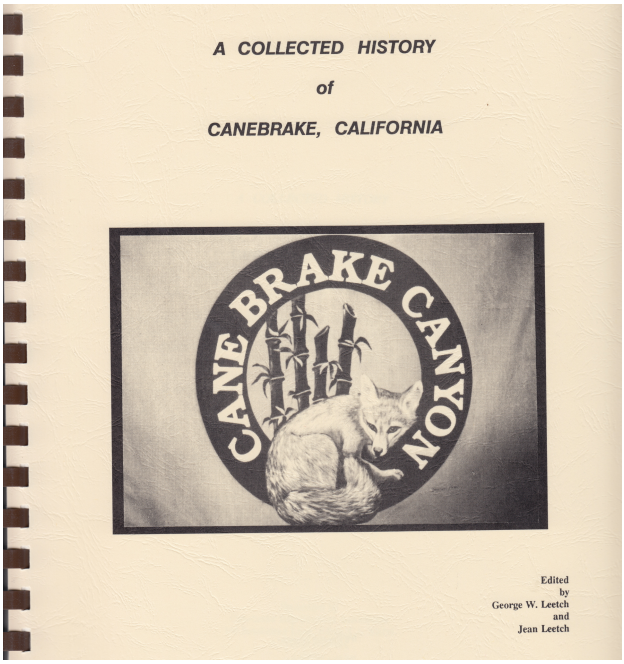
Jennings, B. (1979, September). A Peek in the Publisher's Poke – This month, author Bill Jennings writes a special tribute to one of our retiring state park rangers, *The Desert Magazine,* pp. 4, 5.

"A good but dusty – no sense tarring it – road leads north from S-2 into the canyon, where quite a substantial, if seasonal, desert community has grown up. There may be 60 dwellings but the Leetches, George and Jean, are one of only four or five resident families. Their house is on the slope where the canyon, narrowing, starts its climb into the eastern face of the Tierra Blanca Mountains. The ridgeline shadows reach their house early, around 6. 'We'll be sitting in the shadows,' Leetch says, 'looking out at the badlands like it had a spotlight on it.' "

Grant, M. (1979, July 8). The Desert – It's His Magic Kingdom, *San Diego Union.*



Jean and George Leetch



A Collected History of Canebrake, California by Jean and George Leetch

1958 George Maus BLM patent 1179157, January 31, 1958; Purchased by Marvin and Aletha Patchen, adventurers and explorers of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and Baja California. They were published writers for a variety of travel periodicals and wrote two Baja California guidebooks, *Baja Adventures by Land, Air and Sea* and *Baja Outpost.* The aerial photograph, described as the "Patchen Gyrocopter Over Borrego Badlands," was taken in 1972.



Marv Patchen flying his gyrocopter over the Borrego badlands

The photograph from the newspaper article shows Marvin and Aletha Patchen, along with George and Jean Leetch, paddling into Mulege, Baja California, after an exploratory trip along the Baja peninsula.

Indvik, K. (1980, November 20). Remote, Exotic Baja Coast Lures Explorers, *The Ramona Sentinel,* p. 1, Section B.



Tanned, toughened and a bit tired after a month's boating down the Baja coast Marvin and Aletha Patchen, and George and Jean Leetch paddled up the last few hundred yards to their final destination of Muleje after an exciting exploratory adventure discovering remote canyons of the Baja penninsula.

The Ramona Sentinel, November 20, 1980 Page 1, Section B

Marv and Aletha Patchen with George and Jean Leetch paddling into Mulege in Baja California 1980

1959 Reginald A. Eichelberger BLM patent 1200841, October 27, 1959;
"Rex" Eichelberger was a storekeeper at Agua Caliente Hot Springs during the 1950s and 1960s. His store was the only source for supplies, food, mail, news, and gasoline "…within a 30-mile radius."

(1964, February 24). In Remote Area Storekeeping Key is Neighborliness, *San Diego Union*.



Rex Eichelberger pumps gasoline into 1929 car at his store at Agua Caliente Hot Springs. Nearest competitor is 30 miles away.

Rex Eichelberger at the Agua Caliente Springs Store 1964

1959 Forest D. Harris BLM patent 1200839, October 27, 1959; Purchased by Louis F. Mooney, an experienced water-witcher, who located the first deep well for the Water District in 1978. It is named in his honor and is still productive today.



Memorial plaque for Louis Frank Mooney

1959 Jeanette Eleanor Sutton BLM patent 1200838, October 27, 1959; Once a ranger at Bow Willow Campground, the original patent holder and his wife each had a 5-acre lot. After his wife died he did not think he needed the property and he did not want to pay the taxes. He decided to give both lots to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park but the process took a long time and only one lot was successfully transferred to the Park. By the time Park officials finally got around to officially taking the other parcel off his hands the taxes were due. He was angry that the Park wanted him to pay the taxes and decided to not go through with giving them the second piece. Today that property is still owned and enjoyed by family members!

1960 Pauline M. Robinson BLM patent 1210733, July 12, 1960; Ivan Messenger, an early lease holder on the property and relative of Pauline "Polly" Robinson, is a well-known early artist who worked with oils, watercolor, charcoal, and lithographs in Julian, the desert, and San Diego. The property is still owned by the original family.



Evelyn and Ivan Messenger



Painting of Julian town scene by Ivan Messenger 1935

1960 Ralph E. Cooper BLM patent 1215155, December 8, 1960; Father John Lucev was a priest from the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego. He retired to his sister and brother-in-law's homestead in Canebrake and although he retired, he frequently said mass in Julian. If he wasn't flying, his blue and white, V-tailed Beechcraft Bonanza could always be seen at the Agua Caliente airstrip.



Fr. John's V-tailed Beechcraft Bonanza at the Agua Caliente airstrip
San Diego County, Department of Public Works. *Agua Caliente Springs Airport.* Retrieved from URL.

1961 William W. Rogers BLM patent 1216284, January 11, 1961; one of the last four patent recipients of a 5-acre small tract parcel in Canebrake Canyon.
U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management. *General Land Office Records, Land Patents.* Retrieved from URL.

George J. Miller purchased this property and was a professor of paleontology at Imperial Valley College and Curator of Paleontology for the Imperial Valley College Museum.

"He is well known in the Borrego area for his long devotion to uncovering secrets of the Anza-Borrego Desert's history. He had conducted paleontology classes in Borrego since 1973. Among his most remarkable finds are the remains of a wooly mammoth and discovery of ancient camel tracks in the desert, indicating the great variety of life that flourished here in prehistoric times."
"George Miller," obituary, *Borrego Sun,* 4 January 1990.

Paleontologist George Miller leaves legacy of desert finds

Paleontologist George J. Miller of Canebrake died on Christmas Day in an El Centro hospital at the age of 68.

He was paleontology curator at The Imperial Valley College Museum and professor emeritus of paleontology at the college. He is well known in the Borrego area for his long devotion to uncovering secrets of the Anza-Borrego Desert's history. He had conducted paleontology classes in Borrego since 1973.

Among his most remarkable finds are the remains of a wooly mammoth and discovery of ancient camel tracks in the desert, indicating the great variety of life that flourished here in prehistoric times. In June, 1988, he startled the scientific community with his hypothesis that cutmarks found on bones of a mammoth, found in situ in January 1987, were possibly made by early man using a primitive stone chopper or hand axe. The cutmarks were not found until the bones were removed to the Stout Paleontology Lab near the Visitor Center at the State Park early in 1988. He has presented scientific papers and a report by himself and four field assistants, Paul Remeika, Julie Parks, Betty Stout and Vern Waters, on the possibility that man was in the area 500,000 years ago.

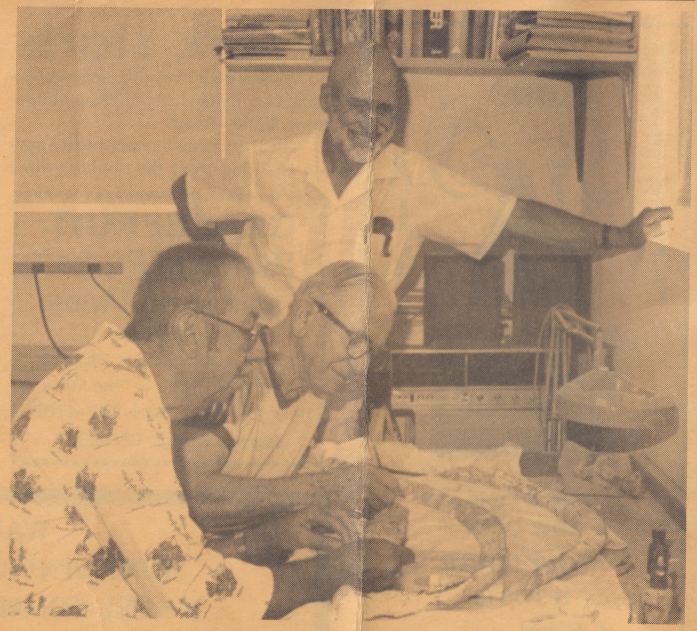
Students from his local classes formed the nucleus of his field "diggers" and lab workers, and many of them acknowledge that the quality of their lives has been expanded in this work.

Miller was born in Oakland, California on November 15, 1921. He served in the U. S. Navy in World War II. He was recognized as a fine musician, and jazz pianist, and he composed for many shows for the USO while he was stationed in North Africa. He developed a keen interst in paleontology after reading Charles Darwin's "Origin of the Species" in high school. He received his BA from the University of California at Long Beach and his master's degree from Idaho State University.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Miller of Canebrake; a son Eugene Miller of Carson, California and two grandchildren, Dennis and Jenice Ann Miller.

The work of his students in Borrego Springs necessitated the construction of two paleontological laboratories for the thousands of specimens recovered from the Anza-Borrego and the Vallecito Badlands. All field and lab work was under the auspices of Imperial Valley College and the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association. A yearly permit allowing the work in the desert was issued by the California Dept. of Parks and Recreation.

Harry Daniel, chairman of the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association, said "I can't think of another person, teacher, or otherwise, who has affected my thinking to such a degree. George Miller opened new visions for me of all the natural world." Research associate Betty Stout said, "My association with George Miller had a great effect on my life. He was a superior teacher. He opened avenues for me into the scientific world which gave my life new meaning. The world has lost a fine scientist. I have lost a good friend."



Paleontologist George Miller, who died on Christmas Day, is shown in a recent photo smiling at the work being done at the Stout Lab by George McDaniel (foreground) and Ralph Dankelfsen, uncovering cutmarks on newly unjacketed rib bones of a mammoth. L'Hommedieu photo.

Head preparator at the lab, Ralph Danklefsen said, "George Miller gave many retired men and women an interest and a will to begin a new career. We shall miss him. It will be difficult to continue without his direction." Field assistant Julie Parks said "He left a legacy to us and to the scientific world and we shall continue the studying and cataloguing to make our findings available to the world."

The last time most of his close associates saw him was on Dec. 7, in Huesco Canyon, not far from his Canebrake home, where they gathered at 11 a.m. for a holiday toast to what had been and what was to come.

There was a private service in Carson for the family. No memorial service is planned.

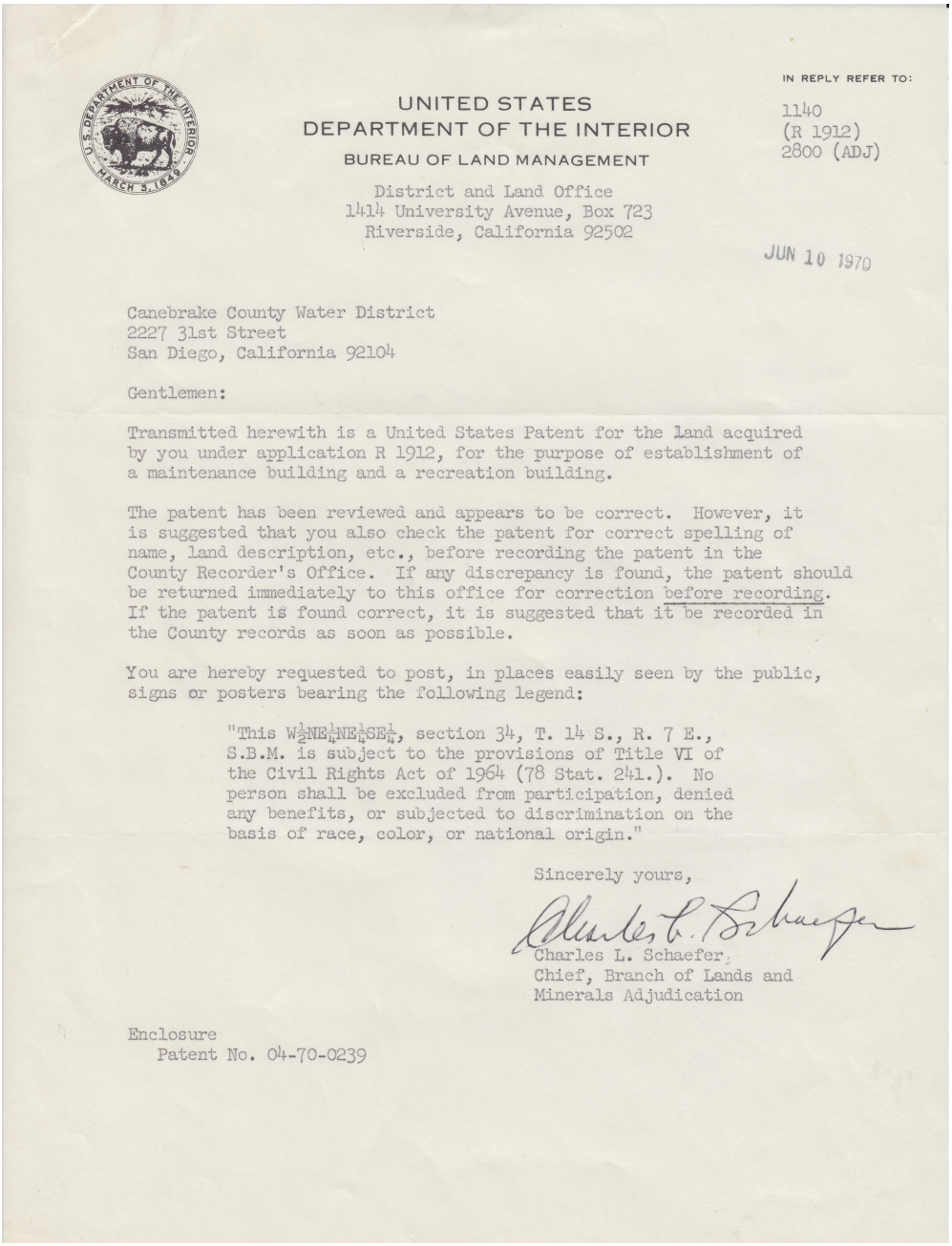
The George J. Miller Paleontological Foundation has been formed, and anyone who wishes may make contributions to an account established by Betty Stout at Borrego Springs Bank, in memory of Miller. The proceeds will be used to continue the research he started.

1961 August Royal Tremper BLM patent 1216287, January 11, 1961; one of the last four patent recipients of a 5-acre small tract parcel in Canebrake Canyon.

U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management. *General Land Office Records, Land Patents.* Retrieved from URL.

1970 *Canebrake County Water District* BLM patent *CARI 001912*, May 28, 1970; one of the last four patent recipients of a 5-acre tract parcel in Canebrake Canyon.

U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management. *General Land Office Records, Land Patents.* Retrieved from URL.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

District and Land Office
1414 University Avenue, Box 723
Riverside, California 92502

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1140
(R 1912)
2800 (ADJ)

JUN 10 1970

Canebrake County Water District
2227 31st Street
San Diego, California 92104

Gentlemen:

Transmitted herewith is a United States Patent for the land acquired by you under application R 1912, for the purpose of establishment of a maintenance building and a recreation building.

The patent has been reviewed and appears to be correct. However, it is suggested that you also check the patent for correct spelling of name, land description, etc., before recording the patent in the County Recorder's Office. If any discrepancy is found, the patent should be returned immediately to this office for correction before recording. If the patent is found correct, it is suggested that it be recorded in the County records as soon as possible.

You are hereby requested to post, in places easily seen by the public, signs or posters bearing the following legend:

"This W½NE¼NE¼SE¼, section 34, T. 14 S., R. 7 E., S.B.M. is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 241.). No person shall be excluded from participation, denied any benefits, or subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin."

Sincerely yours,

Charles L. Schaefer
Chief, Branch of Lands and
Minerals Adjudication

Enclosure
Patent No. 04-70-0239

Canebrake County Water District 1970 land patent cover letter

1972 Alfred F. Bertrand BLM patent 04-73-0040, November 13, 1972; one of the last four patent recipients of a 5-acre small tract parcel in Canebrake Canyon.

U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management. *General Land Office Records, Land Patents.* Retrieved from URL.

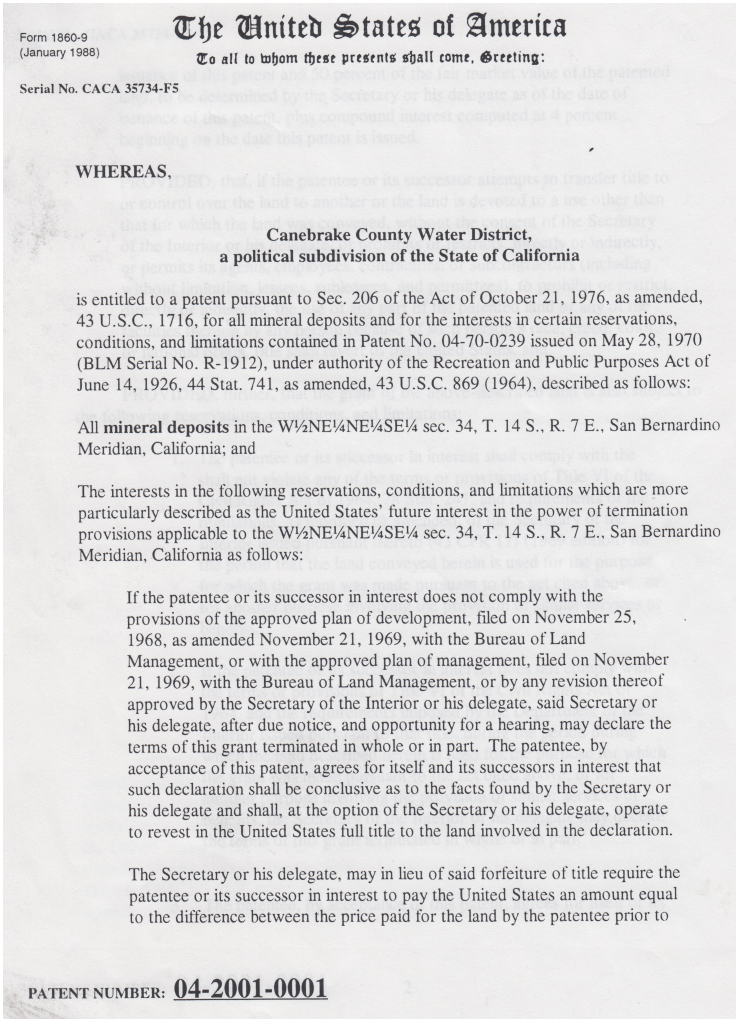
In an account prepared by Pat Stafford concerning this property, she writes "…note: was a section 36 set aside for school property."

"School Lands were granted to the State of California on March 3, 1853 by an Act of Congress (Ch. 145, 10 Stat. 244) for the purpose of supporting public schools. These lands consisted of the 16th and 36th sections of land in each township…"

California State Lands Commission. (2018 October 19). *School Lands.* Retrieved from the URL.

