

1/26/86: YESTERDAY, AFTER COVERING 17 MILES,
HAPPY VALLEY WAS IDEAL.

P. Mural

" Such a long hike + climb up here but nice place to
stay for the night. Cliff Wetmore

" We saw a beautiful sunset, with
lightening - after a long hike yesterday
it was good entertainment. Great
Sunrise too. A place with a view.
S. Heer

AFTER EXPERIENCING SEARING HEAT CLIMBING RINCON
PEAK + FREEZING COLD DURING A HAIL STORM AT THE
TOP, WHICH LEFT 4 INCHES OF ICE ON THE GROUND, AND
WATCHING TUCSON BEING PELTED WITH LIGHTNING IN
THE EVENING... THE LOOK-OUT WAS INDEED A "HAPPY"
PLACE!
— DALLAS VAN GORDEN

26-86

A VERY STIFF + SORE CLIFF, PAT, SUSAN, + DALLAS LEFT
ABOUT 0630 FOR MADRONA VIA RINCON CREEK TRAIL.
HAPPY TRAILS FROM HAPPY VALLEY L.O.

28-86

We, the SCA, are here
painting this mess. It
was a very unpleasant
hike up, which made for

a very boring day. We'll be
going now. We'll be back
next Wednesday (hopefully!)
as the beds are really comfortable!
Signed

The SEA
1986
SWAN

6-28-86

This is Rick 'Chewy' Peterman back again this
year. I was an PERA SEA last year and really
enjoyed it. I'm starting to enjoy this year too; but
for the first two terms up here working Super's as
one man crew. This term I finally have another person
to work with. It's great!! I really enjoy it!! I was really
tired off when I came here on the 12th of June
and found out the journals from 1950 - 1985 have
been no longer here. I was mad and still am. I have
one question though why did people start a journal
since they knew the old's have been taken?

7-3-86

MICHAEL & CURTIS - BROUGHT IN H₂O CUBES
CONTAINERS & PACKED OUT TRASH —

7-6-86

P. MAREK - SECOND TRIP TO H.V.L.O.
AND IT WAS GOOD SLEEPING AFTER

GOING RINCON PEAK AND COMING
BACK IN THE DARK. LEAVING FOR
MANNING CAMP ~~IN~~ THIS MORNING

6 July 1986

We are here at the lookout again -
almost like home! Yesterday we
climbed Rincon P. for the second
time and it was worth it. We filled
out water bottles from puddles at top.
What a view. Now we are headed
back to Manning Cabin and the
helipad to meet the helicopter 0830.

— Susan Miller

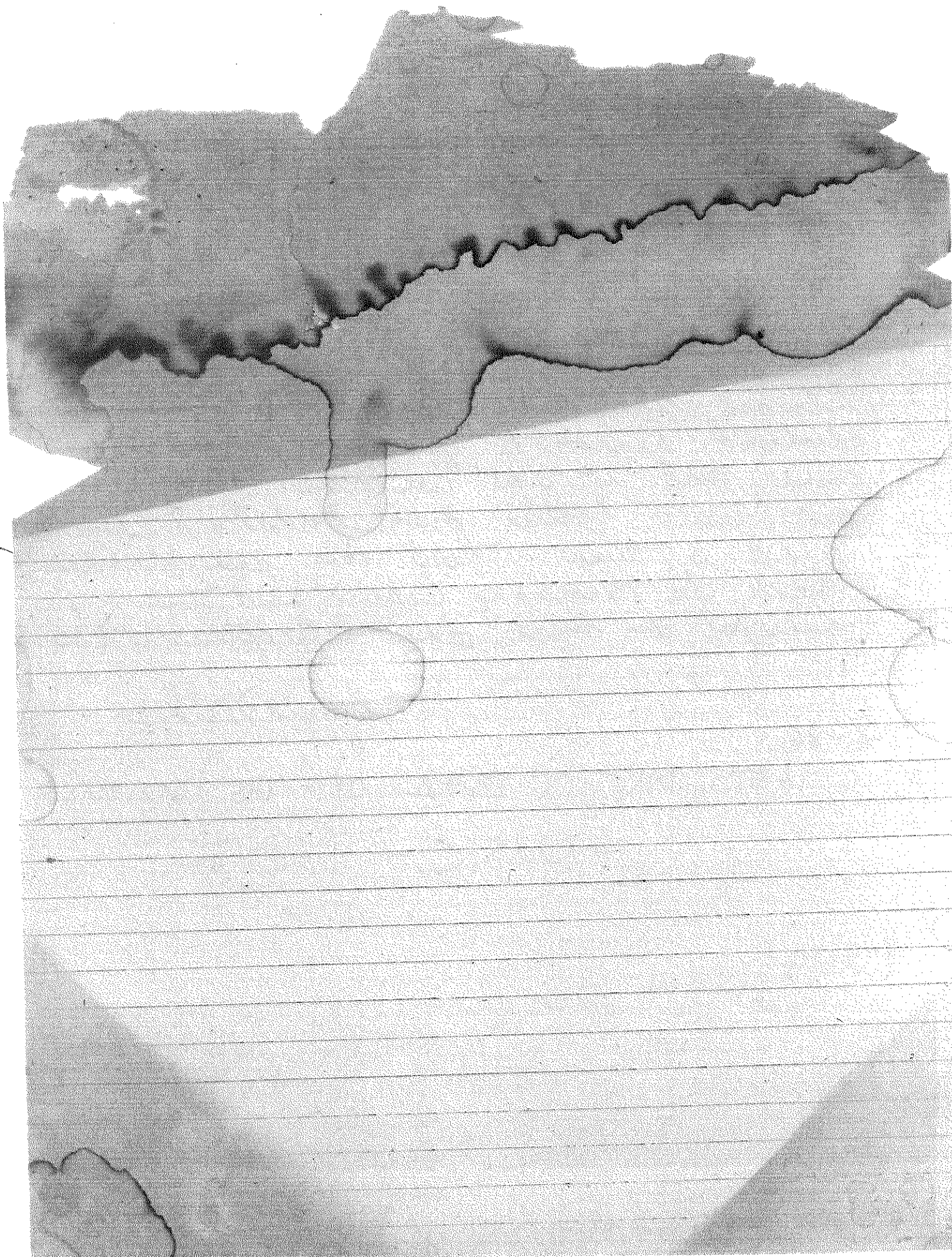
7-6-86

LETS TAKE THE BOARDS OFF THE WINDOWS!

- N.S.C. - DUG.

8-3-86

Just got back from the top of
Paine Canyon - what a sight!
Dallas doesn't have the words to
describe it. Neither do I. Looking
down at the base of the peak



a hailstorm last night now
we headed back to manning.
¡Hasta la vista!

Susan Geier

8-4-86

First of all I want to apologize
for my statement on 6-28-86 I didn't
know. This time at H.V.O. was as
great as last time. I really enjoyed it. But
this time we had a lightning storm —

Cheryl

20

.6

45

.8

1.9

3.4

4

49

20

1.5

5

5

1.5

Krazy Bob C 10/6/97

24 June 89

you know when you read through
the Smokey the Bear Junior Ranger book
none of the fire lookouts look this bad
even after a fire as of today date 24 June 89
Dave Agnew

6-25-91

Wendi and Julian are continuing their excellent adventure.
~~When~~ we arrived ~~on~~ ~~now~~ yesterday and
pruned the helispot - it's becoming a ritual.
Today we replaced the register at Miller
Creek Trail Head. It was quite nice but hot.
We covered the 12.2 miles in 4.5 hours. Quite
an accomplishment for me, but it looked like
a walk in the park for Wendi.

The sunsets from the lookout are quite
amazing. They are the prettiest I've seen.

We'll be heading back tomorrow and doing
more pruning. Hopefully John will have some
of his fried chicken waiting when we get back to
Manning!

Julien CHASTANG (SCA)

P.S. Julien: "Are We Doin' It?"

Wendi: "Without A Doubt!"

→ New York

It is so windy here I feel like the lookout will blow away.
We are here keeping the mice company and enjoying our
retreat from Manning. We contended with masses of
ladybugs while pruning the helispot. Since we were taking
away this summer home, many decided to take residence
in Julien's hair. I thought it was funny but I'm not
sure how he felt, serving as an "abode" for beetles.
Anyway, I have a difficult time getting the work from the

lookout. What a splendid view.
You've got to love the SCAs!

Wendi Warner (Baltimore)

MREs! Yumm!

