

Eagle Rock Valley

Cal. VF



IN 1876, LUDWIG LOUIS SALVATOR, ARCHDUKE OF AUSTRIA, VISITED THE LOS ANGELES AREA. WHEN HE RETURNED TO EUROPE, HIS ACCOUNTS OF HIS EXPERIENCE HERE WERE PUBLISHED IN GERMAN. IN 1929, MARGUERITE WILBUR TRANSLATED THIS BOOK INTO ENGLISH. HERE IS THE ARCHDUKE'S DESCRIPTION OF EAGLE ROCK VALLEY IN 1876. HE ENTERED THE VALLEY FROM THE GLENDALE AREA. OF COURSE, THERE WAS NO CITY OF GLENDALE AT THAT TIME, ONLY PASTURE LAND.

"HAVING LEFT THIS DELIGHTFUL SPOT, A VALLEY WAS REACHED WHERE DIRECTLY AHEAD ROSE THE MYSTERIOUS PIEDRA GORDA (NOT VERY FLATTERING, MEANING FAT ROCK-H.W.) THE GOAL OF THE JOURNEY. AT THE RIGHT IS CIENEGA DEL GARVANZA, A SMALL GREEN SWAMP WITH CLUMPS OF BUNCH-GRASS, AND AT THE BOTTOM, SACATE DE MATIAGO, WHICH NEVER DRIES OUT. FROM HERE WE EMERGED ON A PLAIN WHERE ENORMOUS HERDS OF SHEEP, GUARDED BY STRONG, FAT, SHAGGY DOGS, PASTURED. NEARBY IS THE ENTRANCE INTO THE CANYON OF PIEDRA GORDA, A WILDERNESS OF LUXURIANT VEGETATION THAT FORMS AN ALMOST IMPENETRABLE THICKET OFTEN THE HAUNT OF WILD BEASTS. THE PIEDRA GORDA, TOWERING ABOVE, IS AN IMPOSING ROCK OF GRANITE CONGLOMERATES ON ONE SIDE WITH EXPOSED PARALLEL STRATA HAVING TWO SHARPLY DEFINED HOLLOWES IN WHICH SWALLOWS HAVE BUILT THEIR NESTS. IT WAS ALSO USED AT ONE TIME BY THE INDIANS AS A NATURAL BULWARK, A ROCK FORTRESS, SINCE, FROM THIS SPOT WAS AN EXCELLENT LOCATION FROM WHICH TO OBSERVE THE MOVEMENTS OF THE FIRST SETTLERS.

"AFTER LEAVING THE PIEDRA GORDA AND CROSSING OVER A LOW SADDLE OF HILLS, THE AGUAJE DEL GARVANZA IS REACHED."

THIS IS THE EARLIEST DESCRIPTION OF THE EAGLE ROCK VALLEY THAT I HAVE FOUND.

SINCERELY,
HENRY WELCOME - CL 5-8780

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