

Big Bend Country Along Rio Grande Scenic Wonder

Washington—Along the lower Rio Grande, where the wandering stream cuts a giant loop between west Texas and Mexico, lies a wild frontier that has few scenic equals around the world.

On the United States side the area is enclosed by the Big Bend National Park, dedicated formally at recent ceremonies held there.

A gift Taxes presented to the nation in 1944, the Big Bend preserve now covers more than 1,000 square miles. It is a stark but strangely beautiful region of painted deserts, castellated mountain ranges, weirdly carved boulders and 1600-foot canyons that drop darkly to the river's edge. Occasionally flash floods roar down steep arroyos to overflow usually dry water-courses.

Out of Fire and Water
In the harsh and armored

country of Big Bend the very plants bristle with spikes and thorns, and horns and stings protect many of its animals and insects.

Fossilized remains of sea life, dinosaur bones, petrified wood, cracked plains and tilted peaks tell of ancient eras when oceans drowned this land, earthquakes rocked it, volcanoes erupted and erosion began the slow process of sculpturing bizarre features that delight and amaze today's visitors.

The Big Bend is next to the youngest of the national parks and still partly unexplored. Yet in 1535, nearly a century before the Plymouth landing, a Spanish adventurer, Cabeza de Vaca, crossed it.

Later, Spaniards and Mexicans fought the Indians of the Rio Grande loop, and when the American West was young, its lonely valleys and remote moun-

tain fastnesses made ideal hide-outs for hostile tribesmen, bandits and cattle rustlers on both sides of the border.

Out of a turbulent past have come tall tales of pioneer heroes, legends of lost treasure and hidden mines that may some day come to light.

Now long before the Civil War, the United States Cavalry tried a novel experiment, the introduction of camels to transport supplies through the arid Big Bend country. The idea seemed promising until the trails' sharp stones cut into the beasts' footpads and incapacitated them.

Something for All
As a public park, Big Bend has something for everyone, vacationist to scientist. Open all year around, it spreads rock panoramas that can be read like an open book by trained geologists. Wall paintings and drawings preserved in dry caves tell archeologists of prehistoric Indian life.

For bird lovers the park holds

rare specimens, such as the colima warbler, aplomado falcon, and hooded oriole. White-tail deer, fox, lizards, mountain lions, black bears, and the javelina, or wild hog, barely hint at the teeming wild life. Botanists delight in the desert's prickly pear with its yellow blossoms, the creamy Spanish dagger, the thorny, scarlet-flowered ocotillo. The weeping juniper of the Big Bend mountain slopes is found nowhere else in the United States.

Development of the park, long delayed because of war and post-war problems, is now getting well under way. While cabin accommodations are still scanty, new trails have been opened, roads paved, and more camping and water facilities made available.

To the heart of the primeval Big Bend land there has even come lately one of civilization's greatest conveniences—telephone service that links the outside world to The Basin, in the Chisos (Phantom) Mountains.

GOLD HILL Marine Finishes Maneuvers

By MRS. SAM ELLIOTT
Gold Hill—Marine Cpl. Robert Quakenbush, who has been on maneuvers on Iwo Jima with the 3rd division, has returned to his base at McGill Field, Japan. He is employed at the headquarters and supply company. Corporal Quakenbush, who graduated from Crater High school before enlisting, says that he will be returning to the states this summer and will be discharged.

Steve Purinski and Maurice Short left Feb. 28 for a few days business trip to San Francisco.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Van Horn went to Reedsport on a business trip last week and while gone stopped in Langlois, Ore., for a short visit with friends.

Mrs. Edward V. Tulare has returned home with her baby daughter, whom they have named Martha Ann. She was born Feb. 23 and weighed 6½ pounds.

The Gold Hill Grange ladies of the HEC met last Thursday at the Grange hall. While attendance was small they finished a quilt and made a fair start on another one.

Mrs. Edgington presided at the business meeting and reported a satisfactory return from the Land Bank dinner. Grace Bruce won the attendance prize.

The Juvenile Grange met Feb. 23 and spent a profitable and interesting time practicing ritualistic work. The office of "Flora" was declared vacant, since Dianne Smith has moved away. An election named Linda Walker who was sworn in.

Last week Mrs. Gerald Reeves of the Blackwell highway received news of the death of her 14-year-old brother, Davis, of Texas who was killed in a car accident. No particulars known. Opal Davis, a sister of Mrs. Reeves who lived with her sister here, is also in Texas.

Mrs. Grace Bruce is recuperating from surgery at the home of her son in Central Point.

The Young Peoples group of the First Christian church has started a combined adult and teenage study group, designed for a better understanding of the Bible. The meetings have so far been well attended.

The meetings are conducted by the Teenagers, but it is planned to interest both adults and the young people.

