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LOS ANGELES, CAL.
PERMIT No. 119

TOURING TOPICS



October
1927

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In This *Piracy on the Pacific*
By GEORGE WYCHERLEY KIRKMAN

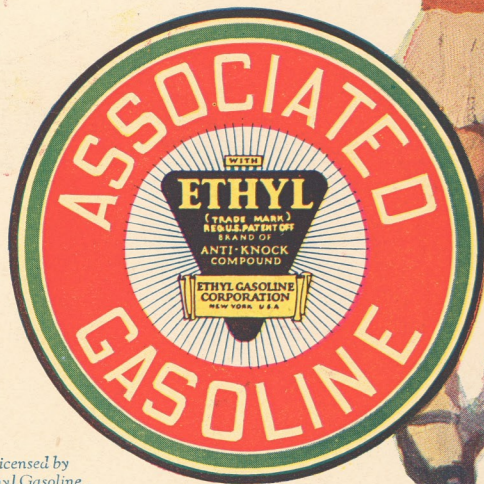
Issue *To the Roof of the Panamints*
By PHILIP JOHNSTON

Lower California Awakens
By MORRIS RATHBUN

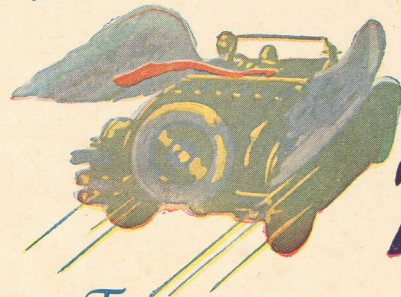


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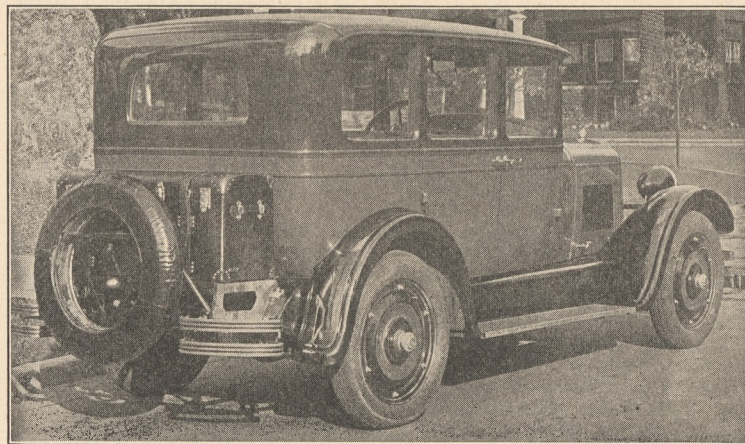
TOURING TOPICS

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LOS ANGELES

Death Valley and Mount Whitney from the same spot. At present it is an easy climb of half a mile over an old Indian trail from the end of the new road to the summit of the pass, from which this view is afforded. This alone is well worth the cost of miles of torrid desert travel, even if the wayfarer does not feel equal to the arduous climb to the top of Telescope Peak.

From the summit of the pass, the old Indian trail leads upward over an ascending ridge, culminating in a peak known as Baldy, with an altitude of perhaps a thousand feet less than that of Telescope Peak. Legs and lungs which have undergone training no more strenuous than the usual round of office work, will find the climb increasingly hard with the gain in altitude; but absorbing interludes in the strenuous work are afforded by tremendous vistas that are ever unfolding below. Skirting the summit of Baldy to the west, a climb of perhaps 200 feet can be avoided; but the climber should not be so ill advised as to attempt to avoid more climbing by skirting the mountain at lower levels, where loose fragments of shale and slate, on a precipitous slope, make progress exceedingly slow and difficult.

From the south side of Baldy the climber has a good view of Telescope Peak. It gives the impression of a colossal pyramid, an impression which is heightened by streaks

of snow extending downward from the summit, defining, in a way, the lines of a pyramid. The sight leaves no doubt that this is the monarch of the range, rising in rugged majesty to dominate the lesser peaks that flank it. With a feeling akin to dismay, the tired climber will note that the route to Telescope lies over two peaks, of which Baldy is the first. Ascending and descending each of these subtracts a rather definite quantity of energy before he reaches the final slope, a long "hog's back" extending to the last rise which marks the beginning of the stiffest climb.

Snow, which is usually in evidence at 9000 feet during the month of May, increases in quantity with the altitude. Patches, often many acres in extent, lie on the northerly slopes, affording a welcome relief from thirst, and making it unnecessary to be burdened with a canteen when every ounce of weight carried feels like a pound. Occasional bands of half-wild range horses grazing around the snow patches, raise their heads and regard the strange visitor with ears cocked forward; then, with a snort of fear, they wheel and gallop madly out of sight. While skirting one of these snow fields, the wayfarer versed in woodcraft may be thrilled by the sight of tracks made by mountain sheep. This species, now bordering on extinction, is perhaps more plentiful



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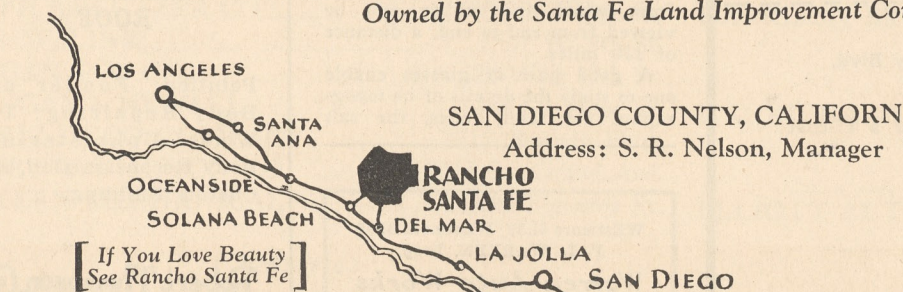
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