

I-California

A-San Francisco to Antioch

Although the route officially begins at the Pacific Ocean on Ocean Beach just W of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, the 1980-81 HikaNation had its beginning ceremonies on the Polo Field in Golden Gate Park. From here the route went around the San Francisco peninsula, crossed the bay via the Bay Bridge, then went N through Berkeley & into the coastal ranges. After traversing the East Bay Regional Parks via Mt. Diablo, the route descended to Antioch. This is a beautiful route with many trails & nice scenery, but the bay crossing remains a serious barrier, since the Oakland Bay Bridge is not open to pedestrian traffic. It is suggested that one either make arrangements to cross by ferry or take BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) under the Bay to Oakland. Or, alternately, one may choose to follow an alternate route N across the Golden Gate Bridge through Marin County. Although unscouted, this route is very scenic & utilizes trails through the Golden Gate Nat'l Rec. Area & Mt. Tamalpais St. Park, circumventing the Bay to the N & rejoining the primary route at Isleton.

At the Polo Field in Golden Gate Park, walk W .9m along a bicycle path paralleling Kennedy Dr. to "The Esplanade", a boardwalk extending along the beach. Walk R(N) along the beach, then ascend

plaza of the Golden Gate Bridge on U.S. Hwy.#101. The alternate route starts here, which I will describe later. Pass under Hwy.#101 & proceed down to Fort Point along Lincoln Blvd. to Long Ave., taking a L(N) on this street down to Marine Dr. (1m)(0'). Turn R(SE) onto Marine Dr. & walk along the Bay on this street, which becomes a promenade. Follow Marine Dr. as it curves R(S) to Mason St., where we turn L(E) to Marina Blvd. & the St. Francis Yacht Harbor (1.3m). Cont. E along Marina Blvd. past the yacht harbor & Marina Green on the L(N), curving SE to Beach St.. Bear L onto this street, then enter Fort Mason & turn L on McDowell Ave.. Follow this street as it curves around to the S to Black Pt. in the S.F. Maritime St. Hist. Pk.. Take the extension of Van Ness Ave. R(S) to Beach Ave., turning L(E) here. Proceed past the Nat'l Maritime Museum, Ghirardelli Square, & Fisherman's Wharf on Beach St. to the Embarcadero (2.3m). Turn R(SE) here & walk along the Embarcadero past many ship piers to the Ferry Bldg. (just opposite Market St.)(1.2m). Since one cannot cross the Oakland Bay Bridge on foot, as mentioned earlier, you can make arrangements at this terminal to either take BART (the Bay area's rapid transit system) to Oakland via the tunnel or possibly arrange for a ferry crossing.

If you took BART across the Bay, get off at the Oakland West Station (if you

the bluffs on the concrete walk on the W side of Point Lobos Ave. past the famous Cliff House on our L(W)(.6m). The whole coastline here has been preserved by the Nat'l Park Service as the Golden Gate Nat'l Recreation Area (GGNRA). The ruins of the Sutro Baths, a 24,000 person swimming facility gutted by fire in the 1960's, are just N of the Cliff House (built in 1863-food & beverages available). Proceed along Pt. Lobos Ave., which bends to the R(E), to the old El Camino del Mar St.. Turn L(N) here to where a trail begins opposite Clement St. on the L(W). Take this trail (actually an abandoned turn-of-the-century steam train bed) as it winds among Pine & Cypress trees on top of the bluffs overlooking the Pacific, a very scenic coastline. We pass above Lands End, where we get our first view of the Golden Gate, then cont. up & down some concrete steps along the rocky bluffs. Our trail merges with El Camino del Mar, open to vehicular traffic here (1.3m), & we follow it through Seacliff, a residential area, until we reach the access rd. into Baker Beach. Bear L onto this rd. & descend to the parking area (.9m), then out onto the beach. Proceed R(N) up the beach to its northern end, past Battery Chamberlain (an old fortification), & climb the steps & trail through the Cypress trees to Lincoln Blvd.(.8m). Turn L(N) & follow this paved street to a circle where a street bears L up to the toll

took the ferry, walk SE on 7th St. to Peralta St., about 1m). If you would rather skip this next segment, which is mostly along city streets, you could cont. on BART to the Berkeley Station, just W of the UC-Berkeley campus. From the Oakland West Station, walk 1 block W to Peralta St., then turn R(NE) & walk 1.4m (17 blocks) to Hollis St. branching off to the L(N-NW)(just beyond 32nd St. & caddy-corner to a school). Follow Hollis St. 1.6m (16 blocks) to 65th St., turn L(W-SW) 1 block to Bay St., then turn R(N-NW) & go over Ashby ave. & into Aquatic Park, where we get some relief from all the pavement. Cont. along the E edge of the water along a pleasantly green & shady dirt path past the Bird Rescue Center to a picnic area (with water & restrooms) opposite Dwight Way (1.1m). This makes a good lunch & rest stop. Cont. straight(N) another .2m (2 blocks) to Bancroft Way, turning R(E) here 1 block across the RR tracks to 3rd St., where we turn L(N-NW) 1 block to Allston Way (.2m). Turn R(E) on Allston Way & follow this street 1.7m (27 blocks) to Fulton St. & the UC-Berkeley campus. Jog L(N) 1/2 block, turning R(W) at some tennis courts onto the cross-campus road. Walk .7m up through the campus along S Pk., Strawberry Cr. on paved walkways past many campus bldg.'s to Gayley Rd. (.370') just NW of the stadium. Now take Stadium

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Rim Way to the L(N) of the stadium to Centennial Dr., which we turn L(E) onto. Follow this paved rd. up into Strawberry Canyon past the Haas Clubhouse to where the UC Trail (a broad fire rd.) starts (Centennial Dr. veers L(NE) uphill here) (.7m)(620'). Follow this dirt rd. as it ascends E up the canyon, then swings back W onto N-facing slopes. There are Redwood trees growing here, the only ones you will see on the entire trans-continental route unless you opted for the unscouted alternate route. This land is owned by the college & is preserved as "open space" to be left in its natural condition. At a jct. on a ridge, take the L(E) uphill rd. & climb steeply for 500' before bearing off the ridge to the L(NE) onto the fire rd. again which now traverses gradually upward E of Strawberry Canyon in the Berkeley Hills. Good views can be had of the East Bay & beyond, unless fog is obscuring the area, a common occurrence. Finally we surmount one last hill & come to paved Grizzly Pk. Blvd. on top of the ridge (3.4m)(1,310'). Turn L(N) & follow this blacktop rd. .2m to the Golf Gate entrance to Tilden Regional Park. Turn R(E-NE) on Golf Course Dr. .1m to the Grizzly Pk. Trail, which takes off to the L(N-NW). Ascend briefly on this trail over a knoll, then descend parallel to Golf Course Dr. past the Shasta Gate entrance (Shasta Dr.) to Wildcat Canyon Rd. just L(W) of a picnic area. Now cont. straight on a trail down to Lake Anza's W'ern shore & come

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forest at around the 700' contour, with views of Mt. Diablo across the lake to our E-SE. After 4.3m, we come to the Bear Cr. Rd. (blacktop)(600') where the trail crosses Bear Cr.. Turn L(N) on this rd. for .3m to the entrance rd. to Briones Regional Park. Turn R(E) & immediately arrive at a picnic area which is a good place to camp, with water & toilets (.2m).

Cont. E up the old Briones Rd. (now the San Felipe Trail) a short distance to the Homestead Valley Trail branching off to the R(SE), an old dirt rd. (.4m)(760'). Follow this rd. across the creek, then ascend up through oak trees into Homestead Valley, past an archery range (don't bear L-cont. straight up the valley) to where the rd. climbs steeply to a saddle in oak woodland (1.3m)(1,190'). Turn R(S) here onto another jeep rd. (the Russel Pk. Trail) for .2m, then fork L(S)(1,250') onto the Lafayette Ridge Trail, a jeep trail. We follow along the crest of Lafayette Ridge, a very scenic oak-clad ridgetop with beautiful views of Mt. Diablo, the highest mtn. in the Bay area, which we will shortly be traversing. We leave Briones Regional Pk. & enter private property, cont.'ing along the R(S) side of the ridge past private homes (this section is supposed to have a public trail constructed across it soon). Do not take any of the paved roads leading S down off the ridge-cont. E near the top

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to the beach & picnic area (1.1m)(770'). Water, a snack bar, showers (cold water), restrooms, & the Tilden Park Office are located here, making this area a nice camping area.

Pick up the Wildcat Cr. Trail at the lake's outlet dam & descend Wildcat Cr. a short distance to a picnic area with dirt rd. access. Look for a trail branching R(SE) & climb this trail as it switchbacks back NE, bearing R(S) uphill, then L(E) at two jct.'s before arriving at the ridgetop & Wilcaat Canyon Rd. at Inspiration Pt. (1.3m)(1,040'). There is a trail sign here reading "Inspiration Trail". Follow this trail NE, then SE as it descends, with good views of San Pablo Reservoir, to the paved San Pablo Dam Rd. (we are now on East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) land & a permit is required). Cross the road & pick up the old San Pablo Dam Rd. (dirt) just beyond. Turn R(S) & follow this old road to the Gursan Trail (just beyond the corporation yard on the L)(2.4m)(370'). Follow this trail S under some power lines, cross San Pablo Cr., then follow the Cr. back to the L(N) on the trail, recrossing the transmission lines, to the bottom of the Briones Dam Spillway. Climb the spillway to the top of the dam & find the Bear Cr. Trail on the R(SE) side of the dam up a short hill (1.4m)(700'). Traverse around the E & S'ern shores of this reservoir on a delightful trail through occasionally dense oak

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until arriving at a water tank. Here we begin descending steeply down off the ridge to the N to the corner of Spring Hill & Pleasant Hill Rd.'s, just R(E) of Spring Hill Elementary School (leave the dirt rd. just S of the school (3.3m)(360').

The route from here across Acalanes Ridge, through the city of Walnut Creek, to Heather Farms Park utilized aqueduct & canal right-of-ways with locked gates to provide a corridor through a densely populated area. Because of the uncertainty of the status of the gates & right-of-way, I recommend following an alternate route along paved city streets through this urban area. The route in 1980 proceeded N along Pleasant Hill Rd., crossed Acalanes Ridge, then proceeded along the Mokelumne Aqueduct to Larkey Pk. (water & restrooms). From here it cont.'d along the Contra Costa Canal, under the Hgwy.#680/24 underpass, then over Walnut Cr. to Heather Farms Park.

My recommended alternative is to turn L(N) on Pleasant Hill Rd. & follow this somewhat busy rd. across Acalanes Ridge into the Walnut Creek/Pleasant Hill valley (bear R(NE) where Taylor Blvd. cont.'s L(N)). After 1.6m, bear R(E) onto Geary Rd. & proceed 1.9m past the Hgwy.#680/24 overpass to Sheppard Rd., just past the Walnut Cr. crossing. Turn R(SE) here to the Contra Costa Canal & a bicycle path (near a filtra-

tion plant). Turn L & follow the shore of a small lake, entering Heather Farms Pk., where we rejoin the other route. This park makes a good rest area, with water, restrooms, a snackbar, swimming pool, & phones (.6m)(100').

From here we cont. SE across the park to Ygnacio Valley Rd., where we turn R(SW) along this busy rd., passing Viceroy Church & coming to a pedestrian light across from the John Muir Memorial Hospital. Cross Ygnacio Valley Rd. here, doubling back (NE) along this street to the Ygnacio Canal. Turn R(SE) along this canal, winding along it to Fyne Dr. (.8m). Turn R(SE) on this street 500 ft. to Arbol Via, then turn R(SW) here & climb over a small ridge (290') to La Casa Via. Turn L(SE) here, following this st., then Corvey Ct. up to a saddle & the Walnut Cr. Open Space (.7m)(310'). Here we pick up a Hiking & Riding Trail & leave the East Bay's clutter of development behind, with open spaces in the coastal ranges beckoning us onward. Proceed SE past the Indian Valley School on this trail (an old jeep rd.), curving N through a ranch to the N side of the ridge, eventually coming to a saddle between two small knolls & entering the Diablo Foothills Regional Park (2.5m)(670'). Cont. along the jeep trail, crossing to the S side of the ridge, going over numerous saddles to a jct. (bear S-SW, not SW, after about 1/2 mile) just W of Pine Ridge (2.2m)(800'). We have now entered Mt. Diablo St. Park. Bear L(NE), cont.'ing along the jeep

then on up the summit ridge. After crossing the summit rd., we cont. up one last steep stretch to a parking lot just W of the summit (1m)(3,700'). Another .3m up the narrow paved rd. will get us to the summit observation tower (3,849'), where a magnificent panorama awaits us. On a clear day the Pacific Ocean (and Golden Gate Bridge) can be seen to the W, & the snowcapped Sierra Nevada to the E across the wide Sacramento Valley. There is a small gift shop & snack bar on top.

When ready to descend from this prominent point, which served as the mean meridian for the mapping of the West, take the Devil's Elbow Trail off the S side on very steep slopes, curve around the Devil's Pulpit, & descend N to Prospectors Gap (1m)(2,950'). Cont. descending steeply N-NW on a fire trail to Big Spring (usually running), then take the R(N) fork (the Middle Trail) down through a fire-scarred area to a 3-way trail jct. (1,700'). Take the L(W-NW) fork (the Donner Trail) down into Donner Canyon & follow this riparian canyon past the Meridian Ridge Fire Rd. to a rangers cabin & a graded dirt rd. (2.2m)(720'). Follow this rd. down out of the canyon to paved Clayton Rd. (1.7m)(435'), turning L(W, then N) & arriving in downtown Clayton (.6m)(394'). There is a good store here & a park with shady Eucalyptus trees. Where Clayton Rd. bends 90° W, turn R(E) on Black Diamond Way (formerly

trail & ascending to a saddle, crossing a gulch, then bearing R(SE) at a fork to a jct. with the Wall Ridge Fire Trail (a jeep trail(.8m)(1,120')). Turn L(NE) onto this rd. & make a steady ascent along the ridgetop, with good panorama's opening up of Mt. Diablo to the NE. Cont. upward through Chaparral, a plant community characteristic of many of California's low to mid-elevation mtn. slopes influenced by a Mediterranean climate. Here in the coastal ranges & in the Sierra Nevada foothills are the only places we shall see it. At length we come to the paved S Gate Rd. (2.4m)(1,620'). Several picnic grounds & a cpgd. are located here, as well as Rock City, a scenic rocky/pinnacled area. Cont. up Mt. Diablo proper on the Summit Trail, just E of us on the S Gate Rd.. Climb the ridge to our N, then parallel the park rd. W-NW, then N-NE along the ridge, crossing it twice (the park headquarters is just NW of the 2nd crossing). Cont. steeply up an old jeep rd. in a draw to a jct. with the Juniper Trail (1.7m)(2,680'). Bear L (W) onto this trail, switchbacking up out of the ravine & traversing NW up to Juniper Camp (.8m)(2,860'). There are beautiful views W'ward here & good, piped water. Also, this is our first introduction to the ubiquitous Juniper, a tree we will see much of at middle elevations throughout the West. Cont. up the Juniper Trail through a dense Juniper forest to a saddle (3,100').

Nortonville Rd.), a dirt rd., & follow it 2.1m up to a saddle (1,200')(bear L (N) at the only fork). Cont. another .2m, entering Black Diamond Mines Regional Park & coming to a jct. with the Cumberland Trail on the R(S)(a jeep trail)(1,190'). Switchback up over a saddle (1,380') to a jct. with the Black Diamond Trail, which we follow R (S), then E (bearing L onto a jeep trail) along the N side of a ridge. There are many old mining roads in the park, which historically has been a coal mining area, so follow the signs & trail carefully. Cont. on the Black Diamond Trail as it comes to a saddle (1,300') just S of a hill, then winds around the E'ern side of this hill to another saddle (Nortonville Pass)(2.9m)(1,120'). Here we turn R(NE) along an old rd. (Nortonville Pass Trail) past the Rosehill Cemetary & descend to a picnic ground at the old site of Somersville. After cont.'ing downcanyon a short distance, (many tailing piles from the mines are evident here)(740') turn R(E-SE) onto the Stewartville Trail, another old rd., & ascend to the ridgetop (1,150'). Cont. along the Stewartville Trail as it switchbacks down into a valley & descends it E past the site of Stewartville to a jct. with the Oil Canyon Trail (3.2m)(470'). This is a good place to camp, with water, toilets, & a pastoral setting,

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surrounded by the last hills we will see until the foothills of the mighty Sierra Nevada.

Cont. NE down Sand Cr. Canyon on the Oil Canyon Trail (an old rd., previously paved), then ascend over a ridge (550') & down to Frederickson Ln., where we leave Black Diamond Mines Regional Park & enter Contra Loma Reg. Pk. (2m)(250'). Cont. N(straight) along this blacktop rd. to the bikepath that goes around the R(E) side of Contra Loma Reservoir, taking this path down to the Contra Costa Canal (1.4m)(120'). Cont. R(E) on the bikepath along this aqueduct to Lone Tree Way (1.2m). After jogging L(N) 400 ft., turn R(E) onto Sunset Ln. & follow this residential street N to Fregallas Rd. (1.1m)(50'). Turn R(E) for .3m on this street, then L(N) onto Cavallo Ave.. Follow Cavallo 1m to Wilbur Ave. (10'), the end of the section in downtown Antioch, with all services.

For those who would like to follow the alternate route from San Francisco N across the Golden Gate Bridge into Marin Co. & then E through Napa Valley to the Delta, I will now describe this unscouted but promising route. At the toll plaza on U.S. Hgwy.#101, proceed N across the bridge on the pedestrian walk to the Marin Co. headlands, a beautiful area of rolling brown hills (except in the spring, March-May, when the Golden States' hills turn green) & secluded canyons with lush Redwood forests. Eventually we reach a turnout on the R(E)

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by some abandoned bldg.'s of the former Ft. Barry Military Res. to Rodeo Lagoon. Cont. W along the S shore of the lagoon to the Pacific shoreline (Rodeo Beach), then cross the narrow isthmus between the ocean & lagoon to a parking area with restrooms (2.6m). There is a ranger station just E of us here. Cont. NW on the trail, an old dirt rd., ascending to the top of Wolf Ridge to another jct. (1.6m)(850'). Bear L(W) here, descending steeply down the N side of Wolf Ridge into Tennessee Valley, a quiet & secluded little valley. Cross to its N side & a jct. with the Tennessee Valley Trail (1.3m)(100'). Cont. straight(W) on the Coastal Trail (still an old dirt rd.), climbing to the top of a ridge (570'), then descending NW down the other side, winding around a ravine, & cont.'ing just above the pounding surf (Pirates Cove) before ascending to a jct. on Coyote Ridge (2.2m)(530'). Turn L(SW) onto the Coyote Ridge Trail (a road) & descend steeply down to Green Gulch Farm, with Muir Beach on the L(W). Follow the dirt rd. here NE to where another rd. crosses the farm to Hgwy.#1 (the Shoreline Hgwy.). Proceed L(NW) on St. Rt.#1 a short distance to where a rd. comes in on the L (SW)(1.1m)(10'). This is the trailhead for the Redwood Cr. Trail, which we follow up the R(S) side of Redwood Cr., passing the Miwok Trail branching uphill to the R(S), to the boundary of Muir

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side of the hgwy. with a parking lot & vista point (1.8m). Immediately below this to the L(N) is a jeep rd.; descend down to it & turn R(E), walking past some oil tanks on the L & descending back around to the W underneath the bridge to a paved rd. immediately beyond it. Turn L(S) here & cross under the bridge again to Horseshoe Bay (the road to the R(S) goes out to the lighthouse on Lime Pt.) & the trailhead for the Coastal Trail (an old dirt rd.), which we will follow all the way to Muir Beach (.6m). Take this off to the R(E) along the shore of Horseshoe Bay, past some of the old bldg.'s of Fort Baker & two old battery installations. After passing the Yellow Bluff Lighthouse on the R(E), cross the paved rd. & cont. along its uphill side past another old battery on the L(W). Now we pass under another paved rd. coming down on the L(W) & begin climbing up the ridge to the W. Eventually we pass over the tunnel carrying Hgwy.#101 through the mtn. & reach a knoll (850'). Descend S, then climb over another hill & descend SW to a paved rd. just N of a jct. (2.4m). Cont. R(W) on our trail at this jct., traversing around the N side of a ridge past a picnic area to a jct. just before reaching paved Bunker Rd. (1.6m). Turn L(S), then R(W), paralleling Conzelman Rd. just to our L (S) for a short distance, then swinging N around a spur ridge & paralleling it once more before swinging NW & passing

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Woods Nat'l Monument (2.6m)(110'). Here we enter the monument & follow the paved park road up to the nature trail in Redwood Canyon (.5m). There is a ranger station & snack bar located nearby. Follow the nature trail through magnificent Redwood groves along the valley floor, to a jct. with the Ben Johnson Trail (190'). Veer L (W) onto this trail & climb through more woods to the Pan Toll Ranger Station on the ridgetop (2.4m)(1,500'). The Mt. Tamalpais St. Pk. (which you have now entered) headquarters & a cpqd. are also located here, which makes it a good camping area with water & restrooms. There are good views of Mt. Tamalpais (2,570') to the N from here.

We now pick up the Coastal Trail (an actual trail) once again, which traverses the S-facing slopes just W of us between the Stinson Beach Hgwy. & Southside Rd. leading up to Ridgecrest Blvd.. Follow this trail for 1m, veering R(N) where the Matt Davis Trail descends to Stinson Beach. Cont. NW on the Coastal Trail near the 1,500', 1,600' contour, sometimes in woods & sometimes on grassy or brushy slopes, with beautiful views of the beaches & bluffs below on a clear day. Eventually we leave Mt. Tamalpais St. Pk. & our trail ends on the ridgetop at Ridgecrest Blvd., where this hgwy. descends down to Alpine Lake in the valley to our E

(5.1m)(1,500'). With the GGNRA on our L (SW) & Marin Co. Municipal Water District lands on our R(NE), we cont. along the ridgetop on the Bolinas Ridge Fire Rd.. After walking nearly level along this wooded ridge, we break out into some ridgetop meadows & eventually descend steeply NE towards Peters Dam which backs up Kent Lake, the large reservoir we've been hiking above to our R. Descend down off the ridge below the dam to Lagunitas Cr. & follow this valley out to the Sir Francis Drake Hgwy., a paved rd. (7.2m)(160'). Turn L(W) & enter Samuel P. Taylor St. Pk., following the paved rd. on the S side of the creek. Where the road crosses the creek, pick up a dirt rd. on the same side & follow it past Camp Taylor to a cpd. (2.1m)(130'), where one could camp for the night. Cont. another .6m to a point opposite Devils Gulch on the other (NE) side of the creek, wade or jump the creek (or you could walk .3m further to where a rd. bridges the stream), & begin ascending Devils Gulch on a fire rd.. Ascend all the way up this valley NE, then N (leaving the St. Pk.), until we switchback & ascend E up to a saddle on the ridge (3m)(660'). Bear L(NW), then N here & descend to a T Rd. jct.. Turn R(E) & descend to the village of Nicasio (1.5m)(180'). Here we ponder a choice of routes. Most of the countryside around us is in private grants of land & since the route has not been scouted, access is not assured until the route has been field checked & re-

community of Rafael Village. Our dirt rd. becomes paved & is called Pebble Beach Dr.. Follow it down to Alameda de la Loma, where we turn L(NW) to Fairway Dr.. Turn R(NE) along it & shortly arrive at Ignacio Blvd., the main drag (1.3m)(40'). Follow it R(E) through town to U.S. Hgwy.#101, a limited access freeway here. Cross over it on the overpass to Nave Dr., thence to the RR tracks (.9m).

If you decided to take the second alternative, proceed R(S) on Nicasio Valley Rd. .6m to Lucas Valley Rd., where we fork L(SE) onto it. Follow Lucas Valley Rd. (paved) as it winds through Lucas Valley along Nicasio Cr., past the Big Rock Ranch on a saddle (650'), then descends Miller Cr. through Lucas Valley to the community of Marinwood. Turn L(N) onto Las Gallinas Ave. (9.6m)(70') for .5m to Miller Cr. Rd., then turn R(E) along this street to U.S. Hgwy.#101. Cross over it, then take the ramp onto it (.5m), heading L(N) on its shoulder. Stay well off the hgwy. itself. After .8m, we take the next exit ramp off of the freeway, but continue paralleling it along a frontage rd. called Nave Dr.. Cont. N along this rd. to Ignacio Blvd., where the first alternative comes in & we begin to follow the RR tracks.

Follow the tracks N, keeping an eye out for trains, which still run along the tracks here. Take the R(NE) fork at the

lined. I will describe two alternatives, first the preferred but unscouted one followed by the more reliable but less scenic one.

If you have chosen the 1st one, proceed with caution & respect any property which may be private (i.e.-obey any "No Trespassing" signs). Cross the paved Nicasio Valley Rd., walk 1 block, then turn L(NE) onto a jeep rd.. Bear L(N) at a cluster of houses on the L(W) & proceed up along Halleck Cr. N of Shroyer Mtn.. After 1.9m, take the 3rd jeep rd. forking L(N), cross the creek, & pass a house & barn on the R(S). After walking through some fields, cross Halleck Cr. again & begin ascending a slope on our R into Redwood Canyon. After two switchbacks we climb above the forested canyon slopes & ascend to a jct. at a saddle on the ridge to our R (S)(2.7m)(1,250'). Bear L(SE) here & cont. along the ridge S of Redwood Canyon, bearing L(E) at the next jct. & climbing up to Big Rock Ridge. Bear R (SE) along our jeep rd. past "Big Rock" (1,887'), our highpoint along this ridge & in the coastal ranges of California. The views on a clear day should be excellent. Cont. along the ridgcrest until it "Y's" NE & SE (4.3m)(1,420'). We take the L(NE) fork & descend 1.3m to another jeep rd. forking L(N) along another ridge. Descend N, then bear R (NE) steeply downhill with a school on our R(E) before switchbacking down to the L(W) into a residential area in the

next hgwy. interchange (the RR tracks bend NE here). An alternative to the tracks now is to walk along Hgwy.#37 on our L(NW). Cross Novato Cr. & cont. across this flat floodplain until we reach the hills on the far side. Here, where Atherton Ave. comes in to the hgwy. on our L(NW), we cross over to a frontage rd. (.3m), parallel Hgwy.#37 .3m along it, then take a ramp onto Hgwy.#37, which soon becomes undivided. Cross the Petaluma River on a bridge, & cont. NE along the hgwy., which widens out again. After 4.4m, St. Rt.#121 veers off to the L(N) & we take this secondary route, a paved road. After another 2m, we reach a jct. with a road branching L(NW) & once more ponder a choice of routes. The more scenic route between here & Sonoma would be to traverse the Sonoma Mtns. to our NW but since the route remains unscouted, there is no guarantee that you won't encounter a locked gate or "No Trespassing" sign. However, I would say the likelihood of this is slim, since farmers need access to their farms & homes & most roads are open to vehicles & pedestrians. I will still describe an alternate route, though, for those who prefer not to take the risk.

The preferred route follows this NW-branching road 1m to a small draw, where we turn R(NE) onto a jeep rd. &

climb steeply NE up into the Sonoma Mtns. We curve NW & walk through cleared, grassy, summit areas to a T jct. (2.3m) (674'). Turn R(N) here up a hill & cont. through pastures with sweeping vista's, bearing L at the next fork. The two roads parallel each other for awhile before our road veers off to the L(W-NW) downhill. Pass a house on the L(W) then descend N, W, then SW, cont.'ing R (straight) to another jct.. Turn R(N) here & come to St. Rt.#116 (called Petaluma Rd.) (3.4m) (260'). We make a R(E) turn here & descend into Sonoma Valley to a jct. with Watmaugh Rd. (1.6m) (68'), where we turn L(N-NW). Our road shortly bends 90° R(E-NE) as we proceed past vineyards in the heart of California's wine country. After crossing Sonoma Cr., we come to St. Rt.#12 (2.1m) (40'). Turn L(N) here & walk into the town of Sonoma, where the Vallejo Home St. Hist. Monument might be of some interest (1.7m) (80'). The Sonoma Mission is also located here.

Those who followed the less risky alternate route would have cont.'d N on St. Rt.#121 past a quarry on the R(E) & stayed on Rt.#121 where St. Rt.#116 cont'd straight at Big Bend. After crossing Sonoma Cr., you reach the jct. with St. Rt.#12 & turn L(N) along it into Sonoma (8.9m).

Where Rt.#12 turns 90° L(W) in downtown Sonoma, turn R(E) for 4 blocks to Gericke Rd. (.4m) & turn L(N) past the Mission San Francisco Solano Vineyard on

called Coombsville Rd., SE, then E out of town, past a high school (Silverado) on the R(S) through Napa Valley to the hills on the E side, where our road becomes Wild Horse Valley Rd. & begins climbing through woods up to a saddle just S of Lake Madigan (4.6m) (1,390'). Pass S of this rather scenic lake, then curve S & descend gradually to Lake Frey, & skirt its E'ern shoreline (1,200'). Our road now becomes a jeep rd. & descends via switchbacks past Green Valley Falls on our R in a secluded little canyon to Green Valley picnic ground on our R(S). Cross a minor saddle, curving S & descending into Green Valley, skirting the E'ern edge of a golf course. We cont. past the road to the golf course to the next jct., with roads branching W & SE (6.3m) (114'). Turn L onto the SE'erly one towards Rockville, passing to the S of a ridge, then climbing gradually E-NE to a saddle (275'). Now descend SE, S, then SE again as we proceed out of the coastal ranges & onto the flat floor of the Sacramento Valley. Bear L(SE) at a fork & come to the small community of Rockville (2.6m) (60'). Cross the road & cont. E through fruit orchards, under I-80 (a major coast-to-coast freeway) to the city of Fairfield. We are now walking on St. Rt.#12. At the high school (4.4m) (10'), turn R(S) for 3½ blocks, then L(E) again, still on St Rt.#12. Follow this paved rd. E out of town,

your L(W), then bend R(E), then N again up a small canyon & begin climbing into the hills N of town. Our road eventually becomes a jeep rd., reaches a saddle, & cont.'s climbing up the cleared ridgeline N, passing just to the S of a knoll to a forested saddle just SW of Hogback Mtn.. Here we veer off the jeep rd., which leads N to a private residence, & traverse the S slopes of Hogback Mtn. on a jeep trail up to a saddle on the main ridge (4.7m) (1,450'), where we enter Napa Co.. Cont. N down the jeep trail, passing some houses on our L where we pick up a better, graded dirt rd. & descend into Redwood Canyon. Cont. E down this secluded canyon past Castle Rock on our R(S), a prominent landmark, & pass a winery & school on the R in pleasant forest. Our road, now paved, cont.'s down Redwood Canyon into Napa Valley, world renowned for its famous vineyards & wineries. Upon reaching Brown's Valley Rd., with grape tree orchards surrounding us, we turn R(S) on this paved rd. (6.4m) (168'). Cont. on Brown's Valley Rd. as it bends E into the town of Napa & becomes 1st St.. Cont. into downtown Napa past Jefferson St. to Seminary St. (3.3m), then straight to School St.. Turn R(SE) here, with a church on your L(NE), & walk 2 blocks to 3rd St.. Turn L(NE) here & follow 3rd St., the main drag, over the Napa River to a 5-way jct. (.9m). Going counter-clockwise, take the 2nd St. on the R,

passing S of Travis Air Force Base. After 7.9m, take the turnoff where the old road crosses SE to the site of Denverton. We pick up Hgwy.#12 again for a short distance before reaching a dirt rd. heading Due E (1m) (58'). Proceed E 2.4m, turn 90° S for .5m, then L(due E) again past paved St. Rt.#113 5m to where our road turns R(S). Cont. S on the dirt rd., now called Carright Rd., past McCormack Rd., turning E(L) once again (1.5m), then S(R) (1.5m) to Hgwy.#12 (.6m) (48'). Proceed L(SE) 2.4m to the bridge over the Sacramento River, California's largest watershed draining the entire northern central valley region, in the town of Rio Vista. After crossing the bridge, turn L(N) onto the paved levee rd., St. Rt.#160, on Brannan Island, which parallels the river all the way to Sacramento. After 4.2m, we come to the interesting little town of Isleton, where we rejoin the permanent route coming up the delta from Antioch.

B-Antioch to Folsom

This section takes us across California's central valley, called the Sacramento here & the San Joaquin further S after the two major rivers which drain the Sierra Nevada & coastal ranges into San Francisco Bay. After following the banks of the Sacramento River up through the Delta to the capital city of

Sacramento, we follow the newly completed American River Parkway Bikepath along the American River through a corridor of publicly owned land which shields us from the (urban) sprawl of Sacramento & its suburbs. Eventually we come to the historic town of Folsom & the beginning of the Sierra Nevada foothills.

At the jct. of Wilbur & Cavallo Aves in downtown Antioch, walk E on Wilbur Ave. 2.4m to St. Hgwy.#160. Walk up the ramp onto the hwy. & cross the San Joaquin River on the Antioch Bridge to Sherman Island in the Sacramento River's Delta. We will be following the Delta along the banks of the Sacramento River most of the way to the Capital. Cont. N on Hgwy.#160 on Sherman Island to Horseshoe Bend (a branch of the Sacramento River), then bend E before heading N to a bridge over Threemile Slough (.7.8m) (0'). Most of the land in the Delta is at (or) below sea level; only the levee's along the river channels prevent the water from reclaiming this fertile farmland. Cross the bridge onto Brannan Island & the Brannan Island St. Rec. Area, arriving at the park entrance road (.4m). Turn R(E) here & make arrangements at the entrance station to camp in one of the cpdgs., where water, restrooms, & showers are available (fee required). Follow the park road through groves of Eucalyptus trees past many cpgd. entrances to the gate at the NE corner of the park (1.2m). Turn R(E) on Twitchell Island

Rd. along the E bank of the river through the town of Locke (an interesting & historic Chinese town) to the next bridge over the river, which we cross just S of Courtland (6.7m). Now cont. N along the W bank of the river, passing the towns of Courtland & Hood on the far bank. After 6m we pass a boat landing on our R with a few picnic tables & a small store/bar across the road; one could camp here-it's called Merritt's Landing since we're on Merritt Island; check with the store owner. Cont. up the W bank through the town of Clarksburg to a bridge over the river (6.4m). Cross it to Hgwy.#160 & the town of Freepoint. Eventually, when the Sacramento Bikepath is completed, we can take it along the river to Sacramento, where it will join the American River Pkwy. Bikepath. Until then, we follow either Hgwy.#160 or the abandoned RR tracks all the way through the suburbs into the restored section of Old Sacramento, near the downtown area just N of Capitol Mall St. & Tower Bridge. Here we pick up the bikepath along the Sacramento River levee on our L(W). This area is of great interest historically & includes Fort Sutter, a railroad museum, & many other shops & stores. With the exception of Washington, D.C., Sacramento is the largest city our route will take us through, & we will be in its metro area for the next couple of days.

Cont. N along the new bikepath to the

Rd. & follow Sevenmile Slough's S bank for 3.2m. Cross it here & cont. R(NE) .1m along Brannan Island Rd. to Jackson Slough Rd.. Turn L(NE) here & follow this road 3.7m into the town of Isleton, where the alternate route around the N side of the Bay rejoins.

