

*Mike G.*

July 23, 1997  
Tom Kent

**MOUNT ZION LOOP**  
(a.k.a. Bill Thermond Hike)

Directions to trail head: Exit the 210 Freeway at Santa Anita Avenue. Drive approximately 6 miles north. Santa Anita Avenue becomes Santa Anita Canyon Road and ends at Chantry Flat, the trail head.

Hike description:

Distance:	9.4 Miles
Elevation gain/loss:	2100 ft./ 2100 ft.
Hiking Time:	5 ½ Hours
Difficulty:	Moderate

Follow the paved fire road, a sign at the start point denotes the Gabrielino Trail. Restrooms are located about ¾ of a mile down the road at the metal bridge crossing Winter Creek. Continue on. About 1.4 miles from the start, the trail splits in 4 directions. Both of the trails on the left lead through the Sturtevant Falls area. The most left fork (recommended for hikers challenged by heights) a.k.a.. the "upper trail" is less scenic than the next left (middle) fork. The middle fork, a.k.a.. the "lower trail" slices across a sheer wall above the falls offering great scenery to the sure of foot.\* Choose your medicine, as both trails converge about 0.9 miles up the canyon. The Cascade Picnic Area is located about ½ mile beyond the trail reconvergence. Continue past the crib dam to the Spruce Grove Trail Camp which is located about 0.7 mile beyond the picnic area (3.5 miles from the start.) Beyond the trail camp watch for a "Y" junction. A sign identifies the start of the Sturtevant Trail to the left.

Proceed 0.1 mile and go left past the entrance of Sturtevant Camp, continuing on the Sturtevant Trail. Look for and take the stone steps rising on the left of the trail (3.9 miles from the start.)

The stone steps are the beginning of the Mt. Zion Trail. The trail winds upward across a ravine, followed by a climb to a notch in the slope. Shortly after the notch the trail descends through switchbacks 1000 feet in 1.5 miles. At the bottom there is a "T" intersection (6.7 miles from the start) where you will leave Mt. Zion Trail.

Go to the right on Winter Creek Trail. The trail follows the stream and very soon crosses it. Across the stream climb to the next trail junction where you will bear left.

Continue left on Upper Winter Creek Trail for about 2.6 partially shaded miles to Chancery Flat.

\* The trail to the right ends a short distance further at Sturtevant Falls.

