Western Socorro County Rich in Fertile Valleys and Range

(By Nor a Trew.)

Magdalena, N. M., Aug. 24.—Not every traveler is interested in the wild and infrequented roads and lonesome drives through canyons and over the barren stretches of the desert, but to one so inclined there scarcely could be found a section better suited to his rather unusual fancy than that to be met with a leisurely trip through the western part of Socorro county.

The country from Magdalena to Reserve, overland, is as typical of the great west as such a stretch of country could well be, and to one in pursuit of the romantic, the unusual and interesting, the trip is fraught with the greatest possibilities.

The first stop after watching the wild view of the Magdalena range fade grandly out of sight in maze of blue and purple is at Datil about forty miles out. One remote ranch house has been passed previous to this, but it was the only one. The ranch at Datil is the old home place of the Morley family, who have been closely connected with the history of the southwest for many years. The old adobe ranch house is long, low and quaint and overlooks a wide stretch of plain that merges into the rim of mountains which surround the "Datils" like a blue wall.

There is a postoffice and small country store here and lodging and meals are provided for the passer-by. The altitude is about 8,000 feet and no matter what the heat record may be elsewhere, one is sure of a comfortable coolness in the atmosphere of the Datil country.

In the living room of the old home which is haunted by so many memories of the past the traveler may rest and await a savory meal.

Bright Indian rugs cover the floor while a great adobe fire place at one side sheds warmth and comfort the greater part of the year, owing to the usual coolness of the air outside.

One leaves the place reluctantly after pleasant conversation with the present mistres, Mrs. L. M. Warren, a daughter of the Morleys.

Somewhere out from Datil, through the rocky canyon, one comes upon the barren wastes of the plains of San Augustin—a great expanse of desert, tufted only here and there by bunches of coarse grasses or cacti. It is a desolate place, yet strangely in harmony with the low sandy hills and heaped rocks which characterize the landscape. Now and then a coyote slinks out of his hidden den and disappears in the distance as one proceeds, or a solitary black eagle wings his way across the sky in proud flight.

Forty or fifty miles on and we have come toward evening to the Horse Springs ranch the property of the Montague Stevens family, whose acquaintance is perhaps statewide. For many years this property was in the hands of a caretaker—the Stevens living over near the Arizona border in the vicinity of Reserve. Just now the genial family, whose friends are numbered by the scores, have returned to reside on the old place and to welcome the passer-by with a fine old-world hospitality.

Long, low and rambling the adobe ranch house opens into a wide courtyard and out of that into numerous corrals which makes one wonder as to their use. There are the "sheep dips"—tanks where sheep owners for miles around drive their flocks for cleaning.

Crowds and owners and herders come at these times and pitch their camps on the premises. Here, about seven years ago, Solomon Luna, one of the great sheep owners of the district and a man known all over the county, stopping to spend the night at Horse Springs, was found the next morning dead in the sheep dipping tanks. It was supposed that rising in the night he fainted and fell in the tanks and was drowned.

Of course the place has a ghost or two, and many are the local tales of the haunted rooms and courtyards which regale the herders around their fires.

On from this place to the west the road grows wider. Mountains tower on every side, rocks of gigantic size frown over the trail. The great Continental Divide is reached. Giant pines loom up tall and straight among the wonderfully colored and fastistically shaped rocks. Lichens, red, yellow or green, cover the slabs of lava that lie on the hillsides, while on the cliffs may be seen the tracings of strange devise of animals and men and symbolic designs engraven on the rocks by Indians or pre-historic men. Aragon, at a distance of one hundred miles from Magdalena is a little village of picturesque appearance nestled at the foot of the cliffs. It is situated on the limpid Tularosa. There are two well-stocked stores here, a hall for the frequent balles, a school house and a tiny Catholic church. Out from the town on the boulder strewn hillside are the graves of certain strangers dead close along the road where in troublous times of the past tradition tells that the bodies were found. Pathetic white crosses set in heaps of plied stones mark each spot.

Twenty miles more of rugged scenery and one arrives at Reserve, a fine little town, quite in contrast with many of other New Mexico towns. The spirit of progress seems to have adopted this community as its own. A number of enterprises are developed or are being developed here. The presiding genius of this wide-awake village is the Hon. J. H. Gaunt, who has served in the legislature for several terms. There is a thriving bank at Reserve. A fine hotel was built last year. The building is electric lighted. Reserve has supported two garages and has had a well equipped hospital running for some time. The Reserve Mercantile company operates a large general store at this point.

