

1981-1982 revision



FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS
P.O. Box 831--- Chatsworth, CA. 91311

May-June 1981 TRAIL TIDINGS

Editor: (open)
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PLAN TO HAVE AN ASTRONOMICALLY GOOD TIME
AT OUR MAY 18 S.S.M.P.A. General Meeting

We are really having some wonderful programs during our monthly general meetings this year. March's program was a slide show entitled, "A Stage Coach Odyssey" depicting the route and some remaining stage coach way stations along the way from here to San Francisco that was prepared and given by Janice Hinkston. The April program was a movie presented by Robert Franklin entitled, "The American Gold Rush." He also prepared the show which included background music and narration.

This month we will focus on the Chumash Indians, one of the three native tribes of the San Fernando and Simi Valleys. These people were astronomers. The slide show will consist of astronomical observations of the Chumash Indians. Several distinguished guests will comprise a panel discussion following the showing to discuss their reactions to it from several different points of view. One guest will be Charlie Cook, representing the Native American Indian Advisory Council for the State of California. Another guest will be Chatsworth builder Erwin Greene. A third panel member guest will be Clay Singer, an archeologist from CSUN. U.S. Government teacher, Ed Burke from Chatsworth High, will be the moderator. Refreshments will be served.

Please plan to attend this exciting and stimulating presentation to be held Monday, May 18, 1981 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of Glendale Federal Savings & Loan at 21821 Devonshire St. in Chatsworth just two blocks east of Topanga Canyon Blvd.

SSMPA MEMBERSHIPS

Please renew your dues if you have not yet done so. Check your address label. If it says, "5/81," that means your dues are due. If it says, "1/82," it means you're ok in our book until next January. If it says, "8/80," it means--where have you been? We need your support again. No date means that you are on our mailing list but we wish you would make a commitment to join. How else can our organization gain strength to cope with inflation?

MEET YOUR NEW S.S.M.P.A. BOARDMEMBERS

- PRES. Cynthia A. Fichtner 993-8229
- VICE PRES. Glenn Bailey 787-8683
- SEC. Constance (Connie) Couture 882-7037
- TREAS. Nancy Razanski 341-3512
- CHAIRPERSONS:
 - NATURAL RESOURCES Janice Hinkston 998-7231
 - CULTURAL Margo Murman 705-0664
 - COMMUNICATIONS (open)
 - FUNDRAISING Tom Blumberg 885-8418
 - LEGISLATION Lois Scott 993-5011
 - RECREATION Gene Burke 780-9321

OLD STAGE COACH TRAIL PROPERTY UPDATE

The Old Stage Coach Trail property is currently on the State budget for funds from the Nov. 1980 State Parks Bond Act. Unfortunately, however, the funds are scheduled from this budget to be distributed for the 1982-1983 fiscal year instead of the hoped for 1981-1982 fiscal year that begins this July. State Assemblywoman Cathie Wright will meet with State Parks & Recreation Department personnel to try to work out a solution to overcome this serious delay. S.S.M.P.A. will keep you informed as to what future action may become necessary on your part.

L.A.'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMES TO TOWN

Thanks to Harry Mitchell of the Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council, a bit of the L.A. Bicentennial spirit will take place in Chatsworth with a one hour slide narration presentation set to music entitled, "San Fernando Valley Crossroads of California." The slide show has been put together by CSUN History Professor Dell Stelck. The program will take place Tuesday, June 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Chatsworth Park Elementary School located on the corner of Topanga & Devonshire St. The slides were donated by various local residents such as Bill Schepler of the Chatsworth Historical Society. The Historical Society will also furnish the refreshments during the intermission. Local organizations will be asked to each furnish two greeters at the door. These organizations will also be asked to donate \$10.00 each to help with the costs for setting up the program. Admission at the door is free unless otherwise stated. If you have any further questions, just call Harry at 866-5151.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TEAR-OFF

YES, I support SSMPA's goals! Please enroll me as a member.

NAME(S) _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

YES! I can volunteer some time. My special interest/occupation: _____

ANNUAL DUES: (Please make check payable to SSMPA) Individual \$5.00 Family \$7.00
Business or Organization \$10.00 Student \$3.00

Tax-deductible donations should be made payable to SSMP Foundation.

