

# Ready on the Right! . . . Ready on the Left! . . .

**R**EADY on the firing line! The Wildcat Canyon National Guard Target Range salutes the new year!

Right now there are twenty-five targets at 200 yards and ten at 600 yards. Thousand-inch firing can be done on fifty targets, and pistol targets are available in profusion. All of these are available for simultaneous use.

Ultimately there will be forty targets at 200 yards, twenty at 300 yards, ten at 500 yards, ten at 600 yards, and ten at 1000 yards. All will be available to use **simultane-**

By Samuel R. Dows  
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ously. In addition, there will be the pistol and 1000-inch ranges and a machine gun range.

• TO go back to the beginning of the story—the lease at Leona Heights expired. Colonel Wayne R. Allen, at that time commanding the 159th Infantry, was then in charge of the range, and he acquired Wildcat Canyon, as pretty a bit of scenery as you ever saw. It is not an ideal place to build a range, but

Col. Allen saw its potentialities. So construction started under a WPA project, and one of the wettest winters on record set in.

By spring things were ready for a busy summer. The road into the range was graded and ballasted, and lumber trucks started delivering at once.

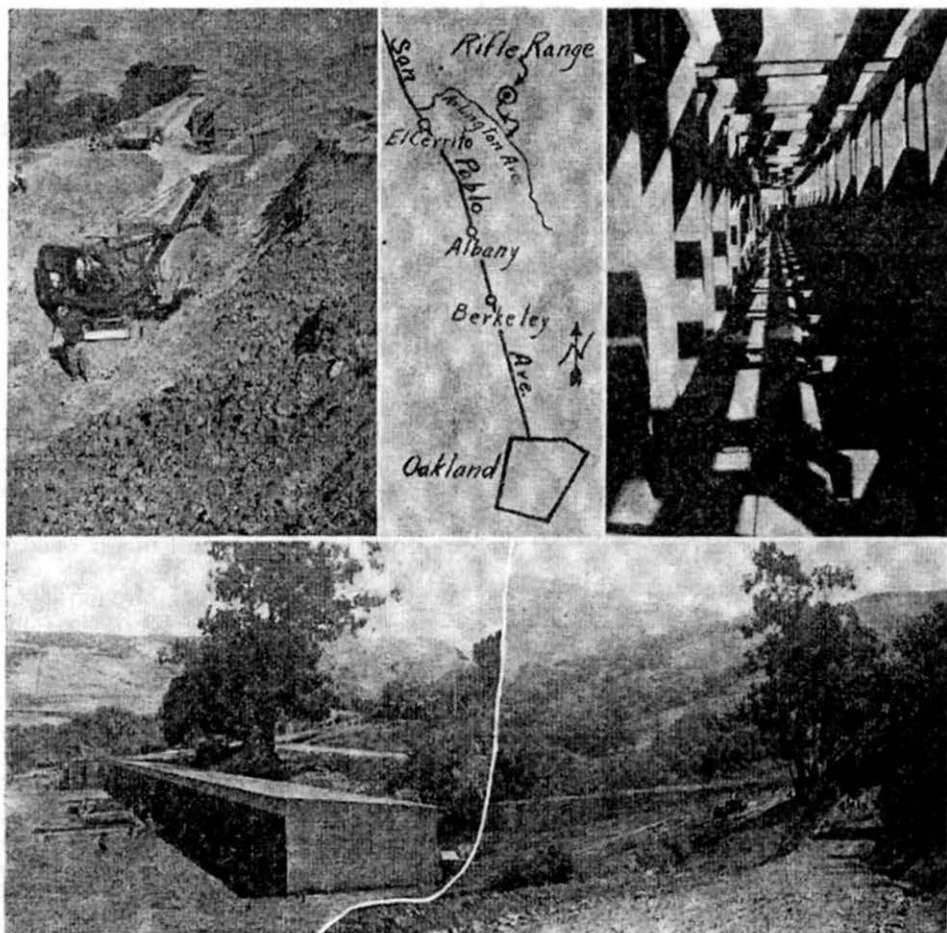
To make things more exciting from the standpoint of construction, the War Department decreed a twenty-five yard run for rapid fire. That twenty-five yard run cost at least \$2000, because all firing points are carved out of hillsides. In providing the twenty-five yard run plus a fifteen-yard assembly point, there has also been provided sufficient room on the 200-yard firing point to park about twenty trucks so that ammunition and other impedimenta will be conveniently at hand.

Captain Thomas Fowler has been in charge of construction for the state, and his untiring efforts are responsible for the fine facilities. He was assisted for a brief period during the summer by the writer. In charge for WPA was Lt. Charles Souza, AC Res., who has taken a personal interest at all times.

There is still much to be done. Telephone communications are not complete but will be in a short time. The Coast Guard is assisting in the installation by providing the transmission lines. The lines for 200- and 300-yard ranges will be underground, but the other lines will be on poles. Telephones and the connections in the butts and at the firing points are being provided and installed by the National Guard. Present plans contemplate a phone for each ten targets.

• THE convenient facilities of the range are noteworthy. There is running water at the firing points and in the 200-yard butts. Sanitary toilets and septic tanks have been installed. The mess hall was moved from Leona Heights and rebuilt with concrete floor and field range, running water, and lights. To make the group complete, a latrine and 'splashproof' wash stand were added, and all are connected to a septic tank to handle refuse. A cottage was built for the range officer

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Scenes at the Wildcat Canyon Target Range

Upper left—a power shovel working in the 200-yard butts indicates the size. These butts are 400 feet long. The excavation at the near end is fourteen feet deep.

Upper right—what the markers will see: the 200-yard butts before target carriers were installed.

Lower left—the truck compound with thirty garages constructed. Carpenters are making doors.

Lower right—looking down the road to the truck compound BEFORE the carpenters went to work.

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and includes a large clubroom in the basement for conferences and the convenience of those key men and officers who are responsible for the fine conduct of our National Guard shoots.

There is a truck compound with thirty garages, shop, and store room. The garages will probably be used for very little except storage and for shelter in inclement weather.

• **BRIGADIER GENERAL HARRY H. MOREHEAD**, the Adjutant General, has maintained close contact with the development of the property, and it is largely through his support and encouragement that the steep hillsides have been made to yield a fine rifle and pistol range. Colonel John U. Calkins, Jr., is chief range officer and will make all schedules for the various units. He has devoted untold hours to inspection and planning of the work, and the results will redound to the credit of the entire National Guard of the state.

There are many pleasant memories attached to Leona Heights, but it is the opinion of all who are familiar with the new site that Wildcat will win the hearts of shooters and be a popular range. Climatically it is full of surprises which will sometimes challenge, sometimes humor. Scenically it is a beauty spot which will capture the fancy of wives who bring a book or the family to spend the day while 'Dad' shoots. Tactically it will provide some opportunity for troop leading problems. As a rifle range, it has about everything.

• **WITH** this brief salute, Wildcat awaits the 1939 target season. There are many things to do before the Wildcat will be a full fledged successor to Leona Heights, but with the beginning of the 1939 season the new range is ready, able, and willing.

— C N G —

## One-Day 'Pill Box' . . .

• **AT** the Bureau of Standards in Washington, D. C., a group of invited military and diplomatic observers recently observed a demonstration in which a concrete fortress was constructed and made ready for

use in less than one working day by use of a new formula known as the 'vacuum concrete process.'

The process employs a quick-drying formula for cement. Constructed

at the demonstration was a 'pill box' twenty feet long, twelve feet wide, and nine feet high.

— C N G —

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