The Reserve country is a fine ranching section all through the Tularosa, Negrito and San Francisco valleys. A new bridge spans the Rio Frisco at Reserve.

Corn, beans and alfalfa as well as the best vegetables and fruit is grown in profusion in this fertile spot, lying like a tiny garden between the lofty ranges of the Datil, San Francisco and Blue Mountains. Within the last year oil prospects have been developed in the Reserve region, and the work is being continued to date by an incorporated company.

It has been expected that Reserve will be connected with the Ocean to Ocean highway through a southern branch with the opening of the numerous road projects now under construction in Socorro county. A telephone line has been put into operation from Magdalena to Reserve and Frisco largely through the efforts of Reserve business men, for whom Magdalena is a trading and shipping point.

Reserve proper, includes Reserve as named on account of the adjacent forest station, the Middle Plaza or Frisco and the Lower Plaza—the last two being Spanish-speaking communities. In these three towns are perhaps two hundred and fifty persons. The increasing wealth of the community in cattle and sheep has made the rapid progress of the town possible while individual enterprise has done the rest.

To the west and south of Reserve is the Gila valley, teeming with ancient ruins of the cliff people—strange archaeological remains, pottery and other valuable relics. The cliffs along the river are veritable treasure troves and must be visited in order to be appreciated. Throughout the whole journey the most striking impressions of the country that one receives is of its vastness and solitude. As evening comes one is haunted by many strange fancies. The desert moonlight is weird and startling. Then the rocks and these take formidable shapes and the call of wolves and coyotes through the gathering darkness strikes the newcomer with awe.

One is impressed in the gathering twilight gloom with the loneliness of a solitary herder, whose huddled sheep seem to pass over the range like an undulating wave of white in which the individual sheep is only a part of the vast moving mass. The herder has a camp up the mountain where a fire is now gleaming and where others of his occupation will soon be gathering. Here he will fling himself down under the stars while the night herder will take his place watchful lest the lambs should become the prey of the prowlers of the darkness.

Fort Sumner

Miss Lucy Clements of Las Vegas, N. M., is visiting her sister, Mrs. C. A. Se Legue, of Fort Sumner.

Miss Pearl Westbrook of Grandview, Tex., is a guest at the home of her cousin, Miss Rachel V. Smith.

J. Douglass Gillespie, telephone manager at Fort Sumner; Attorney Keith W. Edwards, and L. P. Briggs, each passed a successful physical examination for the army and are making preparations to enter an officers' training camp at once.

Prof. A. D. Smith, accompanied by his sisters, Miss Rachel V. Smith, Miss Mollie Smith, his cousin, Miss Pearl Westbrook, and Mrs. Frances E. Nixon, returned Saturday from a trip to Magdalena, Socorro and other places of interest.

Miss Helen Withers, who recently passed a successful civil service examination, will leave soon for Washington, where she has a position in the War Risk Insurance department, as Clerk.

J. J. Wieman returned Saturday from an extended business trip to Kansas City and other points in Texas and Oklahoma.

A most delightful dance was given by Mrs. C. A. Se Legue, at her home, Friday night, in honor of her sister, Miss Lucy Clements, of Las Vegas.

The large ranch interests of Servis & Tyson, eighteen miles northwest of Fort Sumner, were sold recently to Coe Howard and George Smith, of Portales, N. M.

The new knitting machine recently purchased by the Red Cross chapter here, has arrived.

A class for first aid work has been organized here, and in being conducted by Dr. A. F. Brown.

An informal dance was given at the home of Mrs. Se Legue Saturday night, honoring Miss Nola Keen, of Portales, who was passing through the city, en route to Albuquerque.

The dam across the Pecos river here, which was recently washed out by the heavy rise, is being repaired and the irrigation farmers will soon have access to water again for the splendid crops which have been raised in the valley this year. The recent showers have also added much to this vicinity and large yields are assured.

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Las Vegas

Rev. Dr. Nathan Krass, a prominent Jewish rabbi of New York city, was entertained here Thursday afternoon and evening by the Elks' lodge and by the Commercial club. In the afternoon Las Vegas women were entertained at a tea in the Elks' club house, which was addressed by Dr. Krass. Dr. Krass said he did not believe the doing of unfeminine work by women in war times would tend to make them masculine, but when the war is over they will return to domestic pursuits. In the evening Dr. Krass was guest of honor at a dinner in the Commercial club rooms. He spoke to a crowd of seventy-five representative Las Vegas men. Democracy was his subject. Friday morning Dr. Krass was taken for a trip into the nearby mountains.

