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The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Jack + Jim Reveal - Madrono -
The Fremont & Carrion - 1985

Jim Reveal's "Fremont Crossing the Sierras
1844-1845 - A collage paper - 15 Feb 1960.

FF 22

1. Camp of January 22nd, 1844. The men climbed Mount Wilson, and saw Smith Valley. Traveled 14 miles from the last camp near Yerington, Nevada. Sunrise--30° Sunset--37° Latitude, 38° 49' 54". (All readings are given by Frémont, and not always right. Also see page 2 of this report.)
2. Camp of January 23rd, 1844. Saw Walker Lake and became acquainted with pinenuts of the morning of the 24th. Traveled 24 miles from last camp over fairly easy ground. Sunrise--40° Sunset--42° (See pages 2-3, also figures 1-3 including text.)
3. Camp of January 24th, 1844. Contined on up East Walker camping on Rough Creek at Nine Mile. Sunrise--45° Sunset--36° Latitude, 38° 21' 28", (See page 3.)
4. Camp of January 25th-26th, 1844. Traveled 27 miles through deep wet snow, camping near Bridgeport under the present day reservoir. On the 26th, the men rested, but Frémont went south and looked at the Mono Lake Basin. 25th; Sunrise--2° 26th; Sunrise--2° Sun set--47° Latitude, 38° 18' 01" (See pages 3-4.)
5. Camp of January 27th, 1844. Frémont went ahead into Wheeler, but the camp only came as far as the upper end of Hunton Valley. Sunrise--12° Sunset--33° (See page 4)
6. Camp of January 28th, 1844. The camp, animals, and men traveled through Devil's Gate, and into Wheeler passed Fales Hot Springs, camping on a high wind-blown ridge where the animals had a little grass. The group traveled 12 miles. Sunrise--27° Sunset--40°
7. Camp of January 29th, 1844. Traveled down to West Walker from the high hill he camped on the night before, but the howitzer was left in Deep Creek. He was met on the River by a group of Indians who told him about other white men they had seen two years before. Sunrise--34° (See page 5 and figure 4 and text.)
8. Camp of January 30th, 1844. Moved ahead into Antelope Valley, starting late in the morning. Camped at the upper end of the valley on the fork of Slinkard Creek and the West Walker. Sun rise--31° Sunset--39°. Latitude, 38° 37' 18" (See page 5.)
9. Camp of January 31st, 1844. The men left early, traveling hard up a gentle, but snowy road into Carson Valley. Traveled 26 miles during the force march. The camp was made on the East Carson River., Sunrise--25° (See pages 5 and 6.)
10. Camp of February 1st, 1844. The same as above. On this day, the men prepared to ascend the mountains. Sunrise--27° Sun set--24° (See page 6.)
11. February 2nd, 1844. The men moved up Long, Dutch, and Diamond Valleys, crossing the ridge that separates the two Carson River drainages on to the East Carson. Then, up Marklæville Creek, camping in the meadows. Traveled 16 miles. Sunrise--24° Sun set--35° (See pages 6 and 7.)
12. Camp of February 3rd, 1844. Traveled up Markleevillæ Creek to

(See →
attached
"Supplement")

Pleasant Valley where they camped. The horses were returned to the grassy meadows in Markleeville. Traveled 7 miles. Sunrise-- 14° Sunset-- 26° (See page 7.)

13. Camp of February 4th, 1844. Traveled up Pleasant Valley Creek until forced to leave it because of the steepness of the hill. The efforts were then turned to Jeff Davis Creek, which Frémont managed to get up, and into Charity Valley. Part of the men remained in Pleasant Valley--the horses still in Markleeville. Sunrise-- 20° Sunset-- 40° (See pages 7 and 8.)
14. Camp of February 5th, 1844. Some of the men in Pleasant Valley were busy hauling equipment up to Charity Valley, while others were making sleds and snowshoes. The camp was the same as the ~~4th~~ for both groups. Sunrise-- 10° (Charity Valley) Sunset-- 24° (See page 8.)
15. Camp of February 6th, 1844. Frémont moved across Charity and Faith Valleys, and climbed Elephant's Back and saw California's great valley. Same camp as above. Sunrise-- 16° Sunset-- 26° Latitude, $38^{\circ} 42' 26''$. (See pages 8 and 9.)
16. Camp of February 7th, 1844. Frémont moved his camp into Faith Valley, traveling 4 miles. Sunrise-- 9.5° Sunset-- 28° (See page 9.)
17. Camp of February 8th, 1844. Again moved ahead, traveling a mile

and a half, camping on Forestdale Creek. A storm was forming in the SSW, so Fremont sent most of his men back to Fitzpatrick with orders to move the animals up in the morning. Sunrise--minus 2.5° Sunset--36° (See page 9.)

18. Camp of February 9th, 1844. The same as above; Fitzpatrick in Pleasant Valley tried moving the animals, but found it impossible. Sunrise--29° Sunset--24° (See page 10.)
19. Camp of February 10th, 1844. Moved to Red Lake, two and a half miles from the pass. Sunrise--35° Sunset--37° (See page 10.)
20. Camp of February 11th, 1844. Same as above. The animals were sent back to Markleeville, and the men were instructed to build heavy mauls and beat a road through the snow. Sunrise--33° Sunset--33.5° (See page 10.)
21. Camp of February 12th, 1844. Same as above. The work on the road continued. Sunrise--32.5° Sunset--35° (See page 10.)
22. Camp of February 13th, 1844. Same as above. The work on the road continued. Sunrise--33° Sunset--35° (See page 10 and 11.)
23. Camp of February 14th, 1844. Same as above. Fremont and Mr. Preuss climbed Red Lake Peak and saw Lake Tahoe. The work on the road continued. Sunrise--21° Sunset--32.5° Longitude 120° 25' 57" Latitude 38° 41' 03" (See page 11.)
24. Camp of February 15th, 1844. Same as above. No record of this day. Sunrise--31° Sunset--31.5° (See page 11.)
25. Camp of February 16th, 1844. Same as above. The animals were taken to Charity Valley, and Fremont and Jacob moved over the pass looking for a route down from the pass. Sunrise--30° Sunset--33° Not sure where these readings were taken. (See page 11.)
26. Camp of February 17th, 1844. Same as above. Fremont was over on the west side, and didn't return until late at night. Sunrise--23° Sunset--32° (See page 11.)
27. Camp of February 18th, 1844. Same as above. No record of this day. Sunrise--22.5° Sunset--31°
28. Camp of February 19th, 1844. The same camp at Red Lake. The men were occupied on this day, fixing the road to the top of the pass. Sunrise--23° Sunset--32° (See page 11.) Lat. 38° 41' 51"
29. Camp of February 20. All the horses, gear, and men arrived on the crest of the Sierras in the pass by the afternoon of this day. Sunrise--22° Sunset--37° Latitude, 38° 44' *Longitude 120° 28' (*Dellenbaugh in Fremont and '49, page 226, say this is a printers error, and it should be "38° 41'.") (See page 11.)

John Charles Fremont, The Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Mountains, pages 220 to 235, and 576 to 577, and 476 to 485.

Supplement to Jim Reveal's paper on Fremont's route across the Sierra Nevada - 1844.

At the time Jim prepared this report, we were of the opinion that the Fremont canon was left behind as the party was descending a steep hill. We took this to be the descent down Deep Creek from the vicinity of Cottonwood Meadows to the West Walker. Evidently Forest Supervisor Maule came to the same conclusion, for he wrote in his historical atlas that the canon was abandoned in Deep Creek. Where all of us got the belief I have no idea today, but it appears to have been made in error.