David Meritt 4-25-92

We started in Miller Trail ~~and~~ ^{this} morning
& headed to look out on 100,000 acres on
our way to Manning Camp & down to the
trap trail on Sunday. I saw a like
good hide for me & for L. I sure was
not coming, as I'm Miller. We are just
carrying over 500 lbs of pack. Just
bought a new camp stool at 1.00.
It seems to be a good backpack.
It's now almost dark and we are
sitting at camp. I got our maps & got
started on the Manning. We were
on the 100,000 acres. I got
all the hills topped at 5:30 PM.
It should be a good hike on the 100,000
acre trip to do 1-2 miles. I saw a
beautiful mountain.

See you on 100,000.

David

PS All the best

4-5-92

A NEW RIVIS - (???) ← THIS IS QUESTIONABLE

spec- the a part. This place is
a dysfunctional rat trap.*

* WHAT BETTER PLACE TO SEND A DYSFUNCTIONAL ASSHOLE? JET
(WHO CAN'T SPELL FOR SHIT)

7-7-92

7-7-92

8-7-92

closing it down one last time. Contrary to my prior
statement concerning dysfunctional people: there are
some people who should never be allowed in a place like this, it's
like giving a pig a perfect apple

6-11-93

Flew water & Equipment to
look at by Helicopter.

J. Montiel

7-6-93

Lucas Cox, Aaron Schroeder, and
Heather Milligan. We cleaned out the
cabin yesterday. It is now predominantly
devoid of mousey fecal matter.

Today we're clearing deadfall
to Rincon Peak. Joy to the world.

LUCAS COX

Do you think if I promised
to clean up all of the rodent
turds again NPS would let me
spend Christmas up here - even trade?

peanut butter

sandwich

Heather Milligan SCA 7-6-93

7-7-93

Liked it so much the first time here...
slim back. Fortunately I have a Leatherman[®]
tool and was able to jimmy the lock with
my dysfunctional R-1. Alone. The sun

is setting. Food is on the Perfection.
You know, I wonder who will read
this in years coming, and if they'll wonder
(or care) who the hell wrote this. Anyway,
future person, my name is Lucas Cox, I
am skinny with blonde hair; 5'11", 135lb
I like nature, lotus root tea, ~~and~~ fast
cars and ... Ahh who cares. I
shan't waste anymore Official United
States Government Paper and Ink.

7-8-93

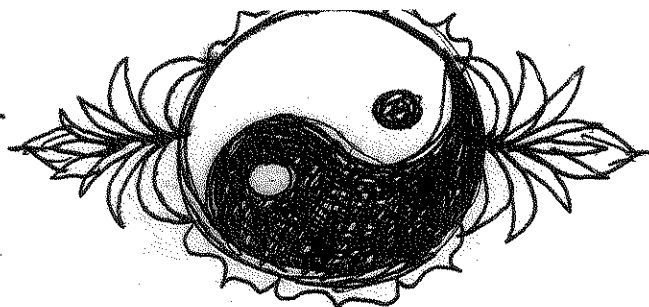
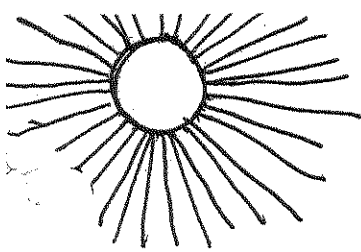
Heading down mountain today via
Madrona. Great lightning show to the
Southeast last night.

7-31-93

Heather, Steve, Craig and Lucas
are here and about to prune ~~as~~ our
way back ^{to Manning}. Steve wants to write a joke
here, but I don't.

8-3-93

There was an amazing lightning storm last
night so I came to see if there were



any fires burning. Either there wasn't enough oxygen or heat, I don't know. There were plenty of fuel sources however, just look around. Had a great summer but soon I will head home to KANSAS. Live long and prosper. (at least prosper) Hope to be back.
Craig Lamar (SCA 1993)

Joke: What is the definition of a farmer? A man outstanding in his fields!

8-4-93

"Ha ha ha ha ha" so funny I remembered to quote my uncontrollable outburst of laughter. Well, Craig, tomorrow's your last day. Though you won't read this for a long time (if ever). We wish you luck and enjoyed your presence (most of the time).

Today I did Rincon Peak from Manning and am about to head back. Someone vacated their bowels into the peak register a few weeks ago, so I, with trowel in hand, dutifully removed the dried, tarry remains to the benefit of future hikers. Bon Appetit!
Lucas Cox

8-17-93

Spent last night here. Spotted ~~off~~
a fire 202° to the south, out of
the park, although there's no sign
of it now after the rain. Heading
back to Lucas Cox

5-9-95

DALLAS WAS HERE!

FLYING IN TRAIL CREW SUPPLIES
WITH HELICOPTER 320. BEAUTY OF
A DAY AFTER SNOW + RAIN 2 DAYS
AGO.

1-21-96

Sitting here on the front step in the sun, enjoying
here. Someone was nice enough to leave in from
Miller Creek yesterday, but spent last night at
Happy Valley Campground. Climbed Rincon yesterday +
picked up registers to pack out. Frost + windblown ice
on the western ~~side~~ ^{side} of Cañon, and downward
branches of bushes, creating short-lined ice
flag trees. On to Grass Shack and run at
tomorrow at Tanager Verde T.H.
Paul Hamik (intern.)

Here November 11, 13, '95 / January 3rd and 5th '96 /
February 2, 3, 4, '96 and today March 2nd and 3rd '96

So I suppose I'm to write something down.

This lookout looks good inside due to the summer
of '95 trail crew. A great crew. For a picture
of this great crew you'll have to find me.

The wood stove works well when the wind isn't
blowing through this place.

That beer left behind was mine. See prior entry.

I was so confident that no one working for
this park would be up here this winter that I left
it out on the table. Figures that the park would
send a volunteer to do the backcountry rangers
job. My personal journal elaborates on that thought.

Patchy snow around here from the Feb. 25 storm.

Patchy sleet against the door on my Feb. 2nd visit.

The January trip was a paid vacation compliments
of our govt. shutdown. That a boy!

This is the location to get too from Tucson in
an afternoon. Home to me. Winter is much
kinder to spend here than summer. Our trail work
begins due south of here. Four guys built that
portion of trail and the fifth man did a little
of this and that to keep it all together.

D. L. L.

March 17 and also for the 15th, 1996

Don't stop now, gotta have something down on paper for our future readers. Another spectacularly routine sunset. Burnt orange horizon bleeding into yellowish orange bleeding into blue bleeding into dark dark dark blue into cobalt into blackness. Stick around here one evening, you'll see just that. Windy Windy Windy. Typical for March. What snow fell three days ago melted off by today. That's it for winter '96.

Came up via Miller Creek on the 15th, stayed the night. Wood in the stove kept the house warm. Continued yesterday to Manning via East Slope trail to Mica Secondary to recently worked Italian Trap trail work back up to Mica Mountain and then into home cabin. East Slope trail is not a Friendly hike south to north. The trail no longer exists below Mica Secondary due to major '94 fire. Never was much of a trail there. Only my second time on that trail since my SCA stint in '87.

The lookout beats Manning for isolation any day. Five campers around Manning last night. Stopped in to Mica Meadow this morning for one last look around before it receives a prescribed burn this coming fire season. Five more weeks of trail crew employment before I'm relieved of my command. If you can persuade the intense heat check out our stone work laid on the Sweetwater trail (West Unit) where the trail extension ties back into the original trail alignment.

It was accomplished in three weeks this past month. All stone cut and moved up the wash and trail by sheer muscles and two wheelers. The radio plays on, the lantern burns brightly, the wind relentless. Whoever is reading this, take care of the place. Pack out your trash, refill the lantern, pack away the blankets and sleeping bag. Who knows, I might be back one day to see how the old homestead is weathering

Robert Marek

January 18, 97 8:20 pm

Yes it is I..... on the return to a true home! Oh my my my..... the flood of emotion that comes with venturing back onto sacred ground. You might not understand or really even care. Why should you if you've never spent any amount of time here. One summer is not enough. Two summers and you're beginning to feel at home. Several summers or winters and the place becomes a home. Memories are born, events of life begin to revolve around this mountain. Suddenly that juniper tree you always walk by or that rock outcropping where you always take your break becomes like a family treasure that becomes more precious as the years pass.

The lantern burns bright, the stove is once again holding the fire and only the occasional pop of burning wood breaks the silence of this night. The lantern was empty, so too was the white gasoline stove, the wood stove had half burnt trash burnt where the bread is supposed to bake. Some garbage was strewn about the place and

momentos from the summer of '95 were moved from their mantles. I guess no one had read the prior entry since I was last here. Having come back from Alaska this past Fall, cabin etiquette is high on my list of importance in remote areas. They are places to be taken care of and restocked before you leave so that the next mortal can depend on a shelter for protection from the cold or even a storm. In Alaska it can mean life or death. Here it usually means comfort or uncomfortable.

