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Arrowhead Is Urged as National Monument by Civic Organization

Natural Landmark, Known in Indian Legends, Is Setting of Famous Hotel, Health Resort Today

Campaign launched several months ago by the Chamber of Commerce of San Bernardino to establish the Arrowhead, a mark of nature featured against the side of the mountain range six miles above San Bernardino, as a national monument, has reached Congress.

Efforts to convince the Federal authorities that the Arrowhead is worthy of a place as a national monument are now going through the stages of requirements necessary in establishing any unique spot or marking as a national monument.

The campaign started about a year ago when the Kiwanis club of San Bernardino took steps to raise a fund that would protect the Arrowhead from erosion which was feared might eventually wipe out the clear, sharp lines of the Arrowhead.

The chamber of commerce took up the campaign and went a step further with the proposal that the government establish the Arrowhead as a national monument. The matter was taken up with Congressman Phil D. Swing, who in turn asked that the history and legends of the Arrowhead be forwarded to Congress and to the Smithsonian Institution. This has been done. Soil samples from the Arrowhead have been forwarded to the state university at Berkeley and are being analyzed. The result will be sent to the special committee of Congress on national monuments and also to the Smithsonian Institution.

Three things must be established before the Arrowhead will be considered as a national monument. First must be proof that it is natural and not built by the hand of man. Second it must be unique in the entire United States, and third it must be found worthy of preservation. Persons who have made a study of the Arrowhead have little fear but that it can meet all these requirements.

If established as a national monument the Arrowhead will be protected for all time to come from erosion.

This Arrowhead is not small, dim or obscure. It stands out in sharp relief, majestic and gigantic, covering seven and one-half acres with a length of 1375 feet and a width of 480 feet. On a clear day it is visible to the naked eye for 30 miles.

The Arrowhead has attracted every person who has seen it. Its unique and effective design has drawn traveler, historian, geologist and botanist in interesting wonder. It was not designed by the hand of a human and is not artificial. It was flung against the mountain side by the hand of nature. Its antiquity is unquestioned but the history of its origin is shrouded in the mysteries of the old Indian legends.

The thin soil of the Arrowhead is residual from the underlying decomposed granite and the vegetation is of a light green white color, consisting of a scanty growth of white sage. At the top of the shank is a reef of rock and the body of the Arrowhead occupies a little valley or gulch between two ridges that converge close together at the point.

The Arrowhead itself is without a flaw from barb to haft and from shank to point. The history of the Arrowhead and the hot springs beneath it is only to be found in a search of the manuscripts left by the early Franciscan friars who established missions in this section.

To every explorer from Captain De Anza to Father Dumetz it drew an explanation of amazement. Trading caravans from the Pacific coast spread the news of the Arrowhead. It is said to have led Brigham Young to found the city of San Bernardino and colonize this valley. Interest in it never is diminished.

There are many legends told of the Arrowhead. Probably the most generally accepted and best legend is that of the Guachama Indians who lived in the San Bernardino valley.

The legend goes that once ago when the tribe was strong and prosperous with peace, joy and food in abundance the people became arrogant and forgot. Mutual, the "Spirit of Good," so he sent down feet, the Heat Spirit, from Tamit, the Sun Land, who drank up all the streams and caused the vegetation to perish. Pestilence and famine decimated the people.

Janna, chief of the tribe, so the legend goes, then offered his only daughter, Newahna, as a gift to the heavens. Adorned in richest raiment she was led to the funeral pyre and when only ashes remained a white arrow of light blotted out the Heat Spirit and a rush of rain cooled the parched earth and saved the people. On the spot where the Heat Spirit struck a great arrow appeared, pointing to the hot springs where Ied was imprisoned forever so that the people should never again forget. Mutant but should come and purify themselves in the healing waters and worship the "Spirit of Good."

There are many other curious and interesting legends on the Arrowhead since the white man came but they have little historical value and the legend of the Guachama Indians is said to be generally accepted by the tribes.

There has been no perceptible change in the Arrowhead since the time of the white man coming to San Bernardino valley. Pointing directly downward toward the healing hot springs it is a symbol that is readily recognized. From it was given the name of the famous resort that draws thousands of persons yearly.

Anyone acquainted with the Indian legends knows that in all tribes any connection with the Great Spirit is sacred and it is therefore easy to understand why the Arrowhead hot springs and the region immediately surrounding it was neutral ground for all Indian tribes and that was not made by any tribe seeking the healing waters below the Arrowhead.

The legends of the Indian tribes of Southern California, as told to padres proves the great antiquity of the arrow on the mountain and shows that it was known to both the native and the distant tribes centuries before the white man came. Brigham Young, the prophet of the Mormons, wishing to form a colony which would be a resting place for his followers. He sent out a party to locate such a place, and, according to accepted stories, told the leaders he had seen a vision upon the side of the mountain, the head of a great arrow pointing down to a rich and fertile valley. When the party should come upon this sign of the Arrowhead they were to stop and found a new branch of Zion. After a long and weary trip over a trail which is now followed by the railway the colonists finally reached the valley, recognized the white Arrowhead and founded San Bernardino.

The Arrowhead has been the sign that others have sought as means of locating the section to which they traveled.

According to geologic history the origin of the hot water belt that supplies Arrowhead with its hot springs dates back into the history of the word building and in all probability is contemporaneous with the birth of the great San Bernardino mountains themselves.

There are springs too numerous to mention at the Arrowhead resort. Most of the names are believed to have been given by Guachama Indians.

The water from these hot springs, which are classified by their temperature and their mineral contents, is accepted by physicians as having great medicinal value. The steam caves and mud baths, too, are of great value. Combined with climate that is not surpassed in the world the hot springs have restored many to health. Arrowhead has often been referred to as America's Spa.

The hotel at Arrowhead springs looks out over San Bernardino valley, affording a clear view of San Bernardino and all surrounding territory. It is growing in popularity with the tourist, being as it does at the foot of the great San Bernardino mountains and the historical Arrowhead.

The first hotel at Arrowhead hot springs was erected in 1884. In 1890 another and more modern building was erected. It has been remodeled on several occasions.

Following the World War the Government leased the property as a hospital for disabled war veterans. Until 1924 wounded soldiers were given hospitalization there, many being returned to health through the medium of the healing hot springs.

When the Government lease expired private interests again took control of the property and today a strictly modern building of the mission type, surrounded by cottages and beautiful gardens marks the spot where the first hotel, a small frame structure, was built.

Shady lanes lead from the hotel into the mountain canyons at the foot of the great Arrowhead. When visiting the site one cannot help but be impressed by the historical setting of the hotel and grounds and nature's mark flattened against the side of the mountain, there to remain as long as man himself.

Thousands of dollars have been spent in developing the hotel and grounds during the last two years. Visitors by the thousands each year come there. Some remain throughout the winter months, while others from Southern California itself come to spend from two or three days to weeks there, seeking rest and relaxation and bathe in the healing waters of the hot springs.

The resort is growing yearly in popularity and it is fast gaining fame as America's Spa.

Prize Offered for Mine Contrivances

(By Associated Press)
BERLIN, Feb. 17.—A prize of \$5,000 for the best contrivance for neutralizing the pernicious effects of dust in mines has been offered by the Prussian ministry of commerce and trade. The prize will be donated either in full or split up into parts in the event of several acceptable devices being submitted.

ALL TOO SOON
Judge: Only married a week and you beat your wife? A month's imprisonment will cure you.
Husband: It's a bit tough spoiling our honeymoon like that.—Passing Show.

Guachama Tribe Arrowhead Springs

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