"The Expeditions of John Charles Fremont" - Vol. 1, Edited by Jackson & Spence, on page 620, reads..."we ascended a very steep hill, which proved afterwards the last and fatal obstacle to our little howitzer." The only very steep hill they might have encountered would have been the north slope of Deep Creek, and it must have been there that the howitzer was left behind by Preuss and party. From the "high point" camp of Jan. 28, they must have gone north along Cottonwood Creek ("a trail down a hollow") to Deep Creek, where they met some Indians, then north up the hill toward the 6171 elevation, then down the slope into the West Walker.

I can't bring myself to believe the Fremont part went down Mill Creek as suggested by Fred I Green and lately by others. There is nothing in the Fremont narrative to suggest that they crossed the Walker above the canyon and made their way north into the headwaters of Mill Creek. Furthermore, if indeed they did make their way toward Mill Creek and make their camp if Jan. 28 on a "high point" blown clear of snow, then where is "the hollow" Fremont followed the next morning and where is the "very steep hill" they ascended, the place where the canon was abandoned?

I believe the Fremont howitzer was abandoned on the steep slope north of Deep Creek on a line of march roughly north of Cottonwood Meadows, or in the vicinity of the section corner between sections 10, 11, 14 & 15 T. 7 N., R. 23 E.

Revised opinion
in Aug. 1983

Jim Reveal
4 Dec 1982

THE MISSING FRÉMONT CANNON—AN
ECOLOGICAL SOLUTION?

JACK L. REVEAL AND JAMES L. REVEAL

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Fremont's, Crossing the Sierras
1844 to 1845

Basic Communication 3/15/60 Jim Raxworthy (B-)

Although ^B marred by
a vast number of mechanical
errors, the amount &
quality of the ~~research~~ commands
great respect. I hope you can
learn to write correctly.
They will come real
effectively!

A SIERRA CROSSING

by

Jim Reveal

Jim did work hard to produce this report. Both of us were interested in western history - it became his minor in college. We were especially interested in Fremont & did some of the field research together.

From this awful beginning (as awful as mine some 25 years previously) Jim has become a very fine, precise & productive writer of scientific & technical papers.

JR 10 Oct 1979.

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
of Basic Communication 2 at Utah State University

February 15, 1960

Outline

or

Table of Contents

- I. Introduction
- II. January 23rd to January 30th, 1844; a week plus of hard traveling to the base of the Sierra Nevadas.
 - A. Traveled south hoping to find the Buenaventura River on which Frémont would camp for the winter.
 - B. Became ~~positive~~ ^{up} ~~on the non-existence of the river,~~ ^{The river does not exist} and turned north, traveling up to Carson Valley.
- III. January 31st to February 3rd, 1844; was just a start of the snow and hardships the men and animals were to face.
 - A. Traveled up to Markleeville, breaking a trail all the way from Dutch and Diamond Valleys to Markleeville.
 - B. Traveled onto Pleasant Valley, but the absence of feed for the animals forced them ^{animals} back to Markleeville.
- IV. February 4th to February 11th, 1844; was a week of hard work and hope for all the men and animals.
 - A. Traveled up to Charity Valley, but the snow was too deep for the animals to travel in.
 - B. Climbed a low peak and saw the California Valley in the distance calling the men high in the Sierras.
- V. February 12th to February 21st, 1844; more work and the finally victory found the men victorious and joyous.

Many volumes have been written about John Charles Frémont and his adventures in the west for he was one of the most widely traveled explorers and scientists in the middle eighteenth hundreds. His expeditions were large and well equipped with the best camping gear and scientific equipment available to the United States Government, not to mention the men which Frémont grouped together--men such as Carson, Fitzpatrick, and Joseph Walker.

It can not be imagined the worry which the men's wives and families must have gone through. (Especially Jessie Benton Frémont, for all she knew of her husband was that he had crossed the Sierras in the middle of the winter, and no word of his arrival in California could be found.¹)

A few days of this crossing are recorded on these pages, locating for the reader many of the points of interest that Frémont and his men saw crossing the mountains. This work will only carry the reader to the top of the mountains in a way the author wishes, but he has given the reader a brief journey down to Sutter's home to finish the report. The information, maps, pictures, and work were all done this winter, gathering information that has been told to me, drawing the maps, and finding the pictures were done in haste; only the looking, the many miles of walking over the same route that he and his men traveled took time--one summer for the author,

¹Irving Stone, Immortal Wife, p. 100.

Frémont?

This is a complete list of studies which prepared for these family matters.

This needs to be said more clearly.

303

the writer

but many for the people before him.

*What were the
circumstances? How did
Fremont happen to
make the trip?*

The horses grazed on the short grass, eating bunch grass when it was found in the cold desert morning. The camp became alive suddenly as the first sign of dawn appeared in the eastern skies; the horses were gathered, saddled, and packed. The men then turned their thoughts to breakfast which was served around six in the morning.¹

Frémont moved his men out early on the 23rd of January, 1844, traveling up the eastern fork of the Walker River which branched below his camp, the West fork running through Smith Valley which he saw the day before when he climbed Mount Wilson on the west side of the main river drainage.² They moved over Pine Grove Flat, looking for the Buenaventura River upon whose banks they hoped to camp for the winter.³ Why he looked for the river, not many people can answer, but Frémont states in his Memoirs that he felt the river did exist, and he was going to find it. Doctor McLaughlin, the executive officer of the Hudson's Bay Company in Vancouver believed in the river, and drew a map for Frémont with the general route of the river. It flowed, McLaughlin contended, ~~in~~ from the Rocky Mountains to the bay of San Francisco.⁴

*Frémont
ambushed*

¹John Charles Frémont, Report of the Exploration to the Rocky Mountains, p. 10.

²John Charles Frémont, Narratives of Exploration and Adventure, edited by Allan Nevins, p. 345.

³Thomas Hart Benton, Thirty Years' View, 2:580.

⁴Frederick S. Dellenbaugh, Frémont and '49, p. 177.

~~It~~ Captain B. L. E. Bonneville's diary, which was re-written by Washington Irving, stated "...nor spring, nor pool, nor running stream, nothing but parched wastes of sand..."¹ If he, or anyone else had of found running water through this desert, more maps would have had its stream bed marked on them.

The men traveled through the warm weather under nearly clear skies, traveling some twenty-four miles over partly level ground until night fall found them near the East Walker Ranger Station (see the large map at the end of the report for the entire route and camps during the trip.) And again the horses were hobbled or staked and turned out to graze. After dinner was eaten, and the dishes finished, the men too found a place to sleep for the night--by nine everyone was in bed.²

Early in the morning, an old Indian ran into the camp offering to trade pinenuts for cloth. (See figure 1-3 on the Indians which Frémont saw.) The Indian was persuaded to guide them to within sight of a good pass. The men traveled with their Indian guide, and camped at Nine Mile on Rough Creek.

The next morning found the men climbing a long ridge below Sugarloaf, and then westward to Bridgeport where they camped on the fork of Buckeye Creek and the East Walker.

The temperature dropped during the night to two above, affording the men with their coldest night since the 13th of December. Still Frémont was up early, and leaving his men in

¹Washington Irving, The Adventures of Captain Bonneville, In the Rocky Mountains and the Far West, 2:93.

