

Oasis in the Desert

ARAVADA SPRINGS

A gathering place for more than a century



ARAVADA
SPRINGS

Indian History

- ▶ small numbers of hunter-gatherers during the Archaic Period (7000 B.C. to 300 B.C.).
- ▶ Ancestral Puebloan phase III Period (300 B.C. to 1150 A.D.),
- ▶ Pueblo III Phase (1150 A.D. to 1225 A.D.).
- ▶ Southern Paiute groups replaced the Pueblo groups and were occupying the Parashant at the time of Euro-American contact. Archeological sites in the monument (Anasazi or Hitsatsinom) villages,
- ▶ We have found dozens of Grinding stones, hundreds of Arroheads, pottery shards, and at least 1 undisturbed campgroud

History of the Ranch

- ▶ **Great-Grandfather** Bert Nay : 1890-1911
- ▶ **Grandfather** G Luke Whitney: 1911- 1932-1933
- ▶ **Great-aunt** G Fenton Whitney: part owner 1920's - July 1932
- ▶ **Distant-Cousin** Flora Whitney Nay: 1933 - early 1960's
- ▶ **Distant-Cousin** Keith Nay: Early 1960's - 1997
- ▶ **Distant-Cousin** Marilyn Nay: 1997 - 2018
- ▶ **Distant-Cousin** Mark Rawlins: 2018 -- Present

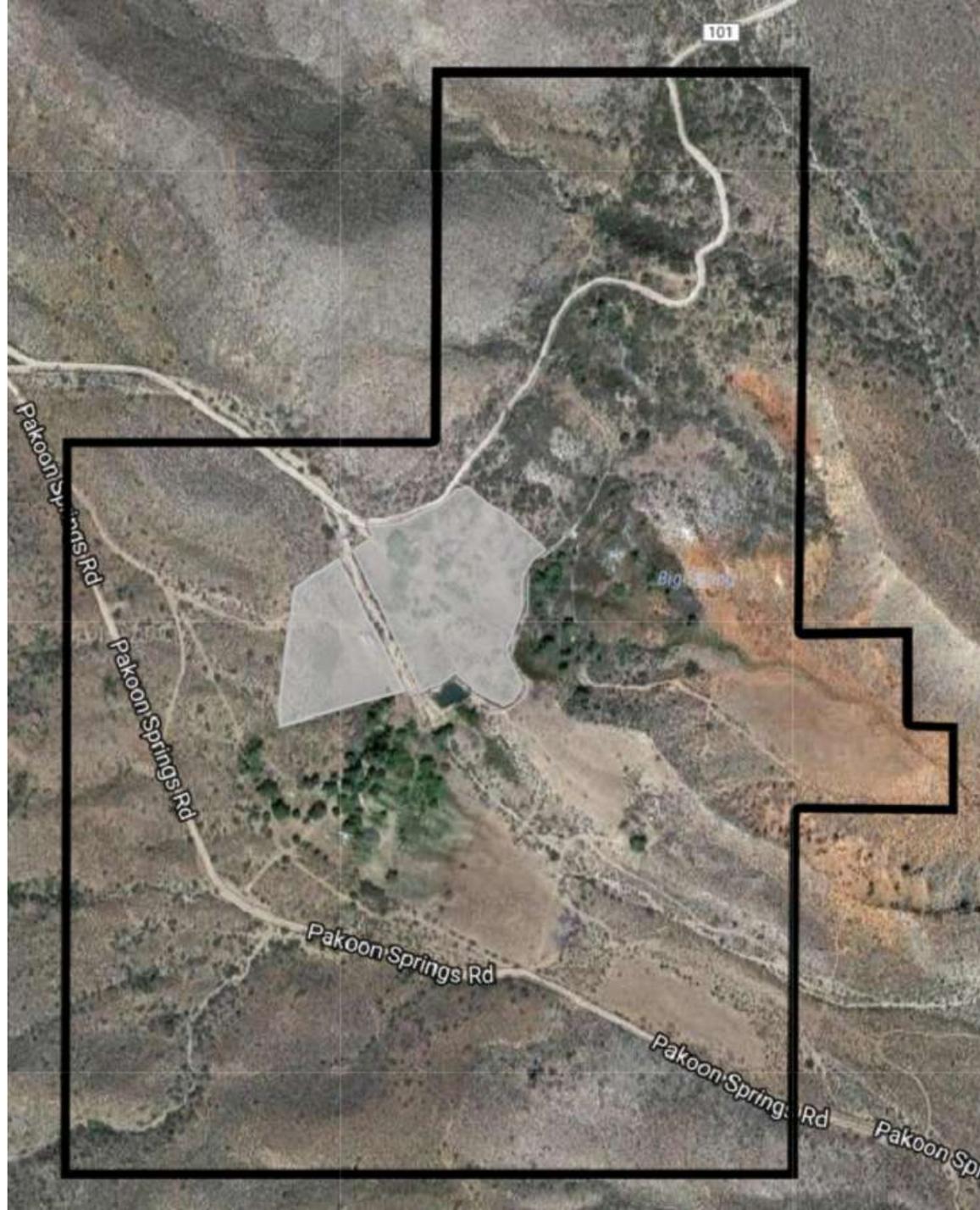
Why Did the Whitneys buy the ranch? St. Thomas was unhealthy

