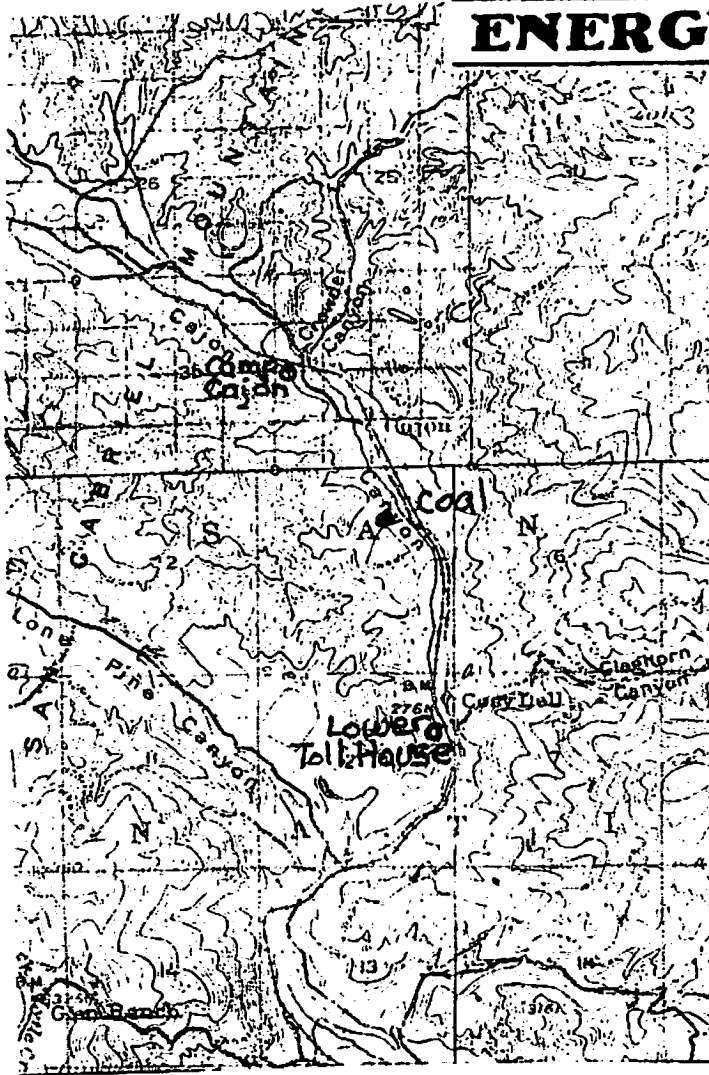


ENERGY IN CAJON PASS

By Arda M. Haenszel



SAN BERNARDINO may have its own sources of energy right here in Cajon Pass. No, I don't mean the San Andreas Fault, though that could certainly generate enough energy — perhaps more than enough. I'm thinking of fossil fuels such as gas, coal and petroleum.

This is no new thing. Coal claims were filled as early as 1878 near the Lower Toll House of the John Brown Toll Road at the present Cozy Dell. James and Joseph Brown, sons of the road's builder, filed on a location three quarters of a mile northwest of the toll gate. Soon, about a mile above the gate, in a ravine running roughly west from the main canyon the Cajon Canyon Coal Mine, the Summit Coal Mine and the Black Prince were opened. The coal veins apparently extended west through the ridge almost into Lone Pine Canyon.

Things were still pretty wild up there then, for the San Bernardino Times-Index ran an item in 1879 telling of a Mr. Sizemore who went hunting in the neighborhood and shot a grizzly. He only wounded him, and the bear turned and

attacked. Sizemore was saved, wrote the reporter, by a Mr. Salisbury of the Black Prince Mine.

The romantically named Black Prince continued to receive occasional attention from the press into 1883, as related by Pauliena La Fuze in her Saga of the San Bernardinos.

The History of San Bernardino and San Diego Counties, published by Elliott in 1883, also mentioned the seams of bituminous coal that had been opened up on the "Bear Flat Ranch," as the toll house property was called after the road franchise expired. Probably the name arose out of deference to the grizzlies.

A German named Philip Hanf had bought the ranch from Jesse Tay of Tay and Lawrence, and in September 1898 the Times-Index reported that he brought into town some samples of the coal. The mine property was conveniently close to the tracks, and he said that the railroad was interested in purchasing it for the locomotives, if a large enough supply could be developed. It was of good quality, he said, burning easily and leaving a minimum of red ash.

The late Earl Buie reported in his column that Ed Hanna of Rialto remembered his father telling of a family that mined coal in the pass around the turn of the century. They used to bring it into town to sell by the sack or basket.

Several years ago, I asked the present owner of the ranch at Cozy Dell, Bill Hubbard, about this coal deposit, and he pointed out to me the black seams now clearly visible

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