²Allan Nevins, Frémont, Pathmaker of the West, p. 102.



figure 1



*I copied these
3 photos on
Kodacolor 35mm
4. IV. 82
M.*

figure 2

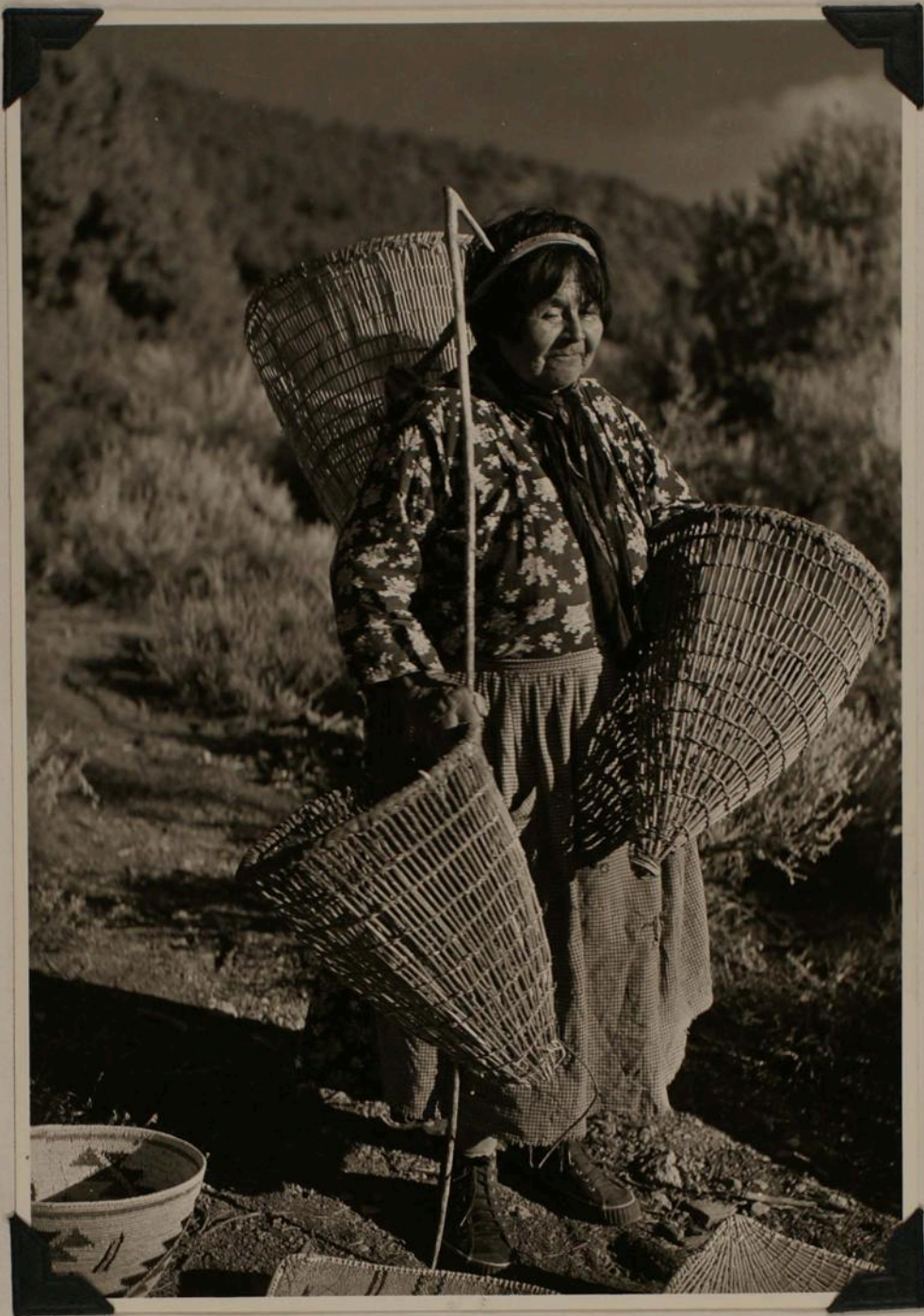


figure 3

These pictures were taken by Jack Reveal ^① in the fall of 1939 in the Pinenut Hills, northeast of Minden, Nevada, at one of the many pinenutting camps.

Figure 1 ^② shows the mother or mother-in-law of Willy Smoke ^{Smoke} carrying burden baskets which were used to carry pine cones. Figure 2 shows the two elderly ladies of the family making pinenut soup out of roasted pinenuts (a stone mortar is used to grind the nuts into mush) and hot water--the soup is more like mush. [meal]

Figure 3 shows the complete arsenal for collecting and caring for the nuts. The hooked stick is used to pull the pinecones off the trees, or to bring the branches down so that the cones might be picked off. The heavy baskets are burden baskets, and the tightly woven one on the ground is used in making soup. This writer has seen areas ^③ where they used hard mud baths in making this soup instead of the baskets--only the rich Indians had baskets ⁽⁴⁾ of this kind because they are obtained from the California Indians. The fan-like baskets at the bottom of the picture are used to help separate the nuts from the wings. ¹

¹Jack Reveal, letter of the 28th of January, 1960.

- ① I was along & made photos, but not these. These were made by an official photographer from USSCS
- ② Figs. 1 & 3 are of "Aunt Molly" a member of Willy Smoke's family. She died the following spring at Gardnerville reservation. The other lady in fig. 2 is Mrs. Suddie. Willy S. was the local Indian leader or "chief"
- ③ Something wrong here; I don't know what he means by "mud baths"
- ④ Not correct. These people were pine basket weavers (but made no pottery). Everyone had basketry.

J Reveal
10 OCT 79

camp to watch the animals, he travel^{ed} a few miles and looked into the Mono Lake Basin; but ~~again~~, this also failed to be the river he was searching for.¹

Frémont left camp early on the 26th, with Carson, and traveled up Swager Creek into Hunton Valley. The Indian guide suddenly decided to leave and told the men of a pass up Buckeye Creek which would put them on the other side of the mountains in a hurry; the men didn't understand the Indian's map, and when they told Frémont of the pass, they confussed Buckeye and Swager Creeks.²

With Carson in charge of the camp with orders to camp in Hunton Valley, Frémont and Fitzpatrick moved ahead, and crossed Devil's Gate into Fales Hot Springs and Wheeler Guard Station area. Climbing a hill that the radio tower is on, north of Wheeler, Fremont saw the West Walker and decided to follow this stream because ^{he thought} this was the head waters of the California Valley rivers. Sure of their decision, Fremont and Brokenhand^{1,3} as Fitzpatrick was sometimes called because he had lost two fingers by a bursting rifle shot,³ returned to camp to tell the men of their find. ~~And~~ So all the camp, animals, and men moved over the pass into Wheeler, and climbed up on Burcham Flat to a high ridge which afforded the animals with a little bunch grass for the night. (See the large map at the end for this camp.)

account for this
swift enough

¹John Charles Frémont, Narrative of Explorations and Adventure, edited by Allan Nevins, p. 348. ~~not needed again~~

²Frederick Dellenbaugh, op. cit., p. 216.

³Oliver Burt, John Charles Frémont, Trail Marker of the Old West, p. 67.

*what howitzer?
No previous reference*

The 29th was slightly cloudy, but still calm when Frémont left camp and traversed along the hill side until dropping down to Deep Creek and Walker River. In this Deep Creek Canyon, the howitzer was left.¹ (See figure 4 and the corresponding text.)

