







# 27,000 Travel To Death Valley Annual Forty-Niner Encampment



**HOOTENANY HOEDOWN**—The Reinsmen and Aim Morhardt were on hand to entertain at the Hootenany breakfast event which turned out to be a huge success. Aim is the immediate past president of the '49ers and is well known locally as an artist.



**FAMILY EFFORT**—While Aim Morhardt was busy entertaining guests (left) at the Hootenany Breakfast, his wife, Gen (l) busied herself handing out song sheets. The popular couple reside in Bishop.

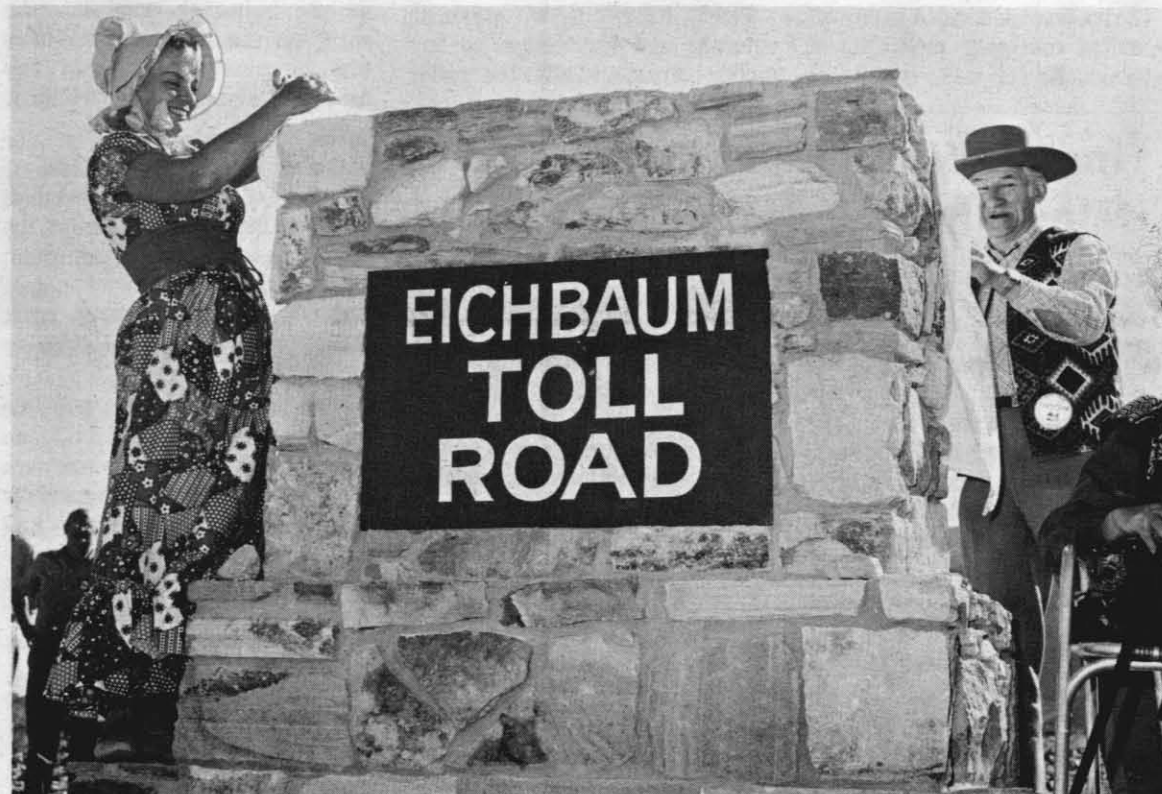


**GEMS AND MINERALS**—A large selection of gems and minerals were placed on display through the courtesy of the Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society. Above, the collection is studied by an interested visitor.

Photos by William Valenteen



**ART EXHIBIT**—Two art exhibits were presented during the encampment—one inside the Visitors' Center and one in the parking lot. Above, two charming visitors pause to inspect one of the displays that was set up in the parking lot.



**HISTORICAL DEDICATION**—The Old Eichbaum Toll Road was dedicated by the '49ers with an appropriate monument which, unfortunately, had to be unveiled without its permanent plaque. Eille Povah, the present owner of Stovepipe Wells Village, did the honors.

