

12/11/69

Participants

1) Frank Escalante: In 1899 he was born on the Martinez ranch (later the Rincon Ranger Station). Manuel Escalante, his father, was born in Mexico but when he was 16 years old he came to the U.S. By the late 1800's he lived in the Rincon Creek area. Manuel died in his early 40's. Frank lived on the ranch for a while then came to Tucson to attend Drachman school. School attendance was not as regular then as it is now and Frank could leave to help with some of the work.

Frank helped his brother in 1906 and 1908 with the operation of the lime kiln. 1912 Frank made his first trip to Manning camp. When Sam King was Superintendent of Saguaro Frank was involved with both the top of the mountain as a packer and with work around the loop such as putting the cement aprons on the loop drive.

Mr. Escalante built drift fences for Dr. Kenner and at one time lived a year in Juniper Basin.

Escalante Road is named after Mr. Escalante.

He had to take the trip slow as we went to the lime kilns as he was recovering from four operations on his abdomen.

2) Charles Maguire: Long time resident of Tucson. Landscape Architect with the CCC in the Saguaro Nat'l Mon. area and an advisor for many CCC camps that were working with the Park Service in Arizona. He is a registered engineer and is a field representative for the Arizona Pioneer Historical Society. At present he is involved very much in photographing historical sites in Arizona and Sonora.

3) Bob Jones: Superintendent, Saguaro Nat'l Mon.

4) Fred Mang: Photographer, Regional Office

5) Hal Coss: Park Naturalist, Saguaro Nat'l Mon.

6) Tom Carroll: Park Technician, Saguaro Nat'l Mon.

Points made from the taped conversation.

Rincon Creek Area

Tom Nielson was the first owner of this area that Frank knew. His mother was Mexican and his father was possibly German. Fred Knipe was the next owner and Mr. Escalante knew him and his children quite well. ~~When~~ ^{When} ~~the~~ ^{the} Jelks, Bob Taylor and Packard followed as owners of this area. Madrona should be known as Madroño as this is the correct name in Spanish of the tree. The ranch was not very good for cattle or very big. When he was young about a thousand head of cattle were run on the ranch. Jelks built a water pipe line from the spring that is located north of the present Ranger Station. This water went all the way to the ranch house. The chimneys ~~that~~ ⁱⁿ Chiminea canyon were for the people who brought large vigas (wooden beams for houses) down from the mountain. They would heat there food at this location. These beams were ponderosa pine. A hole would be put in the viga, a chain attached and an ox would haul it down the mountain. His brother told him that Carrillo was one of the men that would get the vigas, but many people were coming here to get ~~their~~ ^{their} vigas to be used in their houses in Tucson.

Top of the Mountain

Frank's father, Manuel, and his mother called the high mountains Santa Isabel and his father is the person who built the large rock cairn on top of Rincon Peak. This was probably built before Frank was born. While on top of the Peak his father's hat was blown off his head and fell into a steep canyon. The hat

was brand new. The name Rincon comes from the Spanish word rincón which means corner and the corner in this instance would be formed by the junction of the Tanque Verde & Rincon Mountains. This is why the mountains are named the Rincons.

He knew Levi Manning. His father had hauled all of Manning's horses, supplies, and a milk cow to Manning Camp. Just a few cows were at Manning as it was so cold. Six mules pulled the wagon up the wagon road to Manning Camp. One driver left some meat on the wagon overnight and a bear stole it. Manning reported that he killed four bears on top of the mountain. Frank remembers only one building at Manning and it had more than 15 rooms. Manning Cabin had a kitchen. 1912 was Frank's first trip up the mountain. Jesus Garcia, an old man, lived up there. Jesus had killed a big mountain lion near Spud Rock.

Frank was on the Turkey Creek Fire with Sam King. He worked for a few years as the packer and knew Frank Stansberry, the packer and heavy equipment operator who was with the monument from the early 1940's until 1962.

Mr. Escalante spent one year at Juniper Basin while he was working for Dr. Kenner. He worked on a drift fence, or better said, he built the fence which is now referred to as the Rocking K drift fence. He had 11 gates in the fence.

Lime Kiln and Wood Cutting

Lime kiln in Spanish is horno de cal or caldera. The canyon that the lime kilns are in had permanent water above the lime kilns in the bottom of the wash. The kilns were worked all year and the tinaja could be counted on to water the stock that brought the wagons.

Many roads came into the area and he couldn't recall exactly how the old road came as it had been almost thirty years since he had been there.

Rocks were of three colors and his brother used the blue rocks for making lime. The pink and red rocks were not used. The rocks were ~~blasted~~ ^{blasted} off the hill and then ~~fell~~ ^{rolled} to the bottom of the hill where they were picked up and put in the wagon to be brought to the kiln. Loose rocks along the stream were also picked up.

