

BABOQUIVARI PEAK 7734 FEET CLASS 4

MILEAGE: 490 miles of paved road, 11.3 miles of good dirt road.

DRIVE/ROUTE A: From Ajo, Ariz. drive 70 miles E on State Highway 86 to Sells, Ariz. in the Tohono O'Odham Indian Reservation. At 0.4 miles E of highway milepost 113, turn right (S) on a paved road. Drive 0.6 miles to a fork at a sign "Topowa, San Miguel". Bear right and drive 9.1 miles S through the village of Topowa to the signed, dirt road turnoff for Baboquivari Park. Turn left (E) here on a good dirt road and drive 11.3 miles to road's end at the Baboquivari Campground. You need to contact the Baboquivari District Office at 520-383-2366 before using the campground at the end of this road, but there is not a fee and there may or may not be a caretaker there. They will send you a pdf form via email, which can be filled out and put on your windshield if you are unable to visit the office.

APPROACH/CLIMB A: See Map 1. From the south side of the Baboquivari Campground pick up a distinct trail heading E toward the mountain. Follow this trail, passing a steel water tank on your left and a stone water tank on your right in the first 0.25 miles and continuing another 200 yards to a junction with a trail heading right (S). Turn right here, following this trail (shown on the 7.5 minute topo map as a "Pack Trail") S then E 3.5 miles to its end at the base of cliffs on Baboquivari's W side. Head up and left on a sloping ramp along the base of these cliffs for a few hundred yards. Picking up the trail above the ramp, follow it through trees to the base of a 100 foot high 4th class rock wall. At this point the route joins up with the west side Forbes route (Route B).

CLIMB/ROUTE A: Climb 15 feet up the left side of the wall to a hanger, then diagonally up and right to a second hanger 15 feet beyond the first one. With a belay from below, anchoring in at these hangers provides the needed leader protection for this portion of the climb, which is the most difficult portion of the wall. Continue up past one final hanger and 2 steel rods (50 and 65 feet above the base of the wall), then diagonally right to easier climbing in a 25 foot long chute which leads to level ground at the top of the pitch. A good belay point at the top is a 4" diameter oak tree, better are two bolted chains to its left. From here head right along the base of a cliff to an obvious notch. Passing through the notch, drop down into trees and brush, following a faint trail to a short crack with a chockstone wedged 7 feet up it. Climb this crack, continuing up a gully on faint trail to the summit area. The trail becomes quite hard to follow near the summit, so you'll probably end up doing a little bushwhacking to reach the top. Return the same way, keeping in mind that the 4th class rock wall you climbed is best descended as a rappel using the chains or the tree as an anchor.

For a small, moderately experienced party, the minimum group climbing hardware you should have on this climb is one 9mm (or larger) diameter ropes preferably 60 meters long, four carabiners and two slings of 4 foot long x 1" nylon webbing. In addition, each climber should have his or her own seat harness with either one locking or two opposing carabiners and a Figure-8 rappel ring. Climbing helmets are also recommended just as a matter of personal safety.

ROUND TRIP STATS/ROUTE A: 4300 feet elevation gain, 9-10 miles, 9 hours

BABOQUIVARI PEAK (CONTINUED)

DRIVE/ROUTE B: From Robles Jct. at the intersection of Arizona Routes 86 and 286, drive about 29 miles S on 286 to a good dirt road 0.2 mile S of highway milepost 16. Turn right (W), driving through a gate, then 2.7 miles to a fork. Turn right here, following a fair dirt road N through a wash and then generally NW 2.85 miles to a second gate. Passing through the gate, drive 1.95 miles on a poor dirt road (2WD high clearance needed in spots) to a windmill on the left. Continue 0.3 miles to the parking area at a third gate which marks the boundary of the Baboquivari Peak Ranch. Parking is limited to about about 4 or 5 vehicles.

APPROACH/ROUTE B: See Map 2. From the parking spot (elev. 4500 ft.) the impressive E face of Babo is in clear sight. Just to the right of the peak is a prominent saddle you'll reach by following a well-worn use trail up the canyon. Hike up the road beyond the gate to the ranch, skirting right of the main cabin and passing between a corral and low water tank. Pick up the use trail here and follow it up the canyon, crossing the creekbed several times. When the canyon begins to steepen, the trail bears right to gain the ridge above, following it and then contouring W to the abovementioned saddle NE of Babo at 6400 ft. elevation (UTM 440154). From the saddle you'll see a deep notch to the SW (250° bearing). Aiming for this notch, pick up a use trail on the W side of the saddle, following it as best you can and bushwhacking as necessary to the base of a chute below the notch.