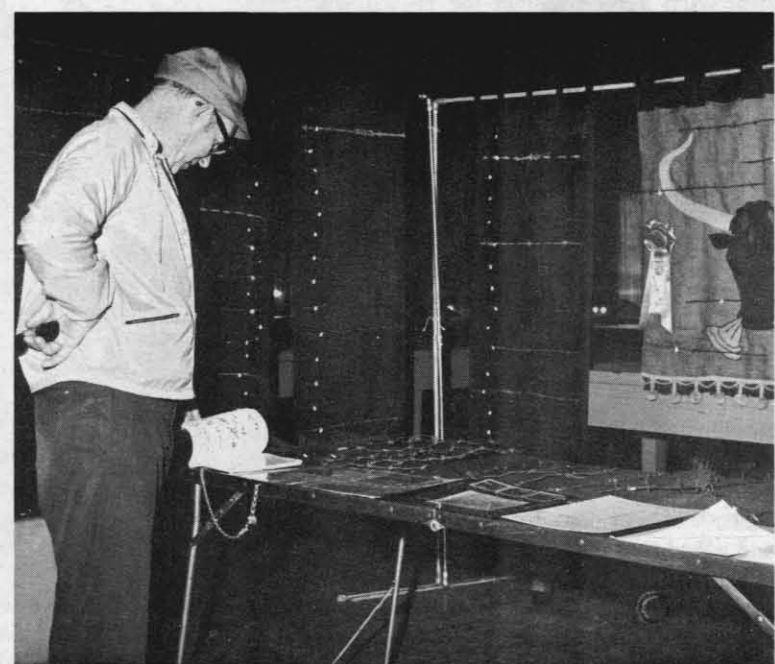


**STILL SHOOTING**—Former ROCKETEER Editor Fred Richards still piles his trade as he sets up to do another of his photographic studies. Among other tasks to busy his retirement, Fred is currently acting as Public Relations Director for the Forth-Niners.

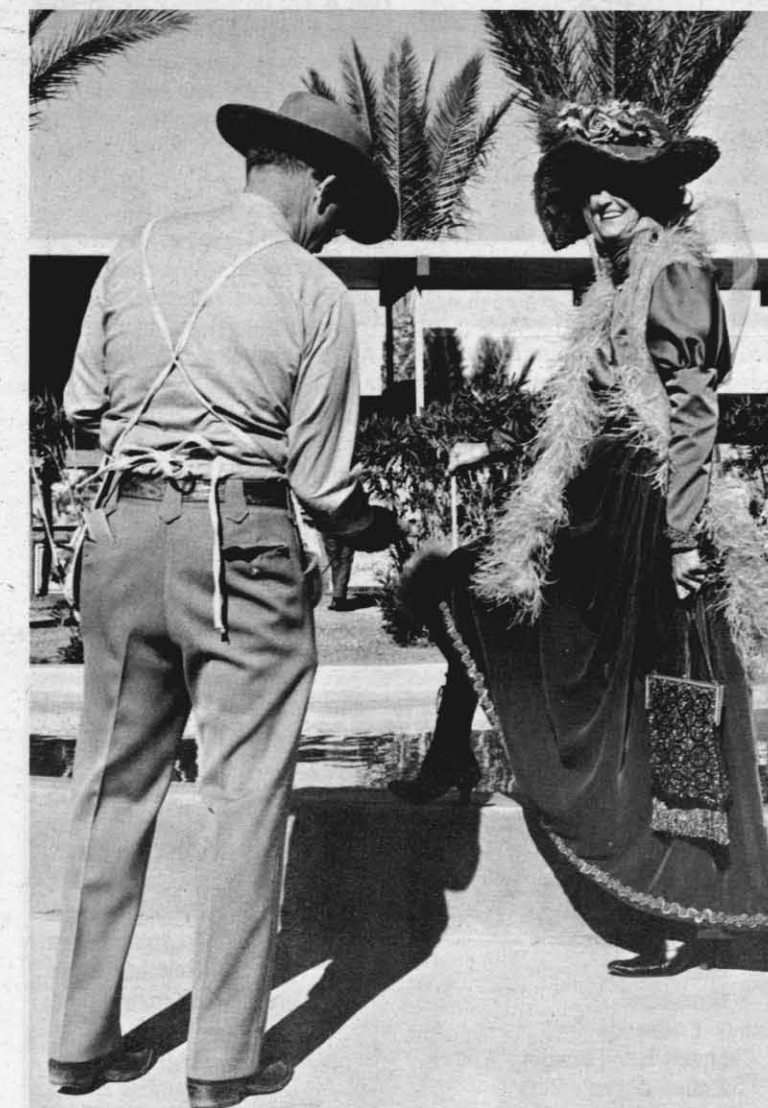
## Death Valley Encampment November 11 - 14



**END OF THE TRAIL**—53 riders from all over Southern California participated in the annual 125-mile scenic ride from the Indian Wells Valley to Death Valley. Led by Del Smith of Ridgecrest, the riders are shown above as they entered Furnace Creek Ranch.



**BARBED WIRE EXHIBIT**—Historical exhibits featuring relics of Wells Fargo Days were on display in the main hall at Furnace Creek Ranch. Above, an interested guest pauses to thumb through literature that described the early Death Valley items on display.



**TAKES A READING**—Capt. C. Blenman, USN, (Ret.), a former Commanding Officer of NWC is an avid worker for the '49ers. Above, he takes time out from selling memberships to get a light meter reading preparatory to taking a picture of Diamond L'il of Death Valley, a perennial favorite at the event.



**MOSQUITO FISHING**—During a lull in the activity at the Encampment, many of the children who visited Death Valley took time to catch a few of the tiny Mosquito fish that are native to the area. The little stream is part of the irrigation complex that is part of the date palm orchards that are found in the Furnace Creek Ranch area.



**OLD FRIENDS MEET**—Ardis Walker (left center) and George Pipkin (right center) exchanged greetings with some old friends at Stovepipe Wells. Ardis is a direct descendant of the discoverer of Walker Pass, and George Pipkin is known locally as a former columnist for the Ridgecrest newspaper, the Valley Independent.