



## **Santa Susana Mountain Park Association**

*May 1996*

### ***Clueless About the Simi Hills?***

**May's General Meeting** (Monday, May 20, 1996, 7:00 p.m.) will feature Mike Kuhn (or his designee) who will be speaking on behalf of the Simi Valley Trailblazers. He will be discussing their origins, their current activities, and their future. This evening will be a great chance for us to further our networking with other environmentally friendly groups. Additionally, this discussion will help us focus on our own plans for the mission, our future, and why what we do is so very important.

### ***President's Message - by Doreen Rusen***

It's been an exciting first month for the new board and myself. We've been involved in many activities to further the cause of protecting the Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills. Our hike on May 5 with Barbara Coffman and Milt McCauley attracted 40 people who after seeing the area this springtime probably appreciate even more what we're trying to protect. The Executive Board is working hard, pursuing the goals of acquiring more land for preservation and ensuring that those properties that have been preserved will continue to be protected. We encourage you to attend the May meeting and all activities of the association. In our group we unite and join with each other to share our concerns and use our strengths to better our communities and assist with the common good. We need your abilities and your enthusiasm to achieve our mutual goals. I look forward to seeing you the third Monday of this month and every month.

## ***Walt Parker*** by Dorian Keyser

Walt Parker, whose roots go back to Chatsworth, died of heart failure on March 22. He was 75 years old. At their 1988 wedding, he jokingly told folks "together Joy and I have 20 children and grandchildren." They and many others will greatly miss him!

Walt's grandmother owned hotels in Chatsworth, Simi, and Moorpark. She eventually married the man who built the Chatsworth railroad station. Walt often reminisced about his days spent hiking the Santa Susanas and as a summer forest ranger there. After he retired from WODOC, he tried to purchase the house that he had lived in from Pauline Aue, but she still lives there.

Walt's highly successful careers included:

- 1) Teacher, HS principal, Sacramento lobbyist, lead Headstart person, and other administrative posts for the L.A. Unified School District, from which he retired in 1975;
- 2) Director of the Jewish Big Brothers camp for problem boys and girls;
- 3) Southern California director of the American Camping Association;
- 4) Director of WODOC from 1985 until ill health forced his retirement in 1993.

I served under him as a docent at WODOC where I was drawn to him by his generosity, hard work and creativity. I always knew that he care, even when his zeal for the best created controversies.

## ***Visitors Center Receives Support*** by Corina Roberts

Irv Breitman of Breitman Construction has volunteered to donate his time and expertise to our efforts to update and remodel our Visitors Center. His contribution will include installing wall coverings and building cabinets for our exhibits.

We are currently formulating the new design, which will tie together elements of our area's history, geology, biology, and Native American habitation in a graphic and appealing style that will attract nature lovers of all ages.

## ***Trail Maintenance*** - report from Lindsay Wilhelm

Hikes conducted this year will be safer and more enjoyable because the trail work is "done". Through a grant received by the State Parks Department from Los Angeles Urban Resources Partnership Program, the foundation became the fiscal sponsors for the trail maintenance work. Nancy Razanski and I coordinated the project.

## ***New L.A. County Park Measure*** - report from Glenn Bailey

A countywide park funding measure is being proposed for the November 1996 Los Angeles County ballot. Modeled after the successful Proposition A in 1992, which received 64% voter approval, this measure would generate \$270 million acquisition and capital improvement funds for qualified regional and neighborhood parks, recreation, and cultural facilities, at-risk youth projects, and beaches throughout the county. The measure would also provide on-going operations and maintenance funds on an annual basis for these facilities.

Locally, \$4 million for the acquisition of the vacant lands north of Stoney Point Park have been earmarked in the current draft of the measure. This acreage is an important expansion of this heavily used city park and would provide protection for the scenic rock outcroppings so visible from Topanga Canyon Boulevard. In addition, critical trail connectors to the east as well as wildlife corridor benefits would be realized.

A proposal for the acquisition of several parcels adjacent to the existing Santa Susana Mountain Project, our future State park, have been submitted as well. The status of this proposal is unknown as of this writing.

The proposed measure will be considered by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors at their meeting of Thursday, June 13. Following a public hearing, the supervisors must vote to approve placing it on the November ballot.

Therefore, your letters and telephone calls supporting the inclusion of funds for the above acquisition project are critical! The two supervisors representing the San Fernando Valley are:

Supervisor Michael Antonovich - 818-993-5170  
21949 Plummer Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky - 818-880-9416  
26500 W. Agoura Road, Suite 206, Calabasas, CA 91302

Please communicate your support by phone and in writing to both supervisors. SSMPA also need volunteers to help us during the next month on this project; telephone Glenn Bailey 818-344-1992 for details. Thank you!

---

### **WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN or REJOIN S.S.M.P.A.**

Investing in the future of our communities and its resources is one of the best expenditures of your time and efforts. Please return this cutoff with your contributions for the work to be done. Please make checks payable to SSMPA and send to P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior or Student (\$5.00)      \_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$10.00)      \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$15.00)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Business or Organization (\$25.00)      \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member (\$100.00)

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL INTEREST/EXPERIENCE:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Editor's Message** - by Ted Dent

This newsletter was created through the efforts of many committed individuals. Nothing would be better for this organization and our goals than if you, yes you, could share with us your thoughts, ideas, complaints, etc. through participation at meetings or through your writing for the newsletter. Articles are hereby solicited, and I will make a commitment to include all relevant, non-defamatory information in future newsletters.

**Weekly Hikes** - report from Barbara Coffman

S.S.M.P.A. conducts hikes the first, second, third, and fourth Sundays of every month., except July, August, and September because of the danger from the heat. We meet in the parking lot of Chatsworth Park South at 9:00 a.m. Leaders for the hikes will be either Lindsay Wilhelm, Judy Garris, Leland Baum, or myself. See you there!

+++++

**CALENDAR**

- May 19** (Sunday) Weekly Hike; meet at Chatsworth Park South - 9:00 a.m.
- May 24** (Sunday) Weekly Hike; meet at Chatsworth Park South - 9:00 a.m.
- May 31** (Friday) Deadline for articles in June Newsletter
- June 2** (Sunday) Hike led by Al Knight; meet at Ch. Park South - 9:00 a.m.
- June 3** (Monday) Executive Board Meeting
- June 9** (Sunday) Weekly Hike; meet at Chatsworth Park South - 9:00 a.m.
- June 16** (Sunday) Weekly Hike; meet at Chatsworth Park South - 9:00 a.m.
- June 17** (Monday) General Membership Meeting

+++++

**NOTE!** If your mailing labels says "96-5" or prior,  
that means, Please renew.

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

<b>Non-Profit Organization</b>
U.S. Postage
PAID
Van Nuys, CA
Permit No. 761

*Dated Material*