



FRIENDS OF LOS PEÑASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE, INC.

P.O. Box 26523

SAN DIEGO, CA 92126

(619) 271-6710 • 672-3896 • 755-8775

September 1987 Newsletter - Volume 3 No. 1

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT EQD #86-0449

The following are comments extracted from Dr. John Northrop's letter to the City of San Diego Environmental Quality Division (EQD) regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Calle Cristobal/Camino Sante Fe Assessment District. Dr. Northrop is a long standing and valued member of the Friends.

GENERAL COMMENTS

1. Subject DEIR proposes the construction of two roads that would cross Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve: Calle Cristobal and Camino Sante Fe. In (Dr. Northop's) opinion, no roads should be allowed to cross the Preserve. The fact is that the only reason these roads are proposed is to gain access to Lopez Ridge in the event future developments are built there. Building the roads before the development is a bit like putting the cart before the horse. Since the City of San Diego has put a cap on the number of future housing permits issued, it is problematical whether the Lopez Ridge developments will actually be built in the foreseeable future. Therefore, I believe that Calle Cristobal should end in a cul-de-sac at the west end of Lopez Ridge just like many of the roads in Clairemont and in cul-de-sacs at the west side of Clairemont Mesa. Then, if [See DRAFT EIR on page 2]

SEPTEMBER/PART OCTOBER HIKE SCHEDULE

**** ALL HIKE INFORMATION ****

Hikers should wear sturdy shoes. Bring binoculars and/or camera (and bird books on bird hikes) if available. Water and a snack optional.

SEPTEMBER HIKES

TWILIGHT HIKE

Sunday, September 13th. Meet at west end of the ballfield, Canyonside Park, off Black Mt. Road at 6:00 P.M.

BIRD HIKE

Saturday, September 19th. Parking-Staging area on Black Mt. Road at 7:30 P.M. Bring binoculars and bird book.

INDIAN HIKE

Sunday, September 20th. Parking-Staging area on Black Mt. Road at 4:00 P.M.

BIRD HIKE

Sunday, September 27th. Parking-Staging area on Black Mt. Road at 7:30 A.M. Bring binoculars and bird book.

OCTOBER HIKES

GEOLOGY HIKE

Saturday, October 3rd. Meet at Sorrento Valley Blvd. east (dead end) at 8:00 A.M.

[See October Newsletter for remaining four hikes in the month of October.]

to interfere with the present deer trail. Yet another alternative would be to acquire Lopez Ridge for open space using funds from Proposition C or possibly the Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Bond Act, if approved.

Subject DEIR fails to address five very important environmental impacts that would result from the construction of the two roads, Calle Cristobal and Camino Santa Fe. These are: Seismic Risk, Automobile Exhaust and Smog, Destruction of Landforms, Rock Formations/Geologic Faults, and Floods.

[Editor's Note: Due to the length of Dr. Northrop's letter to the Environmental Quality Division of the City of San Diego, the September Newsletter will address only four of the issues in Dr. Northrop's letter.]

SEISMIC RISK

Seismic risk on narrow ridges like Lopez Ridge has well been documented in studies of the magnitude 6.5 San Fernando Earthquake of Feb 7, 1971. As stated in reports, this quake caused overturned and shattered earth on a narrow, flat-topped ridge where "effects of constructive interference of seismic waves arriving along different paths and possible focusing and concentration of seismic wave energy at the narrowed-down ridge-top" were noted. This focusing effect of seismic waves from local earthquakes could take place on Lopez Ridge. Since magnitude 6 earthquakes have occurred in San Diego within the historic past, that last being that of May 27, 1862, and several of magnitude 5.5 or greater have occurred since 1966, Calle Cristobal and associated bridges should be designed to withstand seismic risk due to a magnitude 7 earthquake along any of the several faults in San Diego County (Coronado Bank Fault, Rose Canyon Fault,

Elsinore Fault, San Jacinto Fault, Imperial Fault and San Andreas Fault). This puts several restrictions on the two proposed bridges because the Camino Santa Fe bridge has three high arches which would be subject to destruction from swaying due to seismic waves and the Calle Cristobal bridge, which would be built over a thick layer of mud, would be subject to destruction by a process known as liquefaction. (As is well known to seismologists, liquefaction of old lake beds under Mexico City is what caused the extensive damage there from the 1986 earthquake whose epicenter was hundreds of miles away on the Pacific Coast). These major problems of seismic risk are nowhere discussed in subject DEIR and its omission is a glaring fault in the document.

DESTRUCTION OF LANDFORMS

Because Lopez Ridge is very narrow, only 17 ft. wide in one place near Parcel #27, the proposed 94 ft. roadway simply will not fit on the existing topography. Since slopes on both sides of Lopez Ridge in that area are over 25%, the roadway cannot be built on fill. Therefore, the crest of the ridge is slated to be bulldozed down about 35 ft. so that the wider part below the crest is exposed, a process much like lopping off the top of a pyramid to get at the inside. Similarly, the PRD for Parcel #31, which includes Calle Cristobal, calls for making a 35 ft. "sky cut" in the ridge top to provide 2,500,000 cu. yds. of material for both the roadbed and for infilling canyon needs to make "building pads" for housing tracts. Such drastic reduction of the ridge height would affect not only the runoff but also the grainage pattern. The amount of runoff would be increased by an estimated 25% due to asphalt replacing the present vegetation on the roadway and adjacent driveways, roofs and playgrounds. The drainage pattern would be changed

DRAFT EIR

[Continued from page 1]
and when developments are built on Lopez Ridge at a later date, the Camino Santa Fe bridge could be constructed to give residents an alternate exit. (Of the two bridges proposed in subject DEIR, the Camino Santa Fe one is the least damaging to the Preserve). Further, if there is no development of the Ridge, there is certainly no need for Calle Cristobal as an additional east-west through street across the Preserve because the planned extension of both Carmel Mt. Road and Route S-56, both north of the Preserve, will fill that function.

There are also two fatal flaws in this DEIR: (1) Lack of documentation and (2) Lack of alternatives. These weaknesses in subject DEIR are discussed briefly below.

(1) Lack of Documentation. There is no documentation or reference for the statement that "the District would have no significant, unmitigated impact on the area's circulation pattern". Clearly, adding 18000 ATD (a low estimate because it doesn't allow for through traffic that will use this road to bypass Mira Mesa Boulevard) to the now dead-end Sorrento Valley Boulevard would create a major traffic snarl not only on the boulevard itself but also with the on/off ramps to I-5. Adding one traffic light and widening the road simply isn't enough. An independent traffic study by a disinterested, qualified traffic engineer from another city is required for documentation. There is also lack of documentation for the impact on wildlife. The statement that "the biological impacts of the project would be reduced to a level of insignificance" needs a reference. Who made this declaration? An independent study by a disinterested and qualified biologist who specializes in the habitat and husbandry of California

resident mule deer herds is required for documentation. In my opinion, these two important areas addressed in the DEIR are glossed over by the contractor to make the recommendation look good for the sponsor who, in this case, is the City of San Diego. Obviously, by so doing the contractor will stand a better chance of getting another contract whereas if they had a negative finding, the reverse would be true. Usually, EIR's are funded by developers, and the contractor finds in their favor for similar reasons. In this case, it's the City who is sponsoring the study and to have this type of collusion so blatantly carried on is particularly nauseating since the citizens of San Diego, both employees in Sorrento Valley Industrial Park and the users of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve -- all taxpayers -- are the ones who will suffer as a result of this deceit.

(2) Lack of Alternatives. All other EIR's that I have read contain alternatives to the proposed project. In the present case, the only alternative given is "no project". It seems to me that this type of ultimatum is completely out of line with the intent of the whole procedure. This is particularly indefensible because there are in fact several alternatives. Alternatives to the proposed traffic pattern include: End of Calle Cristobal in a cul-de-sac on the west end of Lopez Ridge to both keep it away from Sorrento Valley Boulevard and prevent it from damaging the wetlands area; Reroute Calle Cristobal to Mira Mesa Boulevard via the side canyon where the parking area is proposed with the same objectives in mind (or end Calle Cristobal at Camino Santa Fe). Alternatives to the proposed wildlife crossing include: Purchase of the vernal pools area, now owned by the Pipefitters Union, by Proposition C funds and/or realigning Camino Santa Fe to the east, near the SDG&E power lines easement, so as not

Canyon, about 1/4 mile upstream from the proposed parking lot, washed out. Because the Calle Cristobal causeway will act as a dam, a lake will be formed behind it during the rainy season by the increased runoff and flood the parking lot regularly. During 5-year floods the roadway itself might be undermined, and during 50- and 100-year floods it could be washed over, thereby closing the road. Subject DEIR does not consider flooding of the Calle Cristobal Causeway and parking lot. (Only floods during its construction are discussed, as well as allowing the fill for the causeway to settle in the mud prior to construction of the roadway). The flooding problems should be addressed in the DEIR and strict guidelines consistent with 100-year floods must be incorporated in the engineering specifications for Calle Cristobal.

I am also rather surprised that no mention of the cost of the project is given. As I recall, it will cost about \$6 million, making it just about the most expensive five miles of road in San Diego.

IN SUMMARY

In summary, the foregoing discussion shows that:

1. Subject report shows complete lack of both documentation and alternatives.

2. Calle Cristobal would be environmentally very detrimental to Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve, could add to flood damage, and is, in my opinion, not even needed, except to provide land developer's access to Lopez Ridge for possible future developments. (The future extensions of Carmel Mt. Road and Rt. S-56 will provide for adequate east-west thru-traffic).

3. The increased traffic would create both congestion and pedestrian hazards on Sorrento Valley Boulevard, not to mention massive traffic tie-ups at the Sorrento Valley I-5/805 on/off ramps during rush hour.

4. None of the wildlife crossings noted will be used by deer - they use the trail area further east in the vernal pools area, which should be kept open if the Preserve's deer population is to be maintained. I recommend the expenditure of Prop. C funds for purchase of these parcels.

5. Five important environmental impacts are not addressed. The most important of these are seismic risk, destruction of land forms and floods.

Therefore, in light of the reasons outlined above, I strongly recommend no project.

And so do the Friends of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

CALVIN & HOBBS



because all the runoff would be directed into Lopez Canyon by storm drains and would not only greatly increase the stream erosion in the canyon but also increase the siltation rate in Penasquitos Lagoon which already has massive siltation problems of its own. None of these detrimental environmental aspects are addressed in the referenced DEIR.

ROCK FORMATIONS/FAULTS

Lopez Ridge is capped with a 10 ft. thick layer of the resistant Linda Vista Formation. The presence of this rock formation is not only what has made the ridge resist erosion for so long (about 1 million years) but also has enabled the vernal pools to form there because the Linda Vista Formation is impervious to water and rain water collects on top of Lopez Ridge in pools. When making the 35 ft. sky cuts referred to above, the Linda Vista Formation will be destroyed, rainwater will be diverted to Lopez Creek by storm drains, and the underlying marine sands and gravels of the Scripps Formation will be exposed. This formation is not nearly as resistant to erosion as the Linda Vista and, indeed, contains clay layers that turn to gumbo when wet. Further, (there is) a north-south fault across Lopez Ridge within Parcel #31. Since there is evidence of recent activity on this fault along the northern extension across Penasquitos Canyon, there is ample reason to believe that the combined effects of expansive soils and seismic slip in the area of Lopez Ridge to be "sky cut" would pose significant restrictions on the type of roadway and associated grading and building pads that should be allowed there. Furthermore, the rock on the west end of Lopez Ridge contains thick shale layers of the Ardash Formation interfingered with the Scripps Formation. Therefore, the buildings proposed for this area should not be

allowed. None of these environmental problems are addressed in subject DEIR.

FLOODS

During the heavy rains in the winters of 1978 and 1983, the flood plain of both Lopez Canyon and Penasquitos Canyon were covered wall-to-wall with about 4 ft. of water. These floods, which are termed "five year floods", would tear up not only the proposed parking lot south of Calle Cristobal where the causeway crosses the flood plain but also cause damage to the causeway itself. A 100-year flood, like that of 1986 or the 50-year floods like that of 1916, would very likely inundate part of the causeway as a rise of several feet above the 5 year flood level is indicated on the Army Corps of Engineer maps. Considering the fact that there would be an increase in runoff of at least 25%, due to asphalt relacing vegetation on Lopez Ridge and numerous storm drains debauching into Lopez Canyon, 100-year floods would be more devastating than in 1886 and well over that estimated by the Army Corps of Engineers. Furthermore, a tremendous amount of runoff has come down the side canyon directly south of the parking area shown in (the) subject DEIR during geologic time and the discharge has built up an alluvial fan at the mouth of the canyon on which the proposed parking lot is to be built. With the recent construction of the McKeller Corporation Center atop the mesa at the headwaters of this tributary stream, the runoff will be increased by at least 25% over what it was even last year. The erosive power of the runoff in this area is shown by two well documented events: (1) the earthen dam in this side canyon, built by the early ranchers to reduce flooding in Penasquitos, has washed out; and (2) in November, 1986, the newly constructed McKeller Corporation storm drain on the south wall of Lopez



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October 1987 Newsletter - Volume 3 No. 2

FALL BIRD HIKES BEGIN

On September 19th, the Friends' fall series of bird hikes began. A total of 11 hikers showed up for an enjoyable morning hike. This was an excellent turnout as last spring only three hikers showed up for the first bird hike.

A total of 22 bird species were seen. It was evident fall was arriving. Several "summer bird" species had already left the Preserve while two "winter bird species" had arrived: the Ruby-Crowned Kinglet and White-Crowned Sparrow. Highlights of the hike were a California Thrasher, observed while singing perched on a tree, and a female Western Tanager. The list of the 22 species observed includes:

Brown Towhee	House Wren
Morning Dove	Acorn Woodpecker
Red-Winged Blackbird	Flicker
Nuttall Woodpecker	Black Phoebe
Raven	Scrub Jay
Rufous Sided Towhee	Lesser Goldfinch
Starling	Wrentit
Ruby-Crowned Kinglet	Song Sparrow
California Thrasher	Bushtit
White-Crowned Sparrow	Red Tailed Hawk
Anno's Hummingbird	Western Tanager

In the next few weeks migration should continue. October and November offer the opportunity to see many birds not usually seen in the Preserve. Consult this month's hike schedule for dates and times of up-coming hikes.

HIKE SCHEDULE OCT/NOV

ALL HIKERS SHOULD WEAR STURDY SHOES. BRING BINOCULARS AND/OR CAMERA, BIRD BOOK FOR BIRD HIKES IF AVAILABLE. RAIN CANCELS. WATER & SNACK OPTIONAL.

OCTOBER HIKES

GEOLOGY HIKE - West End
Saturday, October 3rd. at 8:00 AM.
Sorrento Valley Blvd. east end (dead end).

BIRD HIKE - East End
Saturday, October 10th at 7:30 AM.
Parking-Staging Area off Black Mt. Road.

BIRD HIKE - Lopez Canyon
Saturday, October 17th at 3:30 PM.
Sorrento Valley Blvd. east end (dead end).

ROAD TO YUMA HIKE - East End
Saturday, October 24th at 7:30 AM.
Parking-Staging area off Black Mt. Road.

BIRD HIKE - East End
Sunday, October 25th at 7:30 AM.
Parking-Staging area off Black Mt. Road.

NOVEMBER HIKES

November hike schedule continued on page 4.



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- I am interested in:
(check all that apply)
- Hikes
 - Indian Culture
 - History of the Rancho
 - Educational Workshops
 - School, Family, Youth Programs
 - The Environment: Plants, Birds, Mammals, Geology
 - Other _____



Please make check payable to:
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Canyon Preserve, Inc.**
and send to:
**Membership Chairman
Friends of Los Peñasquitos
Canyon Preserve, Inc.
P.O. Box 26523
San Diego, CA 92126**

Your donation is tax deductible.
Thank you for your support!

prey, plentiful plant foods and a sufficient year 'round source of water. Portions of the canyon were still serene and pristine.

The canyon could have been maintained as a preserve, however a reserve was more logical, so that people could enjoy its unique history and natural environment.

But this beautiful area was destined to be neither a PRESERVE or RESERVE.

The land developer started viewing the buffer zones that encircled the canyon preserve. With \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ uppermost as an incentive, the land developer brushed aside the ORIGINAL PARK SENSITIVE AGREEMENT which was the ORIGINAL AGREEMENT that was supposed to protect the preserve. There would be no roads in the canyon, no houses on the steep slopes, and homes were not to be seen from the canyon floor. Tributary canyons were to remain intact, and open space funds were to purchase areas which were needed to protect land in danger of encroachment. The Preserve was first in priority on the open space bond issue. This is what the general public was led to believe.

On the Black Friday of July 17th, 1987, it HAPPENED.

Two days earlier, children in a summer class, studying the way in which Indians survived in the canyon, had visited the hugh Tuna Cactus patch that had been planted by the Indians at least 200 years ago. This particular cactus patch was in a canyon with several documented Indian sites. It was an important page in Indian history.

On this day the children watched with horror as bulldozers wiped out a very important segment in Indian history. It took only a short span of an hour to destroy an Indian cactus patch which took at least 200 years to grow to the present day immense stand. Such destruction of human history is irresponsible. Many school children had tried to save this small canyon

which never should have been bulldozed for a road and housing development, since it provided an important link to the history of the ranch nearby.

This foretold the beginning of the devastation which was to follow as the hugh bulldozers, like a herd of prehistoric monsters, continued to roam the canyon rim, and bottom land, with little regard for fragile habitats, endangered species, the wildlife corridors, natural streams, and unstable soil formations. Today we witness the needless rape of a heritage that was supposed to be a legacy for future generations.

This once pristine land really never belonged to the "intruders" and their followers. The Indians had a COMMUNICATION WITH THE NATURAL WORLD and a respect for the land.

Today as we witness the land being devastated before our eyes, it is a matter of time when this beautiful legacy which was to be preserved will have been violated to the extreme that what should have been will be gone forever.

You can't replant a cactus patch that has withstood time in history - you can't replace endangered plant species or bulldozed wildlife corridors. History, once destroyed, is gone forever.

The Indiand in California had a deep respect for the natural world. The following passage reflects their philosophy. An old Wintu Indian woman speaks sadly about the needless destruction of the land in which she leved.

"THE WHITE PEOPLE NEVER CARED FOR LAND OR DEER OR BEAR. When we Indians kill meat, we eat it all up. When we dig roots we make little holes. When we build houses, we make little holes. When we burn grass for grasshoppers we don't ruin things. We shake down acorns and pinenuts. We don't chop down trees, kill everything but the white people destroy all. They blast rocks and scatter them in the ground. The rock says: 'Don't, you are

 There once was ...

There once was a beautiful canyon. The Indians who lived in this lovely canyon for thousands of years used its bounty to survive a harsh existence. They depended upon its plants and animal resources and did not abuse what nature provided. They realized it was important to protect the natural world.

Many decades passed. The canyon remained serene and pristine throughout the Indian cultures who depended on the bounty of the canyon.

Then one day "civilized man" appeared. He surveyed the native inhabitants of the canyon who were living a simple life. The "intruder" felt he could improve on how the native inhabitants of the canyon lived - so he tried to change their culture and the way in which they lived off the land. Soon he was joined by many other "intruders".

The new intruders looked at the beautiful area that the Indians had protected for many years. This would be an ideal place to raise cattle to provide hides for shoes and make money, they decided - and so they brought in cattle.

In a few years there were thousands of head of cattle roaming over the lands that the Indians had protected for centuries. Civilized men also brought many plants from other far-off lands to feed the cattle. Their plants choked out many of the native plants that the Indians had used for their foods and medicines.

Fifty years passed. More intruders arrived and wrestled the land away from the first intruders. As time passed the first original inhabitants no longer lived on the land in the canyon.

Each group of intruders made changes in the environment to suit their own needs. The land was ploughed for citrus orchards, and there was

even a race track. But the raising of cattle continued, so the cattle continued to roam through the canyon establishing trails, devouring native plants, destroying riparian habitats, and befouling the streams.

In spite of the desecration of the Indian lands, there still was beauty, and areas of the canyon were still serene and pristine.

UNTIL - one day a man looked at the canyon and said: "ah ... I must have this land. I can make a lot of money building a golf course and a housing community where many people can live." And so the man borrowed millions of dollars to pursue his dream - and then shortly afterward the man up and died.

Eventually the acres of land were to be sold to a Canadian land-development conglomerate with visions of making fabulous amounts of money until they realized that the canyon was in a flood plain and it had already been determined that it was not feasible to try to build a community of houses in that flood plain.

