

Palomar Mountain Logging and Lumbering

Peter Brueggeman 2024



Striplin's Valley 3rd Saw Mill - Palomar.

Mary Mendenhall Knox photo

On March 22, 1890, the San Diego Union reported [16]:

Capital and Lumber: During the past few months there has been increased interest in the lumber district of Smith Mountain and considerable capital has been invested. The money is put in by Los Angeles men and a sawmill plant is being erected near the northern end of the mountain. The lumber, of which there is an abundant supply, is mostly the sugar pine and oak and in it there will be found plenty of money.

Smith Mountain was an alternate name for Palomar Mountain starting in the 1870s and used through the 1890s, being named for Joseph Smith, who was murdered on his Palomar ranch in 1868 [25].

On June 11, 1891, The San Diego Weekly Union reported [89]:

When the road now being graded on Palomar mountain shall be completed, Mr. Cleaver proposes to erect a sawmill on his 500 acres of pine, cedar, hemlock, oak and beech trees. The Escondido Times says that then will follow new houses and a hotel.

On November 28, 1892, the San Francisco Chronicle reported [9]:

A new sawmill will soon be started in the Palomar mountains in San Diego county.

On January 9, 1893, the San Diego Union reported [10]:

The sawmill on Smith mountain is now in running order, and its owners are contemplating putting in machinery for the manufacture of wagon material from oak. Large bodies of pine and cedar are also found on the mountain.

On January 12, 1893, the Escondido Times reported [11]:

Clark Cleaver was down from Palomar mountain this Wednesday. He informed us that the new Striplin and Wilhite sawmill will commence operations to-day.

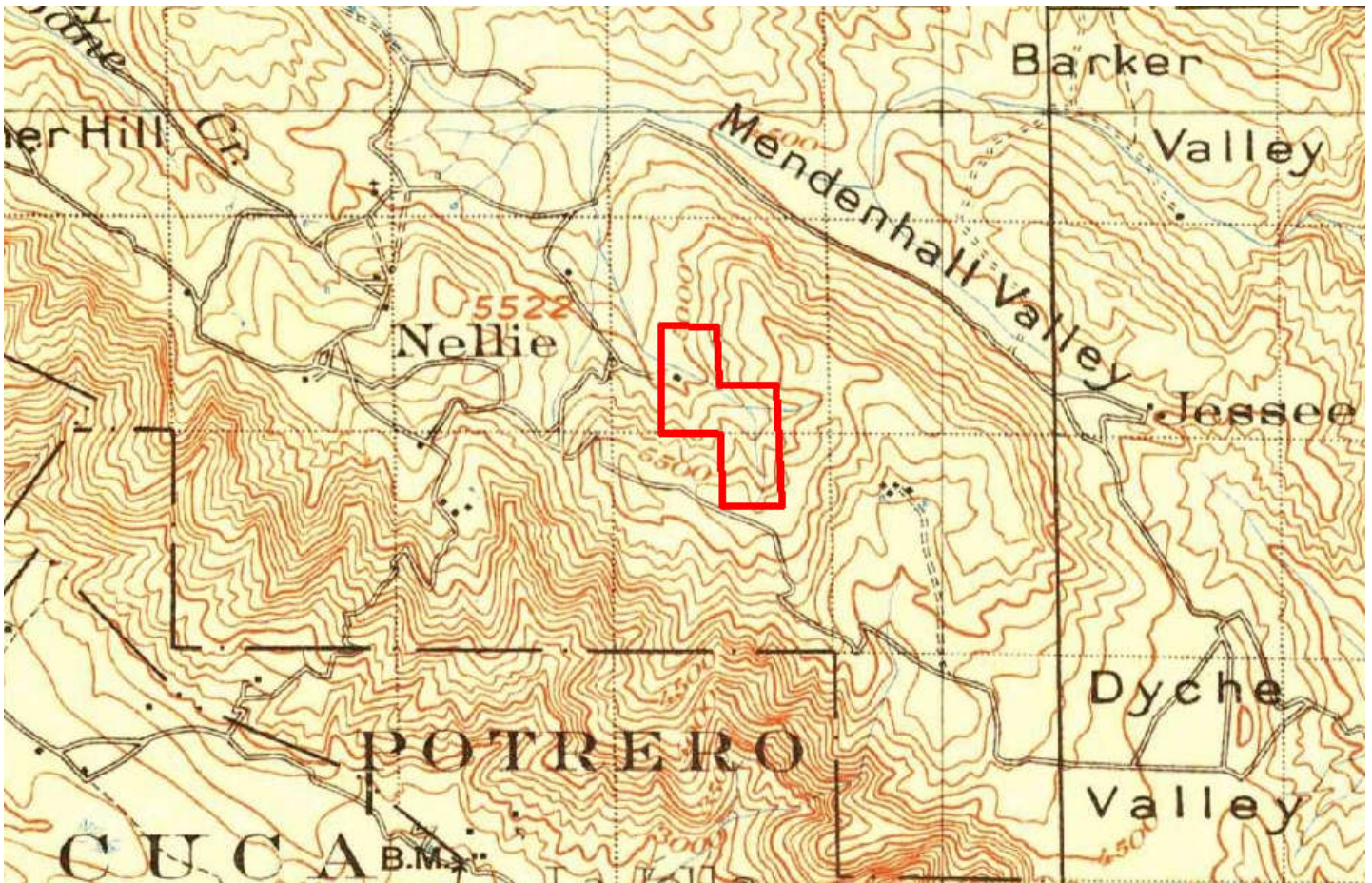
In 1937, Catharine Wood wrote [6]:

In the 1890s, Samuel Striplin and William L. Wilhite bought an old saw mill in Julian and hauled the heavy machinery up the east end of the mountain, locating in Powers Valley, now called Pedley Valley.

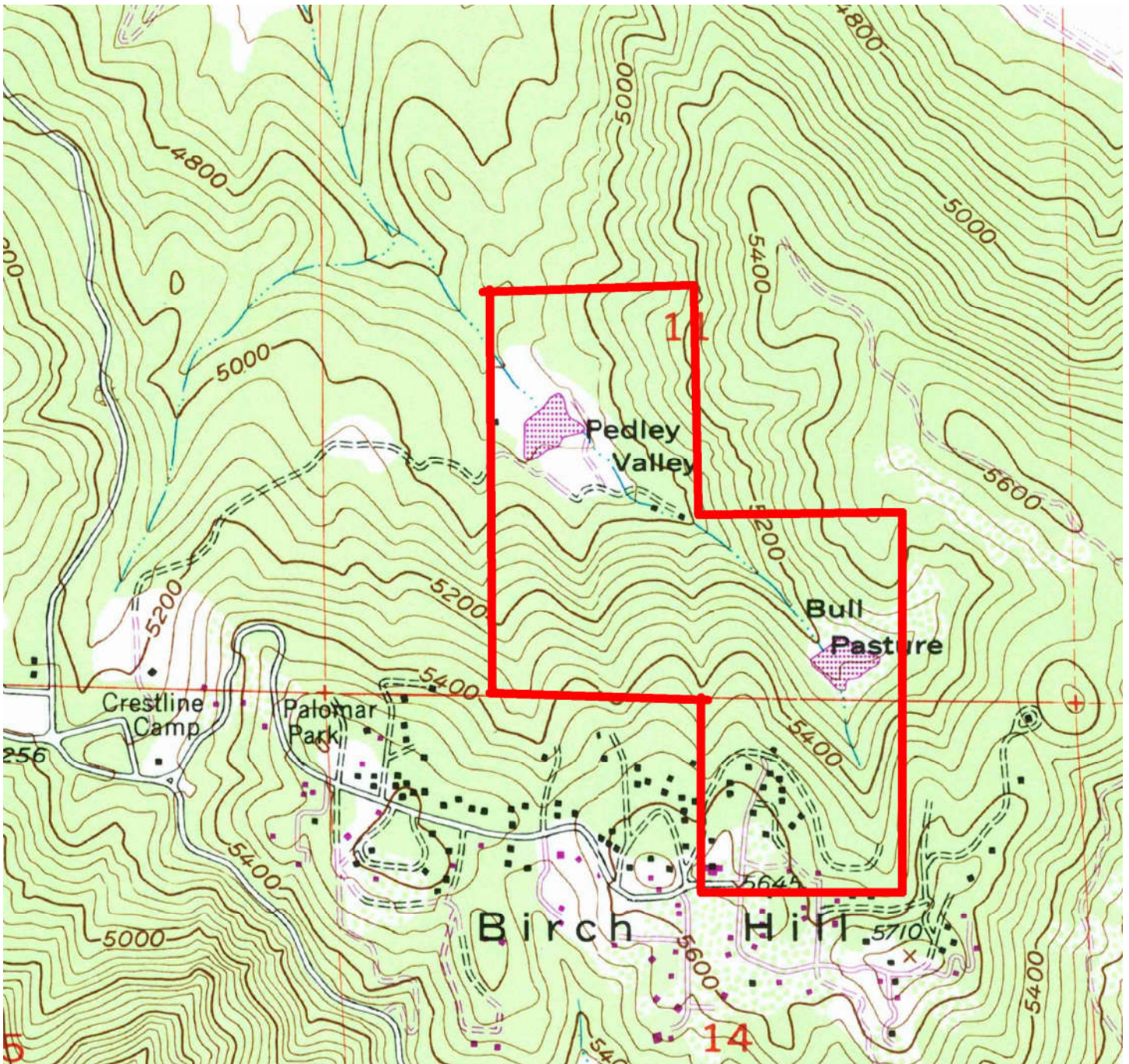
In 1958, Marion Beckler writes [5]:

The first settlers in Pedley Valley seem to have been among those who did not remain long on the mountain. The valley was then owned by Thomas J. "Tom" Powers and was known as "Powers Valley" when Enos T. Mendenhall's old friend, Samuel Striplin, came and bought out Powers. Sam Striplin started the sawmill, which supplied lumber for many of the mountain cabins. The old sawmill boiler is still rusting away, and the meadow at the east of the valley was known for many years as "The Old Bull Pasture," for it pastured the sawmill oxen.

On July 20, 1891, it's recorded that Thomas J. Powers paid cash entry for 160 acres in what is now known as Pedley Valley and Bull Pasture on Palomar Mountain [37].



Striplin and Wilhite's sawmill was located on Thomas Powers' land
overlaid on 1903 Ramona map



Striplin and Wilhite's sawmill was located on Thomas Powers' land
overlaid on 1988 Palomar Observatory map

Samuel Striplin was born January 30, 1826, in Tennessee [1,18]. Striplin came west to Sacramento valley in 1859, and then in 1868 he moved to Bear Valley (Valley Center) above what is now the Lake Wohlford Dam where he was a pioneer in agriculture [18].

On February 2, 1893, the Escondido Times published “From Palomar” news by Clark Cleaver including this item [17]:

Striplin & Wilhite are sawing lumber, making roads, building, etc.

On March 2, 1893, the Escondido Times reported this item dated on February 28 [21]:

The mill of Striplin & Wilhite is turning out some fine lumber, and is ready to cut out any order received.

On March 16, 1893, the Escondido Times reported [12]:

Mr. Wilhite is breaking steers to haul logs for the Striplin & Wilhite sawmill on Palomar mountain.

On April 28, 1893, the San Diego Sun reported [91]:

WATER FOR ESCONDIDO

Efforts Will be Made Shortly to Build a Flume

Secretary John Sherman and other members of the Escondido Land & Town company will make another trip over the proposed flume line from Escondido to the San Luis Rey river some time next week. The movement in favor of building the flume by joint effort on the part of the citizens is gaining favor. In fact it is intimated that this idea was in view when the sawmill was established on Smith mountain by Samuel Striplin and others. There are several varieties of pine and oak timber on the mountain from which the greater portion of the flume can be made. The suitability of this timber will be determined by the company on the trip next week.