The next fellowship dinner will be held at 7 p.m., March 11, in the church.

The Gold Hill Grade school has agreed to loan its projector for the showing of a 20-minute movie, "The Crucifixion." It is produced by Family Films of Seattle and is to be used during the weeks before Easter. The public is invited.

Mrs. George Dorman has returned home from visiting her son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Dorman, Astoria, Ore.

William Fields is now home from the hospital and is recuperating nicely.

Mrs. Maybelle Rains and son Johnny left March 1 for a week's visit in California. They are to visit in Pomona with Mrs. Rains' son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Linsley Dotson. They will also stop in Ontario, Calif., to visit another son, Joe Dotson, and his wife and daughter Teresa.



PARENTS AWAIT SECOND TRAGEDY—Eileen Sue Van Lopik (right), 2, one of two identical twin sisters stricken with leukemia, died in her sleep in Grand Rapids, Mich. The parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Van Lopik, resigned to the "one-in-a-million" chance both twins would be stricken by the same disease, have been told by doctors the second twin, Kathleen Jo (left), has three or four months to live.

Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSBY
United Press Correspondent

Hollywood — (U.P.) — Fifty film actors, headed by Vanessa Brown, have organized the town's first stage repertory company complete with its own theater, bar, school, magazine, television show — and even a digible.

This unusual group is Hollywood's answer to the famed New York school of T-shirt acting, the Actor's Studio.

But while the Actor's Studio only teaches, the American Acting Co. also will stage a play once a month, beginning in April. The group now has a deal practically in the bag to stage the play as a television spectacular.

Theater Acquired
"We have our own theater in the Hollywood area, but we can't say which one as the papers aren't signed yet," said the breathless Miss Brown, who single-handedly organized the group. "Television will help us by paying the bills."
The theater will have a Holly-

wood touch of a patio bar and tearoom plus a dirigible flying overhead. The huge balloon is expected to attract customers.

"I've always wanted a dirigible, and now my husband has promised to buy me one," signed Vanessa, sounding like the girl upstairs she played in "The Seven Year Itch" on Broadway.

Urge Related
Getting down to earth, Vanessa revealed she has had an urge since 1943 to establish a repertory company here for film actors.

"There's no place here where you can develop in front of a live audience," she said. "You have no chance for experience. On the stage you can experiment and play old men and offbeat parts."

The acting company includes Lloyd Bridges, Ricardo Montalban, Josanne Beranger, Beverly Michaels, Cathy O'Donnell, Joy Paige, Bonita Granville and Ann Rutherford.

The plays may be cast outside the group.
Vanessa is busy lining up such stars as Dorothy McQuire, Gregory Peck, Jose Ferrer and others interested in pushing local theater.



Aline Mosby

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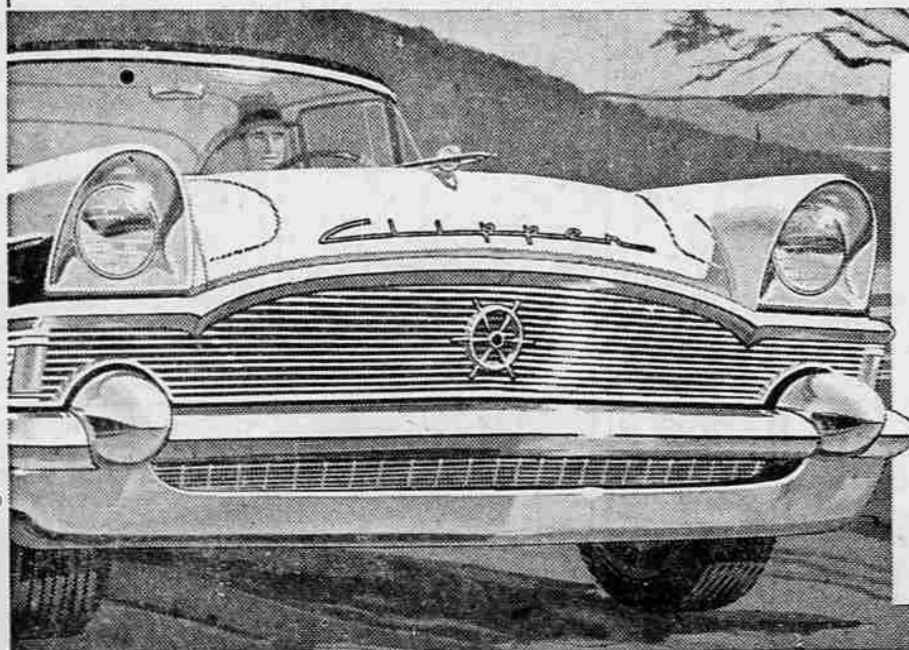
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