Before the Canadian developer purchased the land, it had been arranged to donate the land to the city with the understanding that the land around the canyon rims could be developed. The city accepted the "gift" with the understanding the land would be protected around the rim. The canyon was then to be called a PRESERVE. But how many city officials really know what a preserve is?

In the dictionary a PRESERVE is "an area maintained for the protection of wildlife and/or natural resources. To keep in perfect and unaltered condition, maintained in an unchanged form".

Through all the years, even though there had been farming and cattle in the canyon, there still were coyotes, deer, bob cat, and mountain lion who used the canyon as their home range. There were wildlife corridors providing protection, abundant small

NEW PUBLICATION

Dr. John Northrop, a longtime and valued member of The Friends, has just published a trail guide to Los Peñasquitos Canyon. The new book is now on sale at:

Coles Books in La Jolla
Mary's Tack Shop in Del Mar

or through

Dr. John Northrop
7015 Vista Del Mar Avenue
La Jolla, CA 92037

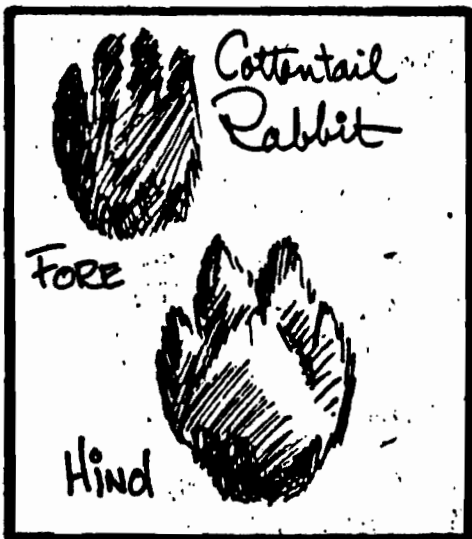
The book contains several articles on where to ride and/or hike in the canyon and is a rich source of historical data on life in and around the canyon environs. Members will recall several articles by Dr. Northrop published in prior Friends' newsletters entitled RIDIN' ROUN' PENASQUITOS. The book sells for \$4.95.

RIDING 'ROUND PEÑASQUITOS

A Trail Guide to
Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve
and Environs

by
John Northrop

7015 Vista Del MAR AVE, LA Jolla, CA 92037



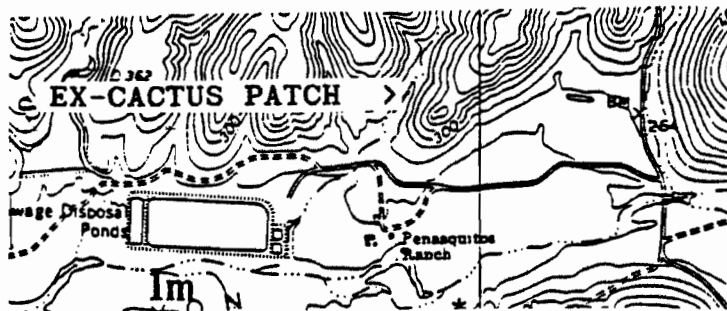
Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve is a wildlife sanctuary operated jointly by the San Diego City and County Park and Recreation Departments. It is open for horseback riding and hiking during daylight hours.

October 1987 Newsletter

hurting me.' But the white people pay no attention How can the spirit of the earth like the white man? Everywhere the white man has touched, it is sore."

The Wintu woman has said it all, and this is what is happening to the Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve.

MOTHER EARTH



November Hike Schedule
(continued from page 1)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

BIRD HIKE

Saturday, November 7th at 7:30 AM. Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mt. Road. Bring binoculars.

LOPEZ RIDGE HIKE

Sunday, November 8th at 8:00 AM. Meet at Sorrento Valley Blvd. dead end (east). Wear sturdy shoes.

GEOLOGY HIKE

Sunday, November 15th at 9:00 AM. Meet at Canyonside Park of Black Mt. Road, west end of ballfield.

BIRD HIKE

Saturday, November 21st at 7:30 AM. Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mt. Road. Bring binoculars.

THANKSGIVING HIKE - INDIAN FOODS

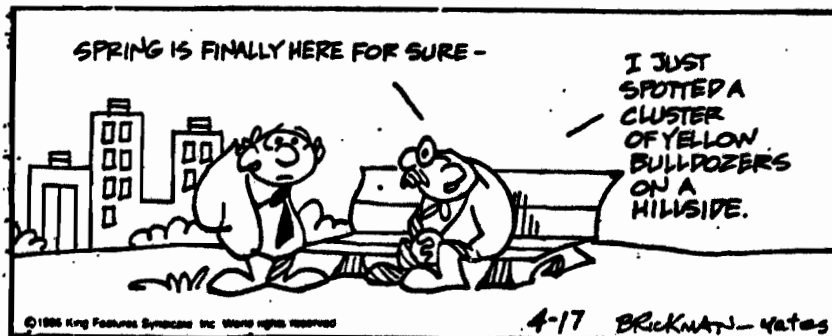
Saturday, November 28th at 8:00 AM. Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mt. Road. Bring water and a snack.

Rain cancels. Contact: Elberta Fleming at 271-6710 for further details.

Membership in The Friends continues to grow. Eight new members joined recently and the renewals on older memberships have been fantastic. This, in conjunction with a number of address changes has put our mailing labels a little out of date (they were printed a week prior to going to press) but should be current next issue.

A very warm welcome to ...

- Carolyn J. Hillary San Diego
- Tom Parsons & Peggy Roberts San Diego
- Richard L. Barber San Diego
- Bill & Dorothy Hollingsworth La Jolla
- Peggy Quinlan & George Soares, Alyssa, Genevieve and Juliette .. San Diego
- Carroll & Kay Nash San Diego
- Vicki Kiehl San Diego
- Fred Heath San Diego





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December 1987 Newsletter - Volume 3 No. 3

What's happening
to your community
and your canyon??
Read On!!

UPCOMING HIKE SCHEDULED

FRIENDS TURNS THUMBS DOWN ON MIRA MESA REGIONAL PARK BOONDOGGLE

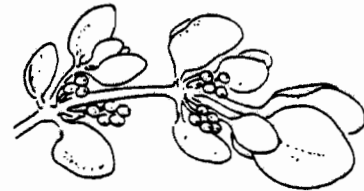
If one public figure can be labelled as "Public Enemy Number One" of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve it is City Councilman Ed Struiksma. The aversion Struiksma has for open space is well known; he has publically stated San Diego has too much already. When the City Council enacted a temporary sensitive lands protection ordinance (known as REPOZ), Struiksma obtained the approval of amendments exempting almost all of Los Peñasquitos Canyon from the ordinance. When the Friends opposed Genstar's attempt to vest their Lopez Ridge PRD by building a "wildlife corridor", it was Struiksma who lead the opposition to the Friends. Similarly, it will be Struiksma who will lead the charge to extend Calle Cristobal across the western part of the Preserve despite the Friends' opposition. Such a consistently bad record should not go unrecognized.

Suddenly, however, Struiksma is proposing to create a regional park in Mira Mesa. On top a boulder strewn hilltop immediately adjacent to I-15, Struiksma wishes to build a passive urban park. Using approximately five
Please see BOONDOGGLE, page 2

DECEMBER

BIRD HIKE

Sunday, December 6th at 7:00 A.M.
Meet at West end of Canyon, Sorrento Valley Blvd. dead end (east). Bring bird book and binoculars if available.



MISTLETOE HIKE

Saturday, December 19th at 8:00 A.M.
Meet at West end of Canyon, Sorrento Valley Blvd. dead end (east). Bring water and a snack.

JANUARY

WALDEN'S POND HIKE

Sunday, January 10th at 8:00 A.M.
Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mt. Road. Bring water and a snack.

BIRD HIKE

Saturday, January 16th at 7:30 A.M.
Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mt. Road. Bird books and binoculars.

HIKERS SHOULD WEAR STURDY SHOES. RAIN CANCELS. CONTACT: ELBERTA FLEMING AT 271-6710 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.



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Membership Application

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Membership Category: _____ Contribution: \$ _____

[Senior (62)/Students \$7; Individual \$10; Family \$15;
Sponsor \$25; Patron \$100; Corporate \$250; Life \$1000]

I am interested in:
(check all that apply)

- Hikes
- Indian Culture
- History of the Rancho

- Educational Workshops
- School, Family, Youth Programs
- The Environment: Plants, Birds, Mammals, Geology
- Other _____



Please make check payable to:
**Friends of Los Peñasquitos
Canyon Preserve, Inc.**
and send to:
**Membership Chairman
Friends of Los Peñasquitos
Canyon Preserve, Inc.
P.O. Box 26523
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 CHRISTMAS IN LOS PENASQUITOS

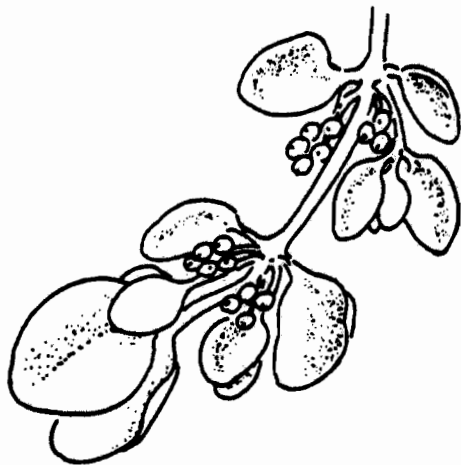
In celebration of the holiday season, the preserve's Christmas "holly" is resplendent with clusters of brilliant red berries.

This is the Toyon, or California Christmas Berry, a chaparral bush that dots the hills of Southern California. Toyon gave Hollywood its name. Its shiny red berries resemble small apples. They accent deep green holly-like leaves. The dry, tart berries were food for Indians, Spanish Californios and American settlers. Indians roasted the berries or tossed them into a cooking basket. The Californios and Americans made a pleasant cider from them.

Toyon berries begin to rippen in October and often last through February. They are at their peak during the Christmas season. Besides adding beauty to the landscape, Toyon is valuable in preventing erosion because it grows on slopes and in gulches.

MISTLETOE

ELF



 CANYON PRESERVE



TOYON

ELF

Another canyon plant has played a role in the season's celebration for centuries. This plant appears high in the trees and resembles large green balls. It is Mistletoe, a parasite found most often in oaks.

England's early inhabitants gathered Mistletoe for their winter solstice rites. Today's custom of hanging Mistletoe on Christmas Eve derives from these ancient ceremonies. Somewhere in history the ritual of kissing under Mistletoe evolved.

Mistletoe punctures a tree's bark and draws nourishment from its rich sap. In extreme cases the unwilling host tree is so impoverished that it slowly dies. With it the Mistletoe dies too, a victim of its own greed.

Mistletoe berries are wax-like and pinkish white, and filled with a sticky pulp. Birds are very fond of the berries and help scatter the seeds. However, Mistletoe berries are filled with toxic amines that are extremely poisonous to people. Children and adults have died within 10 hours of eating them. Keep Mistletoe out of the reach of young children.

BOONDOGGLE, from page 1

MEMBERSHIP NEWS/EDITOR'S NOTES

million dollars [\$5,000,000] in facility benefit fees (assessed new development), Struiksma wants to purchase the hilltop from developer Jerry Elder, who has a final map and plans to build approximately 238 houses.

A very warm welcome to ...

Stuiksma claims the hilltop park will support a hiking trail and observation lookout. This is true, however, an aqueduct already crosses the hilltop. A trail could be built on the aqueduct easement as could the hilltop observation lookout. This would save the five million dollars purchase the Elder property would cost, which could then be used for neighborhood parks in Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch, and Miramar areas.

- Edith & Melvin Orbach San Diego
- Ray & Sheree Sobel Escondido
- Linda Bernhardt San Diego
- Robert & Monica Parker Del Mar
- Donald Bamber San Diego
- Edith Helen Monsees La Jolla
- Don Haines San Diego
- Betty Reich Poway
- Bob, Sara & Brook Foster Poway
- Margaret M. Mullins San Diego
- Adeline Black San Diego
- Bob Butler & Sue Mills San Diego

To the Friends, the proposed regional park appears to be an unnecessary boondoggle. Councilmember Abbe Wolfsheimer may have more correctly labelled it as a "bailout of a developer." As Councilmember Wolfsheimer stated: "The developer can't use it, and we're being asked to buy it." Whatever the purpose of Struiksma's proposed park is, the Friends suggest he drop the idea and instead concentrate on protecting the Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve, a natural asset Struiksma has woefully ignored during his tenure as a City Councilmember.

Memberships have been arriving an average of eight per month for several months now and renewals keep coming in. Our membership now exceeds 220.

Thank you for your patience and understanding if you missed a Newsletter in September, especially due to a change in address. From now on our mailing labels will go to print at the very last minute.

And November? Due to a multitude of circumstances, we were unable to publish a November Newsletter in a timely manner and held off till December. In January we will begin a special, multi-part series by Eve Ewing entitled: Days of The Great Yankee Cattle Barons: Growing up on the Penasquitos. This series will provide great personal insight into Penasquitos dating back to the 1940's.

Tell me again why we paid five million dollars for the trail and this lookout.

So we could better observe the gridlock on I-15 below.



economic strategy, one fact is clear: its going to be hard to sell it to San Diego's voters. As Herbert Hoover can attest, creating unemployment is not politically popular. The building industry, which ran a disorganized and ineffective campaign against Proposition "A", is reported prepared, even anxious, to oppose the CLG initiative.

Many environmentalists in San Diego, including the Friends, question why sensitive lands protections must be combined on an initiative with such a contraversial economic measure. A sensitive lands protection measure should stand or form on its own. The Friends believe it will stand on its own, as do many of San Diego's most experienced environmental leaders. Emily Durbin, Lynn Benn, David Kreitzer and Bob Hartman all played a role in proposing the SDMG Sensitive Lands Initiative. The Sensitive Lands Initiative only deals with preserving sensitive lands, there is no other albatross attached to it.

The SDMG Steering committee has recently expanded in preparation for the circulating of the Sensitive Lands Initiative: Kathy Giles, the present Land Use Chair for the Sierra Club, Linda Bernhardt, Council Aid to Abbe Wolfsheimer, Leo Wilson, President of the Friends, and Kathleen Zaworski-Burke, the President of the Homeowners of Penasquitos, have all joined. (Both Linda Bernhardt and Kathleen Zaworski-Burke have recently joined the Board of the Friends).

The response to the SDMG initiative has been excellent. SDMG endorsed three of the four City Council Coordinates: Ron Roberts, Bob Filner, and Wes Pratt. All endorsed support for the Sensitive Lands Initiative. SDMG and the Friends hope to gain City Council approval for the Sensitive Lands Initiative in the coming months. Similar action is being

taken to obtain the approval of the Board of Supervisors.

The Friends ask all our members to support the Sensitive Lands Initiative. It is the last chance to save the unique natural resources of not only Los Penasquitos Canyon, but of other areas throughout the City and County of San Diego as well.

FRIENDS ENDORSE SENSITIVE LANDS
INITIATIVE SPONSORED BY
SAN DIEGANS FOR MANAGED GROWTH

By: Leo Wilson

The Board of Directors of the Friends of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc., unanimously endorsed the "sensitive lands initiative" prepared by San Diegans for Managed Growth (SDMG).

In 1985, SDMG successfully sponsored Proposition "A", the Managed Growth Initiative. Proposition "A's" passage prevented the premature development of lands contained in San Diego's "urban reserve" by requiring a majority vote of the City's electorate before any land could be shifted out of the urban reserve for development. The passage of Proposition "A" marked a turning point in San Diego politics. The City's political community realized the strength of San Diego's environmental community and that it could no longer be ignored. As the recent elections attest, every candidate running for office now claims to favor managed growth and preserving canyons and natural resources.

Now SDMG is prepared to circulate a second initiative. This new initiative concerns sensitive lands: steep hillsides, wetlands, animal and plant species, and lands on which are located significant historical or archeological sites. When enacted, the sensitive lands initiative will restrict development on sensitive lands to only those areas which will not harm the special character of the land. The unique natural characteristic, whether topography, wetland, a unique animal or plant species, or an archeological site, will be preserved.

The SDMG initiative is one of two presently proposed in San Diego. A

group named Citizens for Limited Growth (CLG) is presently circulating the "Quality of Life Initiative." The CLG initiative contains sensitive land protections. However, the CLG initiative is primarily a limitation on residential, industrial and commercial development. The initiative centers around a "building cap", a restriction on the number of building permits which may be issued each year until 2010. Although CLG claims the building cap can be removed if several quality of life standards are met, in reality, the standards cannot conceivably be achieved by the City. The building cap will therefore remain in place until 2010 if the CLG initiative passes.

Building caps are controversial. Although used beneficially by smaller suburban "bedroom" communities, building caps have not been tried in large cities. Economic studies indicate housing caps have resulted in substantial rises in housing costs and rental rates, caused by the artificial scarcity in dwelling units created. In San Diego County, studies indicate 70% of the people moving to the county already have jobs before coming. Housing is a secondary consideration. Even with a building cap, a substantial influx of new residents is likely, causing additional competition for the fewer housing units available. Inflated housing prices and rental rates will result.

To their credit, CLG has recognized the problem. The solution CLG proposes, however, is extreme. The CLG initiative requires the enactment of policies restricting commercial and industrial development, in effect preventing the creation of additional jobs. As one proponent of the CLG initiative stated: the purpose of the initiative is to "burst the bubble" of San Diego's economic expansion.

What ever the merits of this



FRIENDS OF LOS PEÑASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE, INC.

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SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92126

(619)271-6710 226-1339 484-5800

January 1988 Newsletter - Volume 3 No. 4

* PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR 1988 *
* by Leo Wilson *

1988 will be a critical year for Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. By the end of 1988 it will be largely determined what the future character of the Preserve will be: whether the Preserve will consist of a narrow, undeveloped canyon bottom of Los Peñasquitos Canyon, surrounded by graded hillsides densely covered with houses, or whether the Preserve will include both the canyon floor and surrounding side canyons and hillsides in their natural, undisturbed condition. The Friends intend to work hard to accomplish the latter scenario.

In this issue of the Newsletter, the Friends are privileged to present an early recollection by Eve Ewing of the Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and surrounding area when it constituted a cattle ranch. The essay was presented at the 1986 Friends' Annual Membership Meeting. It is an engrossing recollection of a past we have lost.

I was lucky once to have caught a brief glimpse of that past, which was not that long ago. In the early 1940's, a high school friend of mine was employed to patrol the Peñasquitos area in a jeep. This was before the Preserve was created and much of
Please see PRESIDENT'S, page 2

1960s (Kella) or 1970s?

JANUARY HIKE SCHEDULE

ALL HIKERS SHOULD WEAR STURDY SHOES. RAIN CANCELS. FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT ELBERTA FLEMING AT 271-6710.

LOPEZ CANYON HIKE

Sunday, January 24th at 8:00 A.M.
Meet at Sorrento Valley Blvd. dead end. Bring water and a snack.

BIRD HIKE

Saturday, January 30th at 7:30 A.M.
Meet at Sorrento Valley Blvd. dead end. Bring bird book and binoculars if available.

FEBRUARY HIKE SCHEDULE

BIRD HIKE

Saturday, February 13th at 7:30 A.M.
Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mt. Road. Bring bird book and binoculars if available.

VALENTINE HIKE

Sunday, February 14th at 8:00 A.M.
Meet at Sorrento Valley Blvd., east (dead end). Bring water and a snack.

BIRD HIKE

Saturday, February 27th at 7:30 A.M.
Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mt. Road. Bring bird book and binoculars if available.

WATERFALL HIKE

Sunday, February 28th at 8:00 A.M.
Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mt. Road. Bring water and a snack.



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Sponsor \$25; Patron \$100; Corporate \$250; Life \$1000]

I am interested in:

(check all that apply)

- Films
- Indian Culture
- History of the Rancho

- Educational Workshops
- School, Family, Youth Programs
- The Environment: Plants, Birds, Mammals, Geology
- Other _____



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Your donation is tax deductible.
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DAYS OF THE GREAT YANKEE CATTLE
BARONS: GROWING UP ON THE PENASQUITOS

First of a Special Three-part Series

By Eve Ewing c 1986

My childhood days on the Penasquitos Ranch ride the coattails of an important and colorful era of our region's history, an era that is little known or talked about, because in a much diminished sense, it is still going on. It is too soon to be called History, and when that time comes it will be over and we'll be sorting through the letters in old attics to try to make sense of it all. But I guess that is how History works. This era is the little mentioned time of not the Spanish, but the Great Yankee Cattle Barons of California. When I first came west as a young girl in 1945, it was an era still in its prime, though soon to vanish quickly after the post World War II migration began.