Cont. along Hgwy.#160 on the S bank of the river, staying on the S bank where Rt.#160 crosses to the other side on a bridge. We cont. along the channelized Sacramento River on the Isleton Rd., passing KoKet Resort on our L after 6.9m. Permission to camp here, for a small fee, can be secured from the owners. There are showers & a game room/bar nearby. Cont. along the S bank of the river, crossing the Georgiana Slough on a bridge, & turning L(N) into the Delta town of Walnut Grove (2.4m). The Delta region formed by the Sacramento River & its Sierra tributaries is laced with drainage canals or "sloughs" which were dug to drain the land & produce one of the most productive orchard & crop-growing agricultural areas in the nation. Between these rivers & sloughs are "islands", in effect surrounded by water. We have been walking on Brannan & Andrus Islands, & we now touch the N'ern end of Tyler Island. The levees along the river channels prevent the fields from being flooded, except in the spring, when they are often inundated by the runoff from the snowpack in the Sierra Nevada. Cont. N on River

confluence of the Sacramento & American River's, where we cross the American River on the Jibboom St. bridge to Discovery Park (10.4m)(20'). Here we pick up the Jedediah Smith Bicycle Trail, which is almost complete all the way out to Folsom Lake through lands owned by the state. Here on this peninsula of land two of California's great rivers meet, which have historically provided transportation for the state's earlier settlers as well as more recent ship & barge traffic. We now begin heading E once again along the American River, which unlike the muddy Sacramento, flows clear. It has its headwaters in the snowy Sierra Nevada to the E & flows through the heart of California's gold country. Cont. along the bicycle trail, a strip of pavement varying from 5-8 ft. wide & popular with bikers & joggers & walkers. We walk through sparse Ca. Live Oak forests & meadows on land reclaimed & saved from urban development & sprawl, under several streets & freeways, & past a golf course to the Guy A. West Bridge, a fancy & expensive suspension bridge for biker's & pedestrians only (7.7m). It provides access to Sacramento State Univ., worth a visit if time permits (there is an excellent library on campus). Cont. along the N bank of the American River on the bikepath. This river, particularly on weekends, is swamped with rafters &

canoeists; this is their Mecca, to be sure! Eventually we reach a newly completed bicycle bridge over the American River (5.7m)(40') leading into Goethe Park, a gravelly, forested bar along the river. This park has campsites, restrooms with showers, & a shady oak forest. Cont. along the bikepath (there is also a horsetrail that parallels the paved bikepath, which might be easier on the feet), passing through a park with lots of picnic tables, grass, & trees, past some bluffs overlooking the river, through more gravelly terrain (a lot of gold dredging was done here in the past, creating many gravel/tailings piles) until we reach the Sunrise Blvd. access parking area, complete with restroom & information board.(5.6m)(85'). The N side of the river is now a series of high bluffs, & we can see why the bike trail crossed to the S side. After another 2.6m, we come to the temporary end of the bikepath near a fish hatchery just downstream from the Nimbus Dam. This facility is well worth a visit. Cont. up the hatchery's access road to Hazel Ave. (.15m)(135'). Here we turn L(N) onto this main st., crossing a bridge with a pedestrian/bicycle walkway over the American River. A good view of Nimbus Dam & Lake Natoma behind it can be had from here. On the N-bank we cross under the hwy., pass an overlook, & cont. along a trail underneath the bluffs on our L(N) past the dam on our R(S). The trail becomes a gravelled rd. down near

C-Folsom to Nevada State Line

This section traverses the magnificent Sierra Nevada, California's "Range of Light" which John Muir, the famous naturalist, wrote extensively about & spent a lifetime exploring. A fair amount of our route will be on trail, particularly at the higher elevations. Also, we will be following or closely paralleling the historic Pony Express route in the foothills & American River Valley.

After passing underneath the Rainbow Bridge over the American River, we cont. along the bikepath, now in a scenic gorge formed by the river just downstream from Folsom Dam, which can be seen ahead of us. We are now in the Folsom Lake St. Rec. Area, & just across the river from us is the famous Folsom State Prison, memorialized in one of country singer Johnny Cash's songs. Our bike trail begins climbing to the L(W) up out of the gorge through oak forest, then levels off in grassy fields with occasional clumps of trees, passes a few subdivisions (Sacramento's sprawl is still with us!), & comes to the headquarters of the recreation area after passing an overlook with a good view of the dam (2m)(370'). After checking out the park's headquarters, we bear R(NE) off of the bikepath & follow the paved dam access road up to the top of the dike & cont. across the

the edge of Lake Natoma. After 1m, at the beginning of Mississippi Bar, a large level gravelly area between the bluffs & the lake, the route becomes somewhat vague. The best route is to head up the hill to the L(N) on a trail. This trail follows the oak-studded, grassy slopes; be careful & avoid taking trails forking uphill to housing developments on top of the bluffs. Eventually we go through a heavily wooded area on the bar, & come out at the jct. of Sunset & Main Ave.'s. Stay to the L(NW) of Main Ave. & parallel it until it bends to the L(N). Cross it here and cont. along the Lake Natoma Trail, a dirt rd. following the bluffs to our L(N). After crossing an inlet on a bridge, we ascend steeply up to the top of the bluffs (270') & follow a trail along the rim with a housing development on our L(W). Eventually our trail descends steeply off of the bluffs through woods down to Negro Bar, which has picnic & cpqd.'s, water, restrooms, showers, & a swimming area. Cont. through Negro Bar to where we pick up the newly completed Amer. River Pkwy. Bicycle Trail once again (2.8m)(140'). Just beyond, the path goes under the Rainbow Bridge, which carries Greenback Ln. over the American River into historic Folsom. This is the end of the section. Folsom has all services & is definitely worth a visit.

dam (470'), with splendid views of Folsom Lake, the snowclad Sierra Nevada, the Sacramento Valley, & possibly even Mt. Diablo on a clear day. Cont. along the dike to the higher ground on the far side, passing a parking area (crowded on weekends!) & then descending to the S away from the lake to where the road forks. Take the L(SE) fork but immediately turn L(NE) up a dirt jeep rd. which becomes a trail & traverses along the shore of the lake. Cross Dike 8, one of many dikes built to permit the flooding of the area now under the waters of Folsom Lake. We come to a boat ramp & parking area, with a picnic area nearby. Traverse across this peninsula to the E side & cross the Mormon Island Dam, a long dike along the S'ern shore of the lake. At the far end, follow the lakeshore around a peninsula called "Mormon Island"; there may be a slight footpath here. We eventually pick up a small dirt rd. & follow it along the S shore of an inlet across from the Folsom Marina to a jct. with the paved Green Valley Rd. (6.3m)(480') just past an entrance gate to the park. Turn L(E) onto this road & walk along it for .5m to Salmon Falls Rd., forking L(NE). Take this road for 500 ft., then bear R(E) onto Malcomb Dixon Rd. (the old Green Valley Rd.), which now climbs moderately through oak woods up past the abandoned Live Oak

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School to the new Green Valley Rd. (2.1m) (960'). Cont. on this paved rd. through rolling foothills along the historic route of the Pony Express Trail, which we will either be on or paralleling all the way to Kyburz. We pass the Pleasant Grove House, an historic Pony Express way-station now owned by Lillian Dixon, who has graciously offered her property as an overnight stop for HikaNation or HikaState hikers. An outdoor toilet is available. There is also a commemorative marker & plaque here. Cont. along Green Valley Rd. S of Pine Hill (2,059'), the imposing hill to our N. to the small town of Rescue (5.7m)(1,208'), with a small store & fire station across the road (there is a picnic area next to the fire station). Cont. E another .8m to a T jct. (1,120'), where we turn L(N) towards Coloma, the original gold discovery site where John Sutter built his mill. Still following Green Valley Rd., we come to another jct. in .5m. Stay on Green Valley Rd., walking up a valley to a saddle (1,450'), past a school (1,616'), then bear L(NE) on Green Valley Rd. down through a pleasantly wooded area to verdant Weber Cr. (5.7m)(1,450'), a major tributary stream. This spot makes a nice rest stop, with the lush vegetation (pines, oak, maple, & alder) & bubbling brook. We now climb up out of the stream valley to Placerville Dr. (.6m)(1,710'), in a built up area on the outskirts of Placerville, a sizable town. Turn L(E) for .4m, then bear L(NE) onto Pierroz Rd., which immediately leads

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can follow the paved road on the N side of the expressway past the Forest Ranger Station & Camino Seventh Day Adventist Church to the continuation of Carson Rd. in Camino (1.3m)(3,150'), with a store & P.O.. Cont. through town to where Pony Express Trail Rd. cont.'s on the N side of the hwy. at an interchange. Shortly we pass a road branching to the L(W) which leads to the Mt. Dana Fire Station/Lookout, which with permission could be used as a campsite (.8m)(3,350'). Cont. just N of Hgwy.#50 on Pony Express Trail Rd. through another apple orchard & past private homes & cabins nestled among the tall Ponderosa Pines, the most prominent tree in the lower to mid-elevations of the Sierra, which is often found growing with Incense Cedar in the higher parts of its range. After 2.6m, we reach another interchange (3,640'). Turn R(S), passing under Hgwy.#50, & cont. L(E) on Ridgeway Dr., which permits us to bypass the residential clutter of Pollock Pines, a large vacation/resort community. After 2.7m, we come to Sly Park Rd. (3,940'). Just N of Hgwy.#50, 500 ft. to the L, is a Safeway store in Pollock Pines. Turn R(S) on Sly Park Rd., following it past numerous cabins nestled in dense Pine/Cedar forest. After entering Eldorado N.F., we reach a jct. (1.6m) (4,200'). Bear L(E-SE) onto Park Cr. Rd. & cont. .6m to within 100 yards of the end of the paved portion at a Y jct.. Here we fork L(NE) down a jeep rd. to a

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to Cold Springs Rd.. After another 1,000 ft., bear L(E) onto Middletown Rd., which becomes Canal St.. This detour is necessary to avoid busy Hgwy.#50 in Placerville. After passing Bennett Park & Placerville High School on our L(N)(1,950'), we descend to cross Hgwy.#50 & come to Main St. in downtown Placerville (1.6m)(1,820'). Proceed L (E) along Main St. through downtown Placerville, an historic town which sprang up during the gold rush era. HikaNation 80'-80' stayed at the city park just S of the P.O. on Benham St., but permission must be obtained from the authorities to camp here. Cont. along Main St., jogging L(N) across Hangtown Cr., then cont.'ing R(E) on Broadway to Carson Rd. (1.2m)(1,900'), where we cross Hgwy.#50 on an overpass. Follow Carson Rd., still along the Pony Express route, as it ascends past houses & through a Ponderosa Pine forest onto a plateau where we get our first good view of the still distant Crystal Range in the Desolation Wilderness, usually snow-clad except in late season (2,400'). The whole area ahead of us has been planted with orchards of apple trees, which we now begin walking through. We pass the Eldorado N.F. Work Center & Institute of Forest Genetics on our R (S) & cont. along Fruit Ridge through apple orchards with enticing views of the Sierra Crest ahead. Eventually our road hits the Hgwy.#50 right-of-way at a school (5.3m)(3,000'). However, hikers

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frontage rd. at a point almost directly opposite Forest Rd.. Cont. along the frontage rd. to Fresh Pond (1.4m)(3,600') where there is a ranger station (Eldorado N.F.). Pass the Fresh Pond restaurant (closed), cont.'ing along & inside a fence on the S side of Hgwy.#50. After crossing a creek, we cont. along the paved frontage rd. to the 2nd turnoff to the L(N). Cross Hgwy.#50 here (.8m) & cont. on the N side of Hgwy.#50 along Peavine Ridge Rd. to the little store, bar, & picnic area at Pacific House (camping at the discretion of the owners)(.4m). Now we descend steeply down Peavine Ridge Rd. to an old bridge spanning the gorge over the American River (3,047') & climb via two switchbacks on Brockless Toll Rd. to where a trail (the old Pony Express route) forks to the R(SE)(1.2m)(3,220') (approx. 800 ft. past the 2nd switchback). Take this trail gradually uphill until reaching White Meadows Rd., an improved dirt rd. (3,540'). A large fire burned the slopes across from us to the S of the American River Valley, & the forest is only beginning to recover. Turn R(N-NE) on this rd., passing a spring ("Short Place" on the topo quad), then traverse above the American River canyon before descending slightly into Twenty-Five Mile Canyon & a jct. with the Ice House Rd. (3,640'). Turn R(SW) on this graded F.S. Rd. & switchback down across the stream in Twenty-Five

Mile Canyon & cont. descending to Hgwy. #50 at Riverton (4.4m)(3,231'), an old Pony Express station. Start ascending L(NE) on a faint rd. which has become a trail (about 8ft. wide) to the N of Hgwy. #50. Small pine & cedar trees have begun to reclaim this stretch, growing between the wheel ruts. Soon it becomes a 10-12 ft. wide asphalt rd. for about 800 yards, then we fork R(E) off of the blacktop onto a dirt jeep trail again. Cont. on this, the old Pony Express route, avoiding a branch to the L after a few hundred yards. The trail becomes overgrown with trees, & closely parallels Ice House Rd. on our L(N). After climbing a hill, we pass just to the R(S) of an old water trough, then arrive at Cleveland Corral Rec. Center (drinking fountain, toilets, picnic area)(1.6m)(4,000').

The trail beyond here is difficult to follow, but is marked by numerous numbered wooden stakes. Stay to the R(S) of Ice House Rd., walk along it at one point for 50 yards, then descend to the R(downhill) on trail again to a stream crossing in Cox Canyon (can be difficult to cross in early season). Now we climb up to Weber Mill Rd. (.5m)(4,200') & walk along this graded dirt rd. for 7.3m, avoiding lesser jeep rd.'s branching R & L (4,740'), to Hgwy.#50 once again (3,960'). Cont. L(NE) on the N side of the Hgwy. on an old dirt rd. to a point opposite "Wildwood Way" at Silverfork. Cross the American River here on a bridge & turn L at the Collin's home, proceeding

Until another route is found, hikers will have to bear the brunt of the blacktop. Finally, after 7.3m, we reach our turnoff just before the road crosses the Silver Fork on the Fitch Rantz Bridge (5,580'). Turn L(E), passing through a car-camping area, & reach the trailhead where a large boulder bars further vehicular traffic (except motorcycles & other 2wd bikes). Walk up a somewhat rocky trail through cedar, pine, & occasional fir to where a sign indicates our trail veers R(E)(1.2m)(5,944'). Crossing over Caples Cr. on a large log, then following the stream to the R(S-SW) through a flat area, we now begin climbing steeply up through a small gorge, negotiating some switchbacks, & level off in Forgotten Flat in dense Cedar/pine woods. We now come to another signed trail jct., where a trail forks S across the Silver Fork to Sherman Canyon Rd. (1.2m)(6,250'). Cont. straight (E) up the flat valley floor, then begin climbing up the N side of the valley, via occasional switchbacks, & level off temporarily on top of the ridge. Shortly we come to another trail jct. (1.4m)(6,800'). The L fork descends down to Caples Cr. but we bear R(E) towards Silver Lake. Abruptly the trail begins climbing up the ridge, now on our R(S). The treadway is very steep, rough, & eroded here from use by stock & motorbikes. We level off momentarily, pick up a 4wd jeep rd., & ascend steeply once more up the S side of

up the hill to the R. When we come to an old logging rd., turn L(NE) & proceed through the Bodwell property (respect all private property here) above the American River. Soon we hit blacktop at Redwood Rd. & follow this road past cabins to the paved Silverfork Rd. (1.6m)(4,100'). Kyburz is .3m L(SE) across the American River with a P.O., motel, restaurant, service station, & Pony Express Stop.

Here we are presented with a choice of routes. The HikaState route followed by HikaNation in 1980 proceeded to cross the Sierra crest by closely paralleling or following Hgwy.'s 50, 89, & 88 over Echo Summit & Luther Pass. These roads, particularly Hgwy. #50, are heavily travelled & even a parallel route would inevitably be within earshot of automobile traffic. Therefore, in order to find a more remote & wild route, I scouted a new route in the summer of 1981 which offers a lot of promise & I will present as the primary route. I will then describe the HikaState alternative.

We now head up the Silverfork Rd., turning R onto it & ascending to a saddle (1.1m)(4,780'). The road here was used as a fire-line to contain the large fire mentioned earlier. Trees on the SW side of the road were scorched but trees on the NE side were saved. We now drop down into the Silver Fork (American River) valley, then climb gradually up it on this blacktop rd..

the ridge, eventually levelling off in fir/Lodgepole Pine woods atop the ridge. Follow the winding jeep rd., with occasional views of the Crystal Range to our N, as it winds gradually upward. In early season (May, sometimes into early June) there may be a few snow-patches still on the ground here. Eventually we reach the old (still paved) former route of Hgwy.#88 (the old Emigrant Route). Here we also ponder a choice of routes. If you are likely to encounter a heavy snowpack early in the season (through late May or early June, in most years), & are unprepared for travel over occasional snowpack, you may want to consider crossing the Sierra crest on St. Hgwy.#88, an all-weather hwy. which is plowed during the winter to allow ski resort access.

If you chose the above route, turn L(NE) & in .3m reach Hgwy.#88. Turn L(NE) & follow this moderately busy road up over Carson Spur (7,980')(beautiful views N of the American River Valley & the peaks in the Crystal Range from here) to the resort of Kirkwood (2.8m)(7,682'), where there is a small cafe. Cont. E past the Caples Lake Dam along the N shore of this lake, then climb gradually up to the Sierra crest at Carson Pass (5.2m)(8,590'). There is a F.S. info. station here (seasonal) as well as two historical monuments (to Kit Carson & Snowshoe Thompson, both

early explorers & guides in this region). The Pacific Crest Nat'l Scenic Trail passes through here & it is also one of the major trailheads for trips into the Mokelumne Wilderness Area. Just E of the pass, bear R(SE) onto a paved spur rd. leading to a gravesite. Cont. down old Hgwy.#88, now a jeep rd. with still crumbling pavement (if this is still snowbound, follow the new hgwy. around the N side of Red Lake to where the old rd. rejoins it near Red Lake's outlet, 2.1m), 1.5m to where it rejoins the new hgwy. (7,800'). Here we bear R(S) onto a jeep rd. leading to the Blue Lakes area. Climb gradually through spruce/fir & occasionally Aspen trees over a saddle (8,000') & descend to cross Forestdale Cr. (7,930'), beyond which we ascend a short distance to a jeep trail forking L(E), where the main route rejoins.

For those prepared to hike on snow or those hiking in summer or early/mid fall, a highly scenic route past Silver Lake & through the NE corner of the Mokelumne Wilderness awaits you. Although somewhat of a roller coaster ride, the steepest stretch is downhill on S-facing slopes, which should be mostly snow-free by late May in most years. Turn R(SW) on the old Emigrant Route, the pavement mostly still intact, switching abruptly back to the L(SE) & descending through fir & Aspen woods past two creeklets to where we merge with St. Hgwy.#88. Walk R(SE) along this hgwy. for 500 yards to our trailhead on the L

(E) at the bottom of the hill (1.3m) (7,100'). Silver Lake & its attendant resort bldg.'s & cabins is .7m further along the hgwy.-food & film can be purchased here in limited quantities.

We now begin climbing through a beautiful, virgin stand of Red Fir on a wide, well maintained trail. Recent volcanic activity (in geologic terms) is very evident as we wind past huge pinnacles & blocks of conglomerate scattered on all sides. Our trail steepens as we climb up through some rather large Red Fir trees before breaking out into alpine meadows on the S slopes of Thimble Pk.(9,805'), the volcanic spires above us on our L(N). After walking up & down some minor humps (good views back towards Silver Lake here), we cont. through open meadows where corn lilies grow in profusion after the snows have melted. Snow patches sometimes last through July here. We gradually bend SE & climb up to the crest of Squaw Ridge & a trail jct. (5m)(9,220'). Although not the actual Sierra crest, this is the highest point we will reach in our crossing of the Sierra Nevada. Snow patches normally remain on the N side of the pass here until well into July, sometimes even August, & the sign on top may still be buried. We want to head due S, entering the Mokelumne Wilderness (permit required if staying overnight within the wilderness) here & descend via Horse Canyon to Summit City Cr.. These S-

facing slopes, though at a high elevation, should be mostly free of snow by June in most years. We switchback down, entering an open fir/Limber Pine forest & come to another jct.. Bear L(E) here, (the R fork ascends to Squaw Ridge & cont.'s along it SW), cont.'ing a moderately steep descent through this hanging valley. We discover why it "hangs" when we reach its rim, where the glacier which cut Summit City Canyon below us sheered off our valley. We begin descending more steeply here on warm (hot in summer), S-facing slopes covered thickly with Manzanita bushes, with occasional Ponderosa Pines here & there. Snow shouldn't be a problem here at all after early May. Finally, after a 2,360 ft. elevation drop, we reach the canyon floor & a trail jct. (2.7m) (6,860'). We turn L(NE) up-canyon here, towards the Blue Lakes & Sierra divide. The canyon is deep & steep-walled here, making for magnificent scenery. Before long, we begin to notice the sometimes catastrophic effects which early spring avalanches can have. We can see holes in the ground where large trees have been slammed over, uprooted, & carried some distance by the sheer force of the avalanche. The heavy snows in the winters of 81'-82' & 82'-83' have caused the bulk of the damage. The S-facing slopes to our L below Round Top (10,381') which are exposed to the warm, intense rays of the sun, are the main culprit. In places,

the forest has been decimated & the trail has virtually disappeared under the rubble of fallen trees, but can be picked up again on the far side with a little searching. Hopefully the trail will either be cleared of or rerouted around the many blowdowns in the near future. Just after passing a trail on our L(N) going to Fourth-of-July Lake, we reach a major trail jct. (2.3m) (7,450'). The trail to the R(E) cont.'s up the canyon floor, then climbs S over a saddle to Upper Blue Lake (2.8m). We take the L(NE) fork, which begins climbing the S-facing slopes to our L(N) towards Forestdale Divide & the Sierra crest. We leave the Mokelumne Wilderness (signed), & after ascending through dense woods past one last avalanche-stricken area, we climb above timberline, occasionally switchbacking, & eventually reach the Pacific Crest Trail on the crest of the Sierra's. The last 1/2m of this ascent may be on snow in early season. Just past the PCT jct., we reach Forestdale Divide & the watershed divide (2.5m)(8,900'). There is a sign here, which may still be under snow in early season; we are entering Toiyabe N.F. & we pick up a jeep rd. (4wd), bearing L(N) onto it. Descend N along this rd., closed to traffic by snow 8-9 months out of the year. The views N of Hope Valley & the Carson Range (Freel Pk.) are expansive. Lake Tahoe is just

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on the other (N) side of this range. We descend below timberline again & reach a jct. just shy of Forestdale Cr., where our alternate, early season route rejoins (1.4m)(7,950').

Bear R(E) here on a 2wd jeep trail & descend along it, staying S of Forestdale Cr. in the valley to our L(N). We cross numerous tributary streams, but must exercise caution in drinking the water since cattle graze here 4-5 months out of the year, as can be seen by the cow-paddies & trampled nature of the vegetation. We cross successively larger meadows & eventually come to the expansive ones in Faith Valley (7,500'). Instead of following our jeep trail around to the N across the valley, we can save time by cont.'ing E cross-country to the paved Blue Lakes Rd. (2.5m)(7,600'). Turn R(S) uphill & ascend this rd. .6m to a saddle & trail jct. (7,860'). The views of the Sierra high country here are extensive. Our trail sign reads "Charity Valley" & we turn L(NE) onto it. We parallel Charity Valley below us on our R(S) on S-facing, usually snow-free slopes, then descend down to it & a trail jct. by burbling Charity Valley Cr.. Bear L(NE) downstream & follow this trail E through Charity Valley, usually staying in the woods on the meadows edge. There are quite a few Quaking Aspen in this valley, a tree which does not form pure stands in the Sierra Nevada like it does on the high plateau's of southern Utah & the Rockies of Colorado. There

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the creek again & following the N bank down through Ponderosa woods. After 3.3m, we reach the town of Markleeville & St. Rt.#89 (5,540'). Markleeville has a P.O., cafe, store, saloon, & F.S. ranger station, enough to keep any hiker satisfied! Turn R(SE) on Hgwy.#89, rounding the N side of a ridge, then crossing the E Fk., Carson River on a bridge (called "Hangman's Bridge")(1.4m)(5,494'). Just 200 ft. past the bridge on the L(N) is our jeep trail. The route ahead to Antelope Valley remains unscouted, so be especially careful in following this guide's directions. For those wishing to stay on Hgwy.#89, either to avoid early season snow or stick to a sure route, I will describe an alternate route as well.

The primary route turns L(N), following the jeep trail .15m to a fork, where we bear R(E) uphill. Ascend steeply through pine woods to a saddle, then climb open slopes NE, reentering Toiyabe N.P.. Eventually we level off & come to a jeep trail jct. just past a draw (2.4m). The trail cont.'ing straight (N) stays level but we turn R(SE) & climb over a ridge (7,580'), then descend slightly to a jeep trail jct. (.8m). Veer R(SE) across the plateau, paying particularly close attention to the mileages & directions listed here since there is a confusing amount of dirt roads & tracks on this plateau. After veering NE, we reach another fork (.5m) & bear R(E), ignoring

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has been ample beaver activity here, as evidenced by the many Aspen stumps. After passing a beautiful tarn reflecting Markleeville Pk. (the prominent peak to our R across the valley), we descend steeply on a rocky, switchbacked trail, level off again along Charity Valley Cr., then cross Hot Springs Cr. & arrive at a trail jct. (.4m)(7,220'). The trail to the L(W) follows Hot Springs Cr. 1.6m to Burnside Lake. Cont. R(E) & begin a switchbacking descent across dry, manzanita-clothed S-facing slopes into Hot Springs Valley. After a while we level off in a beautiful climax cedar/pine forest & cont. descending to the flat, forested valley floor. Now in a pure Ponderosa Pine stand, we enter Grover Hot Springs St. Pk., which protects & manages a hot springs facility. A swimming pool/locker room bldg. has been built to accommodate the flood of visitors which come to bathe here year-round. After skirting the expansive meadow to the N, we pick up a park road & reach the paved cpqd. loop road. Two large cpqd.'s with elites & comfort stations (showers!) are just L(E) of us here. You must register & pay a fee at the park entrance station first, however. Cont. S across Hot Spring's Cr. & arrive at the entrance station (.3m)(5,840'). The hot springs are .4m down the paved road to the R(W).

After we have had our fill of hot, sulfur-water bathing, proceed E down the park access road on blacktop, crossing

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a trail branching S 1,000 ft. further. After veering NE again, we take another R(E) fork (.4m) at the top of a small rise & our jeep trail becomes a jeep rd. (i.e.-improves). The views from these large, treeless, volcanic plateaus are far-reaching; the snowcapped range to the SE is the Sweetwater Range, with several peaks over 11,000' high. Descend slightly into Haypress Flat, a large flat meadow, veering R(SE) past a road coming in on the L(NE) & coming to a 3-way jct. (.4m)(7,960'). Bear L (E-NE) here for 1,200 ft., just N of a wooded ridge, then turn L(N) & proceed across Haypress Flat to another fork (.4m). Bear R(E) here, cont.'ing through Haypress Flat past numerous springs (the water quality may be questionable) to another 3-way jct. (.5m)(7,960'). Bear L(NE) 1,000 ft. to another jeep rd. jct., turning R(SE) here. Our jeep rd. becomes a jeep trail & begins descending off of the plateau into Leviathan Canyon, passing a spring on our L(NE). A huge mining operation has disfigured the landscape on the far side of the canyon to the SE (the Leviathan Mine), so don't trust the water in this canyon. Eventually we reach the mine's access road after descending down along Leviathan Cr. a short ways (2.4m). Descend L(N-NE) down the canyon on this wide dirt rd. for 1.4m to a point directly opposite

Mountaineer Cr.'s canyon mouth on the R (W)(6,340'). Cross Leviathan Cr. here (if the crossing is difficult, take the road 1,000 ft. further to where it crosses, coming back up-canyon along a trail to Mountaineer Cr.), & follow the trail up along the N-bank of Mountaineer Cr.. We pass a cave on our L(N) after about a mile & cont. up the canyon. After 3.6m of steady climbing, we hit a jeep rd. just past a ridgecrest (7,300'). There are excellent views from this open summit area, which is inside Nevada. Turn R(S) & follow this dirt rd. back into Calif. along or near the abrupt eastern escarpment. Bear L(SE) at a fork (.8m) & cont. along the rim with excellent views of Topaz Lake below us & the Sweetwater Mtns. to our S-SE. Eventually we pass a spring (Virgil Connell) on our R(S) & veer R(NW), climbing briefly up to St. Rt.#89 (2.8m)(7,870').

For those wishing to stay on Hgwy.#89, I refer you back to the jct. just beyond the "Hangman's Bridge" over the E Fk. Carson River. Cont. along Hgwy.#89 up the E Fk. Carson River canyon to the site of Mt. Bullion, a road jct. (3.2m)(5,720')(St. Rt.#4 cont.'s S here). Cont. L(E) on Hgwy.#89 up Monitor Cr., beginning to climb more steeply. We pass numerous old mines (this used to be a very active mining area) before topping out on Sagehen Flat & coming to Heenan Lake (3.8m)(7,150'). Cont. N on Hgwy.#89 through Sagehen Flat, then bend E & begin climbing once more across open, volcanic

Take Kyburz Drive to the L (across from the Kyburz Motel), proceed on this on the N side of Hgwy.#50 to about 200 yards before its end (it ends on Hgwy.#50), then cut across to the L about 200 yards to Kyburz Dump Rd.. Proceed about 200 ft. on this to the Pony Express Trail (N of Hgwy.#50) & cont. about 5.5m (an electric cable, often at the surface of the ground, helps one follow the trail at several places). At the stream with waterfalls cross a new logging rd., climb up to a trail & cont. to its end (marked by an orange ribbon), then climb L about 200 ft. to a new logging rd. (this stretch is difficult & perhaps should not be done with heavy backpacks). Cont. on a logging rd. to Wright's Lake Rd., down Wright's Lake Rd. about 100 yards, then take a new logging rd. to the L. Cont. on this to a new bridge over a creek; then along a rd. & bulldozer path, a former YCC trail down to Hgwy.#50 to cross a deep ravine. Hike parallel to Hgwy.#50 on a new logging rd. before returning to Hgwy.#50 & walking along it a few hundred yards to two brown ranger cabins (Pyramid Guard Station) on the L. From the ranger cabins go parallel to Hgwy.#50 through areas of trees (not a trail, but there are some yellow ribbon markers) a few hundred yards to a new logging rd. (one of the XP posts is still here). Go along the new logging rd. to the L about 1/4m, then bear R on a trail (entrance marked by yellow ribbons)

slopes to a high, open plateau & reach Monitor Pass (3.8m)(8,330'). There is an historic marker here. We descend gradually from here, entering Mono Co. & rejoining the main route just before beginning to descend steeply (1.9m)(7,870').

Descend Hgwy.#89 as it switchbacks down into Slinkard Valley. Cont. descending across this valley, entering a narrow canyon along Slinkard Cr. & reaching U.S. Hgwy.#395 at a BLM Fire Station (7.2m)(5,100'). Water can be obtained here. Topaz Lake & a casino (across the state line!) are 1m & 4m N respectively.

We turn R(S) here & walk the shoulder of busy Hgwy.#395 for 2.2m to a P.O. & store at Topaz, CA. Turn L (SE) here onto Topaz Lane, crossing the W Walker River & numerous drainage sloughs (canals) as we cross the broad flats of Antelope Valley. After crossing the last drainage canal, we reach a road branching L(N-NE)(3.1m). Take this rd. 1.2m to the Nevada state line just N of a hillock called Round Mtn., exactly a mile above sea level (5,280').

I will now describe the HikaState alternate route, which is the official route adopted by the Northern Calif. chapter of the American Hiking Society (NorCal) for its annual HikaState hikes. The description is taken verbatim from the manuscript prepared by Dr. Glenn Seaborg & Jeannie Harmon. We begin where the routes diverged at Kyburz, Ca.

& follow it until it comes out at Hgwy.#50 to cross another ravine. Starting at the XP post on the stream coming down the ravine, pass over soggy ground & cont. on old road (asphalt still in evidence) very close to Hgwy.#50 for about 1/4m. Skirting close to Hgwy.#50, pass on the L a house with a painted metal roof & built of unfinished cedar (with a red barn) about 100 yards to another stream in a ravine. Cross the stream if possible. Alternatively go down to Hgwy.#50, then immediately go back up on the other side of the ravine. Follow a rough, unmarked trail a couple of hundred yards to another stream in a ravine. Go down to Hgwy.#50 to pass the ravine, then head immediately back up the hill on a trail marked with orange ribbons (look for ribbons showing trail to L heading up the hill). As usual this trail often follows along the underground (near ground) telephone cable. Continue on logging road, with large Pine Plantation Test Plot on L. (large pine trees planted in rows). Take trail to L & cont. through Pine Plantation. Cont. on trail, still marked with yellow or orange ribbons through 1/4m of manzanita bushes & over rocks. Last part of this trail section was cut by Malcomb McFarland ("The Malcomb McFarland Trail"). Cont. past manzanita downhill to the L to pass a ravine, then cont. R out to trail

(marked with yellow or orange ribbons) close to & parallel to Hgwy.#50. Cont. on this to Strawberry (5,800'). There is a Pony Express Stop, lodge, store, gas station, & an old auto display here.

Proceed S of Hgwy.#50 & the river. After crossing to the S of the river on a bridge a few hundred yards E of Strawberry Lodge, hike on the Pony Express Trail (old Hgwy.#50) about 1m, cross the S Fk. of the American River at Slippery Ford (this is a crossing that may be difficult in early season) with the remnants of the old stone house to the L. Veer to the R up past a house to a private road, follow the private road to Hgwy.#50, then follow Hgwy.#50 (there is a path outside the railing on the R side) a short distance (.5m) to Camp Sacramento. Alternatively, proceed from Strawberry Lodge 2m along Hgwy.#50 to Camp Sacramento. Cont. 7m along Hgwy.#50 just short of Echo Summit (7,392') to Little Norway Resort (lodge, P.O., store) (7,300'), about 1m before Echo Summit.

If there is not too much snow it is possible to largely avoid Hgwy.#50 by going from Strawberry Lodge to Pow Wow, just 2m short of Little Norway, as follows. Proceed on the Pony Express Trail to the bend in the trail just above Slippery Ford. About 200 ft. beyond the bend climb up the hill to the Camp Sacramento-Lover's Leap Trail. Then go L(E) on this trail to Camp Sacramento. Alternatively, in the snow, follow along & somewhat above the R bank of the river

to Camp Sacramento. Total distance to Camp Sacramento is about 2m. An alternate route to Camp Sacramento is to go up Strawberry Canyon, then take the trail up to the top of Lover's Leap & cont. on the Camp Sacramento-Lover's Leap Trail (adding 2m & an extra 1,000' climb). If there is not too much snow, stay on the R(S) side of the S Fk., American River by walking along a road about 1/2m, then cross Sayles Canyon Cr. (could be difficult in early season) to Sayles Canyon Tract. Alternatively, cross the river on the bridge at Camp Sacramento, proceed along Hgwy.#50, then cross back over the river on a bridge to reach Sayles Canyon Tract. Cont. on a road (old Pony Express Trail) about 1/2m, then a trail about 1/2m, a logging rd. about 1/2m to Bryan Cr. Tract, then about 1/2m on a road through Bryan Cr. Tract. Cont. about 1/2m on a trail across the old Edelweiss Ski Area, past an old wooden platform that used to contain a snow avalanche gun, then about 1m on a road through the old Sierra Ski Ranch & Alder Cr. Tract, then cross bridge over the S Fk., American River & proceed about 100 yards along Hgwy.#50 to Pow Wow, which has been destroyed by fire.