2000 Canebrake County Water [District] BLM patent 04-2001-0001, October 12, 2000; the last patent recipient of a 5-acre small tract parcel in Canebrake Canyon.

U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management. *General Land Office Records, Land Patents.* Retrieved from URL



Form 1860-9
(January 1988)

The United States of America

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Serial No. CACA 35734-F5

WHEREAS,

Canebrake County Water District,
a political subdivision of the State of California

is entitled to a patent pursuant to Sec. 206 of the Act of October 21, 1976, as amended, 43 U.S.C., 1716, for all mineral deposits and for the interests in certain reservations, conditions, and limitations contained in Patent No. 04-70-0239 issued on May 28, 1970 (BLM Serial No. R-1912), under authority of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of June 14, 1926, 44 Stat. 741, as amended, 43 U.S.C. 869 (1964), described as follows:

All **mineral deposits** in the W½NE¼NE¼SE¼ sec. 34, T. 14 S., R. 7 E., San Bernardino Meridian, California; and

The interests in the following reservations, conditions, and limitations which are more particularly described as the United States' future interest in the power of termination provisions applicable to the W½NE¼NE¼SE¼ sec. 34, T. 14 S., R. 7 E., San Bernardino Meridian, California as follows:

If the patentee or its successor in interest does not comply with the provisions of the approved plan of development, filed on November 25, 1968, as amended November 21, 1969, with the Bureau of Land Management, or with the approved plan of management, filed on November 21, 1969, with the Bureau of Land Management, or by any revision thereof approved by the Secretary of the Interior or his delegate, said Secretary or his delegate, after due notice, and opportunity for a hearing, may declare the terms of this grant terminated in whole or in part. The patentee, by acceptance of this patent, agrees for itself and its successors in interest that such declaration shall be conclusive as to the facts found by the Secretary or his delegate and shall, at the option of the Secretary or his delegate, operate to revest in the United States full title to the land involved in the declaration.

The Secretary or his delegate, may in lieu of said forfeiture of title require the patentee or its successor in interest to pay the United States an amount equal to the difference between the price paid for the land by the patentee prior to

PATENT NUMBER: **04-2001-0001**

First page of final land patent granted to the Canebrake County Water District in 2000

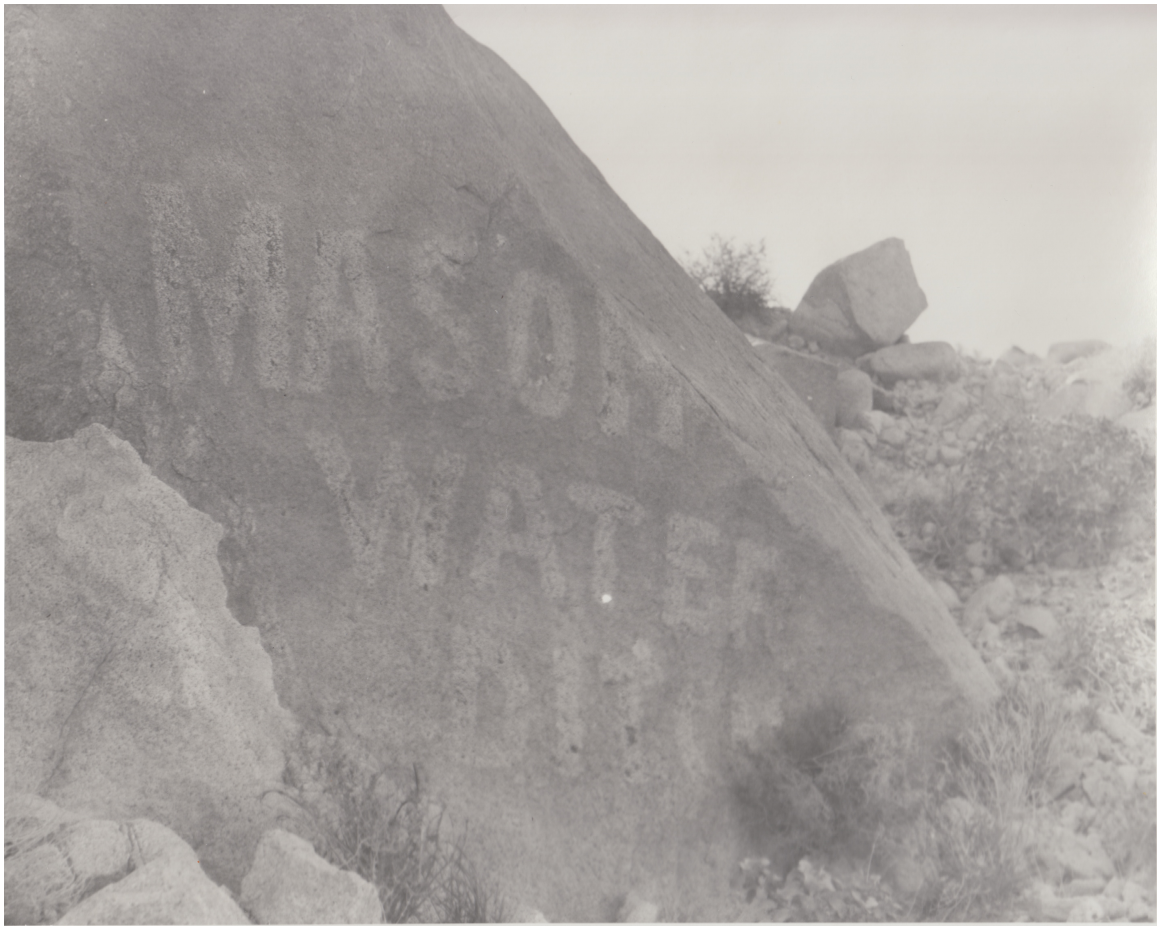
Community Development

Community Development

1920 – 1930s Mason Water Ditch

The Mason brothers built about three miles of flume line, in an effort to bring the water from Canebrake Canyon down to the Vallecito Valley, for an enterprise known as the Cotton Valley Project.

Leetch, G.; J. Leetch. (1992). *A Collected History of Canebrake, California.* Julian, CA: Sponsored by Canebrake Improvement Association. p. 10.



"Mason Water Ditch" painted on a boulder above flume – photograph by Joe Potter

1941 The first application for a permit to appropriate water from Canebrake Creek for use on a 5-acre tract is filed by John James Sheridan.

John James Sheridan "…about the same time also applied for a lease of this tract [Canebrake Canyon] from the U.S. General Land Office. He subsequently constructed a ditch and pipeline which diverted water from the creek to the tract."

In the Matter of Application 22539 of Canebrake County Water District to Appropriate from Canebrake Wash in San Diego County. Decision D1283. (State Water Rights Board, State of California, 1967 September 29).



Canebrake Creek flowing through Canebrake Canyon



1947 Tom Hays files an application for a permit to appropriate water from Canebrake Creek.

> …Thomas Hays laid a new line [Hays Line] to his tract from a point on Canebrake Creek upstream from the intake of the Sheridan line…Twenty-eight persons connected to the Hays line under an agreement with him that required payment of $200. The agreement also gave Hays the right to shut off the water supply of any user who failed to secure and retain a right from the State to divert water from Canebrake Creek at Hays' point of diversion.
>
> In the Matter of Application 22539 of Canebrake County Water District to Appropriate from Canebrake Wash in San Diego County. Decision D1283. (State Water Rights Board, State of California, 1967 September 29).



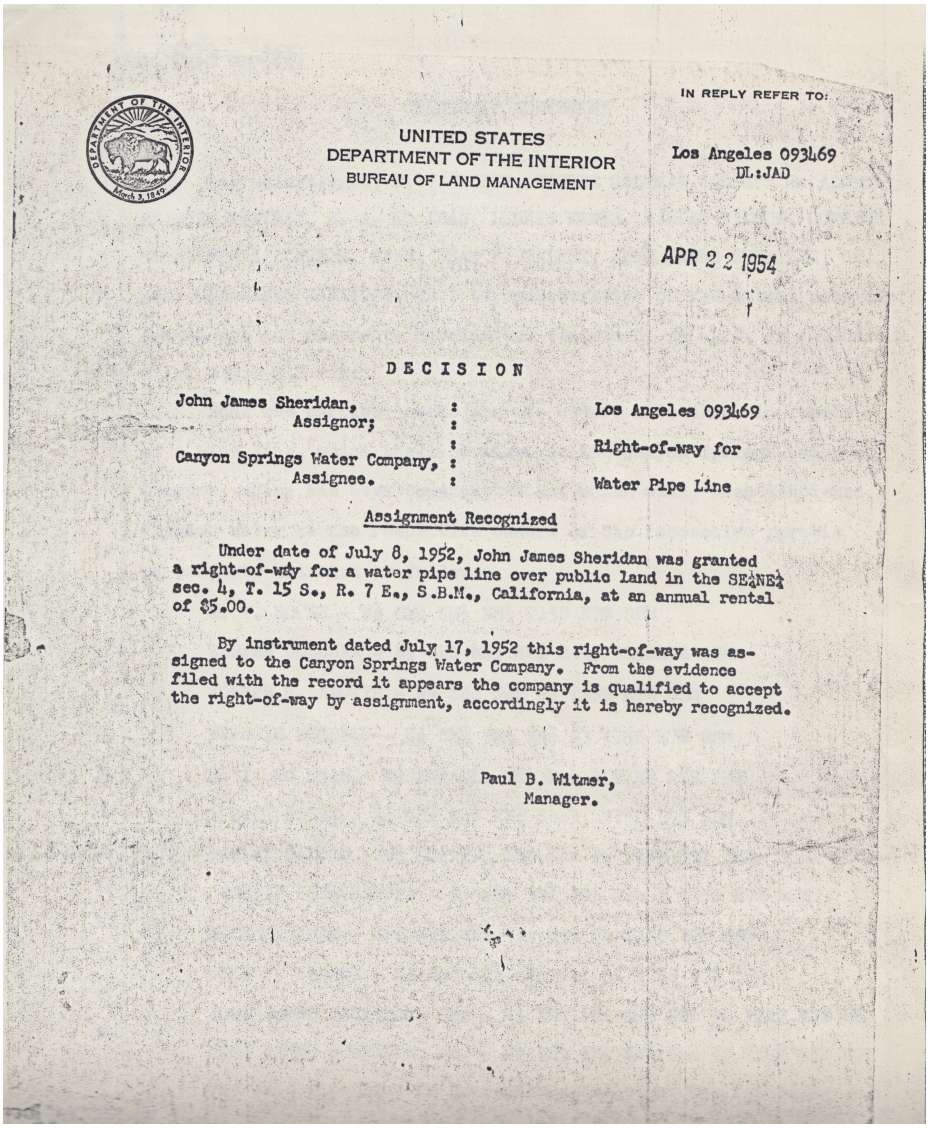
Old water tanks and original Hays water line exposed by 1976 storm

1952 John James Sheridan formally transfers his right-of-way and diversion point to the Canyon Springs Water Company.

8 July 1952 John James Sheridan is granted a right-of-way for a water pipe line over public land in the SE ¼ NE ¼ sec. 4, T. 15 S., R. 7 E., S.B.M., California. 17 July 1952 he then assigned his right-of-way to the Canyon Springs Water Company.

"In order to secure a reliable source of water for all to have, the twelve properties in the upper Canyon joined together to form the Canyon Springs Water Company…"

Pat Stafford's Canebrake History-Formation of Canyon Springs Water Co,



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Los Angeles 093469
DL:JAD

APR 22 1954

DECISION

John James Sheridan, Assignor;	:	Los Angeles 093469
Canyon Springs Water Company, Assignee.	:	Right-of-way for Water Pipe Line

Assignment Recognized

Under date of July 8, 1952, John James Sheridan was granted a right-of-wdy for a water pipe line over public land in the SE¼NE¼ sec. 4, T. 15 S., R. 7 E., S.B.M., California, at an annual rental of $5.00.

By instrument dated July 17, 1952 this right-of-way was assigned to the Canyon Springs Water Company. From the evidence filed with the record it appears the company is qualified to accept the right-of-way by assignment, accordingly it is hereby recognized.

Paul B. Witmer,
Manager.

Assignment of water line right-of-way by John Sheridan to Canyon Springs Water Co.

1956 – 1958 San Diego Gas & Electric Company brings power lines to Canebrake Canyon. Though electricity may have arrived earlier than 1956 verification has not been found.

T. I. Jarrard of the Customer Extension Planning Department of San Diego Gas & Electric Co. wrote to a property owner April 24, 1956, "…this [letter] has reference to the establishment of electric facilities to your cabin located in the Canebrake Canyon area, San Diego County, California…"

A "Date Nail," with numbers **56** stamped on the head of the nail, was located on utility pole 478630 in the Canebrake Canyon.

In a news article about Canebrake and published by the *Borrego Sun,* Ed Thomas wrote "…Things haven't been so exciting here since electricity was hooked up in 1958."

Thomas, E. (1979, February 15). Canebrake gets water, mail, phones and street numbers, *Borrego Sun*, p. 9.



Original Canebrake power pole with 1956 date nail

SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY
ELECTRIC BUILDING • SAN DIEGO 12, CALIFORNIA

April 24, 1956

Mr. Frank Robinson
7328 Fay
La Jolla, California

Dear Mr. Robinson:

This has reference to the establishment of electric facilities to your cabin located in the Canebrake Canyon area, San Diego County, California.

Our survey of the area indicates that we must install 700 feet of "branch" line from the "main" line to serve your cabin. Assuming your needs would be lighting and refrigeration, we could allow 125 feet of free "branch" line. This allowance, deducted from the extension required, would leave a balance of 575 feet to be paid for at 35¢ per foot, or $201.25. Should you connect an electric range an added allowance could be given of 150 feet which would leave a balance of 425 feet to be paid for at 35¢ per foot, or $148.75. Another option would be for you to build your own private "branch" line from your cabin to within 100 feet of our nearest "main" line pole and install a customer owned meter pole. Service would then be established to this location.

Would you please check below the equipment you will be using in your cabin. This will enable us to design our electric extension for adequate service and furnish us with the information needed to supply you with necessary contracts and applications.

An early reply would be appreciated and should any questions arise please feel free to call at Room 402 in the Electric Building, San Diego.

Very truly yours,

T. I. JARRARD
Customer Extension Planning Dept.

TIJ:JAL

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

I want electric service for the following:

General lighting and small appliances ___
Refrigeration ___
Range ___
Automatic water heater ___
Other_____

I do not want electric service to my cabin ___

SIGNED:_____

MAILING ADDRESS:_____

TELEPHONE NUMBER:_____

Offer from SDG&E to establish service to the Robinson cabin 1956

1959 First Organizational Meeting of the Canebrake Canyon Residents is held November 22 "…at the von Hegerhorst desert place at Canebrake Canyon…" During this meeting an organization, "…for the purpose of considering any and all questions concerning the interests of the property owners in Canebrake Canyon…" was formed and named 'The Canebrake Canyon Improvement Association.' "

First Organizational Meeting of Canebrake Canyon Residents. (1959, November 22). *Minutes of the Organizational Meeting.* von Hegerhorst Desert Place, Canebrake Canyon CA.

March 4, 1960

CANEBRAKE CANYONITE DOIN'S

Attached is copy of minutes of first organizational meeting which is self explanatory. Each a nd everyone is invited to become a member, to participate, to deliberate, to contribute and further the interest of the group. How's that for high purpose!

Anyone who didn't get to the meeting Sunday the 22nd of November at the von Hegerhorst's missed a good one. Nineteen people showed and we heard what the money was spent for; decided to burn cane again as soon as a permit could be secured; formed an organization for the purpose of considering questions affecting the interests of all Canebrake dwellers; and last but not least collected $70.00 on the spot as organization duesto carry on the work so well started. It that isn't a couple of hours work, I'll eat desert sand.

And speaking of eating, the hospitality certainly didn't stink! It was pot luck, and wot luck! Steaming baked beans, delicious tuna casserole, shrimp salad, perfect green salad; sandwiches, coffee and this 'n that. There was a real fine spirit of cooperation. Looks like we've really got something started.

A real auspicious start, I'd say, for Canebrake Canyonite doin's in the future. There were many good faces missing; a few were ill, a couple didn't get their notices; other absences unexplained but we're hoping to see everyone next time which would seem impossible until after April 1st. You'll be notified when it can be arranged, probably soon after April, the tax D day.

A burning permit has been secured and the date for the next big blaze is SUNDOWN SATURDAY, March 12, 1960. We're hoping a lot of you good people can arrange to be on hand.

Melita Gillin, Sec.-Treas.
Pro-Tem.

"Canebrake Canyonite Doin's" March 4, 1960

FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF CANEBRAKE CANYON RESIDENTS

Meeting was called to order 11:15 AM Sunday, November 22, 1959 at the von Hegerhorst's desert place at Canebrake Canyon. Meeting was opened with a salute to the "49-Star" Flag. Mr. Wendall Stewart served as Chairman for the business of the day. Roll call of those present is attached.

Agenda

1. Report on money collected and spent on special cane destruction project.

2. Plans to secure permit and arrange to burn remaining cane.

3. Discussion of the organization form suitable for this community.

Temporary treasurer, Melita Gillin, gave the following report. - - - - - - - - - -

Funds collected as of the end of October, 1959 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -$380.00

Disbursements.

Telephone calls (long distance) to obtain burning permits.	$ 12.50	
Montgomery Ward for high pressure pump kit, spray gun and hose + tax.	125.32	
Farrar Chemical Service for 2 - 50# drums of Dowpon &1 gal. spreader.	129.95	
Ludwig Egger for costs entailed securing equipment, etc.	5.00	
Bud Crawford for labor costs and rental of equipment (truck, etc.) .	64.00	
	336.77	
Incorrect charge for account at bank (to be corrected)	.65	
	337.42	337.42
BALANCE -		42.58

Moved, seconded and carried to approve the financial report as submitted.

On motion made to secure another permit to finish burning the cane, discussion ensued as to the best method of eliminating the cane; whether burning and spraying was best or piping the water from a point farther up the canyon floor. Mr. Crawford spoke on this question pointing out that to move the diversion point from the State water hole to a point farther up the canyon would bring the diversion point ten feet within his property line. Even if he agreed to this it is questionable whether any future owner of his ranch would so agree. To change the diversion point to a point on the Federal strip between his property and the State-owned water hole would result in loss of our rights to use the present State-owned diversion point and inability to obtain a permit from the Federal government which does not grant water rights to individuals. He advised leaving the diversion point where it is and pointed out that the partial destruction of the cane had already resulted in a satisfactory increase in water pressure and quantity.

Moved, seconded and carried to secure another burning permit and continue with the present project next year.

Motion to form an organization for the purpose of considering any and all q uestions concerning the interests of the property owners in Canebrake Canyon was seconded and carried.

M,S,&C that the fiscal year of the organization be from December 1 to November 30.

M,S,&C that the name of the organization should be THE CANEBRAKE CANYON IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

M,S,&C that the dues for members of this organization should be a minimum of $10.00 per year to meet general organization expenses and to be used for any project which seems important to the membership to undertake in behalf of the betterment of the whole community. If any project is undertaken which requires more funds than the current account contains they will have to be raised by special action of the group.

M,S,&C to give the Crawford family a vote of thanks for their generous help so far, and to make them honorary members of the Canebrake Canyon Improvement Association.

M,S,&C that election of officers should be postponed until the next meeting and that Geerd von Hegerhorst be appointed Chairman, pro tem, until a regular election; and that he be simultaneously Chairman of the nominating committee, with freedom to select his own committee, to bring a slate of officers who have agreed to serve, if elected. Melita Gillin was asked to continue handling funds of the organization until a regular election of officers.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

First organizational meeting of Canebrake Canyon residents November 22, 1959

1961 **Highway S-2 is paved.** Formerly "known only as County Road J-11, the two-lane road follows or parallels most of the old Butterfield Stage route, rich in historic significance to the development of California."