Mrs. Byron T. Mills, who has been spending several months in Havana, Cuba, has reurned to her home in Las Vegas.

George H. Kinkel, for many years a resident of Las Vegas, and who has been connected with Masonic affairs and musical circles, will leave soon to take up his residence in Denver. Mr. Kinkel recently married a prominent Denver woman who has large property holdings in and near that city. While a resident of Las Vegas he took a keen interest in philanthropic work, and was for years president of the Y. M. C. A.

Mrs. Henry G. Coors and daughters have reurned from an automobile trip through Colorado.

A Las Vegas club is to be formed in Washington, D. C., by former residents of this city who live in the national capital. So writes Max Ilfeld to his mother, Mrs. Ludwig William Ilfeld. Max, who is serving in the United States army, is detailed for service in Washington.

Mrs. Nell Batchelor Everett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Batchelor of this city, has secured a position in Troy, N. Y., as instructor in Russell Sage college. Mrs. Everett's husband, to whom she was married over a year ago, is serving in the army. The young couple resided in Tulsa, Okla., until his departure for the war.

John W. Harris, Sr., president of the People's Bank & Trust company, has gone to Kansas City to visit his daughter, Mrs. James Guinnott and her young son. This i sMr. Harris' first visit to his grandson, who was born in July.

E. M. Sweezy, general chairman for the Santa Fe trainmen, was here last week and left Thursday for his home in Kansas City. Mr. Sweezy formerly was a resident of this city.

The La Jara Hunting and Fishing club, the organization which controls the famous bass and duck lakes north of Las Vegas, entertained United States Judge Colin Neblett of Santa Fe, Judge Reed Holloman of Santa Fe and Judge M. C. Mechem of Socorro last week. Judge David J. Leahy, Colonel M. M. Padgett, Mayor Fred O. Blood and other members of the club were hosts.

Captain John A. Roach, who recently left to take his command in a regiment of engineers, has arrived safely in France. So has Lieut. Joshua Devor Powers, who served for several months at Camp Kearny with the former New Mexico national guard.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Nunn, accompanied by Miss Lucile Swallow, have gone to San Francisco. They will visit for some time at Mare Island with Carl Nunn, who is in training for naval service.

John Rudolph and Sheriff Lorenzo Delgado are among the Las Vegans attending the coyboys roundup at Tucumcari.

The following Las Vegans are delegates to the United Brethren conference in Amistad: The Rev. Mrs. A. J. Kunkel, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Schmidt, Miss Ethel Chandler, Miss Gladys Pochel.

Mrs. J. Hirschorn has returned to her home in Kansas City after a visit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ilfeld.

Mrs. William Harper is in her old home in Elmdale, Kans., where she was called a few days ago by the death of her mother.

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. McClure, Miss Marie Senecal and Miss Clymer have returned from an automobile trip to Colorado in the McClure car. They drove to the top of Pike's Peak. Walter Krause and family also have just returned from an auto trip in Colorado.

Miss Louise Wells has returned from an extended visit in Roswell. She will resume her duty as a teacher in the Las Vegas schools.

J. R. Stine, formerly principal of the Las Vegas high school, has gone to El Paso, Texas, where he will be connected with the school system. Mr. Stine was accompanied by his wife and daughter and Miss Martha Leach.

Mr. and Mrs. George Selover have gone to Cincinnati, O., where they will visit their daughter. Later they will go to New York and hope to see their two sons, Ed and Roy, who are serving in the navy.

Belen

Mrs. F. A. Becker has returned from a month's visit in California.

Sergeant William Becker went to Valley Ranch Sunday to spend a few days with his sister, Miss Frieda Becker, who has been spending a fortnight there. Sergeant Becker expected also to visit friends in Las Vegas and from there return to Camp Funston where he is stationed.

Gunner's Mate Wilton Davidson has returned to Mare Island after a furlough spent at his home in Belen.

Word has been received from Shirley Davidson, who is on his way to Honolulu.

Mrs. Robertson Branch had an interesting visit with her brother-in-law, C. H. Branch, one evening this week. He was just returning from France, where he has been in the United States navy. He was on his way to San Francisco.

