



UNITED STATES ARMY

its beauties.

The second incident of importance enroute was at the National Wildlife Refuge in the Sacramento Valley near Marysville. The graceful American Egret dominated the bird life in those endless marshes, adding an animate touch to the country that no other bird could possibly replace. The Egret symbolizes the finest in the artistic aspects of life. I thought at the time how worthy a contribution one could make in perpetuating these bird forms for our present enjoyment and for those who follow.

The beauty of Southern Arizona & New Mexico is exemplified in the desert aggregation of cacti and other desert-like plants and of course the physiography of the ^{rugged} mountains and graceful ^{in contrast} lines of the confluent alluvial plains. The cacti, in particular, are noteworthy and represent forms of life relatively new in my experience. One is forcefully impressed with the idea of adaptation of the vegetative forms to the conditions of their environment. They must represent the final expression of the response of adaptation to the desiccating elements of this desert. Here again is another spot that I would like to revisit. I am sure there will be something more to be found than was pick-up from the train at 50 miles an hour.

Back to dear old Berkeley again. The Sun is now shining with prospects of a change of weather. The Texans assure me that the last few days have been the exceptional in the states history. Was pleased to hear and see the operation of a real live and vigorous thunder storm