Cont.'ing from Pow Wow to Little Norway, S of Hgwy.#50, go parallel to & near the river, climb a hill, then proceed along the S side of Derringer (Audrian) Meadow Flats, go past the meadow 1/2m, then go 90° L on the microwave & radio repeater station service

road & proceed to the road's end (crossing Audrian Lake Cr. en route) to a point opposite Little Norway resort.

From Little Norway, proceed about 100 yards E on Hgwy.#50, then pick up the Pacific Crest Trail on the R(SE) & head S along it about 1m (or, alternatively, take the PCT N of Hgwy.#50 about 100 yards, then head E on the Hawley Grade trail & road, marked with blue, metallic diamonds on trees), then proceed down Hawley's Grade (starts about 100 yards below the horseshoe bend in Hgwy.#50 or at marker 6701 off to the R of Hgwy.#50) about 2.1m to Upper Truckee Rd. (6,550'), then R(SE) across the Upper Truckee River & up to St. Rt.#89 (1m). An alternate route to this point from Little Norway is along Echo Lake Rd. through Johnson Pass (7,377') & down some switchbacks to Hgwy.#50. Cross the hgwy. & proceed on old Hgwy.#50 down to Upper Truckee Rd., turning R(S) & following this paved rd. to St. Rt.#89 (this route to be used when Hawley's Grade is not passable due to snow or water runoff.) This adds 3m. Cross Hgwy.#89 & proceed on an old road to the L(N) of Hgwy.#89 until it returns to Hgwy.#89 at Grass Lake Cr.. Proceed along Hgwy.#89 or a dim trail to the R(S) of Hgwy.#89, past Grass Lake to Luther Pass (7,740') & into Alpine Co.. Cont. along Hgwy.#89 (or the old road to the R of Hgwy.#89) to Pickett's Junction (the jct. with Hgwy.#88 in Toiyabe N. F.;

the F.S. cpd. here is closed to the public), then L on Hgwy.#88/89 about 1/2m to Sorenson's Resort (7,000'), where there is a store & hot showers available. Alternatively, starting about .8m S of the Upper Truckee Rd./Hgwy.#89 jct. (just E of Big Meadow Cr.), it might be possible (in the summer) to hike on a trail to Big Meadow, then on to Scott's Lake (passing to the S of Waterhouse Pk.). Cont. on a jeep rd. to Hgwy.#88, then L(generally E) on St. Rt.#88 to Sorenson's Resort.

From here, cont. along the road & trail to the L of Hgwy.#88 & the river to a point just beyond Hope Valley store, then back 100 yards & across Hgwy.#88 to Hope Valley store. Then follow the old hgwy. to the R of Hgwy.#88, past a trailer housing, & walk a short stretch of trail before climbing back up to Hgwy.#88. Follow it about 100 yards before cont.'ing on the R through Shoe Springs Cpgd. & a little beyond. Then go back up to Hgwy.#88, follow it 1/2m, & cross to the L side of the hgwy., now following the old hgwy. & trail (along STPUD sewer line); here we cross two streams (necessary to go up to Hgwy.#88 in the spring). We now cover a 1m stretch where it is possible to go most of the way on portions of the old hgwy. & trail to the L of Hgwy.#88. Alternatively we can walk along Hgwy.#88. We now hike through the

Crystal Springs cpgd. to the R of Hgwy. #88 & cont. beyond this along a trail. After a short distance, climb back up to Hgwy.#88, follow it for 100 yards, then follow a trail & the Pony Express Trail Road to the L of Hgwy.#88 to Woodfords Station. Proceed on Hgwy.#88 about $\frac{1}{2}$ m to Carson River Rd. (on the R), cont.'ing on this rd. past the entrance to Ace Hereford Ranch nearly to Hgwy.#88. Now jog R 100 yards on a paved rd., then L on a dirt rd. (W Fk. of Carson River is on the R) to a gate on the R made of green iron bars. Enter through the gate about $\frac{1}{2}$ m to the bank of the W Fk., Carson River to a grove of Jeffrey Pines & Cottonwoods, where a camp could be made (about $3\frac{1}{2}$ m from Woodfords, $8\frac{1}{2}$ m from Sorenson's; water from river available).

Cont. N on the dirt rd. about $\frac{1}{2}$ m, cont.'ing straight ahead on Dressler Path where the road turns L, & enter Nevada (2m). After another mile turn R on paved Dressler Lane, cont. to Dressler Ranch & the bridge across the W Fk., Carson River. Proceed a few hundred yards to a dirt road, turning L down this road about a mile, then cont.'ing on the R fork on a dirt rd. (avoid side roads to the L & R) to a gate made of green iron bars. Go through this gate down a rough dirt rd., past a yellow house on the L, to the Washoe Reservation Cpgd. at the E Fk. of the Carson River, with U.S. Hgwy.#395 just beyond the ford over the river (could be a difficult

crossing in early season). To get back to the primary route, follow Hgwy.#395 approx. 19m S to the jct. with St. Rt. #89.

II-NEVADA

A-California St. Line to Mina

This section takes us just N of the Sweetwater Range in Toiyabe N.F. and then across the southern part of the Wassuck Range, also in Toiyabe N.F. before giving us a preview of what most of Nevada will be like: dry & desolate valleys between Pinyon/Juniper clad mountain ranges of very little width.

At the state line on Risue Canyon Rd., proceed NE, then SE up into Risue Canyon. Pass the first of two springs in this canyon, which upon closer inspection we pass up for the second one. Cent. up-canyon, passing some cabins on the L(NE) before arriving in Upper Risue Canyon Meadow (5.5m)(6,800'). This is a good campsite with good spring-water. Cent. ascending E in a mature Pinyon forest to the top of the pass (1m)(7,200') in the Wellington Hills. Descend E through a cleared area, with Desert Cr. Peak forming an impressive backdrop. After 2m of downhill walking, we reach Desert Cr., a year-round stream emanating from the Sweetwater Mtns. to our S (6,650'). Turn R(S) at the road jct. & ascend along Desert Cr. for 1.8m, with good views of East Sister, the northernmost peak in the Sweetwater Range, towering conelike ahead of us. We now cross the creek & ascend a draw to a broad plateau on the watershed divide (.9m)(7,300'). After crossing the wide expanse of sagebrush-clad plateau, we descend 3.4m

a well-graded dirt rd., we come to a T jct. at a site called "Fletcher" on the map (1.3m) & turn L(NE)(6,089'). After 3m, we can see a jeep rd. branching off to the R(E), & follow it .3m to Mud Spring, a cattle trough with good water piped in. A camp could be made here (6,480'). Cent. E to a T jct. (.5m), turning L(N). Cent. NE, then E up the S side of Mud Spring Canyon, an arroyo, climbing gradually. Ignore all roads forking off to the R(S) after our jct. with the new spur rd. connecting with the Lucky Bay Pass Rd.. Cent. E through the valley, climbing gradually to the base of the Wassuck Mtn. Range, where we begin to climb more steeply via switchbacks in a Pinyon forest. Eventually we level off at the pass, with good views E back to the Sweetwater Range & W out over the wastes of the Great Basin (8,378') (8m) From this lofty perch, we switch-back steeply down through a Pinyon/Juniper forest on the eastern slopes to Powell Canyon, which we follow out to paved St. Rt.#359 in Whiskey Flat (7m)(6,023'). Hawthorne, Nev., with all services, is 17m N on this hwy. Our last water source before the dry section ahead (there is H₂O 3m off-route 6.5m ahead) is at a spring in Powell Canyon.

From the hwy., cent. E across the long, flat expanse of Whiskey Flat. Three quarters of our route across Nevada will be through basins such as this one, in what is classified as a high desert. Even-

through Pinyon forest to the Gulch Spring area, where a camp could be made beside this spring of dubious quality (the spring is off to the L(N-NE) a couple hundred yards on a jeep trail) which also serves as a watering hole for cattle. Cent. another 1.6m to St.Rt. #338, a blacktop hwy. Wellington, Nev. is 18m L(N) along the hwy., with a P.O. & store.

Cent. R(S) along the hwy. across the large, flat basin called Sweetwater Flat, with the majestic snowclad Sweetwater Range forming an impressive backdrop. After passing the Sweetwater Ranch on our R(W), we descend along Sweetwater Cr. & reach a road jct. (9m)(5,900'). We leave the hwy. here (Bridgeport, CA is 14.5m S along this hwy., with most services), turning L(SE) onto a graded dirt road. After passing the site of the former Conway Stage Station, we cross the East Walker River on a bridge & cent. E, staying S of the river on higher ground. The landscape around us is very stark and desolate. We descend down to the river again at a bend in the river called "The Elbow" (6m)(5,625'), then leave it for good as we head SE. After ascending gradually over a shoulder (6,040'), we drop almost imperceptively into a large, sage-clad valley & cross Rough Cr. near Ninemile Ranch (6.4m)(5,920'). Next we come to Bedie Cr.(1.4m), which can be a difficult ford in the late spring & early summer. After crossing St.Rt.#3A,

usually we ascend SE through a narrowing draw just N of the Excelsior Mtns. to Rattlesnake Well (6.5m)(6,003'). This was bone dry in May, 1980 but may be pumping again when you pass it. Don't depend on it! (3m S is Summit Spring, with good water if you're desperate). Take the L(E) fork here through Rattlesnake Flat, climbing gradually to a pass (4m)(6,580'), with Juniper trees scattered about. Descend gradually through Rattlesnake Canyon down into Garfield Flat, a dried up lake bed. After coming out of the canyon we reach a jct.(5.4m)(5,643'), bearing R(E) onto a dirt track & staying on the S side of the lake bed. After 4.2m of level walking across this flat, we reach a jct. just N of the site of Garfield Mill & Spring, which are about .8m S up the canyon. Cent. NE on a better road 3.7m to the saddle on the divide (5,800'), then follow this road NE, then SE through another flat basin before descending down through narrow Douglas Canyon & out into broad, expansive Soda Spring Valley. After 7m we come to U.S. Hwy.#95 & the town of Mina, the end of this section (4,600'). This old, dying mining town has a store, motel, bar, & P.O. but it may not be on the map much longer unless the price of ore goes up in the near future. The Pilot Mtns. loom over 4,000' above us to the E-SE here.

This section takes us through the Pilot Mtns., across a vast, dry basin broken only by low-lying hills, to St. Hgwy.#376 & the mining town of Manhattan. Then we cross three mtn. ranges, separated by two wide valleys, before coming to U.S. Hgwy.#6 8m NE of the town of Warm Springs.

From Mina, walk N along U.S.Hgwy.#95 in Soda Spring Valley .7m, turning R(NE) onto an improved dirt rd.. After 3.6m, we reach a fork in the road. The 1980 Hika-Nation route cont'd straight & bypassed the Pilot Mtns. to the N, but I have re-routed us through these mtns. for better scenery, more views, & variety (5,000'). Take the jeep rd. headed R(SE) up Cinnabar Canyon. After 4.8m of steady climbing, we pass Roadside Spring on our R(6,280'). In another 1.6m, we come to a jct.(6,900'). Cont. up Cinnabar Canyon by taking the L (E) fork. We pass Cinnabar Spring (.4m) (7,440'), which should have good drinking water, & climb steeply up to a jct. in a saddle (.8m)(8,000'). Take the main rd. R(E) up to a ridge (8,060'), with good views of the high country around us. Take the L(SE) fork down to another broad saddle (.4m). Here we turn R(S) & begin a steep descent down out of the Pilot Mtns. through the Pinyon tree belt to a jct. (3.5m)(6,720'). Here we bear L(SE) & descend 1.4m down an arroyo, cont. straight (SE) at another jct., climbing E, then descending N to a third jct.(.9m) (6,200'). Troy Spring, the last reliable

we bear R(E) at a jct.(2.4m). Cross the long, barren Cirac Valley (5,570'), cont'ing straight(E) across the one road jct., then ascend into the Royston Hills to another saddle (6.4m)(6,000'). There are good views NE of the Toiyabe Range from this location. Now we descend gradually to St.Rt.#39, a well-graded dirt road in Big Smokey Valley (3.1m)(5,246'). Pick up a faint track on the opposite side of the road & follow it E, picking up a jeep rd. on the other side of the wash. Follow this jeep rd. across the valley to a jct. (5m)(5,312'). Cont. straight(E), picking up a better road. After another 6.7m of almost level walking, we reach another jct. (5,338'), just W of San Antonio Ranch & N of some sand dunes. Cont. E, then NE on this road 3m, then turn R(E) onto a jeep rd. & take it straight, ignoring branching roads, for 1.6m to where it curves NE. Cont. straight up a jeep trail, crossing some power lines, & cont'ing E to paved St.Rt.#376 (2.4m)(6,100'). Cross it & cont. E on a jeep rd., entering Toiyabe N.F., & arriving at a Y jct.(1.5m) (6,550'). Willow Spring is .2m S of here, our first watering hole since leaving the Pilot Mtns.. Turn L(N), following a jeep rd. along the W'ern flanks of the Toiyabe Range on national forest lands. Bear R(E) at a Y jct. & arrive at a T jct.(2.4m) (6,470'). Turn L(NE) & traverse N around some hills. After 1.2m, look for a jeep trail cutting off to the R(NE) just before

source of water for a couple of days, is .2m N of this jct.. It would be advisable to carry atleast 3 gallons of water over this next stretch, since there are virtually no natural water supplies. If the weather is hot, carry more. After tanking up, turn R(E) downhill & drop steeply .3m, then ascend steeply N to a saddle (.4m)(6,340'). We are walking on mining claim access roads & the mining activity should be easy to spot. Bear R(E) steeply downhill just past the saddle & descend to an improved dirt rd. in Kibby Flat, a large, vast dry lake bed (2.4m)(5,292'). Turn L(N) to the old Dunham Mill site (1.7m) & then strike out cross-country in an E-NE direction. The use of map & compass here is particularly important, since otherwise one might get disoriented while off the beaten track, i.e.-"bushwhacking". Stay N of the dry lake bed until we intersect a jeep rd. heading NE after 2.7m.. You've gone too far if you start climbing again before hitting this road. The high mtns. to the distant SW, usually snowcapped, are the peaks of the White Mtn. Range in California, which we have been catching glimpses of since Mina. Head NE & shortly reach a Y, bearing L(NE). If you don't hit this Y, you probably hit the road you're on NE of the Y & need to bushwhack N to the next jeep rd.. About 1.7m NE of the Y, we should cont. straight through a 4-way jct.(5,506'). Cont. NE up to a saddle in the Cedar Mtns.(5,943'), where

a long descent. Take this NE, then E past a jct. with another jeep trail, up a ravine, then up a L(E) fork on some steep S-facing slopes to a ridgetop (1.8m) 7,040'). From here, descend N past old Manhattan Gulch towards some tailing piles, cross these, & follow a jeep rd. along the N side of the tailings E to St.Rt.#377 (2.4m)(6,680'). Follow this paved spur rd. R(E) into the small mining town of Manhattan, with minimal services (1.3m)(7,000').

From Manhattan, we follow the blacktop to its end & cont. on the graded dirt rd., entering Toiyabe N.F.. Top out at the saddle (2.2m)(7,660') & descend Manhattan Wash into Ralston Valley & paved St.Rt.#82 (6.6m)(6,414'), passing Keller Spring just before reaching the valley. The Belmont Courthouse Hist. St. Mon. is located a short distance N of here. At this jct., bear L(E) at the Y, cross the hgwy., & cont. E up Hunts Canyon. Stay on the main rd., which enters Toiyabe N.F. & steers N of Hunts Canyon at a jct. (7.1m)(6,838') one mile past Hunts Ranch. We now enter a narrower canyon & ascend a long valley to a saddle (4.5m)(8,000') high in the Monitor Range. After savoring the cool air & Pinyon trees, we descend NE, then SE through narrow McCann Canyon, which widens as we descend. Several springs are passed on the S side of the road (R) & we pass the site of old McCann Station

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before leaving Toiyabe N.F. & arriving at a dirt road jct. (6.6m)(6,445') in wide, flat West Stone Cabin Valley. Take a R (SW) for .1m, then cont. L(SE) down thru this large basin (6,100'). After climbing slightly, drop into East Stone Cabin Valley & arrive at a crossroads (9m)(6,332'). Cont. straight(SE) on a jeep rd. of lesser quality & enter Kiln Canyon & a Pinyon/Juniper forest. Pass a road forking off to the N & reach the head of the canyon near some old charcoal kilns (3.4m)(7,060'). Here the jeep rd. turns S a mile & $\frac{1}{2}$ to some more kilns, but we turn L(NE) on a jeep trail & cont. up Kiln Canyon to a saddle on the crest of the Hot Creek Range (1.2m)(7,880'). From here it's all downhill along Tybo Cr. past Willow Spring (1.6m), some more charcoal kilns (where we pick up a jeep rd.), & Tybo Springs to Tybo, a tiny settlement (2.6m)(6,600'). From here cont. down Tybo Cr. on an improved dirt rd. out to Hot Cr. Valley & U.S.Hgwy.#6 (8.4m)(5,218'). There is a test site with a base camp located here. Turn R(S-SW) onto this busy hwy. & pound the pavement for 1.9m to a dirt rd. branching L(E-SE). This is the end of the section & the community of Warm Springs is 7.7m further along the hwy.. This small site owes its name to the hot, sulphurous water which flows out of the ground here. It has been diverted both into a private bath-house & a swimming pool. The one bldg. boasts a P.O., cafe, & small store. The side trip

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is definitely worthwhile, since Warm Springs is the only town for miles around in this low-population density area, with the hot springs as an added attraction.

C-U.S. Hgwy.#6 to Pioche, Nev.

To rejoin the route if you went in to Warm Springs, simply follow St.Hgwy.#375 E out of town. This next section will traverse two basins, Hot Cr. Valley & enormous Railroad Valley before we come to its highlight, the high & majestic Quinn Canyon Range. This imposing mtn. range offers us several options; the one we choose will depend on how adventurous we are. Then we cross a protracted dry & lower stretch before crossing the Bristol-Highland Range to the still vibrant mining town of Pioche, Nevada.

Or U.S.Hgwy.#6 7.7m NE of Warm Springs, turn L(E) onto a jeep rd. which leads to a windmill & a Y jct. (.9m). Take the R(S) fork, then immediately bear L(SE). Cont. across long (a) flat Hot Cr. Valley to a jct. with another jeep rd., just shy of St.Hgwy.#375 (6m). Turn L(E) here & proceed .7m to the paved hwy. (5,145'). Passing Twin Spgs. Ranch on our L(NE), we walk along the road 5.2m & reach Echo Canyon Reservoir, an oasis surrounded by aridness. A camp could be made here, but the water should be treated. After another .7m, we reach a jct.(5,026') with the Nyala Rd. Bear

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L(E) here & commence crossing the expansive basin of Railroad Valley, keeping an eye out for dust devils, which can blind you on a windy day. After 11.2m of almost level walking across this sage-clad valley, we ascend gradually up an alluvial fan in an E-NE direction, pass a road heading due S, then in $\frac{1}{2}$ m reach a jeep rd. jct.(5,040'). Here we pause to consider the first of three options that will get us across the Quinn Canyon Range in Humboldt N.F.. If you are in an adventurous frame of mind and are prepared to do some rough bushwhacking in the high country, then follow my first option, which I will now describe. This route has not been scouted, & although it follows F.S. trails all the way, these have not been maintained in recent years.

Turn R(SE) on this jeep rd., cross another jeep rd., then curve S-SE as we ascend an alluvial fan towards the snow-capped (except in late season) summits of the Quinn Canyon Range. After 6.5m, we cont. straight(SE) where a road veers off to the R(S) & also at the crossroads just beyond (5,900'). Soon we reach a switchback & enter Water Canyon & the Humboldt N.F. Ascend the canyon heading E-SE on the jeep rd. (Forest Rt.#416) until it bends S. Just beyond this the canyon forks & the road ends (4.5m)(7,200'). We cont. L(E) on F.S. Trail #037 (Water Canyon) & ascend up into the high country. After a steep climb during which we keep a

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sharp lookout for the trail, we top out on the crest of the Quinn Canyon Range (3m)(9,300'), with expansive views E into Utah & W over the desolate Great Basin. After catching our breath at this loftiest point of the route so far, we descend steeply via switchbacks (be prepared to do some scrambling-the trail may be overgrown with Pinyon & Juniper trees, which thrive in these mtns.) down another canyon on the opposite side of the saddle to the N. Fork of Cottonwood Cr. (2.2m)(7,600') & a jct. with F.S. Trail #066. Turn L(N) upcanyon on this trail, ascending more steeply as we gain altitude. After a steep 3m ascent, we top out on the crest of the Quinn Canyon Range once more (9,700'), just W of this range's highest peak (10,229'). If we have the energy, the views from the summit would more than justify scrambling up it. Cont. along or near the crest of this rugged range for the next 3.5m, over exposed & sparsely wooded (Limber & Whitebark Pines) summits, with superb views, to a saddle (9,350') & a trail jct.. We may encounter snow on this crest route before mid-June. Now we descend R(E), still on F.S. Trail #066, negotiating many switchbacks (or whats left of them) as we descend Pine Cr. to F.S. Rd.#411 (3m)(7,580'). Turn L(E) onto this jeep rd., curving L(N) as we ascend over a spur ridge & descend N-NE, then E down to Cherry Cr. Cpgd. along-

side always flowing Little Cherry Cr. (2.8m)(6,700'). This is an excellent campspot with picnic tables, water, & fire-pits. The water could be contaminated, however, because cattle graze here in the summer. Here our second alternative route comes in, which I will now describe.

Cont. another 10.5m down the Nyala Rd. (dirt) through Railroad Valley's large basin. Just shy of the Nyala Ranch, we reach a Y where a dirt road veers R(E). Take this .7m to another jct. just beyond Willow Cr. (may be dry in late summer & fall)(4,900'). Turn R(due S) here if you would like to take a second alternative to crossing the Quinn Canyon Range. This option also follows jeep trails & trails through a pass before descending to Cherry Cr. Cpgd.. Some routefinding may still be necessary, however. Climb into Willow Cr. Canyon on this jeep rd., entering Humboldt N.F. When the road ends at a point where three streams merge, take the L(northernmost) fork, heading E, then NE up over faint trail to a saddle at the crest of the Quinn Canyon Range (7m)(8,500'). After catching our breath & taking in the vista, cont. NE, then SE to a jct. with the Hooper Canyon-Cherry Cr. Trail #064, an old jeep trail which is still in good condition. After 4m, we reach Cherry Cr. Cpgd. after a steady descent along the stream (Little Cherry Cr.) through Willow & Cottonwood. Here we rejoin the first alternate route.

For those who would rather play it

Bear R(SE) here onto a jeep rd. & cont. straight for almost 8m across this basin, then curve R(S) for .8m before turning E again. Be sure to fill up with a couple of gallons of water from Cherry Cr. since we have a long dry stretch ahead. Pass through the Golden Gate Range in a slough, staying L(N) of the stream & bearing L(E-NE) at a fork before coming to a 2nd jct. (3.5m)(5,100'). Bear R(E-NE) here & maintain a straight as an arrow, E-NE'rly course through the extensive basin of Coal Valley (5,050'), gradually ascending all the way to the top of Timber Mtn. Pass (12.7m)(6,100')(bear L 1m before the pass) where there are some corrals, but no H₂O. Cont. E-NE down the other side, bearing R (E) after 2m, then L(NE) after .2m. Cont. all the way down into the White River Valley (there is no river here, just a dry wash), coming to a jct. (3.4m)(5,044'). Turn R(SE) here & cont. 3.7m to the White River Well site, with old pumping hardware strewn about. You will see a hill extending into the valley on the L(E) side of the valley. 3m further, take the L(E) fork & cross the valley to St.Hgwy.#318, which you can see coming into the valley on the opposite side (.6m)(4,950'). Turn R(S) & walk along this wide, graded road 4.1m to a jeep trail branching L(E). If you reach Rye Patch Reservoir (could be dry) on the R, you have gone too far. Ascend this jeep rd. up out of the White River Valley to a saddle (2.7m)(5,700').

safe & stick to well traveled dirt roads, the third alternate is to follow MikeNation's 1980 route over Cherry Cr. Summit via F.S. Rd.#410.

Cont. NE on our graded dirt rd. another 4.2m to a major jct. (4,869'). Take the R(E) fork (the sign reads "Cherry Cr. Summit" & "Adaven") & follow F.S. Rd.#410 as it ascends E, then SE up towards the Grant Range. The tall peak on our L is Troy Peak (11,298'), highest in the Quinn Canyon Division of Humboldt N.F.. After passing a spur rd. leading down into Ox Spring Wash, which has a spring (Ox Spring) surrounded by Cottonwood trees, we descend to Ox Spring Cr. & enter Humboldt N.F. (7m)(6,100'). Climb steadily S on this dirt rd. in a Pinyon/Juniper forest, then negotiate a few switchbacks before arriving at Cherry Cr. Summit (5m)(7,500'), with sweeping vistas N & S. Now we descend to a jct. with our two alternate routes; Cherry Cr. Cpgd. is .6m R(W) of here (4m)(6,550').

Cont. downstream along Cherry Cr., reaching meadows which are kept green all summer long by irrigation from the year-round creek. We pass through the dubious town of Adaven, named for a somewhat backwards state, which consists of a few ranch houses. The hills surrounding us in this green oasis are studded with Pinyon/Juniper, making the setting very atypical of Nevada. We follow a small canyon above Cherry Cr. out into barren Garden Valley, leaving the Humboldt & coming to a jct. (6m)(5,900').

Descend E, then NE, bearing L(NE) at a jct., to Coyote Spring (2.7m)(5,220'), the only water for miles around & the first since leaving the Humboldt N.F..

Be sure to leave this spring with at least 1 1/2 gallons of water since we may not see any more for two days. We depart on a road that heads E-NE, just to the L(N) of the hill due E of the spring. At the first jct. (2.1m), turn R(S-SE) for 1.2m, then, where the road bends R (S), bushwhack SE about 3m until you hit a jeep rd.. Take this road L(E) about 2m to a jct. at Bullfrog Res.(4,772'), the lowpoint in Dry Lake Valley. Bear L(S) on a jeep rd. that soon turns E & start climbing gradually towards the Bristol Range, passing N of Black Rock Knoll, the hill ahead of us. After 3.9m, at a Y jct. just NE of Black Rock Knoll, bear R(E-SE) & cont. climbing, steeply at times, into the hills. Finally, after climbing into the Pinyon/Juniper realm again, we reach Stampede Gap (5m)(7,330'). Descend S'ward from this pass .7m, then take the L(E) fork & cont. descending, bearing L(E) .8m further. Descend 3.3m to a jct. with a paved road (6,040'), proceed straight across & cont. on a well-graded dirt road. Bear R(SE) .3m further & reach an active mining operation-(1m)(6,120'). Cont. straight on across the paved access road, picking up a jeep rd.. In 1.4m we reach U.S. Hgwy. #93. Turn R(SE) & walk 1.2m into down-

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town Pioche, Nevada—a thriving mining town with all services. This is also the end of the section, where we can enjoy some of life's amenities, a lot of which we haven't seen since entering the state.

D-Pioche, Nev. to Beaver Dam Wash

This final section in Nevada will take us through Cathedral Gorge St. Pk., a delicately carved amphitheater of wondrous eroded forms. Then, after passing through the town of Panaca, we will exit the state via Beaver Dam St. Pk. in a scenic canyon.

We leave Pioche on Hgwy.#93 but when we reach the saddle just SE of town, bear R(W) on a dirt rd.. Climb to another, higher saddle on this road, surrounded by still active mines (1m)(6,500'). Descend S, then W, almost immediately reaching a jct. with a jeep rd. heading S(L)(.4m). Take this road 3.2m S, then bear R at a Y jct. & reach a paved rd.(.5m)(5,400'). Cont. straight across on our jeep rd., bearing L(SE) after .8m. Go straight through the next crossroads, curving S(R) & crossing a draw. Just before reaching U.S. Hgwy.#93 again, bushwhack S along the rim of Cathedral Gorge to Millers Point, where a paved spur comes out to an overlook of Cathedral Gorge St. Pk. (2.5m)(5,000'). From the rim of the overlook, descend into the gorge on a trail, complete with steps, admiring mother nature's handiwork in sculpturing these badlands. The trail comes out at the park's cpgd. &

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(6,100'). There is also a F.S. sign welcoming us to the Dixie N.F..

If you elected to take the unscouted route through Beaver Dam St. Park, turn R(S) on the road comprising the next block E from the westernmost town street, name unknown. Follow this road S over the "Little Hogback" (a small ridge), then through a valley, to where the road turns 90° to the R(W)(2.6m). Just past this, bear L(S) onto a jeep rd. & climb through a saddle in the "Big Hogback", a larger ridge, before descending to a jct. (1.8m)(4,850') in Miller Spring Wash. Turn L(SE) & ascend this wash as our jeep rd. fades to a jeep trail. After 3.3m, we reach a gorge coming in on the R(S) with some mines on the hill ahead. Do not turn R here. Rather, cont. up Miller Wash im further to Buckboard Wash, coming in from the R(S) just before a spur ridge jutting into Miller Wash (5,380'). Take the jeep trail going R(S) up this wash, passing Keel & Buckboard Springs & reaching a saddle in the Pinyon/Juniper clad Cedar Range (3.8m)(6,200'). Cont. S on the jeep trail, bearing L where another trail goes down a wash & traversing the W'ern slopes of Mosey Mtn.. After descending gradually, we reach a jct. with a jeep rd. (2.5m)(6,240'). Turn L(S) & in .8m reach another jct. with an improved, graded dirt rd. (5,940'). Bear L(SE) & descend gradually to a jct. at the head of Panaca Flat (3.4m)(5,640') called

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picnic area, a good place to camp & explore the area (.7m)(4,820').

When ready to leave, follow the access road (paved) S out of the park to Hgwy.#93 (1.5m)(4,760'). Follow this main hgwy. .9m S, then turn L(E) on St. Hgwy.#319 & enter the town of Panaca, with all services (1m)(4,738'). There is also a swimming hole fed by spring water on the outskirts of town. Here we have a choice of routes to mull over. The more scenic one via Beaver Dam St. Pk. will get us off the pavement but as of yet remains unscouted. The HikaNa-tion 1980 route follows paved & dirt roads into Utah & goes through less interesting scenery. I will describe it first.

Cont. due E out of Panaca on St.Rt. #319. We ascend steadily, eventually entering Pinyon/Juniper woodland again & coming to a jct. with St.Rt.#75 (8.4m)(6,100'), a wide, graded dirt rd.. Turn R(SE) here & ascend gradually; with Dow Mtn. on our R(W), to a saddle (3.2m)(6,614'). This whole area is covered with a thick Pinyon/Juniper forest, extending for miles across this upland plateau. Now we make a steady but gradual descent to cleared Sheep Spring Draw, ascend over a shallow saddle, & arrive at the Union Pacific RR tracks at Crestline, Nevada (7m)(5,981'). Cross over the tracks & cont. on Rt.#75 through more Pinyon/Juniper woods, then through cleared land to the Utah St. Line, where we find a cattle guard & a sign (4.6m)

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"Crossroads". Bear L(NE) & cross Panaca Flat, a wooded spur, & enter another valley with RR tracks on the R(S) & come to the tiny hamlet of Acoma (5.5m)(5,521'). Cross the RR tracks here, & cont. E on the road to Beaver Dam St. Pk.. After 4m (5,760'), start descending on wooded slopes into Beaver Dam Wash. Enter Beaver Dam St. Pk. & come to the cpgd. turnoff (2.2m)(5,260'). There is good camping here. Descend the road past the other cpgd. down to Beaver Dam Wash (year round water)(5,080'). Turn L(N) & start ascending the wash. Before long you will come to the confluence of Headwaters Wash & Pine Park Canyon (.8m)(5,100'). Bear R(NE) & ascend Pine Park Canyon. There is no trail, but following the winding streambed shouldn't present much of a problem. We leave the park & arrive at the Nevada-Utah state line (imaginary—there is nothing to delineate it here in the canyon (2.8m)(5,300'). We also enter Dixie N.F. here. See the Utah route description for a continuation of the route guide.

I-UTAH

A-Nev.-State Line to Interstate #15

We enter Utah on one of two routes, either the 1980-81 route pioneered by the first HikeNation, or the suggested alternate which has not been scouted. I will describe the former first. Cont. E along the well-graded dirt road into Utah, where the road # changes to Utah St. Rt. #120 and we enter Dixie N. F.. The Pinyon-Juniper woodland on the plateau here has been chained, a practice of clearing the trees by dragging a chain strung between two tractors across the ground. Although very destructive, this practice has become the traditional way of opening up new land for grazing, and we will find much evidence of it along our route in Utah. We descend Crestline Draw, just S of Panaca Ridge, then cross a broad, flat basin to a road jct. (4.2m) (5,954'). Cont. straight (E), picking up a blacktop surface. We pass a Dixie N.F. sign on the L(N) side of the road and finally descend NE out of Dixie N.F. into Shoal Creek Valley, bearing SE. After passing numerous homes & ranches & a small reservoir on our L(N), we eventually come to the Veyo-Shoal Creek Rd. jct. (9.6m) (5,460'). Habron, a mere place name on the topo quad, is .4m E of here. We turn R(S) here toward Lower & Upper Enterprise Reservoirs on another blacktop road. Enterprise, Utah, a small community of about 800 people with most services

is 6.2m E along the hwy..

Cont. S along Little Pine Creek on the pavement, reaching the lower reservoir's dam in 4m (5,687'). Cont. along the E shore of the lake .8m to the Cpgd. entrance road. There are some interesting honeycomb rock formations in the area, for which the cpgd. is named. Our pavement ends here as we cont. straight (S) along the Veyo-Shoal Cr. Rd.. After ascending gradually S through a narrows along Grassy Cr. & into Grassy Flat, we turn SE & climb to a signed saddle (2.7m) (6,140'). The sign indicates that you are standing on the watershed divide between the Colorado River drainage to the SE & the Great Basin drainage to the W-NW. Now we descend E-SE to a saddle, then S down to Moody Wash (2.6m) (5,420') where water flows year-round. Its quality cannot be trusted, though, since cattle roam this area. Now climb gradually S, then more steeply SE to a saddle (6,156'), & descend the other side of the ridge down into Cove Wash. Descend this wash past some old mining shacks for a couple of miles, then turn abruptly R(S) (5,000') & ascend a side wash to the ridgetop (5.6m) (5,300'). Cont. SE along the ridge, first level, then descending to a jct. at a saddle (1.3m) (4,940'). There is a spring (hard to find below a thick grove of bushes) & cabin .7m down the jeep rd. to the SW. Cont. SE down the ridge along the Veyo-Shoal Cr. Rd.. The ridge flattens out into a bench as we descend to-

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wards Moody Wash. Veyo Volcano, a prominent cinder cone dead ahead of us, is in the foreground with the Pine Valley Mtns. providing a scenic backdrop. Finally we descend steeply off the R(W) side of this bench and rejoin the unscouted alternate route at the Moody Wash crossing, which I will now describe. (4.5m) (4,000').