On June 29, 1893, the Escondido Times reported [13]:

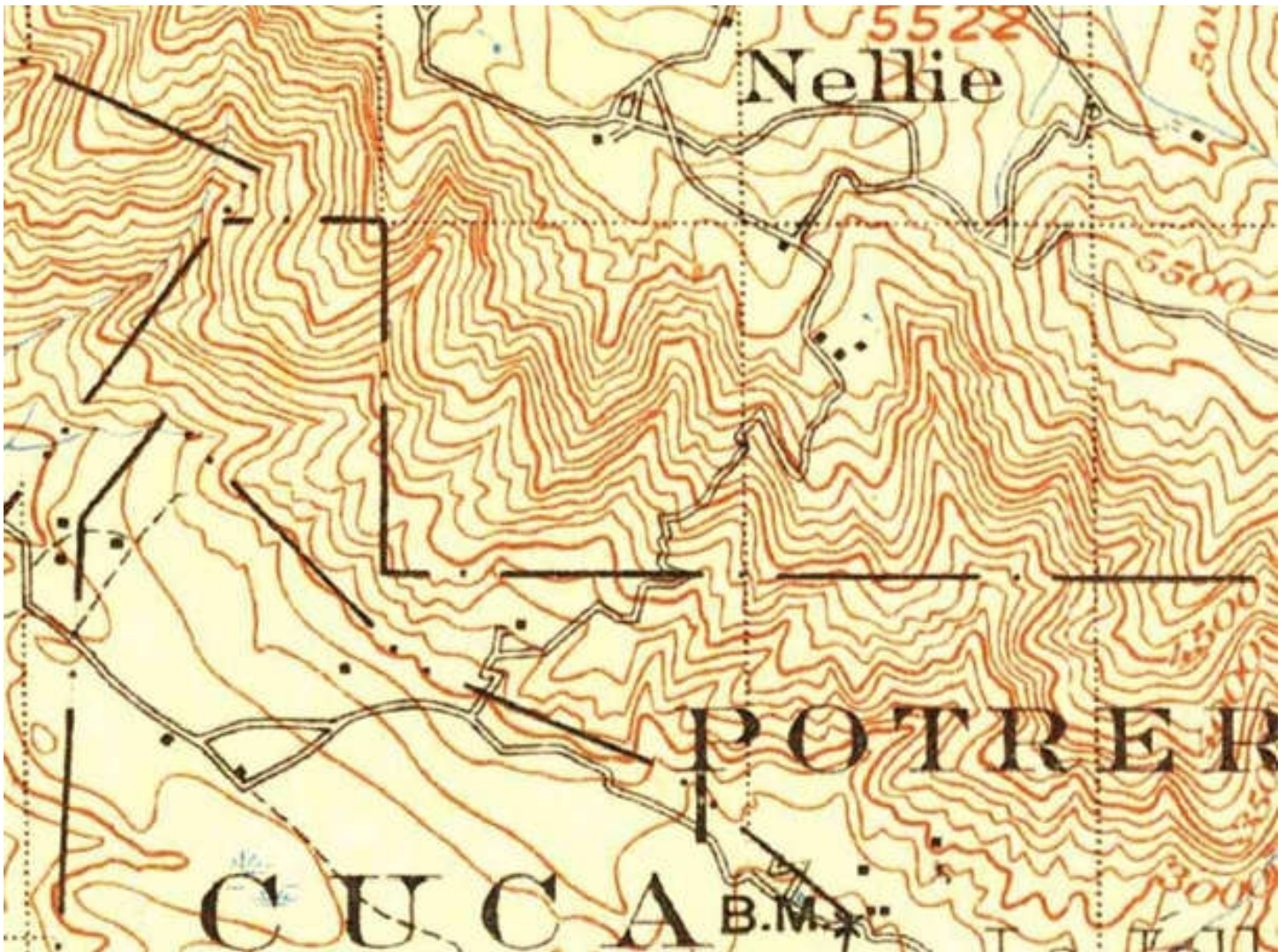
PALOMAR, A Fine Place for Summer Outings.

Capt. Allen has just returned from the top of Palomar mountain, where he has been surveying a new road. He says the weather is

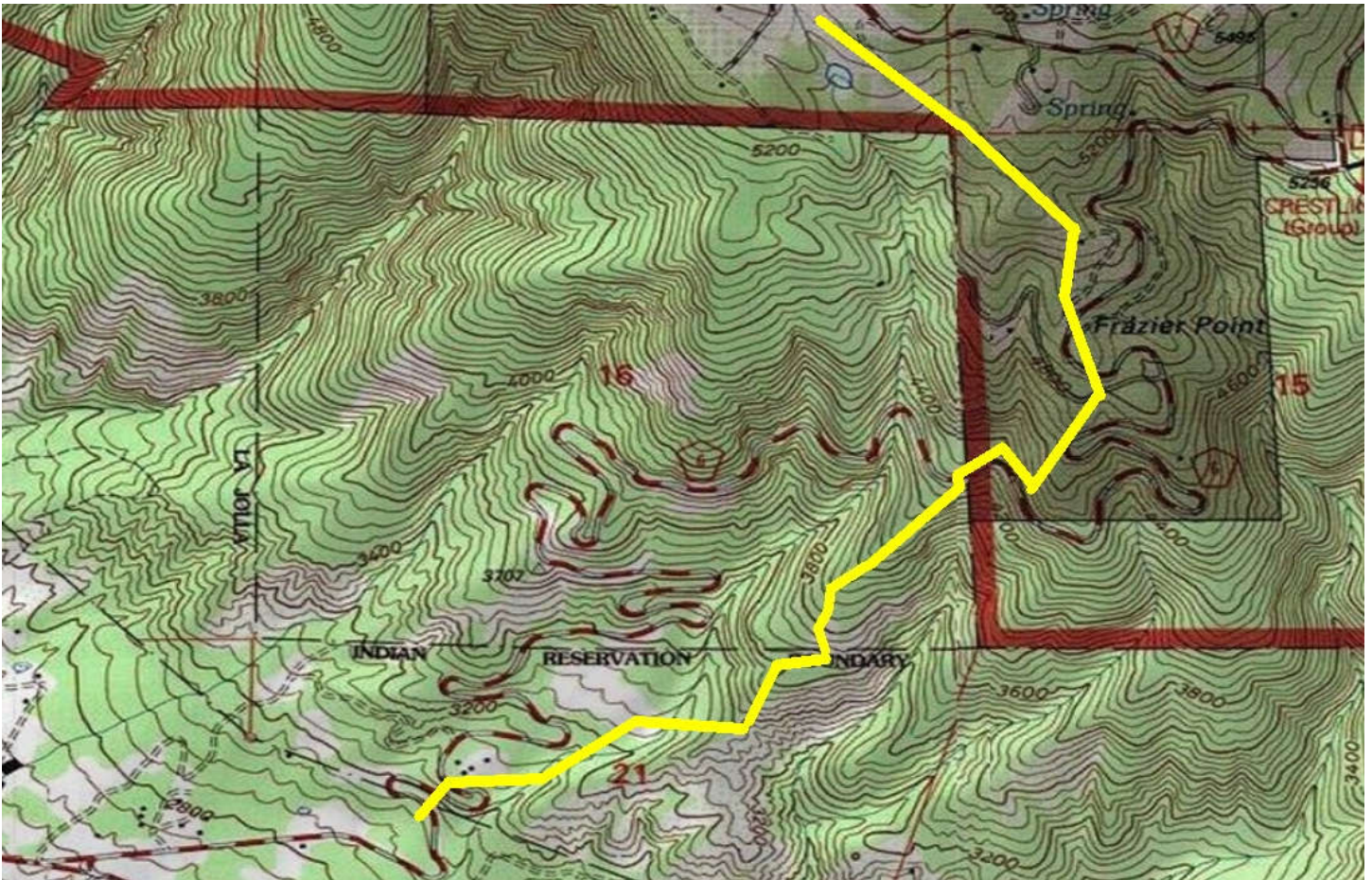
delightful there, and a few campers have already made their appearance. There is an abundance of water in several mineral springs, and plenty of forage for horses. A new grade has been completed leading up to the mountain from Escondido, and this road makes it possible to do teaming to and from Striplin & Wilhite's sawmill. As a result the mill has resumed operations to its fullest capacity, and so far all the timber wanted is to be had within half a mile. Lumber from this mill was used in the construction of the Rincon school house. Capt. Allen says the white cedar of that region is as fine as any he ever saw anywhere, some of the boards being three feet wide and perfectly clear. The oak is also of first-class quality. While he was there the mill was working almost altogether on spruce. A greater part of the timber to be used in the construction of the Escondido flume will be obtained from Palomar mountain sawmill – [San Diegan-Sun].

The new grade mentioned in this 1893 newspaper item is the Trujillo Road or South Slide, going up the south side of Palomar Mountain from Cuca, and later known as the Mail Trail [14]. This road was finished at the end of 1891 and had grades in some places as high as 24 percent; it was a predecessor of County Highway S6, but on a different route [14].

There was also an east grade route with steep sections going up Palomar from what is now Lake Henshaw [14]. The Nate Harrison grade going up Palomar on the west from Pauma wasn't built until 1900 [14].



The 1891 Trujillo Road or South Slide route to Nellie, which was the Palomar post office on the U.S.G.S. 1903 Ramona map



Approx route of 1891 Trujillo Road to Nellie (from above map), overlaid on modern map with County Highway S6

In 1937, Catharine Wood wrote [6]:

Lumber was sold in Julian, Santa Ysabel and Murrieta. Logs were "snaked" down the hillsides, piled three, four, and five on big log carts, two-wheeled affairs with "bunks" over the wheels to hold the logs, which served as brakes as they dragged on the ground. These lumber carts were drawn by mule teams or by eight yoke of oxen.



Oxen hauling logs in Cuyamaca Mountains near Julian
post card with 1911 postmark



Ox cart used in Palomar lumbering [6] Catharine Wood photo

In 1921, there was an endeavor by the Escondido Chamber of Commerce to move an old sawmill ox cart to Escondido's Grape Day Park or the Chamber of Commerce grounds [45]. The Escondido Times-Advocate reported [45]:

While on Palomar mountain this week-end, Darwin M. Ting and J. Van Ryan, directors, and J.H. Heath, secretary, of the chamber of commerce. ... accompanied by J.P. Roberts of the Planwydd, and Dr. Wells of the Bailey camps, will journey to the ruins of the old sawmill, where they will arrange for the removal to Escondido of the old ox cart, which has been donated to the chamber of commerce and which will be installed in the Grape Day park or on the chamber of commerce grounds. The donor of the valuable relic of ancient days is M.C. Tetley, now residing in an adjoining county. Its acquisition by the chamber is by suggestion of W.W. Prior, a frequent visitor to Palomar and who passed the summer of 1920 among the pines of the big hill, where he was a useful member of the sojourning pilgrims in the performance of the duties

of storekeeper. The chamber has accepted the offer of E.C. Linthicum for the transportation of the cart to Escondido; also the services of Tom Bandy for re-setting the steel tires of the wheels, and of Will Pray for the treating of the wood to prevent or delay decay. Every effort will be made to have the cart dolled up in time for the Grape Day period.

Six days later, an item about this ox cart in the Escondido Times-Advocate said [46]:

... Clyde Linthicum has rescued it from the low lands of the old saw mill and re-located it on his 160 acre holding. ...



Trujillo Road or South Slide, August 1896

Photographer Percy Smith Cox, #416. Frances Bevan Ryan Papers, Escondido Public Library Pioneer Room



Trujillo Road or South Slide, August 1896

Photographer Percy Smith Cox, #384. Frances Bevan Ryan Papers, Escondido Public Library Pioneer Room

In Samuel Striplin's 1911 obituary in the Los Angeles Times, Striplin's lumber hauling journeys down from Palomar are mentioned [19]:

... Mr. Striplin owned and operated a saw mill on the top of Palomar Mountain, hauling much of the product of the mill overland to San Diego, a distance of sixty-five miles. In getting the trees from the forests to the mill oxen were used, but in the haul down the side of the mountain, a drop of several thousand feet, over a long rough grade, mules were employed. Scores of times Mr. Striplin has piloted a six-mule team down the mountain, with 6000 feet of lumber scattered astride the near wagon mule with only a "jerk line" as a guide in keeping the animal in the road and the big load of lumber right side up. His ability to perform these stunts without accident was the marvel of those pioneer days, inasmuch as it was known that every time he attempted the descent he took his life in his hands. ...

On July 20, 1893, the Escondido Times reported [22]:

Mr. Striplin was down also and reports getting out a fine class of lumber at his sawmill.

On November 30, 1893, the Escondido Times reported [23]:

Alex. Stewart and Wren Vandervere returned Sunday evening from a trip to Palomar mountain. Some time ago Mr. Stewart purchased 2,000 feet of Palomar oak, and this trip was for the purpose of selecting the best to be had. It is a well known fact that this Palomar oak is superior to eastern hickory and Oregon pine in the manufacture and repair of wagons, plows and other farming implements, and Mr. Stewart will use this timber in his blacksmith and wagonmaking establishment. The timber was sawed at the Striplin mill on Palomar mountain and is now ready for use. Mr. Stewart guarantees all his work in this line.

On December 14, 1893, the Escondido Times reported [20]:

Samuel Striplin brought down an eight-mule load of sawed oak lumber from Palomar mountain Tuesday, and this Wednesday

started for San Diego with the same. The load weighed something over 8,000 pounds, and the lumber was sawed at the Striplin mill on the mountain. The Palomar oak is far superior to any imported timber for the manufacture and repair of wagons and farming implements, and is in great demand by wagonmakers and blacksmiths.



Louis Salmons with Valparaiso oak tree on Palomar, July 7, 1933 Ed Davis photo

On December 15, 1893, the San Diego Union reported [24]:

Fine Wagon Stock.

S. Striplin, who operates a saw-mill on Smith mountain, north of Escondido, yesterday brought in a load of Valparaiso oak to a local firm which handles wagon stock and disposed of the timber at the rate of \$75 per thousand feet. Samples of the wood formerly brought in by Mr. Striplin proved so desirable as wagon stock that this second load followed. It is pronounced by wagonmakers the

finest timber in existence for the purpose named, being far superior to hickory. Numerous varieties of hard woods and cedar and pine are growing on the mountain in quantities sufficient to last wood-workers in this county for generations, says Mr. Striplin, but bad roads render the valuable timber comparatively inaccessible.