Enough preaching. Returning here is as rewarding an experience as returning to the mountains and glaciers of S.E. Alaska. The solitude is every bit the equal and the sky surpasses the rainy north for sunsets and stars. Already the trail work of '95 looks as if it's been there for a decade. The vegetation is burying over the work and the rain has shifted layers of gravel atop the trail. Who built and when did it happen are two questions that must ^{have} already been asked. Few hike along this ridgeline. The oaks and manzanita are rapidly reclaiming the ground they lost in the fire of '94.

Snow, three or four inches deep still burys the north side of this hill. Left behind by a storm that occurred almost a week ago. A small snow drift leans against the door. A ^{convenient} ~~convenient~~ water source for an otherwise arid location.

Hallowed halls of school days is how I feel about this place. To great surprise I'm working trail in the Cactus Forest with three

of the four gentlemen that worked here in the summer of '85. It's a great winter season. Quality characters with stone mason talent. It's a real shame that the work and crew can't continue for as long as the crew wants to stick together. It's the equivalent of a great football team or Bluegrass band. Cohesive and hard working. More rock dust added to the lungs and compression to the spine. This is the beginning of my eleventh year in the seasonal employment gig. I'm a lifer for lack of a better occupation. Madrona House is my domain this year. It just doesn't get any better than that. Back in 1987 when I lived there as an SEA, I never figured on being back ten years later in about the same shoes. It's a good life. Don't knock it. The travels, the time off, the outdoors, the seasons, the no stress, the low cost of living, the loneliness that inevitably creeps in with the solo lifestyle.

You're still reading? Didn't bring a book along for the ride? The summer heat has you edgy? January is a good time of the year to be here. Water flowing, patchy snow, cold air, short daylight hours, activity amongst the animals, the smell of wet junipers and pine. Time to put this entry to bed. Back to the music of Willie Nelson - Across The Borderline. Here's to ya for being lucky enough to stand where so many good times occurred and where the summer monsoons look their best.

Robert Mawek

LO - SOMETHING - 97

The lookout is glorious as ever! Or at least as it sounds - this is my first (but hopefully not last) time here. I'm on the fire crew, staying at Manning for my four days off. As of today I've been in solitude (except for the flies, deer, whippersnappers & one cool red and black snake) for four days. No big deal to a lookout, but another first for me. I could get used to this! I've learned so much in the short period of time I've hiked around these mountains! I have tons more to learn, and I'm enjoying every minute of it. Remote places like this feel so much more REAL to me than cities. How often can you think "I am content, right in this time and place. There's nowhere I'd rather be."?

I'm afraid I'll have to miss the sunset here - I didn't bring anything warm. I'm going to mosey on over to Rincon Peak, & eventually back to Manning.

EMILY GUBLER

8-9-97

Well, in a true twist of fate (tent meeting?) I happen to be the boyfriend of previous journal-writer Emily Gubler. I am here visiting her and hiking these magnificent mountains. She was kind enough to loan me her R-1 key so that I could see the lookout. This building is about the same size as the dorm room ^{in which} ~~that~~ I have spent the last 2 years of college. Outside the walls of that room were hundreds of identical rooms, each occupied by two similar students. Most of these students spent their time trying to learn, to party, to get beer while you're still only 19 or 20. There were 26,000 of them, myself included, all learning the ways of

the modern world: success equals money, and money comes only when you pass this exam, kiss this ass, get this job, drive this car, wed this person, have these perfect kids, retire gracefully, and die rich and respected.

The fact of the matter is this - money is paper, and like the journal entries from 1986, paper will grow old and crumble into dust in the wind. Likewise, we - you, me, everyone who has ever lived - are only here for a short time. The exam that you pass or fail will be forgotten tomorrow. The ass that you kiss will turn around and stab you in the back. The job that you get will leave you feeling empty and unfulfilled. The car you drive will be antiquated within a year of buying it. The perfect family is only a facade you show the world. Retirement and death are escapes, not transitions.

The only way to feel any peace in this world is to be at peace with yourself. To do nothing that insults your soul. To have strong convictions. To never hesitate to speak up. To be different. To stand here, at this lookout, and feel the marvel and splendor of the small blue planet that unfolds itself beneath your feet - this is Peace, this is success.

Will Graves

08/14/97 06:57

After 2 seasons at Manning Camp I've finally spent a night at "The Lookout". Chris is here but me and Dave are planning a stroll to Kincaid Peak and then are meandering down to Madonna. We had to sleep on the old "duplex studio overnifer" bed - we took off the board on the window next to it so we could watch the lightning in the distance and the rain pound against the window. The sky cleared in the middle of the night and this morning is brilliant clear and serene. Who knew humans could create weather? Anyhow - I'll be back, and while I cannot wait for nearly as long as R. Mark or philosophize as readily as Will, their entries will be old friends to me when I pass over this ridge again. Hopefully we will complete our Devil's Bathing Rx Barn within the next 2 months.

Prep for our West Manning & North Slope burns began last tour. 

8-14-97 7:05

After just 1 season I feel very at home here in these mountains in ~~fact~~ I feel as though this is my home & I am a stranger down there in a strange place. I will be back and spend big lots of time here assuming I make it down from Rincon Peak. I am getting the feeling that it could be quite the hike. Anyway After one of the most beautiful nights of my life I feel ready to take on anything. While I am dreaming of lucky charms for breakfast (which I don't have) Once we get going it will be all good and the Nori Rols that we do have will be quite the treat for lunch. Anyway thanks to everybody that contributed to making this beautiful night possible. Emily Will all other writers and those great souls that put this place here all equipped with everything one needs to live. how much would you ask for rent I would like to know!! See you all next season if not sooner.

Carolyn Maul
RX FIRE 97

Chris

01-03-98 Happy New Year!

Got here last night wacked through about 2-3 ft of snow to get here then found the door wide open - Looks like it snowed inside - ground & everything covered w/ white dust! The mice have been eating ^{the} plastic H₂O jugs. Between cleaning up as much of that as I could & that CO₂ stove my lungs have had it. A serious warning to those ~~who~~ who use the stove, Even though all the smoke appears to be going out the chimney - this old stove has cracks & BAD seals so there is enough room for smoke to leak out & fill up the room while you're sleeping. So what I did was get up & open the door several times while the stove was burning. Anyway, I had a lovely hike up from Miller Creek; @ times I wondered where exactly the trail was - but I guess that makes it more interesting. What a view last night! Rincon Peak makes me feel like I'm back in the Rockies. This is definitely a unique place to have so many different habitats. I'm sure I'll be back before I leave in May to go back to Rocky Mts - UNTILL THEN - MICE BACK OFF!
 WILDERNESS RANGER CARIN HARVEY ☺

February 15, 98 3pm

Finally, after much build up about El Nino, today's storm is starting to get cranking. Mostly just snow showers, lots of wind, temp. around the freezing point. Come on baby Nino, show me if your temper tantrum warrants the name. Come on up here yesterday via Medrona, my home for another winter. Left there at the crack of noon. A late start with fifty pounds of "what" strapped to my back? Beer, soda, stew, camera, and oh yech. ——— top ramen. Only the second time I've made this journey via Medrona. Bloody hell I'd call that walk. Two and a half miles of up and down on the desert floor before the real ascent begins. It may have been winter and there may have been plenty of agua in all the drainages but it was still damn hot until the afternoon clouds rolled in to blot out the super nova.

Finally after years of half ass attempts, I managed to find the petroglyph site along the trail up here. So weathered they be, that I literally walked right over them before I noticed them as I circled the area. Oh come on now, I know you're wondering just where this site could be. Hint, try at the 4600 foot elevation off to the south side of the trail. That's all you'll get out of me.

My word, the sky is pretty. Almost a monsoon sort of look. Rows of building clouds set underneath a ceiling of smooth grayish white. Curtains of snow streaking downward between here and the Santa Ritas. The wind is howling. It kept me up all night. Not even earplugs kept out the noise.

No worries, as I once heard often from a co worker. The stove is stocked full of wood and working quite dandy regardless of my

predessors comments. But of course I had to put back on a lot of the plating that had been removed. A good reaging fire and the damper set just right to create a pull of smoke up and out. I spent a good two hours gathering and hand sawing enough wood for today and tonight. A few inches of fresh snow had fallen overnite to make wood gathering a messy business. This place was in good shape. Happy to see her again.