For those who preferred a route with less road walking and better scenery, albeit as yet unscouted, you would be entering Utah in Pine Park Canyon just E of Beaver Dam St. Pk., Nevada. You wouldn't realize it, however, since you are in pretty much of a wilderness setting on the canyon floor. Cont. SE up the bottom of the canyon along the tiny stream. The canyon gets progressively shallower & more wooded with Pinyon/Juniper. In 2.2m (5,470'), at a major watershed coming in on the L(N), we bear L(N) up this side-canyon. If you pass Sheep Corral Canyon on your R(S), another major watershed with steep canyon sides, you've come .15m too far (you could intersect our trail, though, by cont'ing up Pine Park Canyon another .3m). In .1m we intersect a jeep rd., which provides vehicular access to nearby Pine Park Cpgd.. Bear R(NE) up this jeep rd. & come immediately to Pine Park Cpgd. (.05m) (5,500'), a good place to camp.

After a pleasant stay among the Pines, we take the trail heading NE at the end of the road loop. After topping

a saddle, we descend once more & cross a tributary of Pine Park Canyon (.6m) (5,540'). There is a spring just NE of here up the draw. Now we begin climbing steeply up out of the canyon, & just after breaking out of the woodland onto cleared land, reach a trail fork (1m) (6,030'). Bear R(E) here & climb gradually beside the usually dry streambed to another trail jct. in Mud Flat (1m) (6,240'). Bear R(SE) & cross a saddle, descending into Pine Park Canyon once more. Traverse the NE side of this canyon, arriving after 1.3m at a trail jct. in Collie Flat. Bear R(S) .2m, turning abruptly L(E) & picking up a jeep rd.. Proceed .4m through Collie Flat to a jct. with another jeep rd. (6,488'). Turn R(S) here (Sheep Corral Spring is .6m L if water is desperately needed) & traverse generally S'ward on this jeep rd. for 2.1m, going E around several draws & W over intervening ridges. Now we arrive at a saddle with a view S where the jeep rd. heads R(W). We pick up a pack trail here called the South Boundary Trail (so named because it parallels the S boundary of Dixie N.F. through the Bull Valley Mtns.) & follow it generally SE across two major tributaries of Slaughter Cr. until arriving at a 4-way jct. Turn R(SW) for no more than 100 yards before the trail resumes on the L heading S, then SE. Cont. SE along this trail, which generally para-

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III-UTAH (cont.)

11els the USFS boundary to the R(SW). After passing the Twin Peaks on our L(NE) follow the bench for another mile & then descend steeply & cross Bull Canyon (3.5m)(5,640'), which might have water flowing in it except in late season. Now ascend E to a saddle (.7m)(5,995') & descend steeply into the E Fork, Beaver Dam Wash drainage to a trail jct. (1.2m). Bear L(E) here .2m to another jct. (the trail to the L(N) goes 3m to the Veyo-Shoal Cr. Rd.), turning R(S) & crossing the E Fk. of Beaver Dam Wash (.1m)(5,200') which should have year-round water. Bear L(SE) up out of the canyon & climb to the crest of the Bull Valley Mtns. at a saddle (2.3m)(6,393'), bearing R(S) at the only trail jct.. Still on the South Boundary Trail, descend into Tobin Wash, then traverse E to another wash & a trail jct. (3.7m)(5,140'). Bear R(E-SE) & in .6m come to the Dixie N.F. boundary, where we pick up a jeep rd.. Cedar Spring is just to the L(N) of the road here. Proceed SE downhill along the road until we reach the Veyo-Shoal Cr. Rd. in Moody Wash (4.9m)(4,020'), where the main route is rejoined. Cross Moody Wash, our largest stream since leaving the Sierra Nevada, on a footbridge; a camp could be made here on the gravelly bar by the stream (it would be advisable to treat the water, though). Bear L(S) up out of Moody Wash & swing L(NE) toward the town of Veyo. Reach St.Hgwy#18 & the small

Immediately we begin ascending a ridge, pass through a rocky, pinnacled area, then enter a small canyon & come to some dense spruce/fir forest along the stream bottom. If you lose the trail, which may be overgrown, just follow the stream until you hit it again where it crosses. Ascend S onto another ridge, then N across open slopes to a saddle & an Aspen forest (2m)(8,600'). Proceed up through Pine Canyon along the stream in an almost pure Aspen woods, cross it, & hike thru a meadow. A large part of the PVM's has been designated a F.S. Wilderness Study Area, one of many such areas in the West on federal lands. As we hike through this high natural area, we will see why. Our trail veers off to the R(NE) & climbs gradually to another saddle in dense, evergreen (fir/spruce) forest; this jct. is signed (1.1m)(9,140'). Take the R(S) fork up Burger Peak along the Summit Trail thru verdant spruce/fir, a stretch which may still have a snowpack in early season. Ascend steadily, gradually rounding Burger Peaks" (10,321') W'ern flanks to 10,140' on its S side, with spectacular views S of the desert around St. George, with the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River beyond to the distant SE. After traversing to the N of Signal Pk. (10,365'), the highest point in the PVM's descend into a meadow called "Further Water". (2.1m)(9,800'), a good camping spot. Cont. N, then E over another

community of Veyo (2.5m)(4,471'), which has a P.O. & store. The streets here are coated with a red volcanic soil extracted from a nearby quarry, mute evidence of the volcanic fury which once shook the area. Turn R(S) on St.Rt.#18, a paved hwy., & proceed S for 6.3m to a road jct. in Diamond Valley just N of Snow Canyon St. Fk. (4,560'). This state park is well worth a side trip, with its spectacularly eroded canyon. Turn L(E) & cross Diamond Valley just N of a cinder cone & lava flow, turning SE to a jct. (.8m). Double back to the N(L) at this Y jct. & proceed 1.6m N, then E to where our road becomes a jeep rd. in Rock Hollow Wash. Turn L(N) here onto another jeep rd. which immediately begins climbing the ridge just SE of this wash in a NE'rly direction. After a 5.2m steady ascent (2,000' altitude gain) up into the outlying foothills of the Pine Valley Mtns., we reach a jct. in a meadow where cows make their presence every summer (6,740'). Cont. straight (don't bear L), passing some old cabins to another jct. (.4m)(water can be found .6m L(N)). Skirt this meadows E edge, passing another abandoned cabin, & climb to another jeep rd. jct. (.8m). Bear R(S) again here & climb to a saddle & our trail jct. (.4m)(7,100'). The sign is up off the roadway on top of the shoulder on the L(E), so exercise caution. This is the Summit Trail, which we will follow all the way through the Pine Valley Mtns. (PVM's).

saddle, descend E through Deer Flat, & turn L(N) at a trail jct. (trail to the S(R) leads 2.8m to Oak Grove Rec. Area) (.9m)(9,680'). Descend .3m (Browns Pt. trail leads 4.5m ahead to Pine Valley), then turn R(E) up over another ridge (10,000'). Descend steeply via switchbacks, then ascend slightly over a shallow saddle & traverse steeply down to the Middle Fk. of the Santa Clara River (3m)(8,900'). Follow the stream for .1m, then climb E(L) over another saddle (9,320'). Fortunately, stock have not grazed on the higher summits of these mtns., & their wild character has been preserved. Now make a long, gradual descent N in a valley, then climb E, then N over another flat-topped ridge & descend N gradually through the extensive meadows of South & Whipple Valley's. Cont. N where the Whipple trail branches W 3.5m to Pine Valley Rec. Area (3m)(9,080') & ascend gradually to North Valley, a beautiful alpine meadow where a camp could be made (.9m)(9,160'). Cont. through the meadow to the far (N) end, climbing slowly E, then more steeply N to a summit area (thickly wooded) on the PVM divide (1.5m)(9,900'). Beautiful views of Zion Nat'l Park (Kolob Section) & the Markagunt Plateau can be had from a point along the cliffs 100 yards to our R(E). Our route across southern Utah crosses three successive high plateaus: the Markagunt, Paunsegunt

III-UTAH (cont.)

& Aquarius: all thrusting up into the alpine zone & baring eroded southern escarpments of multicolored hues.

We now descend N, then NW, then N again down a beautiful stream valley, arriving in Mill Flat & a trail jct. (trail to L(W) leads to Grass Valley via Main & Water Canyons) (2.2m) (8,560'). Cont. straight (N), then, at another jct., bear R(E) (the trail to the L(NW) descends Mill Canyon to Grass Valley). We trudge E through more meadows, bearing R(SE) at a 3rd jct. (trail leading N here goes over Flat Top Mtn. to Mill Canyon) (.5m). Ascend over a shallow saddle, descend slightly, then traverse the N-facing slopes to another saddle. Descend E from here down into Anderson Canyon, & turn L (NE) at a jct. & drop a short ways along it. Then quickly climb one final saddle (2m) (8,420'). The view E takes in nearby Mt. Baldy (8,887'), with Zion N.P. across the valley in the distance, & the village of New Harmony in the valley below us to the NE. Now we begin descending in earnest through the fir, pines, oak scrub, & Pinyon/Juniper (the Ponderosa Pine belt is often absent because of the ubiquity and competitiveness of Gambel Oak in the Intermountain West, & also Quaking Aspen, which squeezes the Pines out in their upper altitudinal range) as we level out on the valley floor. After passing through a gate, we leave the Dixie N.P. on a jeep rd., bear L(N) at a jct., cross N. Ash

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Cr. on a bridge, & arrive in the village of New Harmony (6m) (5,300'). There are no services here but many friendly residents who might be of assistance. Now take St. Rt. #144 .2m out of town, & turn R(S) onto a dirt rd. where the paved road turns N. Follow this road, generally SE to a fork (2.3m) (5,181'), bear L(SE) through a wooded area, then S past a road coming in on the R to a T intersection (3.2m) (4,805'). Turn L (N-NE) on this well-graded road to I-15, a major N-S expressway (1.8m) (5,040'). Cedar City (pop. 9,000) is 19m N on this freeway & has all services (it is the largest town in SW Utah).

B-Interstate #15 to Alton

This next section takes us through the northern (Kolob) unit of Zion Nat'l Park & the southern edge of Cedar Breaks Nat'l Monument via the Markagunt Plateau. We are at the Zion Nat'l Park exit of I-15 & there is a ranger station (trail-er) here with visitor info. & water. Cont. up the paved park road into the Kolob unit of Zion N.P., ascending Taylor Creek through a notch in the prominent escarpment of Hurricane Cliffs. Outstandingly scenic sandstone cliffs & spires beckon us onward. After a 3.7m climb, we top out at Lee Pass (6,050') & the Lee Pass trailhead (signed). Descend on trail through Pinyon/Juniper woods down Timber Cr. (water in most years, except very late in the season),

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with spectacular Navajo sandstone cliffs on our L(E). Eventually we round a spur & descend to La Verkin Cr., a major, year round tributary of the Virgin River (4.3m) (5,020'). Follow this stream up-canyon, crossing it occasionally on rocks or logs (this could be difficult in early season). In 1.7m, we reach a side trail up a side canyon to the L(N) leading to a view of Kolob Arch, well worth your time & effort (1m round trip). This area makes a good, if sometimes crowded, campsite. In another .25m, we reach another trail jct. with the Hop Valley Trail climbing to the R(S); do not take this trail-bear L(E). What follows is a truly remarkable walk along La Verkin Creek through an incredible canyon & lush, verdant canyon bottom forests of oak & maple trees. Be prepared to get your feet wet, though, since the trail is forced to make repeated crossings of the creek in this ever narrowing & steep-walled canyon. Cont. up the canyon floor, which at times becomes so narrow that it forces us to walk right up the sandy creekbed. We come to Bear Trap Canyon in 1.7m, an extremely narrow side canyon branching off to our R(E); do not take it. If you do, you'll reach an abrupt rock wall barrier in 1/2m, with a waterfall plummeting down it. (an interesting side trip). Cont. up incredibly narrow La Verkin Cr., which during or immediately after a thunderstorm could be-

come a deathtrap from a flash flood. With an eye toward the sky (what little there is in this confined space), we scramble another .9m to Willis Cr., where our trail leaves La Verkin Cr. & heads E(R) up this tributary canyon. This canyon soon widens out a little & we scramble over shoulders with lush Bigtooth Maple forests before climbing up out of the cool canyon floor onto hotter & drier S-facing slopes. We leave Zion Nat'l Park & ascend steeply through familiar Pinyon/Juniper woods, then bend to the R(E) & arrive at a meadow & Birch Spring (3.2m) (7,340'). Cont. up through Gambel (scrub) Oak woods on what is now a jeep trail, breaking into Aspen groves before topping a saddle & coming to Kolob Reservoir & a camping area (2.3m) (8,140').

I am now going to describe an alternate route (3.6m longer & unscouted) for those wishing to avoid heavily traveled, dusty, & often sheep-choked dirt roads. At the aforementioned saddle, bear L(N) on a jeep rd. which traverses to the L(W) of the Markagunt Plateau escarpment. Cont. N, skirting the headwaters of La Verkin Cr. & bearing L just before crossing this creek. Our jeep rd. swings SW for 1/2m, then NE before arriving at a Y-intersection just above & NE of Meadow Hollow Res. (5.3m) (8,327'). Cont. straight (N), then E, then N again picking up a heavier-duty road & follow-

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ing it N past a spring to a jct. on a cleared saddle with the Kanarrville Rd. (3m)(8,617'). Take a R(NE) here, climb over a spur, then ascend a wooded slope to a saddle. The road bends R(E) & cont's climbing a ridge, heading SE. After 1.7m, look for a jeep rd. branching L(N). After descending a short while, climb the western slopes of Cedar Mtn. on our R(E). The jeep trail turns into a trail & skirts the northern flank of the "Three Knolls" on Cedar Mtn. (9,920') before descending SE past some cabins to the main road & our route again (4.5m)(9,510'). Turn L(E) here.

Those wishing to remain on the 1980 route, which is more open, follow the N shore of Kolob Res. to a jct. in a meadow (.9m), turning L(W). Our road, a well-traveled & graded dirt road, veers N & gradually climbs alongside Kolob Cr. thru Aspen forest, passing a good spring on the L before toping out at a saddle (4.2m)(9,271'). Cont. N along the road across high, sweeping plateaus on private lands where large flocks of sheep graze in the summer, coming to a road jct. (3.3m)(9,217'). This road leads L(W) to Kanarrville & Cedar City. Cont. N past a good camping spot with a spring on the L(W) & climb gradually to where the alternate route rejoins (1.6m)(9,510'). Bear R(due E) downhill, then L(N) to a jct. (1.8m)(9,195'). Here our 1980 route descended through sheep pastures across O'neil

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Gulch, traversed S of Black Mtn. (10,375') on sheep trails, crossed Deep Cr. on a road, & cont'd on more meandering & steep sheep trails to the Navajo Lake Rd. In the interest of avoiding this rather vague route altogether, what follows is my alternate proposal, which, although unscouted, gets us onto public land (F.S.) again sooner & holds more promise.

Proceed due E(R) at the jct., cont.'ing straight onto a jeep rd. where the main road turns R(S)(.4m). Our jeep rd. turns SE, & descends a ridge called "Jackson Pt.". Where the jeep rd. turns N(L) to a cabin (1.8m), cont. E down the ridge through a meadow, past a spring, curving NE down through more meadows just N of some Aspen groves to the stream in O'neal Gulch. Three tributaries trisect here (8,140'). We want to ascend the one furthest E in a N-NE'ly direction (Adams Hollow) until a jct. with a jeep rd.(1.4m). Turn R(E) uphill, ignoring the first jeep driveway branching R(S). At a T jct., turn R(S) & begin climbing the prominent SW spur ridge of Black Mtn. (to the NE of us). Gain the ridgecrest, cross it, & turn NE. Traverse the S-facing slopes of Black Mtn. to a jeep rd. jct. (2m)(9,000'). Take a L(N-NE) here & cont. ascending the SE face of Black Mtn. (9,230'), entering Dixie N.F., & descend to a jct. with a main dirt road (1.6m). Turn L(N) for .6m, then curve R(E) thru Webster Flat & ascend to paved St. Rt.

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#14 (1.9m)(9,340'). Although a little out of our way to the N, Cedar Breaks Nat'l Monument, a magnificent example of how erosive forces at work for centuries can eat away at a sandstone plateau, is our next goal. For those who prefer a more scenic route & would like to save some miles, ascend cross-country NE along or near the rim of the Pink Cliffs, a 100-mile pink & white sandstone escarpment which forms the W, S, & E sides of the Markagunt & Paunsaugunt plateaus. We level off on Blew-hard Mtn. & cont. to the S boundary of Cedar Breaks N.M. & St.Rt.#143 (2.5m)(10,400'). For those with less energy, follow Hgwy.#14 R(E) for 3m, then turn L(N) on Rt.#143 to the S boundary of Cedar Breaks (2.4m)(10,325'). Follow the rim trail along the spectacular edge of an amphitheater of pink & white limestone cliffs dropping away for 2,000' with intervening ravines converging to a central point like the spokes of a wheel. This trail can be found by hiking 1000' N of the Hgwy.. After 3/4 of a mile, we pass the Cedar Breaks Lodge on our R(S) & cont. another 1/2m on the rim trail before cutting back over to the hgwy.. Much of our walk here is through mountain alpine meadows profusely adorned with wild flowers. Upon reaching the hgwy., turn L(E) & immediately begin looking for a jeep rd. branching R(S), just before the hgwy. curves to the N(2m). Proceed S along this jeep rd., leaving Cedar Breaks,

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for 2.6m, then turn L(E) & descend to Long Valley Cr. & some cabins. Cont. following Long Valley Cr. cross-country into Sage Valley, with Hgwy.#14 on our R(S). Where the hgwy. turns due S, a jeep trail crosses Sage Valley (2.3m). Turn L(NE) on this jeep trail & follow it between two huge lava flows, through a horse pasture, & into Tippetts Valley. At a jeep rd. jct. (4.8m)(9,050'), turn R(S) onto the jeep rd. & proceed past Dry Camp Valley Spring, through two more lava flows on either side, then curve L(E) & descend through forest to Duck Cr. (5.8m)(8,450'). A trail here leads R(W) 1/2m to Duck Cr. Cpgd. & L(E) 1/2m to Aspen Mirror Lake & Ledge. Cont. another .3m to Hgwy.#14.

Until a trail is constructed along the scenic pink cliffs escarpment to the S, we shall have to content ourselves with walking along the hgwy. from here to Long Valley Jct.. Although tough on the feet, the scenery is pleasant enough. Turn L(E) & follow Hgwy.#14 11.3m to the jct. with U.S. Hgwy.#89 at Long Valley Jct. This is a major hgwy. & there is a store here (7,454'). It is also the divide between the E. Fk., Virgin River to the S & the Sevier River to the N. Turn R(S) here & follow U.S. Rt.#89 for 1.6m to the Alton cutoff. Bear L(SE) here & take this dirt road (wide & graded), leaving Dixie N.F., to St. Rt.#136 (2.4m)(7,238'). Cont. along Rt.#

III-UTAH (cont.)

136 L(E) into the village of Alton (1m) (7,036'). This brings us to the end of the section; there are no services in this tiny community.

C-Alton to Johns Valley (or Tropic)

This next section, though short, takes us through Bryce Canyon Nat'l Park, which offers us more Pink Cliffs scenery on the flanks of the Paunsaugunt Plateau. The Under-the-Rim Trail & Rim Trails inside the Park take us above, below, & right through a fantasyland of eroded sculpture.

Take a L(E) at the main jct. in Alton & start out of town, turning R(S) after .3m, cont.'ing on St. Rt.#136. Proceed 2.8m S through Alton Amphitheater, the valley we're in, to Lower Robinson Cr. where we turn L(E) on a jeep rd. & skirt the N side of Sink Valley, cont.'ing straight at a jct. (1.3m) & entering Dixie N.F. again. Cont. straight at the Water Canyon jct. up Dry Fork. Our jeep rd. turns into a trail & we ascend up an escarpment (Sunset Cliffs) onto the Paunsaugunt Plateau at a saddle (4.3m)(8,850'). Bear L(E) here & pick up a jeep rd. descending Robinson Canyon. Follow this road down the canyon 3m to the East Fork Cr. (Sevier River) valley & turn L(NE), proceeding down a graded, wide dirt road. Follow this road all the way past Podunk

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Guard Station to Podunk Cr. & the road leading up this creek, a 160° turn (6.2m)(8,050'). Proceed S up Podunk Cr. for 2.4m, then take the L(SE) fork, enter Bryce Canyon N.P., & walk another .3m to another jeep rd. jct.. The road branching L(N) climbs up to the Rim Drive. Cont. straight (S) up the jeep trail to Yovimpa Pass at the Pink Cliffs escarpment (.8m)(8,355'). Look for the trail here which climbs up along the cliffs to our L(NE) 1.8m to Yovimpa (Rainbow) Pt. (9,091'), the southern terminus of the Rim Drive. We have a grandstand view of a sizable chunk of southern Utah & northern Arizona real estate from this lofty perch atop the Pink Cliffs escarpment. This is our closest approach to the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River & on a clear day we might be able to spot it, although the Kaibab Plateau & North Rim hide most of the lower South Rim from view.

When we have had our fill of sight-seeing from this aerie, find the trail-head for the Under-the-Rim (UTR) trail, which we will follow beneath the scenic cliffs to Bryce Pt.. In .3m, bear L (N-NE) & descend Ponderosa Ridge into Black Birch Canyon, where there is a backcountry campsite. Follow the UTR trail through all 3 forks of Ponderosa Canyon (S, Main, & N), ascending to a saddle & a trail jct. (6m) (camping), where we cont. straight on the UTR trail. Descend into Agua Canyon, which, true to

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its name, has running water year-round (7,530'), & climb N over another ridge near Farview Pt. & Pinacy Pt. (8,000'). Descend into Willis Cr. Canyon (7,720'), then climb gradually to a saddle just W of Noon Canyon Butte (8,180'). Just past this we reach a trail jct. (4.8m). The trail to the L(W) (Whiteman Connecting Trail) climbs to the Rim Drive on Whiteman Bench (1m). Cont. straight, descending into Swamp Canyon. At a jct. with the Swamp Canyon Connecting Trail, bear R (E) & cont. traversing just below the continuous line of cliffs on our L. Bear R (160° turn) at a 3rd trail going up to Rim Drive (Sheep Cr. Conn. Trail) & cont. traversing around below the cliffs, thru Pasture Wash, over a ridge & into Yellow Cr., down which we descend. After descending down to 6,800', we begin our climb up to the top of the rim. After a 1,400' elevation gain, we reach the top of the cliffs & Bryce Point (11.4m)(8,120').

To the N of us here at this viewpoint is Bryce Canyon proper, & most of the Park's trails lead into & out of this canyon. We also ponder a choice of routes both leading us up into the Escalante Mtns.. The HikaNation 80-81 route, which I will describe first, stayed up on the Paunsaugunt Plateau & climbed up into the Escalante Mtns. from the W via Johns Valley. An alternate route descends down Bryce Canyon to Tropic, then ascends onto the Table Cliff Plateau from the S via

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Pine Lake. First, however, we have Bryce Canyons' myriad loop trail system to consider. Most of the Park's attractions can be seen from these trails, which I will not elaborate on since maps & info. are available from the Park's visitor center & services. The Peekaboo Loop Trail descends off the rim into the canyon here, but we follow the Rim Trail 2m past Inspiration Pt. to Sunset Pt. (8,000'). Here we're very close to Sunset Cpgd. (take the spur rd. to the hwy. & turn L(S) for 300 yards) and also the ledge & store, just N on the next spur to the R. The visitor center is 1m N along the hwy. I will now describe HikaNation's 1980 route.

After walking .5m N along the rim, we come to Sunrise Pt., where the Queens Garden Trail comes in. Cont. N .2m, where we have a choice between taking the Fairyland Trail beneath the rim 4.9m to Fairyland Pt., or cont.'ing along the rim 3m to this spot. The prominent mesa looming to our E-NE is Powell Pt. on the Table Cliff Plateau, more than 2,000' higher than we are here. Now walk 1m W on the spur rd. to Hwy.#12, & follow it R(N) 1.5m to Ruby's Inn outside of the Park, with a motel & restaurant. Cont. N another 1.3m to a hwy. jct. (7,600'). ~~Cont. straight (NE) on St. Rt. #22, a well graded dirt road. After 7.3m, once again in Dixie Nat'l Forest, you reach a jeep rd. veering up~~
This is the end of the section in John's Valley.

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New I will describe the alternate route to this section's end in the town of Tropic. At Sunset Pt., descend into the canyon on the Navajo Loop Trail, passing a trail to the Queens Garden & coming to the Peekaboo Loop Trail jct. (.6m). Cont. straight (E) down Bryce Canyon 1.4m to the park boundary & trailhead (6,882'). Cont. E on the park access road 3.2m to the town of Tropic, Utah, with all services. (6,295')

D-John's Valley (Tropic) to Oak Cr. Cpgd.

In this section we will climb up into the Escalante Mtns. & stay high as we traverse the Aquarius Plateau's southern rim, with magnificent views to the SE of the canyonlands around Lake Powell. I will describe HikaNation 80-81's route from John's Valley first.

Cont. NE on St.Rt.#22, a wide & graded dirt road. After 7.3m, once again on Dixie Nat'l Forest lands, we reach a jeep rd. veering uphill to the R(SE) (7,552'). Dipping Vat Spring, a good camping area with good water from a pipe, is .6m up this jeep rd.. Cont. N on Road #22, reaching a ghost town at Widstoe Jct. (5.8m) (7,565'). Hwy.#22, which becomes a blacktop road, cont's N here to Antimony (25m), but we turn R(E) through a few scattered cabins (all that is left of Widstoe) .4m, then turn L(N) .2m to the Escalante Canyon Rd.. Follow this E(R) .4m to Sweetwater Cr., & veer L(N) here onto a jeep rd. which crosses the creek. Follow this 3m (N*NE) to a jct. at Horse Cr.

up a jeep rd. & descend NW down Pole Canyon, bearing R(N-NW) at a fork (2m) & passing Pine Lake on our R(E) to Pine Canyon Rd. & a F.S. Cpgd. (1.3m) (8,175'). Turn R(E) & ascend Pine Canyon along Clay Cr. all the way until we switchback up to the Table Cliff Plateau (6.1m) (10,112'). Here a jeep trail goes R(S) 4m to Powell Pt. (10,188'), from where excellent views can be had to the S. Cont. L(N) along the jeep rd. on the plateau 2.2m, bearing R(NW) onto a jeep trail where our jeep rd. goes SW to a Radio Tower (10,350'). Cont. N along the narrow plateau on a jeep trail ignoring forks to either side, picking up a jeep rd. again & descending to a saddle & the Escalante Canyon Rd., a well-graded F.S. road (4.9m) (9,302'). Cont. straight (N), climbing on switchbacks to another saddle (9,650'), then climbing more gradually past a spur to Horse Lake up onto Griffin Top (5m) (10,210'). We now turn R(E) onto a blazed trail (rather vague; if you can't locate it, just head due E about .8m to the trail along Hall Cr., the first little stream depression you come to) & turn S down Hall Cr. (.8m). Descend this creek, then veer away from it to the L(SE) to a jct. (2m) (9,200'). Turn L(NE) uphill & begin traversing around the S, SE, & E sides of Griffin Pt., at around the 9,400' elevation contour. After winding through numerous meadows, with expansive views S & E between forests of Aspen & Ponderosa

turning R(E) .9m to another jct.. Turn L(N) here .2m to Birch Cr. & another jct. (7,700'). Make a R(NE) here & follow a jeep rd. up along the N bank of Birch Cr.. We are now ascending up into the Escalante Mtns. & the Aquarius Plateau. At length our jeep road becomes a trail as we leave the Ponderosa behind & enter an Aspen forest, with Spruce/Fir becoming the dominant species. Finally, after 4.7m of ascent, we level off at a signed trail jct. in a meadow (10,000'). Take the R(SE) fork & cross Birch Cr., then ascend moderately through a dense forest of Spruce/Fir to F.S. Rd. #140 (2m) (10,210'). Turn L(N) along this wide dirt rd. & ascend up onto Griffin Top. Just after reaching this wide graded dirt road, we reach the top of Griffin Top, a wide plateau. (1.2m).

For those who chose the alternate route, walk R(S) on St.Rt.#54 1 block (.1m), then take a L(E) & leave Tropic on a dirt rd. heading towards Henderson Canyon. We jog N around a butte, then eventually head NE to a jct. with a jeep rd. (4m) (6,438'). The road cent'ing straight (NE) leads to Shakespeare Mine; don't take it. Turn R(SE) on the jeep rd., quickly heading E & picking up a jeep trail. Stay on this jeep trail as we head up into Henderson Canyon, a broad, flat valley laced with Pinyon/Juniper forest. Enter Dixie N.F. & cont. ascending gradually until we swing N & climb steeply up to a saddle in the Escalante Mtns. (8.6m) (8,850'). We pick

Pine, we arrive at the crossing of W. Fork, North Cr., a year round stream (3.2m) (9,200'). This spot makes an excellent campsite. Just beyond this stream take the L(W) fork & begin ascending steeply through Aspens up to a bench E of Griffin Top (10,040'). Alternately ascend & descend slightly, passing just W of Round Willow Bottom Res. & coming to a jct. (2.9m) (9,900'). Turn R(E) & descend a ridge just N of the reservoir to the outlet dam (.3m). Pick up a jeep rd. here & follow it through dense spruce/fir 1.4m to Barker Reservoir, a major recreational area with vehicular access (9,560'). There is a billboard map here showing the trails in the immediate vicinity. Proceed along the R(E) side of the reservoir on a trail going to Flat, Yellow, & Blue Lakes. Take a R fork at the trail going to Blue Lake, reaching a wooded saddle 20 yards S of Yellow Lake, a reasonably good swimming hole during the summer if you like 45° water (1.1m) (9,620'). Cont. E above a meadow on our R(S), bearing L(NE) at a jct.. Do not go up through "The Gap" onto the top of the plateau to our N. Rather, bear R(E), traversing through a mixture of Aspen & Fir forests at around the 9,400' elev. contour. If you lose the trail in cow pastures, just look for blazes on the trees at the far end. In fact, the

entire trail from here to St.Rt.#12 N of Boulder has been marked by the Forest Service with blazes on the bark of trees, which generally are fairly frequent. Eventually we pass Rock Lake, a small pond (signed) on our L(NE)(approx. 5.5m)(9,260) Cent. traversing SE, then E just N of Twin Lakes, turning N & eventually reaching F.S. Rd.#154 just .8m N of Pogy Lake (5.2m)(9,000'). Cyclone Lake is 3m L(N) on this wide & graded dirt rd.. This trail jct. is signed. We cont. across the road, shortly crossing Deep Cr. before traversing NE over a ridge with good views of "The Box", a steep-sided, rocky canyon. S-SE of us. Now we descend steeply down to Blue Spring Cr. & follow it to F.S. Rd.#153, a graded dirt rd.(approx. 3.8m)(7,800'). Turn L(N) on this road & walk .5m to a bridge over voluminous Pine Cr.. Take a L(N) on the spur rd. just beyond (signed "Blue Spruce Cpgd. & Cowpuncher Guard Sta.") & walk past the cpgd. to the gate at the entrance to Cowpuncher G.S. (.7m)(7,920'). A camp could be made by the river here if the car campers at the cpgd. infringe upon your "wilderness experience".

Just downhill from the gate, take the R(NE) forking jeep rd. about .3m, looking carefully for a blazed trail forking to the R(E) up through some meadows in Wide Hollow. Once we get to the far end of the meadows, it is easy to follow the tread & blazes as the trail switchbacks & begins climbing steeply. We climb first through

Aspens, then enter a dark, cool spruce/fir forest before finally topping out at the crest of the ridge in dense woods (approx. 3m)(9,980'). Roger Pk. (10,140) is about .3m S of us. Cent. in dense spruce/fir woods SE down through a notch, then turn N & descend steeply on trail. After approx. 1.5m we will reach a jct. where a jeep trail branches R(S); this leads about 1.2m to the Boulder-Escalante Rd. & the highly scenic Hells Backbone area of precipitously eroded box canyons. Bear L(N) on our trail & skirt N around the Sand Cr. watershed, then pass just S of McGath Lake (hidden from view) & follow the trail generally SE, E, & NE through a series of large cow-infested meadows between the 9,000' & 9,600' elevation contours. Our trail, which has become a jeep rd., becomes a trail once more as it descends steeply through dense spruce/fir to Bear Cr., a reasonably pure but still suspect water supply. The reason, of course, is the cattle that swarm over these highlands during the summer, fouling the water, trampling the vegetation, compacting the soil, & spoiling what would otherwise be a very pleasurable experience. However, to be fair, one must remember that national forest lands are managed for their multiple uses, one of which is the leasing of lands for livestock grazing. Ways need to be found, though, to segregate hikers from areas with heavy con-

centrations of cattle & sheep & vice-versa (approx. 9m)(9,280').

Cent. E-NE on our blazed trail, crossing Durfee Fk., Boulder Cr. & then W.Fk., Boulder Cr. (approx. 2.4m)(9,050'), just S of a road crossing. Intersect with this road up the hill on the far bank & turn R, climbing SE, then E over a ridge. After an almost level walk along this jeep rd., we come to E.Fk., Boulder Cr. at the outlet dam of a reservoir in Kings Pasture (2.6m)(9,200'). This can be a crowded area during the summer, particularly on weekends. Cross the dam & cont. down the graded dirt rd. SE about 1/2m to a somewhat vague trail jct. on the L(E) side of the road (signed, but sign is small. It reads "Deer Cr. Lake"). Follow this blazed trail up through Aspen groves (these pure stands of this tree are some of the most extensive that we will encounter on the HikeNation route, largely due to this area's fire history & interference from man over the years) & then more cow pastures, keeping a sharp lookout for blazes on the trees. We pass about .6m N of Chris Lake, keeping to the R(S) downhill side of several meadows & reach a jeep trail just before arriving at the S shore of Deer Cr. Lake, with some good campsites (4.5m)(9,960'). Cent. E on the jeep trail through dense spruce/fir, ascending gradually to 10,100' before arriving in Sunflower Flat, a large mead-

ow (2.6m)(10,050'). From here, we descend on switchbacks to a jct. with St. Hwy.#117 (1m), which heads S to Boulder. We turn LN onto this well-graded dirt rd. (soon to be paved) & follow it past a spring on the L(W) to Oak Cr. Cngd. (3.5m)(8,860'). It is about 16m N on this road to Terrey, Utah with all services. This makes a cool, inviting rest stop before descending into the hot, dry, but breathtakingly beautiful canyon country ahead.

E-Oak Cr. Cngd. to Lake Powell(Hite Marina)

In this remarkable section, we drop out of the highlands & through the red rock canyon along Oak Cr. in Capitol Reef Nat'l Park. After crossing a very desolate stretch, we climb up into the Henry Mtn. uplift, only to descend well over a vertical mile to our lowest pt. since the foothills of the Sierra Nevada in California at Lake Powell.

We begin following a jeep rd. E along the S bank of always flowing Oak Cr. through Aspen & Alder groves, descending steadily. Eventually we swing E away from the creek (which flows N here), make a short climb, then cont. to descend gradually through pure Ponderosa Pine stands. After awhile we come to a fire-ravaged area, with good views to the E of the Henry Mtns., then descend

steeply back down to Oak Cr., which is now forming a canyon (5.5m)(6,800'). Cont. down Oak Cr., now in the Pinyon/Juniper belt again, as we encounter increasingly dry surroundings in an ever deepening canyon. Red Navajo-Sandstone cliffs & spires begin to tower over our heads & we are thankful for the proximity of the creek as the mercury rises. The jeep rd. ends & we leave Dixie N.F., entering Capitol Reef Nat'l Park simultaneously (3.5m)(6,100'). Follow the streambed downward; sometimes it offers the best path so be prepared to get your feet wet. Much to our surprise, we discover that we're following cow trails through the sagebrush benches when not restricted to the streambed. We ask ourselves incredulously how these beasts can be allowed to violate the sanctity of a Nat'l Park! It turns out that the only way that ranchers can get their stock from their wintering grounds to the high country every year is up this canyon, since a natural barrier called the Waterpocket Fold (the main feature of the park) creates a formidable obstacle. So the N.P.S. was forced to make a major concession to the ranching interests, which remains very controversial. Our passage through the Waterpocket Fold is obvious: huge white sandstone monoliths tower above us and confine us to the streambed at times. This 150-mile long fracture in the earth's crust reminded early explorers & settlers of a coral reef because of its barrier to travel, hence the Park's name.

