

Happy 25th Anniversary

SSMPA News

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association
P.O. Box 4831 - Chatsworth, California 91313

JUNE 1995

Editor: N. Razanski

ENDANGERED SPECIES' ACT NEEDS YOU

Our June 19, 1995 general meeting will feature a video on the Endangered Species Act presented by Janice Hinkston. Following the video, members will be asked to write letters of support for this Act which is currently being threatened by sources which want to weaken the protection that this 1973 law provides. Come and learn more. Time will be set aside for people to actually do something in writing about the situation. Bring stationary and pens. Remember, now is the time for all nimble-fingered people to come to the aid of our environment. See you there in the Community Room of Glendale Federal Savings and Bank at 21821 Devonshire Blvd. just two blocks east of Topanga Canyon Blvd. in Chatsworth. at 7:00 p.m.. Update toll-free no. (800) 716-5337. Volunteering? Call John Leary (213) 387-4287.

SUMMARY OF OUR LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

The guest speaker for the May 15, 1995 General Meeting was Dr. Chester King, a noted authority and author on the Chumash Indians and on Southern Californian economic exchange systems. Chatsworth has long been known as an interaction area between the Chumash and the western Tongva. Dr. King believes that a third native people, the Tatavium, may have also inhabited the northwest San Fernando Valley. Dr. King described some of his research on San Fernando Mission records to support this contention.

Did you know that California had by far the largest Indian population in the United States? Not only that, but fully 1 in 10 of all the native peoples in North America, north of central Mexico (including northern Mexico, the entire continental United States, Canada and Greenland), lived in southern California?

Al Knight

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION IS NOW ON LINE

At Chatsworth Public Library anyone can dial up through Internet current copies and deposition of all pending California State Legislation. Ask reference librarian for help in accessing the Gopher--Project Info. People to access the data base containing this information. Anyone wishing to use this service should call Chatsworth Branch Library at (818) 341-4276.

Diana Dixon-Davis

SSMPA SUMMER SCHEDULE

NO GENERAL OR PROGRAM MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED FOR JULY, AUGUST, OR SEPTEMBER. FOR SSMPA UPDATES CALL PRESIDENT BAILEY AT (818) 344-1992.

FOUR SSMPA MEMBERS HONORED AT CCCC BANQUET

These four people are Barbara Coffman, Grethe Davis, Janet Lazik and Cindy Wilder. Barbara is an SSMPA hike docent and helped establish the SSMPA Visitor Center as well as a successful grant writer for SSMPA. Grethe Davis has been a loyal Visitor Center docent for over four years and is willing to train anyone willing to fill the second Sunday post or the fifth Sunday post. Janet Lazik and Cindy Wilder are the Coordinators of the Santa Susana Children's Docent Program successfully in operation since 1993. Congrats ladies.

Citizens of the year go to Lila Schepke of the Chatsworth Historical Society and Brother Crowe from Rancho San Antonio Boys' Home. Student of the year goes to Chatsworth High School Student Charles Nguyen. This Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council event took place on Friday, May 19, 1995.

SSMPA SILVER ANNIVERSARY

This November marks 25 years of diligent effort by the SSMPA to preserve for present and future generations the magnificent Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills through the establishment of a large public park.

Because I have been a member of SSMPA since the early 1970's, I have a lot of memorabilia. I recently chronolized my SSMPA newsletter collection and began to reread them. (Wow the history recorded on those pages.) An especially interesting news item contained in an oct., 1972 newsletter written by the late Joy Carol Totsche was that SSMPA and its goals were to be featured on a one-half-hour television program called, "Citywatchers" for November, 1972 on KCET Channel #28. This did come to pass. I wish we could get a copy of this tape for our records.

Nancy Razanski

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

PLEASE ATTEND THE JUNE 19 MEETING TO VOICE YOUR VOTE ON WHETHER THE SSMPA SHOULD APPROPRIATE \$200 TOWARDS THE TRAINING OF A BOARD MEMBER AT THE GRANTSMANSHIP CENTER ON FUNDRAISING.

