

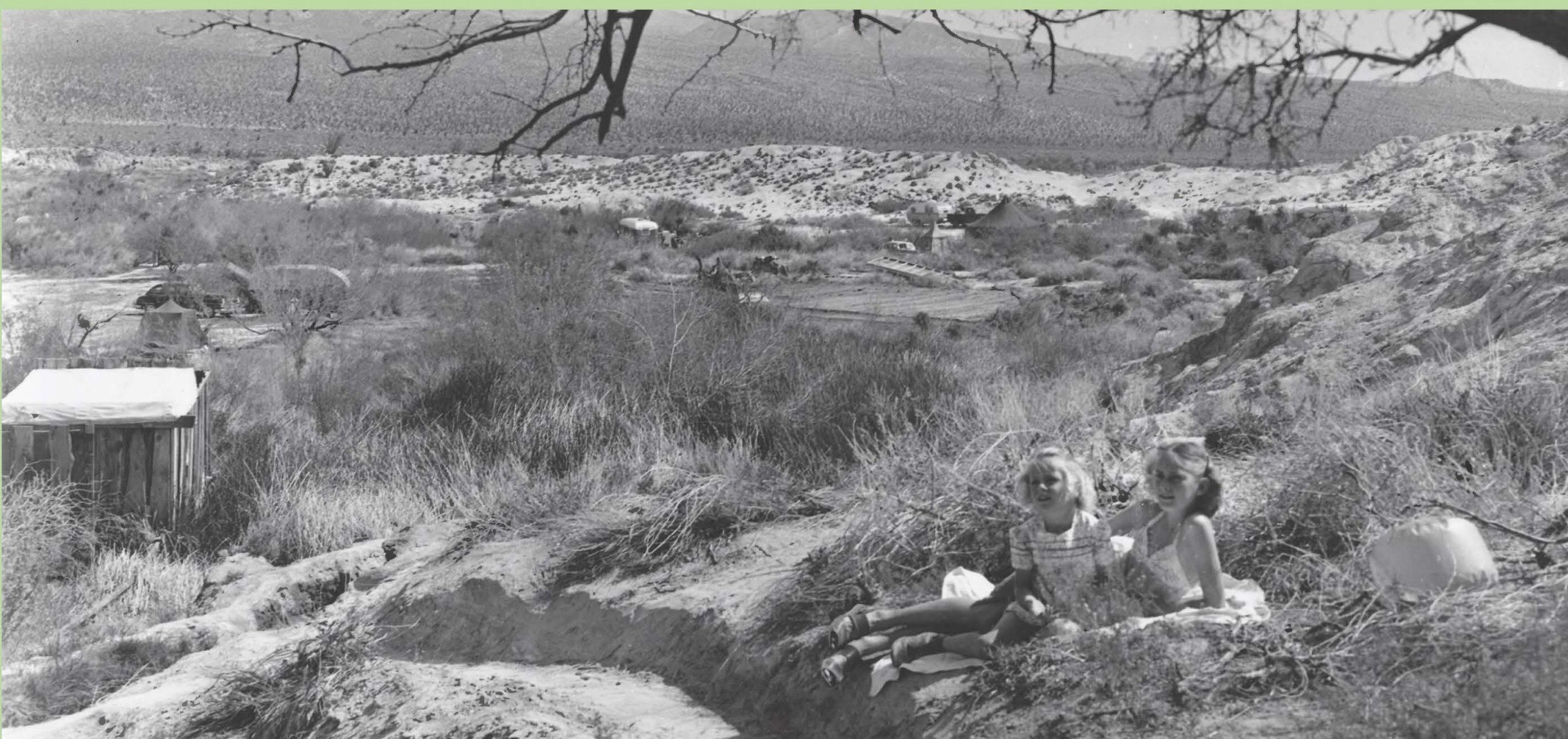
1940–1949

ESTABLISHING DPR



- With the close of World War II, civic and community leaders felt the need for a county office of recreation, removing the supervision of parks from the Property Department.
- After a nationwide search, Cletus (Biff) Gardner was appointed to lead the new department – a department with no office and no budget.
- Gardner served as director from 1946 to 1972, expanding the department and its facilities to serve a growing county.

AGUA CALIENTE



- The desert hot springs of Agua Caliente were long used by health seekers as an informal camping area.
- In 1945, DPR leased 121 acres at Agua Caliente from the BLM and 640 acres from the State of California for park use.

1940-1949

PARKS AND SERVICEMEN

BEACHES AND LIFEGUARDS

- Beach property was often given to the County by developers, starting in the late 1920s.
- The county lifeguard service began in 1941, as part of the sheriff's department.
- In 1948, the lifeguard service became part of the Recreation Department.



PARK USE DURING WORLD WAR II

- Parks were used for training and for the recreation of servicemen and civilians in World War II.
- El Monte Park was used by the US Army for mountain climbing and survival training.
- Lindero Lake served as a base camp for the 160th Infantry.
- Glen Park in Encinitas, near the beach, had upgraded facilities for the use of servicemen.