- ▶ **Heat:** They lived in St Thomas Nevada, 1200 feet above sea level, the ranch is 4300 feet above sea level (St. George is 2860, Mesquite is 1601, Cedar City is 5800)
- ▶ **Bad water:** The town's drinking water came from an irrigation ditch that came from the Muddy River
 - ▶ The water was Alkaline
 - ▶ The ditch went thru corrals
 - ▶ Fill a barrel with water and let it settle before drinking it
- ▶ **My Great-Grandmother's health:** She had a bout of malaria, there was a lot of typhoid and diphtheria in St. Thomas

Why did the Whitneys buy the ranch?

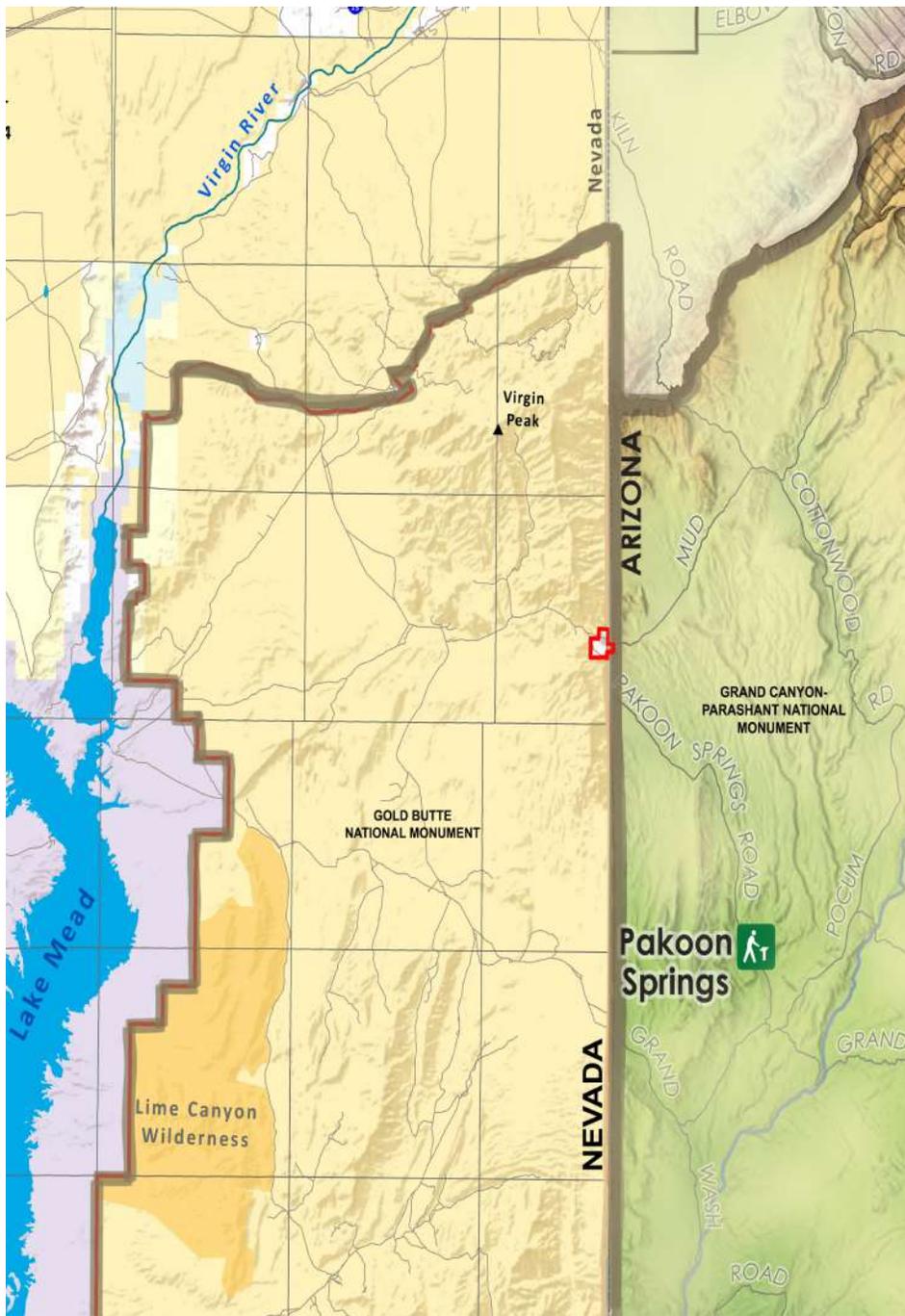
The Ranch was an Oasis

- ▶ **It was cool :** 4300 feet above sea level, with massive cottonwood and willow trees, and 2 natural ponds
- ▶ **it could grow:** Fruit, apples, peaches, strawberries, blackberries, etc.
- ▶ **Natural spring water:** The Ranch sits on an aquifer at a point where it comes to the surface. There are 10 or more natural springs, 2 natural ponds, 700 acre feed of water rights filed in 1910
- ▶ **Tempurature:** 10-15 degrees cooler than Mesquite, plus the shade of the trees, evaporation of the water.
- ▶ **Pregnant Woman's paradise:** Many of the women and children from the Moapa valley spent the summer at the ranch
- ▶ **Climate:** “The best climate in the world, High enough so the heat is not to bad, far enough south so the winters are very mild” G. Fenton Whitney