Henry Mtns. ahead of us, & cont. through a sparse Juniper forest to Sweetwater Cr. & a road jct.(3.4m)(5,500'). There is H₂O, a large cottonwood tree, under which we find welcome shade, & a sign. Take the L(NE) fork & climb up onto Pete Steel Bench, taking the R(NE) uphill fork. We walk up through the sage, with the summits of the Henry Mtns. beckoning us onward. A measure of our remoteness, even today, is the fact that these mtns. were the last in the lower "48" to be named & explored, having been first sighted by whitemen on the Powell expedition of 1869. This land is now owned by the Bureau of Land Management, which has introduced a herd of bison, one of the few remaining wild herds of this once prolific animal. At a second jct., cont. straight ahead (R)(SE) up the long, sloping bench. Enter a Pinyon/Juniper (mostly Juniper) forest & reach a 3rd jct. just NE of Steel Butte (3.8m)(6,280'). Bear L(E) here & ascend along the NE bank of S. Willow Cr., cross it, & climb through Sage Flat, picking up Pinyon/Juniper again & arriving at a road fork with a sign (3.1m)(7,140'). The sign indicates McClellan Spring & Cpgd. are to the L(NE) so we cross the creek & ascend steeply into a Ponderosa forest for 2.4m to another signed jct.. McClellan Cpgd. & Spring are .1m to the L(N), a good camp with picnic tables & a net-so-cow-proof spring, but with good drinking water nevertheless (8,360'). Bear R(E) here &

Before leaving this formation, we pass a diversion dam which diverts most of the water out of Oak Cr. into an aqueduct. This is a good spot to cool off (3.5m)(5,750'). Follow the aqueduct on the R(S) side of the canyon, picking up a jeep rd. which we take over flatter terrain to a jct. (3.5m)(5,530'). Bear L(N) & follow this jeep rd. 1.1m to the main rd.. Bear L(straight)(N), cross Oak Cr. (water flows here due to up-canyon seepage, but it is not to be trusted-treat heavily), & ascend to a jct. called Gravity Station (.8m)(5,280') (an alternate route from the diversion dam would be to follow the canyon bottom along Oak Cr. to the main rd., but it is further due to horseshoe bends in the canyon & also has a thriving population of biting flies). We are in the middle of nowhere at this desolate spot, 36m from Torrey, the nearest town. The Capitol Reef N.P. visitor center, however, has some natural history & cultural offerings to tempt us into a side trip.

When we are ready to push on, go E (R) down to a ford of barely flowing Sandy Cr.(1.1m)(5,140') & climb steeply up the other side. After topping a ridge, drop into Blind Trail Wash, then follow one of its branches up through a little gorge to a good spring in a larger canyon (3.8m)(5,450'). Climb steeply up out of this canyon through an interestingly eroded area onto Wildcat Mesa, with sweeping views of the

climb a short .4m to a BLM cabin & Willow Spring at another jct.(8,500'). Turn R(S) & begin climbing steadily on a switchbacking jeep rd.. We momentarily flatten out in Dry Lake Flat, then resume climbing on open slopes to a Y jct. (2m). Take the L(NE) fork through Nasty Flat to another jct., bearing R(E) uphill (.3m)(9,680'). Climb steeply on a traverse up the western flanks of the S summit ridge of Mt. Ellen, alternately going through forest (spruce/fir) & across open slopes. After 1.9m, we top out at lefty Bull Cr. Pass (10,500'). The Mt. Ellen trail (signed) leads 2m N to the summit of Mt. Ellen (11,522'), highest peak in the Henry Mtns., with excellent views. From the pass, descend SE through evergreen forest (snowpatches last almost all year here) alternating with drier, bare NW-facing slopes, all the way to Wickiup Pass (2.6m)(9,240'). Turn R(SE) here & descend through forest to Granite Cr., traverse through the "Granite Ridges" area, then descend steeply all the way to Crescent Cr., with plenty of shade & water year-round (3m)(8,250'). Turn L(E) & descend alongside Crescent Cr. in Aspens, then away from the creek in more open & drier Pinyon/Juniper woodland, as we drop down off the Henry Mtn. uplift into the Colorado River basin, the driest & hottest area of the entire continental hike, but with austere beauty to match.

Cent. descending just N of Crescent Cr., but not within sight of it. Eventually we descend below 6,000' into the Upper Sonoran lifezone, where sagebrush predominates. Eventually we come to a jct. (6m)(5,540') & bear R(S), crossing Crescent Cr.. Walk S 2.4m, crossing Crescent Cr. two more times (usually flowing, but may dry up in late season) before crossing Copper Cr. (usually dry) & arriving at another jct.(5,080'). Turn L (E), crossing Crescent Cr. one last time & walking .7m to a graded dirt rd.. Proceed R(S) on this road .9m, then turn L (E) at a jct. (called "Lone Cedar"). Descend on this road 3m to paved St.Rt.#276, an access hwy. leading 4.5m S to Bullfrog Marina on Lake Powell. Turn L(NE) & walk 50 yards to St.Hgwy.#95 (4,600'). It is 26m N to Hanksville, the nearest town.

Turn R(SE) on Hgwy.#95 & proceed down the ever deepening canyon of North Wash. The landscape here is stark, almost surrealistic in nature, and it helps keep our mind off the heat which can be oppressive by day in midsummer. Night walking is highly recommended. After about 7m of blistering blacktop, we come to Hog Spring Picnic Area (4,160'), with tables, shelters, & most importantly, water. This year round flow comes from Hog Spring up the side canyon here. Cont. along Hgwy.#95, reaching the North Wash side-arm of Lake Powell after entering the Glen Canyon Nat'l Recreation Area (5.5m). The new hwy. has been built on the slickrock (meaning bare sandstone exposed to the

elements; we will find it in abundance in this area) on the N shore of the reservoir, where some major cuts have been made through the rock. Cont. along the N shore, descending down to the lake's level, ascending over a ridge, then returning to the shoreline. The Colorado River's inner gorge here has been inundated by Lake Powell & the former ferry crossing at Hite, about 8m downstream, is now mere than 200ft. underwater. After turning N along the hwy., we eventually reach the bridge over the Dirty Devil River arm of Lake Powell (5.8m)(3,800'). Cont. along Hgwy.#95, ascending past the Hite airstrip, then descending to the Colorado River bridge over Lake Powell in Narrow Canyon (2m)(3,760'). This is our lowest point on the hike since ascending into the Sierra Nevada, & also the hottest. The Hite Marina turnoff is .8m further up the hwy. (4,000'). A store & Park Service information bldg. are 1.3m down this road to the R(W). Boat rentals (houseboats, skiffs, motorboats, etc.) can be made from the marina at the waters edge. There is also a desolate looking cpd. on the slickrock near the lake's shore, where one can beat the heat by swimming in the lake's cool waters.

F-Lake Powell to Colorado St. Line

This section, certainly one of the highlights of the entire cross country walk, takes us through the very heart of

Dark Canyon, an incredibly deep fissure in the earth's surface which has been designated by the BLM as a primitive area. Then we ascend up onto the Pine & Aspen clad Elk Plateau before ascending still higher through the Abajo Mtns. & dropping down to another high plateau & the town of Monticello, Utah.

Cont. S on Hgwy.#95 another .5m to a dirt jeep rd. bearing off to the L(E). The hwy. climbs through a gap in Brown's Rim about 1m to the SE. Take this unsigned jeep rd. & parallel the Colorado River Gorge (Narrow & Cataract Canyon's) about 1m to the N. Pass an airstrip, bearing L(SE) at a jct.. Cont. along the NE side of Browns Rim, the ridge of reddish-brown pinnacles off to our R(SW). Cross a small draw, then come to a 2nd jct. (7m)(5,100'). Bear L(E-NE) here & cont. towards the L(N) side of some pinnacles on a ridge ahead. At a point due N of the ridge & the northernmost pinnacle (5,591'), a jeep rd. branches off to the L(N) to a small reservoir, usually dry (2.3m)(5,500'). This is the trailhead for the trail we will take down into Dark Canyon, an awesome tributary gorge of the Colorado River which we will be following for the next 4-5 days. The trail, which has a visible tread & cairns along it, leads N through a Juniper woodland & descends abruptly across the head of Sheep Canyon, a gorge descending W into Cataract Canyon. On the other side we come to a jeep rd. & walk L

(N) along it for about 100 yards. On the R side of the road we find a trail register put there by the BLM, the agency whose job it is to manage the Dark Canyon Primitive Area, which we are now entering. After signing in, we pick up a trail on the R(E) side of the road which we follow along the N side of a side canyon off of Dark Canyon. Then we reach a promontory where the trail utilizes the only route available to obtain access into the incredibly steep gorge of Dark Canyon, a rock slide (1.8m)(5,240'). We descend an extremely steep, but not impossible trail S down into the side canyon, which has now been well worn by hiker's feet. Upon reaching the bottom, if our knees haven't given out on us, we follow a trail L(E) along the canyon floor to the bottom of Dark Canyon (1m)(4,000'). A stream flows year-round here, fed by springs & snow on the Elk Ridge Plateau in the Manti-La Sal N.F.. Cottonwoods grow along the sandy creek bottom here, which makes a good camp if you can sleep to a cacophony of frog croaks all night. Bighorn sheep also make their home here, but you'll be lucky if you spot one of these shy, elusive creatures. We turn R(SE) & ascend Dark Canyon, with its towering walls forcing us to follow the creek bottom. At times the going is rough, since there are often narrow ledges to negotiate where we get squeezed out of the narrow creek bottom. We pass many delightful

swimming holes, which on a hot day prove irresistible. After winding up canyon 6.4m, we come to a waterfall at the mouth of Youngs Canyon, a major side canyon veering off to the L(NE). There are good camping spots in the area. The canyon floor is constantly changing due to the frequent flash floods which scour the streambed. We cont. our gradual ascent up Dark Canyon, winding around countless horseshoe bends & covering twice as much ground as the crow would fly. We discover that suddenly (in most years) our water disappears beneath the surface of the gravelly streambed. After another 4m, we pass the mouth of Black Steer Canyon on the R(S) &, after entering the Wanti-La Sal N.F., arrive at Woodenshoe Canyon (4m)(5,800'), also coming in on the R(S). Dark Canyon has widened out appreciably, but its walls still tower above us. We are beginning to pick up Pinyon/Juniper woodland again, with Douglas Fir growing on the N-facing canyon walls. If you need water, springs can be found about 1m up Woodenshoe Canyon, on the L(E) slopes. We cont. up Dark Canyon, alternately walking on the R, then L side of the creekbed. We abruptly pick up a flow of water again. After 5.8 winding miles, we come to a trail ascending Trail Canyon to the NE(L) (6,520'). Bear R(SE), cont'ing up Dark Canyon. Pass the mouth of Peisen Canyon on the L(NE) after 4.3m, then Rig Canyon on the R(W) after another .7m. There is an old fenced corral here & evidence of cow grazing. We are now walking on a

jeep rd. where vehicles have gained access into the canyon. Also, Ponderosa Pine is becoming more frequent, a sure sign of altitude (6,860'). In another 1.2m Peavine Canyon branches southward (R), but we stay in Dark Canyon heading SE through tall sagebrush flats (indeed, some of the sage attains tree height here). The jeep rd. becomes very rough, & we pass a waterfall. Finally we come to Horse Pasture Canyon branching off to the L(NE), with a cabin, spring, & waterfall 50 yards further up Dark Canyon (follow the road up out of the gully). This makes a good camping area (2.4m) (7,120'). We now leave Dark Canyon to gain access to the Elk Ridge Plateau via Horse Pasture Canyon. The trail in this canyon is overgrown with tall grass (this is one of the few pastures that hasn't been overgrazed by cattle) but stick to the R(SE) side of it. After 1.2m, just past a small side canyon on the R(SE), the trail starts switchbacking up onto Elk Ridge Plateau in a Ponderosa Pine/Douglas Fir forest. It is easy to follow here. Just before attaining the mesa top, we pass a trough spring in an Aspen grove, then climb up to a pure Ponderosa forest on the flat plateau, with Aspens here & there. We reach a jeep rd. (1.9m) & cont. straight, bushwhacking .3m through the pine woods to the main Elk Ridge rd. (8,620'). Turn L(N) along it & climb imperceptibly through thick Ponderosa/Aspen woods past Duck Lake on the R(E) to Gooseberry

Guard Station (1.8m) at the edge of a verdant meadow, surrounded by Aspen groves. (8,560'). There is a water pump, F.S. bldgs., & an outhouse here.

Cont. N on Elk Ridge 1m, turning R (NE) at a road jct. (8,630'). Descend steeply off of Elk Ridge on this jeep rd., passing S of Round Mtn. (8,550') on our L to a jct. in a saddle (2.9m)(7,660'). Bear R(SE), then S, climbing up a steep slope to the "Reef of the Rocks" (8,120'), a Ponderosa Pine studded ridgeline. After bearing L(NE) at a road jct., we come to another jct. (3.2m)(8,040'). Turn R(E) here & descend to Sand Spring (off to the L 50ft.), then traverse N around the Chippean Rocks, some limestone outcroppings, through pleasant pine woods. Eventually we begin climbing up onto Little Dry Mesa, past a F.S. sign describing a timber harvest, then descend to "The Causeway", a narrow ridgeline dividing N & S watersheds. Just beyond this, we arrive at a trailhead (7.8m)(8,200'). Here we leave F.S. Rd.#095 & take the Skyline Trail (signed) which climbs up over the Abajo (Blue) Mtns., traversing the high country. We initially climb steeply up through Aspen forest, past a spring, to the ridgetop, then ascend gently along a windswept ridge (nice view) to a saddle just NE of a knoll (2.3m) (9,800'). Now we begin climbing the open slope to the NE, traversing SE across open slopes, crossing a ravine, & entering

dense spruce/fir woods. If you lose the trail, which is easy to do in these meadows, just make an ascending traverse above the ravine on your R, & locate the trail by eventually intersecting the ravine & walking up it to where the trail enters the forest on the opposite, NW-facing slope. Follow the trail up through thick evergreen woods (snow patches last through late July here) to a saddle (1.4m)(10,750') between Mt. Linnaeus (10,960') on our R(SW) & West Mtn. (11,023') to our L(NE). This is our highest point along the route in Utah. Now traverse down across open, contour-trenched, S-facing slopes. These slopes were trenched to prevent further erosion & encourage tree growth. The former has succeeded but the latter hasn't. Eventually we reach a trail jct. on Jackson Ridge (1.2m)(10,250') & cont. straight (E), picking up a jeep rd. & traversing the N side of Jackson Ridge through forest to a jct. with F.S. Rd. #079 (1.4m)(9,700') in a saddle. Turn L(N) down this graded road, descending through Aspens, then spruce/fir to Indian Cr., with year round water (1.1m) (9,130'). Now ascend up the opposite, S-facing slope, climbing gradually up to one saddle, then the highest one (10,300') in 3.1m. Abajo Pk.(11,360'), the highest in the Abajo Mtns., is just SE of us. Now we descend NE down North Canyon Through very pleasant spruce/fir & Aspen

woods all the way to the paved Blue Mtn.-North Cr. road (3m)(8,600'). Turn R(E) & descend past the entrance to Blue Mtn. Ski Area & Dalton Springs Cpgd. (a good camping area), leaving the Manti-La Sal N.P., to the town of Monticello, Utah (5.6m)(7,060'). This small but thriving county seat boasts a library, swimming facility, theatre, town park, & bank along with the usual services (restaurants, P.O., metals, & stores). The Forest Service & Bureau of Land Management both have offices here. This town is also the gateway for trips into Canyonlands Nat'l Park, located just NW of here.

When we are ready to leave this outpost of civilization, proceed E out of town on U.S.Hgwy.#666, a very busy hgwy.. The next stretch to Dove Creek, Colo. has very little to offer in the way of scenery so unless you are doing the entire trans-continental hike, you may wish to skip this segment. After walking 5.4m E on the shoulders of this busy hgwy. (there is a restaurant of some interest about 5m out of town on the R(S). Mrs. Hunt runs it singlehandedly & serves some excellent dishes), we have a choice of routes. We can add 5.4m to our route & stay off the hgwy. by following dirt farm roads, or we can save 2 hours by taking Hgwy.#666 all the way to Dove Creek, Colorado. If we opt for the first choice, turn L(N) for .2m, then curve R(E) & walk due E 5.8m. Now turn R(S) 2m to Hgwy.#666 (6,800') & turn 90° due E & walk on this dirt rd. 5.2m to the Colorado State Line. On the

E'ern horizon we can see some of the 14,000' peaks in the Wilson Mtns. in Colorado, beckoning us onward. See the Colorado route description for a continuation of the route guide.

IV-COLORADO/NEW MEXICO

A-Utah St. Line-Rico, Colo.

Although the route officially begins on the state line, the initial miles are through farmland on a flat plateau of little interest. The town of Dove Creek, Colo. makes a good starting point. From here the route in this section crosses the Dolores River just S of a scenic gorge, then climbs up onto a plateau in the San Juan N.F.. After crossing the W. Fork of the Dolores River, we climb up to the highest elevations of our trans-continental trek before descending to the flourishing mining town of Rico on the E. Fork of the Dolores.

From the state line, just 1.8m N of Hgwy.#666, cont. due E 4.5m to a jct. with St. Rt.#141, a paved road (6,956'). Egnar is 5.6m N of here & Hgwy.#666 4.3m S. Cont. straight for 1.7m, then turn S(R) for 1m, L(E) for .2m, then R(S) for 4.1m to Hgwy.#666 in the town of Dove Creek, Colo. (6,840'). This town is the "Pinto Bean Capitol of the World" because of the many acres planted to this crop on this high, flat plateau. There is a P.O., cafe (Singing Sams), store, & park in this small community. Follow Hgwy.#666 through town 1.1m, then look for a dirt rd. heading due E just S of the Dove Creek airstrip. Take a L(E) here & follow this road generally Eward on BLM lands clothed in scrub oak. We enter San Juan N.F. as we ascend up into a Ponderosa Pine tree

ing R(E-SE) is very vague- take the better used road). Cont. another 1.5m to a jct. with a main P.S. dirt rd., turning R(SE). Walk 1.6m along this wide rd. to the "Salter Y" jct., turning L(NE)(8,162'). Proceed across more open park-like plateau, with good views E-NE of the Wilson Mtns., our first "14'ers" of the journey. Cont. through oak scrub, sage, & occasional Ponderosa/Aspen groves. We temporarily leave San Juan N.F., with more good views of the high country to the NE. After circumventing Plateau Cr. Canyon to the S & crossing Plateau Cr., re-enter San Juan N.F. & climb through scattered Aspen groves to a major jct. (10m)(8,000'). Turn R(S) here for .6m, then turn L(E) at another jct.(8,034'), proceeding E, then NE up Long Draw. Ascend gradually to a shallow saddle (8,345'), then descend steeply to Cottonwood Cr.(3.6m)(8,153'). The HikeNation route in 1980 went L(N) here but in the interest of hiking a trail, passing a spring/guard station, & staying on F.S. land, we bear R(SE) & shortly come upon Cottonwood Guard Sta. & a spring on our L(NE)(.8m). Just past the Guard Sta., on the other side of Mavreoso Cr., pick up the Goble Trail on the L(NE). Climb along the SE bank of Mavreoso Cr., ascending N away from the creek before passing a spring & breaking into a meadow & a jeep trail jct. just S of King Ranch (2.5m)(8,900'). Turn R(E), then S to a Y jct.(.5m). Bear L(SE) here, climbing

forest & come to a jct. at a usually dry pond called Baird Reservoir (6.6m)(7,630'). The dirt road forking L(N) leads 3.3m to a very scenic overlook of the Dolores River Canyon, which is just 1m to our NE here. We bear R(E), then N, then curve E & finally S (7,721'), descending out of San Juan N.F.. We reach a T jct.(6.4m)(6,890'), turn L(E) for 1.1m, then bend S(R) for 2.3m to another T jct., with a dirt rd. branching L(E) down a canyon. Take this road 1.2m down to a bridge over the Dolores River, which may have a very small flow because of a dam being built upstream & irrigation (6,467'). There is a good swimming hole just L(N) of here. After crossing the river, cont. .5m to a jct., turning R(SW). Walk less than 100 yards on this road, spotting a jeep rd. forking uphill to the L(SE). Take this rough road, called the Ormiston Pt. Stock Driveway because cattle are driven along it in the spring & fall, steeply upward as it climbs .8m to a gate & San Juan N.F.. Here the road levels off on top of Ormiston Pt.(7,100'), proceeding through Pinyon/Juniper woods, then breaking out into open cow pastures. Ascend gradually, entering the Ponderosa belt & finally reaching a jct. (7.3m)(8,230'). Bear R(SE) through a meadow surrounded by Quaking Aspens. Descend slightly, crossing the head of Cabin Canyon, then arrive at another jct. (.9m)(8,220'). Bear L(E) for .6m, then bear L(NE) again at a Y jct.(road fork-

steeply up to a saddle in an Aspen grove just SW of Nipple Mtn.(.8m)(9,300'). Cont. down the E'ern side on the jeep trail, still shown on the map as the "Goble Trail". Follow it around to the N through Mooray Flats. The route becomes very vague on the far (N) side of this meadow. If you lose it, descend N through dense Spruce/Fir forest to Goble Cr. & pick up again on the S side of the creek near a small reservoir. Proceed E down Goble Cr. in Aspen & Spruce/Fir to the trailhead at the main F.S. rd. along the W. Fork, Dolores River valley (2.9m)(7,972'). Turn L(NE) & walk along this wide dirt rd. for .8m before arriving at a picnic area & road branching R(NE) on a bridge across the river (7,950'). After crossing the bridge, we have a choice of routes. We can either save miles but risk getting lost by taking the trail which begins on the R(E) side of the road just past the bridge, or we can play it safe & take the road, which meanders a lot more but takes us to the same place. If we opt for the road, follow its long switchbacks upward thru Aspens & then evergreens, eventually reaching a switchback on Stoner Mesa Ridge (6m)(9,800'), just SW of Twin Spring. Cont. another .3m to this spring (signed & on the R(E), downhill) & our trailhead (9,940').

For those who prefer to take the trail, which is easy to lose in various

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cow meadows, take it up along Deer Cr., crossing the road, & arriving at the meadows where the trail tread becomes difficult to follow. Follow it as best as possible, looking for blazes on trees at the far side of the meadow. Cross the road a 2nd time, cont'ing uphill through Aspens giving way to the Spruce/Fir forests of the higher elevations. Cross the road a 3rd & 4th time before arriving at a final crossing & Twin Spring & our real trailhead (the construction of the road has had an adverse impact on the trail up to this point)(3m)(9,940').

Cont'ing up from Twin Spring on the R(E) side of the road, where a sign points the way, we climb initially on a 4wd jeep trail. Upon reaching the end of the newly constructed road, which has switchbacked one last time to this location, we pick up the Eagle Peak Trail. We now make a long & steady ascent along the ridge W of Eagle Peak (12,113'), with some impressive cliffs on our L(N) & good views to the N of the 14,000' peaks in the Wilson Mtns.. Eventually, after going through some alpine meadows where sheep graze during the summer, we climb above timberline on the S shoulder of Eagle Pk. & reach the highest elevation so far of the transcontinental walk, 11,800' (5.4m). Now we traverse above timberline over to a trail jct. in a saddle just S of Calico Pk.(12,026'), the prominently tinted mtn. to our N (.8m)(11,750'). Take the trail going E(straight) down into Horse Cr. to Rico; do not turn L(N) or R(S) along the

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Ridge to the NE are the most prominent), proceed R(S), then SE along the ridge. The trail disappears in the meadows here, but if you stick to the L(N) of the crest you'll be o.k.. After 1.5m, we reach a jeep rd. in a saddle just W of Hermosa Pk (11,580'). Turn L(NE) along this jeep rd., skirting the N side of Hermosa Pk., which looks like a giant rockpile. Just after a switchback, take a faint trail forking R(E) off the jeep rd. through alpine meadows (1.4m). Cont. along this rather vague trail 1.4m to a jct. with the same jeep rd. just N of Bolam Pass (11,340'). Turn R(S) along this jeep rd., going over the pass & descending down to a small lake surrounded by meadows (11,093') which is a good camping area. Now we descend E down to a road jct. at the old Graysill Mine with many old bldg's, & bear L(NE)(1.2m). Cross Hermosa Cr., & traverse the steep walls on the other side, being careful to bear L(S) uphill on a jeep rd.. Follow this jeep rd. up through forest, being careful once again to turn NE when you climb above timberline in a grassy meadow. The trail is obscure & hard to follow, so pay close attention to the description. Proceed NE up through the meadow to the ridgetop, dropping down the other side slightly. There are good views of cone-shaped Engineer Mtn. to the E with the "Needles" in the distance behind it. One can also make out the La Plata (spanish for

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ridge. After descending steeply for 3m, we reach a jeep rd. leading up to some cabins across the creek & cont. L down to paved St. Rt.#145 (.8m)(9,020'). Turn R(S) & walk 1.5m into the mining town of Rico (8,800'), which has lodging, showers, a cafe, store, & P.O.. This area of Colorado high in the San Juan Mtn. Range is dotted everywhere with mines, mostly abandoned but quite a few working claims.

B-Rico-Silverton, Colo.

Although short, this section offers superlative scenery, a trail most of the way, and is above timberline for a good part of the way. It can be done over a three day weekend with good access at either end. The trail is easy to follow, except above timberline in some of the alpine meadows.

Take the Silver Cr. mining claim access road up out of Rico & the Dolores River Canyon, passing many mining claims & tailing piles. Cont. E on a jeep rd. following the N side of the stream until you get to the signed trailhead (2.7m)(9,840') on the L(N) side of the road. We begin climbing steeply on a good trail up the northern walls of the steep glacial canyon of Silver Cr., in dense Spruce/Fir timber. After about 2.5m, we reach a saddle on top of the ridge at timberline (11,620'). After soaking in the 360° panorama (the Wilson Mtns. to our N & the 13,000' peaks of Sliderock

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"silver") Mtns. to the distant S. Eventually we reach a jct. with a jeep rd.(1.7m)(11,840'). This saddle area is at the head of Graysill Cr., draining R (E). Descend S-facing slopes on a trail, looking closely for a trail forking L (NE). Do not descend Graysill Cr. but begin traversing N along the E-facing slopes of Sliderock Ridge. This is the Rico-Silverton Trail. If in doubt about the above, follow the jeep rd. NE to a saddle between Sliderock Ridge & an outlying knoll to the SE (11,952'), then bushwhack down to the N-NE until you hit the trail. Traverse the mostly steep slopes above Cascade Cr., crossing one major side canyon. After walking across some talus slopes, we descend through meadows & woods & cross Cascade Cr. between two waterfalls (4m)(10,800'). Now we make an ascending traverse up the canyon walls on the other side, eventually breaking out onto flat meadows grazed by flocks of sheep in summer, near timberline. The high saddle to the E-NE of us is the one we are climbing towards; keep an eye on it in case you lose the trail in one of the meadows. A trail can be seen climbing the last 250' of the slopes below this notch, which we set our sights towards. After much toil, we reach the highest pt. yet on the route, 12,500' (2.5m). It is usually very windy & cold on this saddle, so we hurry our picture-taking & rehoist our packs. The

N side of this pass is usually under snow, except in late summer-early fall. We are surrounded by 13,000' peaks here in the heart of the San Juan Mtns. of SW Colorado. We waste little time in descending down into the S Fork, Mineral Cr. Valley, reaching timberline again after leveling off in an alpine meadow named "South Park". We note a sign reading "Rico-Silverton Trail" on a tree & come to a jeep rd. before breaking out of the woods again in a large meadow. We pass the Pandora Mine on our L(W), with its huge tailing piles indicating that large amounts of ore were sought after here. Cont. on the jeep rd., descending more steeply down to the So. Mineral Cpgd. (5m)(9,840'). Cont. descending the S Fork of Mineral Cr., now on a wide, well graded F.S. dirt rd. 4.4m to the jct. with U.S. Hgwy.#550, the "Million Dollar Hgwy." between Ouray & Durango, Colo.. Now walk R(SE) another 1.9m to St. Rt.#110, which we follow L(NE) .5m to downtown Silverton, Colo.(9,305'). Silverton is a sizable old mining town which has experienced an economic boom due to the Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge RR, among other things, which bring a lot of tourist dollars into the local economy. There are shops galore, as well as numerous restaurants & motels plus all the usual services. The town is well worth checking out, & the trip to Durango on the train is well worth it through the breathtaking Las Animas River Gorge, if you can get tickets! Silverton is the end of this section.

trail forking L(NE) uphill & another forking R(SE) across Deer Park Cr. to a mine. We cont. ascending up through forest, then break out into a meadow & level off temporarily. Cont. steeply up the Deer Park Trail all the way to a saddle (13,140') just N of Whitehead Pk.(13,260')(3m), the highpoint of the entire transcontinental journey. After resting our weary limbs & lungs in the rarified air, descend to another saddle (12,780') & a jct. with a trail leading S to the Whitehead Trail. Cont. L(E) .1m to another jct. with a trail leading L(NE) to the Highland Mary Lakes area, where we fork R(E) & descend to Verde Lakes (1.4m)(12,200'). Do not take the trail heading NE between the lakes on the N side, rather walk to the far (SE) shore of the larger lake & pick up a trail on a saddle climbing E, then NE up to the Continental Divide Trail (CDT)(1.8m)(12,600').

Cont. R(S) on the CDT, crossing vast expanses of tundra (sheep are permitted to graze here in the summer). We are now in the Weminuche Wilderness, the largest W.A. in Colorado which straddles the Continental Divide for the next 85m or so. Before cont'ing with a description of this fabulous route, I will describe the other two options for arriving at the Divide.

The second option, which is very rugged & involves much altitude gain & loss, is very scenic & goes through an interest-

C-Silverton-Wolf Cr. Pass

This next section offers what is perhaps the finest scenery of the entire transcontinental walk. It is a skyline route along the Continental Divide through the Weminuche Wilderness Area which attains high elevations early & stays high (over 10,500') for its entire length. Except for the initial climb out of Silverton, we will be using the Continental Divide Nat'l Scenic Trail corridor for the entire length of this section.

We have several options to consider for our initial climb up to the Divide. The 1st & most scenic one has not been scouted but offers a fairly dependable route. The 2nd, although it has been scouted (it was used by the bulk of the 1980 HikaNation group) & is highly scenic, involves an inordinate amount of climbing & descending. The third follows roads most of the way & is the gentlest. I will describe the former first.

In Silverton, find the "Deer Park Trail" trailhead just N of where Idaho Gulch comes in to the Animas River (.5m from Rt.#110). Make an ascending traverse S across Kendall Mtn's W-facing slopes, then curve E into Kendall Gulch & a trail jct. (2m)(10,680'). Bear R(E), cont'ing on the Deer Park Trail, cross Kendall Gulch, & traverse over to Deer Park Cr. & another trail jct. (.8m)(10,920'). The Deer Park Trail bears off to the L(E) & we follow it, ignoring a

ing mining basin. We leave town walking NE on St.Rt.#110 to Arrastre Cr. Canyon (2.2m), where a dirt jeep rd. on our R (SE) descends just opposite from some tailing ponds & a mill on the other side of the hwy.. After descending .2m, we cross the Animas River & begin ascending the jeep rd.. After .6m, take the L(E) fork branching uphill, then in another .4m, take another L(N) uphill fork & begin climbing steeply in dense spruce/fir woods out of the Arrastre Cr. basin. Relics of the recently active mining activity here are everywhere; processing plants, aerial tramways (used to bring the ore down from the mines), & of course the mines themselves. Further up where the ore was extracted. Eventually, after a very steep climb, we ascend above timberline into Little Giant Basin where the Big Giant Mine used to operate (it is now dilapidated & beginning to crumble) (1.8m)(11,450'). Cont. climbing on the L(NE) side of the basin, negotiating a switchback & ascending steeply towards the 2nd, higher basin. Just before gaining the rim of this basin, look closely for a trail branching off to the L(SE) uphill; if you miss it & arrive at the shore of a milky-white glacial lake in the basin, you'll have to bushwhack back up to the trail after the mining rd. ends. After a very steep traverse on a faint trail across the SW-facing slopes of King Solomon Mtn., we finally top out

at a saddle between that mtn. & Little Giant Pk. to the SW (1.4m)(12,950'). Those who are substantially unacclimated will be breathless & perhaps even nauseous at this high altitude, which is the highest point on the entire HikaNation route, unless one has the habit of engaging in "peakbagging" along the way. We cont. our roller coaster ride by descending very steeply through Dives Basin past the Shenandoah Mine down into Cunningham Gulch. After a 2.2m drop & a loss of 2,500', we level off in this U-shaped glacial valley. After crossing the stream, we hit a dirt rd. & the third & final option, which I will now describe.

If we elect to take the least rugged route out of Silverton, follow St.Rt. #110 NE out of town to Howardsville, a small hamlet with an old mill (4.2m)(9,670'). Turn R(SE) up Cunningham Gulch & Cr. 3.3m to a jct. with the alternate route described above (bear R(S) off the main rd. where it veers up & away from Cunningham Gulch). Cont. another .4m to the end of the graded rd. at a cascade on Cunningham Cr. (10,450'). From here we follow a jeep rd. which switchbacks up around the cascade for .3m, then cross the creek (a difficult crossing) to a sign reading "Continental Divide Trail". After a 2m climb on a good trail, we reach the Continental Divide & the CDT (signed) about 2m S of Stony Pass (12,140'). Cont. R(S) above timberline & ascend gradually, breaking out on a large, expansive plateau of alpine meadows &

following the treadway/rock cairns across this exposed & windy plateau. In 1.1m, after passing a small, alpine tarn on our R(W), we come to a jct. with the primary route.