When he arrived on the Walker River, he met a group of Indians who told him about white men they had seen two years before--this being Bidwell. The Indians might have told him about Emigrant Pass, but if so, he didn't even plan on crossing the pass.

who is he? first reference to him - why this?

Frémont continued on down the river, camping on the lower end of Shingle Mill Flat where he hoped Mr. Preuss would reach before night fall, but the lose of the howitzer prevented him in arriving.

I don't understand, do you mean the men left camp?

The camp left late in the day, Mr. Preuss and most of the men requiring time to move from their camp of the night before to Frémont's camp; from here they followed the river, ascending into Antelope Valley, pass an Indian camp (still used today) and then camping on the fork of Slinkard Creek and the West Walker River.

the committee why is he "Mr." in text?

Heavy clouds greeted the men when they woke on the 31st, forcing Frémont to hurry his men and animals through the low pass that lay before them. They started early, but it was snowing by noon, forcing Frémont to place his Indian guide under rifle-guard until the top of the pass was reached. ^{Then} the Indian was allowed to go, run ^{running} through the snow carrying his ^{sp} cloth.²

what cloth?

¹William Maule, Geographic and Economic History of the Carson, Walker, and Mono Basin in Nevada and California, n.p.

²John Charles Fremont, Memoirs of My Life, p. 324.

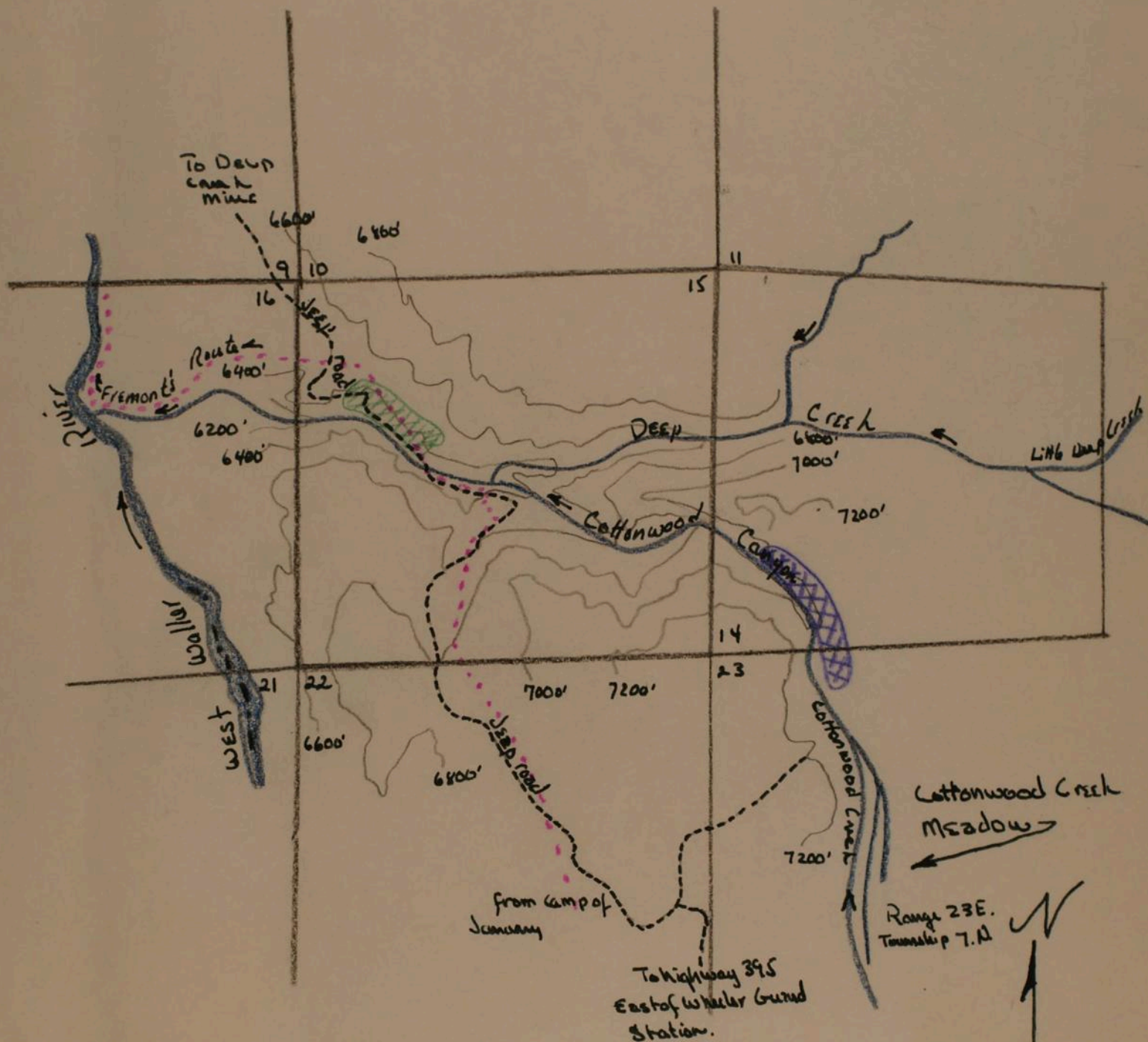


figure 4

from Clinch Flat Map
 1954
 drawn Jan 28, 1960
 by
 Jim Raugel

Fremont and his men left their camp early in the cold nippy morning, following the western slope of the hill they had camped on. They traversed the hillside until finding a gap; they dropped down to the creek that was buried under the snow. They went down the south slope, but (after try to go down the stream bed,) the snow became too deep for their animals, and they were forced to the north side. (Ascending this hill,) the howitzer became buried and was left. 3-30.4

Many people, however, claim that Fremont traversed the east side of the hill, and dropping down to Cottonwood Creek Meadow through the gap on the eastern side of the hill. And their attempts to get out of this canyon into Deep Creek caused the loss of the cannon.

The first area is green, and purple showing the area where some people say the twelve pounder was lost. Actually, the cannon was found, but the exact location was never determined because the old timer that found the gun could never remember and describe the place well enough to find the area again.¹

When Fremont arrived at the Walker River, a group of Indians told him of a group of people who had ascended the Walker River and crossed the Sierras in Emigrant Gap, south of the present Sonora Pass. This group was ^{that of} John Bidwell, in which was a woman, Mrs. Benjamin Kelsey, the first white woman to cross the Sierra Nevadas.²

¹William Maule, op. cit., n.p.

²Arlene Reveal, Mrs. Benjamin Kelsey--First White Woman to Cross the Sierra Nevadas, n.p.

The men remained in the ravine that the Indian said would take them to a river, and about dark the men reached the East Carson River.

Arriving in Carson Valley, Frémont became certain that he was still on the east side of the Sierras, and ^{that} it was necessary to cross the mountains. He asked the group of Indians that had gathered at his camp for a guide, and a young man who had seen the white men was brought forth and hired.

On February 1st snow fell continuously, but the men worked hard in preparing their clothing for the cold they knew they had to suffer in the high mountains. Frémont's men can be described in the same words that Henry Howe used in 1853, "...too brave men to be discouraged by hundreds of miles of untrodden snow, too familiar with death to quail at his embrace, they persevered and murmured not."¹

The camp broke early on the 2nd, and the men moved up Long Valley, then into Dutch Valley, moving ^{sp} steadily through deeper snow until it was necessary to break a road.

"For this service, a party of ten was formed, mounted on the strongest horses; each man in succession opening the road on foot or horseback, until himself and his horse became fatigued, when he stepped aside; and, the remaining number passing ahead, he took his station in the rear."²

This was started in Diamond Valley and continued to be the only way the men could travel until deeper snow forced the end of this practice.

