



Arrow shows location of Devil Canyon.

On the way up, one of the Indians was bitten by a rattlesnake and died. Sexton and the other Indian continued up the canyon. On the way down that Indian was also bitten by a rattler. Before he died he yelled out, "El Diablo" (the Devil). Sexton told Colonel Williams the story and the canyon was called "Devil Canyon" after that.

On July 11, 1863, state legislature authorized a twenty-year franchise for a toll road to be constructed from San Bernardino through Devil Canyon to the Mojave Desert, where it was to intersect the road from Cajon to Lane's Crossing. The contractors were to be Ed Daley, George Garner and G. S. Chapin. These men were told to have the road constructed by October 10, 1864. Construction, however, was never begun.

During the 1870's an economic boom was created, due to the discovery of minerals in the Mojave Desert and a great demand for lumber to build new mining towns developed. Shortly thereafter, W. E. Van Slyke and Ernest Somers acquired a tract of timber near Saw Pit Canyon and constructed a lumber mill. In order to serve this new mill a road had to be constructed to transport lumber to its saw.

Van Slyke and Somers entered partnership with H. C. Gade (according to the 1871 assessment record he gave his address as Devil Canyon) and Talcott Staples, owners of lime kilns in Devil Canyon, and formed the Devil Canyon Road Company. On June 17, 1876, the articles of incorporation were drawn and filed at the county court house in San Bernardino. In November, 1876, Staples rented the whole of Devil Canyon from J. S. and M. S. Severance at the fee of \$10 a year.

The toll road built by the new partnership left San Bernardino along what is now State Street and passed around Little Mountain at the edge of Wiggins Hill, which is located just west of University Parkway between Kendall Drive and North Park Boulevard. The road followed the alignment of the existing road leading into Devil Canyon and it then entered and continued along the bottom of the canyon all the way to the summit, where it met Saw Pit Canyon on the north slope of the mountain.

It then followed the old Mojave Indian Trail — a well-known footpath used by desert

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