Cont. S on the CDT, crossing broad, flat rounded hills above timberline where sheep are permitted to graze during the summer. We are now in the Weminuche Wilderness, the largest such area in the state, which straddles the Divide for the next 85m or so. After 3m, we come to a jct. with the popular Elk Cr. Trail, which descends down to the Animas River Gorge & the Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge RR. We cont. S'ward along the ridge, then ascend steeply up a rocky face to the top (.5m)(12,850'). The view of the awesome Gretna & Needle Ranges to our SW is largely blocked by White Dome, the peak immediately to our SW, but the view is nevertheless spectacular. Now we descend steeply L(E) past Kite Lake to a jct. (1.1m)(11,710'), & turn R(S) towards Hunchback Pass. We climb steeply 1m to this pass (12,493'), then drop down the other side through a valley in dense shrubbery to a trail jct. (1.3m)(11,600')(signed). Bear L(E) uphill & climb Nebo Cr. back up to the Divide (1.6m)(12,460'), then descend across the head of W Ute Cr. Canyon to W Ute Lake (1.5m)(11,800'), the 1st of many lakes by this name we will pass. After following the NE shore, ascend over a saddle (12,220') & drop to Middle Ute Lake (1.6m)(11,950'). Now we ascend almost to

the top of a ridge (the Divide)(12,280') before forking L(NE) & dropping to the Twin Lakes (11,792') & a trail jct. (2.4m). Turn R(SE) here & climb gradually, then traverse above Ute Lake (11,847'), the largest lake, to a jct. (1.4m)(11,940'). Bear R(SE) .2m to another jct.. The trail branching R(S) goes to Flint Lake & Cr.. Bear L(SE) & climb steeply via switchbacks to a pass (.6m)(12,400'). Now we begin traversing the E side of a ridge, bearing L(N) at the trail going R down into Rincon La Osa. Now we descend E to a saddle (1.8m)(12,043'). Pick up a trail on the other side (may be hard to locate) ascending via switchbacks, then making an ascending traverse NE to a high saddle just S of the Rio Grande Pyramid (13,821') & "The Window", an impressive wind gap in the pinnacled ridge N of us (1.1m)(12,620'). We now traverse NE above Rincon La Vaca, bearing L(N) & cont'ing on the CDT where a trail descends R(E) into this valley. We pass a small lake on our L(W) & traverse the alpine meadows below "The Window" (a short side trip up to this unusual wind-carved feature would definitely be worth the energy expended) & the Rio Grande Pyramid, the conical shaped peak on our L. Although not one of Colorado's 50-odd "14,000'ers", it is nevertheless one of the highest & most prominent along the Divide in this area & with a summit view to match. If you

would like th climb this relatively easy "walk-up", leave the trail due E of it & climb to a prominent saddle, then climb its E'srn slopes. Cont'ing on the CDT, we traverse high above Rincon La Vaca to the S & make a gradual descent across the S-facing slopes of the Divide, descending below timberline through a sparse forest to Weminuche Pass (6m)(10,640'), a broad, grassy N-S valley bisecting the Divide. The Rio Grande Reservoir is just 5m L(N) of us here. We turn R(S) & walk along the trail until we are opposite the place across the valley where the N. Fork Los Pinos River flows out into the valley, & cross the valley here. The trail is very hard to follow in this overgrown alpine meadow. Pick up the CDT on the opposite side, just N of where the N. Fork flows out. Follow the trail up through dense fir over a spur ridge & into the narrow canyon of the N. Fork, cont'ing to climb up the L(W) bank. At length we reach a large meadow (good campsites here), cross the creek (3.6m)(11,470'), & climb up through one last grove of trees to the tundra on the Divide (.7m)(11,940'). After descending gently through a marshy area (11,720'), we climb to another ridge (12,450'), descend across a saddle (12,050'), & climb steeply up one more mtn. just SW of Squaw Lake (4m)(12,780'). We have been following the Divide almost to a T along this stretch. Now we begin a 3-stage

descent along a ridge, down an escarpment, & traverse one last slope down to the outlet of a lake just R(S) of us (1.8m) (11,860'). Still above timberline, we now pass just NE of a spur ridge, weave through another lake-studded meadow, then ascend to the top of a spur ridge (12,050'). Now we descend past more lakes & enter a spruce/fir forest again before reaching a trail jct. at Squaw Pass (3m)(11,210'). Trails here lead N down Squaw Cr. to Rio Grande Res., & S to Hossick Lake, Hossick Cr., & down Cimarrona Cr. to Williams Cr. Res.. This is a good campsite with water nearby.

We cont. on the CDT, heading N-NE on an ascending traverse, eventually switchbacking above timberline again to a saddle (12,400') on the Divide (2.2m). We will now stay close to the top of the Divide for quite awhile. Descend gradually to a saddle (11,900') just NW of a tarn, traverse N around a knoll to another saddle (12,140'), then traverse S over a spur ridge (12,360') NW of Williams Lake to another broad, flat saddle (3.2m) (12,020'), just beyond which there is a trail fork. The L fork leads down to Trout Lake but we fork R(E) & begin traversing a very steep slope & come to the "Knife Edge", a ridge so sharp it resembles the blade of a knife, with a little help from the imagination. We cross the "blade" of the knife (11,850') & traverse S through alpine meadows. After passing Cherokee Lake on the L(E), we traverse

Creeks. We cont. straight on the CDT, skirting the meadow to the N & beginning a long climb up 13,149' South River Pk.. Ascend up through dense timber to a saddle (11,900') & trail jct., where we take the L(E) fork (the R(S) fork goes down the W. Fk., San Juan River, it's called the Rainbow Trail). We cont. to climb, now above timberline, up the steep S slopes of South River Pk., finally gaining a saddle (12,800') just SE of the peak (2.4m). Cont. E along the Divide above timberline skirting to the S of a knoll, dropping to a saddle, then traversing up to the S spur of a mtn. before descending steeply via switchbacks & cont. 'ing along the Divide, which levels off for awhile. Finally we switchback down to another saddle (11,730'), traverse around a knoll to our N, & come to another saddle. Now we climb up the ridge to a trail jct. (5.1m)(12,060'), where a trail heads L(N) down to Goose Cr.. We cont. straight along the ridge, passing a trail heading S down Elk Cr. to Beaver Cr. & Meadow, finally traversing up the SW-facing slopes of Sawtooth Mtn. to a saddle (12,280') & another jct. (1.8m). In 1980 HikaNation turned L(N) away from the Divide here & eventually descended down to the towns of South Fork & Del Norte. From there, after crossing the San Luis Valley, it crossed the Sangre De Cristo Range at Mosca Pass & cont'd down the Arkansas River Valley through E'ern Colo.

gradually upward to the Divide again, here referred to as the "Whales Backbone" (3m)(11,860'). For the next 4.4m we walk right on top of the Divide, with only slight deviations. First we walk S along rocky, exposed above-timberline ridgetop, then fork L(E) at a trail jct. (the R(S) fork leads down to Palisade Meadows), climb a knoll, & descend E, then SE below timberline along the ridge. After 4.4m, as mentioned above, we reach a saddle & a trail jct. (11,540'). The trail to the R(W) leads down to the Middle Fk., Piedra River. In another .7m we pass another trail leading R(W) to the M. Fk. Piedra River, & we turn in a more E'riy direction & traverse the treeless, N-facing slopes of the Divide to a saddle 1m N of Palomino Mtn., on a N-trending ridge (3.2m)(11,840'). The trail to the L(N) goes down E. Trout Cr. but we bear R(SE), then L(SE) in another .8m at a trail going up Palomino Mtn. (12,230') to the R(SW). Cont. down the trail, passing below timberline along the ridge to a saddle, then traversing N of a knob on our R on a very rocky trail to another saddle S of Piedra Pk. (12,328'), from whence we descend down to the expansive meadow at Piedra Pass (2.4m)(11,420'). There is a water gauging station here & some old aqueducts. Trails here lead N down Red Mtn. Cr. to St.Hgwy.#149 in the Rio Grande River valley & S to Turkey & Fourmile

& into Kansas. However, a better route was scouted to the Oklahoma/New Mexico boundary in August, 1981 & this has now become the official route. Proceed R(S), cont.'ing along the CDT. After skirting the W side of Mt. Hope, descend on switchbacks to Archuleta Lake (2.1m)(11,750'). Cont. S past Spotted Lake on our R(W), over a spur ridge (below timberline), around a tributary of the S. Fk., Rio Grande River, then over another spur just R(W) of Spruce Lakes & down to a meadow & trail jct. (3.5m)(11,280'). The L(E) fork heads down the S. Fk. Rio Grande but we ascend R(S) back up to the Divide (11,520'). Cont. E along the Divide through forests & meadows, leave the Weminuche Wilderness, & descend to Wolf Cr. Pass & U.S. Hgwy.#160, a busy E-W route (5.5m) (10,860'). South Fork is 19.5m L(E) & Pagosa Springs is 23m R(W) at the pass. There are no facilities here at the end of the section.

D-Wolf Cr. Pass to Cumbres Pass

This final section in Colorado is a Carvon copy of the last-a high, mostly above timberline alpine walk. It goes through a wild, rugged area in the S'ern San Juans which has been proposed for wilderness designation. Most of it lies along the Continental Divide Trail, which can be hard to follow in some

meadows.

Cont. S on the CDT, ascending first on a trail, then a jeep trail, then a trail once again. We climb above timberline (11,770'), then descend back down into forest to a saddle (10,680') just above a lake in "Alberta Park" (4.7m). Now traverse to the R(S) of a series of knolls from saddle to saddle & come to a trail jct. in Silver Pass (2.3m)(10,800'). A trail leads R(SW) down to Silver Cr. here. Cont. straight(S-SE) along the CDT, climbing up to a saddle above timberline (11,780'), then descending to Bonito Pass (2.2m)(11,250'). Cattle are driven through here in the spring & fall you will see evidence of this. Cont. along the CDT, alternately through woods & meadows around timberline or slightly above (11,940'), until we reach Elwood Pass (5.5m)(11,630') & F.S.Rd.#380, a graded dirt rd.. The trail is difficult to find in the meadows here, so follow Rd.#380 SW across Iron Cr. for .2m, then, where the road cuts L(E), bushwhack up the ridge straight ahead & turn W, climbing up to the first knoll (11,974') on this ridge (.5m). You should be able to spot the trail to your SW climbing W beneath you. After climbing 1.6m we reach a saddle; do not follow the jeep trail W, rather, look for a resumption of trail on the SE side of the saddle. Follow the trail through alpine meadows, ascending over a spur ridge, (12,450'), & drop to another saddle (1.7m)(12,280'). Now ascend the E slopes of Montezuma Pk.

near a stream (1.8m)(11,520'). Take the L(S) fork again (the previous two trails both descend down into the E. Fk., Conejos River Canyon) & traverse on the level, then ascend steeply on switchbacks to the top of a ridge (12,200'). After crossing a meadow, descend steeply on a traverse down into the Middle Fk., Conejos River Valley. Just past a trail jct. (we take the R(S) fork-do not descend along the creek) we come to a stream with a beautiful waterfall on the R(W)(2.5m)(11,360'). Traverse almost level across this steep E-facing slope, cross another small streamlet, then climb steeply via switchbacks S to the Divide (2.3m)(12,300'). Cont'ing our roller coaster ride, we descend once more E down a ridge, then cont. descending on a traverse just NW of a small lake to a wooded saddle (1m)(11,530'). A trail forks downhill (SE) to the R towards this lake, but, unless we need water, we climb slightly, then traverse across wooded S-facing slopes to a broad, shallow saddle just W of a larger lake (.9m)(11,540'). Cont. S through open meadows, then descend steeply down to the inviting waters of Blue Lake, the largest lake we've seen along the Divide (.7m)(11,463'). There are several nice campsites here, but be prepared to share them with fisherman, pack-trains, & hunters in season! Cont. S along the W shore of the lake, reaching a trail jct. at the S end. Bear R(S)

(13,150') to another saddle (12,600') just SW of this peak (1m). Cont. S along this high ridge right on the Divide, reaching a saddle with a tarn & an almost year-round snow patch just N of Summit Pk.(13,300'), the highest peak in the area & pretty impressive looking from the N & W (.9m)(12,450'). Now we traverse above a lake on our L (E) & ascend around the E shoulder of Summit Pk. to some expansive alpine meadows on its much gentler SE slopes. A climb to the top from here is easy, with only 700' of sloping grassy meadow to climb. The view from the top (which has a flag on it) makes it worthwhile. Cont. SW & descend towards a saddle, taking a L(S) fork (2m) before reaching it & descend steeply E'ward down into a glaciated canyon (Adams Fk.). After 1m, look for a trail branching R(S) across the creek-this can be difficult to spot (11,440'). Now traverse on N-facing slopes to a wooded saddle (.7m)(11,309'). Cont. traversing N-facing slopes, keeping a close lookout for the trail treadway & cairns, which can be hard to see in the meadows. After crossing a gulch, ascend steeply on switchbacks to a ridge (11,920'), then, after descending slightly along it, traverse S to a saddle (2m)(12,000'). Traverse S to another saddle, descending slightly, then taking a R fork & cont. a gradually descending traverse through thick shrubbery. Cont. above the E. Fk. Conejos River Canyon to a trail jct.

(don't cross the outlet!) & walk through some meadows, then ascend up onto a plateau & remain level until descending gradually SE to a broad saddle (2.5m)(11,550'). Now we ascend SE up a wooded slope, breaking out onto a large, rolling plateau above timberline, & follow the cairned trail (use caution-it can be hard to follow) through the meadows. Bear R(S) at a jct. with a trail going SE to Green Lake (if you need water or a good campsite, take this trail to Green Lake, rejoining our route just N of Trail Lake), & climb up the W slope of the mtn. on our L to a flat saddle (3.5m)(12,280'). Now we descend S to the outlet of large Trail Lake (1m)(11,980'), which is just E of the lake. Now we ascend slightly through very rocky terrain along the E-facing slope of the mtn. on our R(W), then make a gradual, then steeper descent all the way down through meadows before dropping below tree-line. Descend in dense timber to a jct., taking the R(SE) fork down to Dipping Lakes, a cluster of 4 or 5 lakes in a densely wooded, broad saddle (3.5m)(11,230'). We have now left the Continental Divide, but are still on the CDT. Good camping can be had in this area.

After crossing the outlet from the largest lake on our L(N), we ascend steeply through spruce/fir on switchbacks, then break out once more onto a

large, above timberline plateau. Watch closely for cairns, posts, & the trail treadway, which one can lose easily in these meadows. The trail curves SE, then S, climbing gradually up to the top of a mtn. ("Flat") (12,187'), with splendid views of the Chama River gorge, Banded Pk., & Chama Pk. to the W & more high plateaus to the E (4.5m). We now begin a long, continuous descent to Cumbres Pass, mostly gradual. After descending the ridge S for 2.6m, we leave it at a saddle & descend through heavy timber. Eventually we come out in a meadow, & pick up a jeep trail on the opposite side. Bear L at the 1st jct., then R (downhill) at a 2nd jct.. After 4.7m, we reach Cumbres Pass & St.Hgwy.#17 (10,000'). Chama, New Mexico is 13.5m R(SW) & Antonito, Colo. is 35m L(E). There are no facilities here at the pass, except a museum for tourists who ride the famous Cumbres & Toltec Scenic, narrow gauge RR, which operates through here. This is the end of the section, just 2m N of the New Mexico state line.

E-Cumbres Pass to San Cristobal (St.Rt.#3)

In this section we enter New Mexico, traverse a high plateau, then descend the San Antonio River to some high sagebrush plains. From here we ascend into Pine/Fir forest on Tusas Ridge before leaving Carson N.F. & descending to U.S. Hgwy. #285 at Tres Piedras. After crossing the broad Rio Grande valley, we descend into

once grew here. The route ahead can be a very exposed one, particularly in stormy weather. Climb steeply SE, then more gradually S along the ridge to a summit (10,840'), then descend to another saddle (10,740') where a jeep rd. (F.S. Rd.#87) comes in on the R(W) (3m). A lake with potential campsites (dubious water quality) lies 120' down to the L(E) here. Cont. S along the jeep rd., which is now open to vehicular traffic, climbing to another summit (10,962') with far reaching views but very exposed to the elements because of the lack of ground cover. Now we descend off the R(W) side of the ridge across a saddle to an evergreen forest once again. Drop steeply through the trees to a forested saddle (2.8m)(10,630'). Here the road descends S off the W side of the ridge but we pick up a blazed trail on the L(E). It can't be a spot but there are occasional blazes on the trees. Follow the trail gradually upward through dense spruce/fir, over many blowdowns & a few switchbacks past a rockslide on our R(SW) to a large meadow on top of the flat ridge. Follow the fenceposts through this meadow (the trail is hard to follow), picking up the trail on the far side, just L(N) of the fenceposts. Follow the trail along the narrowing ridge, passing above some bluffs on our R(S) overlooking the Lagunitas Guard Station area. Descend on a few switchbacks to a cpgd. with picnic tables & restrooms (1.6m)(10,530'). Follow the

the Rio Grande River Gorge, which has been designated a Wild & Scenic River in this canyon. After crossing on a bridge, we ascend to St.Rt.#3 & the village of San Cristobal.

Walk L(SE) along St.Hgwy.#17 for 1.8m, then bear R(E) off the hgwy. onto a dirt rd.(F.S. Rd.#87), just past the point where the hgwy. turns NE. Descend & cross Cumbres & Arkansas Cr's, then ascend up into Apache Cr. Canyon & come to a F.S. sign (Carson N.F.) marking the Colorado-New Mexico state line. There is a fence along the boundary here (2.3m)(9,860'). Cont. climbing, now in Carson N.F., then descend & cross Apache Cr. (9,920'). Climb steeply NE, then S on a ridgetop, then descend L(E) past two small lakes & cross another stream. Now climb steeply once more in woods up a ravine to a wide, cleared saddle & a jct. (2.1m)(10,380'). Bear L(E) onto another jeep rd. (still on F.S. Rd.#87) & begin ascending, entering forest, then surmounting a flat plateau (10,640'). Curve SE & gradually descend to a saddle & a jct. with a jeep trail open only to hikers & snowmobiles on snow (2.5m)(10,388'). F.S. Rd.#87 descends S here but we cont. straight here & ascend steeply SE on this restricted road. All the timber on these high plateaus is strangely absent, though we are still 1,000' below timberline. Apparently fires & clearing for grazing has taken care of the spruce/fir forest which

access road from here down a ridge to F.S. Rd.#87 (.5m)(10,360'). We turn L (E-NE) here, climbing over a saddle & descending a long bench to another saddle (10,110') & cont.'ing over a hill to road jct. (1.6m)(10,155'). Take the jeep rd. branching R(S), leaving F.S. Rd.#87. Cont. on a gradual descent past Aspen groves & then a steeper one down a gulch to the San Antonio River Valley (3m)(9,250'), where the jeep rd. ends & we pick up a trail. Descend this valley, alternately walking on both sides of the creek & eventually picking up a jeep rd. which stays on the R(S) side. After walking past a trail sign & many subsequent cow meadows, we reach a road jct. (4.5m)(8,940'). Turn L(NE) onto another jeep rd. (F.S. Rd.#93), cross the stream, & cont. 1.9m to a jct. once more with Rd.#87, coming down from the L(N)(8,872'). Although still quite high, this area lies in the rain shadow of the S'ern San Juan Mtns. & is too dry to support forests, hence we find sagebrush to be the dominant plant. Walk on down the valley, bearing R(S) after 1.2m, crossing the stream again, climbing over a saddle, descending into a gully, then climbing up to another saddle & a road jct. (2.1m)(8,920'). San Antonio Mtn. (10,908') is the volcano-shaped mtn. due E of us. Turn R (S) here towards Cisneros Park on F.S. Rd.#133. Stay on the main rd., ignoring side roads, & ascend up through Montoya

Canyon, through occasional spruce/fir & Aspen trees, to a saddle (4.2m)(9,489'). Now descend slightly down another gulch, eventually coming to Cimarron Park, a large open area of sage-covered slopes. Now we ascend S to a wooded saddle (9,352') & a jct. on Tusas Ridge (2.9m). The main rd. goes R(W) here, descending to U.S. Hgwy.#64 in 3.4m (Beehive Spring is .8m down this road, if you are in bad need of water). We cont. straight(S) down Tusas Ridge on a jeep rd. (F.S. Rd.#167), in spruce/fir & occasional Aspen woods. In 1.5m (9,460') we come to a graded dirt rd. (F.S. Rd.#21) heading R(S) down Canada Biscara to Hgwy.#64; we cont. L(E) on our jeep rd.. After another 1.8m of mostly level ridge walking with some minor up's & down's, we reach a jeep rd. (F.S. Rd.#576) branching L(NE) into Mule Canyon (9,536'). Cont. walking along Tusas Ridge (S-SE), descending gradually through more open country & coming to the Coyote Canyon Rd. (F.S. Rd.#83) in 3.3m (9,260'). Bear R(SE) & cont. along Tusas Ridge another 1.7m to the Esquibel Canyon turnoff (9,150'). Bear L(E) on this jeep rd. & descend through Ponderosa Pine, then open meadows into Esquibel Canyon, descending this canyon all the way to U.S. Hgwy.#285 (5.3m)(8,169'). Turn R(S) along the hgwy. & proceed 2.4m to U.S. Hgwy.#64 & the small community of Tres Piedras (8,120'). There is a cafe & gas station & P.O. here, but that's about it. We leave Carson N.F. here.

With the high peaks of the Sangre De

through the Sangre De Cristo Range & over the highest point in New Mexico (Wheeler Pk.-13,161'), also traverses the last mtn. range before hitting the high plateau of the Great Plains. After crossing the Moreno Valley via the town of Eagle Nest, we follow the Cimarron River Canyon through the Cimarron Range, passing just N of the Philmont Scout Ranch (this is a private reserve belonging to the Boy Scouts of America; do not enter without a permit) before arriving in the sizable town of Cimarron, N.M..

After a last purchase of civilized food, cont. N another .2m to a dirt rd. turning R(E), & follow this road past scattered houses in the valley to a 3-way fork. Take the middle fork & cont. up a ridge to the L(N) of San Cristobal Cr. in a Pinyon forest, ignoring forks to the L & R. Stay on the rim N of the valley, until finally our road descends R(E) down into the stream depression at the mouth of San Cristobal Canyon (2.8m)(8,160'). There is a small camping area here by the sparkling stream. Cont. up the jeep rd. (F.S. Rd.#111) another .2m to our trail-head & a sign reading "Lobo Pk. Trail" (8,240'). We now begin to climb up this canyon into the Sangre De Cristo Range, a major Rocky Mtn. system chain running from central Colo. to northern New Mexico, some 350m long. It is a beautiful walk up this canyon, through beautiful forests (f) Douglas Fir, Aspen, & eventually the

Cristo Range beckoning us onward, we turn L(E) onto U.S. Hgwy.#64 & begin crossing the immense valley of the Rio Grande River. Walk on the shoulders of this busy hgwy. 10.3m to the Arroyo Hondo turnoff, a dirt rd. (7,380'). Bear L(E) onto this rd. & walk along it through rolling sagebrush flats to the rim of the spectacular Rio Grande River Gorge. Our road descends down into the gorge on hairpin switchbacks to the Dunn Bridge (7.4m)(6,480'), crosses this major drainage, then proceeds up the Arroyo Hondo side canyon on the other side to a jct. (1m)(6,781'). The road switchbacks around to the W but we bear L(E) & cont. up the Arroyo Hondo valley past fields & adobe houses through the small community of Arroyo Hondo to St.Hgwy.#3 (1.5m)(6,813'). Now we turn L(N) on Hgwy.#3 & walk 3.1m up over a ridge in Pinyon/Juniper woodland to a dirt rd. (F.S. Rd.#7) branching R (NE), now in Carson N.F. again (7,274'). The sign here reads "San Cristobal". Bear L(NE) downhill after .7m (the road ahead leads to the Univ. of New Mexico's Lawrence Ranch & Kiowa Village) & come to the P.O. & store in the village of San Cristobal (.5m)(7,300') on the L after crossing San Cristobal Cr.. This section ends here at this convenient supply point.

F-San Cristobal to Cimarron

This rugged section, which takes us

typical spruce/fir alpine forest. The trail eventually starts switchbacking above the canyon floor on the N side, returns to it, then switchbacks up the S side. When you come to a meadow, where the trail, as usual, tends to disappear, always look for blazes on the trees at the far end as well as rock cairns. Eventually we come to one last meadow, mostly on the L(N) side of the creek, just before the final ridge (10,440'). When Ed Deschesne & I scouted this in August 1981, we failed to find any sign of the trail after much searching. Supposedly it switchbacks up through dense woods (fir/spruce) R(S) of the open hillside on our L(N), to the L(N) of the main creek. If you fail to find it, set your sights on the saddle due E atop the ridge (11,580')(4.5m). Cont. R(S) along the ridge on the trail (watch for blazes on the trees) through heavy timber, climbing up above timberline on the summit of Lobo Pk. (12,115') to a trail jct. just S-SW of the high pt. (1.4m) (12,000'). Bear L(NE) & alternately descend & ascend along the ridge trail, reaching the Italianos Canyon Trail jct. in 1.3m (11,400'). Cont. L(NE) along the ridge trail (still Trail #57), traversing S of three knolls, then climbing steeply straight up the highest one (11,850') before descending even more steeply down to a saddle (2m)(11,175'). Trails branch N & S here down to Co-

lumbine Cr./Cpgd. & St.Rt.#230 in Rio Hondo Canyon respectively. Cont. along the ridge, traversing S of two knolls (the trail branching N on the 2nd one goes down to Columbine Cr.), then climbing a third (the trail branching S on this ascent goes down Gavilan Canyon to Rio Hondo Canyon) in woods to the top (2m)(12,217'), now above timberline. Turn N & descend, then walk level along the ridge above timberline in alpine meadows to a saddle, then climb steeply once more up another ridge to a trail jct. (1.1m)(12,220'). Bear R, curving SE, then S & descending through alpine meadows, past the Gold Hill trail jct. through a series of cow meadows. We level off temporarily in spruce/fir woods before descending on switchbacks to a saddle & a wide dirt rd. (2.6m)(10,860'). Cross the rd. just SW of a polluted cow pond & ascend generally SE on a jeep rd. through a cut-over area, then in forest, bearing L(uphill) at a fork & reaching a saddle (1.1m)(11,500'). Here is the trailhead & a sign welcoming us to the Wheeler Pk. Wilderness. Although small by western wilderness standards (20,000 acres), it protects New Mexico's highest mountain. Cont. climbing S on trail above timberline atop a ridge, eventually coming to a saddle where the trail descends to the L(SE) off the ridge into the forested head of the Middle Pk., Red River valley (1.7m)(11,740'). This is a good, protected camping area with a year-round stream, the first good water we've

into a Bristlecone Pine forest as we traverse down the S & (So) side of a mtn., pass an old sign indicating that Indian lands lie behind us, & cont. descending through mostly open (slipes), then sparsely wooded ones to a jeep trail. The trail can be hard to follow here, so be alert & on a constant lookout for the tread-way & blazes. It eventually switchbacks back to the SE & hits the above-mentioned jeep trail. Cont. down this jeep trail to a dirt rd. just SW of a broad, flat saddle (2.2m)(11,062').

Here we have a choice of routes. The route scouted in 1981 encountered a locked gate at the bottom of the road near Idlewild, after descending through an Indian Land Grant on what was thought to be a public road. It is possible, but much longer, to turn L(NE) here .2m to the Sawmill Park jeep trail (P.S. Trail #55) & descend N along this 1.3m to Hgwy. #38 & the town of Red River, then follow this hgwy. R(E) 1.9m to the town of Eagle Nest. However, if we use the road as a right-of-way & do not camp anywhere between here & Idlewild, there is nothing illegal about our passage. The fence is down in the vicinity of the locked gate, implying that the gate is there primarily to block access by vehicles.

Turn R(S) downhill & follow the jeep rd. down through heavily timbered, then more open (cut-over) slopes through the various vegetational zones. Ignore all

seen since San Cristobal Cr.. Drink your fill & carry plenty with you. Now we begin the final push up Wheeler Pk., still looming almost 1,500' above us. Switchback up through woods, then above timberline on long, steady switchbacks which eventually get us to the top of the ridge. Now walk S, ascending one knoll, then another (Mt. Walter-13,133') until finally we arrive at Wheeler Pk., just off the trail on the R(W)(2.3m)(13,161'). There is a cemented rock pile with a large metal cylinder & a plaque honoring George Wheeler, a surveyor of these SW'ern lands. A register is inside the metal cylinder. The views are far-reaching, with Colo. visible to the N. When ready to leave this lofty & exposed perch, cont. S along the ridge trail (do not take the trail descending L(E) at the saddle just beyond). The Taos Indian Reservation lies just to the S of us & we must be careful not to trespass on Indian lands. We make a descending traverse around the SW side of Old Mike Pk.(13,113') before temporarily entering Indian lands on this peaks S ridge, where a sign advises us to stay on the trail. Traverse L(NE), then descend on long switchbacks, walking on what was formerly a mine access path, to a saddle (1.8m)(12,500'). Cont. E along the S side of the ridge, then turn N after rounding a spur ridge & descend once more on long, wide switchbacks to another saddle (1.5m)(12,060'). We now drop below timberline

lesser logging rd. spurs branching off of the main rd.. Eventually we cross the dam of a small pond (good drinking water at the inlet), level off, & walk N through Ponderosa Pine flats to the locked gate. Off to the R about 25' the fence is down, providing a convenient place to cross. After passing a few cabins, we come to a meadow & road jct. in the resort community of Idlewild, with many vacation cabins surrounding us (4.5m)(8,800'). Take a R(SE), then another R(E) in .2m, then another R(E) in .3m. Descend this road down past the Idlewild real estate office & into expansive Moreno Valley, dotted with sage, to U.S. Hgwy.#64. Turn L(E) onto this busy hgwy. & come to the town of Eagle Nest (2.7m)(8,200'), with all services. Eagle Nest Lake, the large reservoir we saw coming down out of the Sangre De Cristo's, is just S of us.

We now walk E out of town on Hgwy. #64, ascending to a small saddle (2m)(8,440') & beginning a long, gradual descent down through Cimarron Canyon. Until another route can be scouted, we shall have to content ourselves with walking this paved, but highly scenic stretch along the Cimarron River. First we descend through the Cimarron Canyon Wildlife Area, passing many cpgd.'s in this scenic canyon stretch, before leaving it where the canyon widens out into the valley & small community of

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Ute Park (8.6m)(7,413'). The canyon narrows once again & we enter Philmont Scout Ranch property (2.1m). Cont. descending on Hgwy.#64 along Cimarron Cr. through the Scout Ranch until we eventually break out of the ever widening canyon onto the flatlands & come to the sizable town of Cimarron, which has all services, & the jct. with St. Rt.#58 (10.6m)(6,414'). A visit to the Scout Ranch headquarters, 5 1/2m S on St. Rt.#21, would be an interesting side trip. This is the U.S. Scouting Organization's ultimate adventure; a summer spent here learning all the skills in the field which the various ranks & merit badges teach. This section ends here.

G-Cimarron to Capulin

In this section we are introduced to a new style of walking: flat, & a new physiographic province: the Great Plains. After crossing the Canadian River Valley, however, we discover that the terrain has not flattened out completely, as we traverse a highly volcanic area dotted with many cone-shaped mtns., climaxed by the almost perfectly symmetrical cone of Capulin Mtn. in Capulin Nat'l Monument.

Staying on U.S. Hgwy.#64, we walk 12.2m NE on this hwy. to a point about 1m past the crossing of the Vermejo River (water year-round but needs to be treated) & the site of "Colfax" on the map to St. Rt.#505 (6,240'). Turn R(SE) here onto this paved but much less busy road. We

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(11.8m)(7,256'). Here we bear L(N) 2m to St. Rt.#193, a graded dirt rd., & cont. straight(N) on Rt.#193 2.5m to a T jct. just S of Mesa Larga, the flat-topped mesa just N of us (7,120'). Take R(E), then NE just N of prominent Horse-shoe Crater, a volcanic cone, to the town of Capulin & U.S. Hgwy.'s 64&87 (11.4m)(6,840'). Just N of town off of St. Rt.#325 is Capulin Nat'l Monument, which protects Capulin Mtn., an almost perfectly symmetrical volcano. This mtn. is unique among the many volcanic cones in this area in that its soils have allowed the growth of a dense forest of Pinyon & Juniper trees on the 35-40° slopes, which support deer & other wildlife. A visit to this monument & its visitor center is well worth it. There are no trails to the top of the rim (a glaring oversight) but the park road takes visitors on a spiral to the crater's rim, where there is a trail that circumnavigates the crater.

H-Capulin to Oklahoma St. Line

This last section in the "West" is mostly flat on high plateau lands. The relief buckles a little where we cross Corrumpa Cr., then flattens out again before we reach Carrizozo Cr. & follow its ever deepening little draw to the Dry Cimarron River Valley & the southern rim of Black Mesa, near the community of

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now walk 12m just S of the Maxwell Nat'l Wildlife Refuge to a jct. just N of the town of Maxwell (5,926') & turn R(S) .8m into Maxwell, which has a P.O., store, & cafe (possibly a motel)(5,931').

We now cont. .2m (3 blocks) S, & take a L(SE) fork (called Chico Rd.) under I-25, a major N-S expressway, then turn due E & cross the Canadian River, arriving at a jct. (1.2m). Here we turn L(N) on the Tinaja Rd., immediately turning R(E-NE) onto Pinon Rd.. Follow this wide, graded dirt rd. through fields & sagebrush plains 5.3m to a Y jct., cont.'ing straight(L)(E-NE), soon curving N, then E-NE again to a crossroads jct. (1.7m)(6,273'). Cont. straight (E-NE), still on Pinon Rd.. Ascend Kappis Arroyo towards the Pinon Hills, then curve NE & come to another Y jct. (6.2m)(6,576'). Bear R(NE), cont.'ing to ascend gradually up Tinaja Cr.. After turning SE away from the creekbed to a saddle (6,890'), return to the creekbed & a spring. Cont. up Tinaja Cr., with the Pinon Hills to the S (the cone-shaped volcanic peak is Raspberry Mtn.) & large, treeless Laughlin Pk. (8,818') to the NE. Most of the volcanic mtns. in this area have not been receptive to tree seedling germination, although grasses manage to protect the soil from erosion. We begin skirting Laughlin Pk. to the S, with the Pine Buttes almost dead ahead, slightly to our R. Now we curve NE over a saddle (7,500') & reach a 3-way jct.

Kenton, Okla.

40
Head E out of town along Hgwy.'s 64 (7 1/2) 87, walking along its wide shoulder 9m to the small town of Des Moines (6,650')(there is a roadside park a mile W of town, at which you might camp if you had to). There is a P.O., cafe's, & a store here. Cont. another 1.8m S-SE along the hwy. to our dirt rd. turnoff, heading due E (6,530'). Walk due E 5.7m, where our rd. bends SE, & cont. another 1.9m to a jct. just N of Wetherly Lake (6,026'). The rd. heading S here crosses the lake's spillway. You might want to tank up here, just in case Corrumpa Cr. dries up further downstream (purify the water!). Cont. due E for 6.4m, .7m past a rd. branching S, to where we curve NE. We soon curve N, then NE again to a jct. near a small landing strip (1.2m)(5,797'). Cont. straight(NE) along a flat escarpment, then descend down off this plateau & cross Corrumpa Cr. (5m)(5,415'). There should be water flowing here year-round, but its quality is very suspect. Cont. generally NE, then E another 3.1m to a 5-way jct. (5,565'). Here we turn L (due N) onto St. Rt.#370 & in 2m come to the small hamlet of Guy just S of Carrizozo Cr. (5,492'). Cont. N across the tiny creek (spring fed, but may not be flowing here) & after .4m, where Rt.#370 turns W, we cont. straight(N),

then NW. Ascend over a slight hill, then follow our graded rd. as it turns due E. After 4.3m, the rd. bends S-SE & we come to a backwards Y jct., just N of Carrizozo Cr. (.3m)(5,320'). Turn L(NE), a 150° turn, onto this jeep rd. & follow it along Carrizozo Cr. until it veers N up out of the draw (1m)(5,280'). From here on we will follow the ever deepening draw of Carrizozo Cr., which, although trail-less & unscouted, offers us the best route to the OK St. Line near Kenton. Begin walking downstream along the creek, coming to a jeep rd. crossing after 2.4m (5,190'). We cont. following the winding creek through a deepening mini-canyon for 10m, where we pick up a jeep rd. on the L(N) bank (4,800'). Follow this jeep rd. down the ever widening valley to a jct. with another jeep rd. coming E down Dry Canyon (2.9m)(4,690'). Several canyons come together here. Turn L(NE), coming to another jeep rd. jct. shortly after turning abruptly SW (1.6m)(4,650'). Bear L(E) & cont. down Carrizozo Cr. to a Y jct. (2m)(4,600'). Bear L(E) here, turning N-NE & then swinging E again. We are now in an expansive, flat valley & we pick up a well-graded dirt rd. which takes us the rest of the way to paved St. Rt. #18 (7m)(4,390'). Turn L(N) & come to a jct. with St. Rt. #325, 3m W of Kenton, OK, where supplies can be bought from a small store. There is also a P.O. & cafe in this tiny community. (1.1m)

Black Mesa, a long & narrow E-W mesa with steep escarpments to the N&S, is

directly N of us here. Oklahoma's high point lies abreast of this table-top mtn., which is our immediate goal. Cont. straight(N) across Hgwy. #325 onto an improved dirt rd. which we follow N, then W, then N again across the Cimarron River, coming to a 5-way jct. (2m)(4,375'). Make a 45° turn to the NW (not the improved dirt rd. heading W) onto a jeep rd., passing a gravel pit & windmill on our L(SW) & bearing R(NW) at the next Y (.3m). Cont. ~~str~~ straight through the next crossing to a T jct. (.6m)(4,415'). Turn R(N-NW) & begin ascending Black Mesa. Our jeep rd. becomes a trail & we ascend a draw just E of Red Hill, the knoll to our L. Our trail steepens as we begin climbing up the S-slopes of Black Mesa proper. Where we switchback back to the R(E), one could walk .2m L(W) through a small saddle & find a spring up the next ravine. Cont. switchbacking up the slope, until at length we break out onto the flat mesa top, pick up a jeep rd., & reach a road jct. (1.4m)(5,030'). Turn R(E) & follow the jeep rd. along the mesa top 2.8m to the Oklahoma border (4,960') & the Black Mesa St. Park. Just 500 yards to our E-SE is a monument denoting Oklahoma's highest point, on Black Mesa (4,973').