There was a time in the forties when the largest cattle ranch in California was here in San Diego County. The Penasquitos Land Grant Ranch was just one of many owned or leased ranches by the Circle S (The Sawday and Saxon Corporation), founded by George Sawday and later joined by under-sherrif, Oliver Saxon, and later by Russell and Florance Peavey. Some of the ranches owned by this corporation besides the Penasquitos were the Santa Ysabel land grant, the Santa Maria land grant known to all as Ramona, the Cuyamaca Rancho in the mountains, the San Felipe Rancho in the San Felipe Valley above sizzer's crossings in the desert below the Banner Grade, and the Richardson Ranch now better known as University City.

The Circle S also at that time leased the enormous Warner Hot Spring's Ranch, the Fenita (my childhood memory does not include how to spell this) near the Mexican border, the Scripps Ranch east of Mira Mesa, the Navy (a name given to the navy test site grounds south east of the Scripps Ranch), Mira Mesa, the Fairbanks Ranch, and the Guejita land grant outside Lake Wolford near Escondido, and I'm still forgetting some I'm sure. In other words, with the exception of the Daileys who owned Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Jamul and the Lucky Five, the Circle S quite simply either owned or leased much if not most of the prime grazing lands in San Diego County between Camp Pendleton and the Mexican Border and between the ocean and the desert.

My lifelong friendship with Russell and Florance Peavey, who became major owners of the Penasquitos in the late forties or early fifties, began in 1946 after we bought two horses, one from Oliver Saxon at the Lemon Grove Rodeo and another from Russell Peavey when he and his family still owned the San Clemente Canyon Ranch which included Clairemont Mesa. I think Russell told me his dad bought the land for some 40 cents an acre sometime after a flood in the Tujauana River Valley had swept his dairy out to sea early in this century. We lived west of Mount Soledad in La Jolla's then sparsely settled Muirlands area at that time. Whenever possible we helped the Peaveys gather the Soledad Mountain Ranch cattle, or rode over to help gather the cattle off Clairmont or the neighboring Richardson Ranch, and sometime helped load them onto railroad cars from the old corals that used to be below what is now University City. Our English saddles and eastern ways amused Russell who tried one of our saddles for curiosity. Afterward, he asked my

PRESIDENT'S, from page 1

Penasquitos was developed. My friend was to request trespassers to leave the Penasquitos property, then in private ownership. There were few trespassers. There were times when we were the only people in all of Penasquitos Canyon. The canyon was in its pristine state at the time; no adjacent developments, storm drains or other intrusions.

Even in the 1970's the idea of establishing a preserve was being discussed. Irving Kahn, who had purchased the Penasquitos Ranch, had proposed making a "gift" of the Los Penasquitos Canyon for a park. The proposal was not warmly received, as too little land was included in the offer. Even in the 1970's, it was realized that to be successful the Preserve had to include the side canyons and adjacent hillsides as well as the canyon bottom.

My brief involvement with Los Penasquitos Canyon ended in the mid-1970's when I went away to college in Utah. It was not until the mid-1980's when, again living in San Diego, I again became interested. Like so many others, I was content to believe somebody else was protecting the canyon. I was shocked to learn nobody was, and that during the 1970's and early 1980's the integrity of the Preserve had been sacrificed to greedy developers and political expediency.

It was not until about three years ago that several concerned individuals banded together and formed the Friends of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc. The Friends have tried to turn the tide against rampant and unregulated development around the Preserve and have attempted to arouse public opinion. Unfortunately, much of the damage had already been done.

This brings us to today. The

rapid urban growth of San Diego has reached the borders of the Preserve. Within the next couple of years all the unprotected land adjacent to the Preserve will be developed. How this will impact upon the integrity of the Preserve will be influenced to a large extent by the Friends' efforts.

I can happily report the Friends, as an organization, is thriving. We have approximately 330-350 members. Our ranks are increasing at about 8-10 members each month [see Membership News/Editor's Notes, page 5]. The Friends hope to have 500 members by this time next year.

The Friends' influence has also grown. We now have access to City Hall. We count several politicians among our allies. Councilmember Abbe Wolfsheimer and Mayor Maureen O'Connor have both been faithful and reliable supporters of the Friends' efforts to save the Preserve. Recently Councilmember Wolfsheimer's aide, Linda Barnhardt, joined the Friends' Board of Directors. Recently, the Friends have joined San Diegans for Managed Growth in support of an initiative measure to protect environmentally sensitive lands in both the City and County of San Diego, including Los Penasquitos Canyon.

Despite our progress, the underlying fear the Friends have is that we are too late. Most of the development projects we are now fighting were approved before the Friends existed. That does not mean we cannot stop the projects, but it will be tough. It will require a lot of work and luck; we need help from every member. Please make a resolution that in 1988 you, as well as all other Friends' members, will: **MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN SAVING LOS PENASQUITOS CANYON.**

ALLAN ROTHERO

Honorary Life Member

Allan Rothero has been a member of the Friends of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve since its inception in late 1984 and early 1985. At the December 1987 Friends' board meeting, Mr. Rothero was recognized for his close association with the canyon and his contributions to the Friends and others with his knowledge of the canyon in general and the Lopez Family and Lopez Canyon in particular. The board unanimously voted Mr. Rothero an Honorary Life Membership to the Friends.

Mr. Rothero was a landscaper in England, where he was born in 1908. He moved to the San Diego area about 60 years ago and knew Ramon and Henrietta Lopez, the last couple to live in the canyon. [The Lopez family acquired land in the canyon in a Mexican Land Grant in the 1940's. Their ranch is in the area that took the family name, Lopez Canyon. The family occupied the ranch right down to 1952.] An accomplished artist, Mr. Rothero has been painting in the canyon for over 40 years. He has hundreds of paintings of the canyon, capturing sections of the canyon that no longer exist, sections that have succumbed to developer encroachment and man's insatiable appetite for 'living room'. Many of his paintings hang in museums, and many more have been given to personal friends. They are treasured by all.

Having known the canyon in the years when it was truly pristine, Mr. Rothero no longer goes into the canyon. He is a very gentle person and the devastation that has occurred in the past few years saddens him deeply.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS/EDITOR'S NOTES

Memberships continue to come in, although at a slower rate over the holiday season. At the December board meeting, the Friends' President asked me how many members we had and my reply was just over 220. In reality, the 220 represents any one of the categories of membership the Friends offer as indicated on our membership form on the last page. Over the holidays, I tried to count the actual number of members, not memberships. There were 75 Individual Memberships, 13 Senior, 77 Family, 44 Sponsor, 4 Patron, 1 Life and 1 Honorary. Total actual members that fell into one of these categories was over 330.

A warm welcome to new members:

Rick & Sue Stravinsky San Diego
 Royle M. & Arlene LaBree ... San Diego
 Pam Schmidt San Diego

JANUARY 16TH BIRD HIKE

The first 1988 Bird Hike took place despite some rain during the weekend: Saturday was dry and partly sunny. The following were observed:

Phainopepla	Red-Shouldered Hawk
Red-Tail Hawk	Golden-Crowned Sparrow
White-Crowned Sparrow	Song Sparrow
Rufous-Sided Towhee	Brown Towhee
Yellow-Rumped Warbler	Wrentit
Western Bluebird	Mockingbird
Acorn Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher
Nuttall Woodpecker	Northern Flicker
Hummingbird (Annas?)	Kestrel
Morning Dove	Black-Shouldered Kite
Oregon Junco	California Quail
Scrub Jay	Red-Winged Blackbird
Starling	

Particularly interesting were the conspicuous view of the Rufous-Sided Towhees, several at close range, the large flocks of Oregon Juncos, and good views of the Phainopeplo and Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

dad: "How do you keep from sliding off one of them pancakes?"

As a child it was especially great to wake up and find cattle had gotten out and were seen in our vegetable garden, though it was my mother's favorite site. I thought it was great because it meant we didn't have to go to school that day, but instead got to saddle up and help roundup the escapees and head them back to where the fence was down on Mount Soledad.

One day when we were riding the ridge of the Soledad Ranch, where it overlooks Rose Canyon and what is now I-5 below, Russel Peavey pointed to the cliffs across the canyon south of the junction of San Clemente Canyon and Rose Canyon, and said: "Not too many years back we was running down some wild horses up on the mesa (known today as Clairmont Mesa), but they got to the cliffs before we could turn em or get a rope on em. They slid like kids on a playground slide all the way down the cliffs, loped easy across Rose Canyon and old 101 (it was just dirt then) and ran clean up the south shoulder of Mount Solidad just about to where we's standing right now. We knowed we couldn't catch em once they reached the cliffs so we sat and pondered their ease and speed. Them wild horses was real atheletes."

After the Peaveys sold the San Clemente Canyon Ranch, and the Circle S Ranch sold the Richardson Ranch (University City), they bought into the Sawday and Sexon Corporation and moved to the Panasquitos where Russell became part owner and manager. In those days the headquarters were in the section now called Horseman's Park. The area of the Johnson-Taylor Ranch across a little used dirt track called Black Mountain Road, was long over. The Johnson-Taylor Ranch was

merely the bunk house for the ranch. Little money was ever spent on keeping it up; its old cracked walls were left as is. But for many years it was the home of one of Panasquitos Ranch's longest occupants name of Hank Romero. Hank was of Mexican/Spanish Californio stock and lived his life as an ordinary cowhand. In a sense he and the then dusty desheveled state of the Johnson-Taylor ranch house were symbols of what happened to all his ancestors once the Yankee ways and savvy took over the country after the war with Mexico in the 1800s. I guess it's just one of the prices you pay for loosing a war, you get to become the second class citizens.

For as long as I remember, Hank was very old, seems like he and the oak trees must have grown up together hundreds of years ago. Well, you know how old old people can look when you were young. There was always a lot of sky between Hank's legs and I think his hands were given to him by a lizzard. They were his badge of lifelong labor. I only once saw him without his sweat stained gray felt hat and that was in his house. His mostly bald head was as white as a baby's bottom, and it didn't look like it could possibly belong to the Kentucky fried, brown, leathered face it was attached to. He was old, and faithful, and honest and poor, and uneducated, and was never more than just average smart all the years I knew him His hard but simple life was like most cowboys who somehow never wanted to or were never able to (for one reason or another) to acquire their own ranch.

TO BE CONTINUED
in the February 1988 Newsletter



FRIENDS OF LOS PEÑASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE, INC.

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March 1988 Newsletter - Volume 3 No. 5

COMMENT BY ONE LAND DEVELOPER:

"Wherever I see open space -
I see a housing development.

Under the guise of "progress, a valuable educational resource is slowly being "wiped out" by the land developers' bulldozers greedily descending on "open space" like a horde of hungry locusts.

For a number of years Los Peñasquitos provided a unique outdoor laboratory for many school children. It was an intimate learning experience in discovery of the natural environment and afforded a rare window of the historical past. However, this valuable educational resource is disappearing before our eyes. The yellow dinosaurs do not discriminate between the rare species of plants as they rampage over the natural, geological and cultural history that is so valuable to San Diego's heritage.

Los Peñasquitos has provided an opportunity for students to discover the "living history" that is in San Diego's past that may go back 10,000 years before present. What a valuable educational resource!

In a recent field trip with school children, we sadly discovered that the yellow dinosaurs had ravaged not only important pages of history, but had devoured centuries-old food

Please see DEVELOPER, page 2

FRIENDS' HIKE SCHEDULE

FRIENDS HIKES ARE OFFERED FREE TO FRIENDS MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC. ALL HIKERS SHOULD WEAR STURDY SHOES. RAIN CANCELS. FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT ELBERTA FLEMING AT 271-6710.

MARCH HIKE SCHEDULE

BIRD HIKE

Saturday, March 5th at 8:00 A.M. Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mt. Road. Bring binoculars and bird book if available.

GEOLOGY HIKE

Sunday, March 13th at 9:00 A.M. Meet at Johnson-Taylor Ranch, off Black Mt. Road. Take entrance to Canyon-side Park and continue west to the ranch.

BIRD HIKE

Saturday, March 19th at 8:00 A.M. Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mt. Road.

PENASQUITOS CANYON RIM HIKE

Saturday, March 26th at 8:00 A.M. Meet at Pacific Corporate Center Road off Mira Mesa Blvd. where there is a special "visual" area of the Canyon.

Please see HIKES, page 2



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Home Phone: _____

Membership Category? Circle Below:
Senior(62)/Student \$7 Individual \$10
Family \$15 Sponsor \$25 Patron \$100
Corporate \$250 Life \$1000

Contribution \$ _____

I/We are interested in the following:
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 Educational Workshops
 School, Family, Youth Programs
 The Environment: Plants, birds, mammals, geology
 Other: _____

January 1988 Newsletter



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DAYS OF THE GREAT YANKEE CATTLE
BARONS: GROWING UP ON THE PENASQUITOS

Part Two of a Special Three-part Series

I learned a lot of things from Hank, such as new ways of swearing when things went wrong. Hank always figured he was a cut above the wet backs that were hired on now and then. And when they did something he thought was stupid, most likely an honest mistake, Hank, who also spoke Spanish, would yell at them in English. That way he got to be insulting without hurting anyone's feelings, a very useful life tool it was. At the top of his dust spouting lungs he would yell great and wonderous things like: "If your brains were rank poison, they couldn't fissic a Snow Bird". I've had the pleasure of using that wonderful, near meaningless, unintelligible expression myself when four letter words just wouldn't be acceptable. That there was no such thing as a Snow Bird, at least in San Diego County (that term wasn't even used for skiers in those days and I know Hank never even saw a pair of skis his whole life). So what it really meant was never brought up or discussed. That would have been like questioning an artist's use of colors. It was Hank's creation and none of us really wanted it explained as if that might some how take away some of the magic, and that way it could mean most anything you wanted it to. I just framed it and hung it in the gallery of my memory where it can be seen and used when needed.

There is so much to tell about those exciting years, I hardly know what to try and tell here and what to leave for another day. I think I'll just continue and give a few more details of an era too young for the History books, but all but gone forever none the less. Just as the Johnson-Taylor Ranch is all the thing now, as well it should be, someday

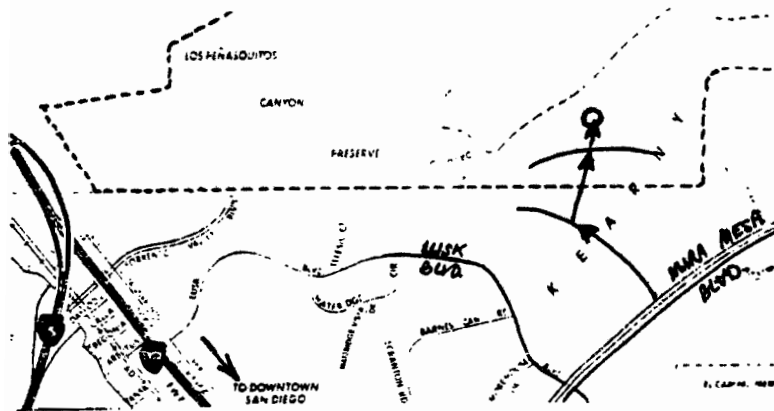
the old adobie and barn on Horseman's Park (if still there) will be remembered as a part of the days of San Diego's Great Yankee Cattle Barons.

I remember there was a spell of hard feelings among various relatives after George Sawday and Oliver Sexon died. I was pretty young but I remember that when Russell had to go up to certain of the other ranches he always put his pistol in his truck and mentioned one day that all the men at one of the ranches he had delivered cattle to were all wearing guns. I guess big land holdings don't often get divided up very peacefully, and in those days lawyers didn't enter into settling feuds as much as they do now. Fortunately no one was shot and things got settled somehow.

One of the striking things about many of the great cattle barons like George Sawday, Oliver Sexon, and Russell Peavey was their honesty. You see, in those days contracts, with feed lots for example, were often made verbally. For example, if a stock contractor came up to San Ysabel to buy cattle, Sawday would arrange to sell so many hundred head at so much at such and such a time and place and not a single pencil or piece of paper ever came out of anybody's pocket. All contracts, many involving thousands or even hundreds of thousands of dollars were all verbal. Verbal contracts were a spoken but unwritten law, which made honesty as necessary a part of you as hands and feet. An honest man just stood taller, that's all. And then I imagine there were a number of men who couldn't read well in California's early days. A great deal of pride went with that honesty as well. When Russell Peavey's son was born and named after Oliver Sexon, Sexon sent him a note to be given to him on his fourth birthday that simply said: "Remember, son, if you always tell the

HIKES, from page 1

(See accompanying map). Heading west on Mira Mesa Blvd. from Mira Mesa turn right onto Pacific Heights Blvd. (heading east from I-805 turn left). Go to traffic light, turn right on Pacific Mesa Blvd. Go straight ahead through the traffic light at Pacific Center.



APRIL HIKE SCHEDULE

WILDFLOWER HIKE

Saturday, April 2nd at 8:00 A.M. Meet at Parking-staging area off Black Mt. Road. Bring water and snack.

BIRD HIKE

Saturday, April 9th at 8:00 A.M. Meet at Parking-staging area off Black Mt. Road. Bring binoculars and bird book if available.

RANCH TOUR

Saturday, April 23rd at 9:00 A.M. Meet at Johnson-Taylor Ranch off Black Mt. Road.

BIRD HIKE

Sunday, April 24th at 8:00 A.M. Meet at Parking-staging area off Black Mt. Road. Bring binoculars and bird book if available.

DEVELOPER, from page 1

plants formerly used by the indians. The natural habitat of the mule deer had been eliminated and a mile long chain-link fence prohibited the deer to reach their water supply. Under citizen protest a few openings now allow the deer to reach the stream.

What is incredible - is that this situation should never have been allowed to happen. This was to be a Preserve. The citizens of San Diego were led to believe that there were to be no roads in the canyon, no homes on the canyon slopes, no canyons to be filled in, and homes were to be set back 25 feet so as not to be seen from the canyon floor. There was to be a buffer zone to protect the natural and historical integrity of the Preserve. The \$65 million "open space" Bond Issue was passed by San Diego voters with the understanding that Los Penasquitos was the priority. So far very little of the Open Space Bond Issue has been spent on Los Penasquitos.

Somewhere along the line, the original concept has been radically altered. Today, citizens of San Diego are asking questions - where and how did this come about?

On our school field trips with children, we witness the bulldozers' intrusions into the Preserve, the alteration of natural and historical open space, roads taking place on the canyon floor, and grading of housing pads along the slopes coming down into the canyon floor. The habitats for wildlife and wildlife corridors are being filled in to make way for greater concentration of housing tracts. What was to have been a valuable "living laboratory" is being destroyed before our eyes.

In the near future when it is too late - San Diegans will ask - why did the City of San Diego allow this to happen?

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome to new members:

Anne & John Hegwer Del Mar
 Bryan Worthington San Diego
 Carla & Bob Feinson San Diego
 Maurice & Ree Miller Del Mar
 Lorna Hamilton San Diego
 Dan Bressler San Diego

In addition to the six new memberships (nine new members) there were 13 membership renewals for the month.

EDITOR'S NOTES

1

Our sincere apologies for missing the publication of a February Newsletter.

2

Even wordprocessing systems with spell checkers won't catch the error in the January 1988 Newsletter. For those that did not, the Lopez family acquired land in the canyon in the 1840's ----- not the ----- 1940's [reference the Newsletter article on Allen Rothero].

truth, you can look any man in the eye and tell him to go to hell." Young Carl Oliver Peavey would never forget that. He came out of the same fiber.

Russell Peavey's family came west in a covered wagon and Russell had to help raise his younger brothers and sisters and never had a chance for schooling past the sixth grade. He was a cowboy who married the schoolmarm (her name was Florence George) and through his hard work, sense of integrity, exceptional intelligence, honesty, some good luck, and a lot of help from his educated, ambitious and intelligent wife, he too became a cattle baron before he died in about 1970.