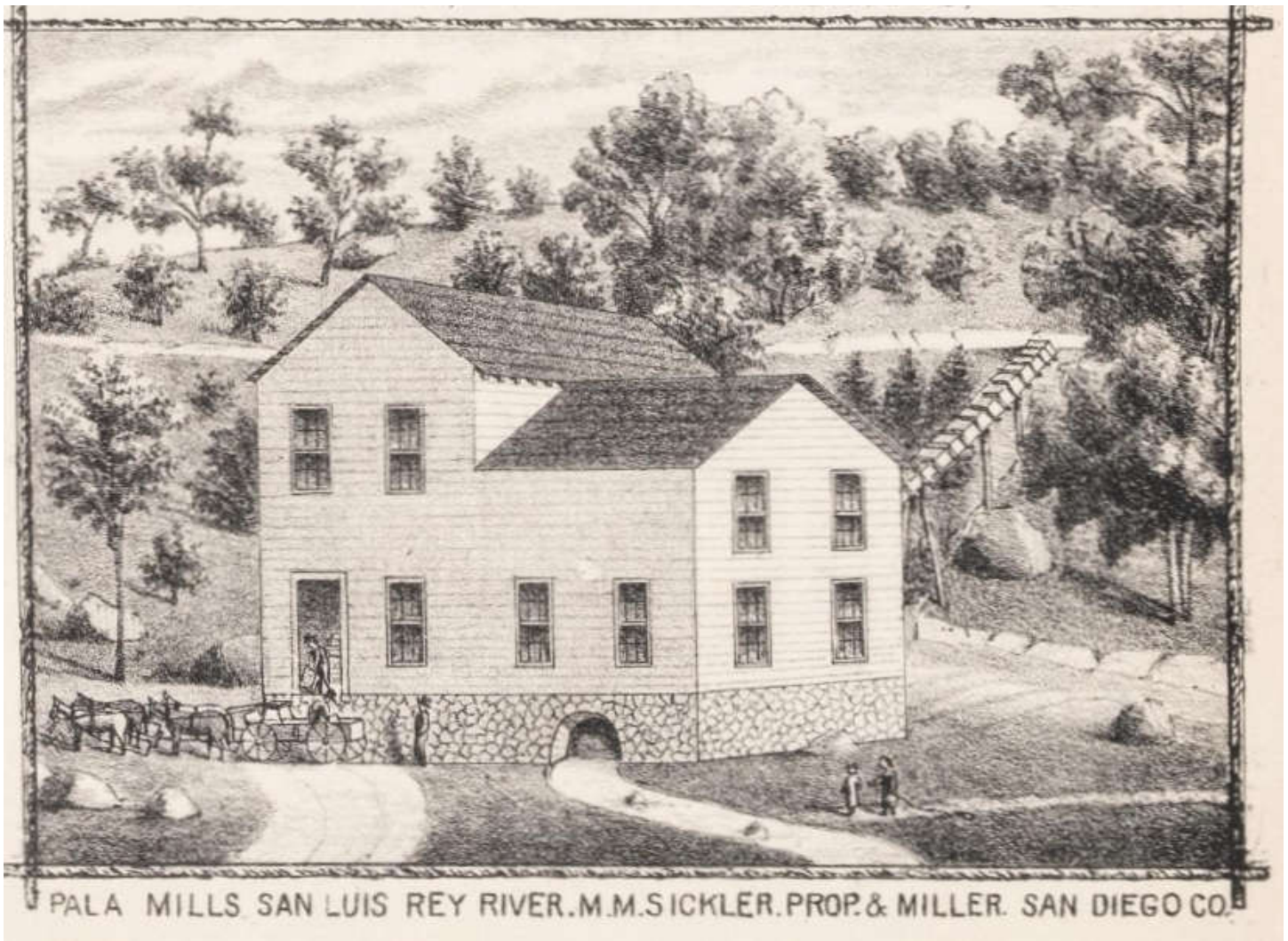
On December 25, 1893, the San Diego Union reported [83]:

Another load of Palomar oak was brought down from the mountain a few days ago. This oak is acquiring a reputation evidently, and our local blacksmiths and wagon-makers say it deserves it, being better than the eastern woods for their work.

The Sickler Flour Mill at Pala started in 1881 and functioned as a mill at least until 1905 when the Fletcher-Salmons Investment Company purchased it [82,83]. On December 28, 1893, the Escondido Times reported on lumber hauling to Sickler's flour mill in Pala [26]:

Charles Breedlove is hauling lumber from Palomar mountain to repair the Pala mills, which will soon be in operation. ...

Joe Reed, of the Palomar saw mill, is spending the holidays in the valley. He says they will soon have a shake factory connected with the mill.



History of San Diego County, California, with Illustrations Descriptive of its Scenery, Farms, Residences, Public Buildings, Factories, Hotels, Business Houses, Schools, Churches, and Mines, From Original Drawings, With Biographical Sketches. WW Elliott & Co.: San Francisco, 1883

On December 30, 1893, the Los Angeles Times reported [15]:

... At Valley Center postoffice, W.B. Ferguson is making arrangements to build an eight-room residence, which will be constructed of Palomar Mountain lumber, sawed at the Striplin mill. This lumber, cut and sawed here at home, is being used quite extensively among the ranchers and others hereabout. Another load of Palomar Mountain oak was brought into Escondido a few days ago, for use in wagon-making and repairing. The eight-horse load that preceded this was for San Diego wagon-makers, while this one was for use right here at home by one of our local firms. This Palomar oak has gained an excellent reputation among those who have used it, as being superior to the Eastern woods for wagon-making and repairing. There is a considerable body of the timber

on the mountain as well as a good quality of pine, fir and cedar, some of them 300 feet high. ...

On January 11, 1894, the Escondido Times reported [27]:

Palomar ... The sawmill folks have taken their blacksmith shop into the house and are generally getting into shape for business. ... The sawmill has closed down until the snow melts, as has also our literary and debating club from the same cause, which was very unfortunate as the question for debate was of absorbing interest.

On February 8, 1894, the Escondido Times published a February 5th report from Palomar [28]:

... The snow has gone from the south side of the hills, but on the north side and in the timber there is still several inches – too much to get logs for the sawmill, consequently it is not running. Part of the firm I learn has gone to the springs at Caliente. They have enclosed and made various improvements in the mill and machinery, and will be prepared to make things whiz in the spring.

On April 7, 1894, the San Diego Union reported [29]:

Samuel Striplin brought down another eight-horse load of Palomar mountain oak a few days ago for one of the local wagon-makers.

On May 20, 1894, the Los Angeles Herald reported [30]:

Samuel Striplin brought in another eight-horse load of Palomar mountain oak on Wednesday, which is being used extensively for wagon making and repairing

On June 14, 1894, the Escondido Times reported [31]:

The Palomar saw mill, under the management of W.W. Phillips, is now turning out from four to six thousand feet of fir, cedar and oak lumber daily. The mill is also filling orders for shakes, trays and fruit boxes.

On June 28, 1894, the Escondido Times reported on the sawmill supplying lumber for the Shenandoah gold mine [32]:

The sawmill is filling an order for battery blocks and other large timbers for the Shenandoah mine on Mesa Grande. It looks like business over that way.

On July 11, 1894, the San Diego Union reported on the County Board of Supervisors meeting the preceding day, in which the quantity of lumber produced by Striplin's sawmill is noted [90]:

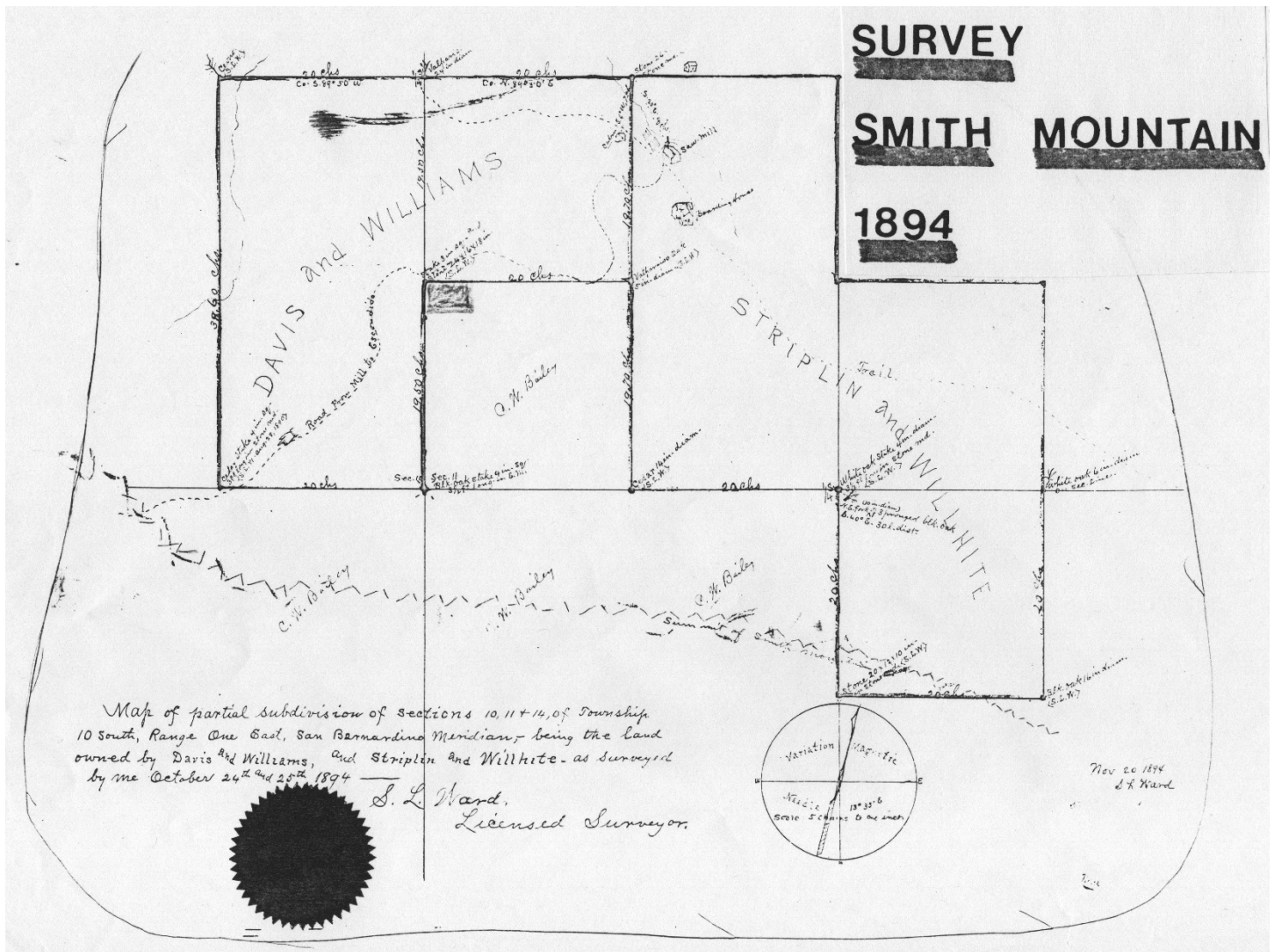
In session as a board of equalization petitions for reductions of assessments were received from the following: S. Striplin, 50,000 feet of lumber of Palomar Mill company, assessed at \$450 ...