It took four days and four nights to make the lime. The lime could be made with or without the iron bars that are in one of the kilns. If the iron bars are not used then you place the big rocks down first forming a hollow structure and then place the smaller rocks on the outside. The ashes can be raked out and more wood added. When the top turns yellow then the lime is done. Wood is added every two to three hours and during the four day period 10-15 cords of wood will be used.

The wood that was preferred was green palo verde and then green mesquite. Dry wood was considered poor. The area was all cut around the lime kilns and out in the direction of Freeman Road as there was plenty of green palo verde in that area. Wood for the kilns was not cut to much in the direction of Broadway as that area had mostly mesquite.

The cord of wood cost \$2.00 and to cut it up was \$1.00. This is wood for the lime kiln. After the tape ran out I found out that the wood was also cut for firewood in Tucson. Mr. Escalante said that a load of dead dry wood would bring \$5.00 in Tucson and that this would ~~bring~~ ^{bring} buy plenty of things. In the last sentence I refer to load of wood and by this I mean a wagon load. In reference to the first sentence in the paragraph Mr. Escalante felt that the prices he gave for the price of a cord of wood at that ~~time~~ ^{time} was cheap.

Frank's brother Manuel made lime twice from 1906 to 1908 when Frank was just helping.

Saguaros

Frank felt that in 1908 there were many more saguaros in this area than are here presently. He said that when he was there that his brother^s and the others were careful no to hurt the saguaros when cutting wood as they liked to eat jelly from the saguaro fruit. His brother did make jelly from the saguaro fruit. It was admitted that probably many small saguaros were killed as the men could not see them and would have to enter very near the tree to cut the wood. Saguaros were picked up and taken to town but this was not done often until "New people came to Tucson." At this time when new people came to Tucson then saguaros up to 12' high were taken to Tucson. A saguaro 12' high would cost \$30.00. There were a lot of young paguaros that were picked up by many people that came from Tucson to get them. During this period not only saguaros were taken but also cholla and other types of plants.

I heard this section that I bring up now both in the field and on the tape and I feel that I have the right interpretation but^a final interpretation should depend upon further conversation with Mr. Escalante. He said that his brother was fired in 1908 and that he went to Gilber Acosta's ranch and there made lime at another kiln. His pronunciation of the word 'fired' is bad but since he had used the word before and I had questioned him on it I feel that I am correct. Gilbert Acosta bought the ranch from Ray Ruiz.

The taking of saguaros went on until the monument was established.

Place Names

Canyon del Coche (javelina) was the canyon that is referred to as Cottonwood Canyon on the 1937 Master Plan map by Charles Maguire.

Capaderos are the two hills that are currently referred to as Twin Buttes. The 1897 map also refers to them as the Capadero.

Plant Names

Sultilla- Mexican Crucillo
Lleve el Burro- Zinnia
Tatalencho- Burrow Weed(sic?)
~~Barrel~~
Bisnaga- Barrel Cactus
Madroño- Madron(?) Tree

AM

Animal Life

- 1) Bear in the Rincons
- 2) Mountain Lion in the Rincons
- 3) He didn't see any wolves but ^{PROBABLY} possibly some on the San Pedro side of the mt.
- 4) Hadn't seen any big horn

Top of the Mountain con.

An old German man lived at Spud Rock Cabin and grew potatoes that were up to 8" across. He sold the potatoes in Tucson and sometimes in Benson. Frank said that when he went to town he did not come by the ranch but went down the ridge. He had a burro.

Credibility

Charley, Hal and I were very impressed with this fine old man. He was quite frank if he couldn't remember or didn't know something. He has lived in the area for a very long time and has a very good reputation for not exaggerating or making things up. Some of the things that he brought up were good indicators of his truthfulness. In my opinion only age and subject matter hinders him. More conversations with Frank should prove to be very helpful.

Conversation between Bob and Charley on the Twin Buttes area.

Bob felt that encroachment into the Twin Buttes area has become very noticeable even though there are few houses in that area. He felt that the monument would be much better shape today if we would have followed Ben Thompson's suggestion in the 1940's that we acquire the land to the skyline. This is a rather small amount of land. From many places on the first part of the loop road this encroachment is quite noticeable.

Charley agreed with Bob but he had not heard of the Thompson proposal. The observation was made that this land had become quite valuable and that further development would soon come. A change in the zoning which would allow a ~~100000~~ reduction in the amount of land per house would greatly increase the speed and the amount of the encroachment. Tucson's population might reach 600,000 people by 1980 and Tucson has been developing to the east.