



The Morey report

EAST FORK CLEAN-UP

Thanks to Dave Walker, Kermit Eller, Jim Mayfield, Ked McCracken and Dick Wag-
oner for coming out and participating in the
clean-up. Dick and Ked made the newspa-
per. Pam especially wants to thank Ked for
making sure she did not get as wet as him
when crossing the river. All in all it was a
fun day, we did good work, met a lot of nice
people and had a good lunch.

READ ALL ABOUT IT. The L A Times has
lookout articles planned for Mon, June 24th and
Thurs, June 27th. The 2nd article should focus
on So. Hawkins and Vetter with a mention of
Slide.

GLUG GLUG Please bring your own
drinking water to the lookouts. The bottled
water up there is for visitors. Also, please
remember to keep the guzzlers & the Vetter
bird bath filled. The critters enjoy the water
& the reward of watching them will be yours.

KA-CHING

Our first silent auction on
June 20 netted \$363.00
for ANFFLA and a good
time was had by every-
one.



Fiel Foundation logo

KA-CHING

Special thanks to the
Fiel Foundation
for a major financial
contribution.

KA-CHING and deepest gratitude to an
anonymous donor for a gift of \$100.00!

IMPORTANT DATE
Thursday, July 18. 6:30pm.
Next Supersession. Watch for details.

CRUISING

with Bob Gregg



As one begins to climb
the North Fork of the San
Gabriel River on the way

to Crystal Lake and South Mt. Hawkins lookout,
the road is a good mountain highway until you
reach the 3,300 foot level or the trailhead to Smith
Mtn. Here the nice highway turns abruptly to a
narrow and winding road with one section that is



almost a one
lane road.
This is the
original 1931
road to
Crystal Lake.
By the time

you have zigzagged up to the 4,600 foot level you
are back on the nice highway again, passing the
turnoff to Crystal Lake. At the 5,600 foot level
one comes to a halt as the nice highway is barri-
caded.

**The 6.2 mile
section** from
here to 6,660
foot Islip
Saddle on the



Angeles Crest Highway was built beginning in
November, 1952, with 100 prison inmates from
Chino, along the steep slopes of Bear Canyon. By
November, 1956 the Angeles Crest was opened to
Big Pines and all the work forces were directed to
finish this stretch. A road was pioneered all the
way (4 wheel drive only) by 1958. The granite was
so hard, one ton of explosives was used per day.
The ribbon cutting took place on November 6,
1961. Maintenance became a huge problem with
rockslides and settling frequently closing the road.
A huge landslide closed it for good in 1978. A
July, 2001 newspaper article says that work is to
begin to clean up the road in 2003 and reopen it by
2007.

This would be a great second access for South
Hawkins people particularly if Highway 39 was
ever closed. George and Pam Morey were able to
use this route when the Bridge Fire closed down
Highway 39 to Azusa in August, 1999.

JULY FIRES (a partial chronology)

July 16-21, 1960 a fire very similar in area to the August, 1999 Bridge Fire burned from the San Gabriel Dam up the North Fork to near the Coldbrook Campground and consumed more than 7,000 acres.

July 20-26, 1986 the **Tecolote Fire** burned southwest of Crystal Lake in the Bear Canyon area, consuming 3,900 acres.

July 4 and 5th, 1996 the **Bichota Fire**, in the Bichota Canyon area several miles south of South Hawkins, burned 1,115 acres.

June 25-28, 1977 (close enough to July) the **Vetter Fire** burned 1,700 acres just southwest of the lookout.

NAT'L FIRE WATCH

National InterAgency Fire Commission

Nationally, as of June 21, 157 new fires have been reported. Eighteen large fires are burning in 8 states. Acreage burned for this time of year is more than double the 10-year average at 1,992,759 acres. Several western states are facing critical situations with large fires needing more personnel. Weather forecasts show little chance of relief in the short-term. Fuel conditions in many areas of the nation are drier than historic records. Five major uncontained fires burning in California have consumed 9,591 acres.

A WORD FROM THE GATEKEEPERS

Due to increased demand, it will no longer be possible to schedule single shifts on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. If you want to work those days you must commit to both morning and afternoon shifts. Also, please remember, you haven't been cleared to work at Vetter until Chuck McFate tells you so or at S. Mt. Hawkins without approval from Bob Gregg. The calendars in the lookouts are only intended as guides and putting your name in them does not secure you that shift. You must email (direct or via our website) or phone your request to Bob or Chuck and receive confirmation from them. Their contact information is on page 3.