The trail from Happy Valley campground to here is in dismalt shape. Most of it is used by the creek and the climb up here is overcome by downed trees, growth over the route and serious ditching. Pitiful that this problem can't be solved. No money equals no trail work.

So once again another year past since my last entry. Season number twelve. The only difference this time from all the others is that now the trails program sits in my lap. Drafted into the trails top dog slot this past Fall. Now what? No travelling this summer? Whatever happened to those good ol days when I used to think like the entry of 8-9-97. Oh, and I used to think like that "kid". I'd thought that Jackson Browne had hit the nail square dead on in his song THE PRETENDER. For most of us that is the reality of it but only because it's the easy way out. Much easier to follow orders (ie religions, school, work, social norms, advertising) than it is to dare to follow our convictions. Too hold true to our dreams & requires sacrifice, public torment, to feel like an outcast, a solo artist. And unless you compromise your convictions you're doomed to a lonely existence. Don't believe me? What relationship doesn't require compromise? What job doesn't require prostituting yourself? So lets see, take the idealistic approach that I'm above society and will follow my convictions without any diviances and

be one lonely bastard or put life on a reality check, have a good time, consider no values so sacred that life itself isn't worth living.-----

Yeh I'll opt. for the latter.

Such a serious discussion for a location so far from the seriousness of society. This is where I come to dodge all that crap. This is where I'm a child again. Where my tree house resides. No worries, spelled correctly this time. A good place to take a nap, except in the heat of July. A good place to take in the views.

R. Mauck

5:00 pm Post Script.

Yahoo! EL NINO. RIDIM cowboy! No disappointment. Around 4:30pm the sky thickened up as a wall of snow moved in. Hasn't let up yet. Gale winds, the sound of popcorn snow bouncing off of the roof. Spin-drifts accumulating along the cracks at the base of the door. Snug as a bug in the rug by the stove with good quantity of cut oak piled nearby. Beef stew, salad, honey porter beer, bluegrass music — my word, life don't get no better than this.....

June 18, 98 9:30pm

Don't it? See last line of prior page.

I'm certainly thinking of a better life these days, as I bake my skin under the summer hot lamp. Now I remember what that heat feels like. There is no more thinking back about summer here. I'm in it. Still here at this park and on the verge of what they call a job when it becomes year around — permanent. Yowch! That's funny because when I read the job announcement it said career seasonal. Wait a minute, isn't that what I've been for half of my life?

Well anyway I'm back up on this mountain to survey potential trail projects, install signs and. . . . oh yes, do a little trail maintenance where I can. 106°F forecasted for Tucson tomorrow. Damn good thing there's water here.

The park is only a couple of weeks away from a 2200 acre prescribed burn to encompass Grass Shack up to Cowhead Saddle and over to the Manning Camp trail. It's a big one. Should provide for some beautiful fireworks.

Back to Manning tomorrow via installing a sign down at Happy Valley Campground.

R. Mauck

28 June 98

one week ago today we had a major SAR up here. A 34 year old man and two companions departed for Manning Camp via the Turkey Creek Trail. The Day was hot, and the TC trail is exposed to a great deal of sun, ever since

the Rincon Fire of 94 burned off much of the cover. They all made it as far as Mud Hole Springs (aptly named), when the man - the victim - told his companions to go on, he would catch up. They did not want to leave the man - Jeff - but he insisted, and would have it no other way. Jeff suffers from diabetes, but was strong physically and did not cater to being mollycotted. They left him at mud hole & went on. It is easy to criticize their actions for leaving the man and going on, but would any of us done different. Freedom means that you have the god-given right to make your own choices concerning your own mortality. He was not going to let his disease affect the trip & so he stayed.

later, he started off & lost the trail, something he has done often due to the significant effect that his disease has had on his vision, rendering all objects within his sight as slightly blurry. He decided to drop his pack - which contained food, water, shelter and most importantly Insulin - until he could find the trail & retrieve his pack. As you can guess he then could not find his pack or the trail and he ran out

OF Energy. He sat down as he could go
no further. We were notified on Sunday - one
day after this event when his hiking
companion could not ~~find~~ find him & drove
to Mesquite to call it in. We came out
with PCSO & SARA to launch a search. We
dropped search team members at Four corners
& Manning to search the mountain. At 2000 hrs
he responded to calls from the trail. Search
team members found him ill & prostrate &
soon found his pack & gave him Insullin.
He did not respond, and within a few
hours lapsed into unresponsiveness. We
had to wait for dawn of Monday to short
line him out from below & south of Mudhole
springs. He is still in the hospital as I write.
He will live. Just one more story for the mountain.

Some stories are never told, or wait for
many years to be discovered. As you look from
the front of the cabin you see Rincon to
the south. If you look to the west of
Rincon you see a ridge - a bulge which
sit in front of Rincon & it has a
story of its own. On this ridge, on
a steep cliffside sits the wreckage

OF a Piper Aircraft which crashed Aug 29th 1984, but was not discovered until Aug 29th OF 1997. The Plane was in route From Carlsbad CA. (Near San Diego) to El Paso TX. It carried Four men on buisness. When they disappeared a National search was launced, but nothing came OF it and it was all bot forgotten except by the Families OF the Fwa.

In 1989 or 1990 an object was reported by a Fire spatter on the side OF the mountain, but Follow up could not locate anything. more Reports came in 93 & 94, but subsequent Follow up and overflights revealed not a thing. In the early to mid 90's, Two men - Two Friends began to build thier Dream homes on the X-9 Ranch. They worked long hours & spent a great deal OF time outside directly below the Peak. At certain times OF day & at certain times OF the year, the sunlight hit at such an angle that it caused a reflection from a metal surface. They used Field glasses, but could not determine what it was that they saw. But it stuck in thier minds.

later in '97, one of these two men received an expensive telescope as a Christmas gift. With this he could clearly see that it was an aircraft. I have looked through this telescope mounted on his back patio, and you can see that you do have an aircraft.

He told his neighbors, who responded with the reply that yes - It was an aircraft. a B-25 mitchell Bomber which crashed in December of 1945 killing all aboard. So he let the matter rest. (The bomber did crash in 45 & sits on the flank of wrong mountain). In August he & his friend decided to make a hike & view the crash. They fixed their coordinates on a map & hiked up expecting to find a bomber.

What they found was a small aircraft. This surprised them, but what they found next shocked them. They began to find bones - evidently human - and a bag filled with mouldy cash. They hiked down ~~the~~ knowing that they had found something

very unusual. We interviewed the the next day. Bob Lineback, a PCSO deputy, & myself. We looked through the telescope & saw the crash. Two days later 3 deputies & myself landed on a outcrop - a one skid landing in good wind - and made our way down to the crash. We found the aircraft strewn over a very steep slope, with Mazanita thickly covering the entire site. We found weapons - including a Colt Combat Commander .45 in the wreckage, a great deal of badly deteriorated cash covered with termites inside a leather bag & bones. Bones on the Rock, bones in the brush, bones in the aircraft. I found a femur still lodged in a cowboy Boot. Bones everywhere. We gathered the bones, the cash & the gun & flew home.

It has been estimated that the cash contained in the bag was about \$60,000. It is in terrible condition & may or may not be recoverable - That has yet to be determined. As to the men little is known, but they had criminal records & were known to deal

in Narcotics. Soon after the aircraft disappeared many associates of these men were rounded up & charged with various drug violations as a part of a substantial narcotics ring. Who knows?

I came in Miller Creek yesterday & took a walk up Ricon. I contacted three campers at Happy Valley C.G. & will see them again today at Spud Rock. I will be going to Manning & Spud.

It was hot yesterday 107° at lower elevation. Tomorrow is predicted at 110° . It would be better to stay here, I think.

Till Next Time
John William

8:00 PM

June 11, 1999

BLAH BLAH BLAH, DULL DULL DULL. No good stories here. So HERE I GO AGAIN. A TYPICAL MAGNIFICENT SUNSET. YOU KNOW THE SORT. ORANGE SKY, ORANGE CLOUDS, ORANGE SUN. EVENTUALLY WHEN THE SUN IS SUFFICIENTLY BELOW THE HORIZON YOU'LL SEE THE SECRET TO THE SOUTHWESTS BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS — A LAYER OF SMOG HOVERING OVER THE LANDSCAPE.