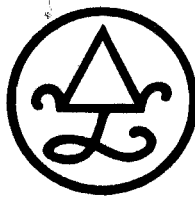
No doubt many of you are thinking that these cattle barons lived like kings, sort of like a stage set from Dallas. Oddly enough most of them led very simple and modest lives. Their time, their life's purpose and their money were tied up in their land, their cattle and horses. Paying taxes drove most of them to sell in the sixties and seventies, as it partly did for the Penasquitos and Rancho Bernardo next door. Only after the land was sold was their money for many luxuries. Also, there were bad years that needed a lot of capital to get them by. Those were the unlucky years when they had to buy cattle at a high price and were forced to sell at a low, or when drought that started in the late forties, lingered on through the sixties. They were sometimes forced to sell their cattle to the feed lots on bad years when little grass grew. Those hard years often as not bankrupt the smaller outfits, but the Penasquitos was big enough to survive and Russell had an uncanny savvy for figuring out ways such as moving cattle to other areas or even other states till things picked up.

Peavey had a great love and

respect for the land. He didn't believe in over grazing, which was a temptation during the years it didn't rain, which meant if he didn't want to abuse the land he often had to sell a high percentage of his cattle at a loss or buy feed he could ill afford. But he could see how the resulting erosion could destroy the land. I remember one year in the early fifties when we got only three inches of rain for the whole year and the grass never grew higher than a Weenie Dog's stomach.

Russell shook his head and said: "I remember when the spring grass grew up high as your stirrup when you was riding." I could hardly believe what he said, as I grew up in the country during the Great Drought which began in 1946 and lasted until 1976 with little let up for over twenty years.

Russell could not have survived without his wife's help. She kept the books as Russell was partially illiterate which was something his exceptional intelligence could never completely compensate for, she cleaned the house, raised the kids who as soon as they were big enough to straddle a pony were out helping dad, she cooked the meals, did the laundry and ironing, canned peaches and baked pies and made the beds and packed lunches and she herself would ride almost every day with her husband to help work the cattle and save on the overhead of too many hired hands. At night she came home and cooked a hot meal after 8-12 hours in the saddle. She also helped plan barbecues and vigorously promoted beef through the women's auxiliary to the California Cattleman's Association called the Cowbells and championed causes that might help to prolong their loved and useful way of life. And somehow she still had time for family and friends like myself. I never knew how she could keep it all together.



FRIENDS OF LOS PEÑASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE, INC.

P.O. BOX 26523

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92126

(619)271-6710 226-1339 484-5800

April 1988 Newsletter - Volume 3 No. 6

**FRIENDS STOP EXTENSION OF SHAW
CIRCLE PROJECT ON LOPEZ RIDGE**

The Friends successfully opposed a request for an extension of a coastal permit for a condominium project known as Shaw Circle. The Shaw Circle project is located on Lopez Ridge, near the southeast corner of the Lopez Ridge PRD.

Shaw Circle consisted of 76 condominium units on 13 acres of land. Unlike the Lopez Ridge PRD, which primarily sits atop the mesa on Lopez Ridge, Shaw Circle extends right into Lopez Canyon. It was an intrusion into the Preserve itself. Hikers in Lopez Canyon would pass by the Shaw Circle condominiums while traveling the main trail through the canyon bottom.

The original coastal permit for Shaw Circle was granted in 1985. The coastal permit expired in late 1987. The applicant sought an extension pursuant to a provision of the Coastal Act. The hearing on the extension, after being continued once, was held February 23, 1988, in Marina Del Rey.

Two members of the Friends' Board of Directors: Kathleen Jaworski-Burke and former President Robert Sauers, attended. By Coastal Commission rules, the extension request would be denied if three Coastal Commissioners voted against it. The Coastal Commission staff recommended against the extension request. However, in 1985 the staff had recommended against (Please see SHAW CIRCLE, page 2)

HIKE SCHEDULE

APRIL

FRIENDS HIKES ARE OFFERED FREE TO FRIENDS MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC. ALL HIKERS SHOULD WEAR STURDY SHOES. BRING WATER AND A SNACK IF DESIRED. RAIN CANCELS. FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT ELBERTA FLEMING AT 271-6710.

RANCH TOUR

Saturday, April 23rd at 9:00 AM.
Meet at Johnson-Taylor Ranch off Black Mt. Road.

BIRD HIKE

Sunday, April 24th at 8:00 AM.
Meet at Parking-staging area off Black Mt. Road. Bring binoculars and bird book if available.

MAY

LOPEZ CANYON

Sunday, May 1st at 8:00 AM.
Meet at Sorrento Valley Blvd. east end (dead end). Bring water and a snack.

BIRD HIKE

Saturday, May 7th at 8:00 AM.
Meet at Parking-staging area off Black Mountain Road. Bring binoculars and bird book.

(Please see HIKES, page 2)



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Family \$15 Sponsor \$25 Patron \$100
Corporate \$250 Life \$1000
Contribution \$ _____

I/We are interested in the following:

- Hikes Indian Culture
- Educational Workshops
- School, Family, Youth Programs
- The Environment: Plants, birds, mammals, geology
- Other: _____

March 1988 Newsletter



Please make checks payable to:
Friends of Los Peñasquitos
Canyon Preserve, Inc.
and send to:
Membership Chairperson
Friends of Los Peñasquitos
Canyon Preserve, Inc.
P.O. Box 26523
San Diego, CA 92126

Thankyou for your support!
Your donation is tax deductible.

LOPEZ PRD UNITS 11 & 13

Newland (formerly Genstar) has filed vesting tentative maps for two additional units for its massive Lopez Ridge PRD. Originally, Unit 13 was proposed in 1984. However, the 1984 proposal has been abandoned. Unit 11 is a revision of a unit which was part of the main Lopez Ridge PRD. Unit 11 has been revised. Recently, Newland obtained a final map for the remaining 3 units in the Lopez Ridge PRD.

Vesting tentative maps are a new mapping devise allowed by state statute. Once approved, vesting tentative maps give developers a "vested" right to build the project as proposed in the vesting tentative map for several years. Under a regular tentative map (such as exists in the Lopez Ridge PRD) vested rights do not exist until building permits are obtained and substantial construction work has begun [Editor's note: See TUNNEL BOONDOGGLE article following this one on other developer attempts to "show vested interest".]

The vesting tentative maps for Units 11 and 13 include large increases in density over the prior maps. They also require heavy grading, much of which must be done on steep slopes. Units 11 and 13, as proposed, appear inconsistent with the desire to build low density housing on Lopez Ridge and minimize alterations in the topography.

A glaring problem with Units 11 and 13 is the proposed path of the wildlife corridor. A wildlife corridor is proposed across the units. It is "at grade". It will cross over Calle Cristobol at surface level. Units 11 and 13 are located on the south side of Calle Cristobol. Deer and other wildlife are [expected] to come up from

Lopez Canyon by using the wildlife corridor through Units 11 and 13, then cross over Calle Cristobol and go into Los Penasquitos Canyon through the portion of the wildlife corridor on the north side of Calle Cristobol.

As proposed by Newland, the wildlife corridor over Units 11 and 13 will connect with Calle Cristobol over 100 feet west of where the north section of the crossing reaches Calle Cristobol. Wildlife would have to travel along Calle Cristobol for over 100 feet to complete the trip into Los Penasquitos Canyon (perhaps instead of a "bike lane" along Calle Cristobol we could have a "deer lane").

Not surprisingly, the City's planning staff has indicated the maps for Units 11 and 13 need major revisions. The Friends intend to monitor Units 11 and 13 closely.

***** TUNNEL BOONDOGGLE *****

In the summer of 1987, Genstar Southwest Development, Inc. (now called the Newland Group) bulldozed several hundred thousand cubic yards of earth from atop Lopez Ridge and stock piled it on the edge of Penasquitos Canyon. The avowed purpose was to put a 120-foot long, twenty foot high "Wildlife Tunnel" in the hole that was dug. The "tunnel" would then go under a proposed road, an extension of Sorrento Valley Boulevard, which is planned to serve the 1400 condominiums the developer wants to build on Lopez Ridge. The truth, the megabuck "tunnel" was built to show vested interest in the property to satisfy a Coastal Commission's requirement and thus avoid having to petition (Continued on next page)

(HIKES, continued from page 1)

TWILIGHT HIKE

Saturday, May 14th at 5:00 PM.
Meet at the Johnson-Taylor Ranch off Black Mountain Road. To reach the Ranch, turn in at Canyonside Park and continue west down the road.

BIRD HIKE

Saturday, May 21st at 8:00 A.M.
Meet at Parking-staging area off Black Mountain Road. Bring bird book and binoculars if available.

GEOLOGY HIKE

Sunday, May 22nd at 9:00 A.M.
Meet at the Johnson-Taylor Ranch off Black Mountain Road. To reach the Ranch, turn in at Canyonside Park and continue west down the road.

(CIRCLE, continued from page 1)

granting the original Shaw Circle Coastal Permit. At that time the Coastal Commission ignored the staff and approved the original coastal permit. The Friends, therefore, went into the February 23rd hearing with trepidation.

At about 11:00 A.M., the applicant's representative, apparently noticing the presence of the fearsome Ms. Jaworski-Burke, went to the podium and requested a continuance. This was quickly opposed by Jaworski-Burke, who pointed out that she and Mr. Sauers had travelled from San Diego to attend the hearing. The continuance request was delayed until the Shaw Circle item was heard (about 6:30 P.M.) at which time it was turned down.

After an effective slide presentation by Jaworski-Burke, the Coastal Commission voted 5 to 3 to deny the extension. Among those voting to deny the extension were the Chairman, and former San Diego City Councilmember Mike Gotch.

The developer of Shaw Circle must now submit a new application for a coastal permit. Significantly, this new application must conform to the Local Coastal Plan for the Penasquitos Canyon area, which restricts building on slopes with a gradient of 29 percent or more.

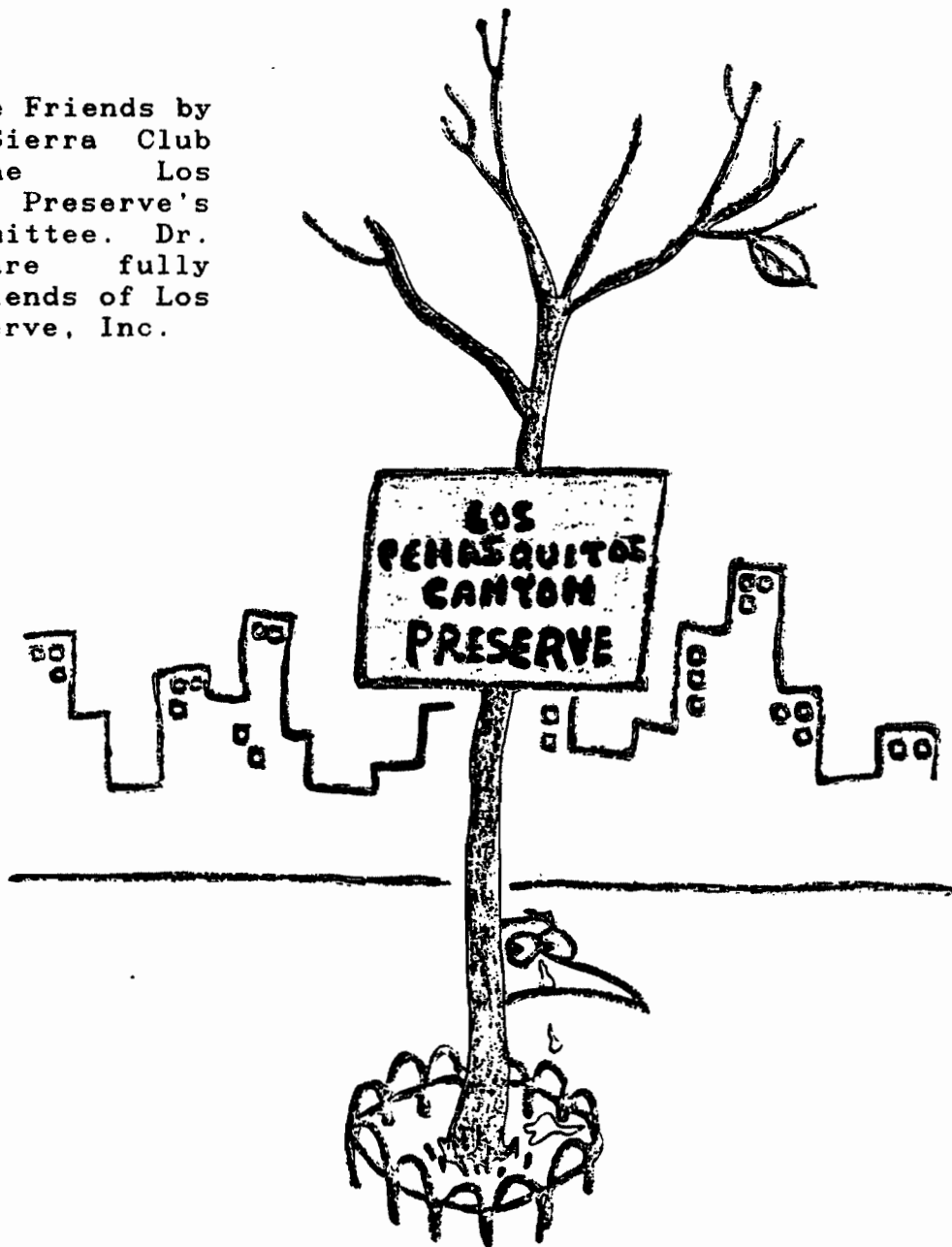
The Friends wish to thank Kathleen Jaworski-Burke and Robert Sauers for sacrificing their entire day to attend the Coastal Commission meeting. It is not easy sitting eight hours at a meeting. Because of their efforts, however, the Friends have won an important victory in keeping development out of the floor of Lopez Canyon.



Mayor and City Council members
City Administration Building
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101
236-6440

San Diego Coast Regional Commission
1333 Camino Del Rio South Suite 125
San Diego, CA 92108
297-9740

Article submitted to the Friends by
Dr. John Northrop, Sierra Club
Representative to the Los
Penasquitos Canyon Preserve's
Citizens Advisory Committee. Dr.
Northrop's comments are fully
supported by the Friends of Los
Penasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.



The third and concluding part of the three part series DAYS OF THE GREAT YANKEE CATTLE BARONS: GROWING UP ON THE PENASQUITOS by Ms. Eve Ewing will appear in the May 1988 Newsletter.

for an extension of the Lopez Ridge PRD permit.

Recent checks on the "tunnel" have shown that wildlife (deer) do not use it, but cross Lopez Ridge further east where there is ground cover. (The tunnel was built where the natural vegetation was grass instead of chaparral...a fact that was brought to the attention of the City Transportation and Land Use Committee in a hearing that brought the tunnel's construction to a temporary halt).

Now the tunnel stands empty and useless atop Lopez Ridge. The only thing that goes through it is the wind, and an occasional off-road vehicle, motorcycle, bicycle, hiker or horseback rider.

Will this monumental goof remain as a symbol of developer's greed or will that greed feed upon itself and lead to a 4-lane highway across Penasquitos Canyon Preserve, infilling of canyon heads along Lopez Canyon, and construction of 1400 condominiums on 440 acres of the pristine west end of Lopez Ridge? A recent countdown shows that final approval for this PRD was granted by the Coastal Commission in 1987 upon acceptance of Genstar's road alignment plan, and completion of the associated Lopez Creek hydrology study. The City Council, which has the final say in the matter, is expected to have this item on their agenda later this spring.

The chilling fact of this whole scenario is that the developer got permission from both the Coastal Commission and the San Diego Engineering Department to build a "wildlife crossing" not only where there was no road, but at a location where deer don't

congregate anyhow; they built in the wrong place! Furthermore, construction was started before the public input period was completed, and without bringing the matter before various citizens' groups that normally hear such large development projects on the rim of Penasquitos Canyon (i.e. the Citizens Advisory Committee for Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve). The first knowledge we had of the project was the sight of a fleet of bulldozers and earth movers on the canyon rim. The developers used the method of "get there fustest with the mostest" to get their tunnel started before we were able to stop it. Then, they were allowed to finish it because it was already started! As a result, thousands of cubic yards of earth are now poised on the rim of Penasquitos Canyon ready to be dumped into side canyons to make building pads. If the developer is allowed to go ahead with this PRD and build the road and condominiums, the first thing that visitors to the West end of the Preserve will see is a likeness of Brooklyn Heights staring them in the face instead of grassy slopes the way God made them. In the words of my colleague, Kathleen Zaworski-Burke, Penasquitos "will no longer be a Garden of Eden, but a Paradise Lost".

The Lopez Ridge PRD is opposed by several environmental groups which, in addition to the Sierra Club, include the Sorrento Valley Coalition, the Sorrento Valley Businessmen's Association, the Carmel Valley Trail Riders Coalition and the Penasquitos Canyon Horseman's Association. I urge all concerned Friends members to write, or phone, their objections to:



FRIENDS OF LOS PEÑASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE, INC.

P.O. BOX 26523

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92126

(619)271-6710 226-1339 484-5800

May 1988 Newsletter

Volume 3

No. 7

TIPSY DEER RUN AMOK IN PRESERVE

It has recently been discovered that drunken deer are terrorizing the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. The discovery was based upon the large amount of beer cans found in the Lopez Ridge wildlife crossing tunnel. The tunnel was built by Genstar (now Newland) in 1987.

"By the sheer number of beer cans it was obvious the Preserve's deer population has a serious alcoholism problem." reports Pat Canyonshaft, a noted biologist. "The deer must be embarrassed by their drinking problem as nobody has ever seen them drinking in the wildlife tunnel at all." When asked if the beer cans could be from a source other than the deer, Canyonshaft sharply replied: "Of course the beer cans are from the deer; they were found in the deer crossing."

The deer alcoholism problem has City Councilman Dred Destruiksma concerned: "This is clearly a problem. A drunken deer could accidentally stumble in front of one of the many bulldozers in the Preserve. That could be terrible. It may damage the bulldozer." Destruiksma proposed setting up an alcohol treatment program for the deer. He proposed funding the program by an increase in the Mira Mesa FBA fees.

Meanwhile, the drunken deer continue to create havoc in the Preserve.

[Please see TIPSY, page 2]

HIKE SCHEDULE

FRIENDS HIKES ARE OFFERED FREE TO FRIENDS' MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC. ALL HIKERS SHOULD WEAR STURDY SHOES. RAIN CANCELS. FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT ELBERTA FLEMING AT 271-6710.

MAY

BIRD HIKE

Saturday, May 7th at 8:00 A.M.
Meet at Parking-staging area off Black Mountain Road. Bring binoculars and bird book if available.

TWILIGHT HIKE

Saturday, May 14th at 5:00 P.M.
Meet at Johnson-Taylor Ranch off Black Mountain Road. To reach the Ranch, turn in Canyonside Recreation Center and continue west down the road.

BIRD HIKE

Saturday, May 21st at 8:00 A.M.
Meet at Parking-staging area off Black Mountain Road. Bring binoculars and bird book if available.

GEOLOGY HIKE

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Meet at the Johnson-Taylor Ranch off Black Mountain Road. To reach the Ranch, turn in Canyonside Recreation Center and continue west down the road.



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Corporate \$250 Life \$1000

Contribution \$ _____

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- Educational Workshops
- School, Family, Youth Programs
- The Environment: Plants, birds, mammals, geology
- Other: _____

April 1988 Newsletter



Please make checks payable to:
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Thankyou for your support!
Your donation is tax deductible.

**DAYS OF THE GREAT YANKEE CATTLE
BARONS: GROWING UP ON THE PENASQUITOS**

Final Part of a Three-part Series
by Eve Ewing

Russell and Florence Peavey and their two children grew to be a family. Not that we didn't have our differences. I was always trying to save coyotes or ban control burning to save birds and animals, an error our whole generation of sentimental city dwellers, mostly newly arrived from other parts of the country, made. Nature burns brush naturally in the form of dry lightning storms and in the past by the help of Indians, and later by ranchers, and by not burning we are now faced with holocausts because we have created unnatural situations where brush that is filled with natural tars and resins and used to burning every ten or fifteen years has reached fifteen and twenty feet high and in some areas has not burned for over seventy years. Unlike trees, our brush starts to die out after about sixty years unless burned back when it then can start anew from the crown. If brush is burned frequently it doesn't burn trees and it is called a ground fire; but when the brush and grasses are tall it catches the trees on fire and we have what we call crown fires and that does kill trees. Much of our whole county is a time bomb waiting to go off instead of a natural series of patchworks of some newly burned areas, next to some older burned areas. The newly burned patches stop the spread of fire. But if fires have been prevented unnaturally for decades, there are no patches, and fires can go unstoppable for days and days and burn horses and cattle and houses and thousands of acres much as it did during the wild fire of 1970 when it burned from Cuyamaca to the Mexican border. The

brush around Scripps Ranch and Mira Mesa are a case in point. Now the brush is so tall it may be impossible for controlled burning. These are all the things the Peaveys knew long before our National Foresters and Ecologists caught on. But I was bone headed, and sometimes just impossible to shake out of my city boots, so I didn't learn these things any faster than most of the rest of us. Now I know that people who spend there life on the land usually understand it the best.