On July 26, 1894, the Escondido Times reported [33]:

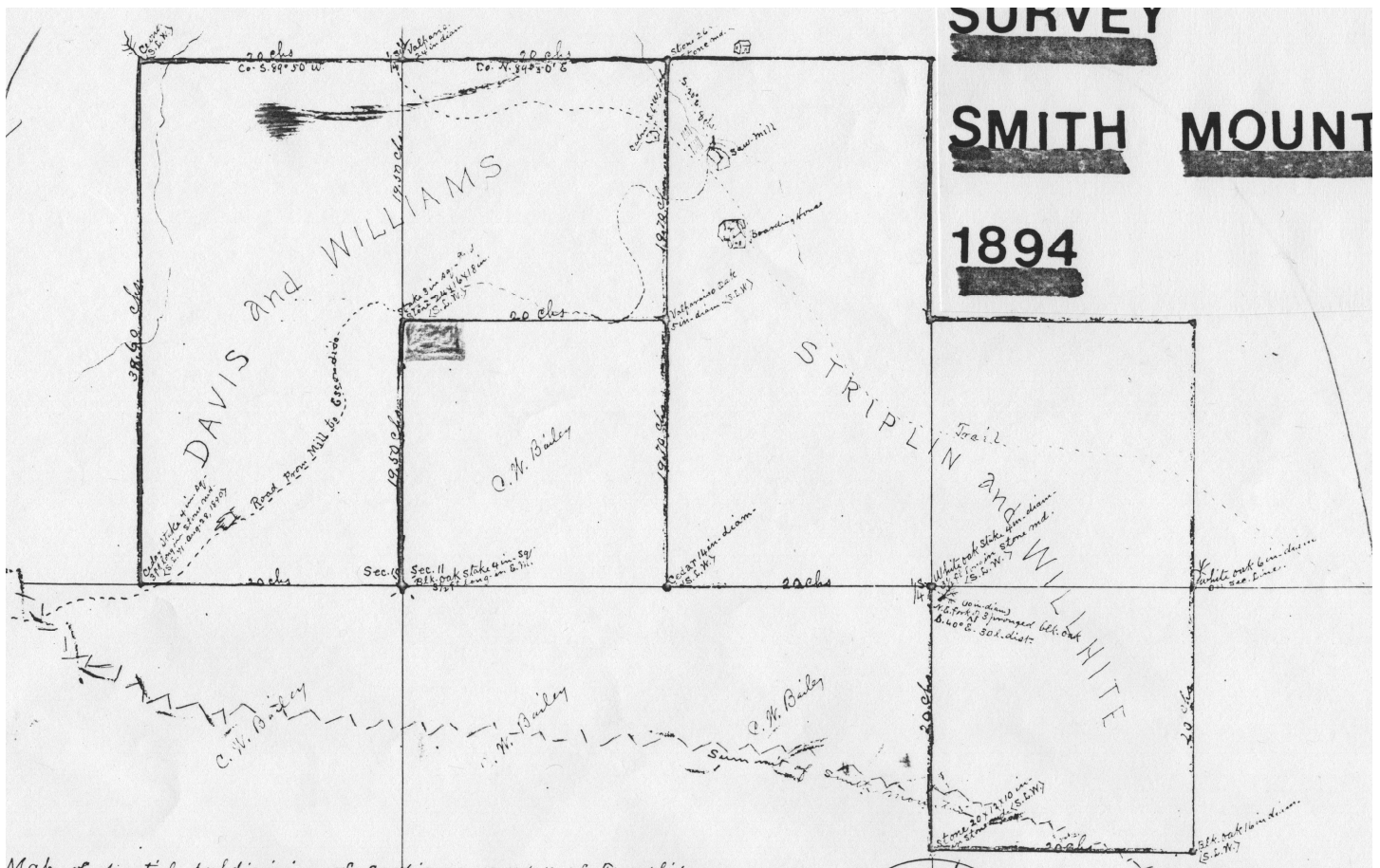
The sawmill company expects to start up soon with a full crew.

In August 1894, the San Diegan-Sun ran a story on Professor George Riddell's Palomar vacation which included [92]:

... Prof. Riddell says that camping parties should go to Palomar, as its top is a succession of rolling hills, rich in verdure and great forest trees. It was possible to get feed for beast and man, as there are some twenty families thereabouts, but now a small hotel is being built for Mrs. Wilhite in Sawmill Valley, where people can be accommodated. ...



**Map of partial subdivision of sections 10, 11 + 14, of Township 10 South, Range One East, San Bernardino Meridian, - being the land owned by Davis and Williams, and Striplin and Willhite (sic). As surveyed by me October 24th and 25th 1894.
S. L. Ward, Licensed Surveyor**



Crop of 1894 map showing the Striplin and Wilhite land, sawmill and boarding house, and the road from the Mill to Escondido.

At lower left the Mill Road meets up with the Trujillo Road which heads down off Palomar

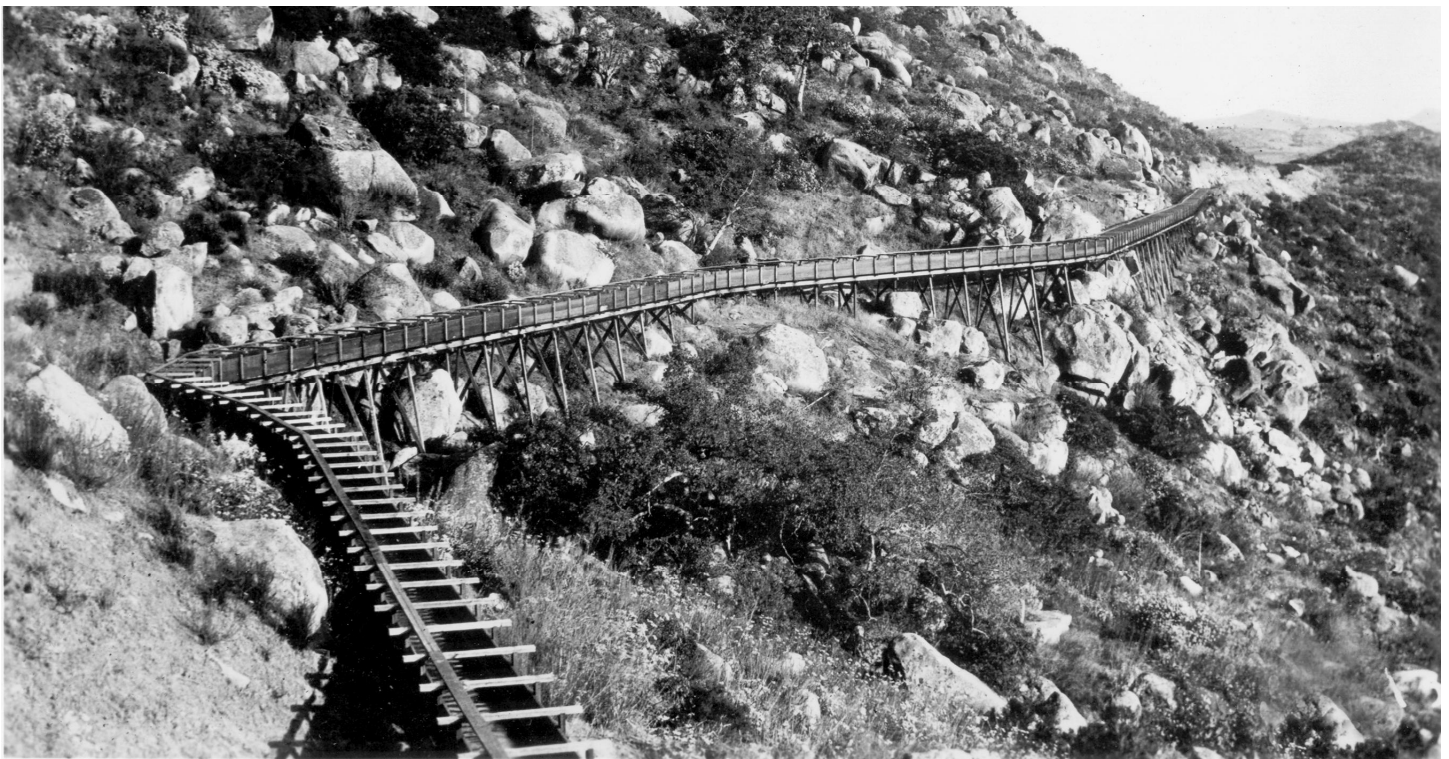


Closer crop of 1894 map showing just the Striplin and Wilhite land and their sawmill and boarding house at upper left

On September 6, 1894, the Escondido Times reported [34]:

The Board of Directors of the Escondido Irrigation District met in regular monthly session Tuesday ... The Board discussed at some length the question of lumber for the flume – whether to use imported or the native lumber from Palomar mountain – but no definite action was taken. If satisfactory contracts can be made by Contractor Doty the Palomar pine lumber will probably be used for trestles, but the contract calls for redwood lumber for the flume.

The Escondido Irrigation District built a fifteen-mile-long canal and flume to bring water from the San Luis Rey River to a reservoir in Bear Valley (Lake Wohlford in Valley Center), which was finished by 1894 [36].



Escondido Flume, undated Escondido Public Library

Robert Asher writes [77]:

[George] Doane had a big barn just south of the present CCC camp buildings. The barn was constructed entirely of sawed lumber -- Silver Fir and Incense Cedar -- all of which was gotten out on the place. The sawmill was temporarily located beside the creek a short distance up the valley from the site of the barn. It had been

installed there for the purpose of sawing up logs, taken from the Doane land, into dimension stuff to be used in the building of the Escondido Flume Line. For this purpose the wood of the Big-Cone Spruce (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*) was entirely satisfactory; it did not rot quickly and so lasted long where exposed to dripping water. The tree is more generally known to local lumbermen as the "red fir", but it is closely related to the Douglas Spruce of the more northerly Pacific Coast states. Mr. Doane told me that he had agreed to take his pay for "stumpage" of trees cut for a part of the finished lumber, but that he had stipulated that his share was to be Silver Fir or Incense Cedar because inch boards of red fir were "no good" on account of "windcracks" in the original log, and also because the planks split badly when nailed. Judging from the nails used in those days, most any board would split; they were the old style iron nails -- tapering from head to squared-off point, cut iron or wrought. ... In addition to the lumber used in the barn, Doane had quite a pile of sawmill stuff piled up. But he did not lose it from rot, as had been stated. After his marriage, he "located" his mother-in-law, Mrs. Susan Hayes, on a tract of land cornering in Lower Doane Valley, using his reserve of lumber for the construction of several buildings.

In 1937, Catharine Wood wrote (above, Robert Asher disagreed with Wood's rotted lumber statement) [6]:

A contract was secured for lumber for the Escondido flume ditch line. The equipment was moved temporarily to Doane Valley where George Doane had given the lumbermen permission to cut "red fir" (big-cone spruce) timber on condition that he receive in payment sufficient lumber for a house. He instructed the men to pile this lumber in a certain spot where it was to stay until he had a wife to tell him how to build the house. The lumber was piled improperly, and being green, rotted before George Doane secured his wife.

On November 1, 1894, the Escondido Times reported [35]:

Samuel Striplin was down from Palomar recently and reports the sawmill business flourishing.

On October 14, 1895, the San Diego Union reported on the Owens mine in Julian [38]:

The Owens mine, owned by H.A. Williams and others, after lying practically idle for about five years is about to be opened up. Thomas H.B. Varney of San Francisco and Harry B. Varney and W.B. King of Oakland were here for several days last week and arrangements were made to commence as soon as material ordered has arrived. The present shaft is down 350 feet and is filled with water for 200 feet. A contract has been let for furnishing 20,000 feet of ten-inch mining timbers of red fir to **Mr. Striplin** of the Smith mountain saw mill and as soon as the first installment of the material arrives the work of retimbering down to the water line at the 150 foot level will commence. The water will then be pumped out and as the work progresses the stopes and drifts will be explored. The work will be pushed as rapidly as possible and all operations will be conducted on strictly legitimate mining lines tending to the fullest development of the property. T.B. Shide well known as a thoroughly practical miner, will have immediate charge of the work and when active mining commences a large force of men will be employed. The Owens has long been known as one of the best mines in the camp, and in years back yielded up hundreds of thousands of dollars. ...

On October 21, 1895, the San Diego Union reported [39]:

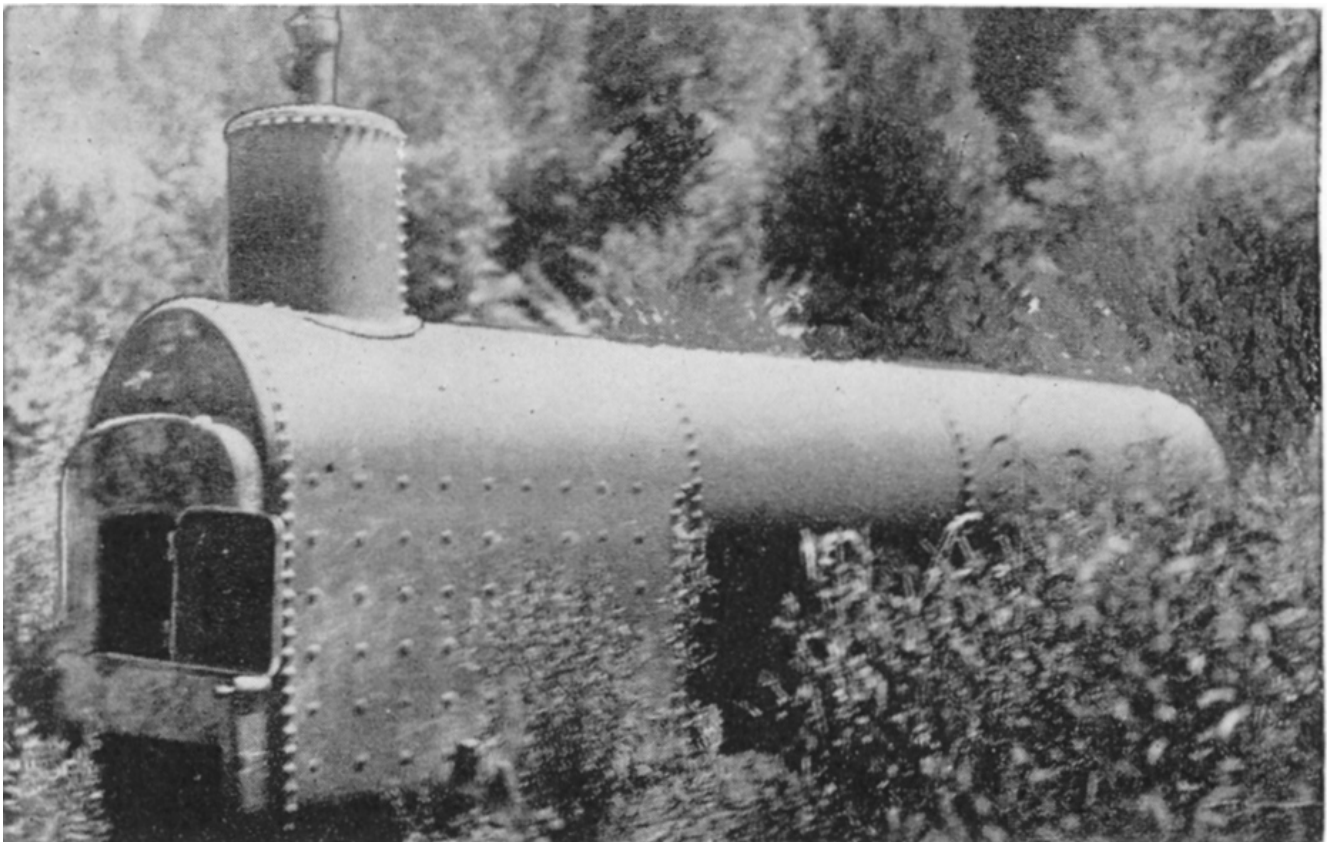
Samuel Striplin of the Smith mountain saw mill had an accident Friday morning while on his way to Julian that came near being serious. He was coming down the grade to the Warner ranch, the foot of which is where the San Luis Rey river leaves the valley. The grade is about a mile long and one of the steepest in the county. He had a six-mule team loaded with mining timbers for the Owens mine. About half way down the grade the brake refused to work and the wagon ran down for about 200 yards when it struck the bank, and wagon, lumber, and mules were piled up in an indiscriminate heap. One of the mules was so badly injured that it had to be killed. The others were not much hurt. Mr. Striplin himself jumped off during the run down and was therefore uninjured.

