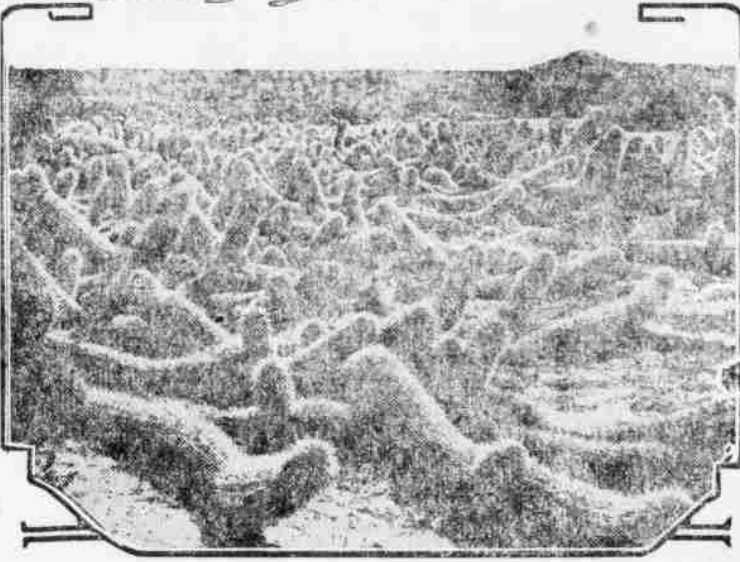


BAJA CALIFORNIA



Creeping Devil Cactus of Lower California.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

Lower California, across a part of which the path of the recent total eclipse of the sun passed, and to which parties of scientists journeyed to make observations, seldom comes in for a share of the world's interest. While its neighbor above the United States border—of which it was once indeed a part—is famed throughout the world and visited by scores of thousands of tourists, the Mexican land of the same name with a recorded history which goes back almost four centuries and is crammed with varied events, still remains one of the least-known parts of North America.

Lower California—or Baja California, to give it its Mexican name—is the long, narrow peninsula that projects about 800 miles southeasterly from the southern border of California. Its width varies from about 30 to over 100 miles, and its regular coastline, over 2,000 miles long, is bordered by numerous islands. Being mainly a mountainous, desert region, it is thinly peopled and presents many sharply contrasting conditions. Here low, sun-scorched plains, where death by thirst awaits the unwary traveler, lie close to the bases of towering granite peaks, belted with waving pine forests and capped in winter by gleaming snow.

Vast desolate plateaus of rugged black lava embosom gem-like valleys, where verdure-bordered streams and the spreading fronds of date palms recall the mysterious hidden vales of the "Arabian Nights." Its western coast is bathed by cool waters and abundant fogs, while the eastern shore is laved by the waves of a warm inland sea, sparkling under almost continuous sunshine.

The early chronicles tell of its discovery in 1533, by an expedition sent out by Cortes in search of a fabulously rich island said to have been inhabited by Amazons.

It has been estimated that at the time of its discovery the peninsula, including many of the bordering islands, was peopled by about 25,000 Indians. The inhabitants vigorously resisted the intrusion of newcomers, and for more than a century efforts to establish military colonies in the new land resulted in disastrous failures.

Jesuits Opened It Up.

Then the occupation of Lower California was put in the hands of the Jesuits, and their missionaries were wonderfully successful. They explored all parts of the peninsula and established missions throughout most of its extent, at the same time introducing many of the crops and fruits of the Old world.

In addition they established the three main trails, which extend practically the entire length of the peninsula, and to this day serve as the regular routes of travel. One leads along each coast and the third down the mountainous interior. The coast trails are easier to travel, because less broken; but the middle one is most used, owing to its better grazing and more numerous water holes.

The records of the dangers and obstacles met and overcome by such men as Padres Salvatierra, Kino, and Ugarte in their peacable conquest of the peninsula excite one's deepest admiration. The work they accomplished and their resourcefulness and steadfast courage entitle them to a place in the front ranks of those stout-hearted pioneer explorers who first made known the wildest parts of America.