Russell Peavey's life long goals were straight forward and clear. "I just want to raise good food at a price people can afford to pay". It use to make him mad when he saw how much meat cost in the market, and that lots of people couldn't even afford to buy it.

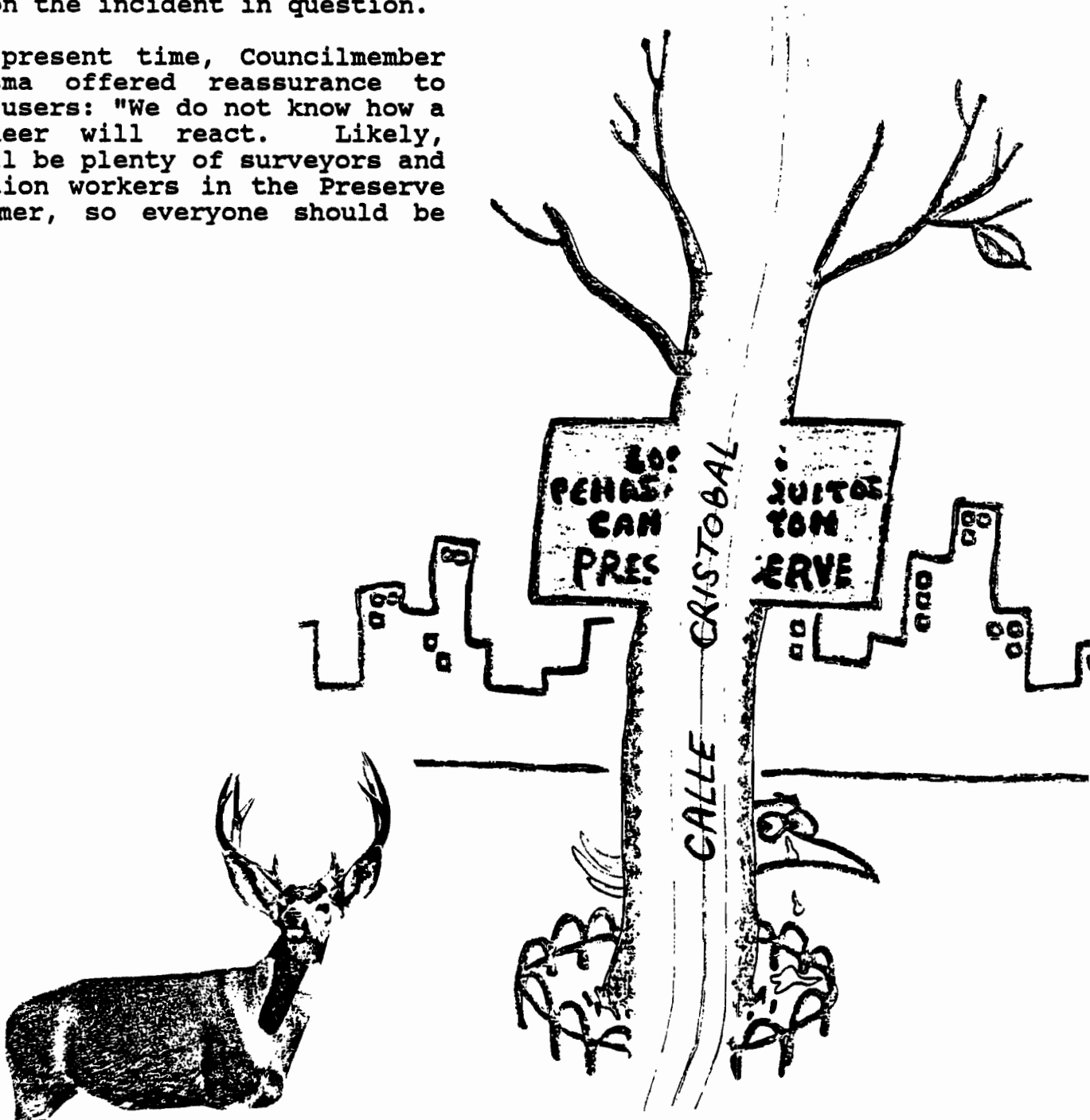
Like most ranchers, the Peaveys were very conservative, mostly because their way of life is always fragile and can only survive if labor is cheap and other things are just so. It survives best in the underpopulated regions of the country far from urban centers or in areas that are too dry for farming and too unappealing for living. The population boom after World War II was the beginning of the end for most of the cattle baron of San Diego County. So the Peaveys, like most ranchers, were against unions, and taxes and liberals and subdivisions, and middle men who drove beef prices up, and lax immigration laws and muddling Government bureaucracies that dictated unwise policies like no control burning, and sheep herders of course. People like the Peaveys and the cowboy drifters who worked for them, were our frontiersmen, our chapter from the Old West, our pages of History.

Once I asked Florence if they

[TIPSY from page 1]

Nard Nuttal, a Preserve security guard, recalls being chased by two inebriated does through Lopez Canyon. "They wuz real mean" said Nuttal., who was forced to crash the security truck into a large sycamore tree. "I ran for my life." Nuttal no longer works for the security agency patrolling the Preserve, which had no comment on the incident in question.

For the present time, Councilmember Destruiksma offered reassurance to Preserve users: "We do not know how a lushed deer will react. Likely, there will be plenty of surveyors and construction workers in the Preserve this summer, so everyone should be safe.



S U M M E R S A F A R I - 1 9 8 8

What are the mysteries of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve? Children enrolled in the SUMMER SAFARI will discover the magic of this beautiful historic canyon.

This enrichment program is again offered for the sixth year and is sponsored by the Friends of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc., the Los Penasquitos Recreation Council, and HOOPA.

Safari headquarters will be at Penasquitos Canyonside Park off Black Mountain Road.

SESSION I: July 11-15
for grades 2-3-4
9 A.M. till Noon

SESSION II: July 18-22
for grades 4-5-6
9 A.M. till Noon

FEE: \$40 includes craft materials, rental or room and insurance

Children enrolled in the SUMMER SAFARI will explore the chaparral jungles and cool oak woodlands. Pond scooping expeditions will investigate neighboring streams. Tracking native animals will be an adventure in the wilds.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our membership is holding; however we hope more individuals and families will join the Friends in the months ahead, which will be very critical to the preservation of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve as we know it today.

Take note of the separate bulletin inclosed in this Newsletter regarding our Annual Membership Meeting being held this month.

Who were the former inhabitants of this beautiful canyon? The early Indians occupied the canyon as far back in history as 10,000 years before present. Spanish explorers, Mission Fathers, Mexican Californios and early American settlers are also an important part of the Canyon history.

Actual "living experience" and creative crafts projects relate to the natural environment and past cultures will stimulate the children's curiosity. The new horizons that are introduced in this program will further enrich their lives, and perhaps develop into family participation. This program encourages the child to create and use latent talents.

The SUMMER SAFARI offers an excellent opportunity for boys and girls working towards proficiency badges in Nature, Indian Cultures and creative Crafts.

For pre-registration and further information call 271-6710 or write to:

Dr. Elberta Fleming
10311 Caminito Surabaya
San Diego, CA 92131

ever ate lamb. She was very indignant and quite defensive and said: "Of course we eat lamb. We eat it quite frequently". At that point I had known the Peaveys for over twenty years and had never remembered eating lamb at their ranch except once after they ran over one in their truck on the highway. "How often is frequently?" I asked ... my youthful curiosity leading into dangerous waters. "Well," said Florence in her most serious and pensive manner, "I know we've eaten lamb at least twice since we've been married". They'd been married for over twenty-five years at that point. Well, I guess that was a cattlemans idea of eating lamb frequently.

Russell was known all over the county for his good horsemanship. "You can cowboy around and break a colt and run it around and yank on its mouth and plum terrify and ruin it forever or, you can be patient and gentle on a horse and have it for a working partner for twenty year." I think the saddest I ever saw Russell was when his best cow pony, Missie ... "She's got more cow sense in her than I do", he used to say ... was shot just before she gave birth to her first colt. That, plus higher and higher taxes and all the cut down fences and shot up windmills, rustled cattle, broken beer bottles that ruined more than one horse, and illegal trash dumps, and uncontrolled brush fires, were all signs of San Diego's post war boom. This, coupled with relentless drought, finally drove the Peaveys and the Sawday heirs to sell the Penasquitos in the sixties. Their way of life was over in coastal San Diego, a chapter in history closed and I had had the privilege of having lived with the Peavey family on the Penasquitos during summers and holidays for all those years. I grew to love them and respect them as deeply as my own

family, and their ways, wisdom and warmth have left an indelible stamp in my heart and mind.

I am going to close by telling you something Russell said over thirty years ago that I have never forgotten. I was twelve years old at the time. From a nearby hill we were overlooking the grading going on for a new highway later to known as I-15. It cut through the heart of the best grazing land on the Penasquitos. There was a lot of housing developments mushrooming all over the county at that time as well. Russell said in his slow country drawl: "Some day we are going to be hungry in America. We can't go on forever putting up houses in the fertile valley bottoms that can grow food. We should only be putting houses up there on those rocky hills where you can't grow no food."

I think Russell Peavey would be proud to stand here if he were still alive and could see your struggles to save some of the land he loved so long. Of course he'd want to put the land to work raising food and see cattle grazing, which would help keep the fire hazard down, and he wouldn't let you gallop your horse like a fool or chase his cattle and leave the gates open, but other than that, city folk and ranchers have a lot in common. We are after all, all human beings who need some country, and some peace and some beauty to help us stay human ... and of course some food to put in our bellies ... hopefully at a price we can afford to pay.

Thank You

The Friends of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve thank Ms. Ewing for sharing her personal experience, insight and historical account into Penasquitos as most of us will never know.



FRIENDS OF LOS PEÑASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE, INC.

P.O. BOX 26523

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92126

(619)271-6710 226-1339 484-5800

July-August 1988 Newsletter

Volume 3

No. 8

**FRIENDS BOARD ENDORSES
CITIZENS INITIATIVES
By: Leo Wilson**

The Board of Directors of the Friends has unanimously voted to endorse the two initiative measures sponsored by the Citizens for Limited Growth (CLG): the Quality of Life Initiative (QLI) and the Rural Preservation and Traffic Control Initiative (RPTCI). The QLI applies to the City of San Diego and the RPTCI applies in the unincorporated areas of the County of San Diego. Both initiatives will be on the election ballot this November.

The endorsement represents a significant change in position for the Friends. Last year the Friends became one of the co-sponsors of the Sensitive Lands Initiative (SLI), along with San Diegans for Managed Growth. The SLI sought to protect the City's and County's sensitive lands: steep hillsides, wetlands, floodplains, lands upon which are located sensitive animal and plant species, and historical and archeological sites. All the time the Friends and many other environmentalists felt the Citizens for Limited Growth initiatives were too ambitious. The inclusion of a facilities-based housing restriction in the CLG initiatives was felt to be politically vulnerable.

(Please see CITIZENS, page 3, and related articles Lopez Ridge Update, page 6, and Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Recent History, page 5)

FRIENDS' HIKE SCHEDULE

FRIENDS' HIKES ARE OFFERED FREE TO FRIENDS' MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC. ALL HIKERS SHOULD WEAR STURDY SHOES. WATER AND A SNACK ARE OPTIONAL. RAIN CANCELS. FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT ELBERTA FLEMING AT 271-6710.

******* AUGUST *******

BIRD HIKE

Sunday, August 14th at 8:00 a.m.
Meet at Parking-staging area off Black Mountain Road. Bring binoculars and bird book if available.

TWILIGHT HIKE

Sunday, August 21st at 5:30 p.m.
Meet at Johnson-Taylor Ranch off Black Mountain Road. To reach the ranch, turn into Canyonside Park and Recreation Area and continue west past the ball fields.

******* SEPTEMBER *******

BIRD HIKE

Saturday, September 3rd at 8:00 a.m.
Meet at Parking-staging area off Black Mountain Road. Bring binoculars and bird book if available.

GEOLOGY HIKE

Sunday, September 11th at 8:00 a.m.
Meet at Johnson-Taylor Ranch off Black Mountain Road. Turn into Canyonside Park/Recreation Area and continue west past the ball fields.

(Please see HIKES, page 2)



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- Educational Workshops
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- The Environment: Plants, birds, mammals, geology
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May 1988 Newsletter



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San Diego, CA 92126

Thankyou for your support!
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CITIZENS (Continued from page 1)

The CLG initiatives would be subject to fierce opposition from developers and the construction industry, claiming a loss of employment opportunities would result if the initiatives passed.

As an alternative to the CLG initiatives, the "moderate" environmentalists (as we became known as) proposed the Sensitive Lands Initiative (SLG). The SLG did not contain a housing restriction. It was assumed that the SLI would be generally accepted by the City and County as polls had indicated strong popular support for protection of sensitive lands. Accordingly, the proponents of the SLI concentrated on attempting to get the City Council in San Diego to accept SLI in the City and the Board of Supervisors to adopt SLI in the County. Both governments expressed their willingness to adopt the SLI. What transpired, however, reaffirmed that it was business as usual in the City and County: the developers and their allies control the process. They succeeded in eviscerating the SLI in both the City and County. Both measures are riddled with exclusions and exemptions - neither is worthy of support.

In the City, the damage was done in early 1988. Rather than put the SLI on the June election ballot (as the Mayor's Office and a majority of the City Council were indicating support for) the SLI was sent to the Mayor's Citizens Advisory Committee on Growth (CAC). The CAC was dominated by a pro-development majority. The SLI which emerged from the CAC was, to a large party, drafted and submitted to the CAC by developer attorney Paul Peterson. It became known as the "Peterson Measure." This blatant act of overreaching was too much for the

City Council. The Planning Department put together a stronger draft of the measure which the City Council, during the last week of July, substantially adopted. (Despite the opposition of the troika of pro-development City Councilmembers: Ed Struiksma, Judy McCarty, and Bruce Henderson.)

Unlike the "Peterson" draft of the SLI, the adopted version of the SLI is not reprehensible. The City's SLI has teeth. The strengthening of the SLI can be attributed to the efforts of several individuals. First, the City's Planning Department stubbornly fought for a stronger measure; withstanding the heat from the development industry and several City Councilmembers (the Troika). Second, both Mayor O'Connor and Councilmember Wolfsheimer remained firm in their demand for stronger language, and implied (and at times expressly indicated) if the SLI was not strengthened they would support the Quality of Life Initiative (QLI) in November. Third, the strengthening of the SLI can be attributed substantially to Councilmember Bob Filner's effective use of parliamentary procedure. Councilmember Filner was astonishingly successful at stopping the Troika's efforts at weakening the SLI. As a result, the sensitive lands portion of the City's growth management plan has real substance.

Despite this substance, the City SLI has several major defects. A project or community can be exempt from the City's SLI by a 2/3 vote of the City Council (only six). Presently, a pro-development of the six votes exists on the City Council. Wholesale exceptions can, therefore, be predicted after November should the City Council sponsored initiative win. By a 3/4 vote the City Council may amend the SLI itself (seven

HIKES (Continued from page 1)

BIRD HIKE

Saturday, September 17th at 8:00 a.m. Meet at Parking-staging area off Black Mountain Road. Bring binoculars and bird book if available.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome to new members:

- Frank & Vida Bajic San Diego
- Dan Beidler Poway
- Leslie C. Braund San Diego
- Daniel Bressler San Diego
- Wendy P. Cobb San Diego
- Christine I. Dittmar San Diego
- J. W. Evans III San Diego
- Eleanor Foster San Diego
- Rick & Linda Loffredo San Diego
- Matthew & Deborah Mauro ... San Diego
- David H. Mills San Diego
- William D. Norris San Diego
- Carla Scott San Diego
- Brian D. Swanson San Diego

NEW/ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

At the Friends' Annual Membership and Board Meeting in May, the following members were elected to the Friends' Board of Directors:

- Vida Bajic
- Dan Bressler
- Chris Dittmar
- Brian Swanson

PROTECT THE PRESERVE

Editor's note: The following letter was submitted to the Friends by Friends' member Dan Bressler. The letter has also appeared in Letters to The Tribune, Saturday, June 11, 1988, and Los Penasquitos News, Thursday, June 30, 1988.

The bulldozers scraping off the sagebrush hilltops at Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve in order to run through a four-lane highway are desecrating a monument of San Diego's past. The developers who plan to build a condominium project within this quiet preserve now enjoyed by joggers, families with young children, elderly walkers, and mountain bikers [people powered, not motorized] are selling off an important part of our collective future.

The preserve is rich in history and is currently much loved and much used by people who want a place close to the City (less than 15 minutes from downtown or from Solana Beach) that still has untamed dear, a running stream, and small waterfalls. It is a little San Diego gem, and yet its face is being hacked up by the earthmovers and bulldozers.

I urge anyone who loves the natural outdoors and wants to save ready access to it for present and future San Diegans to visit the preserve, accessible from the Sorrento Valley Road exit from Interstate 5, or the [Mira Mesa] Road exit from 15. Go for two minutes or two hours. Go to get inspired and to relax. You might then, like me, get angry at what's going on and start writing letters to our representatives and newspapers to try to stop the development before it fully unfolds into a tragedy.

LOS PENASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE
A RECENT LEGAL HISTORY

Pre-1979 - owned by Penasquitos Inc.

1979 - Genstar [now Newland, Inc.]
buys out Penasquitos Inc.

Proposition C - Approximately \$65
million bond to buy open spaces by
eminent domain and keep them; Local
Planning Commission (LPC) considered
to be the prime candidate for such
purchase and preservation.

Anticipating possible forced sale,
Genstar works out a deal whereby the
flood plane is gifted to the City in
exchange for the City declaring that
it had "no present intent" to
exercise eminent domain (declaration
is no longer binding).

Genstar receives approval of their
Planned Residential Development (PRD)
for 1300 units and their Tentative
Map is approved. The steps needed to
proceed with building are:

- Tentative Map
- Final Map - which allows roads
to be built and "subdivision
improvements"
- Building Permit - allows actual
building of the buildings
- Vested Right - a California
common law right of the builder
that applies once the building
permits have been granted and
"substantial improvements/
investments" have been made.

1982 - Coastal Commission grants
permits to Genstar. However, two
Conditions render the project
unfeasible:

- Condition 15 applied to the
north-facing slope of Lopez Ridge and
forbid building on slopes greater
than 25 degrees, and, required that
no building could be visible from the

Penasquitos creekbed.

- Condition 16 applied to the
south-facing slope of Lopez Ridge and
forbid building on slopes greater
than 15 degrees if such building
would be visible from the Lopez
creekbed.

1983-4 Condition 15, above, is
retracted by the Coastal Commission
after intense lobbying in Sacramento
lead by Genstar-backed Senator Craven
and threatens to remove Penasquitos
Canyon Preserve from Coastal Act
auspices altogether.

1985 - The City's Local Coastal
Program (LCP) is approved,
transferring from the Coastal
Commission to City government
responsibility for setting
development and building standards in
Coastal zones. The capacity of
granting permits is still technically
with the Coastal Commission until the
City's "Implementing Ordinances" are
approved, which does not take place
until 1987. However, the Coastal
Commission is legally bound to grant
permits to build and develop only
those projects that follow the City's
standards.

The City's new standards forbid
development on any slopes of 25
degrees or greater, except for
roadways. They exempt any plans
which were drawn up under any of the
special conditions to the previous
standards. Genstar/Newland construes
this (mistakenly) to mean that they
do not have to follow its dictates
for either the north or south face of
Lopez Ridge. However, since
Condition 15 had been revoked, the
new, even more restrictive,
amendments do apply to that slope.

May 1986 - Coastal Permit for Lopez
Ridge PRD expires.

votes). Thus, the very language of the SLI could be changed without a vote of the City's electorate. By contrast, the Quality of Life Initiative (QLI) does not have an exemption clause, and can only be amended by the Electorate. When the sensitive lands provisions of the City initiative and the QLI initiative are compared, the latter clearly emerges as the stronger measure. The Friends therefore strongly endorse the QLI initiative and withdraw support from the Sensitive Lands Initiative, a diluted version of which the City is including within the growth management plan initiative. WE URGE YOU TO VOTE FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE (QLI) INITIATIVE OVER THE CITY'S SPONSORED INITIATIVE.