EDITOR WELCOMES ARTICLES

If you have any important articles to submit to the SSMPA newsletter, please send your pieces to me before the first Monday in the month. My address is the following: Nancy Razanski

22149 James Alan Circl
Chatsworth, CA 91311

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PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL - AND RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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)		

The April 6, 11, and 16, 1995 Los Angeles Times articles said that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the City of Santa Clarita would in a joint venture purchase for parkland the 3,035 acre oak-hardwood savannah known for over a century as the Chevron Santa Clarita Oil Fields. The price is 4.9 million dollars.

This news thrilled me because I knew the location. I had been there. Back on October 21, 1978, Janice Hinkston and I attended a conference put on by the Associated Historical Societies of Southern California which was hosted by the Santa Clarita Historical Society and the Newhall Women's Club. We had the then rare privilege of traveling through the Chevron oil fields enroute to the ghost town, Mentryville. A Chevron employee, Frenchy Lagasse and his wife, Carol, obtained permission. Carol, besides being an active member of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, had a creative talent for restoring antiques. She was then busy restoring the old Mentry mansion, the pioneer Felton schoolhouse, and the old Mentry barn.

The trip to that quaint old place was enough to bring goose pimples up and down the spine of any true environmentalist for the uncut grasslands entwined ethereally with the branches of oaks, ash, big cone Douglas fir, California walnut, and grew undisturbed for over a century. Even back in 1885 when this first commercial oil town in California was established, the local woodlands were left virtually unmolested. For lumber, the people brought redwood with them for their homes. When they left the town in 1932, they dismantled the boards and took them with them, thus only three buildings remain: mansion, school and barn. I wonder if those early pioneers sensed the uniqueness of this area which happens to be a rare blend of northern and southern California woodlands?

Sometimes good things are just meant to be. Even in these hard economic times the Conservancy under the directorship of Joe Edmiston, found a way to enact this purchase. According to the Los Angeles Times, "the Conservancy will pay half of the 4.9 million now and the remainder within five years." The 2.45 million needed as the down payment will come from two sources. Conservancy will sell its 53 acre Rivondale property to the City of Santa Clarita for two million. The .45 million will come from Proposition A funds approved by LA County voters a few years ago. Santa Clarita got its two million from the sale of city bonds in 1991. According to the LA Times, "that bond money was originally earmarked for road construction, but because the city has received funds from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority for that purpose, the money was available for purchase of open space."

I remember praying for the preservation of that scenic route to Mentryville. It is part of the 80 square mile area envisioned for parkland back in 1970 by Janice Hinkston when the SSMPA first formed. The newly purchased parkland will be open to the public sometime this fall according to Conservancy sources.

Nancy Razanski

CHATSWORTH CONSERVATION COALITION TOWN MEETING: SUBJECT: EAGLE'S NEST

On Sunday, May 21, over 100 lively people gathered at Chatsworth Lake Community Church to learn more about the proposed Eagle's Nest Development. Event started with a mini-fair where items sold to help finance the project which opposes building 19 homes on 50 acres above Chatsworth Reservoir referred to as Eagle's Nest. Live music also entertained the preservationists.

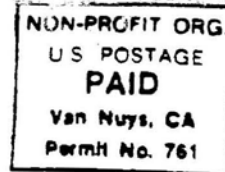
After this, the citizens heard Chatsworth Conservation Coalition members discuss concerns about this proposed development. Discussed were fears that a wildlife corridor would be blocked off, wildlife water sources disturbed, and dirtied with toxic waste and vegetative forage destroyed by grading. Also discussed was probable destruction of unique geological formations. Not least in concern is the environmental havoc an additional access road would make for wildlife and humans.

Next, the featured speaker, Dan Preece, Deputy Superintendent of California State Parks spoke. He said the entire area has much environmental and cultural significance, and he would like to see the Eagle's Nest and the existing state park property next to it be turned into a state historic park with the likely theme of transportation dealing with Indian routes up through current trains tracking through the area. However, there is no current funds for Eagle's Nest. This is true eventhough Neil Thuresson the owner and would-be developer claimed at this meeting that he was a willing seller.

If you have any ideas of how to help purchase this land or want to learn more, please call the ladies who spend all their spare time on it. Call CCC Pres. Summer Nicholson at (818) 883-3490 or CCC V.P. Susan Gerke at (818) 704-9304

Lindsay Wilhelm

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DATED MATERIAL