HOT MINERAL SPRINGS

by
SLIM BARNARD

Courtesy of your Southern California Ford Dealers

MAP NO. 124

EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gasoline</td>
<td>$6.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motel (2)</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baths (mineral)</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals (2)</td>
<td>9.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$30.72</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TRAVELOGUE

Within two easy hours of driving from the heart of downtown Los Angeles is sunny Desert Hot Springs, a resort-health-retirement oasis in the northern fringe of Coachella Valley. Because the area rises toward the San Bernardino Mountains it is known as "high desert" country.

A community of mineral water spas, hotels and motels, elegant homes and fomenting real estate development Desert Hot Springs occupies a strategic spot in this mostly arid expanse of sand, cactus, canyons and washes. Situated north of U.S. Highway 60, the burgeoning town is some 1,000-plus feet above sea-level. Since its most immediate neighbor, glamorous Palm Springs, is only 475 feet above the surface of Neptune's distant mythical realm, Desert Hot Springers' faithful "returnees" and a number of well-heeled, conservative retired types can literally "look down" at the glittery aggregation of estates, golf-courses, swank hotels and "his-and-hers" swimming pools which is a mere fifteen-minute drive due south!

When YOUR HAPPY WANDERERS decided to re-visit this entire playground of dry sunshine and briskly cool evenings we took a map, placed the pin of a compass on Desert Hot Springs and drew a 40-mile circle. The perimeter took in not only Palm Springs to the south but portions of the Joshua Tree National Monument, Yucca and Morongo Valleys and even mighty, snow-capped Mt. San Jacinto. However our journey, which officially began with Palm Springs and then continued through Cathedral City with a 90-degree angle north via Thousand Palms Oasis to the mineral water "up-country" at Desert Hot Springs represented just a wedge out of this vast, exciting travel-adventure pizza we had drawn on our chart.

(Continued on back)

KNBC Channel 4 — HAPPY WANDERERS (In Color) — Every Thursday Night 7:00 p.m.
Yippee Ky Yay

Rolling into Palm Springs was like negotiating rush-hour traffic in any big-city except that the colorful buildings sported banners and the car-and-bicycle-jammed streets were festooned with multi-colored decorations which proclaimed that the 26th Annual Rodeo of Stars was in full swing.

Even pedestrians acknowledged the mood of the Yippee Ky Yay spirit. Men and women, wearing traditional sun-shirt also affected cow-waddie adornment consisting of straw "stetsons" with sharply upturned brims and, in many cases, high-heeled Texas-styled boots.

The parade of handsome mounts and colorfully caparisoned riders drew YOUR HAPPY WANDERERS to the arena where Palm Springs' former Mayor Bogert and Francisco Medina, Ascension Governor of Old Mexico's State of Jalisco jointly held sway. They were, of course, assisted by curvaceous Valentina Skeleton, the 18-year-old titian-haired daughter of the famous comic. An accomplished horsewoman Valentina was Rodeo Queen, a fact repeated by announcers who alternately pronounced it "row-dee-yoe" or "row-DAH-yoe."

The program lasted a full weekend. Saddle bronc riding and Brahma bull riding produced enough hair-raising happenings for participants and spectators alike to send icy shudders down spines despite the molten sun overhead. Roping displays by Mexican Charro Eliseo Gomez and his Gringo equivalents plus fast-paced gymkhana riding by riders of both sexes left the audience and YOUR HAPPY WANDERERS happy but limp.

PT 109

PT 109 of course is now a legend rather than merely the naval designation of a World War II torpedo-equipped patrol boat, since it was the PT109 which was commanded in 1943 by a slender young Lieutenant, named John Kennedy who later became President of the United States.

One would imagine that Cathedral City, a few miles southeast of Palm Springs, would be the last place in the world to have any affinity with War in the Pacific. However, while pausing at the ornate new post office building it turned out that YOUR HAPPY WANDERERS happened to be TV favorites of Postmaster Pat McMahon. He, in turn, proved to be the Navy machinist whose life was saved by Kennedy after the PT 109 had been cut in two by a Japanese destroyer during the now famous night-time incident in the embattled Solomons.

An Angel's View

While numerous resort-hotels have sprung up around the many bubbling hot mineral springs of Desert Hot Springs (water temperatures range from 90 to 170 degrees above zero, Fahrenheit) probably the most noteworthy establishment is the Angel View Crippled Children's Foundation. A non-profit, non-sectarian establishment dedicated to the rehabilitation of kiddies suffering from physical disabilities resulting from disease or accident. Incorporated in 1955, Angel View is located on 27 acres of land and provides both hospital bed in-patient and clinical out-patient treatment. Under the direction of Frank Edmundson, M.D., assisted by a superlative staff of doctors, nurses and technicians the Foundation lives up to its angelic appealation: children are cared for regardless of race, color or creed and there are NO geographical boundary limitations. Treatments are without charge. The establishment is entirely supported by tax-exempt donations. A prompting word, here, to the sympathetic is not remiss we feel.

Not far from the Foundation are two Spas—the Desert Hot Springs and Desert Highlands Hot Springs where HAPPY WANDERERS come to enjoy the therapeutic values of mineral water or just enjoy desert sunplay and living in sparkling swimming pools. The two establishments, and there are many others equally as attractive here) cater to vigorous 'teenagers and the "younger set" as well as more staid folk seeking recuperation from mineral waters which equal, if not actually exceed those found in Europe's famous spas.

Retirement De-Luxe

Nearby to the Spas and Angel View is a small "in-group" of retired folk who occupy a small community of a dozen or so cottages. What makes this genial aspen of young-at-heart couples unusual is their method of communication. George Miller, a 25-year veteran with Walt Disney, was presented with a batch of turn-of-the-century telephones by a relative who happened to have been a telephone company executive.

These delightful, still workable hand-cranked instruments now connect each of the cottages. Chit-chat 'twixt the group is lively. And since everyone is "wired in" there are no secrets whatsoever.

It was through these people that the HAPPY WANDERERS were able to visit Harry Bennett, the Detroit industrialist, now retired from the automobile industry. Today he quietly resides in a nearby lovely hilltop dwelling with his wife. His interest is portrait and landscape painting. And his canvases (which are NOT for sale) are excellent.

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"The Happy Wanderers"

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Channel 4
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