



THE OLD WEST—Trigger Bill Bridge of Pionertown "rolls his own" outside set of Judge Roy Bean's store in make-believe Langtry, Tex. Trigger Bill is being wrangled for Russ Hayden production shooting the television series "Judge Roy Bean". The set is located just south of Pionertown, the famed old-western village built expressly for motion pictures and television. Pionertown is north of Yuca Valley.

SETTING FOR WESTERN FILMS

It's Hard to Tell What Is Real and What's Make-Believe in Pionertown

A speeding stage coach looms crazily at its points into the main street of Langtry, Tex., sending thrills surging and billowing in all directions. The stage passengers catch their breaths and look at the little town, its tiny buildings and signs all proclaiming one ownership: Judge Roy Bean.

However, the Langtry, Tex., just described is not the Langtry, Tex., of history, but only make-believe and situated in San Bernardino County.

The scene is from television's newest Western series, Judge Roy Bean, starring Edgar Buchanan as the cantankerous old judge who dined up all the law west of the Pecos and the young Judge Beards. The latter played opposite Jane Russell in "The Outlaw."

BACKDROPPED FOR FILMS
Roy Bean is being filmed in Pionertown four miles north of Yuca Valley. This quiet little collection of real and make-believe buildings was built for one purpose... to be used as a background for motion pictures and television soap operas.

Beside the Bean series, produced by Russ Hayden, himself a one-time Western performer and the stocky Langtry of Rip and Sam Cassidy, George Anthony's "The Champ" TV series at Pionertown and the Cherokees television plays were filmed there. The town has a total of about 60 year-round residents live—and the scenery was "discovered" by the late Ed Lewis, a multi-billed actor of what now is Pionertown. As it was later built by a business publicist.

"Dick Curtis," raised up from the saddle, gazed at the scenery... and said, "This is it."

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By MAL McCLURE
Official "capital" of the High Desert, the bustling, growing Twentynine Palms—the Joshua Tree National Monument—has a population of 2,000 people, about 130 houses, drives including a weekly newspaper, and a cinema which is seldom matched anywhere. The Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce lists 29 reasons for its popularity.

These include: Mecca for artists, outdoor museum for geologist and art gallery, government land available, average temperature of 63.3 degrees, plentiful water supply, fine churches, modern hospitals, many motels, hotels, stores, markets.

SHOPPING CENTER
The city is the unincorporated area of San Bernardino County. It has a shopping center for 10,000 people. One of the main reasons for this upsurge in population is the \$6 million dollar Marine Corps Training Center located north of the town.

Most of the payroll from the 2,000-personed base is spent in Twentynine Palms. The city is located in the heart of a giant wheel—the spokes, or highways, of which radiate to the outside world. One highway, an extension of State Route, runs all the way over a recently improved road, to Parker, Ariz. In the opposite direction the Twentynine Palms Rd. leads through Joshua Tree, Yuca Valley and Mesquite Valley, and on north to New Rivers.

All paved roads connect Twentynine Palms with 70 and 90 north to Indio. All paved roads connect Twentynine Palms with 90 and 70 west to Indio. "The place to go to Twentynine Palms is the oasis—the rest of the world," is the slogan of the area. One of the main reasons for this upsurge in population is the \$6 million dollar Marine Corps Training Center located north of the town.

SCENIC BEAUTY
The road from Yuca Valley to Twentynine Palms passes through Pionertown and some of the most beautiful scenic beauty to be found in all the west. It winds through scenic rock formations, through the red sandstone of the old Joshua trees in the state park and passes through Rimrock, four miles from Pionertown, through a picturesque settlement of 20 homes. With its "Main and Palm Springs roads," also extends to grow.

Wildlife abundant in the Morongo Basin.
Animals common on the desert are the desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, coyote, badger, mountain lion, badger, desert fox, and, rabbit.

Cottontails, jackrabbits, and the smallest species of mice thru pocket mouse, one of the smallest mammals in the world.

Birds are numerous with more than 200 species. The birds are listed including glossy black phainopepla, Gambel's quail, roundtail hawk, desert sparrow, broadwing, flickers, Bullock's and Scott's orioles, and many others.

There's a saying around it is a beautiful country, a beautiful town, a beautiful oasis, a beautiful life. A large Indian settlement is a colorful town to the city.

Morongo Basin Boasts of Its Healthy Climate
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High Desert's 'Hot' Is Twentynine Palms

An offshoot of the Paintos who migrated the Colorado River Indians, in 1853 he is said to be H. S. Williamson making a road survey, describing the "barren, mountainous country... the bones of an white man to explore, Little is known of the early years... probably the first white man to visit... camped at the oasis.