Stay current: www.anffla.org



VETTER and SOUTH Mt. HAWKINS

information provided by Bob Gregg

Vetter, like South Mt Hawkins, now has a wind gage and a high/low thermometer. Thru June 14th, the lookout had been manned 31 days and had welcomed 348 visitors.

LATE-BREAKING NEWS. *On Sunday, June 16, Bob and Maria Moore and Deb Kure were the FIRST to report the start of a fire near Coldbrook Campground below Crystal Lake. It was given an incident number and was said to be in the "Valley of the Moon" and was therefore dubbed "The Moon Fire." It took the fire department awhile to get there due to '39' being closed by a bad accident near Morris Dam. The fire, which started with an unattended campfire, burned about 1/4 acre. Later feedback said that the fire crews were impressed at how quickly Bob, Maria and Deb responded to the smoke & that a good job had been done by the South Hawkins crew.*

Earlier the Intrepid Trio radioed in the Cajon Pass fire but were told it had already been called in. Maria reports that Deb was downstairs in the library when this smoke was first spotted, but sprinted up the 3 flights of stairs in record-setting time.

Thru June 14th, South Hawkins had been occupied 20 days. Last year to this date it was occupied 7 days. Total visitors so far stands at 65. Last year to this date the total was 39. There have been a total of 10 people doing in-towers so far but only 1 has signed up to return.

Excerpts from the South Mt Hawkins

Supplementary Operations Manual *(which can only be read after you have driven to the lookout).*

"Continue on, making sure to watch for objects in the road that could damage the underside of your vehicle. This stretch of road is very narrow, windy, bumpy and may have some wet and soft spots. --- Be sure to use low gear and keep your vehicle moving. There are few turnouts for passing. --- If you are still with us-----Congratulations, you made it."

SLIDE.

excerpts from a letter received by Pam Morey dated 5/23/2002.

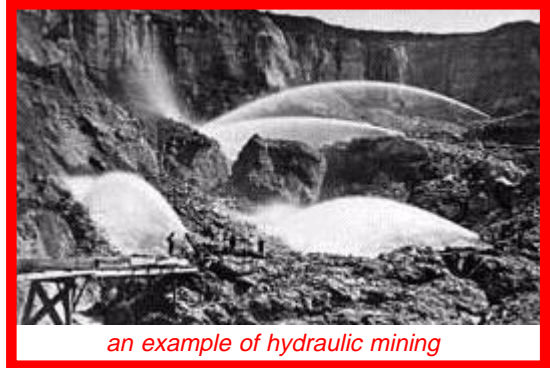
Dear Ms. Morey:

I am in receipt of your proposal to restore the Slide Mountain Lookout. -- We are all in agreement that we will be glad to participate with you in the restoration of the lookout. -- Thank you for your interest and I look forward to working with you in the future.

(signed) CID H. MORGAN,
District Ranger, USDA Forest Service,
Santa Clara / Mojave River Ranger District

!!GOLD FEVER!! by Bob Gregg - part 2 of 3. Part 1, in June's newsletter, covered mining activity along the East Fork.

Mining activity moved to the Mt. Baldy area but an injunction by the State to halt hydraulic mining brought that venture to an end. There was a brief flurry of excitement with the discovery of silver in the early 1860s and again in 1881 at the Kelsey Mine which is located today under the water of Morris Reservoir. The silver petered out by 1894. Some miners were not into hydraulic or placer mining and climbed the steep slopes of the East Fork in search of gold. One, the Stanley-Miller, is at about a 102 degree heading or southeast of South Mt. Hawkins lookout nearly 4,000 feet below Iron Mtn. but just 1,000 feet above the East Fork. One can just make out the tailings with powerful binoculars or, better yet, a spotting scope. Gold was discovered here by Gordon Stanley and Ben Miller in 1915. They worked it until selling it in 1928 without making much profit. From 1933 to 1938 a total of \$8,000 in gold was taken out. It has been idle since 1939. Heavy cast-iron parts for a ball mill, jaw crusher, etc. were dragged up the steep canyon walls by hand or by mules along a 'airy' trail built by Miller. The mine had a 350 foot long tunnel. A forest fire in 1953 burned the mill supports and everything crashed to the canyon floor.