CLIMB/ROUTE B: Climb the chute to where it narrows near a large chockstone. Either climb 20 feet directly up and under this chockstone (may be wet), squeezing through an opening, or on the cliff face to the right of the chockstone to two bolts. A belay anchor can be set up here. Continuing up through the notch, follow a faint trail along the base of the cliffs to the start of the second pitch. Climb about 40 feet up the steeply sloping face and either continue straight up or bear left up a steep gully to two bolts about 90 feet higher up. From the bolts climb/walk 30 feet up and to the right, picking up a faint use trail along the base of the cliffs to the start of the third and final pitch at 7400 feet elevation. At this point the route joins up with the east side route (ROUTE A). Follow Climb/Route A directions from this point to the summit.

ROUND TRIP STATS/ROUTE B: 3400 feet elevation gain, 9 miles, 9 hours.

SIDELINES

1. Permits for camping at the Baboquivari Mountain Park Campground can be obtained by mail or phone in advance by contacting Baboquivari District Office, PO Box 3001, Sells, AZ 85634 at (520) 383-2366. Permits can also be obtained on a first come/first serve basis at the campground from the caretaker or at the Baboquivari District Office, Monday through Friday 8AM-5PM. The District Office is located at the junction of Indian Route 19 and the Baboquivari Mtn Park dirt road (see map included with this write-up). A permit is required, but fees are no longer collected. One may call the office and have the form emailed to you. Fill it out and leave it on your windshield if you are unable to make it to the office when it is open.

BABOQUIVARI PEAK (CONTINUED)

The campground has a drinking fountain, flush toilets and running water in the restrooms. Also, a very good, multi-roomed cabin complete with fireplace is available for overnight use. It's best to reserve it in advance by phone at the number listed above.

2. During the Depression era of the 1930's, the US government was the single largest employer on the reservation. It was then that the Civilian Conservation Corps-Indian Division constructed the road to the Baboquivari Campground and built the cabin currently standing on the north side of the grounds. The Corps also constructed the Baboquivari trail and erected a fire lookout tower on the summit. Today the only reminders left of their work are a few steel supports drilled into the rock face of the 4th class wall and concrete foundations and piles of wooden boards left on the summit.

3. There is a sacred cave located NNE of the campground. This cave, 850 feet elevation above the campground, is located at the base of a rock wall at a 28° bearing from the cabin on the N side of the grounds. The trail leading to the cave starts behind the cabin and heads E for 300 yards, then turns left (N), switchbacking up the hill to the cave entrance. The cave itself is about 30'long x 20'wide x 10'high and has a narrow, slotted entrance approximately 16"high x 30"wide. Inside are a myriad of "offerings" including Indian baskets and beadwork, money, photos, ID cards, baseball caps, trophies, medals, animal horns and gourds. Be sure to obtain permission from the resident campground caretaker before setting out to visit this place; under no circumstances attempt to visit the site without permission from the caretaker. If permission is granted, respect the sanctity of the cave and do not disturb or remove any of the objects contained therein. Keep in mind that the entire area around Baboquivari Peak is very special to both the Papagos and some neighboring tribes such as the Pima. They consider it a sort of giant "spiritual prism" which serves to focus metaphysical energy in the area.

4. The name Papabotas was given to the Indians living in the Lower Sonoran Desert by the Spanish in the 16th century. This name evolved into the currently familiar "Papago". Neighboring Indian tribes called them the Tohono O'Odham, which translates into "Thirsty" or "Desert" People. It is considered the official name of the tribe.

5. One interpretation of the name origin of Baboquivari is that it's a corruption of the Papago words yav kivilik, which literally translated mean "mountain" and "narrow in the middle" but are generally translated to mean "a neck between two heads". As seen from a southern vantage point, the peak supposedly resembles this latter description. Over the centuries this peak has been known by many different names. The Spanish missionary Father Eusebio Francisco Kino (1645-1711) called it Noah's Ark since his party reasoned it looked like a tall castle resting on the top of a high peak. In the mid- 1800's it was also known as Papago Peak and Picacho de Baboquivari by American surveyors working in the area.