Ross, C. (1961, December 1). New Highway Wonderland Opens Tomorrow, *The San Diego Union,* p. a-22.

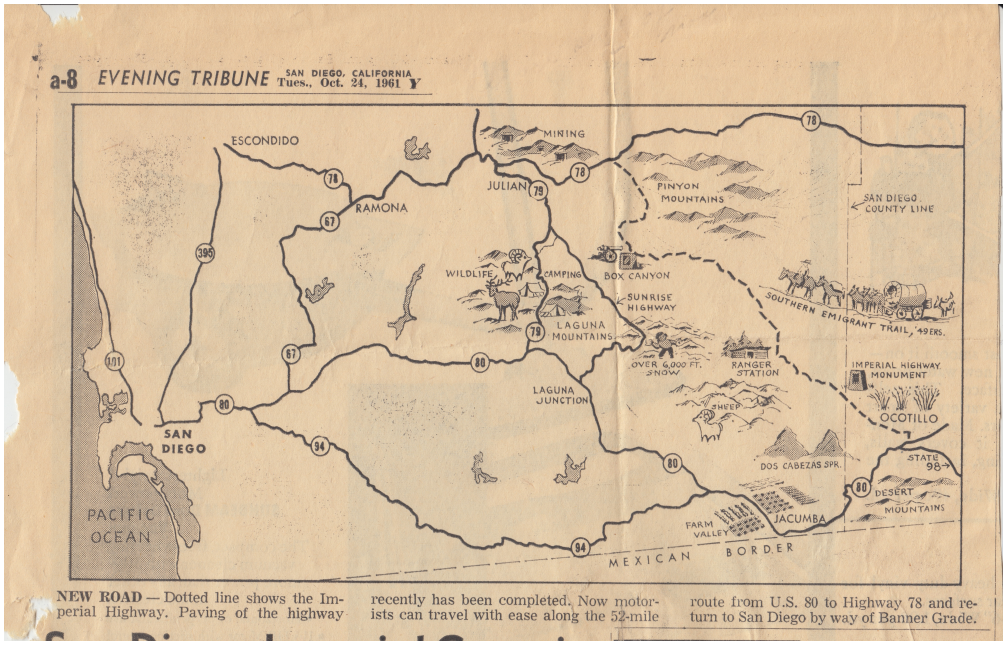
1955: "Improving and paving of the Vallecito stage route from Ocotillo in Imperial County to connect with Highway 78 east of Julian was the main topic at the mid-winter meeting of the Imperial Highway Association…The route would follow the Vallecito road to Highway 78 at Scissors Crossing…"

"Highway Group," (1955, December 12). Highway Group Discusses Paving Vallecito Road, *The San Diego Union*, p. a-17.

1956: Canebrake property owner Mrs. Paul [Liz] Constantz wrote to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors June 12, 1956 asking for help in making improvements to "the road from the foot of Banner Grade to the Imperial County Line…Would it be at all possible to at least have the road dragged to fill some of the ridges and remove the rocks? All we people in the area are eagerly anticipating the day that this road is oiled or treated in such a way that the dust is settled permanently!"

1961: "…the traveler can roll 52 miles northwest from U.S. 80 at Ocotillo to Scissors Crossing on State 78 over a smooth road. Much of the 52 miles is through the 490,000-acre playground called Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. All of it parallels or follows a route laden with the history of the West…"

Stone, J. (1961, October 24). San Diego, Imperial Counties Finish Paving Scenic Drive, *Evening Tribune.* p. a-8.



"NEW ROAD – Dotted line shows the Imperial Highway [S-2]. Paving of the highway recently has been completed. Now motorists can travel with ease along the 52-mile route from U.S. 80 to Highway 78 and return to San Diego by way of Banner Grade."

Stone, J. (1961, October 24). San Diego, Imperial Counties Finish Paving Scenic Drive, *Evening Tribune.* p. a-8.

1962 **The first meeting of the Canebrake Improvement Association** is called to order by the president Mr. [Morry] Riddle, September 30, 1962 in Balboa Park.

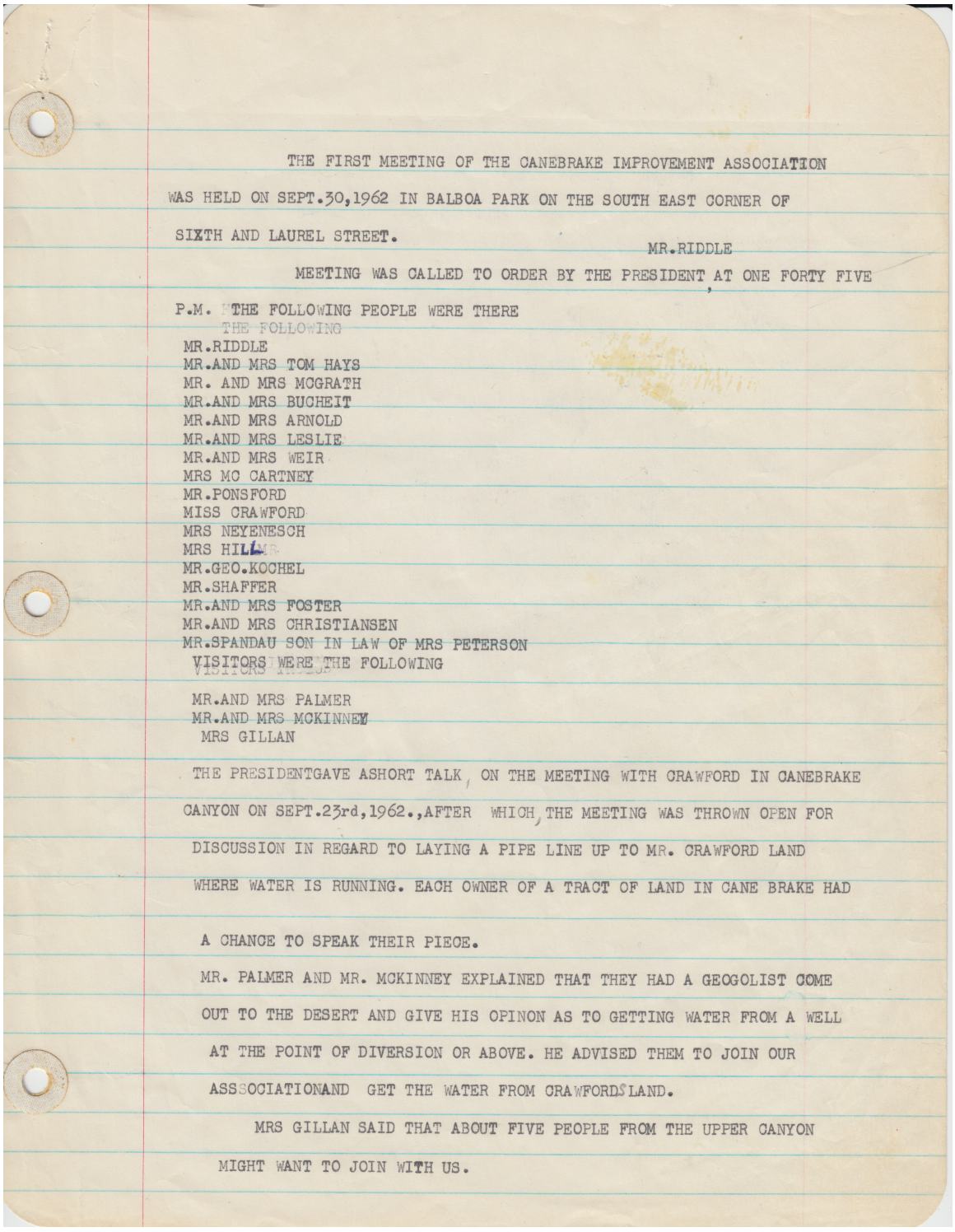
"The president gave a short talk on the meeting with [Robert "Bob"] Crawford in Canebrake Canyon on Sept. 23rd, 1962. After which the meeting was thrown open for **discussion in regard to laying a pipeline up to Mr. Crawford [*sic*] land where water is running.** Each owner of a tract of land in Canebrake had a chance to speak their piece…Motion made by Mr. Weir and seconded by Mrs. Christiansen that we **enter into agreement with Mr. Crawford for a period of six months…"**

> Canebrake Improvement Association. (1962, September 30). *Minutes of the First Meeting.* Balboa Park, San Diego CA.

> In 1962 the association [Canebrake Improvement Association] purchased and installed a 3-inch sheet metal pipe from the distribution box for a distance of about 1,200 feet upstream to a place on land owned by Robert Crawford where water was flowing in the creek channel. An arrangement was discussed with Mr. Crawford for a lease of the portion of his land needed for the pipeline for $558, which amount equaled $18 for each of the 31 association members. Mr. Crawford was paid the $558, but he and the association were not able to agree on terms for the lease and none was executed.
>
> > In the Matter of Application 22539 of Canebrake County Water District to Appropriate from Canebrake Wash in San Diego County. Decision D1283. (State Water Rights Board, State of California, 1967 September 29).



The First Meeting of the Canebrake Improvement Association September 1962, page 1



THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CANEBRAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

WAS HELD ON SEPT.30,1962 IN BALBOA PARK ON THE SOUTH EAST CORNER OF

SIXTH AND LAUREL STREET.

MR.RIDDLE

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT AT ONE FORTY FIVE

P.M. THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE THERE

THE FOLLOWING

MR.RIDDLE
MR.AND MRS TOM HAYS
MR. AND MRS MCGRATH
MR.AND MRS BUCHEIT
MR.AND MRS ARNOLD
MR.AND MRS LESLIE
MR.AND MRS WEIR
MRS MC CARTNEY
MR.PONSFORD
MISS CRAWFORD
MRS NEYENESCH
MRS HILL
MR.GEO.KOCHEL
MR.SHAFFER
MR.AND MRS FOSTER
MR.AND MRS CHRISTIANSEN
MR.SPANDAU SON IN LAW OF MRS PETERSON

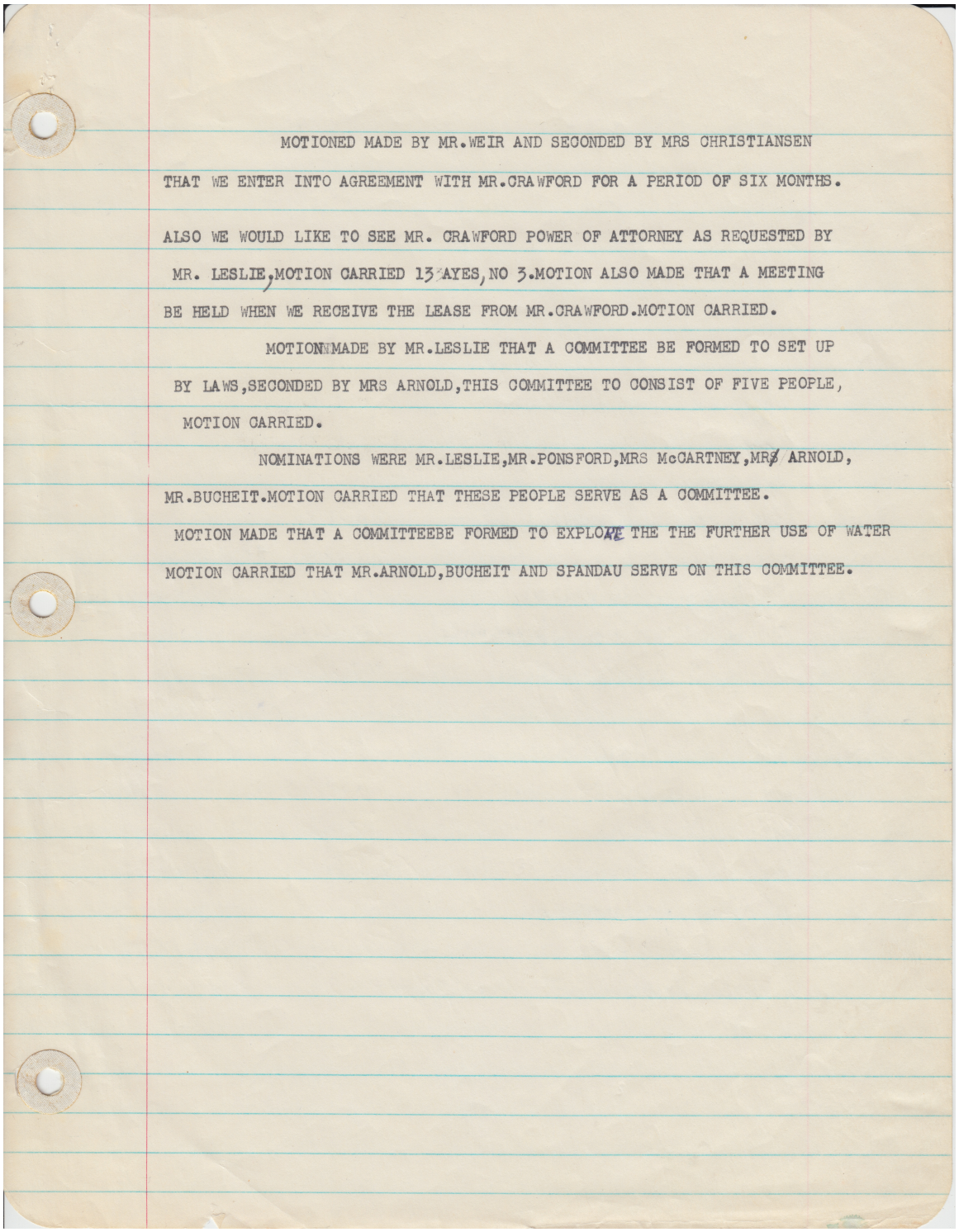
VISITORS WERE THE FOLLOWING

MR.AND MRS PALMER
MR.AND MRS MCKINNEY
MRS GILLAN

THE PRESIDENTGAVE ASHORT TALK, ON THE MEETING WITH CRAWFORD IN CANEBRAKE CANYON ON SEPT.23rd,1962.,AFTER WHICH, THE MEETING WAS THROWN OPEN FOR DISCUSSION IN REGARD TO LAYING A PIPE LINE UP TO MR. CRAWFORD LAND WHERE WATER IS RUNNING. EACH OWNER OF A TRACT OF LAND IN CANE BRAKE HAD A CHANCE TO SPEAK THEIR PIECE.

MR. PALMER AND MR. MCKINNEY EXPLAINED THAT THEY HAD A GEOGOLIST COME OUT TO THE DESERT AND GIVE HIS OPINON AS TO GETTING WATER FROM A WELL AT THE POINT OF DIVERSION OR ABOVE. HE ADVISED THEM TO JOIN OUR ASSSOCIATIONAND GET THE WATER FROM CRAWFORD'S LAND.

MRS GILLAN SAID THAT ABOUT FIVE PEOPLE FROM THE UPPER CANYON MIGHT WANT TO JOIN WITH US.



MOTIONED MADE BY MR.WEIR AND SECONDED BY MRS CHRISTIANSEN
THAT WE ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH MR.CRAWFORD FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS.
ALSO WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MR. CRAWFORD POWER OF ATTORNEY AS REQUESTED BY
MR. LESLIE,MOTION CARRIED 13 AYES, NO 3.MOTION ALSO MADE THAT A MEETING
BE HELD WHEN WE RECEIVE THE LEASE FROM MR.CRAWFORD.MOTION CARRIED.
MOTION MADE BY MR.LESLIE THAT A COMMITTEE BE FORMED TO SET UP
BY LAWS,SECONDED BY MRS ARNOLD,THIS COMMITTEE TO CONSIST OF FIVE PEOPLE,
MOTION CARRIED.
NOMINATIONS WERE MR.LESLIE,MR.PONSFORD,MRS McCARTNEY,MRS ARNOLD,
MR.BUCHEIT.MOTION CARRIED THAT THESE PEOPLE SERVE AS A COMMITTEE.
MOTION MADE THAT A COMMITTEEBE FORMED TO EXPLORE THE THE FURTHER USE OF WATER
MOTION CARRIED THAT MR.ARNOLD,BUCHEIT AND SPANDAU SERVE ON THIS COMMITTEE.

1964 Residents of Canebrake Canyon acknowledge they are unified by the common need for water.

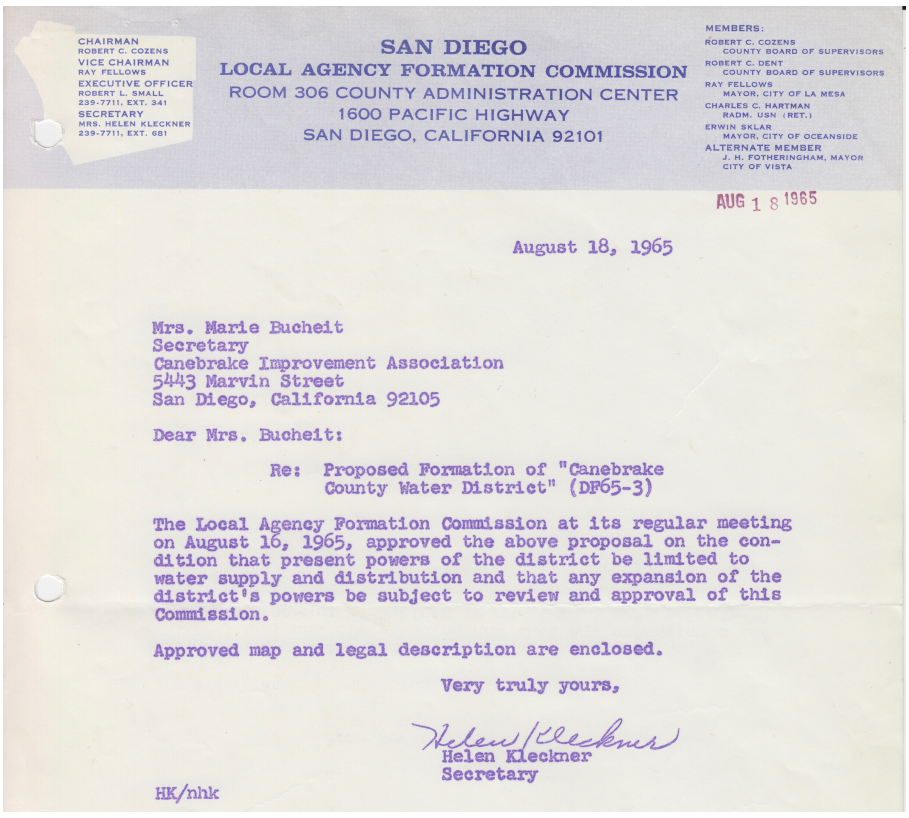
"…the aim of the [Canebrake Improvement] Association is to get water for everyone…"
"…Mr. Bucheit said that the one thing everyone in Canebrake has in common, is the need of water…He said that personally, he would like to see everyone united, and that he felt the good will and hard work of everyone needing and wanting water in Canebrake could accomplish a very good working water system."

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1964, April 19). *Minutes of the General Meeting.* Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wier's cabin, Canebrake Canyon CA.

1965 Approval for formation of the Canebrake County Water District is given by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

"…The last hurdle which supporters will have to clear will be a formation election…Water is now supplied to the area from a nearby federal reserve through a pipe owned by a private individual. Backers of the district want to form the public agency to assure a future supply. They contend that the owner of the pipe could cut off water at any time…"

(1965, October 6). Water District Move Wins County Okay, *Evening Tribune,* p. A-22.



