



# ODYSSEY

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## MOUNTAIN AUTO LINE

By MAX H. GREEN

**(Editor's Note:** Max H. Green (1886-1975) inaugurated California's first passenger bus line in 1914, when his San Bernardino Mountain Auto Stage started carrying paying fares between San Bernardino to Crestline and other local mountain resorts over the old "switchback" road. We wish to thank Max's widow Grace for permission to print the story of that operation, as written by Max a few years before his death)

■ CAME to San Bernardino from Greenville, South Carolina in 1909. My brother Perry and I were employed by the Lake Arrowhead Water and Power Company shortly thereafter. He looked after their machinery and I was the Time Keeper; in charge of cook houses and commissaries. There were 1500 men on the job.

The first San Bernardino Mountain resorts were the Squirrel Inn, operated by a private firm. Next was Pinecrest and in Big Bear, John Fisher of Redlands and F. C. Skinner built and operated Pine Knot. The next place built was Knight's Camp, by Gus Knight, which remained in operation for many years and was latter called Langlois Camp.

The original Switchbacks road to these resorts was built by the county and operated as a toll road. Later it was used by the Lake Arrowhead Company to haul cement and supplies to construct Little Bear Dam. The first trucking over this road was made by 4, 6 and 8-horse teams, driven by Billy Martin, Tom Mapstead, Pablo, Joe Shelly and a number of others, and it would take them ten days to make the trip. Meat and perishables were delivered to Little Bear Lake (now called Lake Arrowhead) by Lyman & Sons livery stables, located back of the George M. Cooley warehouse on "D" Street.

George M. Cooley took the first White truck up the hill to Pinecrest where he owned

(Continued on Page 13)



Max Green in 1923