

Date: May 10, 2000

Host: Jim Dyer

Hike: Chilao to Mt Hillyer and return (hopefully)

Trailhead Directions:

Drive up the Angeles Crest Highway to the turnoff for the Chilao Visitor Center. Turn left if you came from La Canada and drive past the visitor center 1/4 mile to the SILVER MOCCASIN TRAIL. Park there.

Start Time: 9:30 AM with a Happy Face

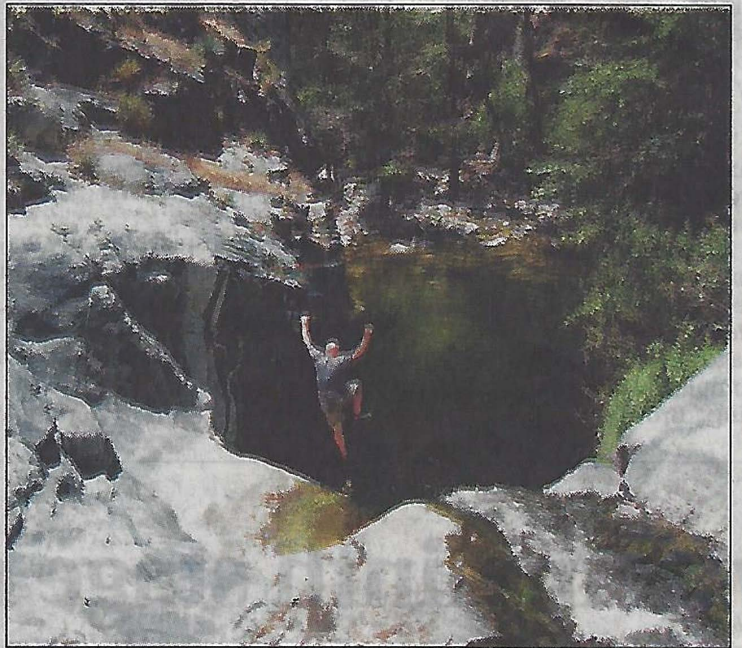
A Devil of a time finding this secret

BY CHRIS SHAFFER
Special to the Daily News

With water soaking through his white board shorts, sweat dripping down his blond eyelashes and his shirt completely drenched from swimming through deep pools, Tony Abel sat on a well-rounded gneiss rock, trying to catch his breath. His legs were fully extended and angled toward the water, and his arms flexed as he pushed himself down the slanted, slippery rock into a

10 foot long, four feet deep pool of clear, 70-degree water.

The scene was reminiscent of a backyard slide into a swimming pool on a hot summer day in the San Fernando Valley, but Abel, a resident of Canoga Park, was 27 miles from the nearest freeway, four miles from a single slab of concrete, 2,000 feet below the nearest road and in a section of the Angeles National Forest that sees fewer than 10 hikers on a summer weekend.



Chris Shaffer/Special to the Daily News

A visitor to Devils Canyon finds out one of the area's secrets, as he takes a cool, refreshing jump into the waterfall.

SEE **OUTDOORS** / PAGE 6