CHAIRMAN
ROBERT C. COZENS
VICE CHAIRMAN
RAY FELLOWS
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
ROBERT L. SMALL
239-7711, EXT. 341
SECRETARY
MRS. HELEN KLECKNER
239-7711, EXT. 681

SAN DIEGO
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
ROOM 306 COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101

MEMBERS:
ROBERT C. COZENS
COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ROBERT C. DENT
COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RAY FELLOWS
MAYOR, CITY OF LA MESA
CHARLES C. HARTMAN
RADM. USN (RET.)
ERWIN SKLAR
MAYOR, CITY OF OCEANSIDE
ALTERNATE MEMBER
J. H. FOTHERINGHAM, MAYOR
CITY OF VISTA

AUG 18 1965

August 18, 1965

Mrs. Marie Bucheit
Secretary
Canebrake Improvement Association
5443 Marvin Street
San Diego, California 92105

Dear Mrs. Bucheit:

Re: Proposed Formation of "Canebrake County Water District" (DF65-3)

The Local Agency Formation Commission at its regular meeting on August 16, 1965, approved the above proposal on the condition that present powers of the district be limited to water supply and distribution and that any expansion of the district's powers be subject to review and approval of this Commission.

Approved map and legal description are enclosed.

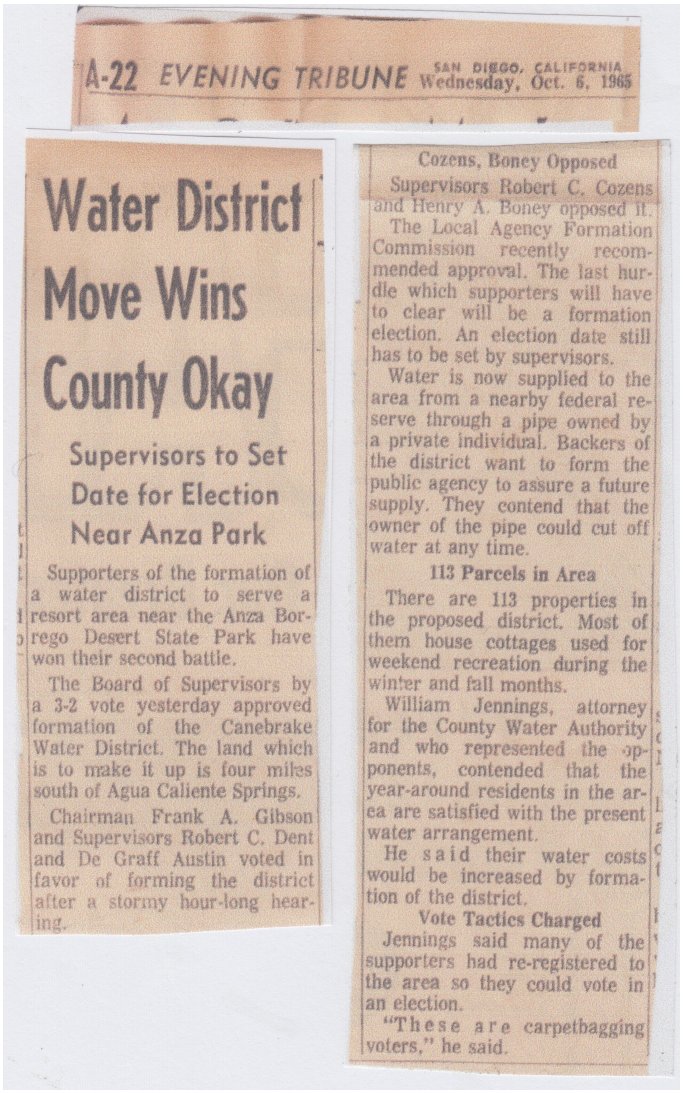
Very truly yours,

Helen Kleckner
Secretary

HK/nhk

August 18, 1965 letter of approval for formation of Canebrake County Water District

Evening Tribune October 6, 1965 announcement of County Board of Supervisors approval of the formation of the Canebrake County Water District



A-22 EVENING TRIBUNE SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA Wednesday, Oct. 6, 1965

Water District Move Wins County Okay

Supervisors to Set Date for Election Near Anza Park

Supporters of the formation of a water district to serve a resort area near the Anza Borrego Desert State Park have won their second battle.

The Board of Supervisors by a 3-2 vote yesterday approved formation of the Canebrake Water District. The land which is to make it up is four miles south of Agua Caliente Springs.

Chairman Frank A. Gibson and Supervisors Robert C. Dent and De Graff Austin voted in favor of forming the district after a stormy hour-long hearing.

Cozens, Boney Opposed

Supervisors Robert C. Cozens and Henry A. Boney opposed it.

The Local Agency Formation Commission recently recommended approval. The last hurdle which supporters will have to clear will be a formation election. An election date still has to be set by supervisors.

Water is now supplied to the area from a nearby federal reserve through a pipe owned by a private individual. Backers of the district want to form the public agency to assure a future supply. They contend that the owner of the pipe could cut off water at any time.

113 Parcels in Area

There are 113 properties in the proposed district. Most of them house cottages used for weekend recreation during the winter and fall months.

William Jennings, attorney for the County Water Authority and who represented the opponents, contended that the year-around residents in the area are satisfied with the present water arrangement.

He said their water costs would be increased by formation of the district.

Vote Tactics Charged

Jennings said many of the supporters had re-registered to the area so they could vote in an election.

"These are carpetbagging voters," he said.

1965 Approval for formation of the Canebrake County Water District is given by the voters of Canebrake Canyon December 28, 1965.

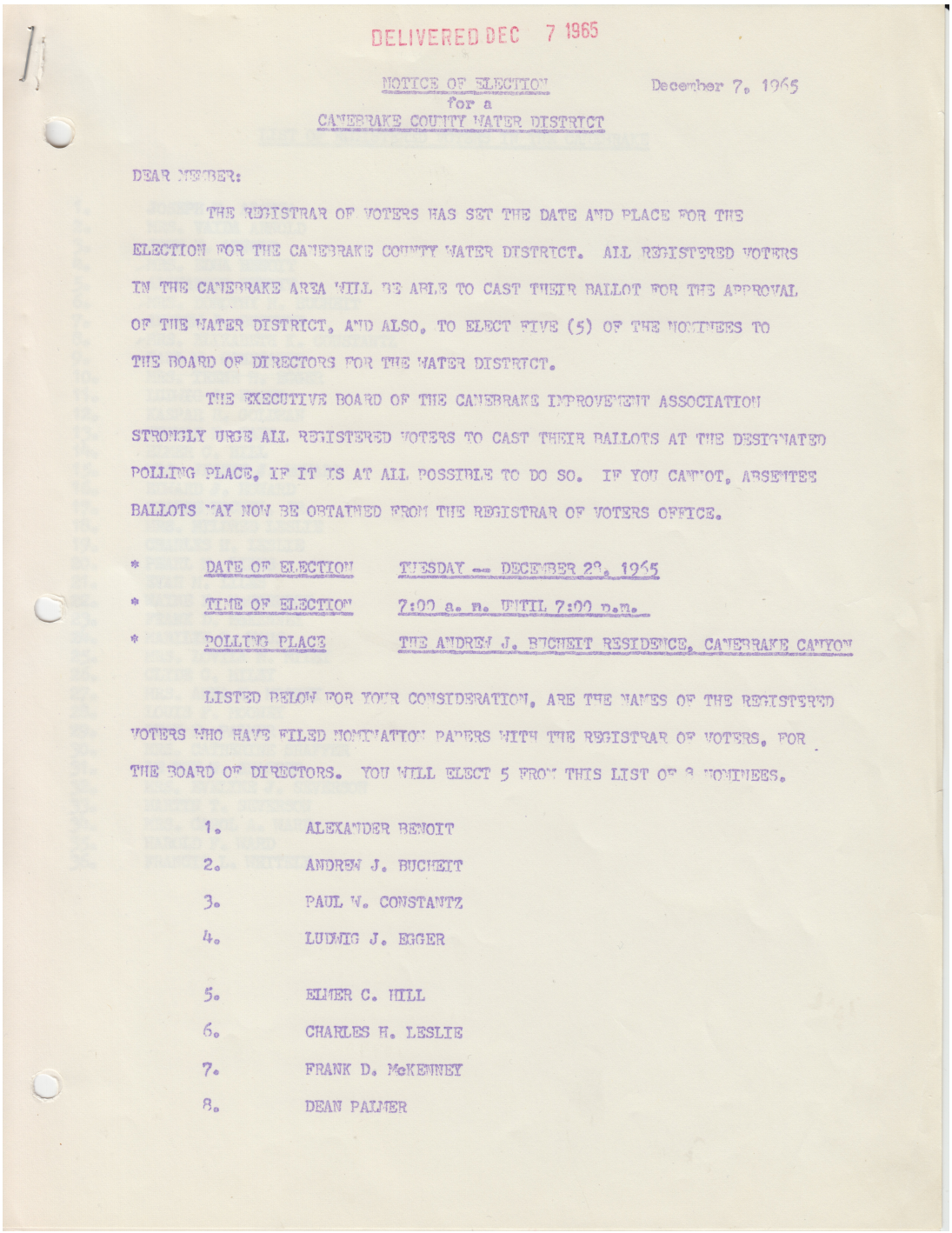
"In 12-28-65 an election booth was set up in Canebrake and the formation of the District approved and five directors elected."

(Anonymous, 1986, September 16).

"County Board of Supervisors authorized a formation election which was held 12-65. The vote was 28 – 2 in favor of formation and the district duly organized and a board of directors elected."

Whitely Stafford, Pat. *Personal Journal.*

December 7, 1965 notice of election for the Canebrake County Water District



DELIVERED DEC 7 1965

NOTICE OF ELECTION December 7, 1965
for a
CANEBRAKE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

DEAR MEMBER:

THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS HAS SET THE DATE AND PLACE FOR THE ELECTION FOR THE CANEBRAKE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT. ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE CANEBRAKE AREA WILL BE ABLE TO CAST THEIR BALLOT FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE WATER DISTRICT, AND ALSO, TO ELECT FIVE (5) OF THE NOMINEES TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE WATER DISTRICT.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE CANEBRAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION STRONGLY URGE ALL REGISTERED VOTERS TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS AT THE DESIGNATED POLLING PLACE, IF IT IS AT ALL POSSIBLE TO DO SO. IF YOU CAN'OT, ABSENTEE BALLOTS MAY NOW BE OBTAINED FROM THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS OFFICE.

* DATE OF ELECTION TUESDAY -- DECEMBER 28, 1965
* TIME OF ELECTION 7:00 a. m. UNTIL 7:00 p.m.
* POLLING PLACE THE ANDREW J. BUCHEIT RESIDENCE, CANEBRAKE CANYON

LISTED BELOW FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION, ARE THE NAMES OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS WHO HAVE FILED NOMINATION PAPERS WITH THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS, FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. YOU WILL ELECT 5 FROM THIS LIST OF 8 NOMINEES.

1. ALEXANDER BENOIT
2. ANDREW J. BUCHEIT
3. PAUL W. CONSTANTZ
4. LUDWIG J. EGGER
5. ELMER C. HILL
6. CHARLES H. LESLIE
7. FRANK D. McKENNEY
8. DEAN PALMER

“ Andrew J. Bucheit has been elected as the first president of the newly formed Canebrake County Water District…”

(1966, February 2). Leader Chosen By Canebrake Water District.

“Leader Chosen by Canebrake Water District” 1966



4ION 2-2-66

Leader Chosen By Canebrake Water District

AGUA CALIENTE SPRINGS — Andrew J. Bucheit has been elected as the first president of the newly formed Canebrake County Water District.

In an organizational meeting this week, directors also chose Paul W. Constanz as vice president. Mrs. Elizabeth Constanz was appointed secretary and John Arnold was named general manager.

Other directors are Ludwig J. Egger, Charles H. Leslie and Elmer C. Hill.

Mrs. Constanz said the first regular meeting of the board will be at 1 p.m. March 6 at her home. The directors will meet regularly on the first Sunday of each month, she said.

The district includes 980 acres south of here on the Vallecitos-Sweeney Pass road. It is bounded on three sides by Anza Borrego State Park and on the fourth by federal land.

There are about 100 property owners in the district.

1966 Canebrake County Water District takes legal action against Tom Hays, Robert Crawford and their associates.

"RESOLVED that Ed Marsh be officially designated as attorney for the Canebrake County Water District."

Canebrake County Water District. (1966, July 8). *Minutes of the Meeting.* Constantz [residence], Canebrake Canyon CA.

"RESOLVED that authorization be given to Mr. Edward Marsh to represent the Canebrake County Water District in instituting actions against Mr. T. N. Hays, Mr. Robert Crawford and associates for determination of water rights…"

Canebrake County Water District. (1966, September 12). *Minutes of the Meeting.* 1020 Ninth Ave., San Diego CA.

> …charging that the defendants had been wasteful in the use of water, deliberately taking more than they could use in an attempt to deprive plaintiffs of their rightful share of the water; that Crawford had entered into easements with some parties but had refused to negotiate with plaintiffs; that defendants had stopped the flow of water on many occasions; and that defendants had broken and interfered with plaintiffs' water pipes…Plaintiffs asked for a declaration of rights as between the parties concerning water of Canebrake Creek, for a declaration that the road is public, for damages and an injunction…
>
> In the Matter of Application 22539 of Canebrake County Water District to Appropriate from Canebrake Wash in San Diego County. Decision D1283. (State Water Rights Board, State of California, 1967 September 29).

1966 Canebrake County Water District adopts a resolution to apply to the U. S. Department of the Interior for five acres in Canebrake available for recreation and public use.

"RESOLVED that Property Chairman Paul Constantz be authorized to apply for the five acres described as W1/2 NE1/4 NE 1/4 SE 1/4, Sec. 34, T 14S, R 7E, SBM, California, in the name of the Canebrake County Water District."

Canebrake County Water District. (1966, August 25). *Minutes of the Meeting.* 1020 Ninth, San Diego CA.

Canebrake Improvement Association forms a recreation building committee after learning that the BLM five-acre tract the C.C.W.D. applied for was set aside by the Department of the Interior for "…the purpose of a maintenance building and a public recreation building only…"

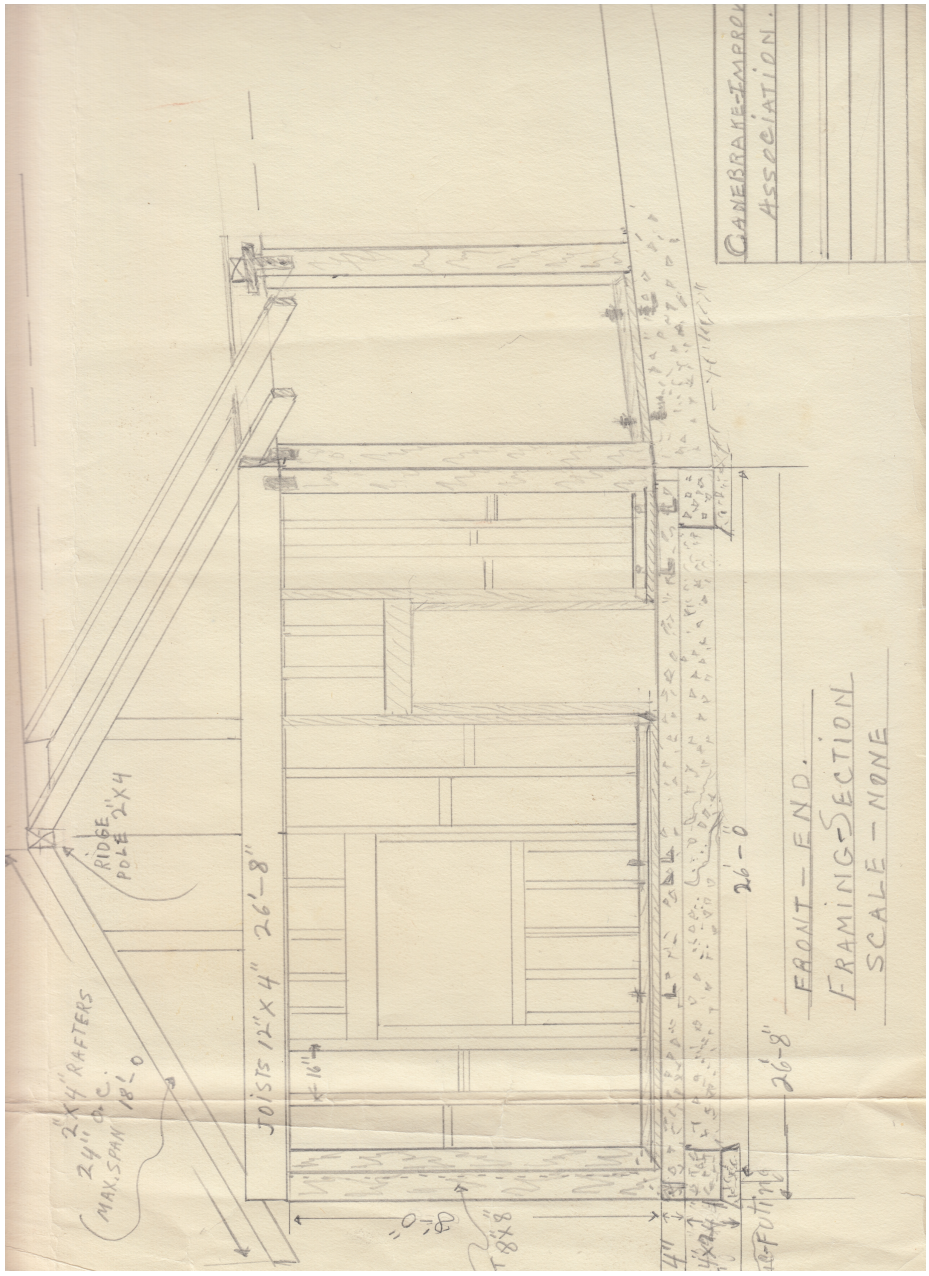
California State Office, State Director. (1970, May 28). *The United States of America Patent Number 04-70-0239.* California.

"The need for a community building was discussed at several meetings of the Canebrake Improvement Association. As it was felt Water District funds should be used for the much-needed water system, the Improvement Association decided to finance construction of the community building and the original Building Committee was appointed on October 23, 1966."