The fate of the County SLI was similar to the City's - only worse. As in the City, environmentalists and developers representatives were brought together around the same table to achieve a "consensus" measure. A "consensus" measure was produced; but none of the Friends' members who were a part of it can support it. The fundamental defect in the County SLI is the excessive exemptions. Any project with even one discretionary permit is exempted. Still worse, a whole specific plan or phased project area may be exempted if one area within it has a discretionary approval and an "off-site" improvement has been made. The exclusion of projects within discretionary permits is supposedly an attempt to provide "equity" to developers. In effect, it exempts approximately 20,000 units from sensitive lands protections; although the precise extent of the exemptions is not known (which is disconcerting). How many sensitive areas have been given away in the name of compromise?

Proponents of the County SLI contend

that the "pipeline" exemption is benign. Not as many discretionary permits have been granted in County as in City and the County is even larger. A substantial area of the County is public land, however, and is not subject to the SLI. Other areas are so remote as to be unlikely to be subject to development pressure. It is the areas in the urbanizing sections of the County, which have discretionary approval for projects, which need the protection of the SLI. It is these very areas which are exempted.

Perhaps if the County SLI "compromise" had been negotiated in a political vacuum, the massive pipeline exemption would have been justified. However, no vacuum exists. The Rural Preservation and Traffic Control Initiative has strong sensitive lands protections. There is no reason to support an exemption-ridden County SLI when a stronger sensitive lands protections measure exists. on the ballot in November. WE URGE YOU TO VOTE FOR THE RPTCI.

It is difficult to break with established connections and associations. Reluctantly, the Friends have switched from the SDMG sponsored sensitive land measures to the Citizens for Limited Growth sponsored measures. Those who have taken part in the SLI negotiations, in both City and County, have experienced long hours, exhaustion, and ultimately disappointment. IT IS NOW TIME FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY TO UNITE BEHIND THE INITIATIVE MEASURES WHICH OFFER EFFECTIVE PROTECTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS -- THE TWO MEASURES SPONSORED BY CLG -- THE QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVE (QLI) AND RURAL PRESERVATION AND TRAFFIC CONTROL INITIATIVE (RPTCI).

stopping the Lopez Ridge PRD Project." He then approvingly indicated that the preemptive grading by Newland would prevent this. Several weeks later Mayor O'Connor publicly complained of the mishandling of information from City staff. "I am deeply disturbed by the inconsistency and contradictory nature of the counsel offered by the City staff to my office on this matter. As a result, any action that

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could have been taken by my office to prevent the apparent environmental damage caused by the unauthorized grading was not implemented."

Caught off-guard, it took the Friends over two weeks to get on top of the situation. During that time we ran into constant staff opposition (particularly Engineering). There were many cooperative and sympathetic members of the City staff; However, the unofficial policy was one of non-cooperation, if not outright hostility.

Finally the Friends, in coalition with other environmental groups, were able to obtain a cease and desist order. Grading east of the Lopez Ridge PRD on Lopez Ridge was stopped. The damage that had been done before the order was devastating the area which contains one of the City's better collection of vernal pools. Over 9090 of the City's vernal pools have been destroyed. Lopez Ridge may be the last hope for vernal pool preservation. Hopefully, our actions have provided additional time to push for a comprehensive protection plan for vernal pools on Lopez Ridge.

The issue of grading within the Lopez Ridge PRD remains unresolved. Newland contends it is doing the grading to complete Calle Christobal as a subdivision improvement. This

was a condition of its tentative map approved in the early 1980's. The Friends contend that the Lopez Ridge PRD is inconsistent with the present Local Coastal Program (LCP) as it applies to Lopez Ridge. Therefore, the Lopez Ridge PRD cannot be built as presently planned. The LCP, however, exempts public improvements, such as a roadway like Calle Christobal. The question of what can ultimately be built on the Lopez Ridge PRD site will, ultimately, be decided by the court.

The Friends will soon file a lawsuit to determine, conclusively, what the LCP allows to be built on Lopez Ridge. We must do so because the City has failed, despite our repeated requests, to properly apply the LCP to the Lopez Ridge PRD site. We regret having to resort to legal action; however, we have lost all confidence in the City to resolve this matter alone.

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Whether you are a member of the Friends or not, call your San Diego council members at 236-6440. Write to your council members and let them know how you feel about this canyon preserve that is being destroyed in front of our eyes. If you are not a member of the Friends, but want to join in our effort to save this Jewel of San Diego, an application appears on the back cover of this Newsletter.

Sep 1986 - Genstar/Newland receives a 1-year extension for the permit from the Coastal Commission at hearings in San Francisco.

Sep 1986 - Mar 1987 The Friends of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve assume that Newland will be forced to re-apply for another extension in May 1987 and plan to have the hearings in San Diego where they are confident the whole project can be killed.

Mar 1987 Newland pulls an end-run around the Friends by validating their Coastal Permit by surreptitiously building an animal crossing (using a special City permit) and then using that animal crossing to claim that they had made substantial improvements on the property, thus validating, permanently, their Coastal Permit.

Jun 1987 The Sensitive Land Protection Initiative was started and would have stopped development on Lopez Ridge, but it did not make it to the ballot.

Feb 1988 Newland receives approval for its Final Map. This gives them the right for "subdivision improvements" such as roadways. It does not give them the right to build actual buildings.

May 1988 Road building begins. Newland, gambling that their building permits will be granted so that the money they're spending on roadways-which they are paying for themselves - will not be wasted.

Currently Legal efforts to stop the development focus on Newland's violations of the 1985 Local Coastal Program standards. The Friends (and several environmental groups) feel these violations can be substantiated.

A watered-down version of the Sensitive Land Protection Initiative just passed by the City Council and will appear on the ballot this November. This initiative will not stop the Lopez Ridge development and continued desecration of the Preserve. Also appearing on the November ballot is the Quality of Life Initiative. This initiative would stop the development.

LOPEZ RIDGE UPDATE

By: Leo Wilson

This is a brief update of the status of the Lopez Ridge project. Our next Newsletter will contain a detailed article on the subject.

As we all know, in mid-April Newland began grading on Lopez Ridge. The present grading is actually for the construction of the roadway known as Calle Cristobal. Up until the time the grading began, City and Coastal Commission officials insisted the grading wouldn't take place on Lopez Ridge until the assessment district for Calle Cristobal was approved. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the assessment district has been prepared but not certified. Calle Cristobal will connect Sorrento Valley with Mira Mesa. On Lopez Ridge it passes through the Lopez Ridge PRD project (on the western part of Lopez Ridge) and also several other landholdings (on the eastern part of Lopez Ridge).

It is bad enough when a developer acts with subterfuge. When such actions are added by various City officials, something is fundamentally wrong with City government. Shortly after the grading began, a high official of the City's Engineering Department was overheard stating that "the environmentalists thought they were going to get a second bite at



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December 1988 Newsletter Volume 3 No. 9

FRIENDS' HIKE SCHEDULE

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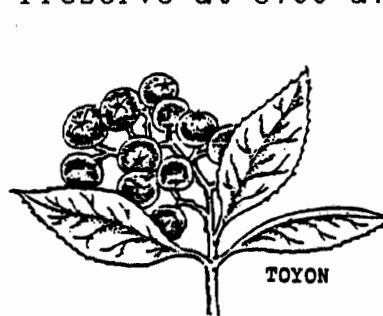
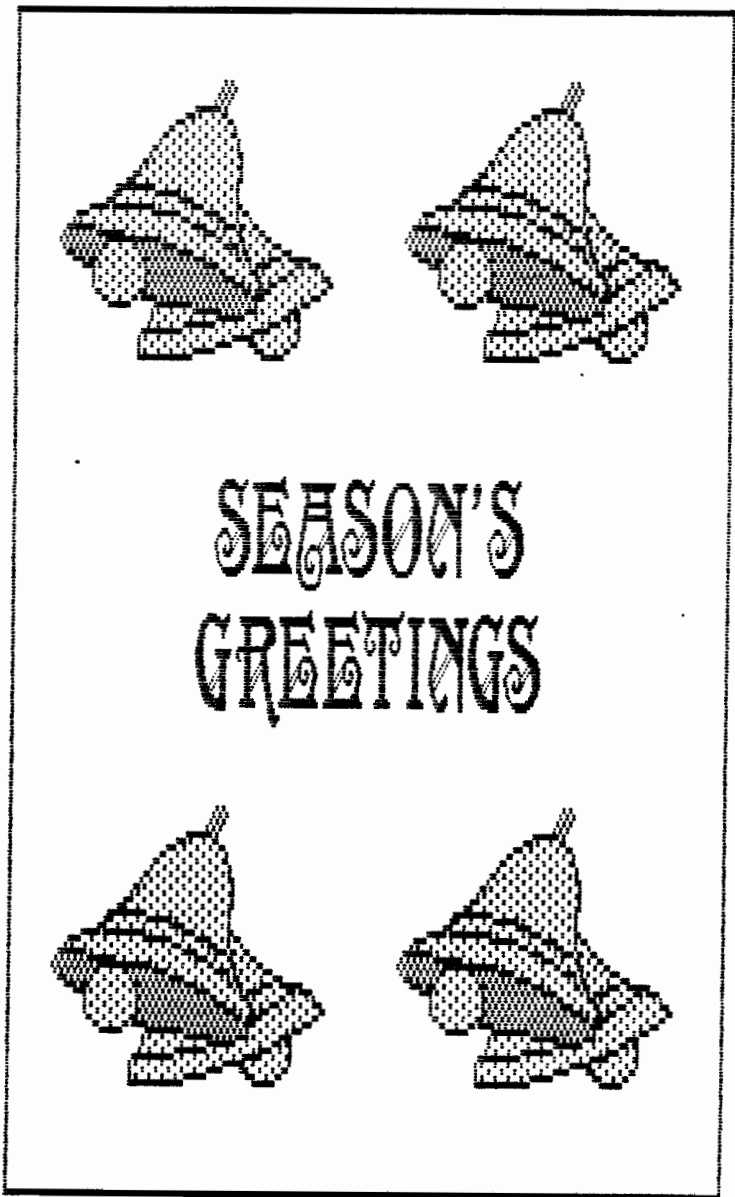
******* DECEMBER *******

A FAMILY ADVENTURE

To celebrate the holiday season in Los Peñasquitos, join the Friends in a hike to visit the Mistletoe Tree and a very unusual Tonyon or Christmas Holly "tree".

Saturday, December 17th. Meet at the east (dead) end of Sorrento Valley Blvd at the west end of the Preserve at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 18th. Meet at the east (dead) end of Sorrento Valley Blvd at the west end of the Preserve at 8:00 a.m.



TONYON

S&F



MISTLETOE

C&F



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Contribution \$ _____

I/We are interested in the following:

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- Educational Workshops
- School, Family, Youth Programs
- The Environment: Plants, birds, mammals, geology
- Other: _____

July-August 1988 Newsletter



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layers of greenish-gray shale. The formation can be readily identified by the white sand layers which are well exposed where underlying clay layers have become unstable and washed out. There are good outcrops near the top of the power lines trail leading up the north side of Penasquitos Canyon above the falls, and also where the electric power pylons are situated directly west of Walden Pond. This locality can be easily reached by hiking down the SDG&E service road south of Del Mar Mesa.

5. The Stadium Formation

The Stadium Formation is a coarse, poorly sorted conglomerate made up of pebble- to potato-sized cobbles cemented together with fine sand. It forms steep cliffs near the top of Penasquitos Canyon, just below the cap rock, from which it gets its reddish coloring. These cliffs are too steep to climb, but the formation can be viewed from the trails along the canyon's rim on both Lopez Ridge and Del Mar Mesa. The best place to view the Stadium Conglomerate without any red staining is at the top of the trail to Walden Pond where about 50 feet of formation are well exposed along the road cut. This site can also be reached by hiking down from Del Mar Mesa along the trail that winds down from the dead end street marked by the Hollywood/Vine road sign. The cobbles in the Stadium Formation have a fine-grained volcanic matrix unlike anything present in the country rock and were washed to their present resting place during heavy floods in Late Eocene time. Geologic studies of the cross bedding in the sand layers within the Stadium Conglomerate have shown that the floods came from the east, but no definite source area for the cobbles has been identified as yet.

Dr. John Northrop has recently

prepared a booklet for the Friends entitled GEOLOGY OF LOS PENASQUITOS CANYON. The booklet describes the geology of Los Penasquitos Canyon, part of the first Mexican Land Grant in California, how the Canyon was formed, how it got its names, where gold was prospected, etc. It contains chapters on geomorphology and structural and historical geology and contains forty pages and nineteen figures, including a geologic map. To order your copy, send \$4.95 [10 percent reduction on orders of 10 or more - California residents add 3 percent sales tax] along with the below order form:

++++
 NORTHROP CONSULTING GEOPHYSICISTS
 7015 VISTA DEL MAR AVENUE
 LA JOLLA, CA 92037
 (619) 454-6570

Name -----

Address -----

City/State/Zip -----

++++

The booklet is also available from Sunset Publications, 8622 Argent Street, Suite A, Santee, CA 92071. Inquiries welcome.

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+++++
+
+   ROCKS EXPOSED ON THE WALLS   +
+   OF PENASQUITOS CANYON       +
+   By: John Northrop           +
+
+++++
    
