

## AROUND HERE

### FLY IN THE OINTMENT

Otis A. Aultman, photographer of El Paso, Mexico, and points north, east, south and west, likes to go into remote places. He is just back from an exploring trip in the Guadalupe mountains with John Slater, Floyd Crews, the artist, and Joe Anderson.

Far up toward the summit of the mountains they found the remains of an old wagon road, eight miles long, built by the government in 1856.

"We went over it in a wagon," said Mr. Aultman, "but it was nearly impassable. In places, young trees had grown up in the tracks. I don't know why it was built unless to convey supplies to some outpost of troops who were watching out for Apaches."

Except for a few old bridle bits and bones showing where a detachment of cavalymen pushed their horses over a precipice to keep them from falling into the hands of Indians when it was impossible to ride them farther down the east slope, Aultman and party found nothing of much significance.

"But I like to go into far-off, almost inaccessible places," said Mr. Aultman.

"When I reach some such place, far off from everywhere, I have the feeling that at last I am in a place where no other man has ever been before.

"And then on the ground, somewhere nearby, I usually find a Prince Albert tobacco tin. That's just my luck."



## FIND BONES OF MOUNTS PUSHED OVER PRECIPICE

El Paso Exploration Party Confirms Legend of Tragedy in Guadalupe Mountains

The old legend of the United States cavalry men pushing their mounts over the 1000-foot cliffs of McKittrick canyon rather than allow

them to fall into the hands of the Indian enemy is true, reported four El Pasoans who returned at 3 a. m. Friday from a 12-day exploration trip in the Guadalupe mountains.

"Residents of the locality showed us rusty bridles and other pieces of harness stamped 'U. S.' which have been discovered in the canyon, and we found fragments of bones which probably were skeletons of the horses," said Otis Aultman, one of the party.

Floyd Crews, John Slater and Joe Anderson accompanied Aultman. Crews, an artist, made sketches along the route and Aultman took photographs.

### Deer Numerous

The party went by automobile from El Paso to Carlsbad and from Carlsbad to McCullom's ranch, where the road became a trail. Numerous deer were sighted and fruit trees scratched by bears were found. The party carried no arms.

Caverns in the vicinity of the Wild Horse mesa, Devil's Den canyon and Guadalupe peak are interesting, but not spectacular or of great size, Aultman reported. The party found no sign of a peculiar breed of wild hog which has been reported in the region.

A Carlsbad newspaper accused the party of planning to rob caves of relics, but nothing was disturbed and most of the exploration was done in Texas territory, Aultman said. The party was halted for a day when its third tire blew out at a point 111 miles from a service station.

Crews ran out of turpentine in making a painting of Guadalupe peak, but finished the work using Sloan's liniment as a substitute.

### Party Lost Way

Tradition says that the horses were pushed to death by soldiers of Bartlett's command more than 75 years ago. A detachment had been sent to the top of the mesa to drive Indians away from an emigrant train and the soldiers could not find their way back.

A soldier found a path by which the troopers could descend to the canyon, but over which horses could not travel. After a conference, it was decided to kill the animals rather than allow the enemy to take them. As ammunition was nearly exhausted, the mounts were pushed over the cliff instead of being shot.