In 1862, another surveyor, A. P. Green, wrote in his field notes: "There are some 25 fine large springs take their name from the Twentynine Palms... The trees later became known as the Washington palm and the Palo Verde... Nearly 20 years later, in 1873, Tom Coover accompanied by his father and uncle turned down the oasis area as Twentynine Palms."

INDIAN LEAVE
Prospectors mining the area in the 1860s and 90s said the Indians still lived at the oasis and in 1868 the 23 Palms Indian Reservation was set up under the direction of C. L. D. The two years later Indians have trouble looking for their land.

Many of the willows and cottonwoods growing near the old building were planted by Bill Newsom. Willows in now what is known as "Indian Gardens" at the 23 Palms Inn were presumably planted by the Indians.

During the mining years, prospectors found gold and silver. The town's premier school is situated in the Morongo Basin. Some of the more famous mines included the "Anna Marie" and the "Virginia Dale" mines.

BOOM STARTS
After the first World War the government opened up the area in 1910 and 20-acre homesteads. The "Paradise Springs" mine, Dr. James B. Luckie, made a survey to find a region which would be good for veterans afflicted with respiratory infections, arthritis, heart trouble and other ailments.

Doctor's investigation showed Twentynine Palms to be the most healthful and soon 28 veterans took up residence. (These 28 veterans and their families are now known as the "Paradise Springs" group, aged and successful life enjoyers.)

By 1925 the health and recreation center was well established with 100 inhabitants living near the 23 Palms Inn.

primitive, albeit healthy existence... in Banning and the nearest place... The next year, however, the Twentynine Palms Hotel, in Banning, was one of the palms started carrying a few canned goods... BEGINS TO GROW

The oasis was the area began to grow more rapidly, partly because of the promise of water... The Twentynine Palms was slowly, but surely, building a reputation...

The Twentynine Palms Air Academy moved in to fill the vacancy. The base was used early in the war to train Air Corps glider pilots there.

It was discovered poultry thrived in the high desert and now turkey raising has tripled in volume. An airline mile opened up and some copper and gold were mined near it. A roofing company was established.

Some uranium has been discovered in the High Desert Mountains and prospectors hope to hit higher grade stuff in the future.

MODERN SCHOOLS
Along with the amazing growth of new businesses the town has kept pace with schools, churches and recreational facilities.

The town's grammar school is situated in the Morongo Elementary School District while the high school is part of the Victor Valley Union School District. Both schools have recently added facilities to give the area the most modern in sectional institutions.

Twentynine Palms has a resident deputy sheriff, county-ordered protection arrangement and beautiful new post office. There are now some 17 church groups in the town including Presbyterian, Episcopal, Catholic, Christian, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witnesses, Lutheran, Seventh Day Adventist.

The service clubs and civic groups include the Chamber of Commerce, American Legion, Elks, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and the Twentynine Palms and Mesquite Valley Junior High School.

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Freeways Will Extend to Near High Desert

By AL LOCKREY
Metropolitan residents who are looking for a better life... found 15 miles east of Twentynine Palms... The history of Morongo Basin is far more ancient than a mere desert with its survey stakes buried in antiquity.

Construction is progressing from both ends on the final link of the San Bernardino Freeway between Banning and Spring Valley. When completed, this will bring motorists to the oasis of the Twentynine Palms and will be the way to Colton where work has started on a continuation of the freeway to Indio with the expressway and four-lane divided highway that now leads from S. 7 St. east of Colton through Redlands to Banning.

Palm-are on the boards for construction of freeway through the area of Banning and Banning. Work on the project through the latter city has already started and is expected to be completed by late 1952.

The present four-lane divided highway of Banning continues north to Garret where work has been started on another link in the spring of 1952.

The State Division of Highways is planning a two-lane divided four-lane divided highway which will pass through the Morongo Basin area. This highway is also under construction and will eventually provide freeway travel all the way from Indio to Banning.

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UP TO DATE—The three Palms are sought in just as modern facilities on the desert as they are in metropolitan centers. Many desert communities, undergoing rapid growth since they are in, have had to grapple with desert schools. This is a school at Inyokern.

Borstone Has Large Population of Indians
found on 7th St., on the north side of the town. Laguna, Navajo, Apache, Pueblo, Piute and other tribes are represented. Many of the local Indians are still traditional tribal dress and dress.

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