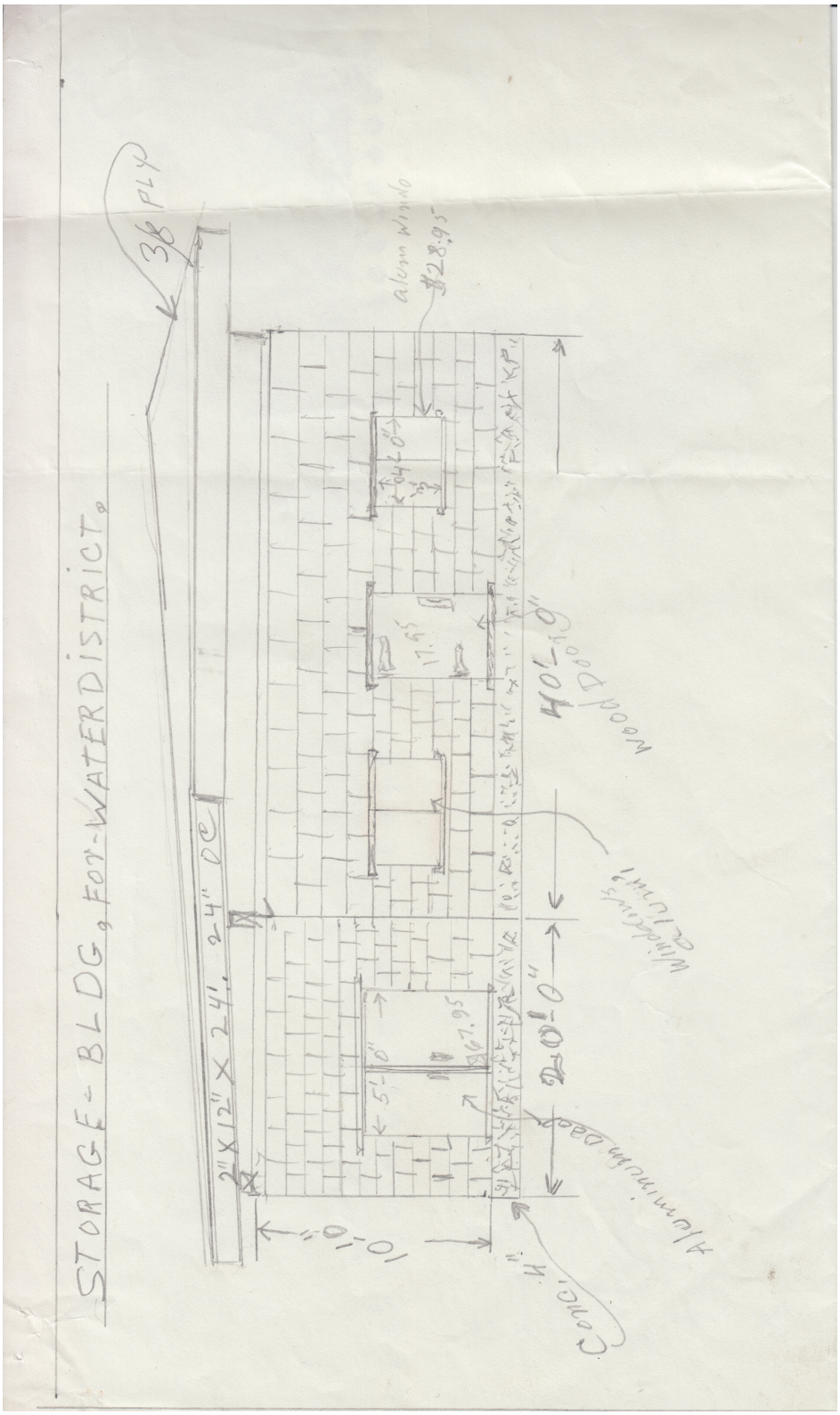
Program for the Dedication of McKenney Hall, Canebrake Canyon CA, 30 April 1972.

"…a 5 acre tract had been set aside for Publi [*sic*] and Recreation use by the Bureau of Land Management, and that the Canebrake County Water District had already filed on this piece of property for the sum of $22.50…" and "…had already submitted plans for a storage building, but that the Bureau of Land Management had written back with a request for plans for recreational use as well…"

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1966, October 23). *Minutes of the 5th Annual Meeting.* Mr. and Mrs. Whitely's, Canebrake Canyon CA.



Plan submitted to BLM for Canebrake recreation building 1966



Plan submitted to BLM for water district storage building 1966

1967 **McKenney Hall is chosen as the name for the future recreation building** in a unanimous vote of the members of the Canebrake Improvement Association during their October 29, 1967 meeting.

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1967, October 29). *Minutes of the Meeting.* Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Whitely's home, Canebrake Canyon CA.

McKenney Hall

Named in memory of Dr. Frank D. McKenney who at the time of his death, February 5, 1967, was a Director of the Canebrake County Water District and a member of the Canebrake Improvement Association who had served on its Executive Board in 1962.

Dr. McKenney gave untiringly of himself and was a dedicated worker not only for the Canebrake area but also in the long list of church, fraternal and civic groups to which he belonged as well as the San Diego Humane Society and veterinary organizations.

"Dr. Frank D. McKenney," *Program Tribute for the Dedication of McKenney Hall,* Canebrake Canyon CA, 30 April 1972.



1967 A permit for the Canebrake County Water District to divert water from Federal Water Reserve 107 is approved and issued by the State of California State Water Rights Board 29 September 1967.

> Source and Existing Diversions: …The existing method of diverting water from Canebrake Creek is clearly unsatisfactory. Permission to maintain a pipeline across [Robert] Crawford's property is on a year-to-year basis and can be terminated by him at any time…The district [Canebrake County Water District] filed Application 22539, which is for a permit to divert water from Federal Water Reserve 107 a short distance above [Robert]Crawford's land…The method selected by the majority of those concerned for solving their problem, to wit, the formation of a county water district with power to acquire the necessary water rights and other properties and to construct and operate a system that will serve water to all who apply on an equal basis, is proper and appears to be in the best interests of the community as a whole.
>
> Conclusion: The Board finds that unappropriated water is available to supply the applicant [Canebrake County Water District], that the intended use is beneficial, and that the proposed appropriation will best develop, conserve, and utilize in the public interest the water of Canebrake Creek. The applicant [Canebrake County Water District] has the legal power to acquire such existing water rights and rights-of-way over private property as are necessary to fulfillment of its purpose.
>
> In the Matter of Application 22539 of Canebrake County Water District to Appropriate from Canebrake Wash in San Diego County. Decision D1283. (State Water Rights Board, State of California, 1967 September 29).

1968 Canebrake County Water District v. Robert Crawford Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, 27 June 1968. Robert W. Conyers, Judge of the Superior Court.

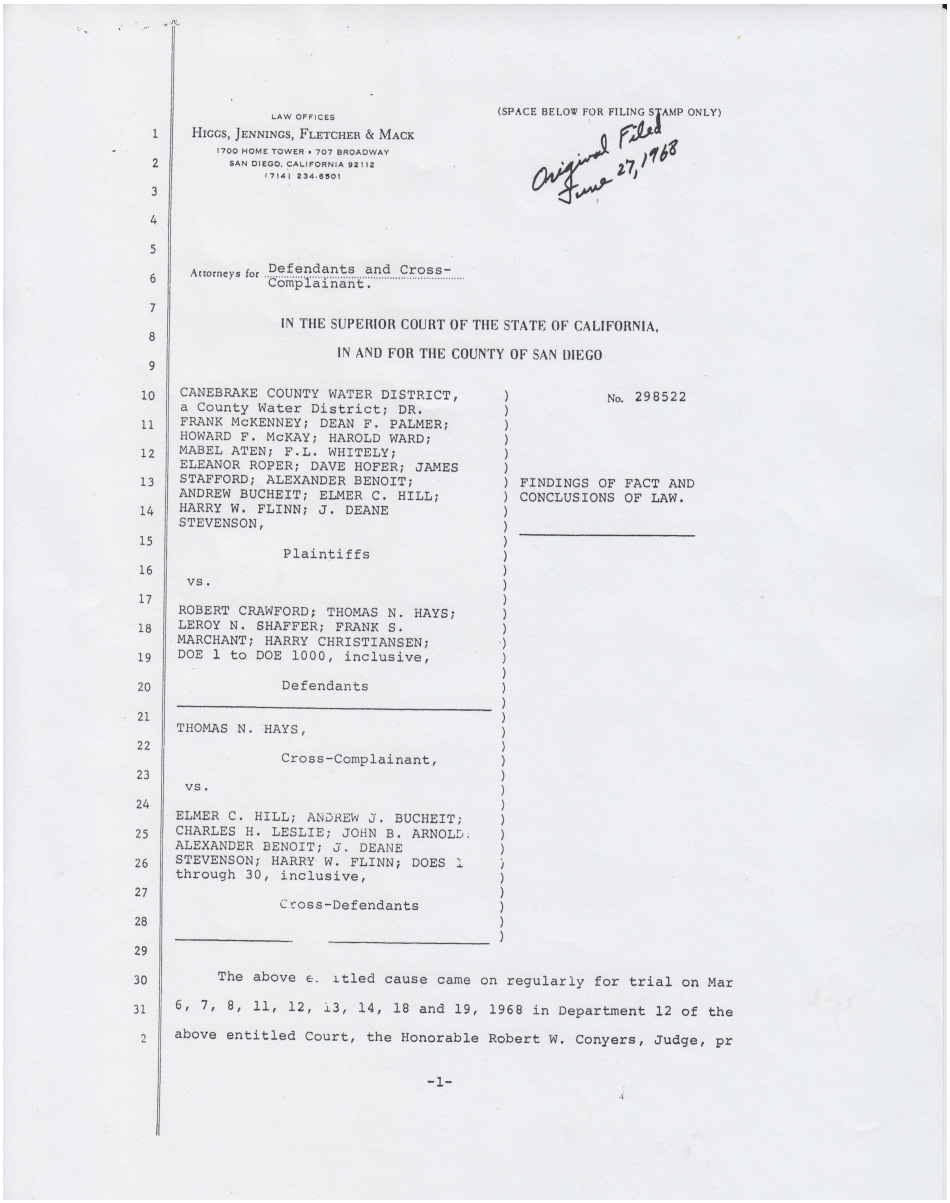
Canebrake County Water District v. Robert Crawford. No. 298522. Superior Court of the State of California In and For the County of San Diego. 1968. *Canebrake History Archives*, n.d. 29 Jan. 2020.

> Lawsuit …Judge Conyers had reached certain conclusions of great benefit to the Water District and these are:
>
> 1.The finding and declaration that Robert Crawford does not have any Riparian Rights on Tract 37.
>
> 2.The restriction to approximately ten gallons per day of water per head of cattle for a period of approximately 30 days per year and for approximately 100 head of cattle, the 30-day period to be effective only at a time when the mesquite beans are edible by cattle.
>
> 3.All assets assigned to the Water District by the Canebrake Improvement Association are the property of the Water District, and are so recognized by the Court.

4.That although Mr. Hays owns the original distribution system, those persons now receiving water from this system have achieved equitable rights in this system, and, therefore, their rights to receive their allotted amount of water through this system will be retained until such time as the Water District is in the position to service these people.

5.The directors have been given the authority by the Court to pick up the assets of the Water District which are now located on the property of Mr. Hays.

Canebrake County Water District. (1968, July 10). *Minutes of the Continued Meeting.* Office of Attorney Edward E. Marsh, 505 N. Mollison Ave., El Cajon CA.



LAW OFFICES
HIGGS, JENNINGS, FLETCHER & MACK
1700 HOME TOWER • 707 BROADWAY
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92112
(714) 234-6501

(SPACE BELOW FOR FILING STAMP ONLY)

Original Filed June 27, 1968

Attorneys for Defendants and Cross-Complainant.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

CANEBRAKE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT, a County Water District; DR. FRANK McKENNEY; DEAN F. PALMER; HOWARD F. McKAY; HAROLD WARD; MABEL ATEN; F.L. WHITELY; ELEANOR ROPER; DAVE HOFER; JAMES STAFFORD; ALEXANDER BENOIT; ANDREW BUCHEIT; ELMER C. HILL; HARRY W. FLINN; J. DEANE STEVENSON,

Plaintiffs

vs.

ROBERT CRAWFORD; THOMAS N. HAYS; LEROY N. SHAFFER; FRANK S. MARCHANT; HARRY CHRISTIANSEN; DOE 1 to DOE 1000, inclusive,

Defendants

THOMAS N. HAYS,

Cross-Complainant,

vs.

ELMER C. HILL; ANDREW J. BUCHEIT; CHARLES H. LESLIE; JOHN B. ARNOLD; ALEXANDER BENOIT; J. DEANE STEVENSON; HARRY W. FLINN; DOES 1 through 30, inclusive,

Cross-Defendants

No. 298522

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.

The above entitled cause came on regularly for trial on Mar 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18 and 19, 1968 in Department 12 of the above entitled Court, the Honorable Robert W. Conyers, Judge, pr

-1-

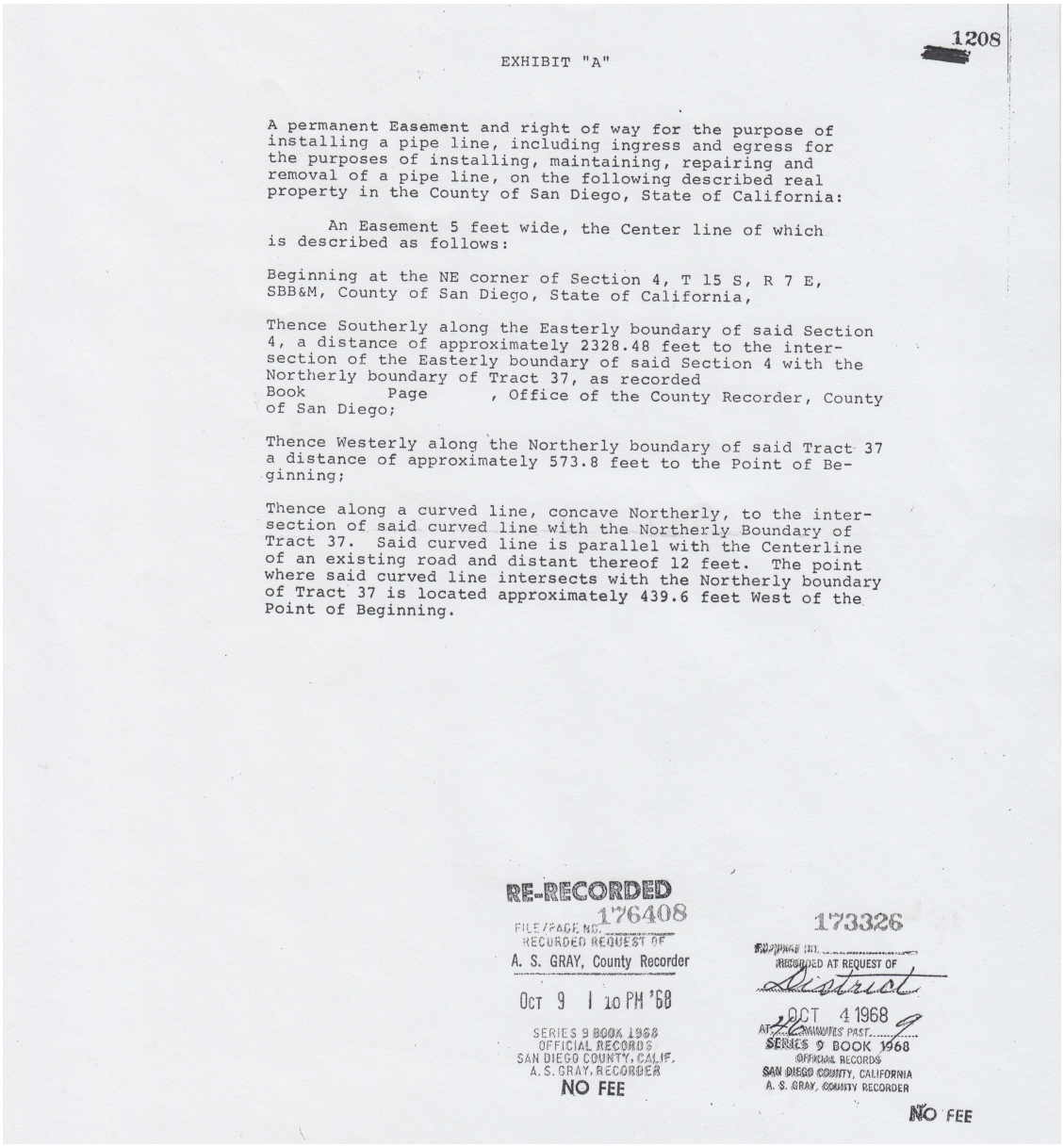
1968 Canebrake County Water District v. Robert Crawford, page 1

1968 An easement agreement is entered into 11 July 1968 between the Crawford family, "Owners," and the Canebrake County Water District, "District."

Easement Agreement. 1968. (San Diego County, California). NE corner of Section 4, T 15 S, R 7 E [known as Tract 37], SBB&M. (U.S.A.).

The agreement allows for "a permanent easement [five feet wide] and right of way for the purpose of installing a pipe line, including ingress and egress for the purposes of installing, maintaining, repairing and removal of a pipe line…"

NOTE: A copy of the Resolution Authorizing Execution of Easement Agreement and the Easement Agreement are in the appendix.



1208

EXHIBIT "A"

A permanent Easement and right of way for the purpose of installing a pipe line, including ingress and egress for the purposes of installing, maintaining, repairing and removal of a pipe line, on the following described real property in the County of San Diego, State of California:

An Easement 5 feet wide, the Center line of which is described as follows:

Beginning at the NE corner of Section 4, T 15 S, R 7 E, SBB&M, County of San Diego, State of California,

Thence Southerly along the Easterly boundary of said Section 4, a distance of approximately 2328.48 feet to the intersection of the Easterly boundary of said Section 4 with the Northerly boundary of Tract 37, as recorded Book Page , Office of the County Recorder, County of San Diego;

Thence Westerly along the Northerly boundary of said Tract 37 a distance of approximately 573.8 feet to the Point of Beginning;

Thence along a curved line, concave Northerly, to the intersection of said curved line with the Northerly Boundary of Tract 37. Said curved line is parallel with the Centerline of an existing road and distant thereof 12 feet. The point where said curved line intersects with the Northerly boundary of Tract 37 is located approximately 439.6 feet West of the Point of Beginning.

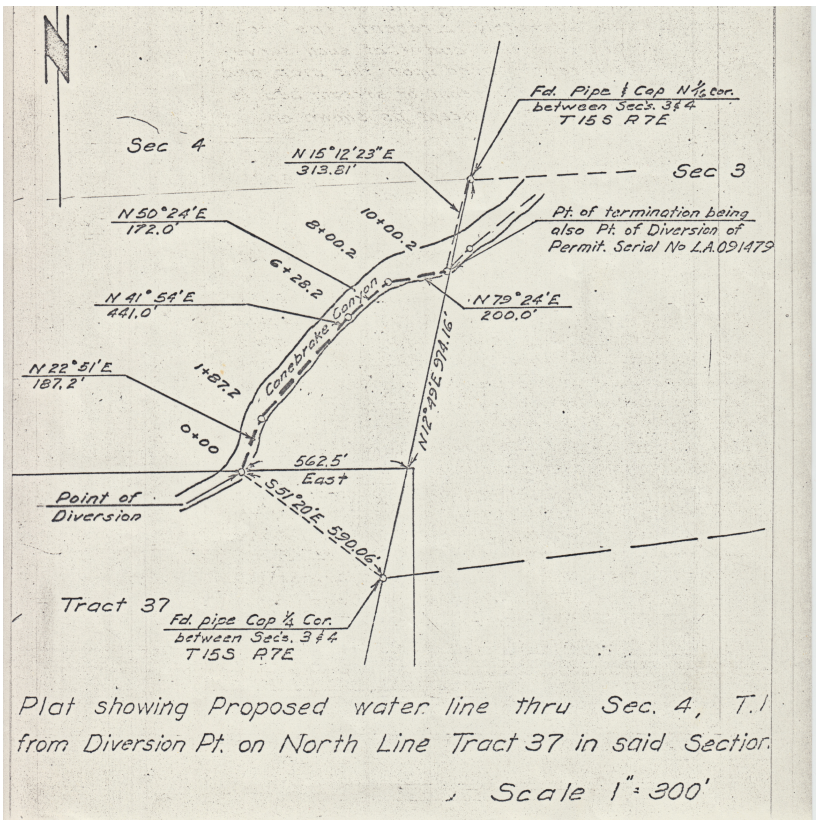
RE-RECORDED
176408
FILE/PAGE NO.
RECORDED REQUEST OF
A. S. GRAY, County Recorder
OCT 9 1 10 PM '68
SERIES 9 BOOK 1968
OFFICIAL RECORDS
SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIF.
A. S. GRAY, RECORDER
NO FEE

173326
RECORDED AT REQUEST OF
District
OCT 4 1968
SERIES 9 BOOK 1968
OFFICIAL RECORDS
SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
A. S. GRAY, COUNTY RECORDER
NO FEE

1968 Easement Agreement, Exhibit A

1968 A new "Point of Diversion" at Federal Water Reserve 107 is developed by the Canebrake County Water District after the District is granted a legal easement across private property to access the Reserve.