¹Henry Howe, Historical Collections of the Great West, p. 329.

²Charles W. Upham, Life, Explorations, and Public Service of John Charles Frémont, p. 146.

Frémont left Diamond Valley, climbing up Scossa Canyon, and then down to the East Carson again. ~~Frémont~~ continued up the East Carson and then turned up a small tributary and camped along this stream. Carson found an open hill side ^{no 1, 5} where there was enough bunch grass to feed the 67 horses and mules--these were the Markleeville Meadows on which hundreds of head of cattle have been fatten since the late fifties.¹

A nearly clear morning greeted the men as they woke up along the stream, and the horses were fresh from the ~~newly had~~ grass that was found in the meadows. ~~So~~ Frémont left early, following the stream until forced to the hill side because of the deep snow, and entering Pleasant Valley from the north. (See figure 5) He continued on up the valley, and camp near a spring. He spent ^{the} rest of the day making a road further up the canyon, while part of the men were busy returning the horses to Markleeville when no grass could be found in Pleasant Valley.

On the 4th, Frémont went ahead, traveling over the road he and his men had build the night before until the steep hill side proved to great ^{up} an obstacle, and he left Pleasant Valley Creek for Jeff Davis Creek. He broke his way up to the top where "...an open basin, some ten miles across, whose bottom presented a field of snow."² ^{was found.} When Frémont tried to move into this basin, his horse traveled about a hundred yards ^{and then} before ~~it~~ could go no farther--the snow was over twenty feet deep.

¹William Maule, op. cit., n.p.

²John Charles Frémont, Narratives of Exploration and Adventure, edited by Allan Nevins, p. 359.

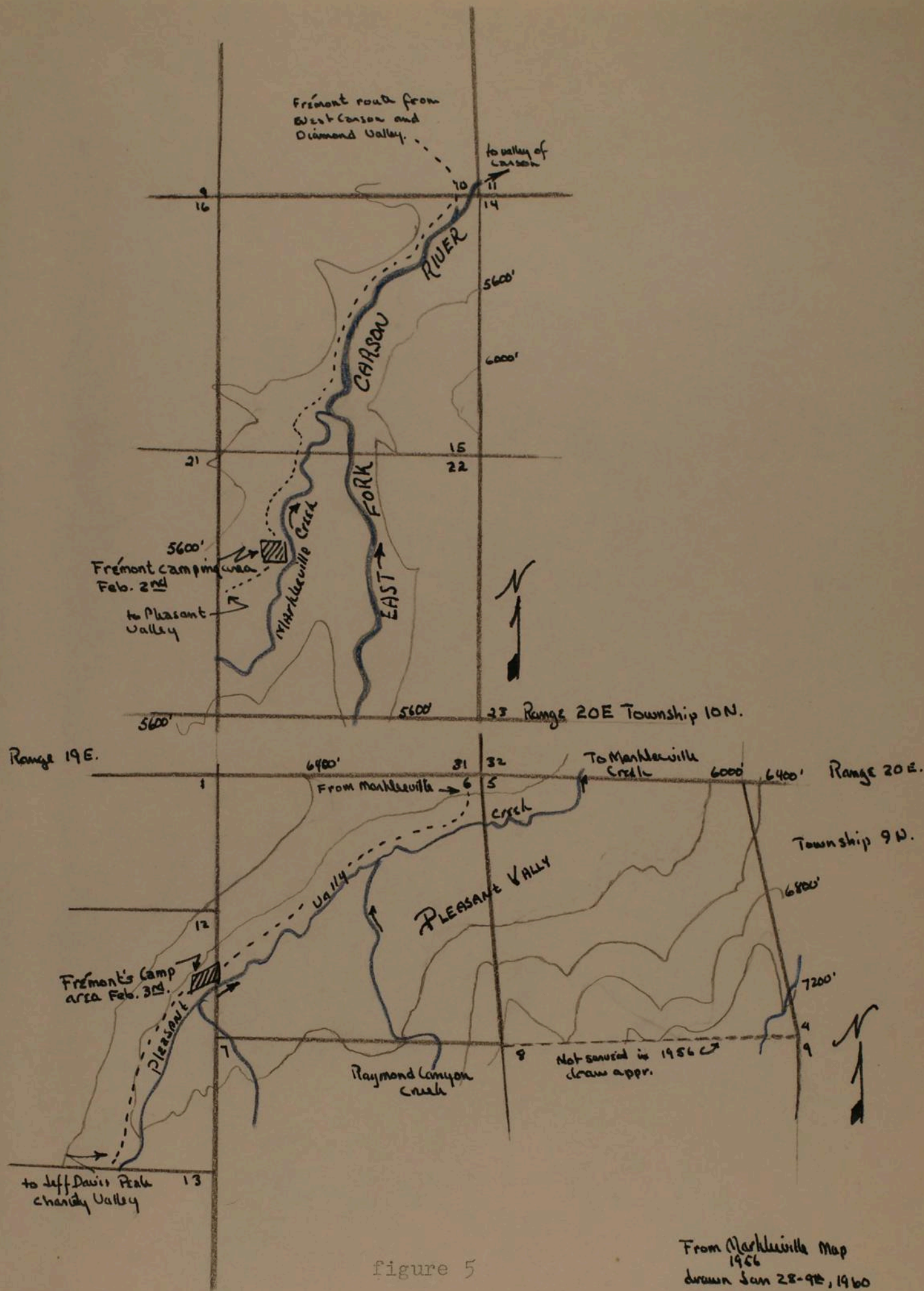


figure 5

From Markleville Map
 1966
 drawn Jan 28-9th, 1960
 Jim Reuzal

what a mule!

~~Frémont~~^{He} returned to Jeff Davis Creek, and continued on down the drainage until he met Fitzpatrick who was trying to get the loaded animals up the steep hill and into Charity Valley. (While talking) a mule loaded with botanical specimens collected over the past two thousand miles, fell into the deep canyon where nothing could be recovered.¹ Frémont ordered the animals unloaded at the springs and ^{then} sent ~~the animals~~ back to Markleeville. Frémont returned to the west side of the ridge, camping in the bitter cold night in Charity Valley (See figure 6) without bedding or shelter.²

Two Indians joined Frémont and his ~~mess~~^{mess} soon after camp was made, and all during the evening the elderest man sang, "Rock upon rock--rock upon rock--snow upon snow; even if you get over the snow, you will not be able to get down the mountain. The high hopes of the men sank with his repeating song, and the Chinook Indian started to cry with the understanding of the song's words.