Aravauda
Springs,
one of
the last
old
ranches



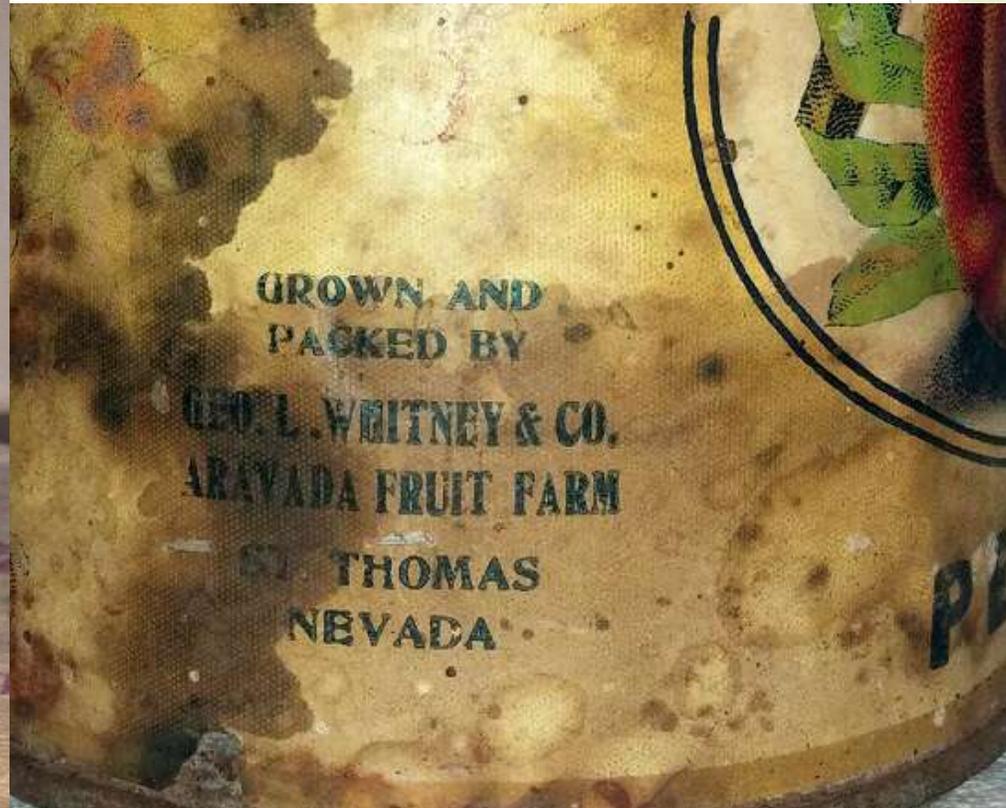
Building a home



Whitney (Overalls), Clarice Whitney (Standing Center),