WHAT'S GOING ON? I'M STILL HERE? YEH YEH I KNOW. ANOTHER

YEAR PASSES. LOTS OF BURNED OUT TREES HAVE FALLEN DURING THE YEAR AND I'VE BEEN SAWING THEM OFF THE TRAILS. MOST OF THE TREES HAVE THE TEXTURE OF BALSAMWOOD. THIS IS MY ONCE^A YEAR "GET ~~ARE~~ ^{FAV} ACQUAINTED WITH^A WHY I TOOK THIS JOB" WORK TRIP. OH YEA, THAT'S RIGHT — TREES, TRAILS, SUNSETS, STARRY NIGHTS, CRICKETS CHIRPING, MOUNTAINS, PINE SMELL. IT'S ALL NEW TO ME. I'M GOING ON MONTH NUMBER EIGHTEEN HERE AT THE PARK. THIS PERMANENT GIG FEELS MORE LIKE A JAIL SENTENCE. WHEN I COME UP HERE THE MIND NUMBING TUCSON ROUTINE WEARS OFF AND MY MIND CLEARS UP. "HELLO" WAKE UP! WHERE AM I? WHAT AM I DOING DOWN THERE IN THAT PLACE CALLED "THE CACTUS FOREST".

THIS IS FUNNY. I'VE GOT ALL MY CLOTHES ON PLUS A BLANKET. COLD! I'M THAT USED TO THE HEAT. WHAT MONTH IS IT? 8 o'clock and I'm YAWNING. I THINK YOU WALK THROUGH-SOME TIME ZONE CHANGES WHEN YOU HEAD UP THE MOUNTAIN. I'VE BEEN STAYING UP TOO LATE OVER AT MANNING. "MUST GET TO LOOKOUT FOR REST AND QUIET." WIND STILL POUNDING BUILDING. OH WELL ANOTHER DAY ANOTHER NICKEL TOMORROW. SAW MY WAY TOWARDS TURKEY CREEK. WILDERNESS — LOVE IT OR IGNORE IT. THE TRAIL WORK TO THE SOUTH IS STILL LOOKING MIGHTY FINE. IT HAS THAT "CENTURY" OLD LOOK. SORT OF LIKE ME. PLEASE... — SOMEONE ELSE CARRY THE TOUCH CALLED "THE WRITTEN WORD" FOR THE NEXT GO AROUND.

Robert Mack

6/15/99 THE FIRE CREW IS AT THE LOOKOUT! Hooray! We have two large cumulonimbus but no lightning yet. ~~Who~~ Who knows what'll happen. New season, new year, new blood... Z3

6/15/99 I might be going crazy, but I think that the Chiricaua Mountains are sneaking towards us. Every time I look at ~~the~~ up at them between writing, they appear to be a little closer. I don't know what their intentions are, but I'm sure ~~it's~~ ^{it's} not good. I don't know quite what's going on, but I'm sure the Germans are behind this somehow. Those filthy kraut bastards.

~~Jeff~~ Jeff Nickerson.

7/25/99

SCOTT WRITES VERY GOOFY THINGS IN LOGS - JUST READ WHAT HE WROTE ON TOP OF RINCON PEAK! SORRY MOREK, I'M NOT GOING TO WRITE ANYTHING TOO GRAND, EXCEPT TO SAY I HOPE YOU'RE ENJOYING ALASKA. DOES EVERYONE ALWAYS HAVE TO GET BURNED OUT? I PREFER THE WORD "MERCENARY" TO "PROSTITUTE."

BEAR SIGN EVERYWHERE, ALONG WITH CAT SEAT + MONSOONS.
AWAY FROM HERE - BACK TO 747 WE GO.

EMILY Z3 SAGU FIRE

1-1-2000

GOOD DAY.

2-19-00 - SUNNY DAY, High thin clouds - a bit of a breeze - the outhorse party moved the outhorse today. Katy the new seasonal, BO, John W., Vols Linn, Coleman + Collins + Ste Steward Anne Marie. C+C continue on to Manning. Cabin in reasonable condition here at the L.O. Everything secure. Rick Collins

2-21-2000

Just made the hike up via Miller Creek trail and I have to agree with Mr Rob Merrick in the preceding pages in his opinions on the high quality of the trail work in the section below the lookout. That crew of 95 did indeed do a superb job. Not that I might be a bit ~~biased~~ prejudiced as I do know a few of the folks that built all those stairs. ~~Also~~ I've heard many stories about this lookout and the crew there in the summer of 95 - ~~also~~ and it is apparent once here of the uniqueness of this place and the experiences ~~and~~ one might have here. It does, I must admit, make me a little jealous of those, like Rob or my boyfriend John who have called this place home for a time, Being here

also makes me wonder where the seasonal life may take me as I hope to begin that life this summer - Who knows maybe I'll be writing in this book 10 years from now a whole different person. I guess I'll just have to wait and see. But I do hope ~~that~~ this lookout remains here for quite some time. Well we must venture back out into the wind until next time. -

Jody Seels

1/21/00

9th of Feb!

I know you'll be back up here reading this. My guess is, it will be about late May early June. I should be in the Sierras about that time, after leaving Yosemite. Came up for a quick day hike, to see the work, remember the good times, and show Jody & Buck around the hill. It's cold & windy with hail mixed in. Hard to leave the wind break of the old casa after a warm ~~gas~~ quesadilla and a cold beer. Wish I could leave you one but only brought a couple for the top.

Had a great season, even if it was short and without back country. Being my sixth season here at Saugvoro, it was nice to finally see a little ^{pay} raise other than a pay cut for the season. Thanks Rob! I hope to be back, some day to work or just to visit.

Gotta go! it's going to be a cold wet trail home. Enjoy yourself up here ~~Rob!~~ Rob!

John Tucker

P.S. I see one of the old dart sheets is still around. That I wouldn't stand for John, would it? Good thing there isn't an old poker score sheet around here! →

6-14-00

Up here to take the fire finder, terrified of catching hanta.... Fun though, flipping through the log.... cabin seems a little sad, I think she feels forgotten, having only me to keep her company.

Sam Stoker

6-14-2000

I'm visiting from the Shasta-Trinity in Northern California. Working with The Tucson ship 320. Nice rats nest. They look hungry. Thanks for The visit. Lura Ridley

9/11/00

First time to HVH, a little TLC and would look fine. On my way to HVC for the weekend. Going to stay 3 days and hit Rincon Peak, Wrong Mt and look for the B-25 Mitchell that went down 1/20/45 in a snow storm. Next summer, going to try and find the others.

Todd Nelson Manning Camp Ranger

7/19/01 Michael Olker & I stopped by to get a rock bar to move a rock off Rincon Creek Trail. Staying two nights at HV Camp to do some trail work on Rincon Creek Trail so Jim can park for a group in March for a week. Todd Nelson

4/11/02

6/6/02 Might do some work to Happy Valley hookout
this summer. Start with the inside Fire. Would like to
use it as a basecamp in the future for groups. Here I
come Heartbreak Ridge Trail, on my way back to
Manning, 103° in Town.

Todd Nelson Manning Camp Ranger

7/9/03 On my way to Happy Valley Campground
to put up Fire restriction signs. Suppose to be 110°
in Town today, plenty warm up here. Monsoons
are late, talking possible rain 7/12/03. The Aspen
Fire is up to 83,000 today & 75% contained. Maybe
another week. So far over 12 million spent on that
Fire. The Helen's II in the park I think is close
to 2 million. Todd Nelson Manning Camp Ranger

8/18/05 Ross & I dropped off 40 gallons of H₂O &
packed up tools & trash for back haul.

Todd Nelson

9/24/05 Staying the night. Last hitch of the season, season
#6 - who would have thought. Going to do some cleaning.

Todd Nelson Watched a peaceful sunset

Nice sunrise also! 9/25/05

2/12/00 Rode up to check out trail for future
pack trips (Riding patty) + water hauling
would ^{not} mind being down at
north side ~~the~~ saddle But I'd hate
to be stuck there.

Jim Williams
Packer

6/20/01 Hauling in water for I'm. Trail getting
really growned in. plenty Bear tracks right
down below on main trail (Lion also) one
Bear is large. Some one has cleaned up
since I was here last looks good.

People really need to put date on my
food or water left behind.

Rain windy + lightning last night so I'm
looking for smoke but not seeing any
for you Bug Lovers there are many hundreds
of Lady Bugs here now around the cabin.