Resorted To by Freebooters.

During one period in its history the southern shores of the peninsula served as the lurking place of Sir Francis Drake and other freebooters lying in wait for the treasure-laden Spanish galleons on their annual voyages from Manila to Mexico.

Afterwards, during the first two-thirds of the last century, those shores were visited by numerous half-pirate smugglers and by fleets of whalers and sealers, drawn there by the swarming abundance of whales, for seal, sea elephants, and sea otter. So ruthless was the pursuit of these animals that in a few decades they were on the verge of extermination, and the business ended, apparently forever.

The pearl fisheries of the Gulf coast were extremely productive at first and furnished the Spanish court with some of its richest jewels. Pearl fishing

still survives as a profitable industry, and is in the hands of two or three concessionaires with headquarters at La Paz.

A few silver mines, notably at Triunfo, in the south, and Las Flores, on the Gulf coast, have been worked profitably. Onyx is mined and shipped to California, and enormous salt deposits exist on the shores of the Santa Clara desert and on Carmen island.

Most of It Mountainous.

Lower California is for the most part mountainous, with irregular plains, mainly along the Pacific coast, and smaller plains and valleys here and there along the Gulf coast and in the more elevated interior. In climatic and other physical features the northern third of the peninsula is a continuation of extreme southern California, with local modifications. In the east the southern end of the Colorado desert crosses the border and continues down the Gulf coast to San Felipe bay, but is more broken by desert mountains than on the Californian side of the line. The part of the desert lying immediately south of the Californian border, with Mexicali as its chief town, is improved by irrigation from the Colorado, and shares with the adjacent Imperial valley of California in extensive agricultural development from this source.

Along the Pacific side a low range of coast mountains rises from 1,000 to 4,000 feet a short distance inland and extends over 100 miles southerly from the border. Back of this range lies a series of narrow valleys, beyond which rises the main interior mountain range, forming the backbone of the peninsula. These mountains constitute a high, narrow range over 150 miles long extending southeasterly from the California border. The southern section of this range, forming the San Pedro Martir mountains, rises from 6,000 to over 10,000 feet above the sea and has a rugged and broken crest with bench-like valleys. These are the highest and most picturesque mountains in the peninsula.

Magdalena bay farther south is a beautiful land-locked harbor, with the narrow entrance guarded by the headlands of high, mountainous ridges extending back some distance on Magdalena and Margarita islands. The bay is about fifty miles across, with low, sandy shores on the eastern or mainland side and to the north and northwest.

The absolute shelter within this bay and its delightful, sunny winter climate has for years made it a favorite winter practice ground for our Pacific fleet. The bay is about 1,100 miles from San Francisco, directly on the route to Panama.

La Paz a Pleasant City.

La Paz, the oldest and most attractive town in Lower California, is at the head of La Paz bay, in the Gulf. It is the capital of the southern district and the chief commercial port of the peninsula, containing nearly 6,000 people. The streets are well laid out and there are some excellent stores and many comfortable houses. The gardens are filled with palms and various tropical fruit trees, which give the place a strongly tropical appearance though set in the midst of an excessively arid desert plain. Water is abundant near the surface and is pumped for irrigation purposes. La Paz has always been the base of the pearl fisheries, which extend along the east coast of the peninsula and far down the west coast of the Mexican mainland. North of La Paz the only towns on the Gulf coast are the small agricultural settlements at Loreto and Mulege and the busy mining camp of Santa Rosalia, the largest town in Lower California.

The climate of Lower California in general is hot and arid, as shown by the existing desert conditions. In the northern part conditions are closely like those in the adjoining parts of southern California; in the middle they are more arid, but the extreme southern end, though arid tropical, has more regular summer rains. The rainfall on the peninsula comes from two sources. The winter rainy season along the north Pacific coast extends commonly over the northern parts of Lower California, and sometimes winter storms reach its extreme southern end. In summer the tropical rainy season extends across from the Mexican mainland to the southern end.