Peter Whitney

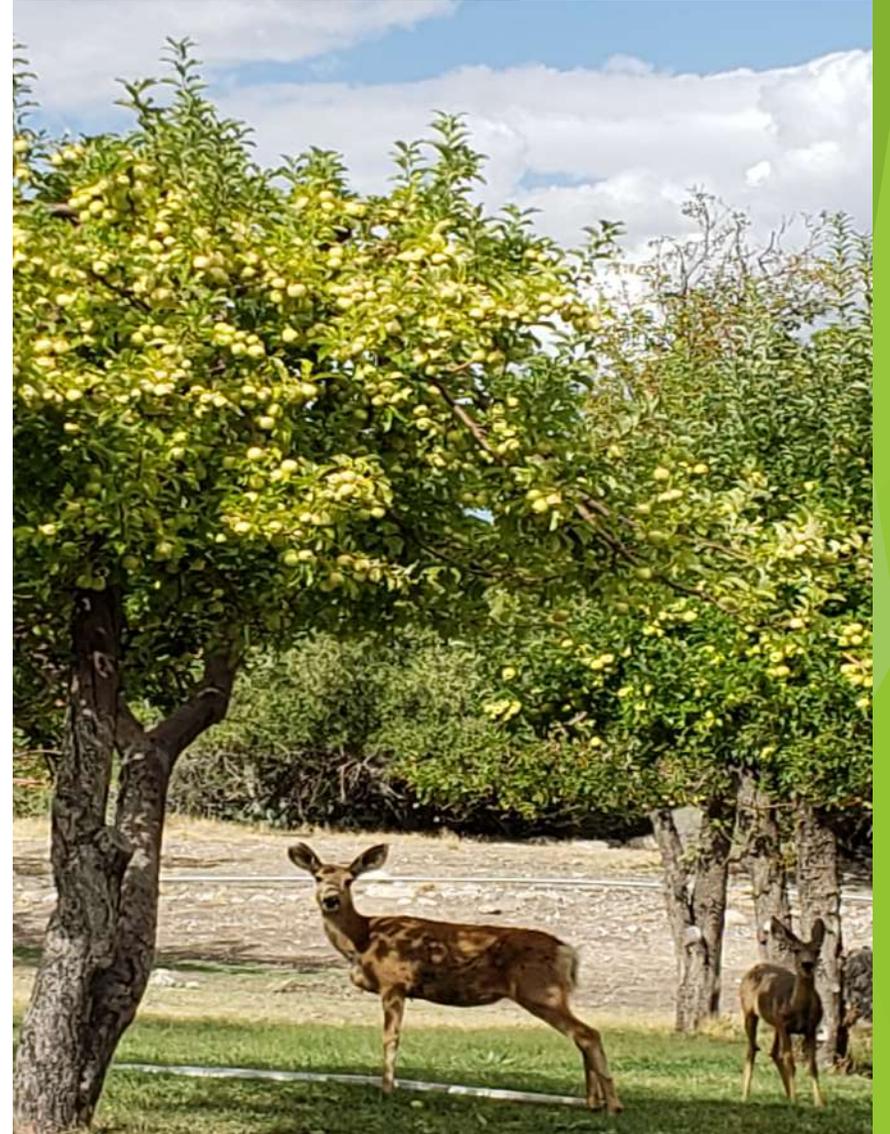


Making a Living -- canning and selling fruit



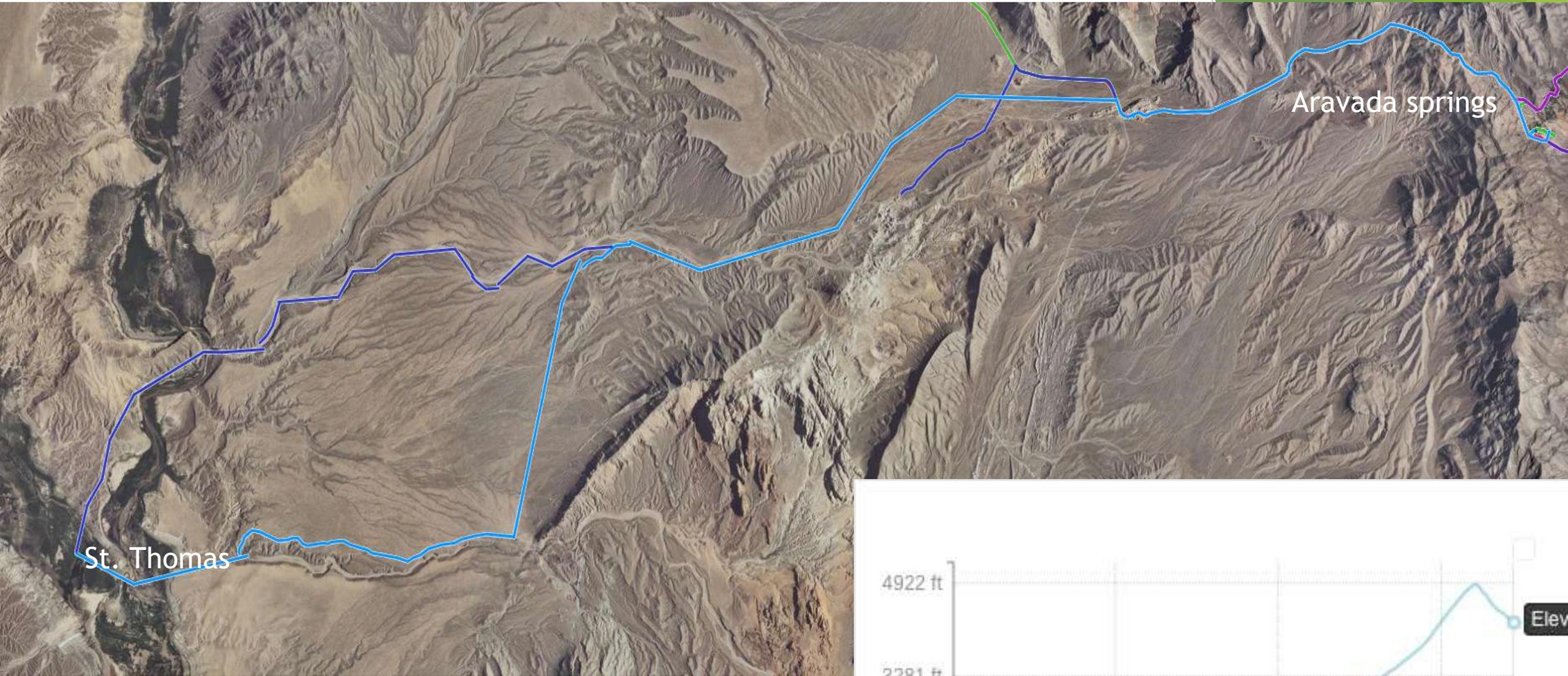