The 5th was clear, warming up to 48° by noon, in which the men worked hard making sleds to haul the equipment up the hill, ~~one plus~~ snowshoes for the men ~~at the~~

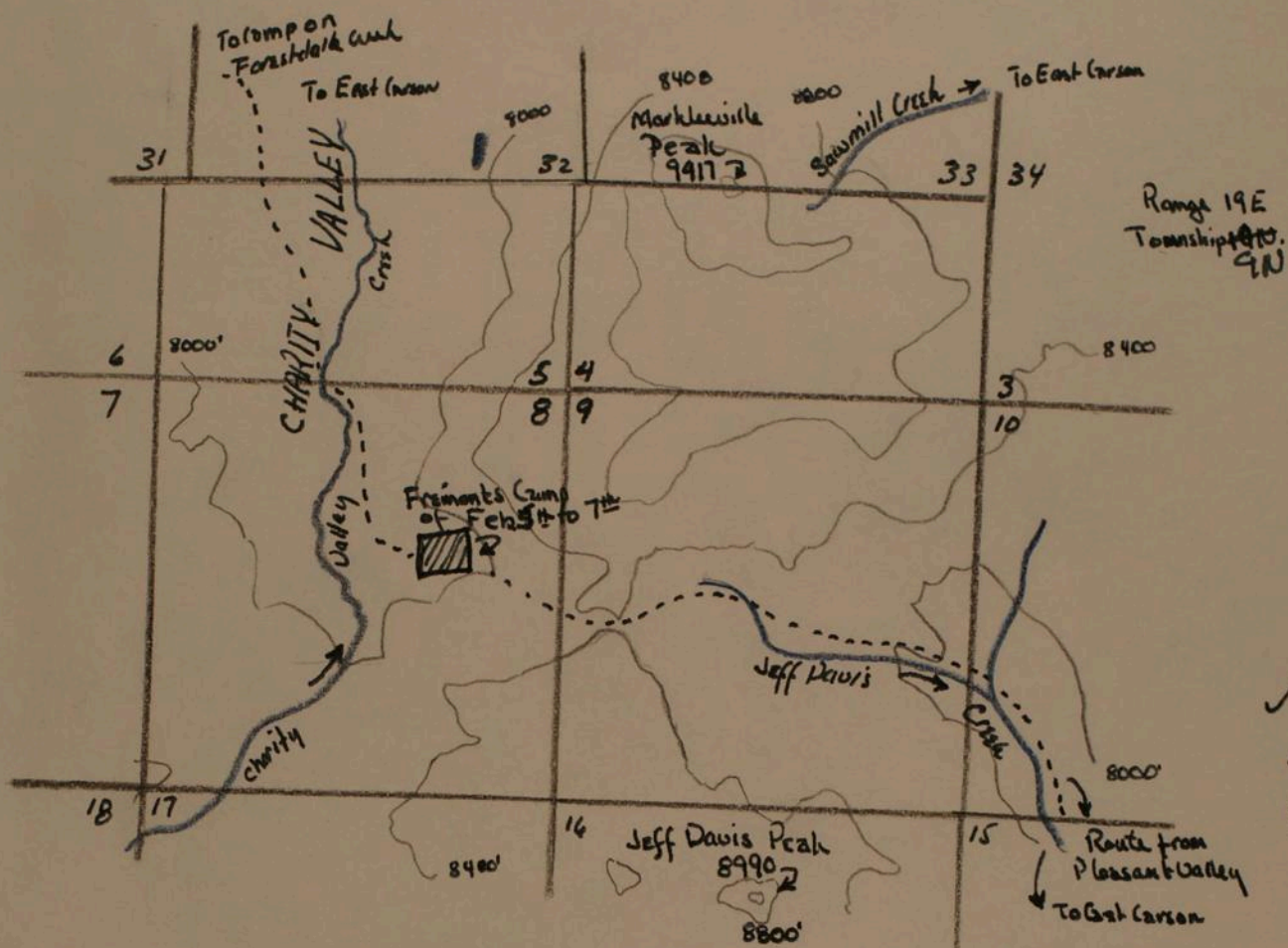
Early the next morning, Frémont, Fitzpatrick, and his mess crossed the valleys of Charity and Faith, and climbed Elephant's Back (a high volcanic mountain) where they saw California. The Coast Range, over a hundred miles away, shown bright in the

¹Thomas Hart Benton, op. cit., p. 581.

²John Charles Frémont, Memoirs of My Life, p. 333.

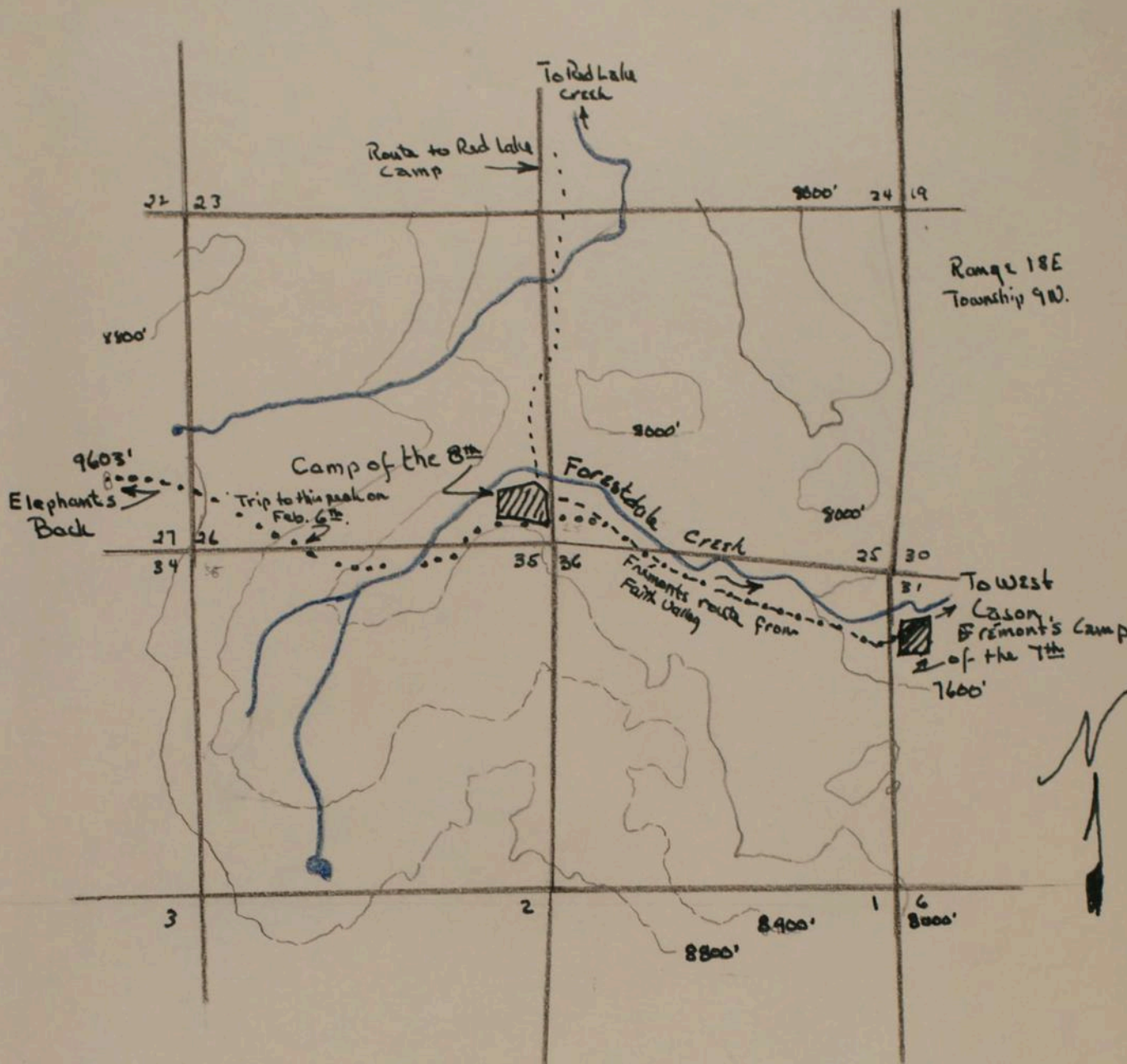
³Irving Stone, Men to Match My Mountains, p. 46.

u
in context 2, 3 no on the road for which 4



from Markleville Map
 drawn Jan. 29th 1960
 Jim Ravenel

figure 6



Range 18E
Township 9N.

from Mandeville Map
1956
Drawn by Jim Rausel
Jan. 29th 1960

figure 7

sent most of his men to Fitzpatrick's camp with orders to bring up the horses in the morning. Carson, Talbot, Preuss, and the Negro, Jacob, remained with Frémont at this camp which was in the center of a blizzard by dawn of the next day. But the men still worked. Four sleds of bedding arrived at Frémont's camp--the first bedding for the men in five days--and the men with Fitzpatrick worked the horses out of Markleeville and toward the mountain west of Pleasant Valley, but still the snow was too soft.