In August 1896, a story in the San Diego Weekly Union on Smith Mountain camping said [79]:

There are many good places to camp, and some to board. For the two seasons we have stopped in a pretty little nook of a valley (elevation 5,000 feet) in which is located Samuel Striplin's saw mill and which is surrounded by the grand forest spoken of. Mrs. Wilhite has a two-story cottage here with five spare bed-rooms, and one can get plenty of good food to eat.

The Striplin and Wilhite sawmill ceased operation at some point after 1896, there being no further San Diego or Escondido or Oceanside newspaper accounts of its operation to be found. In 1937, Catharine Wood wrote [6]:

Palomar lumber was good, but the expense of operation was excessive. William L. Wilhite left, while his wife, with the children, remained to cook for the men, but soon afterwards the venture was given up as a losing proposition. ... The old boiler still remains, as metals rust slowly on Palomar because of the dryness of the air, but the old buildings have disappeared.



Striplin sawmill boiler, undated Catharine Wood photo

Robert T. Vaughan (1879-1960) reminisced about a trip he took with his mother to Palomar Mountain where they stayed in a log cabin near Wilhite's closed sawmill; Vaughan said the trip was "about 1890" but it was after 1896 since he used the past tense in mentioning the Striplin sawmill [4]:

Baileys told us we could get a log cabin to stay in nearby, where there had been a saw mill (Wilhite I believe was the last saw-mill-operator). People told us how a Mr. Striplin used to drive a six-mule team with a jerk line down the mountain with a load of lumber. When he went down the steep grade, he would chain a good sized tree back of the load to act as a brake. At the foot of the grade, he would roll these trees off the road.



**Returning from Palomar down the South Slide,
with a tree dragging behind the carriage as a drag brake, August 1896**

Percy Smith Cox photo



Striplin sawmill, 1897 SDHC photo

After the sawmill ceased, Palomar Mountain continued supplying wood for various needs.

The Sickler Flour Mill at Pala started in 1881 and functioned as a mill at least until 1905 when the Fletcher-Salmons Investment Company purchased it [82,83]. The Oceanside Blade Tribune reported in February 1898 [81]:

Owing to an unprecedented demand for this season of the year, the Pala Mills have been obliged to defer their improvements in order to give the patrons the benefit of another months run. Wheat is coming in at a brisk rate. In the meantime the lumber is being hauled for the addition, the heavy timbers from Smith's mountain having come this week.



Sickler Flour Mill at Pala, late 1910s

Photo Fred & Vera Sickler, www.palagems.com/sicklers2

The San Jacinto earthquake of December 25, 1899, damaged the Pala Mission Chapel, collapsing its roof and cracked its belfry which stands apart [3]. Louis Salmons said in an oral history [2]:

One Christmas morning about four o'clock we had an earthquake and it -- all the roof of that chapel in Pala Mission, and everything just went down. So, in those days there was nobody to donate anything much. There was just the people that live around Pala and so I told them that I thought I could get the permission from Oliver on Palomar there, (he owned 160 acres of land up there) Ernest Oliver, to cut the timber and the people in Pala, the Indians and Mexicans there offered to go up and cut the timber and peel them. So they did. They figured out what they wanted and they went up and cut them all and peeled them and I hauled them down. I donated half of that - hauling them down. And I got ...that was the early days. The west grade was none too wide and there's several of the turns there that when I got to the turn we had to ... the front end of the big long big timbers up over the - on the footboard over the team, and the hind end was back so far that when we got to a short turn we had to get around and jack the wagon up and take the team off and slide it around, straighten it out so that we could go

on, several times -- haul them down the grade, haul them down to Pala. Then they repaired the chapel.



FRONT OF PALA MISSION.



INTERIOR OF CHURCH.

Pala Mission, c1900 [3]

On January 1, 1900, the San Diego Union reported [40]:

A good sawmill is at present Palomar's greatest need, as there is a great demand for lumber. In a few years our hundreds of acres of orchards will require an enormous number of boxes, which should be made here. The forest fires injured much fine timber last fall, which is sawed up in the next few years can be utilized; if not, it will be a total loss.

On September 3, 1901, the San Diego Evening Tribune reported [41]:

The saw mill at Palomar has passed into the hands of Mr. Phillips who was formerly employed by Samuel Striplin, the owner.

On November 12, 1901, the San Diego Union reported [80]:

The Smith mountain sawmill is turning out bridge timbers and other lumber, including box wood. Pine and fir are the principal woods.

On July 7, 1902, the San Diego Union reported [42]:

G.T. Penney of Escondido, while working at the sawmill on Smith mountain, accidentally received a cut on the head from the buzz saw. It will confine him to his home for a time.

In 1904, Gordon Stuart stayed for a month at Samuel Striplin's place and sawmill in Pedley Valley on Palomar Mountain. Gordon Stuart writes [8]:

... Sam Striplin was a Kentuckian. He had taken up a homestead on the mountain before Mendenhalls arrived. Sam raised race horses and tall mules at various times. He had been in California when law was the do-it-yourself kind.... Sam was of such a slight build that he could have been a jockey. In a month at the sawmill I did not hear a harsh word spoken; nobody had ulcers; no frustrations. At that time the mill was not in operation. Near the mill there was a large house made of rough boards, and unpainted. We arrived at noon, Charlie and I went into the kitchen and started to cook up a meal. When it was ready Charlie went to the door and called out that dinner was ready. Into the kitchen walked a neighbor and six young huskies (men). Charlie started dishing up, and I started slicing bread. Mrs. Wattson had sent a week's supply of bread for us. As soon as a slice of bread came off the loaf a huskie grabbed it. I never got a slice ahead.

After the kitchen was cleaned out of food, and the huskies were gone, Charlie relaxed and looked at the empty dishes. "Well," said Charlie, "That was a battle." I asked, "Who were they?" He answered, "Hell! I don't know. I asked Chet Helms to come in for dinner, and I got more than I bargained for." That was mountain hospitality.

We stayed a month at the saw mill. We slept on cots under the trees. Back of the house the pine trees covered a steep mountain, to the top. There were several families camped near the sawmill, and other parts of the mountain must have had many more, considering the number of callers we had. Every day we sat out under the trees and entertained visitors. As far as we knew there were no cabins for rent on the mountain. Tenting was common practice. Sam

didn't charge campers for putting up tents on his ground, and I doubt if anyone else did. Theodore Bailey had a camp and a store at the post office. ... Many of the campers on Palomar came from Los Angeles and San Diego. A stage line operated from somewhere up to Bailey's. It came up the north road, of course.... Wagon loads of campers drove up, as Charlie and I did. ...

Nobody was in a hurry at the sawmill. Sam went about his work, and the place was ours. I don't know who paid for the groceries. I never gave it a thought.... Twice a week I rode a horse over to Bailey's to get a few groceries and pick up the mail. ...

There was a bit of grass land on Sam Striplin's place, and Sam had put up some hay. One day Chet Helms came over with his baler and crew. It was a small outfit. Chet, two Indians, and Jeff Frye made up the crew. I pitched hay up to the feeder. It took two days to bale Sam's hay. Charlie and I fed the men.

Jeff Frye was a half-breed Cherokee. His left hand was missing; but the joint was there. Jeff would put a cigarette paper in the curve of the joint, shake in the tobacco, and roll a cigarette as tight as one rolled by a man with two hands.... Charlie Mendenhall said Jeff could "lass" (lasso) with the best of them. Jeff said he loved the old mountain, and he was not alone in that. I do not believe any nature-loving man ever spent a month on Palomar without coming under the spell. Of course, many have left the mountain; but they have always carried some of it away with them. It wasn't only the mountain; it was the history back of it. A rider, on a horse, could feel the presence of riders of the past. I do not feel that I am laying it on too thick. Something there takes hold of men; if it isn't that, then what is it?...



Saw pit on Palomar Mountain, 1904 Ed Davis photo

Robert Asher wrote [77]:

Previous to the establishment of the Striplin & Wilhite sawmill on the mountain, much of the planking used for building cabins was "whipsawed" in "sawpits". During the years while the Striplin sawmill was in operation, the sawpit idea was out of favor. But, in the course of time, the sawmill was abandoned and several more recently-constructed cabins were built with whip-sawed lumber.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Davis whip-sawed many of the planks used in the construction of their cabin on the Iron Spring property. The Bill Beach residence, now owned by Caltech, contains many planks whipsawed by Bill and Marian Beach.



Saw pit on Palomar Mountain, c1903 Myrtle Elizabeth Johnson photo, SDSU Library



Ollie Bailey and Clarence Smith felling a fir tree, undated. Robert Asher photo

In 1907, a brief biography of Willard G. Phillips in the book *A History of California* included this [78]:

A stock ranch which Mr. [Willard G.] Phillips owns on Smith Mountain, San Diego county, comprises three hundred and eighty acres, and upon this place he has also a sawmill in which he manufactures lumber for his private use. This valuable property has been in his possession since 1891.

On April 6, 1907, the Oceanside Blade reported [43]:

T.O. Bailey stopped over Friday on his way from San Diego to Palomar mountain where he was going to close up the sale of the old sawmill property.

On February 17, 1909, the San Diego Union reported [44]:

The Samuel Striplin ranch property, consisting of 200 acres, located above the reservoir in the old Bear Valley [PB: Lake Wohlford in Valley Center] has been sold to James Holmes of Los Angeles for a consideration of \$1400. Mr. Striplin will probably move to his ranch on Palomar mountain in the near future. Mr. Striplin has a reputation over the county for having owned the first saw mill on the Palomar. He has owned the mill for the past thirteen years, although it has been out of commission for three years. He has hauled lumber, sawed at his mill on the mountain, to San Diego, Escondido and other places. Steam is the motive power.



Striplin and Wilhite sawmill, 1909 Escondido History Center

Samuel Striplin died July 28, 1911, and is buried in Oak Hill Memorial Park in Escondido [1,18].



In Samuel Striplin's 1911 obituary in the Los Angeles Times, the current status of the sawmill is mentioned [19]:

... For years the lumber mill, now the property of a Los Angeles man, was the only lumber mill in San Diego county. The ruins are to be seen today on the slopes of the mountain, and are pointed out with interest to the younger generation and others who express surprise to learn that lumber was ever manufactured from trees grown with the lines of the county. ...

On September 29, 1919, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported [48]:

E.C. Linthicum and family made a trip to the top of Palomar mountain Sunday, Mr. Linthicum being called there to investigate the proposition of putting up a sawmill on the mountain.



Everett Clyde and Anna Linthicum, undated, ... they were married in 1910

Everett Clyde Linthicum (December 13, 1884 – August 3, 1955) ran an Escondido business sawing eucalyptus and oak trees to sell lumber and cord wood [1,50].

On November 14, 1919, the Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate reported [47]:

SAWMILL WILL CUT OAK TIMBER ON PALOMAR'S TOP

E.C. Linthicum is preparing to set up a sawmill on the top of Palomar mountain, and the purpose of the operator is to cut oak timber from a tract of 200 acres

which he has procured for this purpose. There is much timber on the land he has secured but he will cut only the oak. The work of setting up the mill will be started soon, but the cutting of timber will not start until the winter snows have melted and gone and spring weather has started.

