

SULLIVAN EAST RIDGE

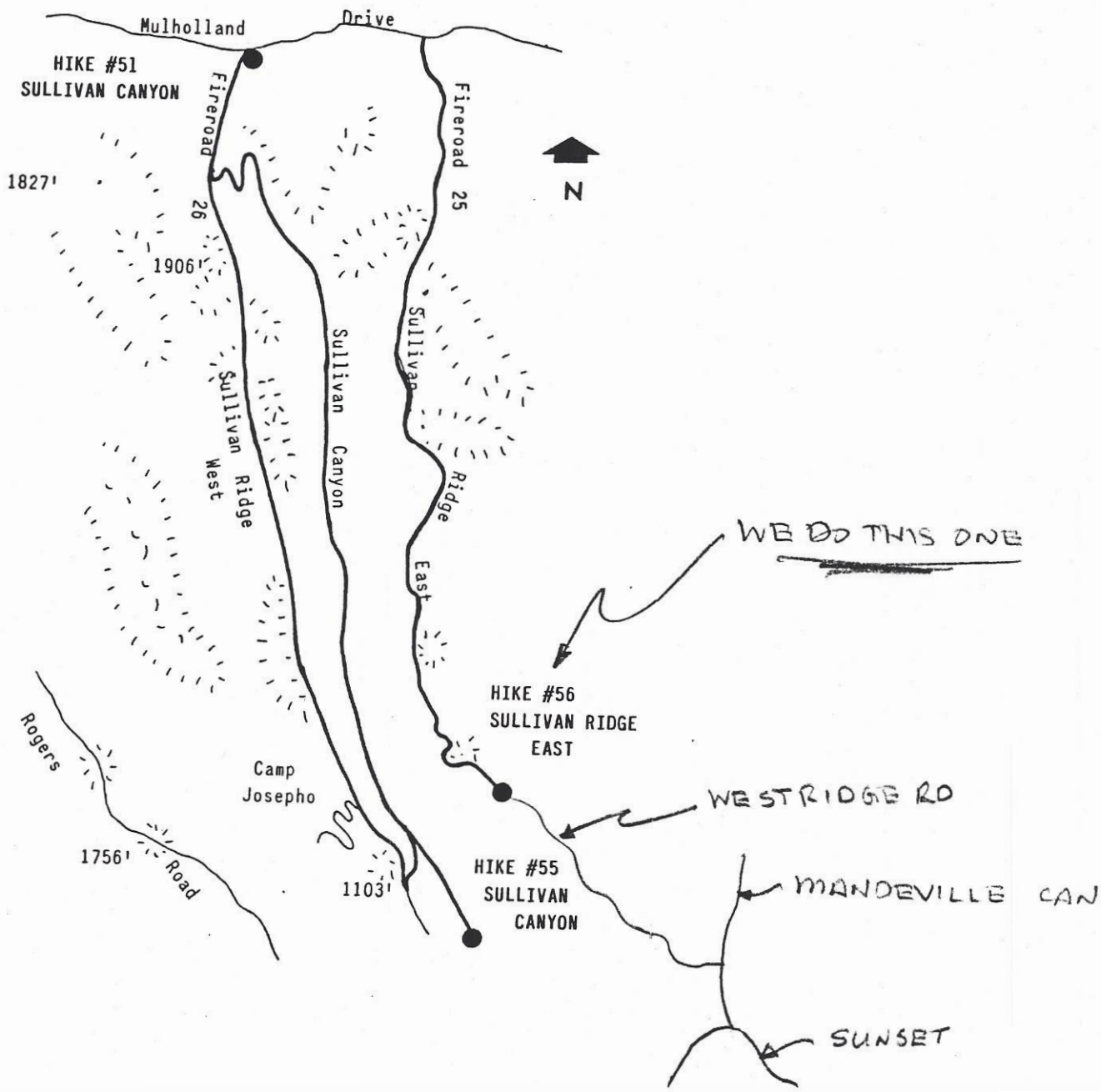
Hike #26

29 May 1990

Dear Fellow OTPier;

Well I shall start by admitting my screw-up! I forgot about the lack of mail deliveries due to the Memorial Day holiday, and figured that if I did the hike mailing Saturday, all would be OK. So we'll have to do Sullivan Canyon on Wednesday next, 6 June, 9:30 AM. Checkout the approach to the trailhead on the map. The route (Westridge Rd. from Mandeville Canyon off of Sunset) looks like you could easily get lost.

Just C



EAST SULLIVAN RIDGE ROAD
(Fireroad 25)
from Westridge Road

Maps: Topanga, topo
Canoga Park, topo
Distance: 6½ miles roundtrip
Elevation; 1050' gain and loss
Terrain: Fireroad
Time: 2½ hours
Trailhead: Westridge Road

In Brentwood from the corner of Sunset Blvd and Mandeville Canyon Road go north on Mandeville 3/10 mile to Westridge Road. Turn left and follow Westridge to the end of the road at the locked gate. This is a residential area and the only parking available is on the street.

Walk around the gate onto the dirt road that heads north along the ridge. This is Fireroad 25 and stays close to the ridge between Mandeville Canyon on the east and Sullivan Canyon on the west.

The altitude gain is moderate and the footing good. The view to the west into Sullivan Canyon is rugged and impressive. The floor of the canyon is 750' below the trail, making the trail down in the canyon look narrow. Sullivan Ridge is a favorite evening hike. Some spectacular sunsets are seen over the ridge to the west. In the summer late afternoon is a lot cooler on this shadeless ridge.

Farther along the ridge the road follows the eastern edge of the crest giving a good view of Mandeville Canyon on the east. The floor of the canyon here is also 700-800 feet below the trail. A number of homes have been built in this narrow canyon.

The fireroad comes to an inactive military installation near San Vicente Mountain, now a city park. By taking the road turning left at the gate and

climbing a short distance to the top of the knoll, a magnificent view of the San Fernando Valley and the Los Angeles Basin spreads before you.

Return the same way you came.

Use map on page 223.

GEOLOGICAL COMMENTS

The oldest rock found in the Santa Monica Mountains can be seen all along this entire area. The dark gray-to-black slate that covers the surface in a 5 mile diameter area was formed about 150 million years ago when this part of California was under a shallow sea. Named Santa Monica Slate from its extensive exposure in the central area of the Santa Monica Mountains, the formation is 5000 to 7000 feet thick. On the road near Peak 1902, about 3/4 mile south of San Vicente Mountain, a sharp eye will notice a lighter colored shale interbedded with coarse sandstone (called the Modelo Formation). This was formed about 15 million years ago when the area was under several thousand feet of ocean water. It is of interest geologically because the sedimentation that occurred during the 135 million years between the formation of the Santa Monica Shale and the Modelo is missing.

