

Visit to Biggest Reservoir, Dam Makes for Big Experience

Against a backdrop of chocolate brown mountains, the blue waters of Lake Mead stand out as the largest man-made reservoir in the United States.

Winding a distance of 115 air-miles to the east of Hoover Dam, the lake has a depth of 363 feet at its deepest point and a shoreline of 520 miles—more than the distance from Los Angeles to San Francisco.

Although the immense dam and project, the area in which they lie has, since 1936, become one of the most extensive and attractive recreation spots of the West.

Mostrated from Los Angeles and San Francisco, California, the lake is reached by taking Lake Mead from San Bernardino within seven hours' driving. Trains and buses serve the area, and the air-minded va-

tionist can either hop a scheduled airliner or touch down at any of five airports or landing strips in private planes.

Open all the year around, the Area offers swimming, boating, fishing and camping on a grand scale. Fishermen can try their luck all day on any day of the year.

The national recreational area was established in 1936, the year that Hoover Dam, at its highest point, 726 feet above the Colorado River's water.

Although the visitor certainly need not any intrusion to appreciate the beauty and recreational opportunities of the area, a knowledge of the geological and historical aspects of the lake and the Hoover Dam is most desirable.

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Recreation is still a big problem for personnel both on and off base, since the distances are so great to any large cities, according to the officers.

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PIONEERTOWN—Like the Western movie heroes staking out the quiet street just before a gun battle, these late-afternoon visitors at Pioneertown trudge past the big stone trough

Pioneertown Provides Bit of Old West for Tourists and Movies

Of all San Bernardino County's scenic features—the mountains, hills, forests, deserts—perhaps the most outstanding and picturesque is Pioneertown, which has appeared on movie and television screens many an other spot of the Old West.

Located only 15 miles north of the San Jacinto Valley, where the Pioneertown Rd. cuts off from Twenty-two Palms Highway, the reconstructed village of California's past actually extends throughout the year.

Pioneertown actually includes a 30-acre site for shooting western films, and was widely used in the classic Kist series. The scenery is truly California. The scenery is truly California. The scenery is truly California.

There's been proper lines a dirt street where "horseless coaches" are not allowed. Its faded wooden buildings with their false fronts, handrails and atmosphere of the pioneer days have provided the movie and television industries with a permanent set shooting location.

A small group of year-round residents play host to the perpetual stream of tourists. They own their own plots of ground and have built their homes and stores in the Old West style.

One man runs a small grocery and meat market. They even have their own post office.

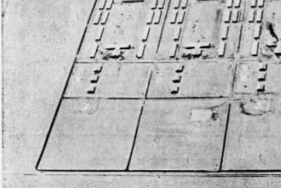
Pioneertown was originally developed by a Hollywood group which included Roy Rogers, Dick Burnett.

Morongo Basin Boasts of Health-Building Climate

The Morongo Basin, more popularly known as the High Desert, is richly called a "high desert" in its 20 miles long and 20 miles wide. It is made up of a series of valleys varying in elevation from approximately 2,500 feet at Twenty-two Palms to 1,500 at Morongo Valley.

Its high, dry location has caused it to be called "the health-giving climate" in the game law of the State.

It offers a vista of great desert mountains, boulder-strewn and bush-covered, extending



IN MARTIAL ORDER—Headsquarters of the sprawling U. S. Marine Corps Training Center at Twenty-two Palms resembles neatly laid rows of blocks or a stepped aerial photo. The 16-million-dollar installation is now near completion, with approximately 3,500 personnel stationed there.

of the Old West showplace. A horse tethered at a hitching post in the street beyond them gives added atmosphere to the setting.

Marine Training Center Rising as Desert Goliath

The 500,000-acre U.S. Marine Corps Training Center at Twenty-two Palms is literally mushroomed from the desert floor to become the latest of San Bernardino County's series of important military installations.

Construction of the 15 million-dollar base, which Rep. Harry B. Slaughter was instrumental in locating, was begun in the early summer of 1952. It is 30 miles wide at its farthest post.

