

# Antelope Valley—Magic Land at L.A. Back Door

Area Virtually Unknown to Southland—  
Where Desert Blooms, Industry Booms

**BY FRED BECK**      presently claim a combined population of 100,000. That means that the Valley has just about three people to the square mile. The future, fast closing in, is a picture painted in far different hues. Of the 20 towns (some mere gas-and-oil stops) Lancaster is the biggest with 29,000.

**Motels First Rate**  
The motels are first rate, they have swimming pools and feature "gourmet cuisine" and if you happen upon The Caravan Inn on the right or wrong day, depending on your attitude, there may be a fashion show going on. Everything is



CALIFORNIA Portland Cement \$22 million Mojave plant in Antelope Valley.

"chic" enough for Beverly Hills, and at night there's entertainment and dancing in the lounge. Those men at the bar may well be talking turkey. Turkeys are to the Valley what dates are to Indio, and the men may be discussing the practicality of 54-lb. toms. One, roasted, fulfills the

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## 35,000 Square Miles

Antelope Valley is an area of land extending from the L.A. County line on the east to Ventura County on the west—from the San Gabriel range on the south to the Tehachapi Mountains on the north — a spread of 3,500 square miles that invites the motorist to travel down The Road of Discovery.

From Pasadena and thereabouts the motorist would take the scenic Angeles Crest Highway across the mountains, or Foothill Blvd. north, to where it terminates in junction with U.S. 6, thence through Mint Canyon. As we enter the canyon, on a course that soon will be the Antelope Valley Freeway, quite suddenly the valley opens up as a vast vista of sunny open plains shimmering under a sky usually so blue that it looks like theatrical scenery.

So clear is the air that the scene spreads for miles, the distance fading off in a background of picturesque buttes.

## Picks Up U.S. 6

From Los Angeles the route would be San Fernando Road or across the San Fernando Valley on Sepulveda, picking up U.S. 6, from which point we travel through Mint Canyon. Or we could take the turn into Newhall and Saugus, and from there through Bouquet Canyon which leads into the quaint community of Quartz Hill where thousands of almond trees will soon be in blossom.

If in doubt locate Lancaster or Palmdale on your map, go there and you'll be in the Antelope Valley.

All the towns of the valley

# ANTELOPE VALLEY

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need of the total passengers on a big jet.

Other agricultural points of pride in the area are poultry, field crops and alfalfa production. All these translated into money, chalks up an annual \$30 million. In the southerly part around Pearblossom and Littlerock we have peaches and pears.

## Great Sheep Herds

Almonds grow at Quartz Hill and on the fringe of California City the great M. & R. Ranch, rich in water wells, run great herds of sheep and raises cotton as well. But the ranch grows smaller as contiguous California City grows larger.

As the towns of the area rate, with Lancaster and Palmdale leading in population, California City, not yet four years old, has 175 homes and a population of over 600 and the fastest rate of gain. Potentially important industrially, it is presently a town noted for "richer living" with the accent on recreation. A golf course lighted for night play and a man-made lake for boating are two of the principle surprises encountered by families touring the valley.

## Fine Recreation

Elsewhere in the broad stretches of the Antelope Valley, recreation includes golf, fishing, hunting, riding, bowling, water skiing, hiking, camping and rock hunting. The rockhounds are everywhere and the pickin's are rich. Active gold and silver mining continues in the

**Randsburg-Johannesburg area.**

There are country clubs and duck clubs. Must-see attractions are the Tropico Mine a few miles west of U.S. 6 out of Rosamond—and the Indian Museum near Lancaster. And the open-pit mine at Boron.

This is the true "high desert" region. It boasts the enchantment of four mild-weather seasons; average rainfall is 9.12 inches annually. Mean daily temperature is a moderate 76 high and a low of 46.4. Relative humidity averaging 30% during the summer and 40% during the winter is just about the driest climate in California.

## Free From Smog

A climate characteristic derives from the invigorating altitude which ranges from 2,300 to 4,000 feet above sea level, and the entire area is free of smog and fog and forever shall remain so—or so they say—because there is no inversion layer to glue industrial wastes to the ground.

The year-round moderate weather is conducive to good health. Valley folks insist they sleep better and feel better than they did "down below." The summer nights are notably balmy, which makes for outdoor evening fun around the pools and barbecues.

Aside from the agricultural industries such as poultry packing plants and so on, Antelope Valley has taken forward strides in step with the space age. This dates back only to the days of World War II. At Edwards

AF Base and Edwards Plant, 42, Palmdale, blue chip firms such as North American, Douglas, Lockheed, Northrop, GE, Westinghouse, Bendix and others employ 14,000 military personnel and civilians. The annual payroll figure is given as \$63 million.

## Big Future Expected

While the figure is impressive, it is small as compared with expectancies for the near future. Other established industrial firms in the AV include United Carbon, U.S. Chemical & Borax, Great Lakes Carbon and many more.

In the north of the area lies Mojave, a town that came upon the map mainly because both the Santa Fe and the Union Pacific have yards there. The lines commingle and share trackage in the lift over the Tehachapis into the San Joaquin Valley.

The U.S. Marine Corps established itself near Mojave, and then moved out, leaving behind an impressive installation that has been taken over by Kern County Airport No. 7. The runway accommodates anything that flies.

## Industrial Park

With drive supplied by Mojave boosters organized as Mojave Industrial Action Committee the former Marine base is in process of being reconverted to an Industrial Park. R. A. Byers, the "flywheel" of MIAC, firmly believes that the Mojave area of the Antelope Valley will emerge as the new "American Ruhr."