> Installation-
> Mrs. Bucheit reported that with a total of 119 hours and 40 minutes, the following work had been accomplished to date in the canyon:
> 1. Installed and graveled 7' of perforated tile, 18" – 2' underground at the point where the water percolates from the spring.
> 2. Installed 30' of gutter pipe from the bottom of the tile to the redwood box on Government Water Reserve 107.
> 3. Cleaned out and covered the redwood box.
> 4. Cleared a path through the very thick cane and brush with hand tools where the pipe was to be laid.
> 5. Inserted approximately 1000' of the 1" pipe into 3" gutter pipe (for protection), laying this from the redwood box to the upper boundary of Tract 37, then up onto the side of the road to the lower boundary of 37, connecting this into the air vent on the lower part of the lateral system.
> 6. Connected a ¾" pipe to the end of the lateral system to the common distribution box.
>
> Canebrake County Water District. (1968, October 17). *Minutes of the Recessed Meeting.* Whitely Residence, National City CA.

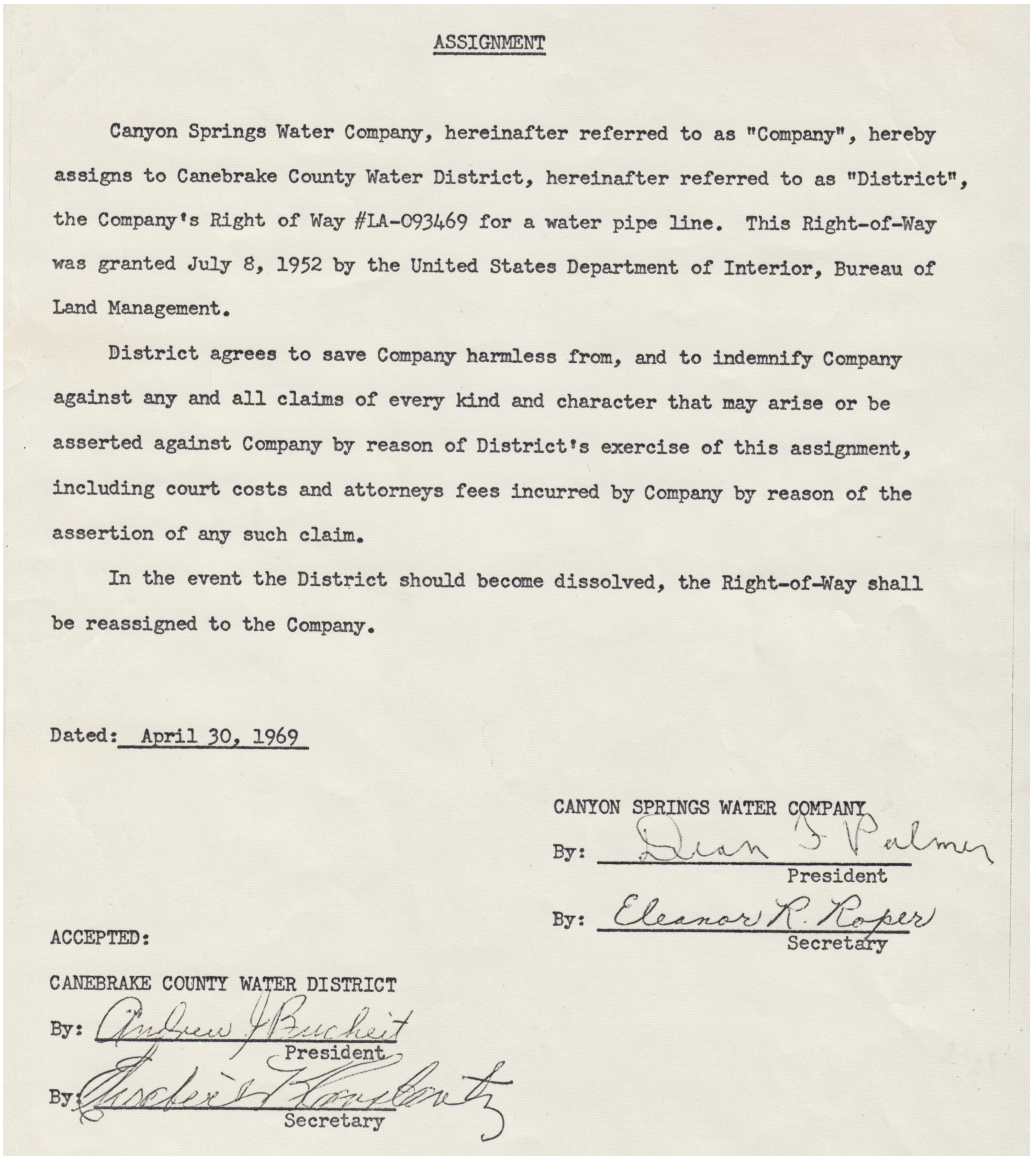


Plat showing proposed water line through Crawford property (tract 37) 1968

1969 Canyon Springs Water Company formally transfers its Right of Way #LA-093469 for a water pipeline to the Canebrake County Water District.

"…the Canyon Springs Water Co., comprised of all those people having property in the canyon, had assigned without any charge whatsoever to the [Canebrake County] Water District, their storage tank and pipeline, as well as having assigned their right of way across Federal Lands, which they have held for many years."

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1969, October 26). *Minutes of the 7th Annual Meeting.* Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Whitely's home, Canebrake Canyon CA.



ASSIGNMENT

Canyon Springs Water Company, hereinafter referred to as "Company", hereby assigns to Canebrake County Water District, hereinafter referred to as "District", the Company's Right of Way #LA-093469 for a water pipe line. This Right-of-Way was granted July 8, 1952 by the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

District agrees to save Company harmless from, and to indemnify Company against any and all claims of every kind and character that may arise or be asserted against Company by reason of District's exercise of this assignment, including court costs and attorneys fees incurred by Company by reason of the assertion of any such claim.

In the event the District should become dissolved, the Right-of-Way shall be reassigned to the Company.

Dated: April 30, 1969

CANYON SPRINGS WATER COMPANY

By: Dean B. Palmer
President

By: Eleanor R. Roper
Secretary

ACCEPTED:

CANEBRAKE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

By: Andrew J. Burchett
President

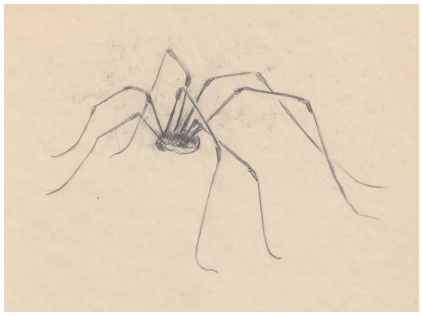
By: Frederick Konstantz
Secretary

Canyon Springs Water Company assigns right-of-way to CCWD 1969

1969 The Canebrake County Water District Directors connect the last link on the pipeline 3 May 1969.



"…left to right: Elizabeth Constantz, Secretary; Marie Bucheit, Liaison Director; Barney Barnett, Director; Paul Constantz, Director; Francis Whitely, Director; Andy Bucheit, President of the Board. Given in love and appreciation to Andy and Marie, for all their years of hard work for Canebrake, from Francis and Marg 3-5-69."



1969 **Zoning of Canebrake Canyon into 2 acres**, under the Classification of E-1-B, is approved by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors June 9, 1969 after "…a second hearing had been held before the Planning Commission, at which time the Commission had approved the proposed zoning of Canebrake and had referred this matter to the S.D. County Board of Supervisors…"

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1969, October 26). *Minutes of the 7th Annual Meeting.* Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Whitely's home, Canebrake Canyon CA.

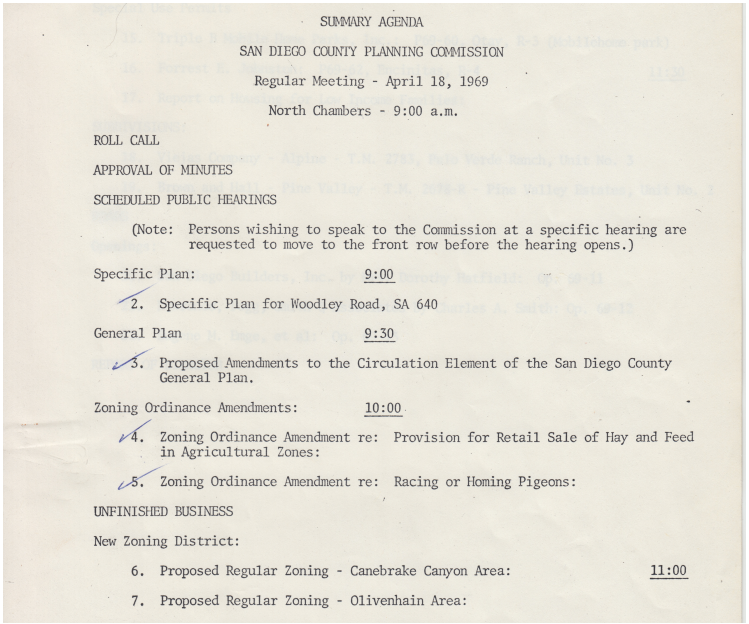
"Zoning: …at the request of the Canebrake Improvement Association, contact had been made with the Planning Commission on zoning into 2½ acre plots for the area…It was noted that such a zoning would not affect present properties but would prevent future sales of less than 2½ acres…"

Canebrake County Water District. (1967, October 13). *Minutes of Meeting.* Canebrake Canyon CA.

A January 3, 1968 reply to Liz Constantz from P. E. Minnix, Supervising Appraiser of the San Diego County Office of Assessor, stated "…there is no zoning in this area [Canebrake Canyon] at the present time…"

The majority of Canebrake property owners supported a petition to request zoning as 2½ acre plots, for single family dwellings with no multiple unit or commercial dwellings. At the October 27, 1968 Association meeting it was decided that the petition would be forwarded to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors for their approval.

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1968, October 27). *Minutes of Executive Board Meeting called in lieu of 1968 Annual Meeting.* Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Whitely's home, Canebrake Canyon CA.



SUMMARY AGENDA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting - April 18, 1969

North Chambers - 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

(Note: Persons wishing to speak to the Commission at a specific hearing are requested to move to the front row before the hearing opens.)

Specific Plan: 9:00

2. Specific Plan for Woodley Road, SA 640

General Plan 9:30

3. Proposed Amendments to the Circulation Element of the San Diego County General Plan.

Zoning Ordinance Amendments: 10:00

4. Zoning Ordinance Amendment re: Provision for Retail Sale of Hay and Feed in Agricultural Zones:

5. Zoning Ordinance Amendment re: Racing or Homing Pigeons:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

New Zoning District:

6. Proposed Regular Zoning - Canebrake Canyon Area: 11:00

7. Proposed Regular Zoning - Olivenhain Area:

1969 SD County Planning Commission hearing for new Canebrake zoning district

1970 A shallow well, the first producing community well, is drilled in upper Canebrake Canyon at Federal Water Reserve 107.

"Water District Report: [Director] Jerry Wright reported about all the work that has been done to locate additional sources of water in the Canyon and that after many hours and days of effort, a well, 15 feet deep, had been dug with a post hole digger by only 3 or 4 men…and that there is presently approximately 7 gallons per minute flow of water from this well. Mr. and Mrs. Wright then furnished all those present, with a sample of the water from the new well. At which time Jerry Wright, the official taster of water in Canebrake, offered a toast to the new well and to all the workers who had made it possible."

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1970, January 25). *Minutes of the January Meeting.* Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Whitely's home, Canebrake Canyon CA.



1970 toast with glasses of water from the new well at Federal Reserve 107

1970 2,000 feet of 4½ inch steel pipe is installed in early March between the spring on the Federal Water Reserve [107] and the water storage tanks located just above the Roper property.

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1970, April 26). *Minutes of Pot-luck and Quarterly Meeting.* Ray and Hazel Ramoser's home, Canebrake Canyon CA.



Completion of waterline to the spring, Federal Reserve 107

1970 United States Patent CARI 001912, a five-acre parcel in Canebrake set aside for recreation and public use, is issued to the Canebrake County Water District.

Canebrake County Water District BLM patent *CARI 001912*, May 28, 1970; one of the last four patent recipients of a 5-acre tract parcel in Canebrake Canyon.

U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management. *General Land Office Records, Land Patents.* Retrieved from URL.

The patent was granted to the Canebrake County Water District with the restriction that both a maintenance building and a public recreation building be built on the property.

> Whereas Canebrake County Water District is entitled to a Land Patent pursuant to the Act of June 14, 1926…for the following described land:
>
> San Bernardino Meridian, California
> T. 14 S, R. 7 E;
> Sec. 34, W1/2 NE1/4 SE 1/4; Containing 5 acres.
>
> Now Know Ye, that there is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the above named claimant the land above described **for the purpose of a maintenance building and a public recreation building** only…
>
> California State Office, State Director. (1970, May 28). *The United States of America Patent Number 04-70-0239.* California.

1970 10,000 feet of 4 and 6-inch pipe is purchased, moved, and stored in Canebrake.

"Water District: Mr. Bucheit reported that the District had been very fortunate in being able to purchase approximately 10,000 feet of 4 and 6 inch pipe which had been used during the construction of the new freeway [I-8] on Viejas Grade…[volunteers] spent several days on the Viejas Grade disconnecting, stacking, loading and unloading the pipe, and that it was at the present time, all stored just inside the fence at Ramola McKenney's place…"

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1970, October 25). *Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, called in lieu of the Regular Annual Meeting.* Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Whitely's home, Canebrake Canyon CA.



Viejas Grade pipe acquisition 1970

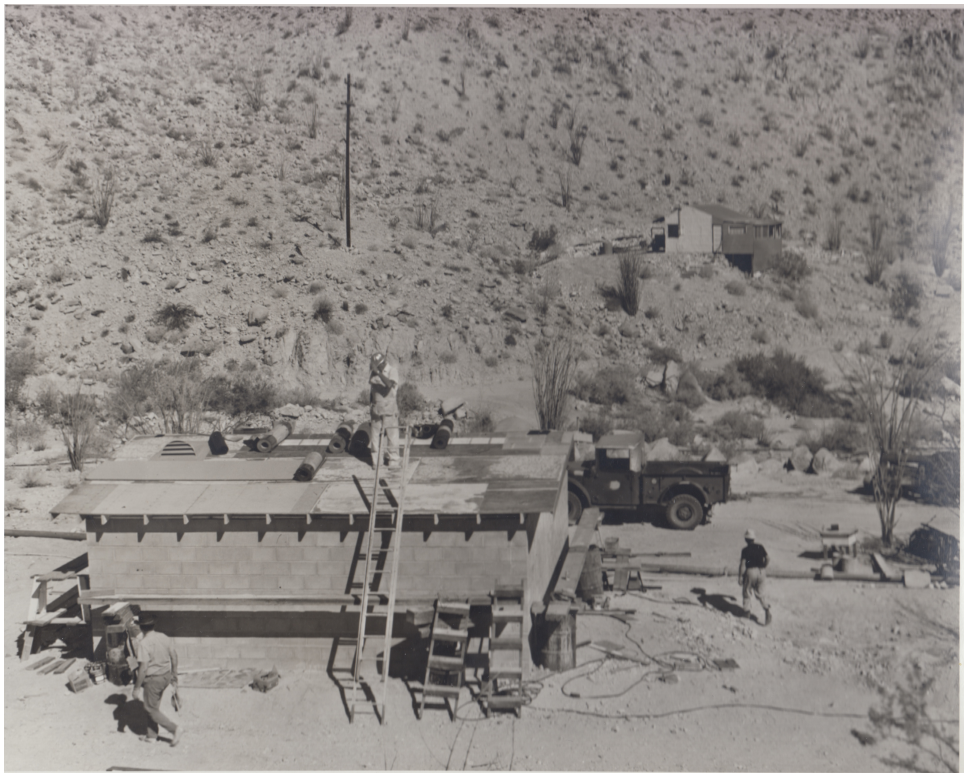
1971 A 30,000 gallon water storage tank known as "the block tank" is built, the pipe is installed and the system is in use, by the end of April.

" Mr. [Andy] Bucheit [President of the Canebrake County Water District] reported, that as of this date, the pipe…has been completely installed and is now in operation, that 36 meters have been set and are now in use, and also, that with a lot of effort and hard work of some of the members and their wives, a new 30,000 gallon water storage tank had been built and was now in use."

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1971, April 25). *Minutes of the April Pot-luck and Quarterly Meeting.* Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Whitely's home, Canebrake Canyon CA.



Foundation of “block tank” 1971 - photograph by Joe Potter



Roofing the “block tank” 1971 - photograph by Joe Potter

1971 Members of the Canebrake Improvement Association pose for a photograph.



This group photograph was taken during the C.I.A. April 25 potluck and quarterly meeting, held at the Canebrake home of Francis and Marg Whitely.

1971 Groundbreaking ceremony is held for McKenney Hall.

"Francis Whitely presented the plans for the Community Building, and stated that the time has now arrived to start work on this project…unanimous approval was given the ground breaking for the new Community Building…"

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1971, October 31). *Minutes of the October Annual Meeting.* Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Whiteley's home, Canebrake Canyon CA.



Groundbreaking ceremony for McKenney Hall 1971

1972 McKenney Hall is completed with all volunteer labor and a dedication ceremony is held April 30.

In a response to an invitation to attend the dedication of McKenney Hall, K. L. Woodward, Chief [Engineer] of the Division of Water Rights for the State of California, writes February 24, 1972, "While accomplishments by the people in your area may not be among the largest in which I have been involved over the years in terms of water, I know of none which gave me more satisfaction than to see the success which you people have made by your perseverance. The community building, if nothing more, shall be symbolic of a united group which has been possible only through the considerable efforts of people…"

"Community Building [Chairman]: Francis Whitely stated that he was proud of the many people who had worked so very hard and long to make this long awaited day possible. He said the list of volunteer laborers, both men and women, was so long that it would take up much too much time to thank each and everyone of them at this meeting, but he did wish them all to know what a beautiful job they had done and how deeply their help was appreciated by everyone."

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1972, April 30). *Minutes of the Annual Pot-luck and Meeting.* McKenney Hall, Canebrake Canyon CA.



Volunteers building McKenney Hall 1972



Father John Lucev blessing McKenney Hall at dedication ceremony 1972

1972 **The official Canebrake flag is presented to the community** during the Canebrake Improvement Association meeting April 30.

"CANEBRAKE FLAG: Bill Oliver presented the Canebrake Flag as designed and painted by Canebrake Artist Vivian Gill, silk screened by a friend of his who owns and operates the Country Shirt House, and put together and sewn by his mother Marge Oliver…"

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1972, April 30). *Minutes of the Annual Pot-luck and Meeting.* McKenney Hall, Canebrake Canyon CA.



1972 **Canebrake roads are named and identified with street signs** after three years of working with the community and following the San Diego County guidelines for naming private roads.

A "Road Naming Committee" was formed in January 1969 when the Canebrake Improvement Association was notified by the County of San Diego that it "…does not have jurisdiction over private roads, the residents thereon must initiate the name selection…"

"Road Naming: Mrs. Constantz reported that the existing roads have now been named…posts with the names of the roads have been erected…She took this opportunity to thank Francis Whitely, Clint & Ginny Rodefer, Jean McDonough, Clyde Miley and Marie Bucheit for their help with materials, routing, painting, digging holes, mixing cement and erecting the signs."