On January 2, 1920, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported [49]:

LINTHICUM WILL SET UP SAWMILL IN ESCONDIDO

E.C. Linthicum went to Palomar mountain Saturday, taking a force of five men to bring to Escondido the sawmill which he had planned to use in cutting up oak timber on the mountain. The mill will be moved to Escondido and the timbers hauled here for

sawing. So Escondido will have a sawmill in operation early in the spring for the making of lumber from the rough logs.

On January 7, 1920, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported [51]:

LINTICUM'S SAWMILL NOW READY TO CUT UP THE LOGS

E.C. Linthicum has finished the work of setting up his sawmill in Escondido, having secured the former yards of the McCormick Lumber company as a site. He has a sixty-inch bottom saw and a thirty-inch top saw and says he can take care of the biggest log grown in San Diego County. Mr. Linthicum plans to cut live oaks from this section until spring and then secure timber from Palomar. Later he plans on making insulator pins and other such articles. He will only handle hard woods.

Linthicum Will Do Custom Log Sawing

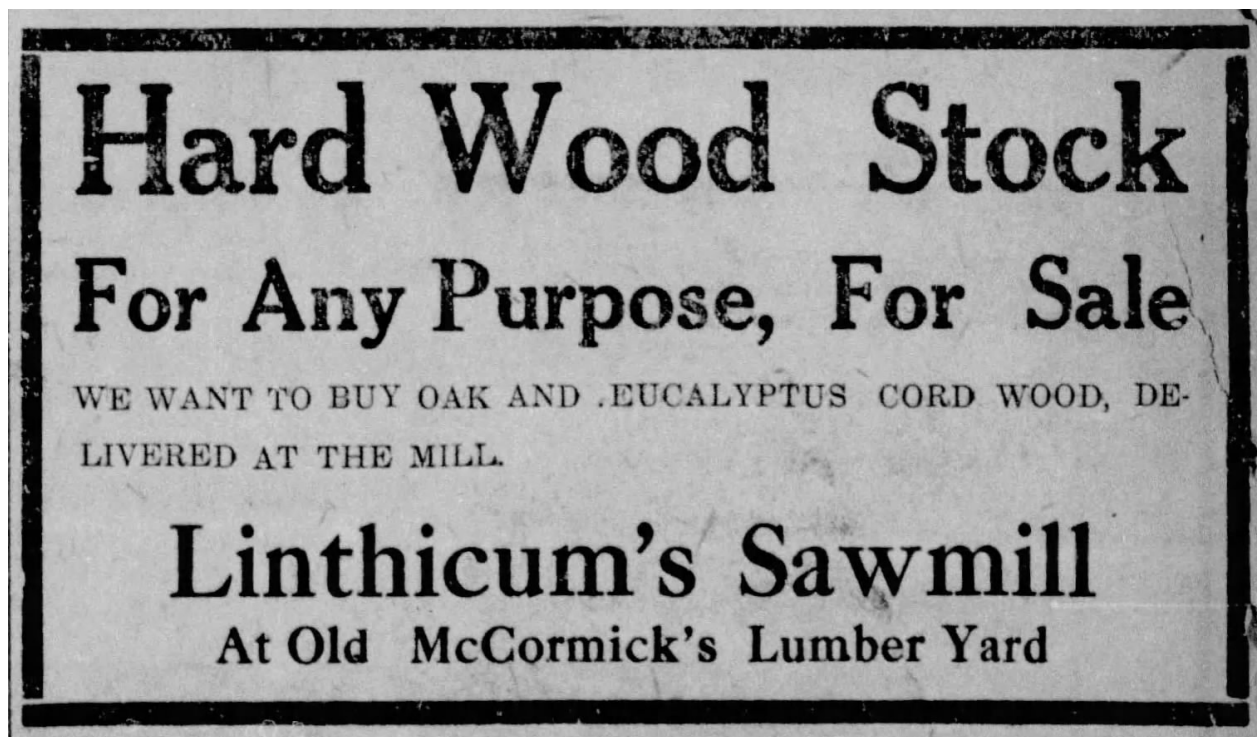
E. C. Linthicum is prepared to do custom sawing of hardwood logs until he secures his larger supply from the Guejito ranch. Anyone wanting sawing of this kind apply at the mill at the old McCormick lumber yard, or leave orders at his home north of F. C. Morago's cement tile factory. Eucalyptus may be sawed into rough flooring or any kind of timbers for rough work.

On March 13, 1920, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported [52]:

NEW SAW MILL SAWING LOGS

LINTHICUM'S PLANT STARTED UP SATURDAY WITH NEW MOTOR AND COMPLETMENT OF EQUIPMENT

The hum of the big circular saws was heard at the site of the old Chas. R. McCormick Lumber company yards in the west part of Escondido Saturday afternoon. It is the new plant of E.C. Linthicum, starting up in the job of converting oak trees into lumber. The work of sawing logs has been delayed several weeks while Mr. Linthicum was waiting for a motor and other equipment for his mill. The motor was set in place Saturday and the first log was run through the mill. The oak timber for the new plant is being logged on the Guejito ranch of Jean Cazaurang. For several weeks Mr. Linthicum and his men have been getting out the logs and a truck load was brought down Saturday. The wood is of fine quality and will make excellent oak lumber, according to a furniture maker from San Diego. There is a probability that a San Diego man will establish a furniture factor adjoining the Linthicum mill and convert the oak lumber into tables and chairs.



Hard Wood Stock
For Any Purpose, For Sale
WE WANT TO BUY OAK AND EUCALYPTUS CORD WOOD, DELIVERED AT THE MILL.
Linthicum's Sawmill
At Old McCormick's Lumber Yard

On May 27, 1920, the Escondido Daily Times Advocate noted [93]:

NEW COMPANY TO CUT OAK ON THE HEIGHTS OF PALOMAR

The El Molino Hardwood company is a new concern recently organized, with F.B. Pedley as president, the object of which is to cut oak and other hard timber on Palomar mountain and bring it to Escondido to be worked into lumber, for all purposes to which oak and such hardwoods are usually put. The cutting of timber on Palomar was started Wednesday of this week by the new company's men.

F.B. Pedley is Francis "Frank" Bidwell Pedley, the son of Nathan Chaffin Pedley who owned Pedley Valley on Palomar.

On November 20, 1920, the Oceanside Blade Tribune published [84]:

Palomar Furnishes Oak For Making Furniture

A fortune lies in the Palomar mountains in the form of oak trees, the timber of which is the best obtainable for the manufacture of furniture. Millions of feet of timber cover the slopes and valleys of these mountains. The hands of man have barely touched the wealth represented in these oaks. Oak wood now sells at from \$300 to \$450 per 1000 feet f.o.b. San Diego. The Palomar oak trees are equal to any wood in the United States and are the only marketable oak in California, according to T.J. McKell of the California Wood Manufacturing Co., a local concern which manufactures furniture. The local oak trees shed their leaves in the winter, similar to the eastern oaks. Oak trees around Los Angeles and further north are of the "live" variety and are not as suitable for furniture making.

At Escondido a small mill is busy turning the oak trees into lumber for the market. About 13 men are employed at the mill besides those who work in the forests. This mill has been established about nine months. The wood is shipped to San Diego, where it is kiln-dried. Most of this supply is purchased by the Cal-Wood company.
— San Diego Sun.

On December 11, 1920, American Lumberman reported [57]:

MAY CUT CALIFORNIA HARDWOOD

San Diego, Calif., Dec. 4. – An effort is being made to exploit the hardwood region around Palomar Mountain. There are millions of feet of good quality golden oak which all the chemical tests have proved to be thoroughly satisfactory. The land belongs mostly to cattlemen who have cut the oak indiscriminately for fire wood and fences, and different interests are trying to get leases and establish a center at Escondido. Since conditions in Mexico have become so chaotic, the import of Mexican oak has been slight and extremely variable. At present the Cal-Wood Lumber Co., of San Diego, is the only concern bringing down the oak, and by the most primitive methods – hauling with mules down the steep mountain sides to Escondido where there is a small mill. ... The Cal-Wood Lumber Co. hopes to effect a large development of this section in the mountains just back of San Diego, for the field is rich and the distance from San Diego so little – forty-four miles from Palomar – that cheap transportation would be an appreciable item. The Benson Lumber Co., far from granting that the crest of building activity has been passed in southern California, says that business has never been better than it is in San Diego now. The company's only trouble is shortage of labor and need of yet more lumber. Its great rafts, which carry 5,000,000 feet of logs to the mill, are coming in steadily and it is a common harbor report that the Benson company is chartering vessels for a Mexican export trade. It is understood that one vessel will be put into this trade during the current month.

On December 17, 1920, the Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate reported [56]:

GREAT ENTERPRISE IS THE NEW HARDWOOD MILL

INVESTMENT OF SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS GIVES
ESCONDIDO NEARLY A SCORE OF EMPLOYEES – NOW
CUTTING CORD WOOD AT THE RATE OF A CAR PER DAY
– MUCH FINE LUMBER MADE

During the past few months there has been established in Escondido through the tireless energy of E.C Linthicum a hardwood mill that represents an investment of \$70,000 and gives employment to nearly a score of people. The concern is incorporated as the San Vicente Hardwood company, with George S. Gillespie, a capitalist of San Diego, as the financial backer and with E.C. Linthicum and Mr. Gillespie as half and half owners of the company. Mr. Linthicum is manager of the business and the mill. The property bought by the new company is the former local lumber yard of the Chas. R. McCormick Lumber company, located on the siding of the Santa Fe in the southwest part of this city. They have bought some of the buildings and machinery of the former mill of the Landreth Hardwood company, that was located five miles north of town. This material has been moved to the local site of the new company, where much older machinery has been brought in from San Diego, as well. Machinery to a total value of \$35,000 is now on the ground and most of it is installed and in use. Principal items of machinery are a 72-inch band saw, a 60-inch rotary saw, an eight-inch cut-off saw that cuts up eight sticks of timber at a time and two immense electric motors, one of 100 horsepower and the other of fifty horsepower. Each of the items mentioned is a big piece of machinery as set up and used. There are several other smaller pieces of machinery for finishing fire lumber. Equipment is now on the ground for sawing four grades of fine hardwood flooring. Present work of this sort is the sawing out of truck stakes from eucalyptus and oak timber. Rougher work is the sawing and splitting of cord wood, a carload of which is being cut every day.

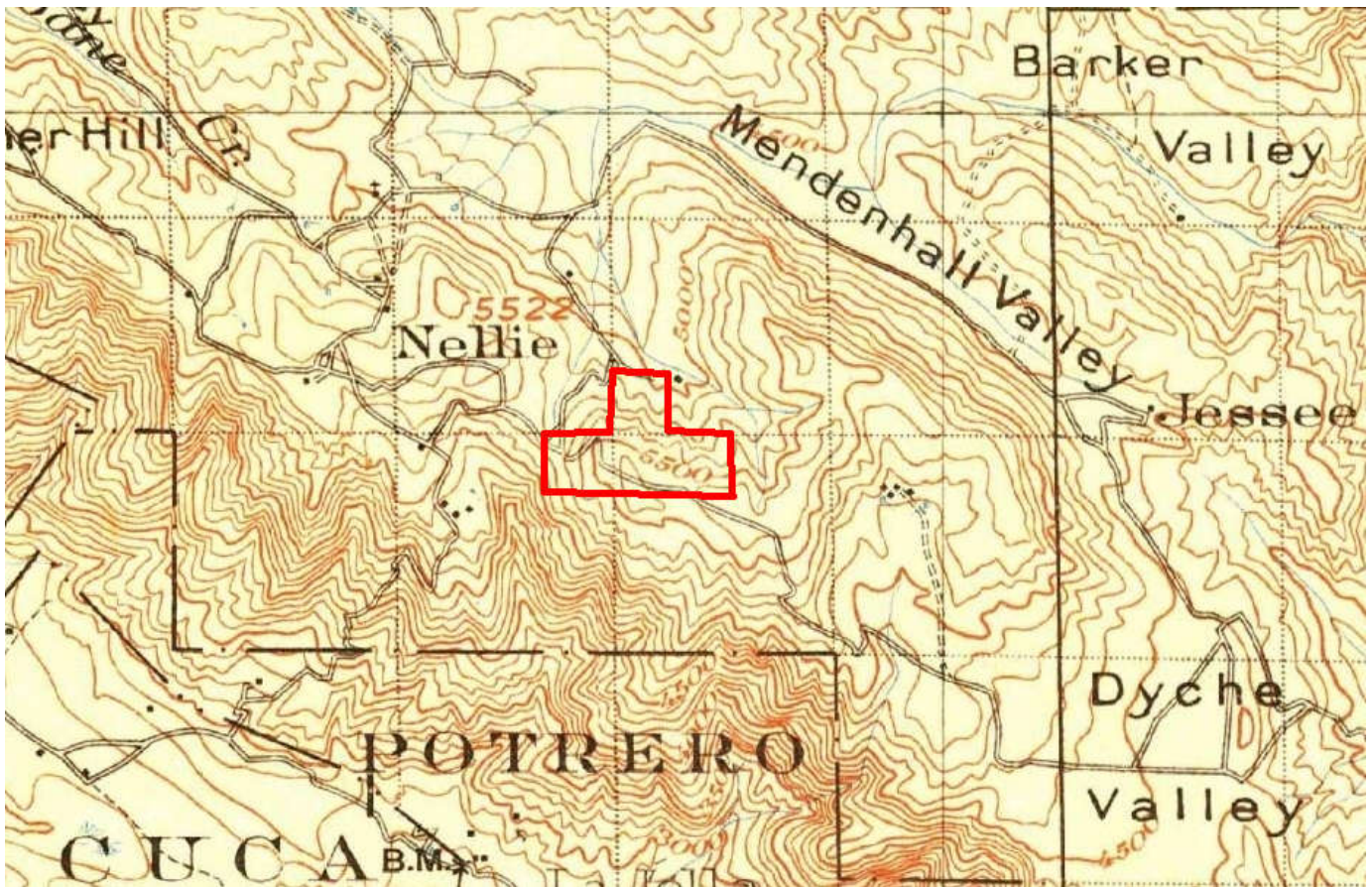
Additional equipment of the company are two 3 ½ ton General Motors company trucks, one 3 ½-ton Master truck and two Fords, all of which are busy all the time. Seven men are employed by the company at logging in the big eucalyptus grove of the Landreth people, five miles north of town. Smaller, independent contracts are given to any and all men who want to cut timber by the cord. Forty cords of wood per day is the output. This grove consists of 251 acres and will require about six years of time to be cut up by the mill. Other woods are held under contract by the San Vicente