Jim Williams
Packer

6/27 Hauling in for I'm, saw the Bear!
about 200 yards from ^{of} the Bear head
springs sign on this trail again there
were tracks on main trail right below
the Lookout. It was large But not quite 400 lbs
Very healthy looking fur and totally black.
ran toward me first then turned up a hill

Jim Williams
Packer

Aug 22 - 2001

SCA crew here! On our Rec. trip.
Headed up Rincon the next day. Great
park! Thanks - Todd, Bob, Carin, Jim
and Michael! Thank you for all the
memories! - Chelsea M. Florida
✱

3/31/02

Just checked out the cabin and view. Nice to
have water cached here. P. Ranger
PS. Mountain lion track about 1 mile from
Devil's Butte intersection a Heartbreak Ridge trail



4/11/02 Russ Babiak & Leslie Uhr were
here. What a cool place! (altho hot today!)
Russ will be spending lots of time here with
his fire crew... waiting for the big one.

7/13/2

Gorgeous view, but maybe not the best hike for mid-~~pt~~^{pt} in AZ. A little hot. Andrew Winsberg & I stopped by to pick up some tool covers & get a little water & will keep going S. to clear some oaks off trail. Then back to Manning for a shower & dinner.

Libby Landeen - 218

8/5/02

I came to sharpen/rehab tools. I got fogged in, an inch of Rain, a good lightening show, a magnificent Sunset, and a beautiful Sunrise. What a great Place.

Brant Wilson (Fire Crew)

8/11/2

Back again - not as hot, great day for hiking. Managed to find the 4 oaks S of here this time & got them cleared off the trail.

Libby Landeen

Andrew Winsberg (Volunteer)

7-21-03

Two hours from Manning Camp and David Wood and I arrived here. It is a bit muggy out, perhaps in part due to the large thunderstorm which moved through last night from the East. We are to survey the surroundings of this place to further our mental maps and general knowledge of the park. Also we are removing 4 blue cubes back to Manning for Todd the Ranger. I am once again awe struck by the beauty and serenity of this mountain range. Being in my second year w/ the Fire Crew this is my 1st visit to Happy Valley Lookout, and in my opinion - a long overdue one.

Tyson Sweetnam Sagu Fire Crew

7/21/03

GREAT HERE OVER FROM MANNING, NOT TOO SUNNY OR HOT. AFTER 5 YEARS IN TUCSON I NEEDED A JOB TO GET ME OUT AND ABOUT IN THE RINCONS. BIG MISTAKE AND LOSS ON MY PART AS THESE MOUNTAINS BRING AS GOOD A VIEW AS ANYWHERE. NEEDLESS TO SAY I WILL BE BACK ON MY OWN FOR SOME R+R. AS FOR HVL, AGAIN A GOOD VIEW (CHECK OUT REEF!) AND THE DRAW TO CLIMB RINCON IS EVEN STRONGER. I LOOK FORWARD TO A DIP IN THE POOL AT MANNING AND ANOTHER LIGHT SHOW FROM A T-STORM TONIGHT.

- DAVID WOOD
SAGU FIRE CREW

7-3-03

Just hiked in for trail maintenance. There has been a fire all along the North slope and to the East. The shirade is just now over. Lightening strike on 6-17 started it. It's 102° outside and not very breezy. Sooo much smoke in the valley from the Aspen Fire on Mt. Lemmon. ~~60,000~~ ^{60,000} acres and going. 300+ structures gone. Thanks to all the firefighters, I'm going to get my RED CARD next!

Raven SCA Manning Cabin
21 yrs.

9-15-03

Out tracking Pumas with someone working on their Masters. Stayed at Spud Rock last nite and H. Valley tonite. This job is amazing, I've learned so much from this park. The more knowledge I gain, the more wonder I have. A beautiful cycle. Monsoons are over, Autumnal equinox in a few days. Love the wild lands here, I will definitely be back with friends. Raven SCA
22 yrs.

ES. Wish I could have met Robert Maneck, we have like minds and a similar reverence for this mountain. I'm going to search for the petrocliffs... I may be a lifer too!

12-27-03 - WHAT-A-DAY!! - GOT A LATE START BUT HAD
A WONDERFUL HIKE - SNOW ALMOST THE WHOLE WAY. GREAT
FOR TRACKING - MOSTLY SQUIRREL AND COYOTE. I'LL HAVE TO
CHECK, BUT I THINK I CAN ACCESS SOME ~~RED~~ ^{RED} ~~CLIFF~~ ^{CLIFF} TRACKS NOT TOO
UNCOMMON I KNOW, BELIEVE IT OR NOT ITS 30° RIGHT NOW
@ THE LOCK OUT - WIND HAS GOT TO BE A CONSTANT 15 MPH MAKING
IT FEEL EVEN COLDER. AS I WRITE THIS, I AM BUNDLED UP IN MY
DOWN SMO, DOWN JACKET AND BOOTS SICK, MY FINGERS ARE
COLD AND STIFF AND ITS GOOD TO BE ABLE TO SEE MY BREATH AGAIN!
CAN'T BELIEVE IT CAN BE THIS COLD, ESPECIALLY AFTER READING
SOME OF THE ENTRIES IN THIS LOG. THE WOOD STROKE HAS
HELPED TAKE THE BITE OFF A BIT. CHECKED ON HAPPY VALLEY ZENITH.
LOOKING GOOD - PLENTY OF WATER WITH THE NEW SNOW. TOMORROW I'LL
HEAD FOR COW HEAD SADDLE TO LOOK FOR AN ALLEGED CANAL SITE, AFTER
I CLEAN UP THE LOCK OUT AND SET A FIRE FOR NEXT ADVENTURER. WHAT
A GREAT WAY TO SPEND MY 30TH BIRTHDAY. I'LL BE THINKING ABOUT
THIS ONE WHILE SITTING IN CHAIR @ FLETC.

— JASON GREENWOOD
214

6-3-04 Hauled 160[#] of water from Manning, Todd N.
Walking in front to help clear trail.

Larry Cunningham w/ "Kitty" & "Katy", Lynne Schlecht w/
"Doolie", Sandi Putnam w/ "Oakie" & Bonnie Slater
on "Indy". Had lunch on front porch, Wonderful
weather while Tucson is sizzling @ 105°. What
a great job! Yesterday we hauled 400[#] of water
in 2 trips to Spud Rock C.E. Todd loves us
and bakes us cakes!

Bonnie Slater 6:11:30 ^{AM}

6/18/04

STOPPED BY ON WAY TO RINCON PK.

NICE TO HAVE WATER HERE.

2004 SAGU FIRE CREW

7-21-04

Hot, dry hike from Manning, This morning.

There is a cool breeze now - what a beautiful day.

Such a pleasure to read back on the entries,

esp. Robert Marsh who is leaving us after so

many great years. His wisdom, hard work, experience

and love of this mountain will be missed

by all - but I am sure this book has not

seen the last of his words! Thank you Robert

for taking care of this place

Would be nice to take down all the boards on the windows and set awhile, w/ the 360° view of this corner of the world. I'm old enough to remember visiting five lookouts when they were active, with someone sitting + looking for fire, inviting up passing hikers so they might have some moment of conversation in a lonely week. There were clear days and completely clouded in ones, high winds + electric storms, but always plenty of time to think. Those days are gone now, ~~but~~ and the world has changed, but we've lost something in their passing. Still, it is very nice just to sit here in this place even for a few minutes, and always great to be high up in the River Mountains - so close to Tucson, but so far away.

I am here w/ Raydon Greenfield, Justin Schuck + Patrick Boyer - we are setting cameras to find that elusive jaguar, or maybe just lions + bears - sure are a lot of signs of activities. Doing trail brush work, looking for Arizona black rattlesnakes - onto Hazy Valley. Too dry up here for July 21. Hope rain will come soon.

Don Swann

7/29/04

Replaced broken glass, two small panels next to door. Installed wood panel over glass. Someone broke into lookout a few weeks ago, maybe for water. Todd Nelson Manning Ranger

8/1/04

HIKED OVER FROM MANNING YESTERDAY TO CHECK ON THE CONDITION OF THE HELISPOT. I WENT TO SLEEP THINKING ABOUT THE BEUTIFUL SUNSET I HAD JUST WITNESSED. I GOT UP BEFORE THE SUN, HEATED UP A BIG CUP OF COFFEE, OPENED A FRESH CAN OF COPENHAGEN, AND PLANTED MYSELF ON THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF THE LOOKOUT. I SAT AND WATCHED THE MOST BEUTIFUL SUNRISE IN A T-SHIRT. IT JUST DOESNT GET ANY BETTER. I HAVE THE BEST JOB IN THE WORLD! TRAVIS DOTSON ^{FIRE CREW} SUPERVISOR

8/1/04 Last hitch of my last season and got to spend some time out here at happy valley Lookout. Came out to inspect the helispot, Wendi and Julien your ritual lives on.

The lookout has that tired and forgotten look on approach. But once the boards are down and the inside is lit by early morning light she perks up and is alive again.