CECIL

Leon Logan of Fourmile was in Arlington on Thursday to meet his sister, Olive of Portland, who will visit friends in Morrow county for a few weeks.

E. W. Erickson and J. C. Kelsay of Grass Valley were visiting friends on Willow creek during the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Funk and daughter, Miss Geraldine, returned to Cecil on Tuesday after spending several days in Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Lundell and Mr. and Mrs. Grover Curtiss of Iba siding were in Iona Tuesday night, attending the masquerade ball.

Mrs. R. E. Duncan of Busy Bee ranch visited with Mrs. J. J. McEntire of "Killarney" on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Barnett, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Hazel Dean and daughter of Fourmile, were callers in the Cecil vicinity Sunday.

Mrs. M. V. Logan of The Willows left on Saturday for Portland where she will visit with her daughters for a few weeks.

Martin Bauernfend, obliging storekeeper, etc., of Morgan, was called to Cecil several times during the week-end to see to the wheat in the Cecil warehouse.

Mr. and Mrs. George Henriksen of Strawberry ranch entertained a large party of young people to dinner on Sunday, J. E. Kelsay being the guest of honor.

Archdeacon Goldie of Cove held a service in Cecil Hall on Wednesday evening. Between 20 and 30 people turned out to hear the very impressive address given by the archdeacon. Archdeacon Goldie was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Lowe during his stay in Cecil.

Miss Ester Logan, student of Iona high school, spent the week-end with friends in Fourmile.

Miss Annie C. Hynd was a caller with Mrs. George Krebs at The Last Camp on Thursday.

Mrs. Alf Shaw was a week-end visitor at Butterby Flats.

Miss Clea Palmateer of "Windy-nook" was busy on Saturday helping her father haul wheat to Cecil warehouse. Miss Clea was driving eight horses and two wagons laden with wheat.

Walter Pope and party of gentlemen from Cecil visited the pie social at Morgan on Saturday and helped swell the Sunday school funds by buying several pies during the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Troedson, ranchers near Iona, were callers at Busy Bee ranch on Wednesday for some of R. E. Duncan's famous Cecil honey. Al also was heard ordering dinner for himself on election day at Cecil. Asked what the hurry was answered: "Want to be ahead of 'Wid.' the famed 'eat-and-get-fat' champion of

Morrow county. S. Boardman, equipment inspector for the state highway department, made a short stay in Cecil on Wednesday.

S. Edwards, prominent citizen of Morgan, was calling on his Cecil friends on Wednesday.

J. E. Crabtree and family of Dotheboys Hill have retired from wheat farming and have moved to the Falkner place, where they intend to run a poultry ranch.

Several trucks, graders, etc., arrived in Cecil on Saturday and have started work on the highway, repairing the state road between the county line and Heppner.

HARDMAN HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Saturday, November 3, the Boardman football team played Hardman on the Hardman field. Hardman lost, the score being 41 to 7 in Boardman's favor.

A carnival was given Saturday evening by the Union high school of Hardman for the purpose of raising money for the football team. The first feature of the carnival was a 6 o'clock cafeteria dinner. A free program was given in the High School auditorium. Novelties, fish pond, candy, cider and punch were for sale in booths. The auditorium was used for dancing after the program. The carnival was well attended. People came from Heppner, Lexington, Eightmile and other parts of the surrounding country.

FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT ON CONDITIONS

Washington, Nov. 3.—Returning here after a trip of several weeks

through the northwest, Eugene Meyer, Jr. and Frank W. Mondell, directors of the war finance corporation, reported to President Coolidge today the results of their tour, made in direction of the chief executive to encourage formation of co-operative marketing associations.

The two finance corporation officials who were accompanied by a representative of the department of agriculture presented their report and recommendations for relief in written form and later called at the White House to talk over the matter with the president. The report is expected to be made public shortly, but prior to the conference with the president, officials declined to discuss it.

—By Hazel Hays.

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