company, notably the fine oak timber on the Jean Cazaurang ranch, including his 700 acres of splendid, tall straight white oak on Palomar mountain. This timber will be specially good for making lumber and all kinds of fine oak material. Only the limbs and crooked sticks are used for cordwood.

With eight men working at the plant at present, two truck drivers, seven lumber men in the woods and the manager and his assistants, the total number of employees runs up to a score. The mill is an important new industry for Escondido and means a good payroll for the city. Mr. Linthicum has been loyal to Escondido in getting it located here rather than elsewhere in the county, as considered by others interested in the proposition. While the making of cordwood now seems to be the principal work of the mill, this is not the case. The sawing and curing of hardwood for flooring and other fancy uses is the principal business of the concern. Mr. Linthicum understands the curing of eucalyptus without cracking, as he has demonstrated in the many big piles of fine lumber now standing in the local yard. He intends to fill the entire yard with this kind of material, which means a big income to Escondido.

On April 12, 1921, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported on Palomar news, including [53]:

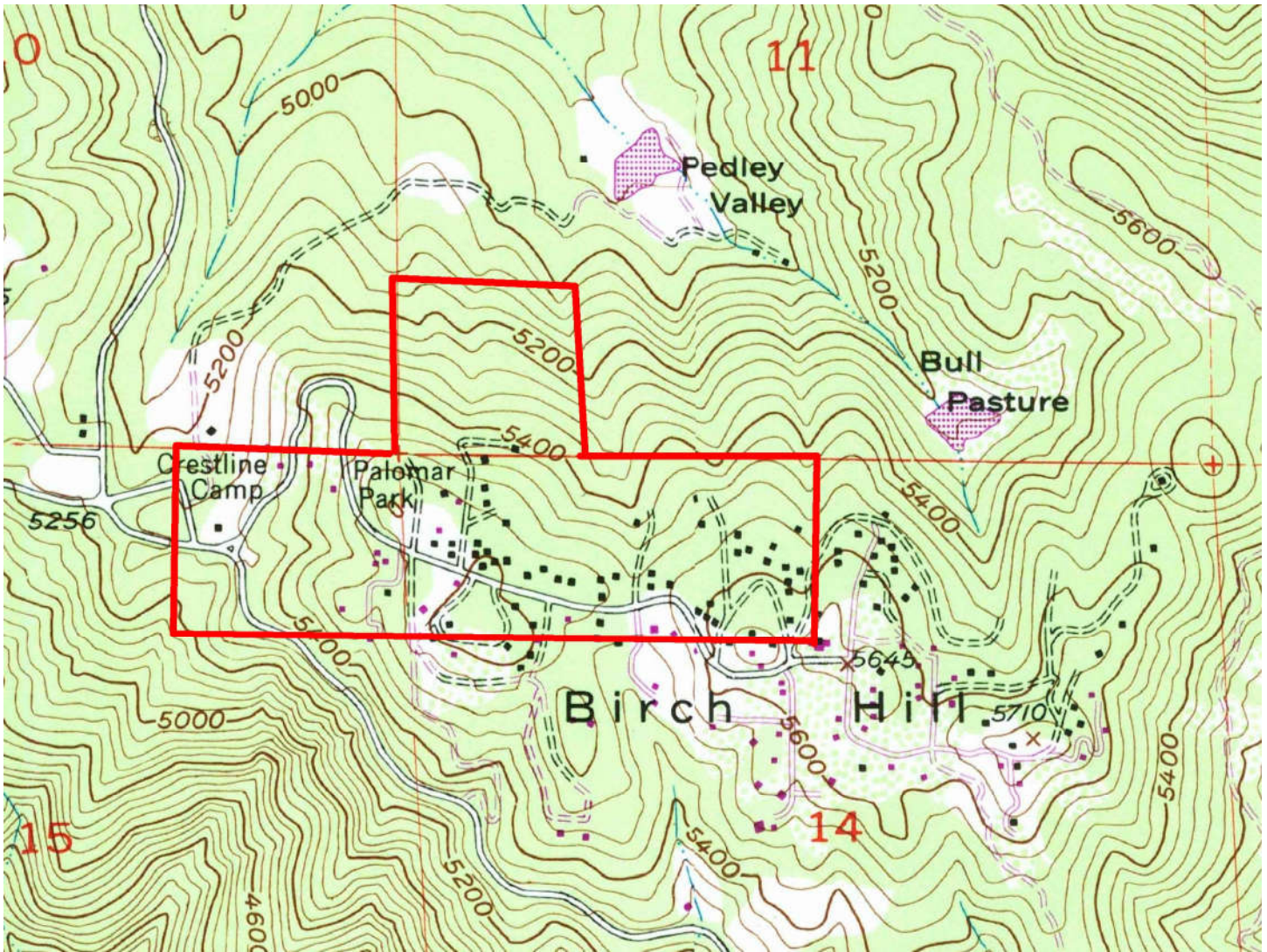
Clyde Linthicum and Lloyd White of Escondido are spending a few days here, bringing the Linthicum sawmill to its new location, the C. Bailey place on the mountain.



**Linthicum's sawmill was located on the
Charles W. Bailey 'cash entry' land of September 15, 1891**
overlaid on 1903 Ramona map

Leona Mendenhall writes [95]:

A fairly good-sized sawmill was operating between the Pedley place and what is now known as the Dunbar place. A Mr. Linthicum was part owner and Jack Burns was the cook. He had been the cook at the road camp, too. Later he had a stable and horses to rent, at the Campsites.... After [Lucius Carlisle 'Carl' Mendenhall] finished with the [cedar fence] post contracts, he cut and hauled a lot of oak trees to the sawmill, but they did not proved to make good lumber ...



**Linthicum's sawmill was located on the
Charles W. Bailey 'cash entry' land of September 15, 1891**
overlaid on 1988 Palomar Observatory map

On April 26, 1921, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported [54]:

PALOMAR, April 23. – E.C. Linthicum now has a party of men erecting his mountain sawmill.

On May 14, 1921, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported [64]:

C.E. Malone, who is employed at Linthicum's hardwood lumber mill on Palomar mountain, was here Saturday en route to Los Angeles for a visit of a day or two. He went out on the Oceanside stage.

On June 5, 1921, the San Diego Union reported [55]:

ESCONDIDO MAN PLANS SAWMILL ON PALOMAR MT.

With Present Prices of Lumber Thought That Venture Will Prove Profitable.

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN, June 4. — Many years ago Amos Striplin, a veteran of the Escondido country, who died a short time ago, expected to make a lot of money in the operation of a sawmill on the mountain. At large expense a first-class plant was installed in the Pedley valley, a short distance from the Bailey and Roberts mountain camps. Steam was the motive power. Little attempt was made to handle anything other than soft wood lumber, mostly cedar, which was taken to market by the old road down the side of the hill, at present a mere trail and used by Mail Carrier Peter Jolley in transporting the mail up and down the slope three times a week. The venture was a financial failure, the cost of getting the product to the market being too great to make it possible to compete with lumber brought to San Diego from the upper coast. For a number of years William Wilhite was associated with Striplin in the operation of the mill. The property finally fell into the hands of N.C. Pedley, now residing in Pomona.

After the lapse of years, with the changing of conditions and the prevailing high prices of lumber. E.C. Linthicum of Escondido is to re-establish the mill in another part of the district, although not far away. Linthicum proposes to saw the lumber standing on 160 acres of land owned by him as a starter; later he expects to acquire more forest land and extend the business. For the present he will operate with gasoline power, but eventually will install a steam power plant. Much of the lumber on his 160 acres is red cedar. He expects the soft wood lumber will run 300,000 feet. He has the market for a part of the product and is confident that he will be able to dispose of all he can turn out. He is developing a water system for the operation of the mill, piping the water from a never-failing spring of the neighborhood. Linthicum will use a five-ton truck in handling the product of the mill, bringing the lumber down

the west grade of the mountain, and to Escondido via Valley Center.

On July 8, 1921, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported [58]:

LINTHICUM BADLY HURT

SAWMILL OPERATOR STABBED IN AFFRAY ON PALOMAR GRADE WEDNESDAY NIGHT – TWO MEN UNDER ARREST

BULLETIN

LINTHICUM DOING WELL; RECOVERY CHANCES ARE GOOD

The Times-Advocate called the county hospital at three o'clock Friday afternoon and asked about the condition of Clyde Linthicum. The chief nurse responded: "He is resting easily and every condition is favorable." When asked as to Mr. Linthicum's chances of recovery, the nurse said: "His case is not serious. If infection does not set in he will recover beyond doubt."

E.C. Linthicum, well known locally as Clyde Linthicum, is at the county hospital in San Diego, said to be in a very dangerous condition, as a result of being stabbed in a big fight that occurred on the Palomar mountain grade at eleven o'clock Wednesday night. Two others of the men in the fight, Alex Lamadrid and Santos Valenzuela, have been arrested for investigation as to their part in the fight. Six or seven men were present and some of them took active part in the affair. Linthicum, who is starting a sawmill to get out hardwood lumber on the mountain, was in Escondido Wednesday securing men for his work. He, the two others mentioned and three more men were being taken onto the mountain by Jack Roberts, of Palomar. On the way up the mountain a quarrel was started in the car and when about two-thirds of the way up the mountain, the car was stopped and the men

fought it out. Linthicum states that he was clinched with Valenzuela when the knife wound was inflicted, but could not say for certain that Valenzuela did the stabbing. The injuries of Linthicum consist of four knife wounds and one of them is very dangerous. The dangerous wound is a stab just above the heart, the wound going into the lung and being so broad that it leaks air from the lung. Other knife wounds are long but not deep cuts on the shoulder and upper part of the arm. He also has a bruise on the back.

Dr. B.L. Crise went up to Silvercrest Thursday afternoon, to give first aid to the injured man. He took with him Robert Bowman and Otto Langer, motorcycle deputy sheriffs, who happened to be in Escondido. They placed the two men under arrest and later brought them to Escondido. Deputy Sexson came up from San Diego and took them to the county jail. Nobody was hurt in the fight except Linthicum. Lamadrid had a pistol but did not use it. Instead, he hid it under a rock, where it was afterward found by Deputy Langer. The other workmen who were going up with Linthicum in Roberts' car are Charles Maloney, Jack Burns and Jim Hirst. None of these has been arrested. A county ambulance came from San Diego and made the trip up Palomar. It passed through Escondido at three o'clock Friday morning, taking Linthicum to the county hospital. Linthicum was formerly in charge of the big hardwood mill in this city and well known in Escondido. The family resides on Palomar. Valenzuela is a well known Indian of Pauma. He was married last Tuesday morning in San Diego and expected to go up on the mountain and work for Linthicum, as did the other workmen of the party. The trouble is said to have started over the subject of wages.

On July 9, 1921, the San Diego Union reported on development plans for Palomar Mountain, including [65]:

E.C. Linthicum, manager of the new sawmill, between Planwydd and the site of the old mill in Pedley valley, announced that he has orders for the construction of seven log cabins on his 160-acre tract, which tract he proposes to sell off in acre or small holdings. He will get out the lumber at his sawmill. ... With the demand for lumber on the mountain, Linthicum says that he will probably be

able to dispose of all he can turn out for the new few months for use on the mountain. He is now installing a planer in connection with his other sawmill equipment.