Orchard



Having Fun





St. Thomas

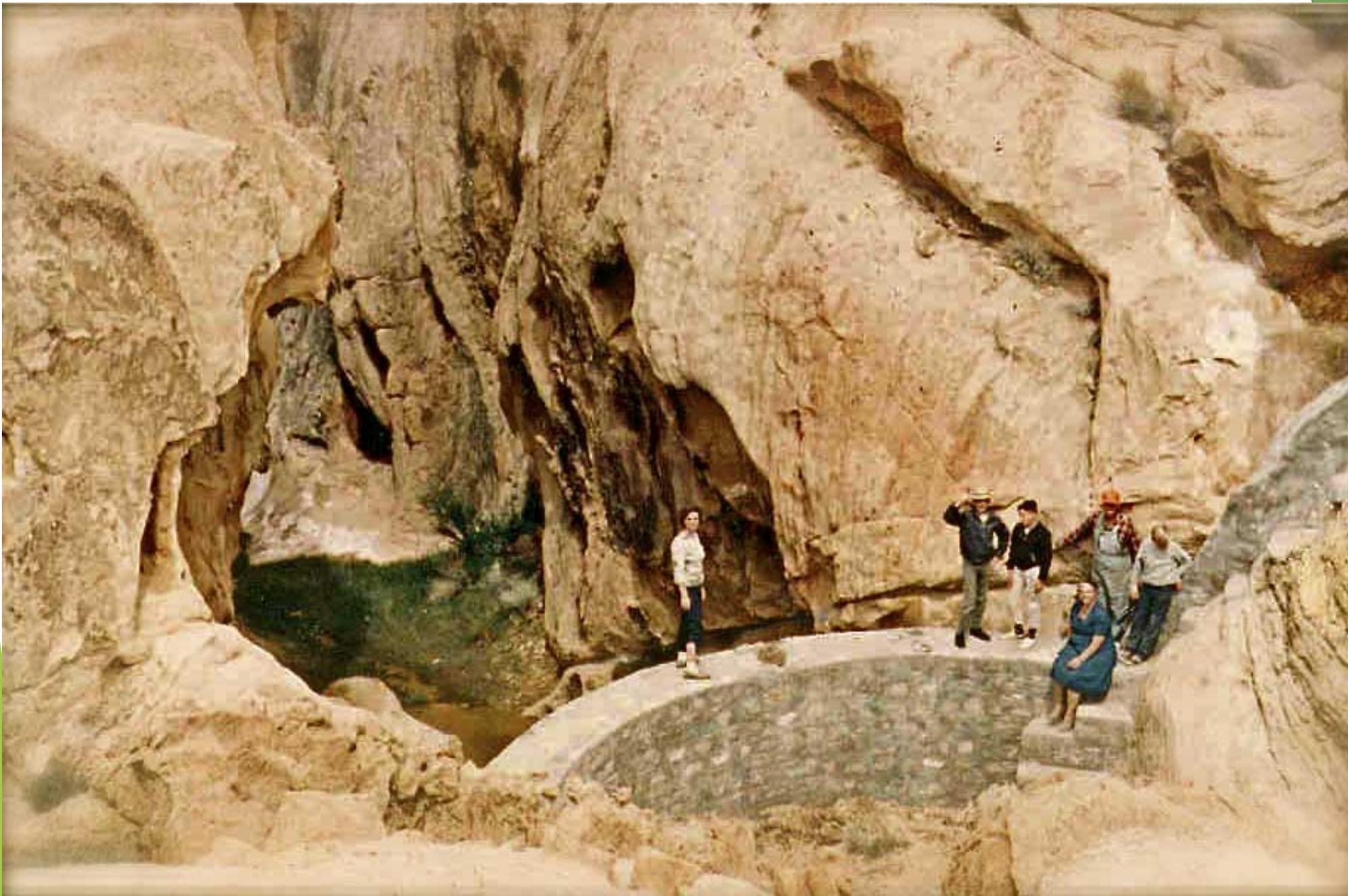
Aravada springs



Arrowhead Highway Virgin river Bridge

