

DESERT VIEW TOWER:

In the 1920's, Bert L. Vaughn, who owned Jacumba, conceived the idea of erecting a look out tower built of native materials as a memorial to the pioneers who had crossed through the area on their way to San Diego. During the Depression, when construction of the tower was delayed, an itinerant artist (?), engineer (?) named Ratliff (?), Ratcliff (?) spent two years (possibly as many as five) carving fantasy creatures out of the boulders on the site. Dennis A. Newman purchased the abandoned property in 1947 and opened it to the public in May 1950 as Desert View Tower. As far as I know, Newman is still the property owner but he has had the park up for sale in the last year.

Desert View Tower - Boulder Park consists of a tower made of four foot thick walls that house on the bottom level a shop and a museum; mostly Newman's collection from World War II and prior: old guns, swords, lamps, war trophies, wagon models, Indian and pioneer relics. The top level of the museum is an observation tower. In addition to the tower structure, the site is surrounded by huge boulders. Many ^{were} ~~have been~~ carved into weird and whimsical creatures --- snakes, lizards, buffalo, fish, etc.

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