On September 21, 1921, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported [59]:

WARING AND LINTHICUM BUY ADDITIONAL SAW MILL

On a recent trip to Julian, George Waring and Clyde Linthicum made purchase of Mr. Birdsall of a complete sawmill outfit which they will move to Palomar mountain as additional sawing equipment for their big plant. The mill just bought is equipped with a 62-inch circular saw that will handle any trees that grow on Palomar's top. The saw has already been moved to the mountain. Waring and Linthicum brought the saw with them from Julian a few days ago.

On October 15, 1921, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported [60]:

James R. Hirst and C.E. Malone, of the Linthicum sawmill on Palomar mountain, were here Friday afternoon and evening, en route from San Diego to the mill, after spending a few days at the county seat.

On December 1, 1921, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported [61]:

Ralph Brown, who has been working at the sawmill on Palomar mountain since July, was here Thursday en route to San Diego, where he will remain.

Clyde Linthicum was involved with Palomar Mountain real estate development including the Camp Sites subdivision and adjacent areas, along with Reid Wallace and others. Linthicum's mill provided lumber. On April 15, 1922, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported [62]:

LINTHICUM SECURES PIPE AND ENGINE FOR HIS PLANT

E.C. Linthicum, through an exchange of Palomar lots, has secured the pipe and engine for a pumping plant and water system at the

Palomar resort which he and his associates are promoting. Men went to Palomar Saturday to start work on the well.

On June 29, 1922, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported [63]:

BIG DOINGS AT PALOMAR CAMP

CEMENT GOES UP FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BIG SWIMMING POOL – LUMBER FOR SEVERAL HOUSES, ALSO

Much is doing these days in the way of development of the Palomar Camp Site of Linthicum & Wallace on top of Palomar mountain. People who have visited the tract recently report that it looks like a bee hive, with houses going up and excavation going down for water pipe lines, swimming pool and foundations. A truck load of cement left Escondido Thursday for the camp site. It will be used in constructing the swimming pool, which is to be 40 by 80 feet in lateral dimensions and eight feet deep at one end. A stream of fresh mountain water will be running through the pool all of the time. Pipe for two miles of water mains and laterals was hauled Thursday by Webb Brothers, for use in building a water system over the tract. An abundance of water has been secured for the camp site. Mrs. Florence Underwood bought the lumber Wednesday for two screened building that will be used for sanitarium purposes at the camp. Mr. Dannels, of Coronado, has completed his bungalow on his tract. Mrs. Mary Frew and the Misses Grace and Gula Frew have ordered the lumber for the construction of their cottage, having bought a lot in the tract some time ago. E.C. Linthicum made the trip to Palomar Thursday, taking two campers who want to spend a few weeks on the mountain.

Harry E. and Alice Hill lived on fifty-five acres north of Doane Valley; Robert Asher wrote [77]:

They had a good team of horses, and they traded the use of the horses by the sawmill folks for lumber to build a house, which the two of them put up with little outside assistance.

In 1958, Marion Beckler wrote [5, teacher name corrected]:

During the 1920s Carl Mendenhall was living in Pedley Valley and operating the sawmill. To accommodate his growing family a school was opened at the head of Pedley Valley with Miss Marian Dannels of Coronado as teacher.

According to Leona Mendenhall Bloomer, this Pedley Valley school opened in the sawmill cookhouse as a branch of the Pala school, with (Miss Marian Dannels) as teacher, for the school age children of the Linthicums and the Mendenhalls.

The Linthicum's new house in Camp Sites burned down in November 1922, and the family moved off Palomar; with an average attendance of less than five, the Pedley Valley school closed [66,68].



Campsites clubhouse construction, August 1924 [67]

In 1958, Marion Beckler wrote [5]:

... There are between 100 and 200 cabins on Camp Sites, owned by people of San Diego, Escondido, Oceanside, and other neighboring towns. To start the project, Pedley gave land for a well and Ralph Tillinghast, resident of the area, contracted to dig the well. William Reid Wallace built the reservoir. Jefferson Stickney, lawyer, incorporated the Water Company. Then the first cabin owners got together and raised a fund for the building of a clubhouse. Ralph Tillinghast, who was operating the sawmill, supplied cedar logs and sawed lumber of cedar and fir, and a fine community house was built. Stanley Davis built the fireplace.

The Campsites clubhouse was built by Ralph Tillinghast, Ernest W. Oliver (carpenter) and his son Harold Oliver (it's his Ford Model T in the photo above) [67]. All logs and timbers were cut from Palomar trees by Ralph Tillinghast at the saw mill in Pedley Valley [67].

On August 3, 1924, the San Diego Union published a Palomar Mountain article which noted the beginning of sales for Milton Bailey's Cedar Crest cabin development, and included the following photo, captioning it as [85]:

... shows a logging operation at Cedar Crest where already 100,000 feet of lumber has been cut for construction of cabins.



Logging operation at Cedar Crest on Palomar Mountain, 1924

Published in San Diego Union, August 3, 1924 [85]
San Diego History Center

On August 16, 1924, the San Diego Union published an article on a Palomar Mountain motor tour, including [87]:

A warm welcome was extended the guests upon their arrival at Cedar Crest, the new resort just opened up on the east side and

which is the property of Dr. Milton Bailey. ... Interest centered in the installation of the 50-horsepower steam saw mill, under charge of J.A. McBain, millman, formerly of the Julian country.

On August 24, 1924, the San Diego Union published an article on Palomar Mountain cabins and construction, including [86]:

Some fine types of modern log cabins have been built at the different resorts. Others are in process of construction. **Three sawmills** are busy turning out lumber, in addition to that which is brought up from San Diego. One of these mills is located at the Bailey Lodge, one at the Wallace camp and the other at Cedar Crest, the two former being 20 horsepower, and the latter a steam mill of 50 horsepower.

Newspaper accounts cannot be found to determine when these sawmills ceased operations on Palomar Mountain.

In January 1928, the San Diego Union reported on a “white blanket” snowfall on Palomar Mountain, including mention of “Camp Clyde” which is assumed to be associated with Everett Clyde Linthicum [88]:

Gasoline, oil and food are always obtainable at Camp Clyde, near the top of the mountain, so that no matter what the weather, motorists need not hesitate to visit this most interesting mountain region in the county.

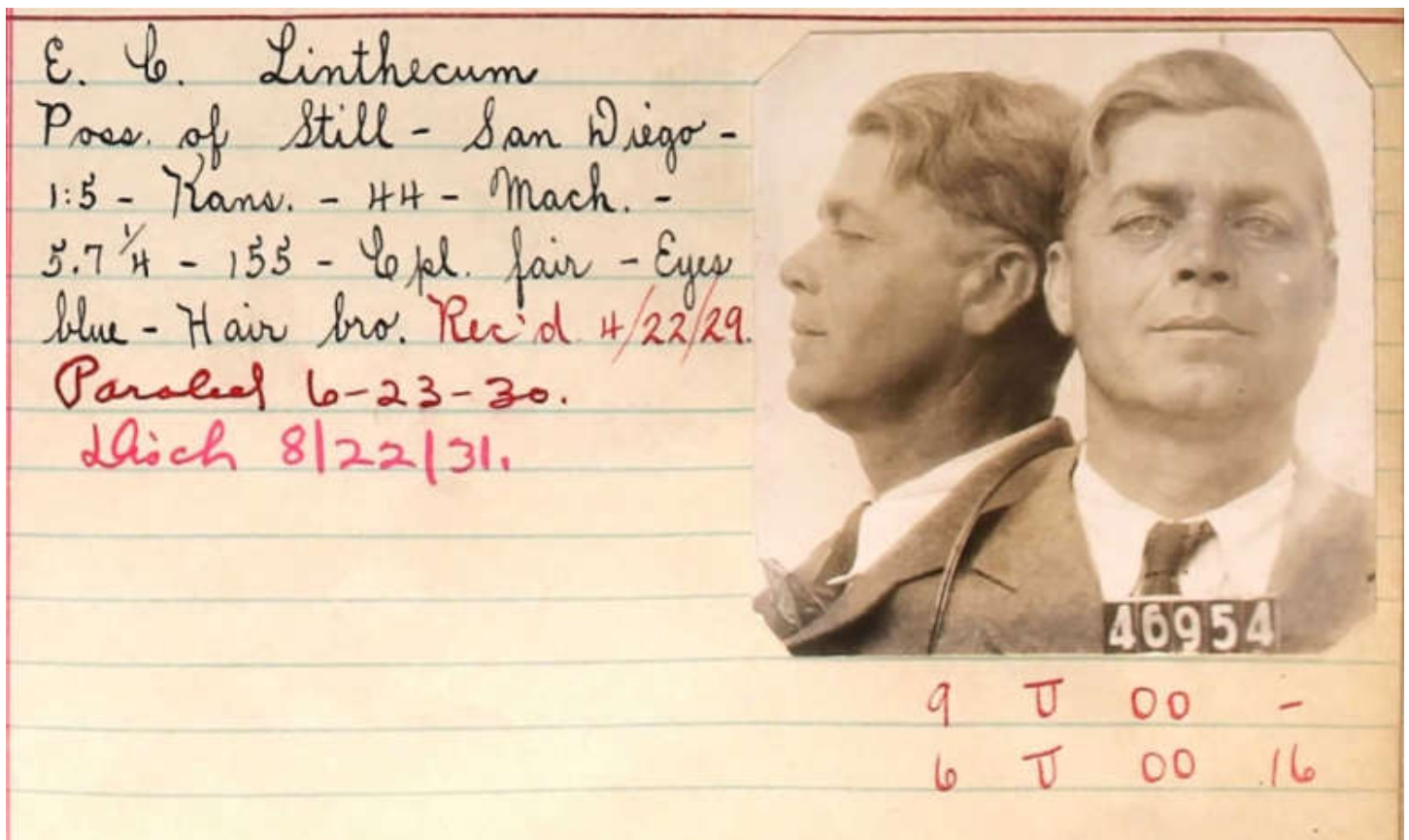
On February 1, 1929, the Ramona Sentinel published [94]:

ARRESTS MADE BY FRANK JENNINGS IN TWO BOOZE CASES

Three men were arrested and a quantity of assorted booze and booze paraphernalia was seized in two raids made by Frank Jennings, El Cajon chief of police. In the first, made at the foot of Grossmont on the El Cajon side, a complete high-powered booze manufactory was found, according to Jennings. Not only was there a still and mash, but also bottling apparatus, with various labels, corks and caps, for “Scotch” and “corn” whisky and a couple of

dozen formulas for making them. Three arrests were made there – E.C. Linthicum, A.F. Kelly and John Nelson – all being charged with possession and operation of a still. Linthicum posted \$1,000 bail for his appearance for preliminary hearing February 7, the other two being held in jail. ...

In April 1929, Everett Clyde Linthicum was sentenced to San Quentin Prison for possessing a still; he was paroled from prison in June 1930 and discharged in August 1931 [76].



On April 15, 1949, the Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate reported [70]:

The Grand Lumber company has begun logging operations in Mendenhall valley. This is the same company that logged in Pedley valley some years ago.

On July 21, 1950, the Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate reported [71]:

The Grand Lumber company of Julian, which has been logging on [Palomar] mountain, has recently sold out to a Los Angeles concern. The new company will continue logging on the mountain.

On December 21, 1950, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported [72]:

The Grand Lumber company is logging again on the Bergman place, and is taking out Christmas trees.

On January 27, 1956, the Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate reported [69]:

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN -- ... The lumbering operations started last week have doubled the school enrollment, bringing in two new families. ... The logging, on a bigger scale than any since the early days when the sawmill was operating in Pedley Valley, will continue at least three months and possibly through the Summer, according to Virgil Edwards. A reloading station is under construction in the field below Bailey Lane. Logs are hauled to the Redlands Mill, operated by the Big Bear Lumber Company.

On February 17, 1956, the Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate reported [73]:

Logging operations of the Big Bear Lumber Company are expected to continue for four to six weeks longer, according to Ralph Hodges, member of the company. Log trucks leave the mountain night and day for the mill in Redlands. The company is run by three graduate foresters. The president and general manager is Dave Rogers. Ralph Hodges of Sacramento works with the owners of the land where the timber is cut and makes plans for the logging operations. He is living here in the Stanley Davis cabin near Iron Spring. Max Doner marks the trees to be cut and builds

the roads. The operations thus far have been on the Bergman property but negotiations are in progress for work in Pedley Valley. Both firs and cedars are being harvested for log. Palomar firs are used for joists, sheeting, etc. The cedars have less value, there being much dead wood through the logs.

On March 30, 1956, the Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate reported [74]:

Logging by the Big Bear Lumber Company is nearing completion. Operations on the Bergman, Bailey and Stanley Davis properties are finished.

On April 20, 1956, the Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate reported snowfall on Palomar mountain, noting [75]:

Logging operations in Pedley Valley also had to be halted.



Palomar Mountain logging in 1926 San Diego History Center

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