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1972, April 30). *Minutes of the Annual Pot-luck and Meeting.* McKenney Hall, Canebrake Canyon CA.

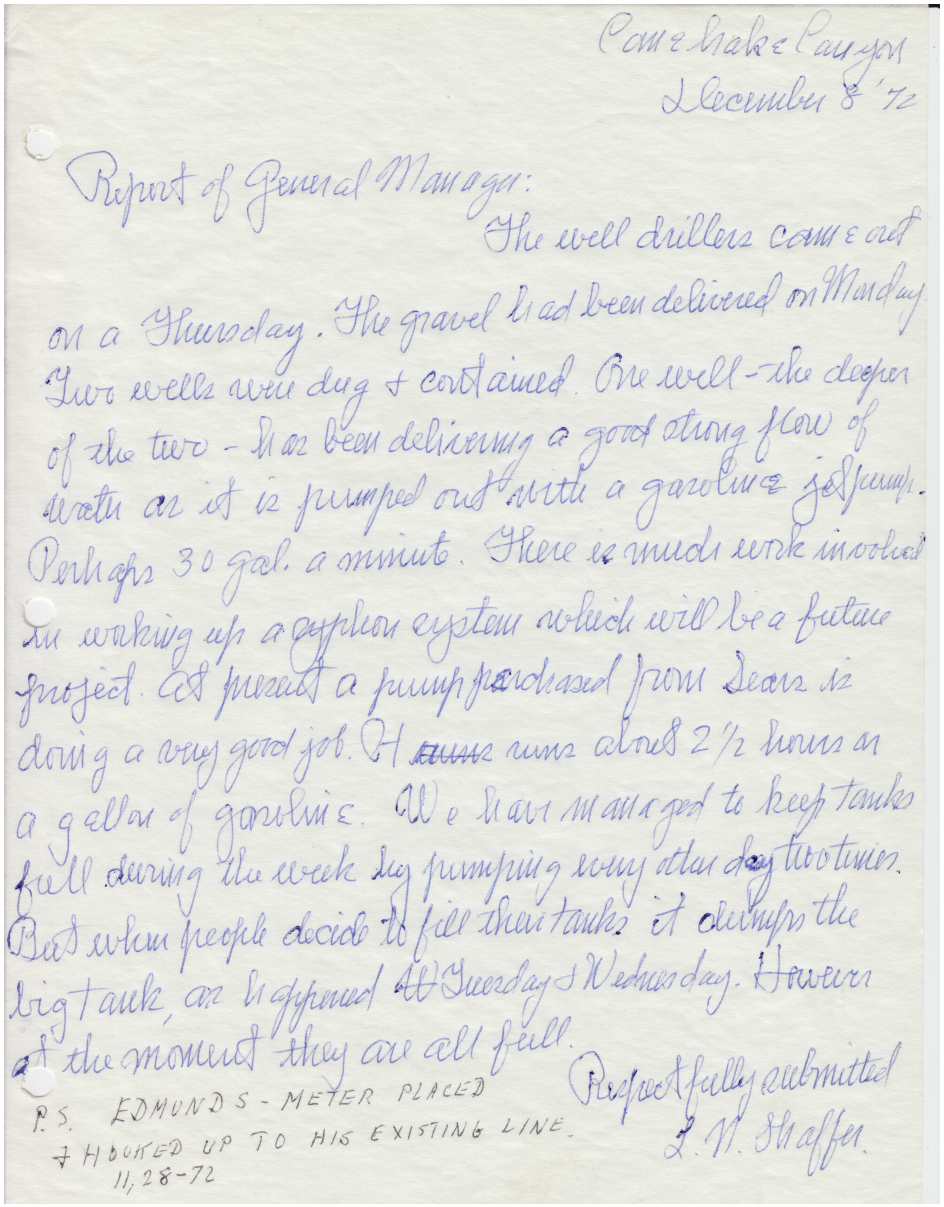


Intersection of Canebrake and Canyon Roads

1972 Well driller Stan Anderson is hired to drill two wells down to bedrock, as Federal Water Reserve 107 begins to dry up. One was drilled 17½ feet deep, the other 16 feet. Water began flowing again at 30 gallons per minute.

"Report of General Manager: [Roy] Shaffer presented the report of the General Manager stating that the pump is very satisfactory, pumping about 30 gallons per minute and running 2½ hours on one filling. He stated he has been running it about 2½ hours every other day, which is maintaining a good supply of water. He noted that two wells were drilled, one 17'6" and the other 16'…"

Canebrake County Water District. (1972, December 8). *Minutes of Meeting, Report of the General Manager.* Canebrake Canyon CA.



Canebrake Canyon
December 8 '72

Report of General Manager:

The well drillers came out on a Thursday. The gravel had been delivered on Monday. Two wells were dug & contained. One well - the deeper of the two - has been delivering a good strong flow of water as it is pumped out with a gasoline jet pump. Perhaps 30 gal. a minute. There is much work involved in working up a pipeline system which will be a future project. Ed Prescott a pump purchased from Sears is doing a very good job. It runs about 2½ hours on a gallon of gasoline. We have managed to keep tanks full during the week by pumping every other day two times. But when people decide to fill their tanks it empties the big tank, as happened on Tuesday & Wednesday. However at the moment they are all full.

Respectfully submitted
L. W. Shaffer.

P.S. EDMONDS - METER PLACED & HOOKED UP TO HIS EXISTING LINE. 11, 28-72

L. W. Shaffer's handwritten general manager report December 8, 1972

1973 Amendment 5 Section 30513 is proposed for the Canebrake County Water District and added to the California State Water Code with the support of Senator Jim Mills.

"Letter to Senator Mills: Mrs. Bucheit reported she had talked with Senator Jim Mills regarding the possibility of a change in the State Water Code which would permit property owners as well as registered voters to serve on the Board…"

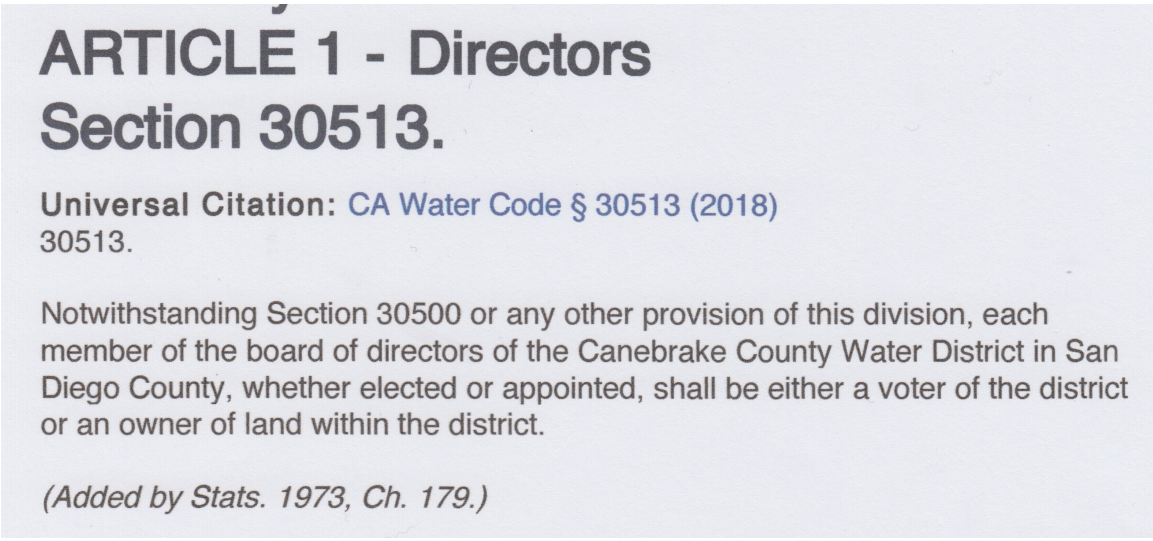
Canebrake County Water District. (1972, December 8). *Minutes of Meeting.* Canebrake Canyon CA.

June 22, 1973 Amendment 5, p. 3696:

Sec. 2 Section 30513 is added to the Water Code to read: Notwithstanding Section 30500 or any other provision of this division, each member of the board of directors of the Canebrake County Water District in San Diego County, whether elected or appointed, shall be either a voter or an owner of land within the district.

Sec. 3 The provisions of Section 2 of this act are necessary because of the very small number of registered voters of the Canebrake County Water District and the unavailability of registered voters of the district to serve on the board of directors. This problem is not common in all districts formed under the County Water District Law…

Senator Mills, J. (1973, June 22). *Journal of the Senate, Legislature of the State of California, Second Reading of Bills – Author's Amendments.* Retrieved from URL.



ARTICLE 1 - Directors

Section 30513.

Universal Citation: CA Water Code § 30513 (2018)

30513.

Notwithstanding Section 30500 or any other provision of this division, each member of the board of directors of the Canebrake County Water District in San Diego County, whether elected or appointed, shall be either a voter of the district or an owner of land within the district.

(Added by Stats. 1973, Ch. 179.)

California Code, Water Code, Division 12 – Internal Organization, Chapter 1 – Officers and Employees, Article 1 – Directors

1973 – 1976 A 42,000-gallon steel water storage tank is purchased, dismantled, and reassembled in Canebrake.

"Water Tank: President Bucheit reported the District was the successful bidder on the storage tank from Valley Center Municipal Water District and a crew spent the day of March 3 dismantling all but the floor and hauled it to Canebrake in four pickups…"

Canebrake County Water District. (1973, March 9). *Minutes of the Meeting.* Canebrake Canyon CA.

"Roper/Potter Grant: The grant signed by the Ropers and Potters on Jan. 9 for 2,500 sq. ft. on the northwest corner of their property for construction of a water storage tank was presented with a map drawn by Mr. Potter of the area."

Canebrake County Water District. (1974, January 11). *Minutes of the Meeting.* Canebrake Canyon CA.

"Work Progress: "…the steel tank is now completed and filled. Some minor leaks on the steel tank have been sealed. The security fence is in place, including two locked gates…"

Canebrake County Water District. (1976, May 14). *Minutes of the Meeting, Report of the General Manager April 10th through May 14th.* Canebrake Canyon CA.





Volunteers dismantling the tank 1973 and Al Tone opening the valve 1976

1976 Tropical Storm Kathleen causes flash flooding and destroys the canyon well.

"A flash flood went through Canebrake the morning of September 10 and all roads into Canebrake were declared closed by the Highway Department and many roads in Canebrake were washed out…The well in the canyon had been completely washed out and a twenty foot wall stood where it had been; some of the casing was found about a mile below but the pump and motor were not found. Several thousand feet of pipe in the canyon were washed out and mutilated and pipes to some residences in the lower north-west corner were broken and washed away. The bull dozer was at the well site as the road to the well was being rebuilt and parts of the dozer were scattered as far as Highway S-2..."

Canebrake County Water District. (1976, September 10). *Minutes of the Meeting.* Canebrake Canyon CA.

…The resulting flood lowered the floor of Canebrake Canyon by as much as twenty feet. The Canebrake Canyon County Water District found its bulldozer, concrete wellhead, pipelines and thirty feet of 24-inch steel casing pipe all washed several hundred feet down the canyon and completely destroyed by boulders in the flood. The engine block from the bulldozer was found 0.3 mile further downstream.

The General Manager of the Water District, Mr. Albert G. Tone, was warning residents of the flood danger when a wall of water washed away his jeep, fortunately after he had parked it. The flood shook the residence so badly that Mr. Tone and the occupants, including children, left the house in the rain and climbed to a large rock above the canyon. About five hours passed before they could reach the outside world.

In addition to the Water District losses, considerable damage was done to private homes and County roads in this area.

County of San Diego, Department of Sanitation and Flood Control. (1976, 9-10 September). *Tropical Storm Kathleen Storm Report.* County of San Diego, California.



Canyon well washed out by 1976 flood – photograph by Joe Potter

1976 Stan Anderson drills a replacement well 24 December 1976 at Federal Water Reserve 107, 13½ feet below the new canyon floor, paid for with grant money from the Office of Emergency Services.

> Water Situation: It is a great deal of pleasure to be able to report about the over-abundance of water we now have captured in the new well which was drilled on December 24, 1976. Due to Mr. Stan Anderson and his employees' conscientious efforts in getting the best source of water for the District, everything in the system is full and still running over back up to the filler end of the main line. The well is only drawing a fraction of the spring which is running several additional streams down the canyon. Hopefully the well will continue to produce an adequate supply through the entire year of 1977. At the present time there is 11½' of water in the casing which is 13½' below the present canyon floor at the drilled site… I am sure the [OES] grant money and the new well were the best Christmas presents the community of Canebrake could have received.
>
> Respectfully,
> Albert G. Tone
> General Manager

Canebrake County Water District. (1977, January 14). *Minutes of the Meeting, Report of the General Manager December 10, 1976 through January 14, 1977.* Canebrake Canyon CA.



Drilling new well after flood December 24, 1976 – photograph by Joe Potter

1978 **"Tele. [telephone] line installation completed 7-17-78.** First tele. [telephone] conversation in Canebrake between Riddle [Morry Riddle] and Tony at 12:50 A.M. on 7-18-78. Save for Liz [Constantz] for history records."

(Anonymous, 1978).

"The northern section of the county, known as Earthquake Valley, should have phone service to the communities of Canebrake, Butterfield Trail Ranch and Agua Caliente Springs by July 18 next year, according to Bob Glaze of the Escondido office of Pacific Telephone…"

Preston, S. (1977, November 10). Phone Service To Be In By July 18, *Mt. Villager.*

"Telephones: Marge Whitely reported that our exchange number will be 765 and telephones will be in operation by July 16th."

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1978, April 23). *Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting.* Canebrake Canyon CA.

"It was reported that telephones were installed in July and were proving to be a great convenience."

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1979, January 28). *Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting*. Canebrake Canyon CA.



Installation of telephone cable in Canebrake May 1978

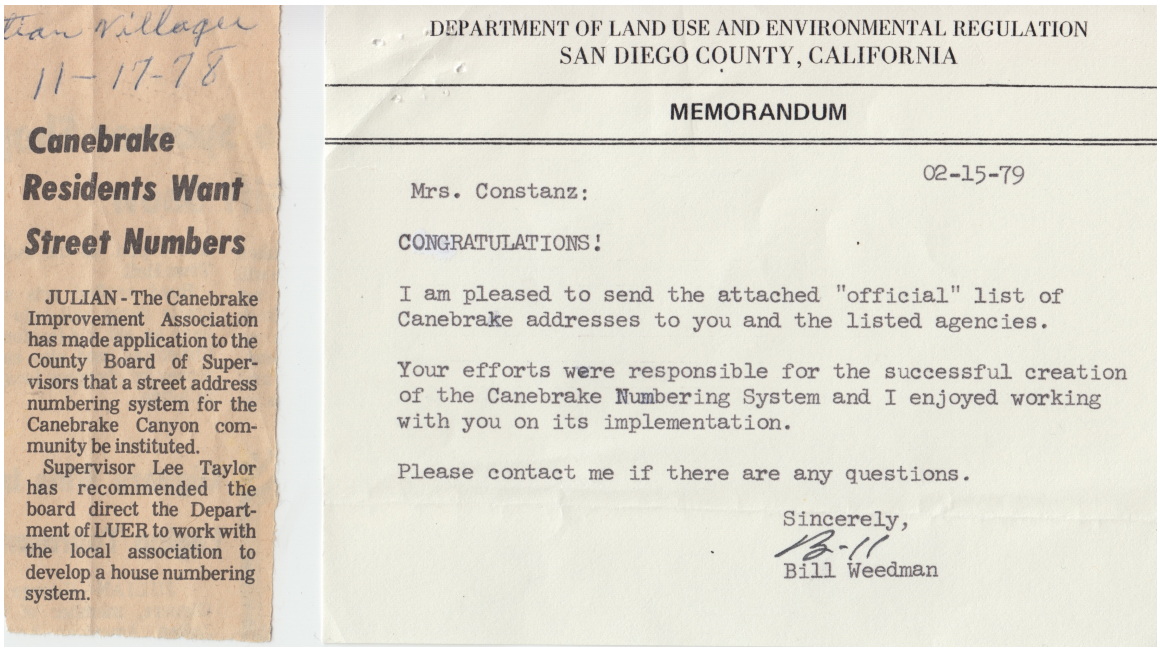
1978 Canebrake Canyon three-digit numbering system for street addresses is approved by the County Board of Supervisors at the November 22, 1978 hearing.

"Street numbering report from President Constantz informed the members that according to the county plan the numbers in Canebrake would have to be five digits rather than the current three. A letter read from the Office of Land Use stated that the Board of Supervisors might approve the present numbering system since the area is surrounded by state park and federal lands and because the three-numbered addresses are in the new telephone directory and in other public agencies."

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1978, September 23). *Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting.* Canebrake Canyon CA.

"Old business report stated that the County Board of Supervisors had approved the current three digit house numbers…"

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1979, April 22). *Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting.* Canebrake Canyon CA.



Kiam Villager
11-17-78

Canebrake Residents Want Street Numbers

JULIAN - The Canebrake Improvement Association has made application to the County Board of Supervisors that a street address numbering system for the Canebrake Canyon community be instituted.

Supervisor Lee Taylor has recommended the board direct the Department of LUER to work with the local association to develop a house numbering system.

DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION
SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

02-15-79

Mrs. Constanz:

CONGRATULATIONS!

I am pleased to send the attached "official" list of Canebrake addresses to you and the listed agencies.

Your efforts were responsible for the successful creation of the Canebrake Numbering System and I enjoyed working with you on its implementation.

Please contact me if there are any questions.

Sincerely,
BW-ll
Bill Weedman

Memorandum from Bill Weedman, Department of Land Use County of San Diego, with a list of new Canebrake 3 digit addresses and a Congratulations to Liz Constantz for her efforts in the creation of the Canebrake Numbering System

1978 The well goes dry and water is hauled in for several months from William Martin's well in Carrizo Wash.

Water Situation: The well is still not coming back after a check was made today. The concrete tank has approximately 21,000 gallons and the steel [tank] is at 8' making an additional 21,000. With all lines full, there is at least 50,000 in storage. We have cut the hauling to one load daily until such time the usage is above 1,000 and the storage level drops.

Canebrake County Water District. (1978, November 10). *Minutes of the Meeting, Report of the General Manager October 14, 1978 through November 10, 1978.* Canebrake Canyon CA.



2-ton flatbed truck which was loaded with a 1000-gallon tank for hauling water from the Martin Well 1978

1979 The Canebrake County Water District holds a public hearing March 9 to approve a special assessment of $100.00 on all properties within the District for the purpose of developing a new and adequate water supply.

(1979, February 22). Public Notice – Notice Of Public Hearing On Levying Special Assessment By Canebrake County Water District, *Mountain Villager.*

"Well: …The County Auditor advised that the District could levy a Special Assessment after the necessary hearing notice was published and the hearing held…"

Canebrake County Water District. (1979, January 12). *Minutes of the Meeting.* Canebrake Canyon CA.

Forty-seven property owners voluntarily paid the proposed assessment of $100 before the announcement of the public hearing was published.

"Public Hearing: At 7:30 p.m. as published in the Ramona Sentinel and posted in Canebrake, the Public Hearing on levying a $100 per parcel Special Assessment for development of a new water source was opened. President Roper reported that to date 47 have paid the proposed $100 assessment…"

Canebrake County Water District. (1979, March 9). *Minutes of the Public Hearing.* Canebrake Canyon CA.