Now nearing completion, the training center has approximately 17,500 personnel, barracks for 7,000, 200-room barracks officers quarters, approximately 230 civilian and civil service employees, 22.5 miles of paved roads, plus countless miles of graded roads and trails, a daily food bill reaching \$3,300, a 1 million-dollar monthly payroll, 700 hundred and fifty trailers and trailers for base and independent rentals at 100 to \$30 monthly, plus 150 homes for dependents.

BASE COMMANDER
Base commander is H. Bryant Gray, Annapolis command of Ft. Brink. The colonel is a native of Iowa and has been in the Corps for 20 of his 24 years. He joined the service in Montana and was graduated from Annapolis in 1925.

His World War II Col. Brink served in Brazil, in the Pacific with the 4th Division, and was stationed on Guam at the end of the war.

His home is in Dallas, Tex. He has two sons and a daughter; the oldest son, 27, is now serving in the U.S. Army.

Col. Brink took command on July 12, 1953. The first post commander, Lt. Col. F. H. Scamling, had moved in at the same time the three Los Angeles contracting firms started out construction.

The base has had its problems, like all Goliaths. It includes federal, state, school and railroad land, and later discovered a heavy oil shale northeast tract which is now being bought up.

The water problem, according to the executive officer, affable Lt. Col. Mervyn E. Fisher, has been solved by three wells on the base. Far from running at capacity, they are serving the base needs with 500,000 gallons of water daily.

Storage space is available for 20 million gallons. The wells, according to Twenty-two Palms sources, are in the Surprise Springs area.

Regular armed forces economy, resulted in desert demands, that for waste water on nearby Mesquite Dry Lake. The purified water is then used again for irrigation and sanitation needs.

Permanently stationed at the center are six artillery and three aircraft battalions and three aviation squadrons. While other installations have their own firing ranges, the Twenty-two Palms training center gives the Marine Corps a much-needed combination of firing ranges and maneuvering areas for artillery, Col. Brink said.

TRAINING PERIODS SET
Armed artillery units from Camp Pendleton are scheduled for special training periods at the base from June 1 to Sept. 1.

Buildings on the base are mostly of tilt-up concrete construction, of modern economic and low type of building developed in recent years. They look like long, gray-brick rows of neatly spaced blocks when seen from the highway approach.

economic measures followed—even in what means buying contractual labor.

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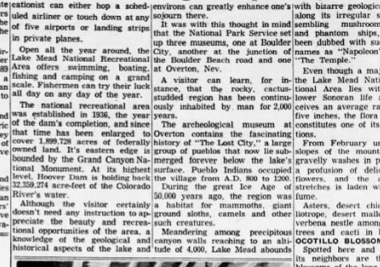
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HOVER DAM—The Hoover Dam, at its highest point, 726 feet above the Colorado River's water, is the largest concrete dam in the world.



MODERNIST CHAPEL—Almost as large as some small cathedrals, one of the two modernist chapels at Twenty-two Palms Marine Corps Training Center dwarfs the executive office, Lt. Col. Marshall R. Pilcher, as he stands before the not yet complete altar during an inspection tour.



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IN THE DESERT—AS EVERYWHERE

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- As one of the most famous communities in California's widespread desert empire, Twenty-two Palms is nearly 3,500 miles from Los Angeles and is 2 hours from San Bernardino.
- The motorist reaches it by passing eastward through San Geronimo Pass on Highway 60/300, and turning northward on Twenty-two Palms Highway a few miles of Whitewater.
- A dispensary, 20-bed infirmary and a hospital are also on the base. There are six mess halls, one for each battalion area, though only one is yet in operation. A mess sergeant said he is allowed \$3 and 10 cents per day to feed each man. Food variety is good and the most
- Los Angeles — 144 miles.
 - San Bernardino — 100 miles.
 - Riverside — 89 miles.
 - Rio Diaz — via Laceria — 81 miles.
 - Lake Arrowhead — 114 miles.
 - Palm Springs via Garnet — 50 miles.
 - Indio — 71 miles.
 - Idyllwild via Heming — 84 miles.
 - San Jacinto via San Jacinto Pass — 109 miles.