It was still snowing on the 10th when Frémont decided to move up to the last hollow, two and a half miles from the pass. (See figure 8.)

On the evening of the 11th, Fitzpatrick sent a note to Frémont informing him of the failure to get the animals over the ridge into Charity Valley. Frémont told Fitzpatrick to send the animals back to Markleeville, and have the men make mauls to beat the snow down.¹ The mauls were made, and the 12th found the men beating the snow up the hill from the spring, and from Frémont's camp on Red Lake, toward one another. (And ³⁰¹ the next day too.) The sound of the heavy mauls hitting the snow rang through the valleys, and soon the two groups were only three miles apart--Frémont in Faith Valley, and Fitzpatrick just over the hill in Charity Valley.

The meat sled didn't arrive ^{That} ~~this~~ evening in Frémont's camp, so a dog was killed for meat. The sled arrived a few minutes later bearing mule meat and dried peas.¹ And Frémont wrote,

No previous indication they were getting mule.

¹Frederick Dellenbaugh, op. cit., p. 225.

²Charles Upham, op. cit., p. 154.

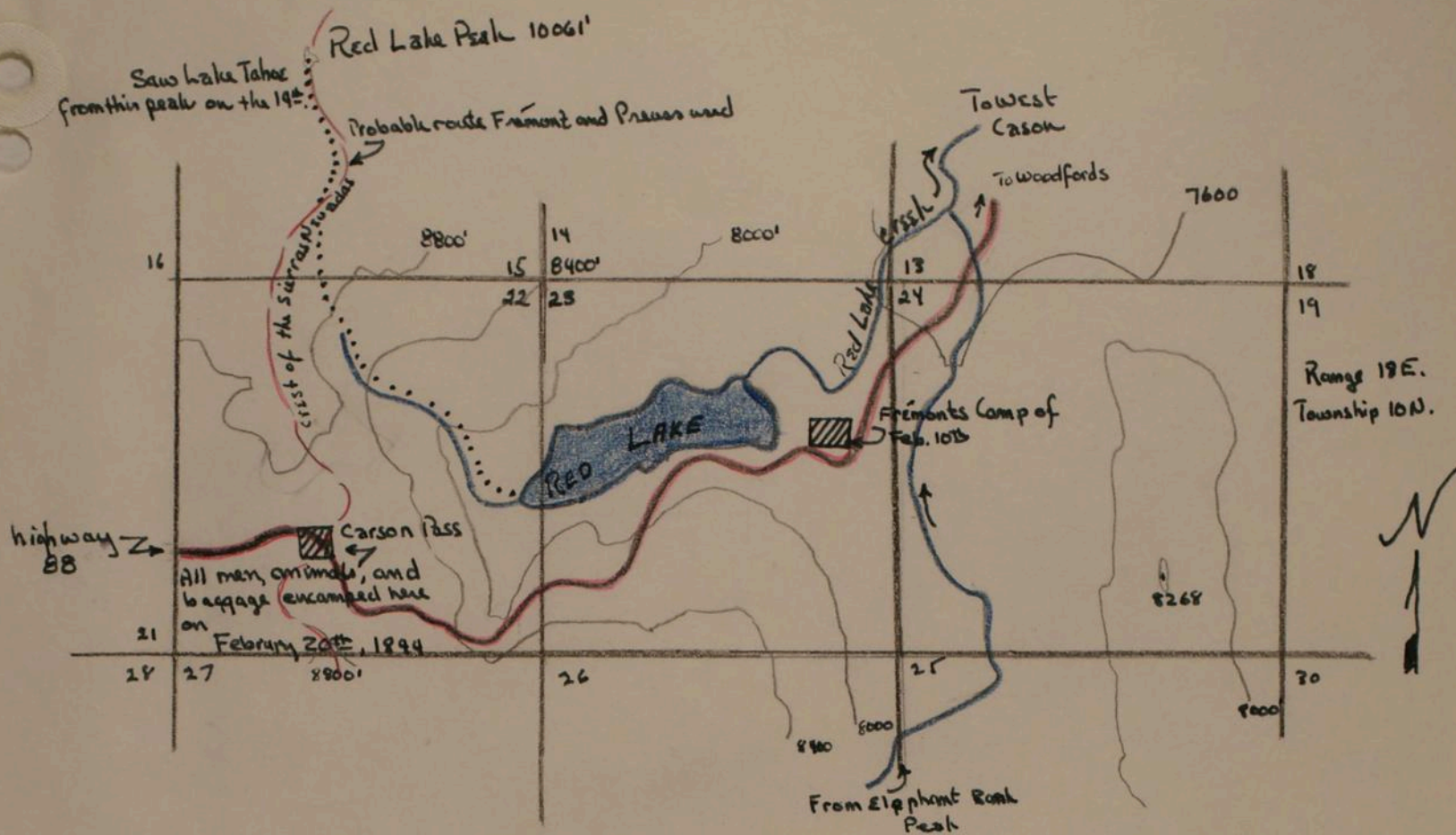


figure 8

"...we had tonight an extraordinary dinner--pea soup, mule, and dog."¹

The next morning was clear, and Frémont decided to climb Red Lake Peak and see what its height could produce in finding a way down from the pass they would soon cross. He and Mr. Preuss spent almost three hours climbing the peak, and when they reached the top they saw Lake Tahoe, "...a beautiful view of a mountain lake...about fifteen miles in length...half hidden in mist..."² The mist didn't allow the men to see the outlet of the lake, but they were soon on it, following this river until arriving at New Helvetia.

The next two days Frémont and Jacob spent working out a new way down from the pass. They returned on the 18th to find all fifty-seven animals in the Red Lake camp; but the greater prize was a block of Pacific Ocean salt which the men found in a pinenut house the Indians used to store pinenuts. The block was bought from the Indians easily.

^{On}
1 The 19th the men built a road up to the pass, beating it with their mauls, and hauling the heavy sleds over the (hand² made) road so that it might become hard enough to support the weight of the horses and mules. The last of the Carson River, as Frémont named it,³ was left, and on the 20th~~x~~ all the men, animals, and equipment were camped in the pass--final victory was achieved.

¹John Charles Frémont, Memoirs of My Life, p. 336.

²John Charles Frémont, Narratives of Exploration and Adventure, edited by Allan Nevins, p. 365.

³John Bidwell, Echoes of the Past, p. 56.