1
VI-Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri & Illinois

A-Jean Pierre Choteau Trail

This first section takes us along the Army Corps of Engineer's Jean Pierre Choteau Trail, a national recreation trail which generally follows the channelized Verdigris River down to its confluence with the Arkansas River near Fort Gibson. The terrain is flat, & when not following the levee, the trail goes through wooded areas & fields.

At the beginning of the Jean Pierre Choteau Trail where U.S. Hgwy. #66 crosses the Verdigris River NE of Tulsa, proceed SE along the trail (a jeep track) on the NE bank of the channel. This channel was dredged by the Army Corps of Engineers to create a navigable waterway all the way from the Gulf of Mexico & up the Mississippi, Arkansas, & Verdigris Rivers to the port of Catoosa, which serves the greater Tulsa metropolitan area. We will be following both the old river channel & the new, navigable one as we use the corridor of land owned by the Corps, permitting public access. The old river channel rejoins the new one as we walk along the far bank, coming to I-44, a busy expressway (1m)(565'). Cross under the overpass & cont. along the N bank of the river. The old (natural) channel veers away to the S, then rejoins. We pass S of Big Lake through mostly open fields along the levee, then back from the levee. After crossing Bacon Cr.

3
(3.7m)(550'). This recreation area has water, showers, a boat landing ramp, restrooms, & picnic/camping areas. Walk through the parking lots here, watching closely for trail signs. After crossing Commodore Cr. on the road bridge, cont. through Rocky Point PUA, climbing up a steep slope, then descending & crossing a draw on another road bridge. Eventually we leave the public use area & begin walking along the levee once again. Shortly we come to the Black Fox Station, a power project which we must detour around via a fenced corridor. After regaining the levee, proceed along it to a bridge over the Maple Cr. inlet, then cont. along the new channel to Lock & Dam #18, the furthest upstream structure on the entire navigation system (6.6m)(535'). There is a visitor center here with exhibits describing the navigational system, & water can be obtained.

Cont. along the Choteau Trail, crossing a wet weather ford of Bull Cr., then recrossing this creek (actually the old river channel, long since abandoned by the river) on a bridge (2.1m)(510'). Cont. along the river levee, then follow the old river channel around some bends & over a wet weather stream before regaining the levee once more. We follow this for some distance through a wooded area, gradually curving SE & breaking into open farmland. We leave the levee, cross a wet weather creek, then regain the levee

2
(4.8m)(530'), which could be a wet crossing during or immediately after wet weather, we walk along the levee again through a wooded area to the first of many bridges on this trail, this one over Dog Cr. (1.9m). The Corps went to a lot of trouble & expense to bridge the many side streams which flow into the Verdigris River. These bridges are usually suspension, built to take heavy loads, & quite impressive. Cont. along the straightened channel, then follow the old channel to a bridge over the inlet of Oxbow Cr. (1.8m). Follow the levee another 1.6m to another bridge over the inlet of River Bend Cr., just past an abrupt curve to the L(SE) where the old river channel crosses the new one. Cont. around this bend through woods, then follow the new channel under St. Hgwy. #33 to the landing & public use area. This is our first camping spot along the trail, with a boat landing ramp, restrooms, & picnic tables, but no water (1.7m)(550'). Inola is 6m E along the hgwy. (there is a store 1m E).

Cont. S on the trail, immediately crossing a creek on a bridge. Cont. along the levee, then, after entering woods, turn away from the river to a possibly wet crossing over a creek. Cont. through the woods, curving due E to the old river channel. Curve N here, rounding an ox-bow bend, regaining the levee along the new channel, & arriving at Commodore Landing Public Use Area

4
& pass a factory on our L(NE) before arriving at St. Hgwy. #51 (7.3m)(550'). This is the midway point along the trail & it crosses the hgwy. bridge here to the W bank. However, if you don't mind walking a mile out of your way to an excellent camping area, cross the hgwy. (built up on a ramp here to provide clearance for barge traffic under the bridge) & take the access rd. into the Afton Landing Rec. Area, which has camping/picnic areas, water, restrooms, & a boat landing ramp. The town of Wagoner is 6m E on this hgwy., with all services.

The trail picks up again at the levee on the W side of the bridge. After 2m, we cross Short Cr. inlet on a bridge. Cont. S on a levee a short while, then arrive at the first of three bridges next to an orchard (1.4m). Cross Strawberry Cr., then cross Beaver Cr. before cont.'ing through woods to a bridge crossing of smaller Quarry Cr.. Cont. along the river past a steep hill on our R(S), eventually crossing Tullahassee Cr. on a bridge & arriving at the Tullahassee Loop Rec. Area, which is intended to be a day-use area & thus lacks water, but does have picnic tables & restrooms (2.4m)(515'). Walk through this area on the paved rd., cont.'ing on the trail at the far end where the rd. turns R(S). Cont. along the river, picking up the levee & walking N of a

5
marshy area before crossing Marsh Cr. on a bridge. Cross another small inlet on a bridge, then cont. along the levee once more to U.S. Hgwy.#69 (2.9m)(525'). Cross under this hgwy. & cont. along the levee another 1.3m to Pecan Park Picnic Area, which has water. Cont. through the picnic area along the paved access rd. to a T jct., where we turn L(E) on this paved rd.. Cross the Choteau Dam, then pick up the trail again on the R(S) & follow it along the river's old channel to Pecan Park Rec. Area, a good place to camp with Picnic Tables, campsites, & water (1.1m)(519').

Take the trail from the last loop back over to the paved rd., then turn R(SE) & follow this road to Choteau Lock #17 & the visitor center (1.2m)(520'), with water. This facility is well worth investigation. It raises or lowers ship & barge traffic 21 ft.. We climb a short hill to a jeep rd., then follow this jeep rd. back down to the levee along the channel. Follow the jeep rd. some distance, then descend & cross an often water-filled ditch the best you can (a bridge may have been built here by the time you cross it) & scramble on some rocks under a RR trestle before picking up a recognizable trail again. Soon we cross over a causeway to an island formed by the old & new river channels. Follow an old road across this island, then cross the old channel again on a road bridge to a resumption of trail again in the town of Okay (3.3m)(520'). There is

7
of this section, Devil's Den State Park. This rugged area in the Boston Mtns. offers us a good introduction to the Ozark Highlands, with its sandstone bluffs & interesting rock formations.

Cont. up St. Rt.#80 through the town of Fort Gibson to the jct. with U.S. Hgwy.#62 (business)(.5m)(570'). Cont. straight (SSE) across this main rd. 4 blocks, then curve L(E) to the Fort Gibson High School entrance (.6m)(550'). Curve R(S) here, then leave the town limits & proceed to a T jct. (.7m)(540'). Turn L(E) here, pass under the Hgwy.#62 bypass, then proceed straight through the crossroads to another 4-way jct. (1.2m)(527'). Turn R(S) here to ST. Rt. #10 (1m)(508'). Turn L(E) on this black-top rd., crossing a stream (Bayou Manard) & entering the Gruber State Game Management Area. This area contains the first hills we've seen since leaving Black Mesa St. Park in Oklahoma—a long haul. Beware during hunting season, however; entering this area from mid-November through the end of the hunting season (check with local authorities) could be hazardous to your health. About 2,000' past the boundary, where Hgwy.#10 curves R(S), is our turnoff (1.4m)(570'). Turn L(N-NE) onto this jeep rd., following it E-NE through second-growth woods over a shallow saddle, down through woods over a small creeklet, then bend R(S-SE) & climb gradually to the edge of a field

6
a store a few blocks away in this town. Cont. S along the river, crossing a gulch & passing some hills on our L(E) & eventually coming to Three Forks where the Verdigris flows into the Arkansas River. We veer L(E) away from the river channel here & come to a bridge over a draw (4.6m)(500'). Cont. on the Choteau Trail over another bridge & cont. to follow the riverbank of the Grand River. This is a new section of trail which HikaNation did not traverse. Eventually we reach Fort Gibson Park Rec. Area, which has water & picnic tables. Cross the old one-lane bridge here over the Grand River into the town of Fort Gibson & the Fort Gibson Stockade, a restored fort on our L(NE) (2m)(530'). The Jean Pierre Choteau Trail officially ends here. The town of Fort Gibson has all services.

E-Fort Gibson, OK to Chester, AR

This section takes us from the lowest point we have reached in our journey since leaving California's central valley, at a mere 530' along the Arkansas River Valley, up into the Ozark Mtns, the first vertical relief we have seen since leaving the westernmost point in Oklahoma. The route lies primarily on dirt rd.'s, through hilly, wooded terrain. It passes through two state game refuges, then enters the Ozark N.F. at the Ar. state line & heads NE to the highlight

8
& a jct. with a jeep trail forking L (N-NE)(1.7m)(601'). Take this jeep trail, climbing gradually through woods to a cleared saddle (680'), then descending through more open country & picking up a jeep rd. before coming to a jct. with an improved dirt rd. (2.2m)(630'). Follow this R(E) about 800', taking a jeep rd. forking R(SE) just beyond the Cherokee Co. line. Follow this jeep rd. steeply up through woods to a jct. with a graded dirt rd. in Wild Horse Prairie (2.1m)(850'). Turn L(E) & cross the N side of this cleared area just S of Crossland Hill, then cont. in woods again to a jeep rd. jct. at the edge of a field on top of a ridge (1.9m)(920'). Turn R(S) on this jeep rd., initially following the edge of the field to our L(E), then entering woods, crossing a knoll, & descending to E. Spaniard Cr. (treat the water!)(760'). Now ascend steeply to a dirt rd. (1.6m)(898'). Turn L(E) & cross a flat field to another jct., where this rd. turns L(N)(1m)(952'). Bear R(SE) onto a jeep rd. & descend gradually through dense woods to a cleared wildlife plot & Greenleaf Cr., with year round water (should be treated heavily, though, to be on the safe side)(2.3m)(610'). Upon crossing the creek, ignore the first jeep rd. forking R(SW) but look for the jeep trail forking R(S-SE) immediately beyond (the road we're on veers uphill

to the E). Take this jeep trail along white Oak Branch, a year-round creek, crossing it twice (the 2nd crossing is just beyond a jeep trail forking R(S) uphill) before breaking out of the woods & coming to an improved dirt rd. (1.2m) (690') just N of a gravel pit excavation. Bear R(SE) onto this rd., forking L(E) at the next jct., leaving the Gruber St. Game Man. Area, & arriving at the tiny settlement of Qualls (.9m)(710'). Take the L(NE) fork here, passing a cemetery on the L(W), curving R(E), then curving NE past Pettit Spring (worth investigating, if there is public access) to a jct. (1.6m)(855'). Turn R(E) here over the shoulder of a hill, then descend & cross Sisemore Cr. (756'). Ascend N a short distance, then descend gradually E through fields, cross a gulch, & come to a T jct. (2.8m)(750'). Tenkiller Ferry Lake, a large reservoir dammed by the Army Corps of Engineers, is just E of us here. Turn L(N) here & pass an arm of the lake (Pettit Bay) on your R(E) before ascending N (picking up blacktop surface) to St. Hgwy.#82 (3.5m)(970'). Turn R(E) & follow this wide, paved hwy. to Cherokee Landing St. Pk. on the S side of the hwy. on the shore of Tenkiller Ferry Lake (4m)(660'). This is an excellent place to camp with water, picnic shelters, restrooms, & best of all, showers!

When ready to depart this pleasant spot, cont. E on Hgwy.#82, crossing the narrow bridge over the lake (can be dangerous-watch for trucks) to the jct.

here but the way shouldn't be very difficult) & E to Malloy Hollow, leaving the Game Refuge & picking up a jeep rd. on the S side before coming to a jct. with an improved dirt rd. (2m)(835'). Turn R(SE) & follow this rd. through cleared bottomland to a jct. with a blacktop rd. (.6m)(803'). Turn L(N) here & follow this rd. along the RR tracks (Kansas City Southern) 1.1m to a jct. just across from Cave Springs Elem. School (820'). Turn R here onto this dirt Rd., cross the RR tracks, & parallel them for some distance NE before veering E, crossing Sallisaw Cr., & coming to a fork (1.5m)(835'). Take the R(S-SE) fork to a cemetery on our L (NE) & a 3-way jct. (.9m)(900'). Don't take the 1st road bearing L(NE) uphill, but the 2nd one bearing L(E) uphill. The one bearing R(SE) straight ahead passes a small reservoir. Our road climbs up onto the shoulder of Dählonegah Mtn., then descends slightly to a saddle (1.1m)(1,137'). Turn L(SE) & descend down Beaver Branch, cross Greasy Cr. in a small valley, & cont. E to the S of Welch Mtn. past "Chuculate" Church up to U.S. Hgwy.#59 (3.3m)(1,031'). Cont. straight across the hwy. at this flat saddle & descend Candy Mink Cr. to a T jct. & Candy Mink Park, a good camping area (1.2m)(931'). Water could be a problem, though-the creek water should be treated. Turn R(E) here & ascend to a saddle (1,040'), then descend through fields past two roads

with St. Rt.#100 (.7m). Turn L(NE) onto this hwy. & cross the Dry Cr. inlet on another bridge before coming to the small community of Caney Ridge, which has a small store (1m)(700'). Take the 1st R, heading S 400', then bearing L(E) where the road cont's SW to a landing on the shore of the lake. After climbing a hill past some resort homes (810'), bear R(SE) & descend steeply back down to the lake bed & a T jct. (1.1m)(670'), at a place called "Barber". Turn R(S-SW), following the lakeshore (dry when the lake is at a low level) for 1.7m to a T jct. (700'). Turn R(S) here, crossing the Dry Cr. bottomlands, to the Cave Springs Church & cemetery (1m)(740'). Here we fork L (S-SE), then take the L(SE) fork again after 1,000'. We now enter the Cookson Hills St. Game Refuge & after climbing a short hill, we fork R(S) downhill in woods (823') & enter Bolin Hollow. Use extra caution during Hunting Season in this area. After ascending the hollow in woods a short while, we reach a jct. (1.1m)(771'). Turn L(E) here onto another jeep rd., skirting the L(N) side of a clearing & begin ascending Bunch Mtn. The ascent gets steeper & we arrive at a saddle on the ridgetop (1.8m)(1,235'). Cont. straight (E) at the rd. jct., descending steeply to a small reservoir in Buzzard Hollow (880'). Where the road turns R(S) uphill on the S side of the pond, cont. along the water's edge over the dam (there is no trail or road

branching N & S respectively. Ascend slightly through woods to a road branching R(S)(1,054'), then descend into Little Lee Cr. valley & come to a blacktop secondary rd. (3.6m)(900'). Turn R (E) onto this road & follow it generally S past numerous side roads & the Bell school to the small community of Bell (1.8m)(858'). Cont. S across the valley to a T jct. just beyond the bridge over Sandy Bull Hollow Cr. (.5m)(831'). Turn L(E) & follow this improved dirt rd. through mostly wooded & scenic hills up to a jct. at the Oak Ridge School (3.5m)(1,341'). Cont. straight (E), descending gradually, then steeply, to Indian Cr., ascending slightly over a saddle, then descending one last hill into the state of Arkansas & the Ozark Nat'l Forest. Just beyond this we come to a jct. with St. Hgwy.#59 (2.4m)(870'). Evansville, Ark. is 7.5m N on this Hgwy. Our route in Arkansas begins S of where the 1980 HikeNation entered the state at Evansville. This route went across private lands to reach Devil's Den St. Park. To save miles & get the route onto public land in Ozark Nat'l Forest, I have devised a new route along roads further S within the N.F..

Proceed R(S) on Rt.#59 through the valley along Mtn. Fork Cr.. Eventually we climb up the slope on our L(N) to a saddle (4.7m)(930'), then descend into a draw. Climb over another small saddle &

descend to a jct. with F.S. Rd.#1716 (1.1m)(720'). Turn L(NE) onto this all-weather dirt rd. & begin climbing N past one saddle, then another. After climbing steeply a short distance, we come to a jct. (1.5m)(1,180'). We fork R(NE) here onto another dirt rd. & traverse to another jct. (1.1m)(1,198'). Turn R(SE) here 350' to a fork, bearing L(E) onto a jeep rd. & descending steeply to Cove Cr. (723') & a jct. (1.4m). Turn R(S), staying on the slopes N of the valley, then cross Lee Cr. just S of a pool & cross the wide bottomland to the tiny settlement of Lee Cr. (this is private land so stay on the road)(1.1m)(755'). Bear L(E) here & follow this improved dirt rd. on the SE side of the cleared valley to St. Rt.#220 (1.6m)(791'). Turn L(NE) onto this blacktop rd., crossing Lee Cr. on a bridge & climbing what has turned into a dirt rd. to a jct. (1m)(970'). Bear R (S-SE) onto F.S. Rd.#702 (F.S. Rd.#1716 goes L), descending back down to Lee Cr. with camping on our R(E)-a good place to stop. Our dirt rd. now begins a steady climb up the slopes on the W'ern side of Lee Cr., then levels off & reaches a jct. with a road forking L(N) uphill (4.1m)(1,314'). We cont. straight (NE), & descend down to Lee Cr. once more. After following the valley for awhile, we enter Devil's Den St. Park, pass a cpd. access road, & come to a jct. with St. Rt.#170 (2.9m)(1,094'). This state park has a number of gaping cracks & crevices in the high sandstone bluffs which have been

eroded by wind & water. Numerous trails wind past rocks which earth movements have twisted into weird formations, including the Devil's Den Cave & Icebox, examples of fracture caves. There is a full range of facilities here, including cabins, a restaurant, store, showers laundry, swimming pool, camping & picnic areas, & an interpretive naturalist program.

Follow St. Pt.#170 R(NE) through the park to the bridge over Lee Cr. & the access road to Camping Area "A". At the end of the loop in this campspot, we pick up the trailhead for the Butterfield Trail (1.1m)(1,050'). After crossing Lee Cr., which could be a difficult crossing during & following wet weather, climb on the trail up to St. Rt.#74 near the entrance sign to Devil's Den State Park (1.4m)(1,640'). After crossing the hwy., cont. on the old Holt Rd., a jeep rd., for a short distance, then cont. on the trail as it passes to the E(W) of Mt. Olive & descends gradually past a rim trail to a side trail leading to an overlook. Turn R(W) along the rim before dropping abruptly down to Blackburn Cr. (2m)(1,000'). Follow Blackburn Cr. downstream, passing "Rock Hole Camp" & coming to "Bluff Camp" where Ben Doodle Branch flows into Blackburn Cr. (1.8m). Here we cross the creek & look for an old jeep trail, which we take up Ben Doodle Br. to a jeep rd. (1.5m). Turn R(S) & follow this road approx. 2m to a better

travelled F.S. road. Turn R(W) & take this road approx. 3m to a crossroads near a F.S. Lookout Tower. Take a L(E) turn & descend into a stream valley, leaving the Ozark N.F. & walking approx. 6.5m to the community of Chester, which has a small store but not much else besides a P.O.. This is the end of the section, just W of U.S. Hgwy.#71.

C-Ozark Highlands Trail

This brand new trail is certainly the highlight of our passage through the state of Arkansas, if not the entire Ozark region. Originally under the supervision of the Forest Service, the construction & maintenance of this trail has now been assumed by a private organization, the Ozark Highlands Trail Association. They expect to have the trail virtually completed by late spring of 1984.

The beginning of this section is in the community of Chester, Ark.. Follow the paved spur road SE out of town along the RR tracks & ascend through woods up to U.S. Hgwy.#71 (approx. 2m)(1,000'). Turn L(NE) up this highway for about 50 yards to a paved spur road branching off to the R(E). Descend this road past a resort with several bldg.'s & smaller cabins (Lake Fort Smith St. Park) to the dam backing up Lake Fort Smith. Cross this dam, turning L(NE) & following a

dirt road above the reservoir's E'ern shore. Soon we leave the lake behind, cont.'ing to ascend gradually along the stream at the bottom of the valley. After climbing steeply up a rough trail to the top of Lake Shepherd Spring's dam, we turn R(SE) along the dam (5.5m). At the dam's SE end, turn L(E) along a dirt road & once again walk generally NE above the lake's SE'ern shore, following benches. Cross Cow Branch (a usually dry gully), then come to Jack Cr. (1.8m)(930'). Cross this year-round stream, then follow the jeep trail as it ascends gradually E'ward up this creek. When completed, the Ozark Highlands Trail (OHT) will have its W'ern terminus at Lake Shepherd Springs. Eventually there are plans to extend the trail W'ward to Oklahoma via Devil's Den St. Park. Our ascent up Jack Cr. valley is very pleasant, with dense woods & solitude all around us. We cross the creek several times before cont.'ing NE where the creek veers N & climbing steeply up to F.S. Rd.#1003 (4.2m)(1,600'). Turn R(E) here & descend to Dockery's Gap, where we bear L(S) at a Y & descend steeply down to a bridge over Hurricane Cr. (1.3m)(1,080'). This makes a good camping area, but the water should be treated. We now cont. on F.S. Rd.#1003 as it makes a long ascent up Richason Mtn.. Eventually we reach the ridge-crest, & follow it at about 2,000' elev.

over Richason Mtn., through McMinn Gap, then past White Rock Cr. Overlook (view to the S here of White Rock Cr. & Shores Lake) before descending slightly to Woods Gap (5.2m)(1,860'). Here we bear L(E) (the road descending R goes to Shores Lake) & ascend to another, higher saddle (.5m)(2,180'). There is a rock sign here welcoming us to White Rock Mtn.. Bear R (SE) & enter the White Rock Mtn. Rec. Area. Look closely for a trail forking R after a few hundred feet-it is hard to spot. This trail leads along the top of the scenic white rock bluffs, which almost completely encircle the mtn. & for which it is named. Follow the trail along the bluffs to a very scenic overlook perched on top of the bluffs on the S side of the mtn. (.7m)(2,250'). There is a shelter here & several picnic tables up the wide trail to the L(NE). There is also a grandstand view of a sizable chunk of Ark. real estate from this lofty perch. On a clear day (summer days tend to be hazy, but spring & fall are excellent) one can see the Ark. River valley & Magazine Mtn. (the highest in Ark.-2,823') to the S & SE respectively, & Oklahoma to the W. The sunsets from this spot are some of the best in the state. Proceed up the wide trail through a picnic area to the parking area & Lookout Tower on top of the mtn. (.1m). There is a cpng. just beyond the tower where you can camp (water available). To the R are four cabins which can be rented out in advance & a larger structure for meetings.

down to Fane Cr. (watch closely for blazes here). After paralleling the creek a short distance in a pine woods, we cross it (5.6m)(800'). The community of Cass (no services) & St. Rt.#23 are just over a mile downstream. We now begin climbing N up Whiting Mtn., eventually reaching the mtn.'s crest & crossing a gas pipeline right-of-way at the top (3.8m)(2,240'). Cont. N down the other side of the ridge, traversing down the E side of the mtn. past an old rock bluff house (an old logger's home) to St. Rt.#23 (1.4m)(1,780'). We are just N of the old Cherry Bend Rec. Area (closed due to vandalism).

After crossing Hgwy.#23, we cont. on trail & traverse around the S'ern slopes of Fly Gap Mtn., winding around Hanging Rock Hollow's two gullies, & come to F.S. Rd.#1503 in a saddle (2,060'). After traversing around the N side of a hill, we ascend up to the summit of Hare Mtn. (2,360'), the highpoint of our trek through the Ozarks (5.7m). The views S of the Mulberry River valley & W to OK are superb! Here we come to a fork in the trail & ponder a choice of routes. The main trail forking R(S) is complete to Herrods Cr. (3.5m). Beyond this, the next 30m (approx.) are under construction by volunteers working with the Ozark Highlands Trail Association. The expected completion date for this segment, some of the most rugged & scenic country in

The trailhead for the Ozark Highlands Trail is just in front of the E'-ernmost of the four cabins at the SE corner of the rim. The trail follows the rim a short distance, then descends steeply through the line of bluffs. A short distance beyond we reach a trail jct.; the R(S) fork leads to Shores Lake, the temporary terminus of the OHT. Take the L(E) fork & cont. descending, crossing & sometimes following old logging roads which have long since been abandoned. Eventually we reach Salt Fk. Cr. (1.7m)(940'), cross it, & begin climbing up Potato Knob Mtn.. After a steep ascent, we reach F.S. Rd.#1510 in the saddle between the two knobs of this mtn. (1.7m)(1,900'). We now descend again, following several old logging roads, down to Spirits Cr. (2.1m)(1,050'). The trail crosses it three times before climbing to the top of yet another ridge & F.S. Rd.#1509 (1.2m)(1,624'). Just after beginning a descent down the other side, the trail hits the old RR bed that ran from Combs to Cass. It was used in the early 1900's to transport logs from the harvesting operations to the sawmill. This wide, level path makes for easy, leisurely walking. We occasionally leave the RR bed to cross several gullies (there are the remains of an old trestle in one of these gullies). Just before the RR bed runs into a jeep rd., we bear L(E-NE) off of it & begin descending towards Fane Cr.. After skirting a wildlife clearing, we drop steeply

the Ozarks, is May 1984. As of early 1983, all of the route had been flagged & a good bit of it had been substantially or partially constructed (write the OHTA for current construction progress). Therefore, the route is followable. It ascends over a ridge, drops to Indian Cr. (896'), then ascends Shop Br. over another ridge before dropping into Briar Br.. After ascending another ridge, it descends & crosses Lick Br. & F.S. Rd.#1504 (1,020'). After climbing over another mtn., it descends & crosses Little Mulberry Cr. (960'), then crosses F.S. Rd.#1007. From here it ascends NE, crosses F.S. Rd.#1007, then skirts Eldridge Hollow before climbing over another ridge to Lynn Hollow (1,800'). From here it ascends to F.S. Rd.#1404 & the resumption of completed trail (2,150').

For those who would rather follow an alternative route along dirt roads (some of which HikaNation followed in 1980-81), take the L(E) fork. This trail is no longer used & thus very rugged. It descends very steeply off the E side of Hare Mtn. to F.S. Rd.#1504 (.5m)(1,780'). Turn L(N) on this wide dirt rd. & follow it along Hare Mtn.'s E'ern flanks & along or near the crest of the Ozarks, passing lesser roads branching R (S along a ridge top)(1,978'), then L (going N at a saddle)(1,903') before ascending through Kilgore Gap (2,260'), then down to a road jct. (7.3m)(2,117').

Turn R(S) here to the 2nd jeep rd. forking L(SE)(1m)(2,090'). Take this jeep rd. as it traverses down the NE side of a ridge, then forks on the ridgetop (2.2m)(1,740'). Take the L(E-NE) fork down to Finley Cr., then follow the cleared bottomland SE to a jct. at "Friley", a mere placename on the map (2.6m)(1,051'). Turn R(S) for 30 yards on the wide dirt rd., then turn L(E-NE) onto another jeep rd.. Skirt the N side of a field before crossing Little Mulberry Cr. & arriving at a jct. with F.S. Rd. #1007 (.5m)(1,040'). Turn L(E-NE) on this dirt rd., coming to another jct. (.3m). Bear R(E), staying on Rd.#1007. Ascend this dirt rd. up a long ridge to a small clearing & a jct. on a ridgetop (4.3m)(2,020') with F.S. Rd.#1404. Turn 150° L(N) on this rd., passing through Hignite Gap, then bearing R(N-NE), cont.'ing on F.S. Rd.#1404. Ascend to a cleared mtn. top, passing a church & cemetery. Eventually, we pass a spring on the R(S), then bend N & come to the trailhead & a resumption of the OHT (2.9m)(2,150'). The trailhead is located about .7m S of the Madison-Johnson Co. line.

Once more on the OHT, we descend part-way down to Sie Hollow, traverse S-SE awhile, then descend & cross Lewis Prong Cr.. We turn upstream & follow this creek, crossing it twice more before coming to Waterfall Hollow Cr. (4.6m)(1,500'). Follow this creek upstream, then cross it & ascend up to F.S. Rd.#1417 on Moonhull Mtn. (2.9m)(2,220').

peated short ascents & descents, we can now look forward to a prolonged gradual descent. We drop down to Gee Cr., cross it (1.7m)(950'), & cont. E on the slopes N of the creek before dropping back down to the creek & coming to St. Hgwy.#123 (dirt) & the entrance to Haw Cr. Falls Cgd. (2.6m)(820'). This camping area has water & restrooms. The falls are located on the E side of the cpgd..

Find the trail again at the S end of the cpgd. & climb up onto a slope S of Haw Cr.. After traversing some rugged, rocky areas, we drop down to Big Piney Cr. Valley, pass the old Fort Douglas Schoolhouse, & cross the Big Piney River on the St. Hgwy.#123 bridge (2m)(710'). Walk L(N) on F.S. Rd.#1002, immediately after crossing the bridge for about a quarter of a mile, then watch for the trail as it takes off to the R(E) up an unnamed ridge. After a steep climb, we level off for awhile (1,540'), walking through a nice forest of Beech trees. Soon we reach a fork. The R(E) fork, when completed, will bypass the Hurricane Cr.-Natural Bridge Scenic Area (a proposed wilderness) & rejoin the trail upstream. Take the L(W) fork & descend steeply to Hurricane Cr.. This area has been proposed as wilderness because of its unique natural features, which include a natural bridge. Cross the creek (can be difficult in wet weather)(5.4m)(780'), then climb up to an old

Now descend down into Hignite Hollow (1,760') before climbing to Brushy Ridge (2,120'). After dipping into another hollow, we follow benches just E of the creek all the way S to the Mulberry River (1,320') & F.S. Rd.#1003 (6.1m). We now climb a ridge to St. Hgwy.#21, a paved road, & Ozone Cgd. (1.6m)(1,880'). The cpgd. has been built on the site of a former CCC camp, as can be seen by the foundations scattered about. The small community of Ozone is 2.5m R(S) on this hgwy., with groceries, gas, a phone, & P.O.- a good place to resupply.

Find the trail at the NE corner of the cpgd. & descend to Little Piney Cr.. The trail follows an old road along the creek, crossing it twice & passing many rock walls built by early settlers. Eventually we come to F.S. Rd.#1504 & cross Clifty Hollow Cr. (3.3m)(1,060'). After climbing up onto the S'ern ramparts of Horse Water Ridge (1,250'), we descend & cross Owens Cr. (1.3m)(1,040'). Once more we ascend up the S'ern end of Bee Ridge (1,400'), then descend down to Lick Cr. (2m)(970'). Now we ascend once again up an unnamed ridge, picking up some logging roads near the top that have been closed & planted with grass. Eventually we intersect F.S. Rd.#1004 (1.7m)(1,500'). The trail from here down to Cedar Cr. is very steep but may have been rerouted by the time you walk on it. Cross Cedar Cr. (1.6m)(1,040') & climb up yet another ridge to F.S. Rd.#1003 (1.2m)(1,520'). Having made re-

jeep rd., which the trail follows here. upstream (R). Soon we come to the natural bridge (.4m), one of the largest in the state. It is hidden from the trail, lying about 100 ft. N of us. Cont. along the trail, which drops down & follows Hurricane Cr.'s N bank. After 2.1m, we come to Greasy Cr. (880'). After crossing this creek, the trail climbs up the S flanks of the hill to our N to get around some private property in the valley. Soon we descend past an old home-site to another crossing of Hurricane Cr. (1.4m)(890'). The bypass trail rejoins just E of this crossing in a primitive camping area. The trail now climbs up a short distance away from the creek & begins paralleling it. After 3.6m, we come to a fork (1,100'). The L (N) fork goes down to Chancel (no facilities) & ends. We cont. on the OHT (R), rounding a ridge to the N & swinging S, beginning to climb again. After leveling off (1,500'), we cont. along a bench through increasingly rocky & bouldery areas. After descending slightly to cross an unnamed creek (2.5m)(1,340'), we ascend through an area filled with giant boulders & overhangs, which the trail winds through the heart of. After ascending slightly (1,600'), we descend to F.S. Rd.#1209 (2.1m)(1,250'). Turn R (E) & follow it 200 ft. to where the trail resumes on the L(N). After crossing a tributary, the trail ascends

steeply all the way to Fairview Cpgd. & St. Hgwy.#7 (1.7m)(2,180'). The community of Pelsor (groceries, gas, phone, & P.O.) is 1m R(S) on this road. The general store is half museum, half store with many artifacts depicting the life & times of the area's early settlers.

The trail cont.'s from the N side of the cpgd., crosses the hgwy., & descends across a branch of Richland Cr. to a country road (dirt)(2.2m)(1,700'). Cross this road, then climb over the S'ern slopes of a ridge (1,850') to Cox Hollow (1.4m)(1,640'). From here the trail climbs up another ridge (1,850') before descending into Greenhaw Hollow (1.9m)(1,520'). After climbing another unnamed (1,840'), we descend to an unnamed creek (1.4m)(1,530'). We now climb up the S'ern flanks of Greenhaw Mtn. & traverse its S'ern slopes (1,750') before descending into the Richland Cr. drainage at the site of the old Moore CCC camp (2.4m)(1,400'). The trail, which may eventually be extended through the proposed Richland Cr. Wilderness to the AR-MO State Line to connect with the Ozark Trail, ends at a road. Take this dirt jeep rd. N to F.S. Rd.#1205 (.7m)(1,329').