I feel fortunate that in the three years of work here at Saguaro I have met and worked with many of the authors from earlier days people like Robert Marek, Emily Gubler, Carin Harvey, Dallas VanGorden, John Williams, Jim Williams, and all the others. But at the end of the day the boards will be back up and once again the mice and scorpions will have free reign.

Brand Wilson Sagu Fire Crew

P.S. Marek you may have left but your trails will be here for decades to come.

8-31-04



I thought before I lay myself down to rest with the sound of little midlet feet I would sit between Rincon Peaks and the setting sun letting all the mountain inspired words run through my ~~th~~ grasped fingers, into the ink and onto this lined paper (good thing it's wide-ruled)

I don't typically write ~~on~~ ~~places~~ for others eyes and this is no lie. But like this world I am changing and what's typical of me anyway. I am uplifted that my job allowed me ~~to~~ to stay... in this SKY Island paradise. It is such a peaceful retreat from the chaos that swarms beneath ~~this~~ the mountains feet. The breeze wraps around me showing me I'm not alone as the clouds let out a big groan... from being too full of the moisture that the rest of nature is glad to receive. In about a month I may leave..... If I can

when I wandered to ~~Tucson~~ the TUCSON area I was sure I was going to wander away the same time. It took me to get here (a few months) People warned me. they told me stories of how many a wander has been stuck here how the land as harsh as it may be holds on to a Nature lovers soul. I laughed and here I am

10 months later thinking of how if I left I would be leaving a piece of my heart on a Saguaro. I will forever feel connected to ~~these~~ these mountains, The RINCONS. ~~~~>

the sun is exiting with all dts pink, purple and orange
glory. Till the next time
Reagan Greenfield (SCA)

10-9-04

Up to set some wildlife cameras in
the vicinity - not much sign of people, but
a lot of bear sign + some puma sign. well
see. Beautiful fall day.
Don Swann

11/06/04

Just a quick stop to see how things are.

Looks like we'll need to pack out the trash. And wouldn't
hurt to clean things up a bit. The weather
today is a far cry from the last time I was here - what
a variety of conditions you can experience here. I'd
like to spend some more time ^{hanging out} ~~here~~... maybe even try
to rehab this place... looks like it gets plenty of use.

Jason Lewis 214

7/4/05

JULY 4TH! WHAT A GREAT PLACE TO SPEND THIS DAY. I WAS HERE LAST YEAR (SEE 8/1/04 ENTRY). THAT DAY WE HIKE^D OVER TO SPUD ROCK CABIN SITE AND SAT DOWN FOR LUNCH... I HEARD CRUNCHING BACK BEHIND ME, I LOOKED OVER MY SHOULDER... ABOUT 5 YARDS BEHIND ME A MOUNTAIN LION STEPPED OUT FROM BEHIND THE BRUSH! WOW! THIS YEAR I HAVE SEEN A BEAR (ONE CHAIN AWAY COMMING TOWARDS ^{N. SLOPE TRAIL} ME), A COATI (15 YARDS COW HEAD SADDLE) AND A GOSHAWK WHICH DOVE AT ME SIX TIMES (ONCE W/ TALONS FORWARD & FANNED TAIL[✓]). W. OF MANNING. I WILL WORK FOR THE PARK FOR ONE MORE MONTH BEFORE I MOVE ON TO MY NEXT JOB W/ THE FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE IN NEW MEXICO. MY FIVE YEARS HERE AT SAGUARO HAVE BEEN FANTASTIC. I WILL MISS THE RINCONS DEARLY. THIS LOOKOUT IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL.

TRAVIS
DOTSON

July 4, 2005 8:30 AM

After reading the past, I'm caught up on what's been going on around the mountain. I don't know about that Wilson dude. Stone work lasting decades? Come on! At least give it a century. I'll bet on a thousand years considering that castles are that old.

Upon my return here yesterday evening, I damn-near had tears beading up under my sunglasses. But then I figured it wasn't emotions creeping back into my blood. Nope, just beads of sweat dripping down from my forehead as I totted my IA gear up the hill.

I'm not supposed to be here. My time is past. My relationship with the park was severed nearly a year ago. And yet somehow I've managed to return a "final time" to say farewell to this trashed out, worn out hut. I should have known better than to cut the cards with a gambling pro. The bet is if I lose, I'll join up with the fire crew and take an AD rate of pay. AD? Adventure and discovery? What are those letters to stand for?

So now I find myself carrying around a mini death pack around my torso, chopping brush with a fire tool and prepping a unit for a "someday" prescribed burn. I'm nearly twice the age of some folk working up on the hill and it shows. A blistered foot, lungs that can't hold air and a stride that a dung beetle could beat.

Well, ok... maybe not that bad. You should ask Travis Dotsen

for the story. The sunset yesterday evening was, as expected, apocalyptic. Orange fireball setting between Pusch Ridge and some western mountain ridgeline. A column of wildfire smoke was drifting out in front of it. A pair of penguins were soaring overhead. With the usual evening southwesterly wind blowing, the scene was memorable. A mortal moment.

And as the night sky showed itself, while I laid along the north side of this hut, my memories of this mountain reappeared to me as the stars increased. Imagine waking up in the middle of the night to a ceiling of stars as numerous as the grains of sand upon a beach. That's what appeared before me this day.

The horizon is magical. That first shade of light, that first phase of the moon. The night sky still visible. It's the one moment where we can all be astronauts. To see what they see as they leave Earth's atmosphere.

This is why I returned this day, to this place, at this time. My time spent working for this park was never about the career, the money, or the proximity to Tucson. It was about being here on this hallowed ground which will go on without me, just fine.

My time is up. I'm to haul a five gallon canister back to near the four corners marker. I'll take a look at the stonework on the south side of this hill for one more "old times sake".

As Patton said to his troops at the end of the European Theater of WWII,

"All good things must come to an end" And so I say to you

Adios. *Robert Black*

10

10/21/05 - HAPPY VALLEY LOCK-OUT SAVED MY ASS
 AGAIN. THANKS TODD FOR LET'N ME KNOW
 ABOUT THE WATER HERE. NICE JOB CLEANING
 UP TOO! I'M SURE I'LL BE BACK SOON

JASON BRISWOLD 214

10/28/05 - Volunteers Brad & Cindy
 Donaldson on our way through
 looking for Mt. Lion & Bear scat.
 It's not quite the "Bob", but who's
 comparing. -D

11/07/06 - GOOD NICE W/ VESTED W/ TENDS
 IN UPPER 60'S AND LOWER 70'S - PERFECT, ^{100% HIGHER}
 BUT FOR ANY CHANCE OF RAIN OR SNOW. LAST
 I HEARD GILSON WAS 81 DAYS WITHOUT SNOW.
 HAPPY VALLEY SIPPES LOTS COAL. WILL HAVE TO
 REBUILD ONE OF THE FIVE PITS. I CLEARED
 A FEW TREES FROM THE CR. TO THE L.O. BIG POND
 WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR TRAIL CREW. OFF TO
 SAND ROCK & EAT TURKEY CREEK. WILL I BE BACK?
 CRATER LAKE HAS BEEN CALLING. MAYBE ITS TIME
 TO HEAD BACK INTO SOME DEEP SNOW

JASON 214

1-28-04

Came by way of Miller Creek, overnight at HV Saddle
Continuing on to Manning. A beautiful crisp January morning. Only
problem is that it looks and feels like mid summer. The grass
is dry, the needles snap at the slightest touch. There has
been no rain in over 120 days. Hopefully there will be some
spring moisture before the summer. Fire Season 06' could be
a bad one.

Tyson Sutherland Fire Crew 02-04, FUM 05'

3-27-06

i am here and you are not. there is a mouse between the window
and plywood. i fed him some sausage. came here from Manning camp under
high, thin clouds. last night a wind storm almost knocked over some fires.
i thought i would be crushed, but somehow survived. when the 1st entry was
made in this book i was 7 years old. in a week i turn 27. guess not
too many folks make it up here. i tried to set this place on fire, but it
didn't work. need more gas next time. i feel bad for the fire crews, they
have so little to do. i saw bigfoot feeding on a dead hiker on spud rock
look out for that, if you ever go there. also, the scramble up was a bit icy.
peace and love, the traveller

4-5-06

Trail crew on the way to Manning - trail could use brushed -
Removed large Pondo between here and Saddle - Curtis

6/13/06

Beautiful hike today from Manning Camp. The Cloudcover was heavy so we were nicely shielded from the sun. This is Day 2 of 3 for the search for Peregrine Falcons in the Rincons. This place is full of mice and the trail from Manning Camp was full of Bear Scat and Mountain Lion scrapes.