Rev. Heslit, pastor of the Methodist church, has returned from his vacation trip and was accompanied by his bride. Mr. and Mrs. Heslit were married in Mt. Carmel, Ill., last week. Rev. and Mrs. Heslit will make their home in Albuquerque where he has been an instructor in the Harwood school for boys for several years, but they will spend the week-ends in Belen in order that Rev Heslit may continue his pastoral duties here.

Thomas Arnett has returned to Magdalena to look after his mining interests after a few days's visit with friends in Belen.

Miss Stella Schrieber is home again from a visit with relatives in San Bernadino, Calif.

The Misses Mezie Enderstein and Kate Kroehnke and Hjalmer Enderstien left Tuesday in the latter's car for a trip to Springerville, Ariz., where they will be the guests of the Gustave Becker family for a couple of weeks.

Word comes from France that Sergeant Robert Branch has completed the course in the artillery school and has been promoted to the rank of second lieutenant.

Miss Naomi Becker has returned from Springerville, Ariz., and will spend a couple of weeks with friends and relatives in Belen before returning to her home in New Orleans to take up her duties as kindergarten teacher in that city.

Miss Wilmering has resigned her position with the John Becker company and left Wednesday for California.

Mrs. William McMillen of California is visiting her mother, Mrs. J. C. Wood. Mrs. McMillen formerly lived in Albuquerque.

Mrs. John Becker, Jr., Miss Frieda Becker and Master John Becker are home from their overland trip to Valley Ranch.

Postmaster George Hoffman was a Santa Fe visitor this week.

Mrs. Hoffman, chairman of the Red Cross work committee would like to have all finished work brought to the work rooms or her residence as soon as possible.

The local Red Cross chapter fed thirty-one soldiers at the Harvey house Sunday evening. The soldiers were en route to the hospital at Fort Bayard. After their supper they were taken in cars for a ride to Los Lunas and return.

Anyone in Belen or vicinity having garden products for sale is asked to bring them to the Boys' and Girls' market on Wednesdays or Saturdays from 8 to 10:30 a. m. in front of the postoffice.

Mrs. Koger was in Belen Wednesday and Thursday to meet with the Boys' and Girls' clubs and the local leaders.

Mrs. Hoffman and Mrs. Van Vleck motored to Los Lunas Tuesday in the interest of Boys' and Girls' club and the work of the nurses reserve.

Miss Anna McGuire and Master George Stevens of Albuquerque are spending the week with Mrs. Henry Abell and family.

Miss Crane of Albuquerque was a week end guest in the Merrill home.

Miss Pearl Hayerford left Wednesday for a visit in California.

Artesia

Superintendent of schools Paris was in Santa Fe last week attending the state educational meeting.

Eddington Gage has gone to Camp Cody. Sam McMahon to San Francisco, to join the navy and Richard Schenck is in the Mare Island naval training school.

Miss Golden Neff, one of the teaching staff, has returned from a vacation visit at Clovis.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Hollomon are enjoying a visit from their daughter, Mrs. Graham, who resides at Las Cruces.

Miss Bess Boyd has returned from a summer's visit with a sister in California.

Este Neff, who spent last week visiting his relatives here, has returned to Camp Pike, Ark., where he is in the officers' training school.

Mrs. H. S. Wright and daughter, Laura, have gone to St. Louis where the latter will attend Washington university. Previous to their departure the members of Miss Laura's Sunday school class entertained her at a picnic dinner and swim at Clarke's lake.

Mrs. A. C. Keinath entertained last week for Miss Covington and Miss Dorothy Stephenson who are visiting here.

Rev. Edward S. Doane, of Roswell, is holding a mission service at the Episcopal church all this week. The exercises will conclude with a lecture to men on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Key are the parents of twin cherubs, a boy and a girl.

The agreeable change in the weather has caused the Artesia colony that was camping in the salubrious air of the mountains to come treking along home.

A draft on nature's warehouse for a girl, drawn by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Darlington, has been honored. Weight, one two-hundredth of a ton.

The Nickson and Mummert families have been supervising the finishing touches on their new cottages on the Ruidoso. In the meantime Texie Polk was clerk, porter and butler at the Hardwick.

Mrs. Florence Barlow has resigned her position as chairman of the membership committee of the Red Cross chapter in order to devote all her time to business affairs, as her son, Mills, expects to be called to the colors in a few weeks.

The weather in this vicinity the last few days has been delightful. Frequent showers, though light, have cooled the air and kept down the dust, affording a restful relief from the parching weather of June and July. Besides this, he isn't much of a war gardener who isn't dissecting a luscious canteloupe from his own vines at least twice a day.

