



3. The next day—The *Jubaea*, reaching up to the fourth floor, is in place at the Bahia Hotel. *Jubaea* has the largest girth of any palm. Photos by Bill Gunther.

of *Brahea* sp. occurring in eastern Mexico. The show continued with Dr. Mardy Darian's slides of many seldom seen palms in exotic locations, and ended with Ernie Chew's pictures of many palms which will grow in southern California but are rarely cultivated here. After the slide shows, the 70 members who attended were treated to a "fun" auction, with the funds raised going to the local chapter.

All who attended this meeting agreed that next year's Biennial Meeting of The International Palm Society could not be headquartered at a better location than the Bahia Hotel. The Biennial dates will be from June 23 to 29, 1986. Enter those dates on your calendar now!

DONALD SANDERS

A Newly-discovered Palm Canyon

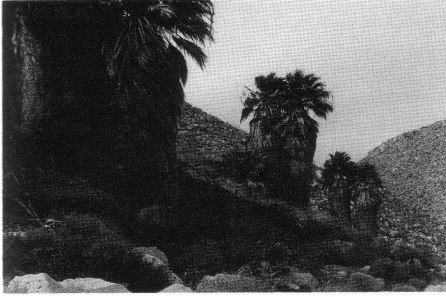
The 1986 Biennial Meeting of the International Palm Society will be centered in San Diego from June 23 to 29. Starting on June 9, those who can afford the time will have a choice of several post-convention field trips. One possible field trip would be to see *Washingtonia filifera*, a native palm of California, in its natural habitat in the desert. If enough persons so request, the site could be a newly-discovered grove in Four Frogs Canyon.

It is of course an exaggeration to say that the very remote palm grove which we have discovered has never before been seen by man. But quite certainly, the hundred palms which thrive there are not indicated on any existing map, nor are they recorded in the old records of the Desert Magazine, or in the new records of the Palm Springs Desert Museum.

These palms are just outside the southeastern border of Anza-Borrego State Park, in San Diego County. No road or trail reaches them. They are on Federal Government property, under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management, an agency which has not advertised their existence.

In the fall of 1984 Duffy Clemons and I were hiking on Coyote Mountain, in southeastern Anza-Borrego, on a very clear day. The Sombrero Peak and the Bow Willow palms were easy to see. But farther south were more palms which were not indicated on our topographic map. They appeared to be located in "Four Frogs Canyon"—a name also not included on our map.

Four Frogs Canyon is remote and isolated. It took a few exploratory hikes before I finally reached the edge of the In-Ko-Pah Mountain Plateau and could look down on the palms in the canyon. I was alone and it was getting late so I decided not to go down the steep slope of loose decomposed granite, but I counted



1. A line of *Washingtonia filifera* palms runs up the north side of Four Frogs Canyon, following a seepage along a fault-line in the bedrock. Note the full, unburned palm skirts.



2. This view shows the rocky terrain and a portion of the half-mile line of palms which follow the streambed of Four Frogs Canyon. How about a post-biennial "campout" beside the stream which runs in this grove? Photos by Duffy Clemons.

50 palms—and guessed that there were more hidden behind a bend in the canyon, before I turned back across that beautiful plateau with large granitic rocks accentuating the rolling hills covered with soft annual summer grasses.

Then, on November 3, my daughter and I backpacked up the Carrizo Canyon to the mouth of Four Frogs Canyon and turned upward into it. We camped for the night under the lone sentinel palm only half a mile up the canyon, and on the next day, after a couple of miles of rockhopping, especially towards the end, we finally reached the main grove.

This grove is almost a half mile long, and extends from 1700 to 2500 feet in elevation. It includes about 100 living mature palms, all *Washingtonia filifera*. Most of the palms are in the canyon bottom, which is to be expected since that is the course of the stream. However, the most remarkable feature of the grove is a horizontal line of palms on the north side of the canyon, where a seepage along a fault line in the bedrock provides enough water (Fig. 1).

This grove is nowhere as dense as a grove around a spring; the ground is too rocky for that, and perhaps the water supply is insufficient. There are a number of dead or dying palms—especially in the upper part of the grove—but there is also an abundance of immature palms in the middle and lower parts—so the continued existence of the grove is assured. The palms grow amidst huge boulders, between which many stiff and spiny shrubs find shelter, making the area so inhospitable that there truly is no easy way to reach these palms (Fig. 2). The boulders serve as breaks both for wildfires and fire bugs, so most of the palms are full-skirted right down to the ground.

However, this grove may not always be as inaccessible as it is now. In the interest of our children and grandchildren, we should now initiate action toward transferring the land of these palms from the Bureau of Land Management to the custody and protection of the adjacent Anza-Borrego State Park.

ERIK JONSSON