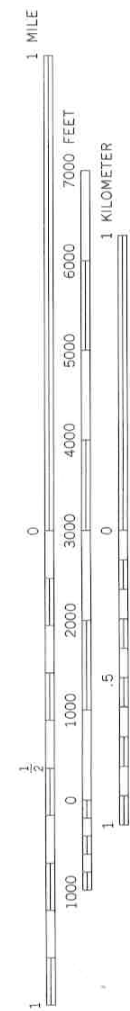
6. Baboquivari Peak was first climbed in July 1898 by Dr. Robert Forbes, a professor at the University of Arizona in Tuscon. He approached the peak from the west side and climbed it via what is now known as the Forbes route, which is the Route B described in this guide. His accomplishment was quite a daring

BABOQUIVARI PEAK (CONTINUED)

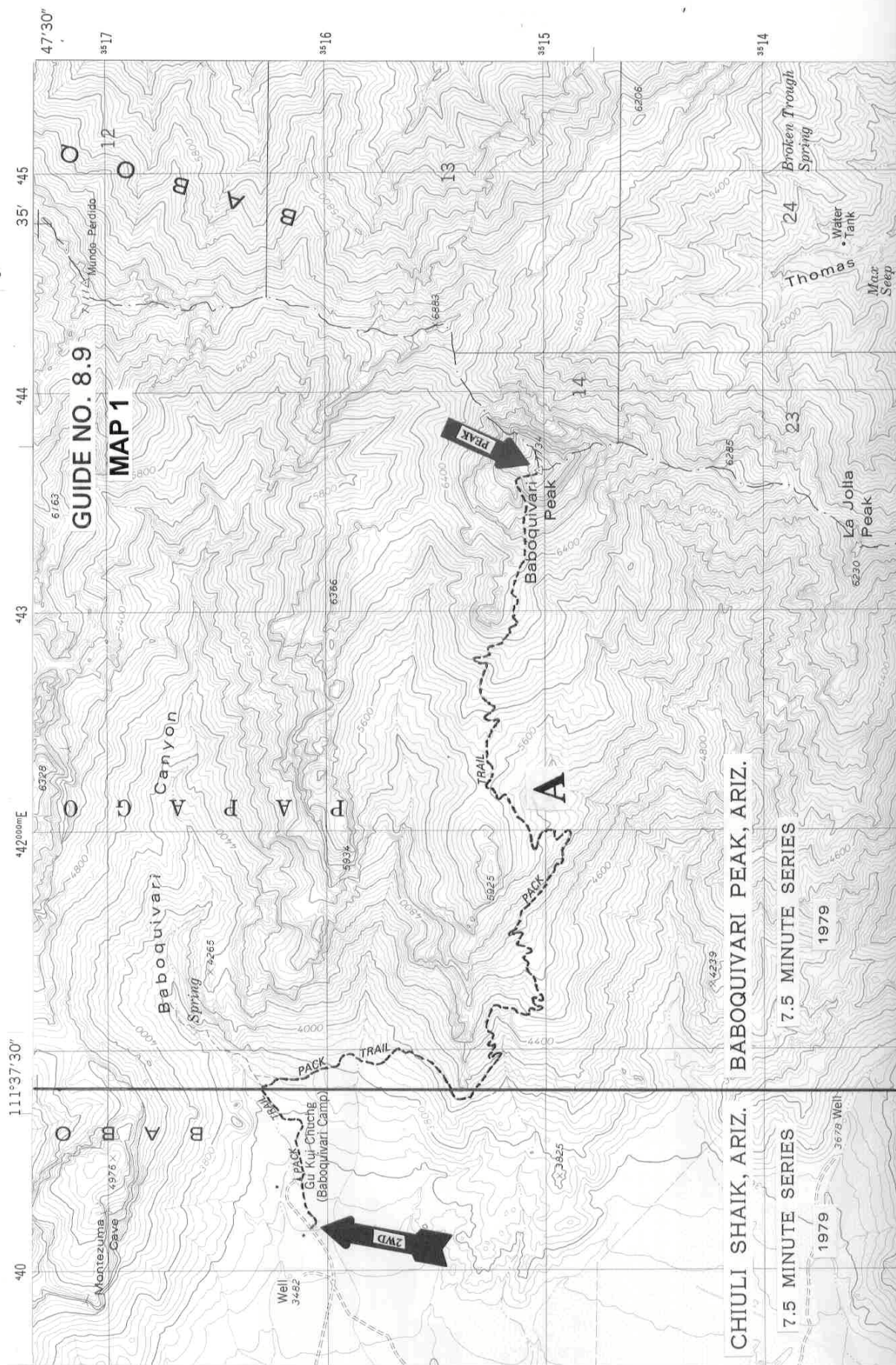
feat in its day, getting to the summit of this great mountain by a complicated route without use of the climbing paraphernalia we rely on today as a matter of course.