an example of hydraulic mining



Allison Mine shacks

Just beyond the Stanley-Miller at a 120 degree heading from South Hawkins but hidden by a southwest trending ridge of Iron Mtn, is the Allison Mine. It is 3,900 feet higher. In 1913 John Allison, a desert prospector, who mined mainly in Mexico, discovered it. He, along with his three sons developed the claim using a systems of cables and pulleys to hoist heavy cast-iron parts for a ball mill, rails and ore cars for the mine. It had several tunnels, the longest 250 feet. They worked until 1930 and then others occasionally until 1942 and took out \$50,000 in gold.

Just over the ridge to the east was the Widco or Baldora Mine located 3,300 feet below Iron Mtn. Gold was discovered here in 1910 by a Charlie Smith, who worked it with moderate success. From 1935 to 1940 it was worked by Ed Guyer who took out \$5,000 in gold from several 100 foot tunnels. At 900 feet below the crest of the ridge between Iron and Baldy on the south slope at the 6,900 foot level was the Gold Dollar Mine. Discovered by Charlie Smith who also developed Camp Rincon and later met his demise in January, 1933. While sleeping in his cabin during a blizzard at the nearby Eagle Mine, Charlie, his cabin and his bed were swept away by an avalanche down into Coldwater Canyon, 1,000 vertical feet below. The Gold Dollar is obscured from South Hawkins on a 103 degree heading by Iron Mtn. It was the highest of the mines in this area and was worked from 1921 to 1938. Ore was transported to a mill via a 350 yard aerial tram. Total take was only \$5,000. The machinery is still there today.

Coming in August - Part 3: The Big Horn Mine.



Allison Mine shaft

Learn more about it: www.anffla.org

CONTACT SHEET

Coordinators: George and Pam Morey.
(909) 338-3923 or 1-800-222-1900 x 236 or
pgmorey@aol.com.

So. Mt. Hawkins: Leader: Pam Morey

Scheduler: Bob Gregg. boblg1@earthlink.net
or www.anffla.org or 818-249-5052.

Vetter Mtn: Leader: George Morey

Scheduler: Chuck McFate. www.anffla.org or
angelesfirelookout@juno.com or 818-951-0230.

Webmaster: Don Kyle. www.anffla.org or
angeleslookout@earthlink.net or 818-951-7071.

Newsletter: Ric Opalka. opalka@earthlink.net
or 909-629-5111.

A Message to Our Friends



Don't have time to volunteer but still want to help? The ANFFLA needs your assistance.

We work diligently to preserve and protect historical jewels atop the forest crown. Many items are needed to maintain our 2 operating lookouts atop Vetter Mountain and South Mt. Hawkins. Even more will be needed if we are to be successful in our quest to restore and reopen the Slide Mountain lookout. These items include money, building materials, money and supplies. Did we mention money?

We have great goals: restoring and preserving the few remaining lookout in the San Gabriel Mountains, hosting visitors and assisting in the effort to protect our forest; but we must achieve these goals in the real world. We need your help!

Don't know how much to give? Consider these options.

For \$10, you will get this newsletter for one full season.

For \$50, the newsletter and an invitation to our supersessions and field trips for one full season.

For \$100, all of the above plus guided tours of the lookouts at Vetter and South Mt. Hawkins.

For \$200 all of the above plus the end-of-season t-shirt that is given to our most active volunteers.

The most important thing of course is that you make the donation with which you are most comfortable. Any assistance will be deeply appreciated.

Please include the lower portion of this sheet with your contribution.

Enclosed please find my check for \$_____ made payable to the **ANFFLA**.

I understand my contribution will only be used to assist in achieving the objectives of the Angeles National Forest Fire Lookout Association (ANFFLA).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____ email: _____

The Angeles National Forest Fire Lookout Association (ANFFLA) is a 501c(3) corporation and your contribution is tax-deductible. Your employer may match your donation. Please check with your personnel office.

Please mail contribution with this sheet to:

**ANFFLA
POB 1409
Arcadia, CA 91077**