Boo-Yah!

Eric Ahnmark, Saguaro NP Volunteer

6/13/06 - Over from Manning to see if the peregrine eyrie on the cliffs below the lookout is active. It didn't appear to be. Checked from below near the Miller Creek drainage last Wed. and didn't observe any falcon's around then either. Funny that I've been working here at the Park as a Biotech since May of '92 (1992 - just in case there are any eyebrows raised) and this is only my second visit to this fabulous old lookout. It's been disheartening to see the NPS of the "good old days" of fire lookouts and backcountry rangers go the way of UCR tapes because of budget cuts and a very hostile

and downright vicious Republican white house
occupied by the worst president in my
lifetime - And I was born when
Ike was president! Politics aside I
trust that this Lookout and Manning Camp
continue to be waypoints and havens
for fire crews, biologists, and SCA's
willing to leave behind the "wonders"
of the 21st century for a rugged,
meaningful few months in the summer.

A summer spent on this mountain
has forged a ton of good decent
people whose perspectives have been
sweetened by the perfume of the
Pine pines and the scent of
lion scat on the trails. I better stop
rambling less I be accused of

Robert Marchism - Who by the way
found his way back to working on
the seasonal fire module this year.

Good for Robert, he's a solid example
of why we need wilderness - OK
Back to Manning.

Mike Ward
"Brotoch Ward"

7-19-06

My 1st time here to the lookout in Tyos as an employee. If I'd only known what I'd been missing - I was expecting this place to be trashed & it is really in decent shape. Good job to those who keep it that way. Came in from Manning Camp & onward to H.V.G.G. So glad I'm in these mountains than Tucson where it's 100+ daily.

Michelle 212

10-8-06 Don Swann here w/ Jose Camarena looking for bear sign + checking wildlife cameras. A lot of rain here in July + August - lots of trail work ahead. Happy Valley campsite really flooded. We got hailed on today! Still very beautiful

Don Swann

2-24-07

Hiked down from Manning today clearing trees along the way. Another crew clearing out along Doerffling trail & Spud rock Campground. Got 1 inch of snow @ Manning yesterday though it's sunny & 65° here today. Clearing out along Fire Loop this afternoon.

(Bored
one
patient
Twix!)

Paul Miller

4/21/07 Michelle Uhr here w/ Volunteers. Camped @ H.V. CG
last nite. Rain/snow, attempted to go up Rincon Peak. Snowy
wet trail, too slippery. Came here instead. Sunny + cool/cold.
No sign of bear. Michelle Uhr

1/28/09 CHAMBERLAIN IN TURKEY AT MANNING
Jared Throckmolt

7/3/09 P. AUSTIN PASSING THROUGH
ON WAY TO MANNING. THIS PLACE
IN MUCH BETTER SHAPE THAN
I ENVISIONED. I'LL BE BACK...
Dave Austin, RMD D. RANGER

8/29/09 - Hiked over from Manning camp. This lookout
is awesome! I would love to come back and
give it a little love. Amazing views. What
a great little hidden secret. I'll be back!
Shannon McCloskey-Kerr 11
Manning Ranger

9/5/09 Back again in the morning. Shanon McCloskey-Kerr

10/6/09 Hiked up after lunch. P.S. Shanon McCloskey-Kerr

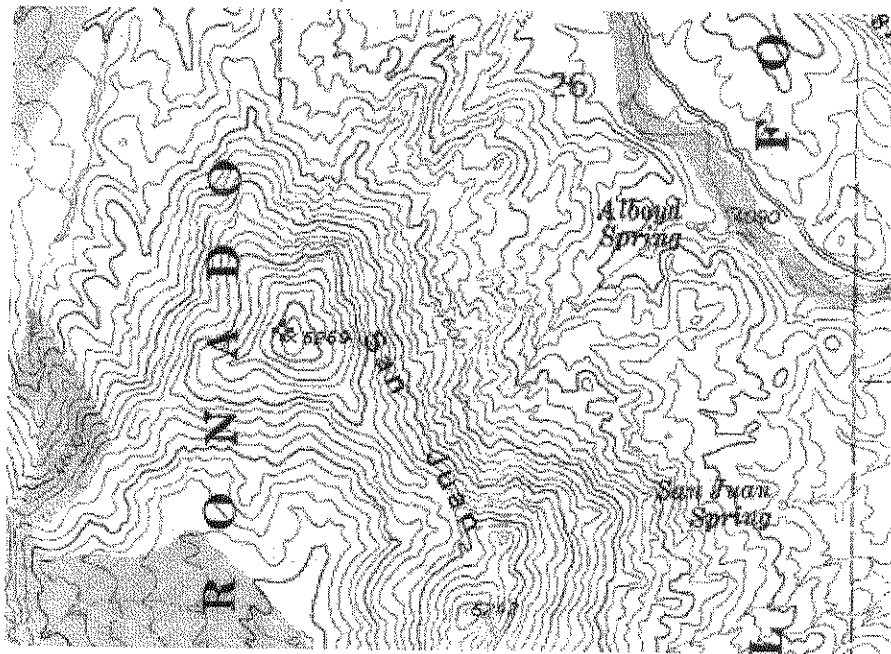
10-14-09 Checking out Ruman Park and
jaunted over. Would be great to clean
this place up Kenia Perkins Fuels Specialist

10/22/09 PAUL AUSTIN FORCED ME UP HERE, BUT
NOW I'M GLAD, WE NEED TO GIVE THIS SWEET
LITTLE PLACE SOME ATTENTION!

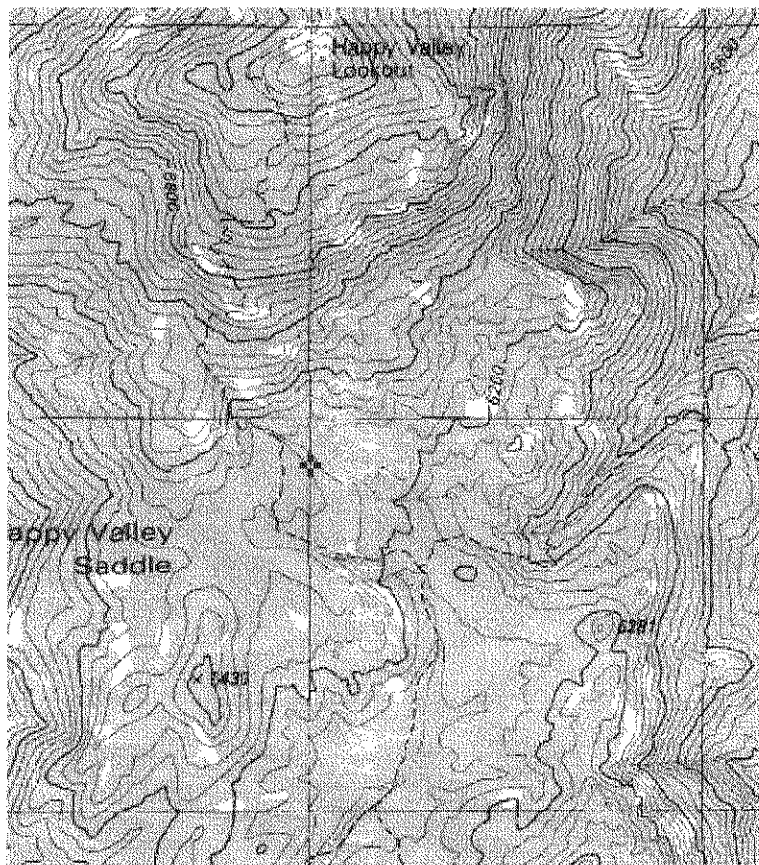
ONWARDS TO MANNING & BURROFEN.

DARLA SIDGES & PAUL AUSTIN

SAN JUAN HILL
Elevation 5269'
32°05'40" N 110°28'47" W



HAPPY VALLEY LOOKOUT
Elevation 7348'
32°10'03" N 110°31'21" W



1. Trail Junction.....32°09'01" N 110°31'16" W

FOR FOOD ORDERS
USE CARBON PAPER FOR COPIES

To: Mountain People *

From: Wayne

Regarding: Suggestion for making food orders

To facilitate the handling of grocery orders might I suggest your orders be broken down into divisions such as shown. This would be a great help to all concerned.

Also on two page orders please use separate pages and avoid using the back of the same sheet of paper.

Meat

Dairy Products

Bread

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Frozen Food

Grocery Items

Non Grocery Items

Thanks,

Wayne

Happy Valley