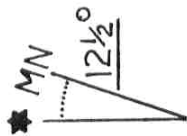
7. An interesting side trip on the west side of the Baboquivari Mountains can be made to Picture Rock. It's a brownish/whitish rock outcropping that gets its name from numerous petroglyphs carved into its SW face. Located about 1.25 air miles WSW of the Baboquivari Campground at UTM 383157 on the 7.5 minute Chiuli Shaik, Ariz. 1979 topo map, it is accessible by road to any standard 2WD vehicle. From the Baboquivari Campground drive 0.3 miles W to a fork. Bear left and drive 0.9 miles to a fork. Bear right and drive 0.3 miles to Picture Rock.

8. The summit of Baboquivari Peak straddles the boundary of the Baboquivari Peak Wilderness and the Tohono O'Odham Indian Reservation. The Baboquivari Peak Wilderness, managed by the Bureau of Land Management, encompasses approximately 2,065 acres of land, making it the smallest wilderness area in the state of Arizona.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET

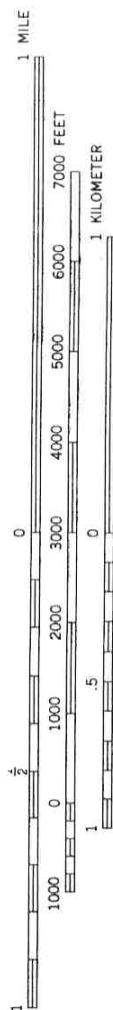




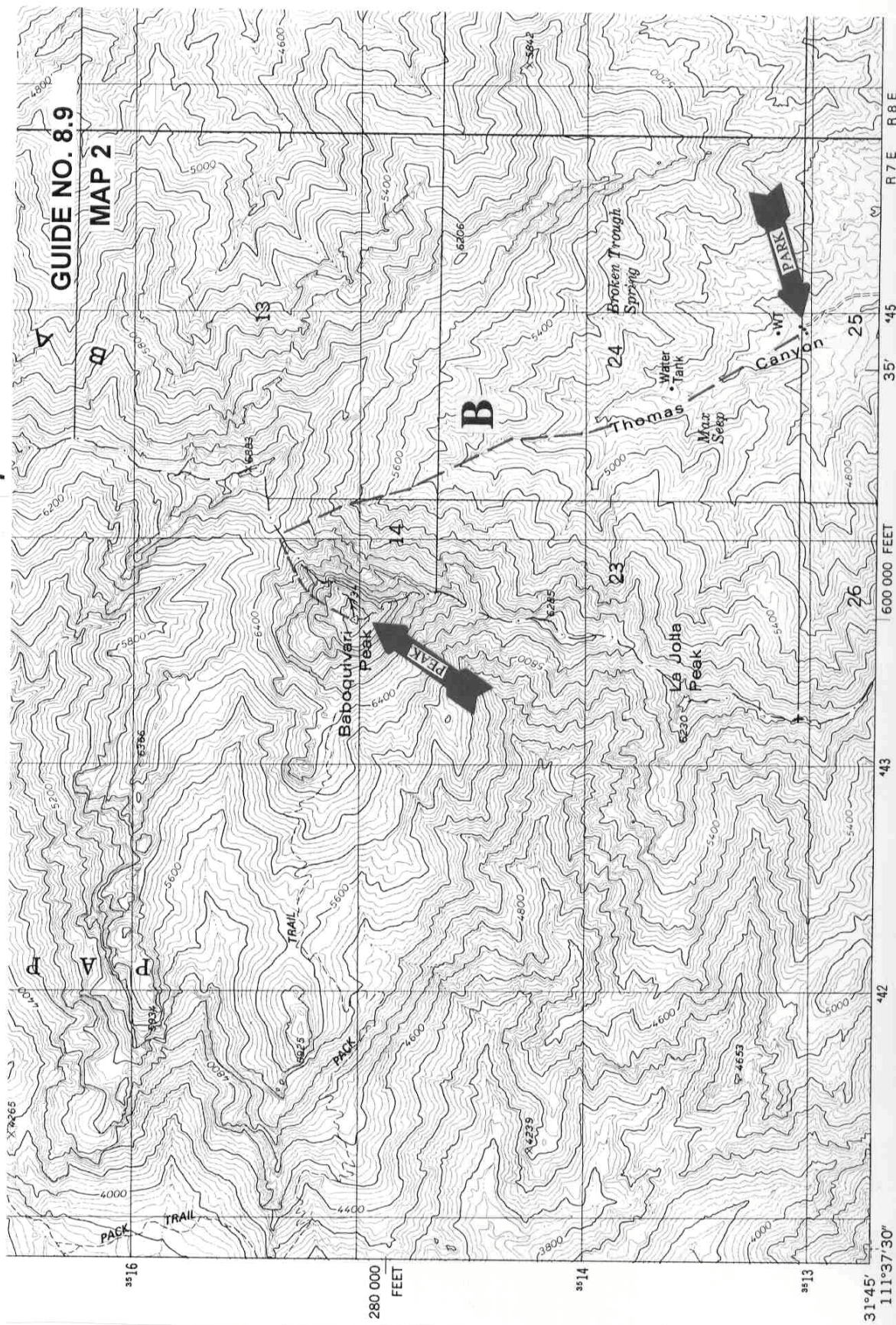
BABOQUIVARI PEAK, ARIZ.