ALSO AVAILABLE: Commemorative History Book, \$4.00 each Beautiful Decals, \$1.00 each
Please return with your check to SSMPA, P. O. Box 831, Chatsworth, CA 91311
For additional information, call Glenn Bailey 787-8683

SEWAGE DISPOSAL AGREEMENT PROPOSAL, ACCEPTED

The L.A. City Council has approved the proposed sewage disposal agreement that would allow the area outside of the City of L.A. to be served by L.A. City sewers. The agreement between Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and the City of Los Angeles will allow increased development north to the Simi Freeway and west of Topanga Canyon Blvd.

S.S.M.P.A. learned of the proposed agreement because two of the proposed developments requesting sewer hook ups are adjacent to the Santa Susana Mountain State Park project area.

L.A. COUNTY OAK TREE ORDINANCE HITS SNAG

Some developers are really trying to prevent the L.A. County Oak Tree Ordinance from becoming a reality. In order to insure the protection of those magnificent trees that helped to characterize the California countryside for hundreds of years, then, please voice your support for the L.A. County Oak Tree Ordinance. Please plan to attend the public hearing on June 24 at 9:00 a.m. of the L.A. Regional Planning Commission. Or, send letters of support for the Ordinance to: L.A. Regional Planning Commission 320 W. Temple St. Los Angeles, Calif. 90012

IN MEMORIAM OF MINNIE HILL PALMER

Minnie Hill Palmer who at age 94 was believed to be the longest term native resident of the Valley, has died on March 1, 1981. She had resided for the past four years at Mountain View Sanitarium in Sylmar. Up until the time when she became too ill to live alone following a stroke, Minnie lived in her parents homestead located on land within Chatsworth Park South. Minnie's parents owned 120 acres which was later expanded to 230 acres by her husband Alfred and her brother Lovell.

It was Minnie's strong character which helped to shape the attitudes of generations of Chatsworth's civic minded people, in their determination to protect the community's natural surroundings and scenic open space. For in 1956, she sold her property to the City to be used for the once Chatsworth Golf Course and the now current City Park. Minnie was allowed to live rent free for life on her one remaining acre of land. Every day she awoke at 7:00 a.m. and worked in her garden all day. She grew most of her own food and did a lot of canning to be used for Christmas gifts. When the great fire of 1970 swept Chatsworth, Minnie had refused to evacuate but instead helped fight the fire. As

MEMORIAM continued

a result, her home was saved. It is the last remaining homestead acre in the San Fernando Valley and was dedicated last May as Los Angeles Historical Cultural Monument # 133.

Here is hoping that the memory of Minnie Hill Palmer will never fade or that her character and goodness will never cease to be an inspiration to us all.

STONEY POINT ACCESS ROUTE STILL THREATENED

Although the approximate 22 acre, 300 ft., rock outcropping and historical landmark, Stoney Point, will become a City Park due to the April 29 decision made by the L.A. City Council, the access route into the area comprised of an 1.82 acre flat parcel known as tract # 2771 located just south of the rock outcropping, is still privately owned. Its owner, Mr. Kelly, to sell the land for becoming a horse ranch. He wants \$125,000 for his property. The question is, can the City come up with the additional money to annex this section to the rest of Stoney Point? Public support is crucial in this matter. Please write your letters of support for this annexation to:

Councilman Hal Bernson
City Hall Room 236
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, Calif. 90012

Please send a copy of your letter to:
S.S.M.P.A.
P.O. Box 831
Chatsworth, Calif. 91311

S.S.M.P.A. NEWSLETTER

The newsletter will now come out on a quarterly basis. Postcards will still be mailed monthly to remain members of upcoming meetings and events.

We need a newsletter editor who would also serve as the Communications Chairman on the S.S.M.P.A. Board of Directors. Otherwise it forces other board members to do double duty.

S.S.M.P.A. SUMMER TRAIL HIKES

The regularly scheduled trail hikes into the Simi Hills will take place one hour sooner through the month of September to ward off summer heat. Hikers may bring a snack and their cameras as usual though.

LAST MINUTE REMINDER

The S.S.M.P.A. general meetings will take place at 7:30 p.m. from now on to allow everyone to get home a half hour sooner on this weekday night.

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the Santa Susanas
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