Special services were held at the Methodist church last Sunday to dedicate the main adultorium just completed, and to unveil a church service flag.

J. I. McCullough and family have come here from Lake Arthur to reside. Mr. McCullough will be one of the teaching staff.

Mrs. Jean Beeman, a former resident of Artesia, now living at Fort Worth, is visiting Mrs. Earl Bigler.

J. L. Graham, an army Y. M. C. A. representative, addressed a large audience at the Baptis church, after which a Red Triangle camp was formed. The fact that an address on any feature of the war, or in support of the war, is better attended than an address on any other subject, attests the patriotism of our citizens.

The members of the Woman's club gave a formal reception at the home of Mrs. Jo Jacobson to Mrs. Whit Wright, formerly of Artesia, now residing at Carlsbad, who was visiting Mrs. G. U. McCrary.

Bruce McLean and family, of Dimmitt, Tex., have been visiting Mr. and Mrs. Beecher Rowan, Mrs. McLean's parents.

CONSERVED.

"Here's to your health, Reuben."

"Where'd you git the liquor?"

"Squeezed it outen a mince pie a temp'rance woman gimme."—Widow.

—o—

AT A CLUB WINDOW.

Tom—These Fifth avenue girls all look in the jewelry windows, but never see us.

Dick—Of course! They prefer diamonds to clubs.

—o—

WORRIED.

Sister Susie—Oh, dear, I've run all out of grey. I wonder if the soldier would mind if I finished the sock in lavender.

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Loyalty Menus

Before marketing for the week's supplies estimate the amount of sugar, meat and flour allowed the family on voluntary war rations. A family of four are entitled to but two pounds of sugar for the entire week. That is scant rations even for table use. Purchase sirups and sweet dried and fresh fruits to supplement sugar. Plan for sweetless desserts.

SUNDAY.

Breakfast: Blue plums, cornmeal mush with dates, milk, blueberry muffins, coffee.

Dinner: Stewed chicken with rice dumplings, buttered beets, string beans, tomato and cucumber salad, sliced peaches and cream (no sugar).

Supper: Club sandwiches (left-over cold chicken with toast and bacon), iced tea, oatmeal cookies.

MONDAY.

Breakfast: Sliced bananas (no sugar), milk, omelet, toast, coffee.

Lunch: Cheese polenta, vegetable salad, iced tea, cokies.

Dinner: Salmon beef, caper sauce, corn on the cob, green pepper and cottage cheese salad, fresh peach tapioca (honey sweetened).

TUESDAY.

Breakfast: Grapes, potato and bacon omelet, corn muffins, coffee.

Lunch: Baked beans with tomato sauce, cucumber sandwiches, fruit salad.

Dinner: Mutton stew with vegetables, baked potatoes, beet salad, chilled watermelon.

WEDNESDAY.

Breakfast: Canteloupe, green corn griddle cakes, sirup, coffee.

Lunch: Potato salad with cucumber, peanut sandwiches, plums.

Dinner: Planked fish, drawn butter sauce, mashed potatoes, new carrots and peas, peach custard, iced tea.

THURSDAY.

Breakfast: Sliced peaches and cream (no sugar), fish and potato cakes (left-overs), corn gems, coffee.

Lunch: Succotash of lima beans and corn, cheese sandwiches, canteloupe.

Dinner: Baked beef heart with pepper and onion stuffing, creamed peas, scalloped potatoes, fruit salad, coffee.

FRIDAY.

Breakfast: Grapes and plums, boiled rice with milk and sugar, toast, coffee.

Lunch: Scrambled eggs and cheese, corn puffs, honey, iced tea.

Dinner: Fresh fish chowder, baked stuffed tomatoes, rice muffins, water melon freeze.

SATURDAY.

Breakfast: Baked apples and cream, poached eggs on toast, iced coffee.

Lunch: Lima bean salad, egg sandwiches, sliced peaches and cream.

Dinner: Hamburg steak, broiled tomatoes and onions, creamed cauliflower, cucumber and green pepper salad, Conservation pudding.

Mr. Bach—See that chorus girl there on the end? They pay her fifty dollars a week for not saying a word.

Oldboy—Huh, I know a gent at the club who's paying her sixty dollars a week for the same thing.

..Sergeant—Let me have a dollar to get some stamps with.

Private—What do you do with so many stamps?

Sergeant—Oh, I mail letters to my girl friends.

Private—Why not marry one of 'em and save stamp money on the rest?

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