



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, California 91313-4831

JANICE HINKSTON
founder

ZELMA VAN DELINDER
president & editor

M A Y 1994

PROGRAM

Monday, May 16, 7: P.M.
Glendale Federal Savings
21821 Devonshire St., Chatsworth

Executive Board member Barbara Coffman will narrate her collection of slides taken on a 12,000 mile trip to Fairbanks, Alaska. Barbara and husband Paul joined a R-V caravan for a three month celebration of the 50 year anniversary of the Al-Can highway. Come see the wondrous beauty of Alaska as Barbara unfolds scenes of their historic adventure.

At the Golden Rule Award luncheon presented by the J.C.Penney Company on May 3, our founder Jan was one of fourteen volunteer finalists honored with a check for \$250.00 and a framed certificate. These annual awards are part of a national program devised by James Cash Penney in recognition of the hundreds of service hours dedicated by community volunteers. Congratulations to Jan, a very worthy recipient!!!

YES on 180

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

Even in to-day's society where money is our economic leveler, some things should remain inviolate with no price tag attached. Namely, in this case, Chatsworth Reservoir! Back in the 60's the owners, Department of Water & Power, stored water in it for agricultural use only. In a moment of infinite wisdom in 1969, hundreds of oak trees were cut down as part of an expansion program that included building dikes around the reservoir. And that's when the community rebelled. Finally, the 1971 earthquake squelched DWP's plans when new building codes were issued the damaged reservoir could not meet. Since then it has been in limbo. For years before the '71 quake, this plot of over 1300 acres of marshland was refuge for hundreds of birds and animals. To-day, the reservoir is the only wilderness area of its kind in San Fernando Valley. On a regular basis, the Audubon Society records well over one hundred species of birds here. Its common to spot coyotes, skunks, quail, racoons, squirrels and an occasional fox while deer are often sighted at the watering hole.

Thousands of people have enjoyed the area's natural beauty on the annual tour given by the Chatsworth Reservoir Conservancy. Do you agree this is truly a treasure in our community that should remain a perpetual wildlife preserve? Following is a sampling from a few who don't agree: a group of realtors have suggested a four lane road cut across the reservoir to accomodate motorists from Plummer street to Roscoe blvd., claiming property values would increase with better access. Another suggestion being considered by the L.A. Department of Recreation & Parks is to build two nine-hole golf courses with a club house containing banquet space and a restaurant. A batting cage and a video game room would be nearby. You don't have to be an active environmentalist to oppose these outrageous ideas!

While we clearly understand the desperate need for new funding sources, we adamantly disagree with this method of fund raising. Appeals for help have been made to the Fish & Wildlife Foundation in Washington, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of wildlife

(Continued)

preserves and to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Our local councilman Hal Bernson has voiced his opposition to any plan that would destroy this irreplaceable open space. He firmly believes along with many of us that Chatsworth Reservoir should remain a wilderness sanctuary. If you support these goals please send a note with your opposing remarks to: L.A. City Parks Commission, Room 1330, City Hall East, L.A. 90012. And remember an EIR and public hearings are compulsory so watch for them!

* * * * *

At the last meeting of the year on June 20, our guest speaker will be Charlie Cook whose hereditary name is 'Momoneja'. He claims to be the local most likely descendant of the Southern Chumash-Fernando Indian tribes. He is a consultant to the State Parks Board whose expertise is invaluable whenever potential Indian sites are discovered in California.

* * * * *

Because SSMPA membership dues have never been raised in over twenty years, every renewal is very important to us. In 1993 our newsletter mailing costs exceeded \$500.00, so if you no longer enjoy receiving it please let us know. (But not you, cousin Richard MacKenzie of Simi Valley) The date on your address label is your expiration date. If it reads prior to 5-94 we hope you will send a check at your earliest convenience.

Name _____	Student or Senior	\$5.00	___
	Individual	\$10.00	___
Address _____	Family	\$15.00	___
	Supporting	\$25.00	___
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	Business	\$25.00	___
	Life Member	\$100.00	___
Phone () _____	(Make checks payable to SSMPA)		

YES on 180



We urge you to help pass the greatest open space initiative in the history of California by voting YES on Proposition 180. Hundreds of thousands of supporters throughout the state are joining forces with such diverse groups as the National Audubon Society, the NAACP, the League of Women Voters, both Senior & Youth organizations just to name a few hoping for your support! Glenn Bailey at 344-1992 could use some telephone volunteers if you have a few hours to donate.

* * * * *

It's not too late to call with items for our garage sale. The big day is May 14. Look around for your discards and call Connie at 882-7037 or Zelma at 341-2504 for free pick-up. Many thanks to all of you who have already donated!

* * *

YES on 180

DATED MATERIAL

Foundation for the Preservation
of the Santa Susana Mountains
P.O. Box 4831
Chatsworth, Ca. 91313-4831

U S Postage
PAID
Van Nuys, Ca
Permit No. 761