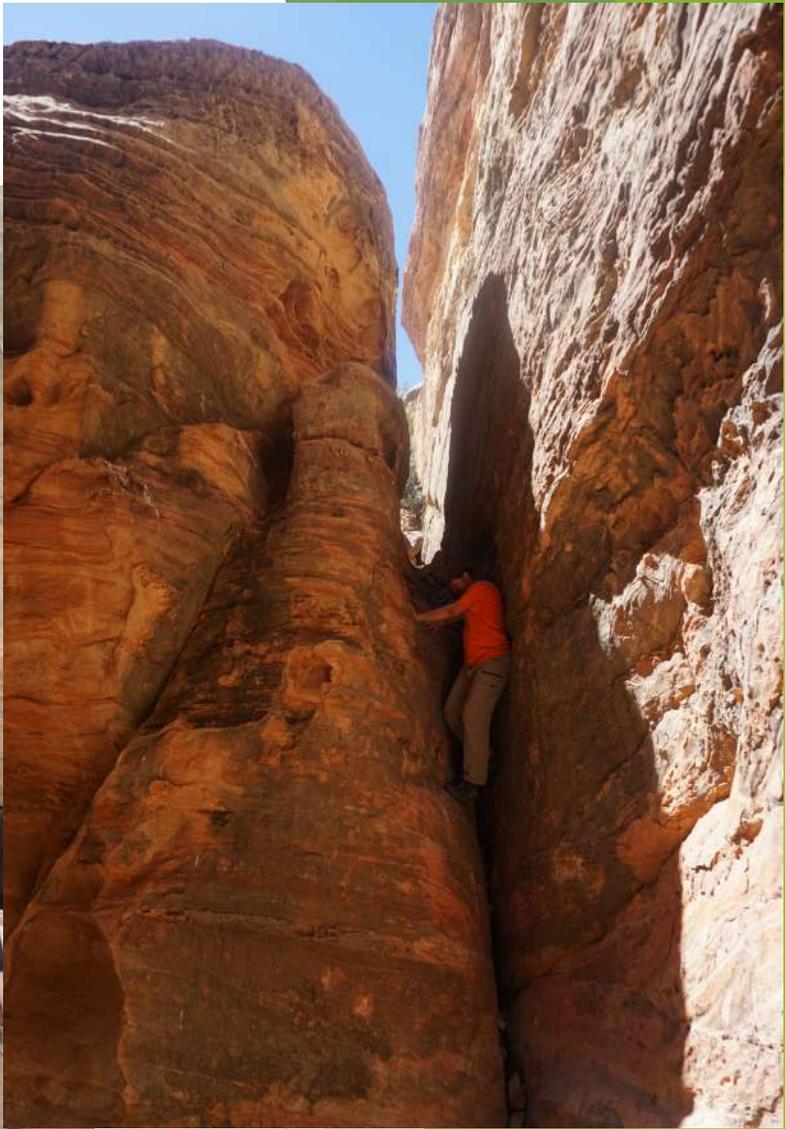


The
Whitney
Pockets,
a much
needed
rest stop



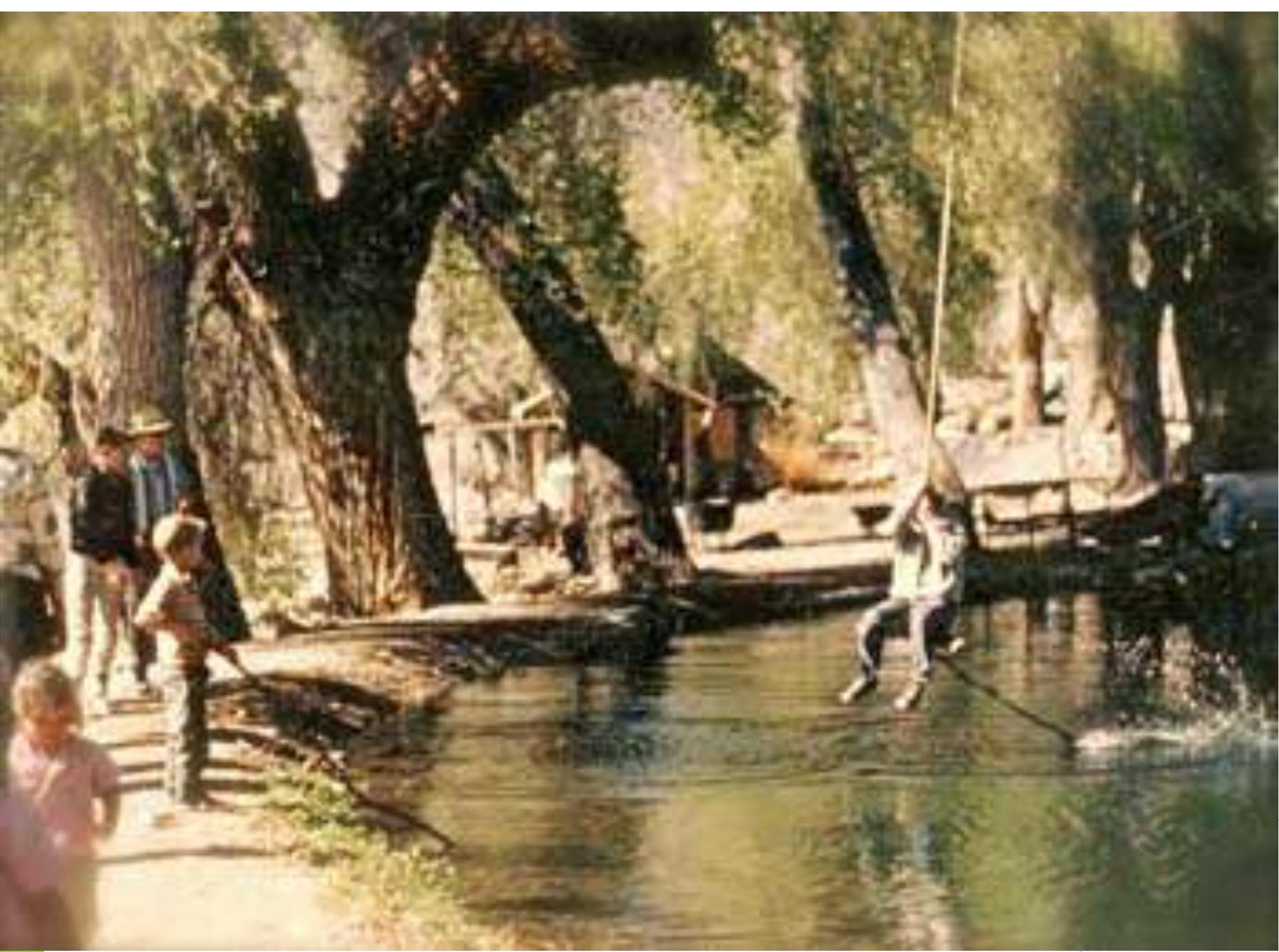


Exploring The beauty of the Desert



Exploring the Ranch

















Aravada Springs in the 21st Century





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