



P.O. Box 486
Wrightwood, CA 92397

Wrightwood Roots



Friday, November 7, 2003 A.D.

Saint Andrews' Priory

edited *by george*



"The Mountaineers" foto1570.tif
Saint Andrew's Priory nestled in Hidden Springs Valley, a landscape typical of the Holy Land..

Priory Located In Valermo

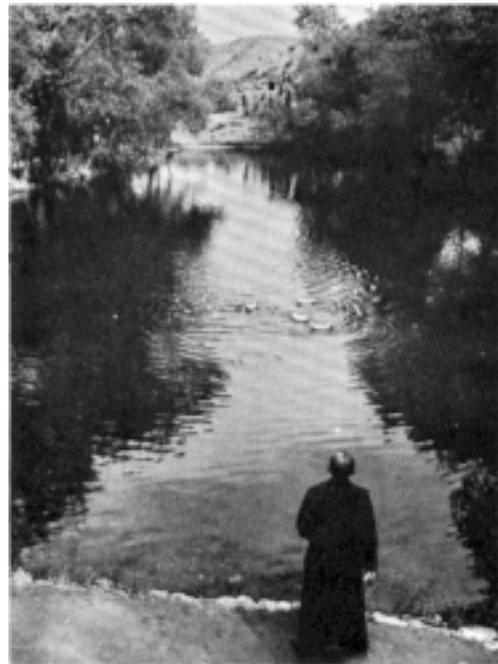
The world-famous Saint Andrews' Priory is located at Valermo in Hidden Springs Valley. The Order's roots reach back into China.

Saint Benedictine Order

A monastery of the Saint Benedictine order, it was established as Saint Benedict's Priory in the province of Szechuan near the Tibetan border in 1929. By 1946 it had grown in power and influence until these Benedictines established a college in Cheng-tu. In 1949, expelled by the Communists, they made an inhuman, exhausting trek to Hong Kong.

Priory Transferred To California

The Priory was transferred to California and Saint Andrews' was formally opened on October 11, 1956, at Valermo where the terrain resembles that of the Holy Land. The Priory is becoming famous as a cultural and art center.



"The Mountaineers" foto1571.tif
A peaceful scene at Saint Andrew's..

Saint Andrews' Holds Weekend Retreats

Saint Andrews' holds weekend retreats in the converted cattle ranch buildings nestled under large cottonwood trees surrounded by the Mojave Desert and the San Gabriel Mountains. Weekend Scout retreats are held all year except during the hot summer months. An art workshop is held annually in August; and the annual two-day Fall Festival, sophisticated and cosmopolitan, is for all ages. Even baby sitters are provided!

Turkeys and peaches are raised by the brothers, who do all their own work as well as their religious offices.

Scoutmaster Tillitson Brings Troop To The Desert

I was the Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 403 in 1967. The Troop was sponsored by Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church in Claremont, CA. The Scouts held a combination campout/retreat at Saint Andrew's Priory on the weekend of May 20th in 1967. Father Wilfred guided the Scouts through the retreat which included Mass and the Stations of the Cross. The diverse desert environment presented the Scouts with a pleasant spiritual weekend. The creek provided welcome water recreation for the boys in the sandy desert.

Bibliography

Fisher, Pearl Comfort, *The Mountaineers*, Wrightwood, California, 1972
 Armitage, Merle, *Valyermo, St. Andrews Priory*, Sante Fe, New Mexico Manzanita Press, 1961



G F Tillitson collection bp33.tif
 Scouts building a dam in the creek.



G F Tillitson collection bp24.tif
 Mass.



G F Tillitson collection bp21.tif
 Father Wilfred greeting the Scouts.



G F Tillitson collection bp37.tif
 CocaCola time for the Scouts.



G F Tillitson collection bp35.tif
 Stations of the Cross.



tiltronix

**George F. Tillitson
 Technical Director**

Phone (760) 249-6622
 Cell Phone (760) 835-7902
 InterNet
 tiltronix@snowline.net

P.O. Box 974
 965 Snowbird Road
 Wrightwood, CA 92397-0974