

OTP Hike #297

Redwood Grove Visit Now Made in the Shade

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BREA—With red-tailed hawks soaring high above, Laura Yingling and her boyfriend, Bryan Hunt, hiked across a gentle stream and down a mile-long dirt path. The Tustin couple paused to admire leaves and brightly colored berries as the sun scorched the Chino Hills nearby.

They were following Carbon Canyon Regional Park's recently reopened nature trail in search of a rare Southern California redwood grove.

"Are we there yet?" Yingling joked, her bottle of water nearly empty.

When they approached the clearing at the end of the trail, Yingling's eyes moved up from the auburn trunks of the majestic trees standing before her. Squinting, she caught a glimpse of the top of the tallest redwood, towering 90 feet above her.

"Shade," she sighed, plopping down on a picnic bench.

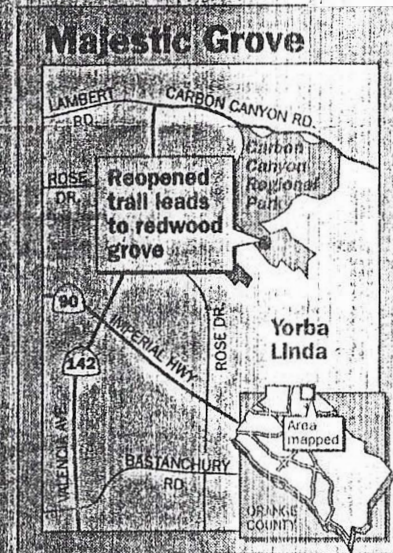
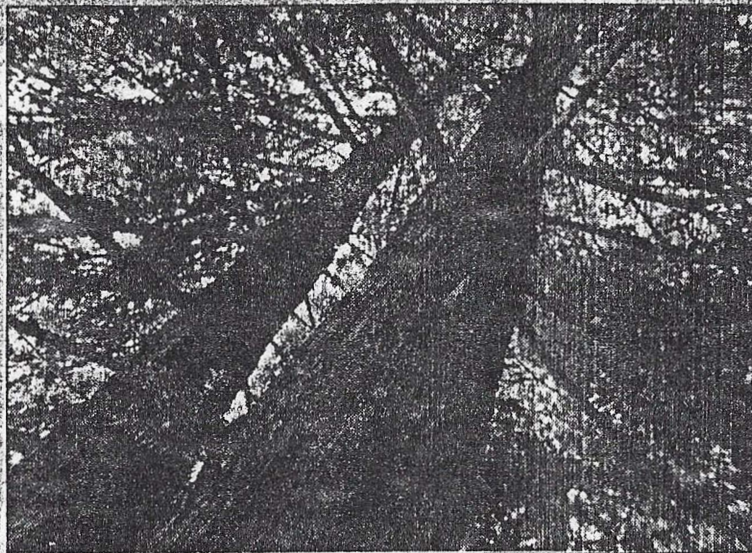
The nature trails of Carbon Canyon Regional Park, home to one of the few redwood groves in Southern California, reopened last week after being closed for almost seven months. Redwoods are an oddity in Southern California because the climate is too hot and arid for the trees, which need lots of water to thrive.

After last winter's record rainfalls, the Brea redwoods were unreachable. The nature trail leading to the Brea redwood grove was overgrown, and the picnic benches under the shade of these trees had been vacant since December. The trails were reopened after sunny days reduced the creek and transformed mucky paths into silt, rangers said.

"This is the wettest year I've seen," said senior park ranger Jeff Bukshpan, who has worked at the park since 1981. "The paths leading to the redwoods became too dangerous to walk on."

For the first three months of this year, Bukshpan

Please see REDWOODS, A20



Los Angeles Times

The morning sun filters through branches of redwoods at the Brea park. Below, hikers Deana Schafer, left, and Rosalinda Chacon, both of Redondo Beach, spend part of a day hiking in the park.





OTP's 300th HIKE!!!

We'll do 2 hikes, #1 being only 1.1 miles each way. The 2nd will take us into CHINO STATE PARK through the lemon grove where we will also picnic afterwards. (CSP literature did not forbid alcoholic beverages.)

Mike says OTP hikers have NOT hiked Chino SP from the lemon grove entrance those who want a shorter hike can relax in lovely Carbon Canyon Park.

DIRECTIONS----I suggest either #60 or #91. (I took the 105 & it was a disaster.) Carbon Canyon P. is 28 miles from LA.--Somehow get on Imperial & go to Valencia & turn left. CCP entrance is 2+ m. from the corner of Imperial & Valencia. Follow the abundant signs & park as close to the highway as possible once inside the park. There is a \$2 charge at CCP as compared to a \$5 charge at Chino which we won't have to pay because the parks are contiguous.