1950 – 1959

FLINN SPRINGS PARK



- Flinn Springs Resort was popular from the 1910s until the county took it over in 1952.
- Flinn Springs was used by various groups for picnics, weddings, and other types of celebrations.
- The park was dedicated as a county park with a program of music and entertainment featuring local organizations and Flinn family members.



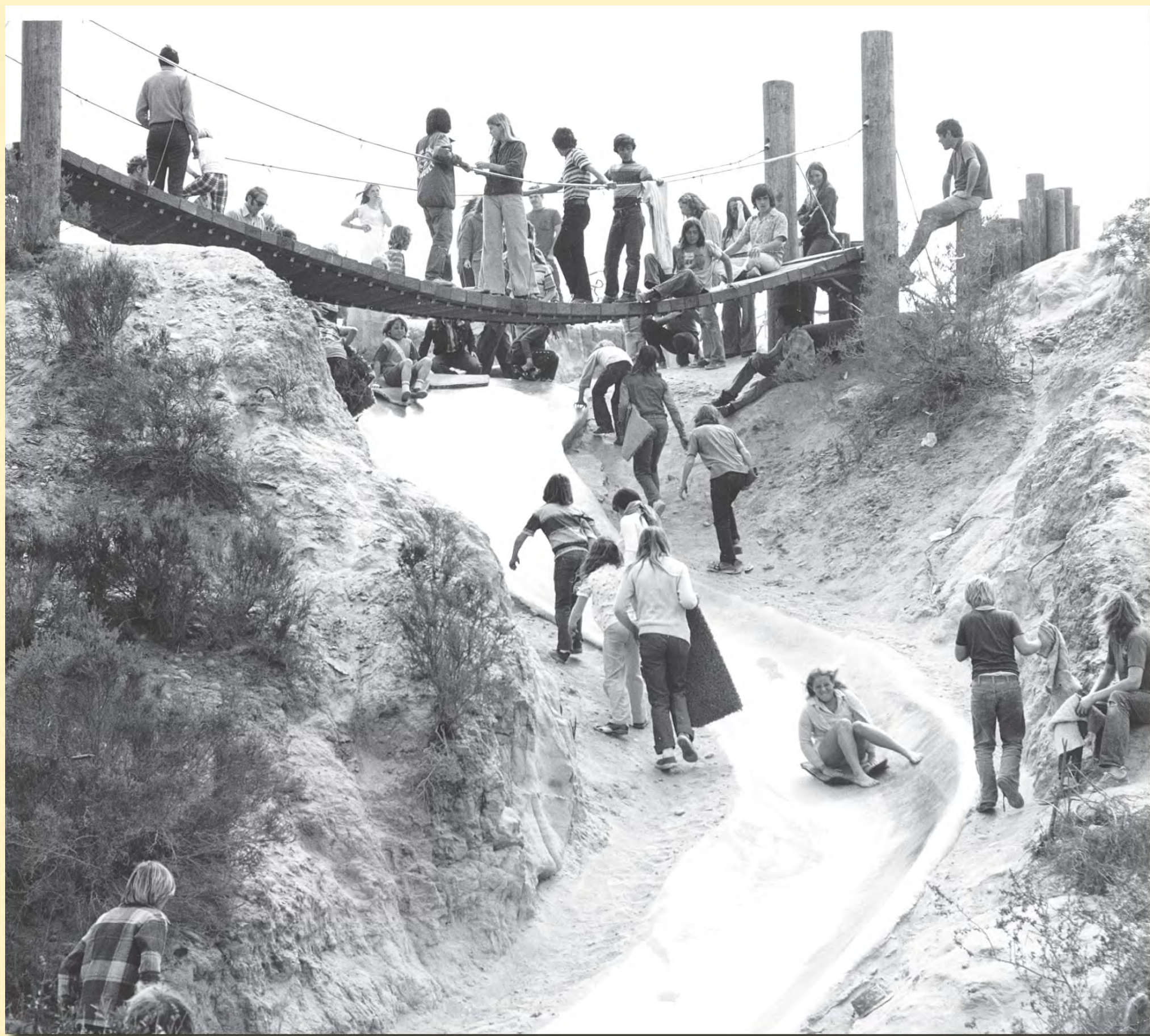
THELMA SAMSIOE



- Cletus Gardner (far right) hired Thelma Samsioe in 1957.
- Thelma retired after over a decade of service in 1968.

1950 – 1959

SAN DIEGUITO PARK



- This land was originally planted with eucalyptus trees for the purpose of turning them into railroad ties, a plan that failed due to the wood being unsuitable.
- The San Dieguito Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Santa Fe Irrigation District sponsored the acquisition of the land for the park.
- The park was dedicated in December 1956 with local scouts and music groups participating.
- More land was added to the park in the 1970s and included a new super slide called “Activity Hill,” which was extremely popular until it closed in 1975.