

Interview and Trip with Herman Price
to Cottonwood Spring, April, 10, 1962

The foundation with the fireplace on the right of the trail (Paved) across from the bulletin board was the pump house. It could also be lived in.

The water was pumped to the Iron Chief Mine. It was pushed over the summit through the pass (N & somewhat E of Cottonwood Spring). From the summit it then fed by gravity to the Iron Chief Mine. A branch line also led from ^{*}Caneras Well to the main line going to the Iron Chief for additional water. Most of the water was pumped from a tunnel up above the site of the present Cottonwood Spring on the right of the wash.

The pumper was Tommy Jones, who pumped for the Iron Chief for many years. When the operation shut down he ~~lived~~ was hired by Cram Brothers, cattlemen, and moved to Hayfield Reservoir, the headquarters for the cattlemen. He died at Corn Springs and was buried there.

The site below Cottonwood Springs which is down the canyon below the dry waterfall was the Hopper mill site. The Hoppers were from Twentynine Palms and they were there in the early 1930's. Their water came from a well at the site. The ore came from the Coyote Mine which was supposedly in a canyon west of the present Park road past the borrow pit.

Herman Price hauled freight to the El Dorado Mine from Mecca. The first day he stopped at Schaeffer's (Shaver's) Well, although it was still daylight, but too far to go on to the next stop before nightfall. Around two the next day he would stop for water at Cottonwood Springs. He filled his barrel and then went of to Porcupine Wash - if only one team. If several teams were used, he would stop around Old Dale Junction. From Porcupine Wash it was only about a half day's drive on into the El Dorado Mine via Fried Liver Wash. He usually used six mules and hauled three tons at ten dollars per ton for the trip.

* Note: Now called Conejo Well.

The Cram Brothers installed the cement trough that is out in front of the Winona Millsite and piped water from there to it (A big cement water trough about 16 feet long, 4 feet wide).

Bill Wayne trapped in the Cottonwood region around 1922 and 1923 and collected a great many coyotes, bobcats, foxes and ringtails.

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PLACE NAMES

White Tank: Was named after Captain White who had "The Gold Fields of America" near Gold Point.

Squaw Tank: Tank put in by cattlemen, probably the McHaney's. Later used by Bill Keys who was the last to have cattle in the area.

Fargo Canyon; Mr Price claims to have suggested this name. "Let's name it after Dr. Fargo who has claims in the canyon." Before that it was referred to as Dry Canyon.

Pushawalla Canyon: This canyon in the Little San Bernardino's was originally called Dirty Sock Canyon. The name Pushawalla referred to the canyon below it in the Mud Hills in Coachella Valley. But during the survey for the Colorado River Aqueduct, the name Pushawalla was given to it. As the source of information the surveyor had was inaccurate, but the best he could get.

Golden Bee: Frenchy hauled most of the ore to Rosemond, Calif. The first ore was hauled out by sled drawn by a white burro, 1936.

New Dale: There was no ice at the saloon. The bottles were cooled by wet burlap. There was one girl at the saloon named Minnie who was a "hop-head" (dope addict) .

Charlie Brown was one of those at the New Supply (OK) at the time Price was there (circa 1912). Later a long-time state Senator who owns most of Shoshone at the present time. It was a two day walk from New Dale to Coachella.

The original well at Pinyon Well was against the hill. The last well is the one nearest the road lined by flooring lumber and was dug by Patterson. Water was piped from Pinyon Well to the

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El Dorado Mine. The Hensen Well was also connected to the line. This was done by siphoning. The line started out at two inches, and ended up at 3/4 inch. This was installed around 1912 and 1913. Water was still running in the pipe until around 1924. Mr Price also hauled water from the Lost Horse Wells as the water through the pipeline was still not sufficient.

The shaft at the Supply Mine went down one thousand feet and then there was a drift off to the side and a one hundred foot winze. They hit sulphide, not water. The lessees wanted to make a new shaft to the surface but the owner, Lindhauer, was hard to deal with so the lessees pulled out and left. Mr Price said they were running 90 tons of ore a day.

~~Richard J. Youse~~

James R. Youse

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Interview by Ronald Trussell on January 24, 1962.

Mr. Price first came to Twentynine Palms in 1911 with and while working for Frank Sabathe, an early day teamster and freighter. The two men had traveled from Banning with 8 head of horses and two wagons. It was in the spring of the year (about April) and it took 4 days to make the trip. At this time there was only one Indian sighted living at Twentynine Palms.

Mr. Price hauled freight out of Indio to the El Dorado mine, first by way of the Pushawalla Canyon (then called "Dirty Sock Canyon" because of the dirty sock mine located here). The first night was spent at old county well (about 4 miles up in canyon). This was 16 miles and it six head of horses pulling two ton of freight sixteen hours because of sandy road. Next night was at the Hexahedron millsite. Freight was also hauled from Indio to the mine by way of the Berdoc Canyon (then called Sippy Canyon, after a conductor on the S. P. Railroad). Each trip cost \$20 per ton of freight.

Mr. Price hauled water from Pinyon Well to the El Dorado. He was able to haul 600 gallon each trip with 4 head of horses. This water cost the mine \$.02 per gallon. (Whether or not this included the cost of hauling we don't know for sure). It took one day to make the trip.

In 1914 freight hauling from Mecca was started. It took 2 days to get to the Iron Chief. Three days were needed to get to the Brooklyn mine.

In 1906~~7~~, July 4, two miners, tired of mining and wanting to celebrate decided to walk from the Brooklyn mine to Cottonwood Spring and on to Mecca. Part way to Cottonwood Spring, one of the men decided to turn back but the other, Matt Riley, was going on. When the fellow who turned back to the mine returned he told of Matt's decision to go on. Frank Sabathe who had just arrived with a load of freight took a team and buckboard and set out to find Riley. He found Riley just north of Cottonwood dead. Riley had a canteen with him possibly used as a whiskey container. He had just about reached the spring and had apparently turned and started back to the mine. Sabathe buried him at the spot as was the practice. Sabathe said if Riley had known the area he could have found the spring.

In 1915 there was one building located at Cottonwood Springs. It was where Tommy Jones, then pumper, lived. There were no apple trees that Mr. Price could remember. The freighters who obtained water here, got it above the present spring. Mr. Price seems to think there was a tunnel or shaft where they got water above the palms. Also at this time the Cram brothers had cattle in the area. These brothers calimed "Burnt Palms" a spring or possibly a well located about 1-1.5 miles up present gravel road leading to the NE from the Cottonwood Spring road. There ^{was} no palms at this site but there was a corral. The brothers had a pipe line running west across present oiled road and down about .5 mile to another corral.

Pipe line that was run from Cottonwood Spring to the Iron Chief mine 18 miles to the NE ran from the spring up through saddle between (Cannaris) Mt. and Cottonwood Peak on the east.

Lane's well in Pinto Basin was 1st well in Basin. It was dug by hand by Lane to a depth of 500 ft. Mr. Price said "If it hadn't of been for a grocery man in Cochella just putting it on the bill that was never paid, Lane would have starved.