

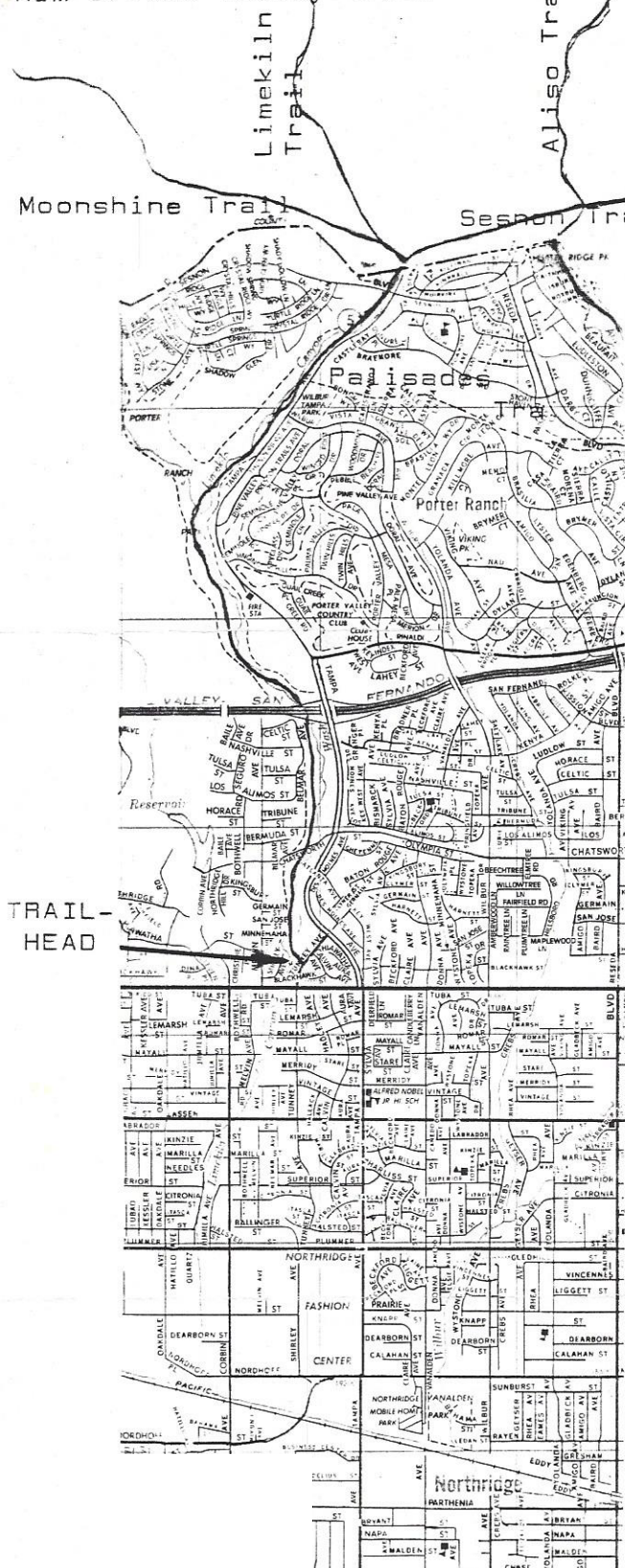
WEDNESDAY, 9 JANUARY 1991 ABOUT 9:30 A.M.

LIMEKILN TRAIL through LIMEKILN CREEK CANYON
GUIDE FOR THE STROLL IN THE PARK: D. LILLBACK

7 Miles Round Trip; Elevation Changes Easily
 FEATURES: The spring-fed Limekiln Creek is one of six year-round creeks which create the Los Angeles River. During rains the many arroyos flood the creek and have washed out the lower Limekiln Canyon Road in the Porter Ranch. The developers deeded the canyon to the city for a green belt park only because house construction would be too difficult. Aliso Canyon and the Northridge Palisades were deeded for the same reasons. Brown's Canyon on the western side of the Porter Ranch is another "green belt". The S.M.Mountains Conservancy has built trails and Los Angeles is slowly creating parks. The defeat of a couple of propositions halted work.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD: From the South, either take I-405(San Diego), I-5(Golden State), or I-210(Foothill) North to ROUTE 118 WEST. Get off at TAMPA AVENUE(Northridge) left lanes to go South(Left) on Tampa to the second traffic light-controlled intersection(not counting one at freeway). Turn RIGHT onto TUNNEY AVENUE, and park at the right curb near second driveway.

THE HIKE: Maintenance Road goes past the flood control dam and catch basin, and then dives under Chatsworth Street. Then the stroll in the park is through long needle pines, sugar pine, old oak, pepper, sycamore, beech and eucalypti. Of course there is the creek and the wild shrubs which flower in the Spring. The city sez the water is not fit for humans; but the deer, fox, coyotes, rabbits, and seasonal birds evidently find the water O.K. Due to the filling up of the side canyons(trash covered with earth to form level mesas for houses), sections of the trail no longer are there. The trail joins the bridle path. The ups and downs and ups of the bridle path is fine for horses and gives street access; but there are the trees. Then extension of Sesnon Blvd brings the trail to an abrupt end. Cross the road a difficult climb up rewards the hiker with a panorama of the West Valley.



David Lillback