We turn L(NW) on F.S. Rd.#1205, following it 3.1m on a well graded surface to the ridgeline & a jct. just S of the site of the old Ketcherside Fire Tower (2,140'). Turn R(N), cont.'ing on P.S. Rd.#1205 & passing the old fire tower site on the hill to our L(W). Follow the dirt rd. along the ridge (the old Lurton-

Army Corps of Engineers likewise is planning a trail along the shore of Lake Norfolk which will eventually create a trail corridor all the way from OK to MO, where it will connect with MO's Ozark Trail. However, this is still years away & until these trails are built & the connections between them completed, alternate routes will have to be travelled. HikaNation's route in 1980 followed paved & dirt roads through Yellville, across Bull Shoals Dam, & into MO near Three Brothers, AR. From here it followed dirt roads mostly to West Plains, MO, & connected with the Ozark Trail near Freemont, MO. The group made a sidetrip to Blanchard Spring Caverns in the Sylamore Ranger District of Ozark N.P., a highly scenic & commendable area. After consulting & studying maps, I have elected to offer an alternative route S of the 1980 route through this area to potential hikers; until such time as the other trail corridor is finished or substantially completed this offers the best alternative & is roughly the same distance.

There is still one other alternative to consider. If you would like to add a little variety to your trip & are proficient at canoeing, I will describe an alternate route which includes 67m of canoeing down the Buffalo Nat'l River from Woolum to a takeout at Middle Creek (4m past the confluence with Big Cr.) where F.S. Rd.#1118 (Rand Rd.) comes down to

Bass Rd.) to a jct. (3m)(2,071'), where St. Hgwy.#74 veers L(N). We bend R(NE), staying on F.S. Rd.#1205 as it winds N of Big Middle Ridge (2,120'), descends to Icedo Gap (1,848'), then climbs over a knoll (2,100'), eventually coming to Dickey Junction (3.4m)(2,050'). F.S. Rd.#1205 Cont.'s straight (R;S) but we fork L(NE) onto F.S. Rd.#1201. Cont. NE on this road past the Pound Hill Lookout Tower on our R(E) along the ridge, ascending & descending through a series of hills & saddles, until we descend just S of Stack Rock, the prominent mtn. to our N, into the Richland Cr. valley. Cont. N through the wide valley, crossing Richland Cr. (could be a difficult ford, since there is no bridge) & staying on the R(E) side of the bottomlands in the valley. Eventually, after passing the old Hill Schoolhouse, we reach a jct. with St. Rt.#74 in the small community of Eula (8.8m)(750'). Here, at the end of this section, we are presented with a choice of routes.

D- St. Rt.#74-Sylamore (White River)

Eventually (in the next 5-10 years) the Nat'l Park Service hopes to construct a trail along the Buffalo Nat'l River, a national treasure & the first river to receive such protection, which will roughly parallel the river throughout the length of the park. When complete, the OHT will connect with it & form an alternative to canoeing the river. The

river. To do this one would have to make arrangements to rent a canoe & have someone drive you to your put in point (Woolum) & pick the canoe up at your put out (Middle Cr., just N of Big Flat, AR at the end of Rand Rd.). Shuttling services are available. This section of the Buffalo always has plenty of water in it & can be floated year-round. One should probably allow 3 or 4 days for this float trip. Should you opt for the river trip, cont. L(N) on our dirt rd., crossing another ford of Richland Cr., & follow the road along the L(W) side of the valley at the base of the line of bluffs. Just before reaching the Buffalo, we fork R(E) & arrive at the ford of the Buffalo River (4.6m)(680'). There is a primitive camp here. From here it is 67 river miles to our put-out point which is 4m past the confluence with Big Cr. (immediately past the Middle Cr. confluence) on the R(SE)(405'). There is an island (gravel bar) in the river here. Now in the Sylamore R.D. of Ozark N.F., we hike up a jeep rd., with Middle Cr. below us to our R(W), cross the creek, then fork R(uphill) at a jct. & begin climbing up out of the creek bottom. Our road improves when we gain the top of the ridge (1,090'). After a short, steep descent to Huffman Gap (910'), we traverse to the R(W) of Almus Knob, now level, & come to a jct. in a saddle (3.7m)(925'). Bear L(E), cont.'-

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ing on Rand Rd. (F.S. Rd.#1118). Follow this road (dirt) along the ridge for 6.5m (1,225') to a jct. with F.S. Rd.#1100 (Push Mtn. Road)(1,160'). Turn R(E) onto this well graded dirt rd. & follow it 2.6m to paved St. Hgwy.#14 (1,168'), the primary route, 4m E of Big Flat.

For those who would rather walk than canoe, our route from here will be mostly along paved St. Hgwy.'s, with some dirt secondary roads. Turn R(SE) in the community of Eula (750')(no facilities) & begin climbing Rollins Mtn. on a dirt rd. to a saddle named McCutchen Gap (2.2m)(1,830'). Now descend steeply down the other side to the community of Snowball (3m)(768') St. Hgwy.#74 in the Calf Cr. Valley. There is a P.O. & store here. Cont. L(E) on Hgwy.#74, crossing Granny Cr., passing to the N of a flat-topped mtn., then passing through the tiny community of Dongola before descending into Baker Hollow & crossing Bear Cr. to U.S. Hgwy.#65 (7.5m)(670'). Turn R(E) & follow this busy hwy. into the town of Marshall (5.2m)(1,040'), with all services. Turn L(N) in the center of town onto a dirt rd. which shortly starts descending down Brush Cr. & leaves the town limits. Soon we come to a jct. (1m)(847'), where we cont. straight (R,NE) & ascend up a ravine & over a hill to Beaver Cr. Hollow, then ascend once more & pass a church (Martin Box Chapel) on our L(N) just before coming to St. Hgwy.#27 (2.7m)(1,160'). Turn L(N) & follow Hgwy.#27 past the communities of Morning

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canoe route (4m)(1,168'). Cont. on Hgwy.#14 another 2.2m to a jct. with F.S. Rd.#1112 (Tie Ridge Rd.)(1,130'). Turn L(E) here & follow this ridgetop dirt rd. 3.5m to a T jct. (991'). Turn R(E-SE) onto Dave Rd. (it is unclear what F.S. Rd.# it is) & cont. SE past a T jct. (the road branching R(SW) leads to Hgwy.#14), then E along a ridge, eventually descending to & crossing Sylamore Cr. (450') before coming to a jct. (3.2m) with F.S. Rd.#1102. Turn R(SE) & follow this paved rd. .2m to the Gunner Pool Rec. Area. One can camp here--there is water & sites. After crossing to Sylamore Cr.'s S side, follow the cpd. access rd. to the L(E) to our trailhead. Follow this trail as it winds downstream along Sylamore Cr., crossing it numerous times (shouldn't be much of a problem) before entering the Blanchard Springs Rec. Area & coming to a paved cpd. loop road (3.8m)(400'). There are several camping area designations in this area, which are likely to be crowded during the warmer months, particularly on weekends & holidays. Cross the creek twice, following the signs towards the spring & caverns. Just past a pullout, we come to a jct. (1.3m)(440'). The road going up the hill to the R(W-NW) leads 1.5m to the visitor center & elevator-shaft access to the caverns, which are well worth a visit. They constitute one of the largest & least tampered with cavern systems in the U.S., while still

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Star & Lone Pine to a fork just past Lone Pine (5.2m)(1,180'). Where the hwy. bends NE, we cont. straight (R,E) on a dirt rd.. After .6m, bear L(E-NE) & cont. E along a ridge for another 2.6m to a Y jct. (1,104'). Bear L(N-NE) .8m to a 4-way jct. (1,020'). If you jog R (S) 50 ft. & then fork L(S-SE), you will come to a St. Rec. Site featuring the "Ozark Mystery Cave"(.4m), where you can tour the cave (check with the St. Park Authority about camping). From here, cont. on down the jeep rd. to Big Cr., then follow the stream L(E) downstream (be sure to respect private property; if there are any "No Trespassing" signs or other indicators of private property, follow the other route along the road) to Hgwy.#14 & the bridge over Big Cr. (2m).

If you elected to bypass the St. Rec. Site, turn L(N) here & descend into Wildcat Hollow (670'), then ascend this wooded hollow past a spring & up to Hgwy.#14 (2.2m)(1,007'). Turn R(E) on St. Hgwy.#14 & descend to the bridge over Big Cr. (1.8m)(620'). About 1,000 ft. past the bridge on the R(E) we pick up the old road & take it above the new hwy. as it follows Bear Cr. up out of the Big Cr. valley. After merging with the hwy. (1.1m)(710'), follow it 5.2m into the town of Big Flat (1,240'), with a P.O. & store.

Cont. E on St. Hgwy.#14 out of Big Flat, entering the Ozark N.F. & coming to the jct. with F.S. Rd.#1100 & our

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providing easy access to the general public. Cont. up a ravine to the L(S), passing a small pond & a short trail veering R(E) to Blanchard Spring (water which formed the cave system reaches ground level here; the natural cave entrance is on up this ravine, then up the R(N) fork, a total distance of about .5m) before climbing up to St. Hgwy.#14 (1.6m)(860').

Leaving Blanchard Springs Rec. Area we follow Hgwy.#14 as it winds along a ridge, then descends, leaving Ozark N.F., to a jct. with St. Rt.#'s 549 (5.7m)(340'). Cont. straight (E-NE) & cross onto St. Hgwy.#9 & cross the White River (one of Arkansas' major rivers, draining a large chunk of the Ozark Highlands in MO & AR). This is the end of the section, just shy of the community of Sylamore (.8m)(360')(groceries & P.O.),

E-Sylamore, AR-U.S. Rt.#60, FO

This section, mostly along dirt & paved roads, connects the Ozark Mtns. of Arkansas with the scenic Ozark Trail in Missouri which traverses the Ozark plateau & will eventually connect with the Ozark Highlands Trail. The potential exists, if a trail is ever built along the Eleven Point Wild & Scenic River, of using this alternate route as a permanent connector between the present Ozark Highlands Trail & the Ozark Trail in MO.

Upon leaving Sylamore, we climb up out of the White River valley on Hgwy.#9, a blacktop road, passing Polk Mtn. Cemetary (on the R), then traversing the W slopes of a hill above the White River before swinging S of Brandenburg Mtn. through a saddle (870') & descending its E'ern flanks to a jct. (7.5m)(480'). Cont. straight(E) on Hgwy.#9 past a church (Church of Christ), following East Twin Cr. back up to the ridge at Bear Spring Gap & cont.'ing along the ridge on a winding road (Hgwy.#9) to the community of Lone Star (4.1m)(759')(no services). Cont. on St. Hgwy.#9 through more delightfully wooded & rolling Ozark highland terrain generally NE, finally entering a more level plateau area that has been cleared for farming & coming to the town of Melbourne, with all services (7.5m)(604'), & Hgwy.#69.

Walk N through town .7m to a 4-way jct., bearing R(E-NE) onto a paved secondary rd.. Follow this paved rd. 7.2m past two churches to St. Hgwy.#56 (710'). Turn R(E) here & walk .9m to the community of Violet Hill. Cont. another .6m to a jct. (752'). Turn L(N) & cont. on this paved secondary road. The pavement soon ends at a church & we cont. N past an inverted Y jct. to St. Hgwy.#354 & the community of Wiseman (6m)(600'). Jog R .1m on Hgwy.#354 through town, then turn L(N) onto a dirt secondary road & follow it N to a fork just inside the Fulton Co. line, where we bear R(NE)(1.7m) & cont. generally NE into the town of Morriston

slope over a cleared summit (729') & descend to another jct. (2.2m)(642'). Cont. R(E) over a hill to another dale, then ascend to a ridge & follow the road into the town of Mammoth Spring, Ark., cont.'ing N down to St. Hgwy.#9 (2.7m)(560'). Turn R(E) .7m (ten blocks) through town to U.S. Hgwy.#63. The town is named for a huge spring, one of the largest in the state, which gushes forth millions of gallons of warm water daily & literally forms the Spring River. There is also a large fish hatchery here, which also warrants a visit. The town has all services (P.O., groceries, motel, etc.) & is a fitting place to end our Arkansas trek. The state line is .2m N on U.S. Hgwy.#63.

F-Ark. St. Line-U.S. Hgwy.#60, MO

This section in southern Missouri, until the Ozark Trail is completed, is relegated to following paved roads for the first 20 miles. It then enters Mark Twain N.F., crosses the Eleven Point River, & follows dirt F.S. roads to U.S. Hgwy.#60.

Our route through Missouri begins on the Arkansas border just N of Mammoth Spring, AR on U.S. Hgwy.#63. Proceed N on Rt.#63 1.6m to the town of Thayer (532'), with all services. Cont. N on Hgwy.#63 .6m to St. Rt.#19. Turn R(NE) here & follow this paved hgwy. 15.5m to

(1.9m)(645'). Cont.'ing NE, we pick up blacktop & ascend another 1.5m to a jct. with St. Hgwy.#289 (800'). Cont. straight (E), then N on this road into the town of Glencoe (1.7m)(793') & U.S. Hgwy.#62 (store & P.O.). Cont. straight across the hgwy. on a paved secondary rd. 3.1m to the small community of Heart (600'). Bear L(NW) where the road forks now on dirt, & walk .8m to another jct. (570'). Bear R(N-NE) here & cont. on a dirt rd. through fields & woods to another fork (2.3m)(670'). Bear R(E) through the tiny community of French, ford the Cherry Hollow Br., & climb gradually through a wooded area, curving E over a hill (730') to a jct. (3.6m)(635'). Turn L(N) here, climbing a hill through a field (750'), then entering forest & descending into Bald Spring Hollow past Bald Spring (on our L in a small clearing) to a jct. (2.1m)(540'). Bear R(NE), cont.'ing straight past a road branching R(SE), ford Myatt Cr., then climb N, E, then N again to another jct. (1.4m)(632'). Bear L(NE) along the rim of the escarpment along the river, coming to another fork (1.5m)(670'). Bear R(NE), cont.'ing straight (NE) past a road branching R(E-SE) after 70 yards, & climb gradually over a saddle (752') on the N side of a farm, across two stream gullies, & ascend in woods to a 4-way jct. (2.3m)(710'). Turn L(N), descending into a cleared draw & bend R (E). Cont. across a ford of English Cr. (Oxford Ford)(526'), then climb a wooded

the town of Alton (779'). Proceed through town (all services) & cont. on St. Rt.#19 N. About 1m N of town there is a nice, privately owned cngd. on the L with tent spots, store, snack bar, & showers. After 1.6m, you will reach a jct. (930'). Bear R(E) onto secondary St. Rt. AA for .25m, then bear L(NE) onto a well graded dirt rd. going down Little Hurricane Cr.. Just after the road crosses the creek & heads due E (1.9m)(791'), bear L(N), cont.'ing down the creek. Just after passing a church & cemetary on the R, cont. straight (N) & climb over a saddle before crossing another branch of Hurricane Cr. (1.2m)(740'). We now climb 1.3m to the village of Greer & a jct. with Hgwy.#19 (850'). Turn R(E-NE) along this paved hgwy. once again through Greer & reach the Mark Twain N.F. boundary (signed) in another 1.5m (850'). Just beyond is an old bldg. on the L with a trail leading down to Greer Spring, the 2nd largest spring in the state in terms of volume of H₂O. The water gushing up out of the ground & flowing out of a nearby cave make this .8m (round trip) side-trip definitely worthwhile. We now descend & cross the Eleven Point River, a major watershed which has been preserved & protected by the Forest Service as a Nat'l Scenic River along most of its length in this area (534'). Ascend the paved hgwy. up the other side of the

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valley & come to a jct. with F.S. Rd.#3152, an improved, well-graded dirt rd. (2.7m)(925'). Bear R(E) here onto it & follow the ridge in heavy forest SE, then E before we abruptly descend via a switchback to Hurricane Cr. valley (542') & a jct. (3.5m). Bear R(SW), cont.'ing on Rd.#3152, then cross the creek (.8m)(514') & ascend NE, still on Rd.#3152. After 1.3m, we reach a jct. with F.S. Rd.#3190, forking R(SE). Stay on Rd.#3152, cont.'ing straight(NE) at the next jct. (F.S. Rd.#3226) all the way ong this wooded, flat ridge past Sinking Cr. Lookout Tower (1,024') to St. Hgwy. J, a paved road (5.4m)(968'). Turn L(N) & follow Hgwy. J .2m to Forest Rt.#3146. Turn R(E) here & follow this dirt rd. along the level, wooded ridgetop through an experimental forest, then abruptly curve NW & descend to Big Barren Cr. (5.1m)(630'). The Spout Spring Cave is located just .5m L(SW) of here, on the S side of the ravine. Cont. straight(N) on Rd.#3146, climbing back up onto a ridge to F.S. Rd.#3145 (.8m)(879'). Turn L(N) onto it & follow it 2m to a jct. with F.S. Rd.#3254 (934'). Turn R(E-NE) here & follow this ridgetop 2.7m to a jeep trail branching off to the L(N)(990')(this may be difficult to find; it is located at the top of a climb up the S side of a hill to our L(N)-this knoll is due W of this jct.). Follow this jeep trail N along a ridge to a Y jct. (1.4m) where we bear R(NE) & descend down to Poca Hollow & a jeep road. Turn L(N) & proceed through a cleared bottom-

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power-line, winding W just N of it (940') until we descend into Midco Hollow & cross a jeep rd. (7.2m)(710'). Cont. up thru this hollow, leaving Mark Twain N.F. & entering the Peck Ranch St. Wildlife Management Area, managed by the Mo. Dept. of Conservation (MDC), to an improved dirt rd. (1.2m). Cross it & climb up to another dirt road on a ridge (910'), then descend down Pritchard Hollow (760') before climbing the ridge to our L(W) to another road (830') & finally descending down to Mill Cr. & another main dirt rd. (2.3m)(700'). A small airstrip & the wildlife area headquarters are just L(W) of us here. Now we climb along the NE side of Mule Hollow to another ridgetop rd. (970'), then descend down to Roger's Cr. & a dirt rd. with a bridge over the creek (2.6m)(780'). This is the old S'ern terminus of the Ozark Trail.

We now begin an ascent up the E shoulder of Stegall Mtn. (1,348'), & attain good views N & E from the brushy summit area (1,300'). Tom Sauk Mtn., the high point in Missouri which we will be traversing soon, can be seen to the distant N-NE. Switchback down the N side of the mtn., then pick up a jeep rd. temporarily in Kelley Hollow. We are now on Nat'l Park Service lands, part of the Ozark Nat'l Scenic Riverway's corridor along the Current River. Descend this hollow to Rocky Cr., cross it, then ascend over a small saddle & descend into

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land area (620'), then ascend in woods again to paved St. Rt. C (1.3m)(730'). Follow this road 1m L(N-NW) to busy U.S. Rt.#60 (540'). Freemont, MO is 5m L(W) along this hwy.. Turn R(E) & follow Hgwy.#60 .9m over a small, wooded saddle to the temporary southern terminus of the Ozark Trail (if you come to a dirt rd. branching L(N) at the W edge of a field, you've gone to far!).

We will now be following a completed portion of the Ozark Trail all the way N to St. Rt.#72. This trail through the Missouri Ozarks has become a reality mostly through the efforts of agencies like the Nat'l Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, & the Missouri Dept. of Conservation as well as concerned citizens groups like the local chapter of the Sierra Club & the Ozark Society. Although it is designed primarily for hiking & backpacking, it also accomodates horseback riders on particular sections. It is marked with a green symbol on white masonite (supplemented by white paint blazes); at turns or changes of direction, this symbol is tilted in the direction of the turn.

Follow the trail thru wooded hills 1.7m to where we cross the St. Louis-San Francisco RR tracks (521'), then cont. along the well marked trail NE, NW, & then W as we wind over small ridges & thru hollows. We cross a

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Denning Hollow & the paved St. Rt. NN in a cleared area (6m)(662'). Cross this road on the bridge over Rocky Cr., then cross the meadow on the L(W) side of the road before entering a scenic narrow gorge. Follow Rocky Cr. thru this small canyon, then skirt the R(E) side of a field before crossing a dirt rd. (1.5m) & making an abrupt R(E) turn downstream before recrossing Rocky Cr. a 3rd time near an old cabin & a small waterfall & mill site (570'). We now climb gradually NE to a saddle (730'), then descend to Indian Cr. & follow it R(NE) downstream. Eventually we cross Indian Cr. & pick up a jeep trail, which becomes a trail again just before crossing Indian Cr. a 2nd time (540'). We now climb to a wooded bluff overlooking the Current River, then alternately descend & ascend as we follow the trail along the bluffs on the W side of the river. We are walking on land owned by either the NPS or MDC. At length we reach a temporary segment of the Ozark Trail along a jeep rd. at the base of the bluffs on our L(W)(4.5m)(560'). Cont. along the bottomlands & reach old St. Hgwy.#106 just after passing some cabins. There used to be a ferry here before the new bridge was built. Cross the road & cont. along an old jeep trail on the bluffs overlooking the river before picking up a trail once more & coming to the new St. Hgwy.#106.

Turn R(E) & cross the bridge over the Current River to the trailhead on the other side on the L(N) side of the hwy. (2m)(700'). The Owls Bend Visitor Center (seasonal) & cpqd. (year round) are down the hill to our R(S), a good camping area (there is a trail leading down through the bushes here). Ellington is 13m E of here.

When ready to depart these pleasant surroundings, take the Ozark Trail L(NW) along the bluffs overlooking the river. Good views can be had along this scenic stretch. We descend down almost to the river, weaving in & out of hollows, before following a jeep rd. up Bloom Cr. a short distance, then climbing on trail in a W'erly direction up a ridge. We ascend to a saddle, then traverse upward across NE-facing slopes. Upon coming to our first major ravine, we have the option of making a short side-trip to the Marvel & Blair Cr. caves on the other side of the ridge, a worthwhile detour. They are located due W in Marvel Cave Hollow on the other side of the ridge, a scramble of less than 1/2m. Cont. on the Ozark Trail, descending into Pogue Hollow; then switchbacking up another ridge to a jeep trail on the ridgetop (5m)(1,060'). We enter the Pioneer Forest here, a large tract of private land which the owners graciously allowed the trail to be built on. Please respect their property. Descend on trail to Little Blair Cr. (700'), then pick up a jeep trail (permanent OT) & follow it up a ravine, then up a spur

ravine, curving R(NE) up a smaller ravine to a jeep rd. on a ridgetop (1,150') Cross it & cont. on trail, descending back down via a side ravine into Barton Hollow (980'), then NE up another ravine to another jeep rd. on top of the ridge (3.4m)(1,220'). Here we leave the Pioneer Forest & enter Mark Twain N.F. once again. Cross the road & cont. NW, then NE on trail, as we descend once more into Blair Cr.. Cont. up the creek valley, alternately following trail & jeep trail, to F.S. Rd.#2220, a graded dirt rd. & the old, temporary N-terminus of the Ozark Trail (2.9m)(1,260'). There is a trailhead parking lot just L (W) of us here. Cross the road & cont. NE on a newly completed section of the Ozark Trail, not traversed by HikaNation in 1981. The trail parallels the F.S. road along the ridgetop, crosses paved St. Rt. P, then eventually drops W-NW down into a ravine, which we follow NE up to the jct. of St. Rt. P & St. Hwy. #72, the temporary N'ern terminus of the Ozark Trail (5.7m)(1,320'). The town of Bunker is 3.5m to our L(NW) down this hwy.. We turn R(E) & walk 1.2m along the pavement to an obscure jct. with a jeep trail on our L(N)(1,280')(This jct. might be hard to find. From the jct. of Rt.'s P & 72, the hwy. curves L(NE) after 1/2m, then back R(E) after 1m. Our jct. is just beyond this second bend. If you pass a small hill on the L(N),

ridge to a jeep rd. on a main ridge (1,025'). Turn R(E) along this about 600 ft., then follow the trail blazes down a jeep trail on a ridge to where the trail picks up again on the L(W). Follow the trail down into Holmes Hollow until we reach fields in Blair Cr. Valley (710'). We turn F(N) onto a jeep rd. (permanent OT route) & follow it up through the bottomlands along Blair Cr., following the trail marker at forks. Just after Spring Hollow meanders off to the NE, we pick up permanent trail once again & follow it along the S & W sides of Blair Cr. to a jeep rd. which gives access to the trail from P.S. Rd.#2220 (5.3m)(760'). Cont. E, then N along the trail, coming to another jeep rd. just past a ravine. Follow the markers N onto a jeep rd. (permanent OT), passing Harper's Spring (1.4m). Just past this spring our jeep rd. becomes trail again, cont.'ing along the bluffs just W of Blair Cr. to Cedar Point, where Blair Cr. goes R(NE) & Laxton Hollow goes L(N) (826'). Here our trail leaves the bottomlands along Blair Cr., ascending the ridge between the forks steeply on a jeep trail. Look for the markers indicating a resumption of newly constructed trail veering off to the L(N-NW)(2.5m)(1,110'). Traverse down into Laxton Hollow, winding in & out of numerous ravines. Where our trail curves R(N) up a major side valley, Laxton Spring & Cave can be found 600 ft. to our L(W) on the N side of the ravine. Ascend this scenic

you've gone too far). Follow this trail or jeep trail N along a ridge in woods, curving NE, then E before descending SE down into Vest Hollow. Upon hitting a jeep rd. bear R(NE) & follow it out to St. Rt. TT (3.1m)(950')(If you failed to find the trail jct., you would have followed Hgwy.#72 to this route intersection, then turned L(N) along it to this location-2.9m). We turn L(N) onto Rt. TT, cross the Bee Fork River, & after passing a landing strip on our R(E), reach a dirt rd. branching R(E)(.2m). One & a half miles up Rt. TT is Fletcher Mine, a large lead extraction mine with a shaft almost 1,000 ft. deep. Cont. on the dirt rd. past the airstrip on our R(S) to a trail/jeep trail leading up the hill on our L(N)(It is located just past a stream & house on the left)(.5m). Follow this track steeply, then more gradually, up a ridge, bearing L(N) at a jct. until coming to F.S. Rd.#2236, an improved dirt rd. (2.1m)(1,260'). Turn R(E) along this road on a nearly level, forested ridge in Mark Twain N.F., bearing L(E) & cont.'ing along the ridge at two jct.'s with roads branching S to Bee Fork Valley (if you failed to locate the trail jct. near the landing strip, you would be coming up the 2nd of these two roads). Eventually we pass a cemetery on the L(N) & descend to a bridge over the W Fk., Black River (5.2m)(790'). Ascend past Sutton Bluff Cpqd. on the L

(SW), then bear L(N) uphill where the road forks (.4m)(900'). Ascend a ridge, then drop to a saddle (.6m)(992'). Cooks Cave is .8m down the jeep rd. to the L (NE) along the bluffs on the N side of the river. Cont. up the ridge 1.3m to the Karkaghne Scenic Rd. (F.S. Rd. #2233) which has recently been paved (1,200').

Since the planned route of the Ozark Trail cont.'s on a northerly track & the HikaNation route swings E towards Johnson Shut-In's St. Park & Tom Sauk Mtn. here, we will be leaving the trail corridor here. There may eventually be a connecting trail built between the Ozark Trail & Illinois' Mishio Trail, but until there is, we will have to follow roads to Illinois, except for trails in Johnson Shut-In's St. Park & over Tom Sauk Mtn.

Turn R(N-NE) & follow this scenic drive 6.6m to St. Rt.'s 72 & 21 just W of a saddle (1,070'). The town of Centerville is 2.3m R(S) on this hwy.. Turn L(NE) & follow the hwy. 2.7m, crossing the Middle Fk., Black River & coming to an intersection with St. Rt.#49 (710'). There is a store at this jct.. Turn R(SE) & walk on St. Rt.#s 72, 49, & 21 .4m to St. Rt. N. Bear L(N) here & gradually ascend Baker Branch valley to a saddle (987'), then descend on the paved rd. past a church on the L(W) to Walker Branch (3.3m)(806'). We now enter Johnson Shut-Ins St. Park & ascend to a trail jct. just S of a saddle (just before the road begins climbing more steeply & curving to the R)(1.1m)(900'). Take this trail to the R(NE), an

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old logging rd., & climb over a ridge, bearing L(E) where another road goes SE, & descend N down into a camping & picnic area in Johnson Shut-Ins St. Pk. (1.3m)(840'). The "Shut-Ins", located .4m E of here on a trail, are a narrow, rocky area in a canyon where the E Fk. of the Black River tumbles through, having cut its way through the rock sediments.

The trailhead for the new Tom Sauk Trail is just opposite (N) of the cpd. in Johnson Shut-Ins St. Pk.. Unfortunately, one must wade or hop across the formidable E Fk. Black River, which usually does not afford a dry crossing. This new section of trail was scouted & built by the Mo. Dept. of Natural Resources & is more scenic & rugged than the old route, used by Boy Scouts for years. We follow the E bank of the Black River for a little bit, then curve E up Leaky Cr. valley & follow the stream (fed by leaks & seepage from the Upper Reservoir of the Tom Sauk Pumped-Storage Hydroelectric Powerplant Complex. Water is pumped from the lower reservoir along the Black River to the upper reservoir, then released down a tunnel chute to generate power). Eventually we cross the stream & head NE up onto a ridge, where the old trail comes in on the L(W)(1.4m)(1,120'). where the old trail climbs straight up the ridge, we switchback on the new trail gradually upwards to a saddle on Proffit Mtn. (1.1m)(1,435'). The old trail descends down to Tom Sauk Cr. here, but we climb

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up along the Proffit Mtn. Ridge to a knoll (1,656'), with good views, then descend steeply to a saddle (1,370'). We now traverse the SE'erly slopes of Proffit Mtn.'s inverted "V", circumnavigating first one N-S valley, then climbing over the ridge forming the E'ern flank of the V before traversing N again around the second valley. We alternately walk through forest & glades, the latter affording excellent views of the area. After descending slightly in a S-SE'erly direction, we come to Tom Sauk Cr. & the old trail (6.3m)(1,000'). We turn L(E) upstream along the trail (a jeep trail) which is part of the old military rd. to Arkansas. This track was also part of the famous "Trail of Tears" over which 16,000 Cherokee Indians, primarily from the Smoky Mtn. region of E'ern Tennessee & North Carolina, were marched by presidential orders to a new home in Oklahoma in the winter of 1838-39. About 1/4 of the Indians perished during this terrible ordeal. There are several wet crossings of Tom Sauk Cr. over this stretch. After 1m, we come to the "Devil's Toll Gate", which is a hole or split in the solid rock so named by the pioneers who were compelled to unload their wagon trains & swing them around by hand in order to get through the sharp turn of the passage. After one last ford of Tom Sauk Cr., we turn sharply L(N) & begin climbing steeply up out of the canyon. We level off

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shortly & reach a good viewpoint on our L(N) of Mina Sauk Falls, a beautiful waterfall which falls 132 ft. in three cascades. We cont. ascending E'ward, then NE'ward gradually up to the flat summit of Tom Sauk Mtn. (1,772'), the highpoint of the state of Missouri (2.1m). There is a lookout tower & radio tower nearby, with good views of the Ozark Plateau. Cont. R(E) on County Rd. CC, a paved access road. Descend to a saddle, then ascend to the summit of Russell Mtn. (1,726') & a jct. with a new segment of the trail branching R(S) down the mtn. (1.5m). Descend Russell Mtn.'s S'erly slopes along a ridge all the way down to St. Hgwy's 72 & 21 (2.8m)(1,040'). Turn L(NE) along this hwy., looking for the appearance of an abandoned RR bed through a small gap on the R(E) after about 2,000 ft.. Upon crossing Minor Cr., cross over to this RR bed & head NE, SE, E, & finally NE along it until we merge with the new Missouri-Pacific tracks & come to St. Hgwy.#8 (3.3m)(1,064'). Follow this hwy. L(N) .4m to St. Hgwy.'s 21 & 72 (986'). Turn R(NE) & walk 1.1m into downtown Arcadia, MO, with all services.

Take St. Hgwy.#72 E out of Arcadia. After 1.5m, we reach a crossroads, where St. Rt. JJ goes off to the R(S). Cont. straight on Rt.#72 another .7m, then turn R(S) onto St. Rt. D, once again in Mark Twain N.P.. Follow paved Rt. D S,

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then E, then SE to a saddle (1,098'), then descend S thru woods to an open area in a valley, curving SE to another jct. (3.8m)(989'). Cont. straight (E)(bearing L) through farmland, then descend thru a wooded gap along a stream (rock Cr.) & turn N, then gradually E past Blue Mtn. Lake & a cemetery on the L(N) to a jct. with a road branching L(N)(3.4m)(879'). Cont. straight across the N side of a cleared area around Bald Knob, the hill to our S, then re-enter forest & descend down to the St. Francis River bridge (3.1m)(582'). There is a cpd. & picnic area here (the cpd. is up the hill on the L(N) after crossing the river). Cont. on Rt. D 3.1m to St. Rt.#72 once again (730'). Turn R(E) on Rt.#72, but immediately cross it & pick up the old hwy. route just N of it. After 2.2m, we cross Hgwy.#72, cont.'ing on the old hwy., then merging with it just before reaching the U.S. Rt.#67 overpass (1.8m)(770'). Cont. over U.S. Hgwy.#67 into the courthouse Square of the sizable town of Fredericktown (1.9m)(729'), with all services.

One block past this square Rt.#72 turns L(N), then NE, then E at a jct. (.8m), where St. Rt. 00 goes L(N-NW). Head E on Rt.#72 until reaching a Y(1.9m) Bear L(NE) onto St. Rt. J, passing a schoolhouse on the R, to where St. Rt. W branches R(S)(4.2m). Cont. L(NE) on J, crossing the Castor River & ascending up the other side to a jct. with St. Rt. HH. Cont. on J, passing a church on the R(S),

E on Rd. A, coming to the town of Altenburg (2.2m)(580'), a quaint old German town with a park & historical marker. Once more cont. E on A for 3.7m, descending down into the Mississippi River valley proper via a small tributary valley. Our turnoff is .2m before we reach the town of Wittenberg & break out onto the Mississippi's alluvial plain. We turn abruptly R(S) onto a jeep rd., climb over a saddle (460'), & descend to a flat area with a RR running through it near the river. At the 2nd jeep rd. bearing L(E) towards the river, we turn L & come to the ferry crossing ramp on the Missouri side (.8m)(330'). Check ahead of time to make sure the ferry is operating. Here we board the Wittenberg Ferry, which runs everyday but Sunday most of the year (again, check with the local authorities to update this info.). Welcome to Illinois!

all the way through rolling countryside to the Whitewater River & the hamlet of Yount (8.8m)(632'). Cont. NE, then E thru woods past a lookout tower on the L(N) on Rt. J, eventually coming to St. Rt.#51 just S of a radio tower (4.4m)(835'). Cut R(S) on this hwy. .2m, then turn L(E) once more on St. Rt. 0 (855'). Cont. on Rt. 0 through more rolling pastureland to the hamlet of Millheim & St. Rt. K (5.2m)(580'). Turn L(NE) onto Rt. K for .3m, then turn R(E) onto Rt. 0 once again. Follow 0 another 2.6m to St. Rt. B. The community of Biehle, with a cafe & store, is .8m R(S) of us here. Turn L(N) on B for .2m, then turn R(E) onto St. Rt. F & in 2.1m reach the overpass over I-55, a major N-S expressway (St. Louis is 87m N here). Cont. E on F to the village of Apple Creek (formerly Snurbusch) (2.9m)(460'). Mr. Snurbusch, who owns some farm property just E of town on the S side of the road, welcomed Hika-Nation 1980-81 with open arms & is friendly to hikers. Cont. E on Rt. F to an intersection with U.S. Hgwy.#61 & the village of Uniontown (2.2m)(576'). Jog L(N) on Hgwy.#61 .3m, then hang a R (E) on St. Rt. A. Follow this paved road 6.3m through more rolling farmland to the community of Frohna (550'). We are in the Mississippi River valley, & have been since leaving Fredericktown, MO.. There is a heavy German imprint on the culture in this area, since German immigrants settled here. Cont.