Many authors have criticized Frémont for his actions in the Sierras. Irving Stone, in his They Also Ran, ^{says} ~~speaks~~ of him ~~as:~~

He ~~was~~ headstrong, reckless of his men and himself; he was whipped, his men knew that he was whipped, but he would not stop. He had destiny in his blood, and he was going to fulfill that destiny.¹

Yet the word "destiny" may be replaced with the words desire, determination, and duty; and, ~~then~~ describe the ways of this man better. As Myrtle McKittrick said in her book about Vallejo,

"...far stars called him (Frémont). It was not the urge to seek his fortune in a new land. It was rather the lure of strange trails; the unquenchable curiosity of the laboratory scientist in search of the unknown..."²

Frémont was a man who tired of the usual. He disliked the regularities of life, and through this type of life he made many ~~emies~~^p; yet, he made many friends.

Kit Carson was one such friend. He lead Frémont into the dark unknowns of the west with confidence of finding a way, and he did. For Carson's great skill and knowl~~ed~~^ge, Frémont was called the "Pathfinder." And Carson too benefited from Frémont's friendship. He was introduced to society, and the world beyond the plains of the mid-west.³

And on the 20th, twenty-five brave men⁴ continued their

¹Irving Stone, They Also Ran, p. 147.

²Myrtle McKittrick, Vallejo - Son of California, pp.245-246.

³Christopher Carson, Kit Carson's Autobiography, edited by Milo Quaife, p. 18 of the introduction.

⁴Charles Burdett, Life of Kit Carson, p. 214.

This is entirely out of place - here. Perhaps it should be part of a final evaluation.

journey, only now down the gentle western slopes of the Sierra Nevadas, and into the wide valley below. The men rose early every morning so that they ~~may~~^{might} travel as far as possible before the warm sun came out and melted the snow, making it impossible for the horses and mules to get through. They moved steadily down the mountains, until, on the 25th, Frémont decided to take the strongest horses and some of the stronger men, and push forward to get supplies for the failing men and animals. Carson, Preuss, Talbot, Jacob, Towns, Derosier, and Proue joined him in the forced march to New Helveticia.¹ It was ~~like~~^{as} Benton, Frémont's father-in-law wrote later, "...a woeful procession, crawling along one by one: skeleton men leading skeleton horses..."²

Two of the men, Charles Towns and Baptiste Derosier^{1.3} became light-headed~~x~~ Towns wondering off in the woods, returning a few hours later thinking he had been gone for days. Derosier went looking for the horse belonging to Towns, and became lost also--this time he was gone for three days; the next time~~x~~ was his last. *Is this important here?*

Preuss ~~was~~^{also} leading the group on the 2nd of March, ~~when~~^{and} he became separated from the rest~~x~~ and ~~he~~^{he} was lost for three days.³

The scanty group moved slowly ahead, finally reaching

¹John Charles Frémont, Report of the Exploration to the Rocky Mountains, p. 238.

²Thomas Hart Benton, op. cit., p. 581.

³John Biglow, Memoir of the Life and Public Service of John Charles Frémont, pp. 104-105.

the valley floor on the 3rd; ~~and~~ Following the river, they reached a corral-repairing job which Sutter himself was supervising.¹ They rode along the fence guided by one of Sutter's "vaqueros" until they found Sutter a few miles from the fort.

March 6th, 1844 was a day of a soft bed, fresh meals, and warmth. The crossing was over. Twenty-five men had crossed the Sierra Nevadas ~~with~~ ^{up} out loss; only the animals suffered. Thirty-three animals reached California out of the sixty-seven ~~who~~ ^{which} started; ~~and~~ ^{and} for they were extremely poor, and not one of them had a mane or tail--the other animals had eaten the hair as food.³

By the 8th, the entire group was reunited again at New Helvertia, where they remained until the 24th. ~~Home~~ ^{They were} ~~was coming~~ ^{To be home} soon, and the men, nineteen in all, moved out for the United States of America.⁴

¹Julian Dana, Sutter of California, p. 156.

²Edwin Sabin, Kit Carson Days, p. 336.

³Christopher Carson, edited by Milton Quaiife, op. cit. p. 79.

⁴John Charles Frémont, Memoirs of My Life, pp. 353-354.

Janibit Helvetia?

APPENDIX

The following list of men was compiled from two books, John Charles Frémont's, Memoirs of My Life, and Henry Howe Bancroft's, The Works...History of California.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Alexis Ayot | 14. Thomas Fitzpatrick |
| 2. Francois Badeau | 15. John Charles Frémont |
| 3. Oliver Beaulieu # * | 16. Alexander Godey |
| 4. Baptiste Bernier | 17. Louis Menard # |
| 5. John G. Campbell # | 18. Samuel Neal * |
| 6. Christopher (Kit) Carson | 19. Charles Preuss |
| 7. Manuel Chapman # | 20. Rapheal Proue |
| 8. Chinook Indian boy | 21. Baptiste Tabeau |
| 9. Ranson Clark # (#) | 22. Theodore Talbot |
| 10. Philbert Courteau # * (#) | 23. Charles Taplin |
| 11. Baptiste Derosier | 24. Charles Towns * |
| 12. Jacob Dodson | 25. Joseph Verrot * |
| 13. William Fallon # * (*) | |

These men are listed ^{as having} ~~to have~~ come to California according to Bancroft. The rest are mentioned in Frémont's work.

*These men were released ~~and~~, ~~or~~, asked to leave, for stealing sugar from the camp's supple while at New Helvetia. This writer believes that Fallon and Courteau asked to stay in California because they like the area.

(#)Philbert Courteau, this writer believes, remained in California, because there are records of his being in the state in 1845. There are three men who's ^{ww} presents in California ~~are~~ ^{is}

questioned; Courteau, Clark, and Tiery Wright. Ranson Clark's ^{The} only other record of ~~his~~ being in California is the record that he was in San Jose in 1850. As for Wright, this author

FRE-MONT

My first is a thrilling word!
Dearer than life to those,
Within whose souls its spirit stirred,
The call to toil and strife who heard,
And who a martyr's grave preferred
To serving foreign foes!

Bright on my second beams
The early morning ray!
There the sun lingers long, and gleams,
Like those that haunt us in our dreams
Of glory, flash in fitful streams,
As loth to pass away.

My whole is a magic name;
Our over-arching skies,
Our hills and valleys, shall proclaim
Each to the other, all his fame,
And bear it up, with a loud acclaim,
Where our free mountains rise

M. E. M.¹

March 17, 1856

¹Charles W. Upham, Op. cit., p. 366.

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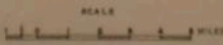
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 LYLE F. WATSON, CHIEF
 ARTHUR P. DEAN, CHIEF, DIVISION OF ENGINEERING

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 NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA
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 1951



LEGEND

- | | |
|---|--|
| — National Forest Boundary | — Telephone Line |
| - - - Adjacent National Forest Boundary | — Electric Power Transmission Line |
| ▭ Wilderness Area Boundary | ▲ District Ranger Station |
| — Main Motor Highway | ▲ Guard or Ranger Station not permanently occupied |
| — Good Motor Road | ▲ Permanent Lookout Station |
| — Poor Motor Road | ▲ Triangulation Station |
| — Trail | ▲ House, Cabin or Other Building |
| — Railroad | ▲ Power Plant |
| — U.S. Highway | ○ Municipal Landing Field |
| — State Highway | ■ National Forest Land |

REPORT ALL FIRES TO FOREST SUPERVISOR, RANGER,
 GUARD, SHERIFF OR ANY TELEPHONE OPERATOR

FOREST SERVICE MAP CLASS C
 Compiled at Regional Office, Ogden, 1945,
 from U.S.G.S., B.L.M., Forest Service and
 other surveys by P. Bieler, R. Marston &
 C. Spain
 Traced 1945 by Calvin Spain
 Revised 1952 by C. Sifton