1979

7.5 MINUTE SERIES



CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET

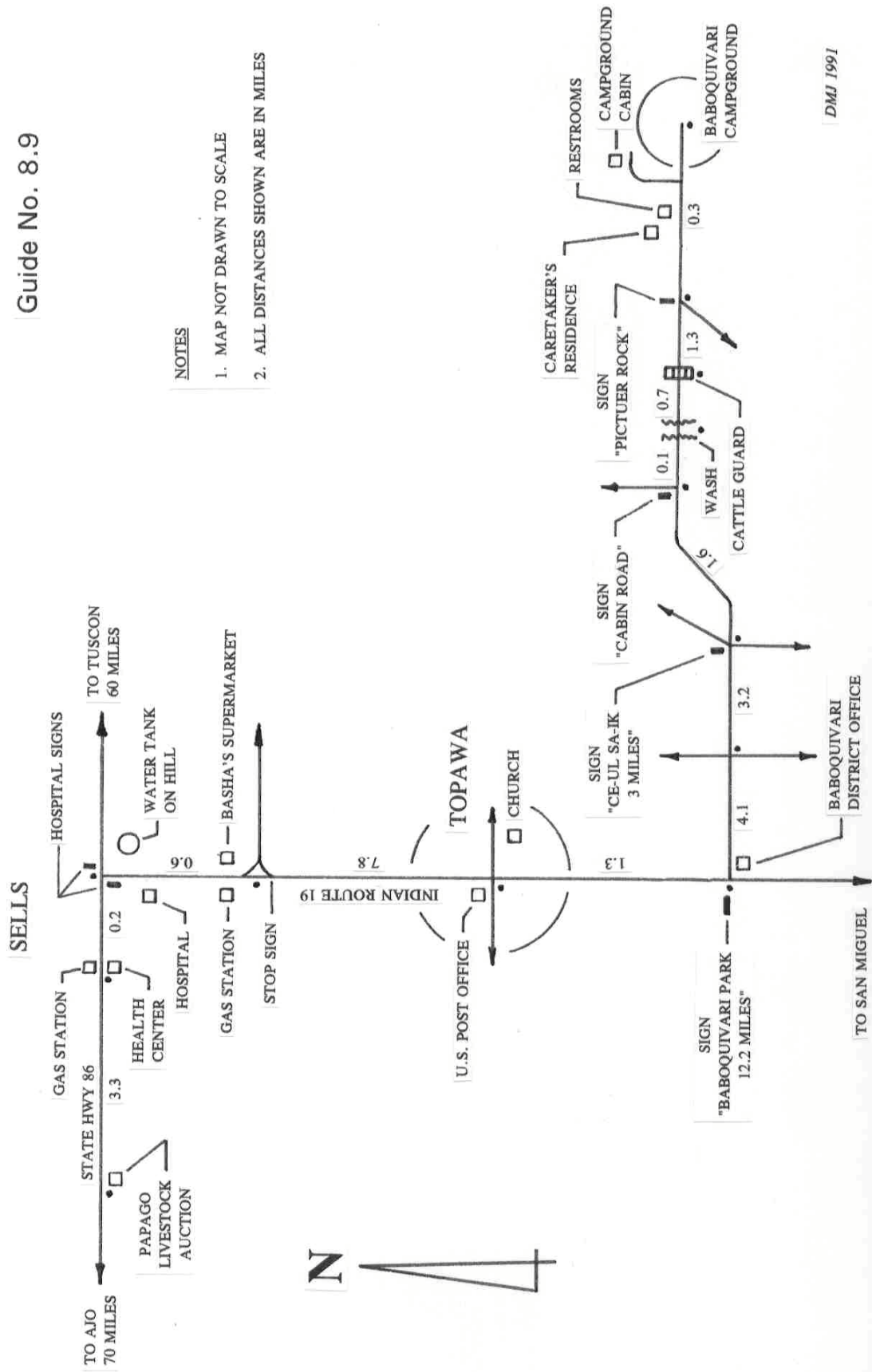


Baboquivari Peak

Guide No. 8.9

NOTES

1. MAP NOT DRAWN TO SCALE
2. ALL DISTANCES SHOWN ARE IN MILES



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