The Critics Agree HOTSPRINGS 5azeite HOTSPRINGS

need to bring a swimsuit.

HOT STUFF

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN region is dorted with hot springs, but before you drop, sighing, into a natural hot tub, you'll need to know how to get there, whether it's public or private, whether an old man with a shotgun guards the access and if you

Eric Irving, editor of the Hot Springs Gazette, has all these answers and more in his comprehensive guide to thermal springs in the West, published "spasmodically" in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Irving also published The Good Book: A Guide to Thermal Springs in the United States.



The Good Book Hot Springs Gazette

There are hundreds of bathable hot springs in the American West, many, maybe most, of them utterly untamed. I'm not about to tell you where my favorites are, though I could thrill you for three evenings straight with hot springs adventures. These books tell. The Good Book is a springs adventures. These books tell. The Good Book is facsimile copy of the U.S. part of the famed land out of print) Thermal Springs of the United States and other Countries of the World by the U.S. government. Good data on each spring — name, location, temperature, flow oata on each spring — name, location, temperature, non-and very general maps. Still the definitive text. It is and very general maps. Still the definitive text. It is published by The Hot Springs Gazette, an overly charty. but informative source, sort of periodical, somewhat on different regions each issue (3 so far).

DESERT SKINNYDIPPER

Gazette A



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THE HOT SPRINGS GAZETTE is a delightful little booklet containing a lighthearted but well-documented look at geothermal skinnydip sites in the West. Published quarterly. With two issues out and a third in the mill, HSG already shows signs of becoming a future collector's item. Well written and profusely illustrated with great etchings. Get the early issues while they last for \$2 each, postpaid, and send \$3 to reserve your conv of Issue #3 to author

supplied reports of sightings and sittings in Wild Hot Springs. There is plenty of the usual questing lore, along with legends of encounters with the Ultimate Bath and poolside yarns about the Difficulties and Dangers Associated with Certain Springs. The chief mission of the Gazette is to inform potential hotspringers of the whereabouts of good hot springs, how to get there by car, what the temperature is, how's the bottom, is anybody around, and which ranchers are shooting to keep people out.



Seekers after hot thrills are advised to turn to issue four of The Hot Springs Gazette, Eric Irving's semiguarterly guide to warm, wet oases in the wilderness. This particular issue contains the locations and temperatures of more than 750 hot springs on the West Coast, a third of them in California, with maps and specific directions to many of the best. Irving's labor of lassitude is profusely illus trated by his mother and with graphics stolen from the 1948 Boy Scout manual, and in addition to his own rambling disquisitions it includes chatty commentary by other aficionados on their own favorite haunts. Basically, the guide is by and for those happily obsessed with hot springs, but it also provides some amusing gonzo reading for the merely curious.

JANUARY 1983

Stalking the Wild Hot Spring

springs this way. A master balneologist like Eric Irving still only bats 35 percent success in finding unblazed hot waters. You lack one thing. You lack directions. and yes, friends, we have directories of directions that will direct you to hot springs. The most outstanding ones are two volumes of the Hot Springs Gazette edited by-guess who-Mr. Eric Irving. Volume 3½ covers the Rocky Mountain area, volume 4 the West Coast (\$4,95 each postpaid from Nomadic Books). After a long soak Eric dashed off a hilar-

ious account of his discoveries, typesetting them himself with disgustingly prunelike fingers, while his mother (!) drew the accompanying romantic sketches. Various other aguacaliente freaks have

Doodly Squat Press, P.O. Box 480740, Los Angeles, CA 90048. Happy bathing.