

## This Week's Guest Writer

Miss Torrey Ann Huey has lived in Alpine since 1944 when she came here from Calexico with her family. She graduated from Grossmont and is attending State college where she is majoring in animal husbandry. Torrey Ann has won prizes at the Del Mar fair for her fine animals, and she loves to ride horseback, go hiking and camping.

---

### **Fern Canyon**

Alpine has many beautiful sights, but one of the loveliest is Fern Canyon. Many Alpine residents do not know of this lovely canyon, and of those who do, few have found time to view it.

The canyon itself is only about 300 feet long and, with a somewhat hidden entrance, it is difficult to find. As the name implies, it is massed with ferns, mostly large break ferns, mixed with some maiden hair, coffee and small amounts of rock fern. The plants usually start to appear around the early part of February and are in their prime about April and May. They are concentrated on the west slope under heavy brush. This is due to the fact that the canyon is small, gets a limited amount of sun, and is damp the year around. I must warn the people who are interested in seeing the ferns that they are also mixed with a little poison oak. Also that the state law prohibits the picking and destruction of the plants. As far as I know, the canyon has no name other than the one mentioned.

To find this beauty spot, turn left off Highway 80 going east, at the bottom of El Capitan dip, onto the Puetz (pronounced like Pitts) road. The sign, "not a through road" is plainly visible from the highway. It is then nine-tenths of a mile down the dirt road on the right.

Fern canyon was brought to my attention several years ago by Lawrence Wilber, well known to the community for his knowledge of plants, animals, birds and of Alpine.

This canyon is only one of the many sight-seeing spots in Alpine—there is the Loveland Dam, the Baron Long Indian Reservation, and particularly, the climb to the top of Viejas mountain, from which a beautiful view of San Diego and part of Mexico is visible.

Torrey Ann Huey