Mountain Village

2-22-78 1979

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON LEVYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BY CANEBRAKE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the Canebrake County Water District will hold a Public Hearing on March 9, 1979, 7:30 p.m. at the community building, Canebrake, San Diego County, pursuant to Chapter 3, Adoption of Improvement Acts, Article 1, Authorization of Improvements, Section 31500 of the California Water Code, to approve the levying of a Special Assessment on all properties in the District for the purpose of developing a new and adequate water supply.

At the February 9, 1979, meeting of the Board of Directors of the Canebrake County Water District, a Resolution was adopted to hold a Public Hearing for levying the Special Assessment of $100.00 on each parcel in the Canebrake County Water District.

Any taxpayer may appear at said time and place and be heard regarding the levying of said special assessment.

By order of the Board of Directors.

Cledyth M. Tone,
Secretary-Auditor

1979 public notice announcing a hearing to approve a special assessment of $100 on all properties within the District for the purpose of developing a new water supply

1979 **The Frank Mooney Well, the first producing deep well in Canebrake, is located 5 February 1979 by resident Frank Mooney and drilled 17 April 1979 on property owned by Al and Clete Tone.** The Tones offered to lease the well site to the Canebrake County Water District for $1.00 a year.



"Monday 2-5-79 started to drill new well at north end area of Canebrake, off Canebrake Road [Tone property]"



"June 11, 1979 Good Water [Al Tone sampling the water]. Well drilled 513'deep. Water level at 440'. Standing 73'. Recovery 30 – 45 gal. per min. Pumping 6 gal. per min. Temp water 103 [degrees Fahrenheit] to top of ground."

1979 **Canebrake mailboxes are installed on Highway S-2** in February, replacing the Post Office services at Agua Caliente Springs.

"Mail had to be picked up at the [Agua] Caliente Springs store for the early residents. Canebrake residents put up a row of mailboxes at the 42-mile marker entrance upon [*sic*] the beginning of delivery. Elisabeth Constantz worked on getting these up."

Whitely Stafford, Pat. *Personal Journal.*

Old Business report, from the minutes of the C.I.A. meeting April 22, 1979, states that "Our new mailboxes are up and the mail carrier said they are the nicest looking boxes on his route. Tom Potts and Marge Whitely took photographs of them and Ray Reed, the Julian Postmaster asked for prints of them to send to Washington D.C."

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1979, April 22). *Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting.* Canebrake Canyon CA.

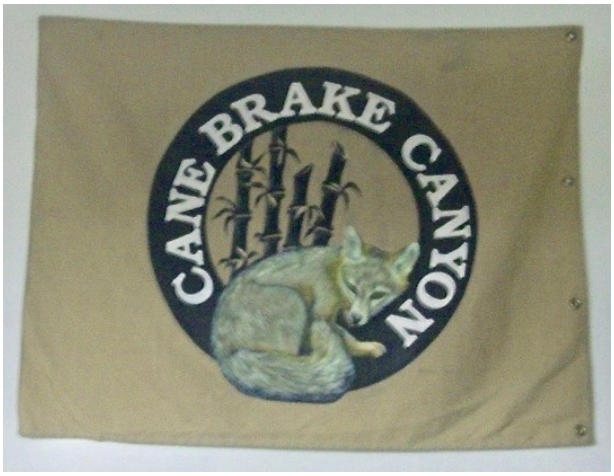


Newly installed community mailboxes on Highway S-2 in 1979

1992 **The original Canebrake flag is redesigned** and presented to the members of the Canebrake Improvement Association at their meeting held January 26. This design is reproduced on shirts, hats and coffee mugs, all for sale to benefit the Canebrake Improvement Association. The Canebrake County Water District also uses the logo as its official emblem to identify water district vehicles.

"OLD BUSINESS: … the new flag has been completed and presented to the members. It is beautiful. Jim Stafford will look into T-shirts, small flags, etc. for the people of Canebrake to purchase…"

Canebrake Improvement Association. (1992, January 26). *Minutes of the Meeting and Installation of Officers.* Canebrake Canyon CA.



Canebrake Canyon flag newly designed in 1992

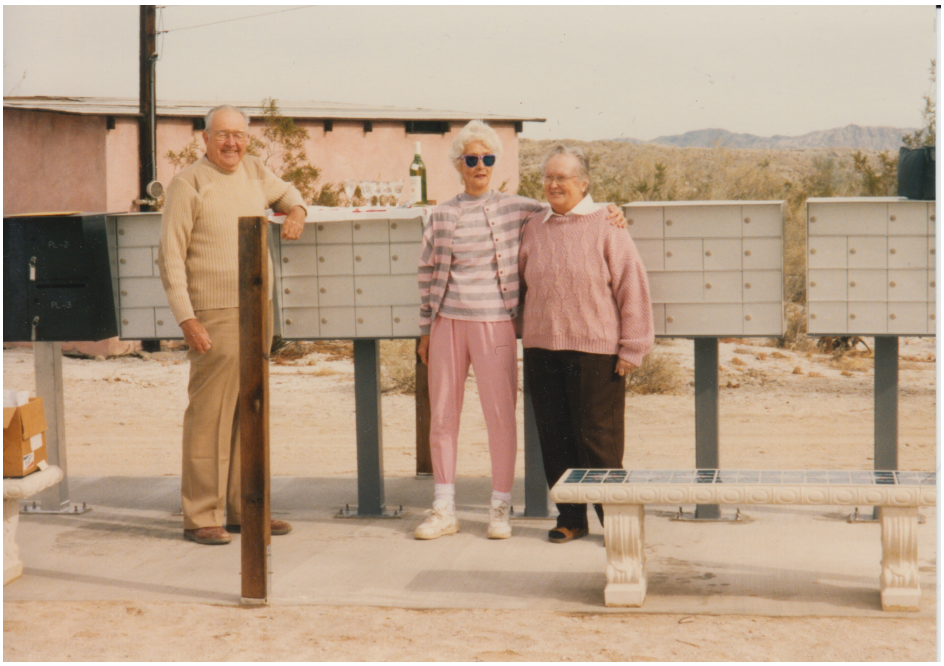


Coffee cup with Canebrake Canyon logo today

1994 **A mailbox pavilion is built on Canebrake Road, off the S-2 Highway, providing greater security** for mail delivered to the Canebrake community.

"New mail site became necessary as vandals stole mail and the need to locate off S2 became important. It took 3 years to accomplish …I served as chairman with able assistance from Jean Leetch and Jim Campbell who did the computer layout. Mr. Gene Montminy gave me permission to have the new location for the boxes to be placed on his property…A nice covered area was built and new locked boxes were purchased…"

Whitely Stafford, Pat. *Personal Journal.*



Jim Campbell, Pat Stafford and Jean Leetch celebrating installation of current Canebrake Canyon mailboxes 1994

2000 **Canebrake County Water District BLM Land Patent 04-2001-001 is replaced with a Grant Deed, 26 October 2000, giving the District unrestricted free title to the property.**

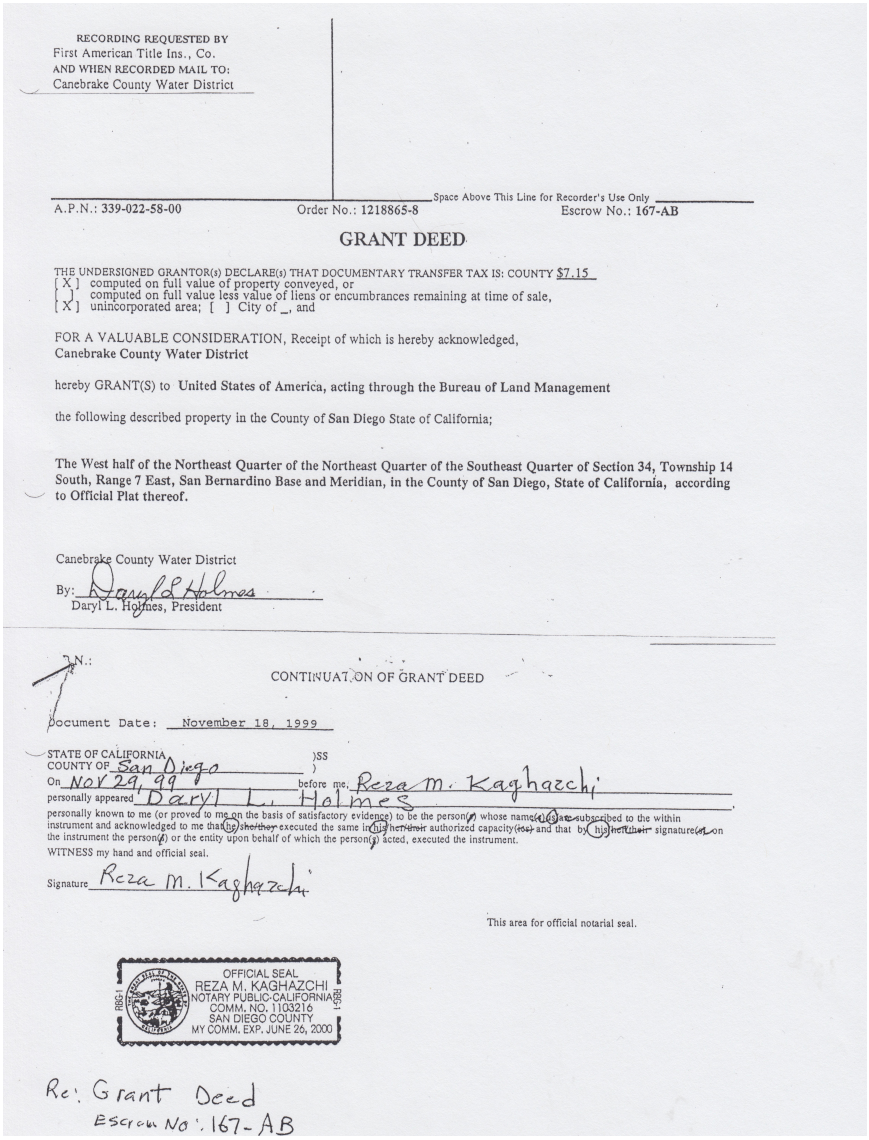
Canebrake County Water [District] BLM patent 04-2001-0001, October 12, 2000; the last patent recipient of a 5-acre small tract parcel in Canebrake Canyon.

U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management. *General Land Office Records, Land Patents.* Retrieved from URL

Former Canebrake County Water District Board President describes receipt of a letter in 1993 "…from the United States Department of Interior notifying us 'the Water Board' we were in default of the terms of the Land Patent…Two additions had been made to the building without submitting plans for approval, and a storage shed was installed without notification. They also found the above

ground diesel storage tank that had spilled hazardous waste. We were [asked] to provide a narrative of the disposition of the tank and contaminated soils. We were informed that any one of these defaults could result in a return of the land to the United States Department of Interior…I notified BLM of the corrections and stated we were interested in acquiring clear and free title to said property. After reviewing the corrections the BLM then approved them. They then notified us that we could possibly purchase the property with some stipulations…[seven years later we] met with American Title Insurance Company in El Centro, California. October 26, 2000 escrow closed, giving the Canebrake County Water District a Grant Deed replacing the Land Patent, giving us unrestricted free title to the property."

(D. Holmes, personal communication, October 12, 2009).



RECORDING REQUESTED BY
First American Title Ins., Co.
AND WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO:
Canebrake County Water District

Space Above This Line for Recorder's Use Only

A.P.N.: 339-022-58-00 Order No.: 1218865-8 Escrow No.: 167-AB

GRANT DEED

THE UNDERSIGNED GRANTOR(s) DECLARE(s) THAT DOCUMENTARY TRANSFER TAX IS: COUNTY $7.15
[X] computed on full value of property conveyed, or
[ ] computed on full value less value of liens or encumbrances remaining at time of sale,
[X] unincorporated area; [ ] City of _, and

FOR A VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, Receipt of which is hereby acknowledged,
Canebrake County Water District

hereby GRANT(S) to United States of America, acting through the Bureau of Land Management

the following described property in the County of San Diego State of California;

The West half of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 34, Township 14 South, Range 7 East, San Bernardino Base and Meridian, in the County of San Diego, State of California, according to Official Plat thereof.

Canebrake County Water District
By: Daryl L Holmes
Daryl L. Holmes, President

A.P.N.:

CONTINUATION OF GRANT DEED

Document Date: November 18, 1999

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)SS
COUNTY OF San Diego)
On Nov 29, 99 before me, Reza M. Kaghazchi
personally appeared Daryl L. Holmes
personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies) and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s) or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.
WITNESS my hand and official seal.
Signature Reza M. Kaghazchi

This area for official notarial seal.

OFFICIAL SEAL
REZA M. KAGHAZCHI
NOTARY PUBLIC-CALIFORNIA
COMM. NO. 1103216
SAN DIEGO COUNTY
MY COMM. EXP. JUNE 26, 2000

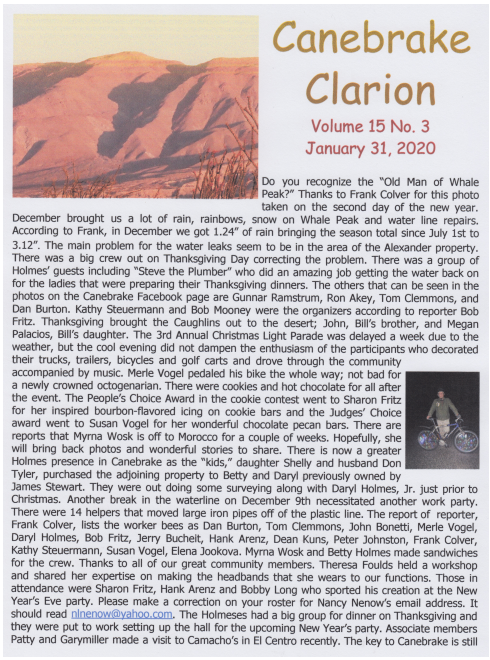
Re: Grant Deed
Escrow No: 167-AB

November 18, 1999 Grant Deed for the Canebrake County Water District property

2020 Today, Canebrake Canyon has a second well, a news publication, a park commemorating its history, and a weather station recognized by the National Weather Service, installed and maintained by a Canebrake resident.







Canebrake Clarion

Volume 15 No. 3
January 31, 2020

Do you recognize the "Old Man of Whale Peak?" Thanks to Frank Colver for this photo taken on the second day of the new year. December brought us a lot of rain, rainbows, snow on Whale Peak and water line repairs. According to Frank, in December we got 1.24" of rain bringing the season total since July 1st to 3.12". The main problem for the water leaks seem to be in the area of the Alexander property. There was a big crew out on Thanksgiving Day correcting the problem. There was a group of Holmes' guests including "Steve the Plumber" who did an amazing job getting the water back on for the ladies that were preparing their Thanksgiving dinners. The others that can be seen in the photos on the Canebrake Facebook page are Gunnar Ramstrum, Ron Akey, Tom Clemmons, and Dan Burton. Kathy Steuermann and Bob Mooney were the organizers according to reporter Bob Fritz. Thanksgiving brought the Caughlins out to the desert; John, Bill's brother, and Megan Palacios, Bill's daughter. The 3rd Annual Christmas Light Parade was delayed a week due to the weather, but the cool evening did not dampen the enthusiasm of the participants who decorated their trucks, trailers, bicycles and golf carts and drove through the community accompanied by music. Merle Vogel pedaled his bike the whole way; not bad for a newly crowned octogenarian. There were cookies and hot chocolate for all after the event. The People's Choice Award in the cookie contest went to Sharon Fritz for her inspired bourbon-flavored icing on cookie bars and the Judges' Choice award went to Susan Vogel for her wonderful chocolate pecan bars. There are reports that Myrna Wosk is off to Morocco for a couple of weeks. Hopefully, she will bring back photos and wonderful stories to share. There is now a greater Holmes presence in Canebrake as the "kids," daughter Shelly and husband Don Tyler, purchased the adjoining property to Betty and Daryl previously owned by James Stewart. They were out doing some surveying along with Daryl Holmes, Jr. just prior to Christmas. Another break in the waterline on December 9th necessitated another work party. There were 14 helpers that moved large iron pipes off of the plastic line. The report of reporter, Frank Colver, lists the worker bees as Dan Burton, Tom Clemmons, John Bonetti, Merle Vogel, Daryl Holmes, Bob Fritz, Jerry Bucheit, Hank Arenz, Dean Kuns, Peter Johnston, Frank Colver, Kathy Steuermann, Susan Vogel, Elena Jookova. Myrna Wosk and Betty Holmes made sandwiches for the crew. Thanks to all of our great community members. Theresa Foulds held a workshop and shared her expertise on making the headbands that she wears to our functions. Those in attendance were Sharon Fritz, Hank Arenz and Bobby Long who sported his creation at the New Year's Eve party. Please make a correction on your roster for Nancy Nenow's email address. It should read nlnenow@yahoo.com. The Holmeses had a big group for dinner on Thanksgiving and they were put to work setting up the hall for the upcoming New Year's party. Associate members Patty and Garymiller made a visit to Camacho's in El Centro recently. The key to Canebrake is still

MONTHLY CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY for JAN. 2020

NAME: CANEBRAKE CITY: Canebrake (Anza-Borrego Desert area) STATE: CA
ELEV: 1000 ft LAT: 32 54 28 LONG: 116 14 28

TEMPERATURE (∞F), RAIN (in), WIND SPEED (mph)

DOM DAY	MEAN TEMP	HIGH	TIME	LOW	TIME	HEAT DEG DAYS	COOL DEG DAYS	RAIN	AVG WIND SPEED	HIGH TIME	DIR
1	54.3	63.9	2:00p	44.1	7:00a	10.7	0.0	0.00	3.6	16.0	5:00a N
2	57.0	68.0	3:00p	45.9	5:30a	8.3	0.3	0.00	3.9	18.0	7:00p NNW
3	58.0	69.3	3:30p	47.8	5:00a	7.9	0.8	0.00	2.6	14.0	4:30a N
4	57.3	68.4	2:30p	47.9	6:30a	8.2	0.5	0.00	2.2	14.0	7:00p WNW
5	57.6	69.6	2:30p	48.4	4:30a	8.1	0.6	0.00	2.1	14.0	5:33a WNW
6	57.7	69.9	3:30p	47.1	4:00a	8.0	0.7	0.00	3.6	21.0	5:00a N
7	57.4	69.9	3:30p	47.7	5:30a	8.6	1.0	0.00	2.8	17.0	12:00m N
8	59.1	70.5	3:30p	50.5	2:00a	6.7	0.8	0.00	4.4	20.0	4:30p W
9	55.0	63.0	12:00p	48.3	7:00a	10.0	0.0	0.00	5.7	28.0	12:30p N
10	54.3	64.8	3:00p	44.6	7:30a	10.7	0.0	0.00	2.8	18.0	4:30a N
11	54.3	68.5	3:00p	42.3	4:00a	10.8	0.2	0.00	3.8	19.0	3:00p SSW
12	53.2	63.8	2:00p	43.9	7:30a	11.8	0.0	0.00	2.7	16.0	11:00p W
13	53.3	62.6	3:30p	46.0	4:30a	11.7	0.0	0.00	3.9	15.0	2:00a W
14	53.8	65.3	2:00p	43.4	7:00a	11.2	0.0	0.00	2.7	13.0	1:30a N
15	53.8	66.9	2:30p	40.0	6:30a	11.2	0.1	0.00	2.6	16.0	12:30a WNW
16	54.5	65.5	2:30p	42.9	6:30a	10.5	0.0	0.00	2.7	13.0	1:30a NW
17	54.0	62.7	2:00p	47.5	2:00a	11.0	0.0	0.00	3.8	13.0	7:30p ESE
18	54.7	65.4	2:30p	45.6	6:30a	10.3	0.0	0.00	3.4	13.0	