```

Rocks on the walls of Penasquitos Canyon are made up of a 400 foot thick sequence of sedimentary rock of Eocene age [40 million years old] collectively called the La Jolla Group. Five formations make up this group. Listed from the oldest to youngest these are: the Del Mar Formation, the Ardath Formation, the Scripps Formation, the Friars Formation, and the Stadium Formation. The basal sediments were deposited in a shallow marine environment, the upper ones in a near shore deltaic environment or outwash plain. The exposed strata, which are about 40 million years old, contain fossils by which they are dated. Most of the marine deposits contain significant amounts of clay minerals and thus form expansive soils that turn to gumbo when wet. They are easily erodible and extensive gullies and side canyons have been developed in the canyon walls. Fresh outcrops of these rocks are exposed in the side canyons. Some stratigraphic notes are listed below to help in identification.

1. Del Mar Formation

The Del Mar Formation is a white, coarse-to-fine-grained, well sorted sandstone forming the basal member of the La Jolla Group. Although not well exposed in Penasquitos, it thickens to the north where it forms the characteristic white cliffs in Del Mar, for which it was named. Good exposures can be seen along Interstate 5, north of the Sorrento Valley Exit, where the white cliffs lie above the buff colored sandstones

of the Torry Formation and below the red colored Linda Vista conglomerate on the mesa tops.

2. The Ardath Formation

The Ardath Shale is a gray, fissile shale made up most entirely of clay minerals. Named after the exposures along Ardath Road, this formation is seen as outcrops in almost all the side canyons in Penasquitos and neighboring canyons and can be identified by its characteristic thin bedded structure and gray color. Numerous marine microfossils are present in the rock, and the outcrop on the side of the old Lopez Road in Lopez Canyon is a state fossil locality. The Ardath Shale forms a very expansive soil that is subject to sliding when wet. For this reason, no housing construction is allowed in areas where the Ardath Shale is present.

3. The Scripps Formation

The Scripps Formation consists of a basal conglomerate (the Lower Scripps) overlain by a coarse buff sandstone interfingering with clay layers (the Upper Scripps). The conglomerate facies is well exposed on the nose of Lopez Ridge where many of the fist-sized cobbles have weathered out and lie scattered about the ground. The Lower Scripps forms a rather poor soil on which supports only sparse vegetation and grasses, whereas the Upper Scripps supports a thick growth of chaparral that forms much of the canyon walls along the south wall of Lopez Canyon just beyond the cattle fence about a mile upstream from the confluence of Lopez and Penasquitos Creeks.

4. Friars Formation

The Friars Formation is a clean, well sorted white sand interfingering with

The Friends of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve was incorporated in the State of California on September 14, 1984. It serves as a non-profit educational and charitable organization for the purpose of interpreting and disseminating information about the cultural and natural history of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve. The Friends are dedicated to help preserve its historical integrity and natural environment.

The colorful history of Los Penasquitos dates back over 12,000 years to the San Dieguito Indian culture, followed by the La Jollan and Diegueno Indians who lived in the canyon. The periods of the Spanish Mission, Mexican Rancho and American cattle ranchers add a fascinating chapter to the cultural history of the State of California.

As the last natural "wild canyon" in the City of San Diego, the Preserve, with its diverse unique ecosystems, provides a valuable out-door laboratory for schools and universities in the many urban communities nearby.

Depending upon the completion of the restoration of the adobe ranch, the programs will be out-reach programs. Bi-monthly hikes will interpret the historical past, natural wildlife habitats of plants and animals, and the geological profiles. Narrative slide presentations for community groups and school assemblies will introduce the Canyon's rich heritage. Special class demonstrations, after school enrichment programs, a summer day camp and programs for youth groups will be offered. Most of these programs have been on-going for several years.

Completion of the adobe restoration will enable the Friends to present workshops, Indian and pioneer crafts, family programs, special exhibits, and festivals interpreting the rich cultural history and natural history of the Preserve. Historical dramas and puppet shows are creative additions. The Ranch, with its past history as a working ranch with extensive orchards and vineyards, provides projects for interpretation.

The long-term goals are: Preservation of its rich wildlife habitats and the canyon's historical integrity. Support the City and County in the administration of the Preserve with education programs.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome to the following:

- M.A. Brettell Leucadia
- Mark & Kathleen Bulley San Diego
- Steve Keller San Diego
- Paul & Leslie Kortpates ... San Diego
- The Spangenbergs Valley Center

We apologize for missing a couple Newsletters. Those members who joined the Friends during September, October, and November will note that your effective date of membership has been adjusted to December 1988.

EDITOR'S NOTES ON MISSING NEWSLETTERS AND THE ELECTION RESULTS

Our sincere apologies for missing a couple newsletters. Your Board and several other members that make contributions to the Newsletter have been overburdened in our efforts to support Proposition D and J on the November election ballot. Despite the unfavorable outcome of these proposals, it appears that the people of San Diego were, and still are, in favor of SOME control of the rampant and sometimes irresponsible development in and around San Diego. The Friends will continue to support the Articles of Incorporation that have been published on this and the following page of this Newsletter. We hope to retain your support in our efforts in the years ahead.



FRIENDS OF LOS PEÑASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE, INC.

The Articles of Incorporation of the Friends of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve state that it is a "non-profit public benefit corporation" ... with the specific purpose to: "promote the preservation of sensitive land forms and wildlife habitat in Penasquitos and Lopez Canyons and adjacent area; retain the historical integrity of the preserve; and promote the public awareness of the preserve's cultural and natural resources."

A more detailed narrative description of the organization's past, present and future activities and purposes for which it was formed as part III of the Articles of Incorporation follows:



FRIENDS OF LOS PEÑASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE, INC.

P.O. BOX 26523

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92126

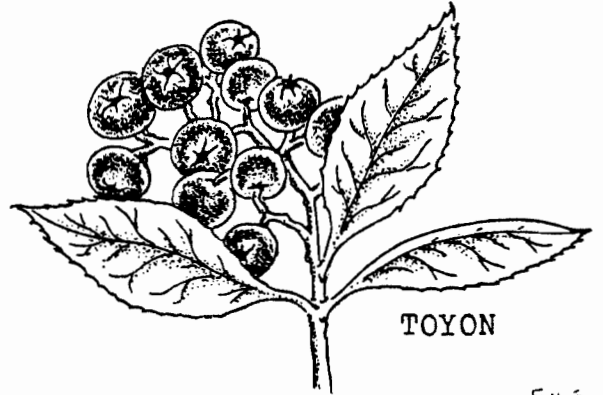
(619)271-6710 226-1339 484-5800

CHRISTMAS IN LOS PENASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE

In celebration of the holiday season, the preserve's Christmas "holly" is resplendent with clusters of brilliant red berries.

This is the Toyon, or California Christmas Berry, a chaparral bush that dots the hills of Southern California. Toyon gave Hollywood its name. Its shiny red berries resemble small apples. They accent deep green holly-like leaves. The dry, tart berries were food for Indians, Spanish Californios and American settlers. Indians roasted the berries or tossed them into a cooking basket. The Californios and Americans made a pleasant cider from them.

Toyon berries begin to ripen in October and often last through February. They are at their peak during the Christmas season. Besides adding beauty to the landscape, toyon is valuable in preventing erosion because it grows on slopes and in gulches.



Another canyon plant has played a role in the season's celebration for centuries. This plant appears high in trees and resembles large green balls. It is Mistletoe, a parasite found most often in oaks.

England's early inhabitants gathered mistletoe for their winter solstice rites. Today's custom of hanging mistletoe on Christmas Eve derives from these ancient ceremonies. Somewhere in history the ritual of kissing under mistletoe evolved.

Mistletoe punctures a tree's bark and draws nourishment from its rich sap. In extreme cases the unwilling host tree is so impoverished that it slowly dies. With it the mistletoe dies too, a victim of its own greed.

Mistletoe berries are wax-like and pinkish white, and filled with a sticky pulp. Birds are very fond of the berries and help scatter the seeds. However, mistletoe berries are filled with toxic amines that are extremely poisonous to people. Children and adults have died within 10 hours of eating them. Keep mistletoe out of the reach of young children.



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**BOB SAUERS
375 LONGDEN LANE
SOLONA BEACH, CA 92075**

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City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

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Senior(62)/Student \$7 Individual \$10
Family \$15 Sponsor \$25 Patron \$100
Corporate \$250 Life \$1000**

Contribution \$ _____

I/We are interested in the following:

- Hikes Indian Culture
- Educational Workshops
- School, Family, Youth Programs
- The Environment: Plants, birds, mammals, geology
- Other: _____

December 1988 Newsletter



**Please make checks payable to:
Friends of Los Peñasquitos
Canyon Preserve, Inc.
and send to:
Membership Chairperson
Friends of Los Peñasquitos
Canyon Preserve, Inc.
P.O. Box 26523
San Diego, CA 92126**

**Thankyou for your support!
Your donation is tax deductible.**



FRIENDS OF PEÑASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE, INC.

P.O. BOX 26523, San Diego, CA 92126

(619) 271-6710 226-1339 484-5800

Jeannie at

259-3246

February 1989

Volume 3 No. 9 ¹⁰

President's Message for 1989

Leo Wilson

In the first issue of the 1988 Friends' newsletter we ran the first of a series of articles by Eve Ewing. She reported that the Los Peñasquitos cattle ranch covered over 14,000 acres. Today, the Los Peñasquitos Preserve includes about 2,500 acres. Additional land will come into the Preserve through the subdivision review process over the next decade. Eventually, the Preserve should contain roughly 2,800 acres.

In last year's President's message I stated that 1988 was likely to be a decisive year for the Preserve. It was. (Why couldn't I have been a false prophet on that one?) However, I'm not going to recap the well-known events of 1988 in this column. Instead, I want to discuss the Preserve's future.

The events of 1988 were destructive. Developers bulldozed over 1,000 acres of sensitive lands and moved millions of square feet. Viewsheds on López Ridge and the mesa south of Lopez Canyon resemble moonscape. We almost lost a collection of vernal pools containing the endangered mesa mint on López Ridge. The Friends howled for two weeks before the City finally issued a cease and desist order in the spring of 1988 to protect the pools.

Despite the substantial damage, we still have a unique and beautiful Preserve. A walk from Sorrento Valley to Black Mountain Road is still an adventure. I know of no other coastal canyon in Southern California which remains as undeveloped. I recently hiked the Preserve with a friend from Utah, who was absolutely enthralled by the Preserve. My friend insightfully commented that I'm too preoccupied with what might have been to enjoy what presently is. On reflection I agree.

Rather than dwell on the raw deal the Preserve got in 1988, the Friends need to set goals concerning how we are going to protect and enhance the Preserve in 1989. I propose the following goals.

1. The Friends need to direct our focus on the use made of the land within the Preserve. It needs to be protected and restored. This is especially true concerning the large riparian habitat in the Preserve which is seriously degraded. A fundamental conflict in the future management of the Preserve is the battle between those favoring multiple use (recreation, grazing, dirt bikes, etc.) and those of us wanting the main focus of Preserve management to be preservation of wildlife and natural habitat.
2. We must monitor future development along the north side of Peñasquitos Canyon. These areas remain substantially unmapped. The Friends must watch closely to avoid any future López Ridges, which the City approved in the early 1980's over slight opposition. The sensitive lands protection recently enacted by the City should be helpful in this regard (It is the mutant offspring of the Sensitive Lands Initiative sponsored by San Diegans for Managed Growth and the Friends in 1987).

Please see Message, page 2

Friends' Hike Schedule

February

BIRD WALK

Saturday, February 18 at 8:00 a.m.

Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mountain Rd.

Bring binoculars and bird book if possible

THE NARROWS HIKE

Sunday, February 19 at 8:00 a.m. to noon

Meet at Sorrento Blvd. dead end (east end)

GEOLOGY HIKE

Saturday, February 25 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Meet at Johnson-Taylor Ranch off Black Mountain Rd.

March

BIRD WALK

Saturday, March 4 at 8:00 a.m.

Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mountain Rd.

Bring binoculars and bird book if possible

NATURE HIKE

Saturday, March 11 at 8:00 a.m.

Meet at the Parking-Staging area off Black Mountain Rd.

GEOLOGY HIKE

Sunday, March 12 at 8:30 a.m.

Meet at the Johnson-Taylor Ranch off Black Mountain Rd.

BIRD WALK

Saturday, March 18 at 8:00 a.m.

Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mountain Rd.

Bring binoculars and bird book if possible

SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK

Saturday, March 25 at 8:00 a.m.

Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mountain Rd.

On all hikes wear sturdy shoes

On longer hikes bring water and snack

Rain Cancels All Hikes

Legend of the Mystery Trees

Mike Kelly

Do you know about the "mystery trees?" Have you seen them yet? These are oak trees which have mysterious symbols carved in them. Friends turned to local historians and archaeologists for help in learning what the symbols mean. Below you'll read some of their ideas.

I saw the trees for the first time just at the beginning of February. I missed them on my first trip. On the second trip I had better directions from a member of the committee and finally found some of them. I plan to go on one of the future Mystery Tree Hikes of the Friends to see and learn more of them.

These mystery trees are oaks in and near the preserve. The ones I saw are east of the Black Mountain Road entrance to the Preserve. They're about a 1/4 mile east of the easternmost building of Horseman's Park. There are several ways to find them. If you're lazy, get the latest Thomas Bros. map book and look up La Tortola Street in Rancho Penasquitos. If you take this to the southern end it becomes a dirt road. Park and take a short walk down the road to the creek. Cross the creek to the southern side. Once across, walk 50 yards or so to your west until you enter a grove of oak trees. You're there. Now see if you can find the symbols!

For Friends that enjoy hiking, follow Peñasquitos Creek east from Black Mountain Road on either side until you reach the point where the dirt road extension of La Tortola meets the creek. Then follow the above instructions. You can also walk the new Mercy road extension east from Black Mountain Road and drop down to the creek where the road comes closest to the creek and continue east. If you reach the crossing mentioned above then you passed the trees! Or just join us on our next Friends hike.

Keep an eye on the construction in the area. American Newland is building the extension road and is grading near the creek and the trees. The trees seem untouched now, but require our vigilance. If you see grading activity coming close to the trees please let us know.

When you're in the oak grove look for the symbols you see on this page. See how many you can find. I found only 6 or 7. They appear as blackened areas of the trees where the symbols were deeply carved. They appear to be very old. How old? Mike McCormick is the person who rediscovered the trees in modern times and he did some research on them. He believes they may date back to the 1830s! Here's what he thinks might account for the symbols.

In the early 1830s the San Diego Mission expected a raid from the Mexican garrison. Father Pérez of the Mission ordered four Kumeyaay Indians — Tomás, Allesandro, Theodocia, and Ysidro — to take a heavy trunk from the Mission to El Cajón for safe keeping. The trunk contained valuables from the Mission's chapel.

When Major-domo Ignacio Alvarado arrived at the mission with 100 soldiers he ordered Father Pérez to open the chapel door. Finding the chapel nearly empty he set out in pursuit of the four Indians.

For some unknown reason the Indians left the El Cajón trail near Padre Dam and headed toward Poway valley. Because the trunk they were carrying tied to two wooden poles was heavy, they knew they couldn't escape Alvarado's horseman. So they descended into the Poway valley and saw a black mountain covered by thick brush and cut by deep canyons.

Heading towards this mountain they entered one of the canyons and discovered a riverbed and a deep hole in it.

They buried the chest in this riverbed just before Alvarado's men came riding by. Alvarado's men missed them, however. Next, instead of returning to the mission, the Indians — for some unknown reason — joined an encampment in San Pasqual Valley. They stayed on in the valley and apparently never returned to the buried chest because they feared green lighted spirits they believed were guarding it.

Father Pérez left the San Diego Mission and moved to San Luis Rey and later San Juan Capistrano, where he died. Did he dig up the chest? Was it he who carved the trees as a map to the treasure? He would have passed this spot on his way to San Luis Rey. Or, were the trees marked by Francisco Maria Rufz, the retired Presidio commandante and owner of this land?

In any case, the signs are typical of Spanish markings during this period. If you think this buried treasure story is unbelievable, remember that, according to Gail Rhoades' research, two of the symbols were used to mark a mine or treasure site!

While I was there I also saw two large holes in the ground in the grove. Has somebody been digging there? Did they find the chest? Below are what the symbols are believed to mean. Except where noted, the symbols are thought to be Spanish.



120 degrees, straight-ahead

x



one league (2-1/2 miles)

direction indicator, Indian Eye of the Spirit



key-direction indicator

one league (2-1/2 miles)



arrow, direction indicator



left

90 degrees



U horseshoe — treasure or mine

anchor — stop here, end of trail

stop and change direction



trail marker (only when treasure was nearby,

19th century)



here, this place

x



near, proceed straight ahead

x

Leo Wilson

3. The Friends educational efforts must continue. Dr. Elberta Fleming has introduced hundreds (maybe thousands) to the Preserve. We must continue to educate and involve San Diegans in the Preserve. In March, the friends will be leading over 100 Japanese students through the Preserve. We hope to expand such activities.
4. The Friends need to prevent the extension of Camino Ruiz through the Preserve. A Majority of the City Council is on record opposing this north-south extension. Let's get it deleted from the City's general plan in 1989.

In late 1989, I had a conversation with a friend who is an attorney and was involved in the acquisition of open space in the City of San Diego. He could not understand why I objected to the presence of houses on the rim of Peñasquitos Canyon. To him, preservation of the canyon walls and bottom is sufficient. My arguments concerning the needs of wildlife and preserving the natural viewshed fell on deaf ears.

Unfortunately, the attorney's concept of open space, which I consider myopic, prevailed in the early 1980's in City Hall (and probably predominates there today). Thus, the vision of the late 1970's for a 3500+ acre Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve was sacrificed. It is nice to envision what might have been, but we have to make do, and enjoy what we have. Looking to the future I still think we have a lot of Preserve left.

Apologies

Leo Wilson

1988 was a hectic and exhausting year for the Board of Directors of the Friends. By year's end we were plain worn out. As a result we missed several issues of the newsletter. We have regrouped and reorganized and the newsletter should be sent out on a regular basis again. We apologize for the temporary interruption.

Volunteers Wanted

During 1988 we had a lot of individuals volunteering to aid the friends who did not want to join the Board of Directors. Our Board currently has 15 members. In addition, the friends will soon be organizing a Steering Committee, which, along with the Board, will set friends policy and participate in the many activities of the Friends. If you want to be involved (and we need you) please call Leo Wilson at 226-1339.

Membership Renewal

Please check your address label. At the top you'll find a note that says when your membership renewal date is. If your date is coming up soon or is already past, please renew now. We need your support.

As our members who live in the Peñasquitos community are aware, there is a controversy over the site of the future Peñasquitos library, which is desperately needed as the community is now using a small, temporary facility.

A dispute erupted over two sites. The dispute has become acrimonious, with various factions in the Peñasquitos community pitted against each other. The Friends took a position on the library site approximately one year ago, stating: (1) that we didn't object to the use of a site on disturbed open space land adjacent to the Preserve and, (2) the Friends take no position where the library should be located among the various sites. In effect, the Friends take a "neutral" position.

We took this position in early 1987 after being approached by the City Library board, various community leaders, and representatives from Councilmember Abbe Wolfshimer's office. At the time a development agreement was being negotiated with developers for public facilities in the Peñasquitos community. The "towncenter site" was (and is presently) owned by American Newland, who were using it as a bargaining chip in the development agreement negotiations. Newland was insisting on a payment of \$1,500,000 for the towncenter site.

Rather than give into what was perceived as overreaching on the part of American Newland, the alternative "canyonside site" was found. At the time, use of the canyonside site would provide an additional \$1,500,000 in badly needed public facilities for the Peñasquitos community. The "canyonside site" involved three acres of mostly disturbed land. We saw only minor damage to the Preserve to which the site was next to.

Keep in mind that the leaders of the Peñasquitos community have been staunch supporters of Preserve. Only a few months earlier they helped the Friends defeat an amendment to the Park Village project which would have resulted in over 1,000 additional housing units on the north side of Los Peñasquitos Canyon.

The Citizens Advisory Committee for the Preserve (CAC) took a stand similar to the Friends. Subsequently, the CAC has voted to indicate they feel a library on the Canyonside site may enhance the Preserve by providing interpretive activities and, in effect, a convenient trailhead for the Preserve.

At the January Board meeting of the Friends, the position approved in 1987 was unanimously affirmed. The Friends will leave it to the community to decide where to locate the Peñasquitos library site. If the community chooses the Canyonside site, the Friends will support the Community's decision.

A compromise solution may now be in the works which hopefully will resolve this issue. It is unfortunate that this dispute had to take place. We understand that we have members on both sides of the dispute. We understand everyone's concerns, but feel the Board's position was justified considering all the circumstances involved.



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

P.O. BOX 26523, San Diego, CA 92126
(619) 271-6710 226-1339 484-5800

March 1989

Volume 3 No. 10

"In Wildness Is the Preservation of the World" Elberta Fleming

This quotation from John Muir is on the original t-shirts of the Los Peñasquitos Preserve. Although Los Peñasquitos cannot compare with the grandeur of John Muir's Yosemite, it has been a pristine small gem surrounded by metropolitan growth. Its pockets of wildness offered beauty and serenity, where one could shed the pressures of survival in today's hectic existence. John Muir would have appreciated this small oasis of wildness.

In the preface to his book, *Our National Parks*, published in 1906. John Muir wrote:

In this book, made up of the sketches first published in the Atlantic Monthly, I have done the best I could to show forth the beauty, grandeur, and all-embracing usefulness of our wild mountain forest reservations and parks, with a view to inciting the people to come and enjoy them, and get them into their hearts, that so at length their preservation and right use might be made sure.

In his book, he also explains his philosophy:

Thousands of tired, nerve shaken over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity. Awakening from the stupefying effects of the vice of over-industry and the daily apathy or luxury they are trying the best they can, to mix and enrich their own little ongoings with those of nature, and to get rid of dust and disease.

Man, too is making many far-reaching changes. This most influential half-animal, half angel is rapidly multiplying and spreading, covering the seas and lakes with ships; the land with huts, hotels, Cathedrals and clustering city shops and homes, so that soon it would seem, we may have to go further than Nansen to find good sound solitude.

What John Muir wrote almost a century ago has come true with the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. This gem of wildness has changed within the past year. There are still small pockets of serenity: but very soon this rare oasis will no longer become the "natural preserve" that people of San Diego fought for two decades to save. The park will be completely surrounded with dense housing projects, and many roadways, creating easy access to trails to the once-wild areas.

Come celebrate *John Muir Day* with the friends of Los Peñasquitos and enjoy its beauty and serenity while it still has a bit of wildness. This special hike will be led by member Barbara Walter. See the hike schedule for details.

Friends' Hike Schedule

Friends' hikes are free to members and the general public. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and a snack for longer hikes. Rain cancels. For more details call Elberta Fleming at 271-6710

March

SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK

Saturday, March 25 at 8:00 a.m.

Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mountain Rd.

April

BIRD WALK

Saturday, April 1 at 8:00 a.m. (1-2 hours)

Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mountain Rd. Bring binoculars and bird book

MYSTERY TREE HIKE

Saturday, April 1 at 11:00 a.m. (2 hours)

Meet near the tennis courts at Canyonside Park off Black Mountain Rd.

Prepare to cross a small stream!

SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK

Saturday, April 2 at 8:00 a.m. (3-4 hours)

Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mountain Rd.

GEOLOGY HIKE

Sunday, April 8 at 8:30 a.m. (3-4 hours)

Meet at the Johnson-Taylor Ranch off Black Mountain Rd.

BIRD WALK

Saturday, April 15 at 8:00 a.m. (1-2 hours)

Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mountain Rd. Bring binoculars and bird book.

SPECIAL — JOHN MUIR HIKE

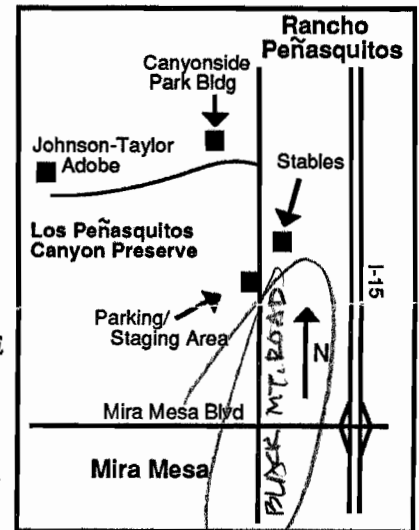
Sunday, April 23rd. at 8:00 a.m. (5 hours) Includes visit to waterfalls. Learn about preserve's history, native plants, and wildlife. Meet at parking-staging area off Black Mountain Rd

VERNAL POOL HIKE

Saturday, April 29th. at 8:00 a.m. (3-4 hours)

Meet on Calle Cristobol in Mira Mesa — at the point where the pavement ends.

Rain cancels all hikes





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Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

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 Family \$15 Sponsor \$25 Patron \$100
 Corporate \$250 Life \$1000

Contribution \$ _____

I/We are interested in the following:

- Hikes
- Indian Culture
- Educational Workshops
- School, Family, Youth Programs
- Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)
- Other: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Home Phone _____



February 1989 Newsletter

Please make checks payable to:
 Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.
 and send to:
 Membership Chairperson
 Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.
 P.O. Box 26523, San Diego, CA 92126

Thank you for your support!
 Your donation is tax deductible.

P.S. What kind of articles about the Preserve would you like to see in future issues? Call Mike Kelly at 271-1425 with your ideas or drop him a note at: 11532 Alkaid Dr., San Diego, CA 92126

duties of motherhood. Her newly-hatched spiderlings will remain with her for eight months and are released after the winter rains — to start their own burrows.

The *Trap Door Spider* has one deadly enemy — the *Spider Wasp*. This intruder will sometimes dig through the door and enter the burrow where it overcomes the spider by stinging and paralyzing it. The wasp then deposits an egg in the body of the spider. The egg will hatch two days later. The wasp grub has a ready-made dinner as it consumes the spider. It leaves the spider's body to construct a cocoon, and later emerges as an adult Spider wasp.

Some *Trap Door Spiders* live to be seven years — if fortunate enough to outwit the *Spider Wasp*.

(Adapted from an article by Lee Passmore and F.E. Beck)

Correspondence Received

Friends' member Dr. Elberta Fleming often talks in area school's about the Preserve and California natural history. Below we are reprinting excerpts from several letters Dr. Fleming received from some of these students. (The spelling is theirs!)

* * *

Thank you for sharing the film and the things about California Indians. It was very interesting. I liked when you showed the film. You told us about the Indians how they lived with nature and about the people that were going to build a lot of houses. I wish they didn't have to tear down the places where the Indians lived so maybe sometime I could go in the canyon and would search for things myself.

— Sincerely Karen Gonzales

Before you told me about how imported Penasquitos Canyon was to San Diego, I thought that it was just another plain old canyon. And if you were one of the people you was going to tear down that canyon this wouldn't be a thank you letter it would be a arguing letter.

I especially like archery so the whole time I was back at the table I was looking at the bow and arrow.

— Sincerely, Jeffrey Harms

I enjoyed how you showed us and Indians and how they lived. I hope you didn't go to much trouble getting the Indian stuff and if you did Thank you. I learned that Indians wear sandals. I also learned that Indians used cactus for things and tule balsa boats take a long time to make. I never knew Indians were this interesting until you showed me. Thank you very much.

— your grateful friend, Chi Huynh

I really enjoyed the program that you put on for us. I learned a lot about the food the Indians ate. At first I thought that they just ate the kind of acorns around here. I learned that they ate Black Oat acorns.

I think it was nice of you to go to the mountains, and the desert, just to get the things for your presentation. I think that you did a wonderful job. I appreciate you coming to our school to share with us about Indians.

I enjoyed learning about what the Indians wore. It was interesting that women wore bark skirts. I thought that the women

along the coast could make tule skirts during the summer. When the winter came, they wore rabbit skin. Could they?

I mostly learned from your presentation that Indians learned to live in harmony with nature. I really want to thank you for sharing your time with us.

— Your Friend, Katherine Morrow

For more information on the plants found in the Preserve that our ancestors used see the following article (and join the next wildflower hike!).

Indian Uses of Plants in the Fresh-Water Marsh Environment

Elberta Fleming

Yerba Mansa

A perennial herb found in wet, subalkaline soils. It was used by southern California Indians as well as the early Spanish settlers as a cure for a variety of ailments. The strong aromatic and peppery roots were used in a concoction or tea as a cure for pleurisy after the roots were peeled, cut up, squeezed and boiled. The plant was also used as an infusion for stomach ulcers, chest congestion, colds, indigestion and asthma. The bark of the plant was gathered in the fall and made into an infusion to treat cuts and open sores. A tea was made from dried leaves, or the leaves were heated as a wilted poultice to reduce swelling. A bath prepared using fresh leaves was used for muscular pains.

Tule, Bulrush

A number of species of bulrushes may be found in the fresh water marsh, or along a stream. The white tuberous roots of the bulrushes were ground into a sweet tasting flour. Seeds were gathered and eaten raw or ground into mush. Cakes were made of bulrush pollen. The stalks were used for bedding, mats, weaving materials, thatch for the native huts, and for the balsams or tule boats that the Indians used in lakes or along the ocean coastline for fishing. Since waterfowl nested in areas thick with the bulrushes, the tall plants became indicators for the presence of the game.

Cat-Tail

Cat-tails grow in wet places, along streams and in marshes. The native Indians used the plant for food, medicine, and construction material. From June through July the roots were gathered to be ground into meal. The pollen, rich in nutrients, was used to make cakes or mush. The roots were used medicinally to heal bleeding wounds, and to heal the umbilical cord of a newborn baby. The down of the cat-tail was the first edition of the pampers for babies. It was used by the Indians as a soft bedding, construction of ceremonial bundles, and building materials.

To identify marsh plants remember:

Rushes are round

Sedges have sharp edges.

The Fate of Camino Ruíz and Other Issues

Leo Wilson

1989 appears to be the decisive year for the fate of Camino Ruíz. The circulation element of San Diego's General Plan indicates this street will be extended over Pefiasquitos Canyon. It would connect Mira Mesa and Pefiasquitos at a location about one mile west of Black Mountain Road.

If Camino Ruíz is ever built through the Canyon, the results will be devastating. Not only will one of the prettiest areas of the Canyon be degraded, but the Johnson-Taylor Ranch with its newly restored visitor's center will be effectively boxed in on all sides. It is essential that Camino Ruíz not be extended across the Preserve.

Happily, this battle may be winnable. No funding mechanism exists to pay for the extension, a costly project which might range over 10 million dollars. In addition, the majority of the City Council has publicly stated opposition to the extension of Camino Ruíz across the Preserve. It appears that Councilmember Ed Struikisma may even be willing to take the lead in deleting the Preserve crossing from the City's circulation element.

The time is therefore ripe to push for the deletion of the Camino Ruíz extension. The Friends are watching the situation carefully and will move at the appropriate time.

Once this question is resolved, the likely next issue facing the Preserve in 1989 is the adoption of the Preserve's Master Plan, which has long been bottled up in the planning bureaucracy. (The original draft came out in 1984.) The Master Plan deserves close scrutiny. The Friends are particularly concerned with preserving plant and wildlife habitat.

Another issue that needs to be addressed concerns the use of the Preserve by dirt bike enthusiasts, horse riders, and hikers. The Preserve is getting crowded. A proposal was made recently to require traffic to go only one way at certain times of the day! How things have changed in only a few years. Somehow a compromise must be reached. One important element has to be to keep the various users out of the sensitive habitat areas. Again, preserving plant and wildlife habitat is a high priority on the Friend's agenda in 1989.

Japanese Students Tour Preserve

Leo Wilson

March 14 the Friends led over 100 Japanese schoolgirls on a hike in the Preserve. The girls got to see the Johnson-Taylor Ranch house, now being restored, as well as to take a short hike in the Preserve itself. Crossing Pefiasquitos Creek proved to be harrowing at times; the schoolgirls found stream rock-hopping a novel experience. Another such experience was the sight of three horses with riders. The students broke out in spontaneous applause as the horses passed, much to the bewilderment of the horses' riders!

Dr. Alberta Fleming kept the rapt attention of the girls, despite the language barrier. The students were just beginning to understand spoken English. Special thanks to Mike McCormick, Fred Jacobs, and Kathleen Zaworski-Burke, who aided as hike leaders. The hike was thoroughly enjoyable.

Another large group, this time composed of over 100 local girlscouts and their leaders, toured the Preserve on March 4. This trip was also led by Dr. Fleming.

The Trap Door Spider

Elberta Fleming

The *Trap Door Spider* of California, one of Los Peñasquitos Preserve's residents, is an architect and construction worker of great skill. The female spider shows great ability in breaking ground for her nest. First, she usually selects her homesite on a little knoll — so that water from winter rains runs downhill.

Next, she breaks ground for her home. In the preparation she tears away all the moss covering her special spot, pulling the moss up by the roots, and storing it away for later use.

In excavating her burrow she uses her two sharp fangs, her palps, and front legs for tools. With her front legs she flicks away small stones and pellets of earth to a distance so as to leave no sign of the construction work. Her underground home is a little more than an inch in diameter and about eight or ten inches deep.

After digging the burrow to the proper depth, she indents the soft soil inside with the rounded part of her fangs to make the inner walls of the earth below her door. Now she is ready to spin a silken web to cover the interior walls of her home, as well as the underside of her door. The door has a perfect water-proof seal and can resist the heaviest of the California winter rains.

The silken lining of her home is protected from dampness, and the sheen of her silken web makes the walls of her nest have a painted appearance.

The door to her home is ingeniously designed with a hinge. To make the hinge she uses the earth taken from the borrow, builds it up into a disk shape in a vertical position. It's held together by a web, applied to the underside. When the door is nearly large enough to cover the burrow opening, the spider will pull down on the partly finished door, causing the earth farthest from the rim at the top to break. The web prevents the separation of the lid from the outer edge of the burrow — the break forms a straight line.

A perfectionist, the spider pushes the partly-made door back into a vertical position and adds more earth and webbing until the door is slightly larger than the opening to the nest. She lays webbing on the underside of the door — so that it will swing open again. The door can be held up by the abdomen of the spider. Near the top of the lid she makes fang marks, placed to give her leverage when forced to hold the door against an intruder.

The door is beveled to conform to the outer rim of her burrow. While it's flexible, the spider opens and closes the door many times to make a tight fit. Now she brings back the pile of moss and decorates the top lid of the door to make it fit into the environmental background. This camouflage makes it very difficult to discover a trap door spider nest. One must have very sharp eyes, and know what to look for.

To obtain food the spider holds up the door by her abdomen, and pounces on a luckless sow-bug. The door automatically drops shut as she retreats down into her burrow to enjoy her feast of the juices of her victim. Uneaten parts will be brought to the surface and cast outside.

After her home construction is completed, the architect-builder rests in her silk-lined home. Here she will spend her entire life, never allowing her door to close behind her — leaving her on the outside of her burrow. She is now ready to begin her



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

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April 1989

Volume 3 No. 11

Vernal Pools Dr. Elberta Fleming

[Have the vernal pools in Mira Mesa survived the most recent threat to their existence—the grading of López Ridge? Join us for a hike to investigate on April 29 —editor.]

Dark clouds forecast the winter and spring rains that annually nourish the mesas in San Diego County.

Accompanying the constant raindrop's patter are the frantic mating calls of the frogs. Their chorus continues incessantly day and night. Then, suddenly, all is quiet—for the frogs have fulfilled their mating instincts. Soon, clumps of frog eggs appear in the rain-filled shallow pools.

The pelting rain continues. The sound is gentle, but intermittently gathers momentum as dark clouds scud across the sky. The Eucalyptus trees bend and sway on their slim resilient tree "stems." The storm that devastated Hawaii has finally crossed the Pacific Ocean to southern California shores.

The drizzle and downpours provide a life-giving fluid to quench the earth's thirst. The seasonal rains sometimes contribute to disastrous flooding in the lowlands and valleys. In unstable hilly areas the moisture-drenched clay soils cause mud slippage, and in some areas homes are destroyed.

On one of the oil-slicked highways drivers race back and forth to work through the rain squalls. They do not realize that the mesas they pass through hold the secrets of a natural phenomena of spring that is peculiar to San Diego County and only a few other places in the United States.

During the summer and fall seasons the mesas appear as a semi-arid environment of chaparral coastal sage scrub vegetation. During this time span the mesas are experiencing a period of semi-dormancy. To the highway traveler it appears as a dull drab landscape. The clumps of olive-green Chamise, Toyon, and grey Yerba Santa are most uninteresting.

With the annual cycle of winter and spring rains the mesas begin to awaken, and soon rain puddles appear. These small pockets of water that dimple the surface of the mesa are known as vernal pools. They are the phenomena of the winter and spring rains.

What is a *vernal pool*? According to the dictionary the word *vernal* means "pertaining to, or occurring in the spring."

Vernal pools do not occur just anywhere. They need certain soil conditions and seasonal rainfalls. The San Diego mesas have a terrain of small mounds known as mima mounds. The depressions between the mounds are comprised of hardpan—a dense, water impervious soil formation. Rainwater accumulated in the depressions does not filter through the impermeable adobe-like soil. It gradually disappears through evaporation and absorption of the plants. The pools are ephemeral and in this temporary state their life expectancy is a few weeks for the small pools to several months for the shallow ponds.

The driver on the highway could be less interested. To most commuters the mesas are just flat wastelands with puddles of rainwater, so why should they get excited about vernal pools? Aren't there more important things to worry about these days?

Vernal pools, however, are important. The big controversy

➡ p. 3

Friends' Outing Schedule

Starting with this issue we are publicizing not only our own hikes and outings in the preserve, but also those of the San Diego County Archaeological Society. All outings are free to members and the general public. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and a snack for longer hikes. Rain cancels. For more details call Elberta Fleming at 271-6710

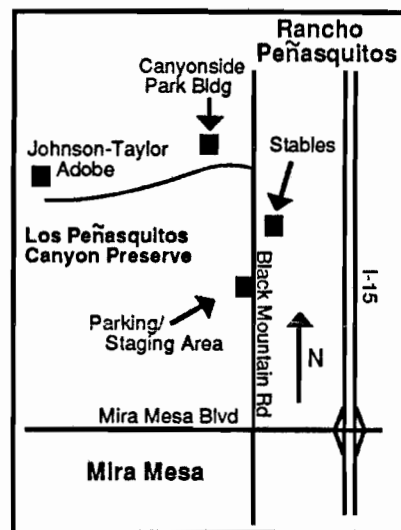
April

JOHN MUIR HIKE

Sunday, April 23, 8:00 a.m. (5 hours) Visit waterfalls, learn about preserve's history, native plants, and wildlife. Meet at parking-staging area off Black Mountain Rd.

VERNAL POOL HIKE

Saturday, April 29, 8:00 a.m. (3-4 hours) Meet on Calle Cristobol in Mira Mesa—at the point where the pavement ends.



May

BIRD WALK

Saturday, May 6, 8:00 a.m. (1-2 hours) Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mountain Rd. Bring binoculars and bird book.

MIRA MESA DAY

Saturday, May 6, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. At the Mira Mesa Mall. Volunteers needed to staff the Friends' booth.

JOHNSON-TAYLOR RANCH TOUR

Saturday, May 6, 11:00 a.m. and Noon (1 hour each). Conducted by San Diego County Archaeological Society.

GEOLOGY HIKE

Saturday, May 13, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours) Meet at the Johnson-Taylor Ranch off Black Mountain Rd.

BIRD WALK

Saturday, May 20, 8:00 a.m. (1-2 hours) Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mountain Rd. Bring binoculars and bird book.

JOHNSON-TAYLOR RANCH TOUR

Saturday, May 20, 11:00 a.m. and Noon (1 hour each). Conducted by San Diego County Archaeological Society.

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Thank you for your support! Your donation is tax deductible.

More on the Mystery Trees Mike Kelly

In our last issue I wrote about Mike McCormick's rediscovery of the mystery trees. He's since given me some more details. Mike actually discovered two other mystery trees before the trees I wrote about in the first article.

Several years ago, while hiking east in the Preserve, Mike came upon an old eucalyptus tree with a symbol carved in it. Nearby he found an old oak with another symbol. This spot is on the road to Yuma, just east of where it forks, with one fork continuing straight while the second turns north across the stream.

Intrigued by their obvious age Mike researched materials on the Spanish-Mexican period of California history. The symbols were of the type used by the Spaniards and Mexicans of the last century.

◆ meant one league (2-1/2 miles) and ▲ was a directional marker. As a good historical sleuth Mike decided to follow the directions. He hiked 2-1/2 miles east, which took him across Black Mountain Road and east of Horseman's Park to the spot I described in the last article. In a grove of oak trees there he found more of the mystery trees with yet more symbols. The fruits of his research were on display in our last issue.

In case you're thinking of searching for the treasure, Mike says that most of the mission treasures have turned up in other missions over the years. Somebody did return for the treasure, but many, many years ago.

Join us for the next Mystery Tree hike on April 1. Mike

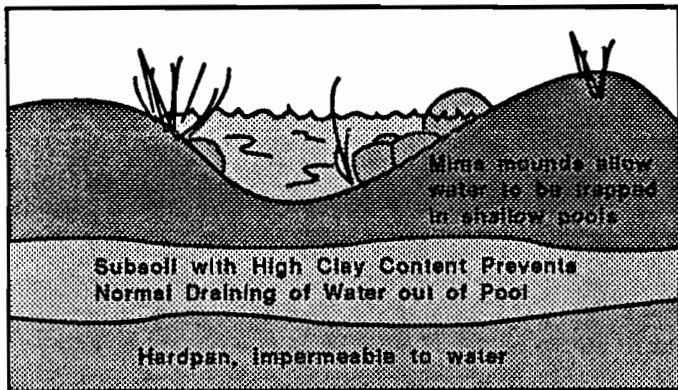
Vernal Pools (cont'd)

about vernal pools in San Diego County is serious. The pools are fast disappearing under the ravaging bulldozer. There is continuous destruction of the land—and the pools—where they exist despite government regulations which protect some of the rare species that exist in the pools.

The mesas where the pools occur provide some of the most desirable land in San Diego County. This is prime land in San Diego since the developers do not have to flatten mountains or fill in canyons. However, some areas should have been saved.

The flatland coastal mesas of San Diego consist of the oldest soils in the county. At one time the mesas were very abundant and were dotted with vernal pools. Rapid urban sprawl has caused them to gradually vanish. The few local pool areas of importance that remain are found on Mira Mesa, Del Mar Mesa, Kearney Mesa and Otay Mesa.

However, almost overnight huge tracts of this land disappear as armies of bulldozers scrape the land for the construction of immense housing tracts or industrial and commercial parks accompanied by the necessary road and sewer construction. In some areas the mesas have been cleared for tomato fields. Where mesas have not been destroyed outright some of the vernal pools have become deeply furrowed ruts from off-road vehicles. Other areas are convenient collection pits for dumping trash and fill. Native vegetation has been destroyed where cattle trampled the pool areas while grazing.



Typical vernal pool. By early summer, the pool will be dry, the water evaporated or absorbed by the plants

All of these factors contribute to the adverse impact on the rare flora and fauna of these unique biotic communities. With the destruction of the native vegetation the pool areas are invaded by aggressive weedy species of plants.

Why should some of these vernal pools be preserved? If the mesas that still have existing vernal pools are completely eradicated an important area of biological and geological history will be erased forever, along with some rare and endangered species of plants—one which grows nowhere else in the world.

Vernal pools and their immediate surrounding areas are small biological islands which provide valuable research laboratories for scientists in learning about organisms found in this unusual ecosystem. The plants and animals that are established in these ephemeral habitats must develop to maturity in less than six months.

By April or May the shallow pools are dry. During the long summer and fall drought period—the plants have to be able to continue their existence. Their ability to adapt to a wide range of physical and chemical restrictions has enabled them to survive a harsh environment over thousands of years.

The rain-filled pools provide a habitat for small aquatic animals which feed on microscopic plants and animals. One of the most interesting is the fairy shrimp. This delicate tiny creature swims on its

back, propelling itself along in the shallow water using leaf-like gill-feet which seem to ripple along. These gill-feet are combined swimming and respiratory organs. After mating, the female's eggs are deposited in the vernal pool. As the pool dries up the eggs can remain dormant until conditions are just right for hatching, and a new generation appears.

Like the fairy shrimp other small organisms appear and then disappear as if by magic. Thus begins a time-lapse sequence of the vernal pool community as a succession of plants and animals emerge and disappear in the brief life span allotted to their species.

However, the generation is carried on by eggs or cysts that are extremely drought resistant. Like the eggs of the small aquatic creatures—the seeds of vernal pool plants and spores of algae also undergo a similar transitional stage of development.

When conditions are favorable the areas surrounding the vernal pools will be accented with sunny Goldfields and blue Downingias covering the chaparral like a patch work quilt. Yellow Brass-Buttons decorate the pools edges with a definite pattern. Pink Owl's Clover carpet large areas, interrupted occasionally by clumps of Blue-eyed Grass.

As spring advances towards early summer the pools dry up and the tiny Mesa Mint comes into bloom. This tiny purple flower covers large areas where the vernal pools existed. It scents the air with its minty fragrance. One has to look down very closely at the perfect flower to appreciate its beauty. Found in the vernal pools in San Diego this fragile plant has been found no where else in the world; and so has been placed on the Federal Endangered Species Act List of plants to be protected.

The pink Owl's Clover is still blooming, and other mesa flowers like the Brodiaea and Mariposa Lilies can be found throughout the grassy areas of the chaparral. These are just a few of the chaparral flowers growing in and around the vernal pools.

To witness the rapid change in this succession of a flowering paradise, the observer has to return weekly during the brief transitional period in the spring months. It's a rare, unusual experience. Yet how many people in San Diego have watched the miracle of vernal pools? Most residents don't understand the importance of preserving some of this rare heritage which makes San Diego an unusual place to live.

Once the openness and beauty of the San Diego area is destroyed it won't come back. With it will go the rare species that existed from early geological times. *The land preserved in this decade is all that will ever be saved.*

Yet the big question is—how long will the few still existing pool areas remain safe from developers who continually thwart the governmental agencies assigned to protect San Diego's unique heritage of natural history? Resource preservation as required under state environmental quality laws as a local government's civic duty has consistently been neglected.



Illustration by
Elberta Fleming

Approx. 3.6 times
actual size

Mesa Mint
(*Pogone abramsii*)



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- School, Family, Youth Programs
- Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)
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Thank you for your support! Your donation is tax deductible.

Outing Schedule Continued

INDIAN PLANT HIKE

Sunday, May 21, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours)

Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mountain Rd.

FRIENDS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wed, May 24, 7:30 p.m. 10311 Camino Surabaya, Scripps Ranch. (Park on Scripps Ranch Blvd., or Appalosa and walk in.

Rain cancels all hikes

Johnson-Taylor Restoration Underway

The Johnson-Taylor Ranch House, located in the preserve, is currently being restored to the way it looked in the 19th century. The ranch and the site it occupies have played an important role throughout the last 5,000 years of the Penasquitos Preserve. Beginning in our next issue we will carry a series of articles on the restoration, the history of the ranch and its buildings, and the earlier Indian occupation of this site and the Preserve.



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May 1989

Volume 3 No. 12¹³

Vernal Pools Under Attack

Mike Kelly

Last month we described vernal pools and how their very existence in San Diego County — the only place in the world they are known to exist in — is threatened by development. We also invited you to participate in a vernal pools hike with Dr. Elberta Fleming to investigate the condition of the pools after one more year of development activity. In preparation for that hike Dr. Fleming, Chris Whitten, and I walked to the pools a few days before the scheduled hike. We found the pool sites with their endangered ecosystems, but also found evidence of developer caused destruction.

The vernal pools on the south rim of the Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve still exist — despite the heavy developer activity in their immediate vicinity. We found the shallow depressions on the mesa surface that are home to these seasonal pools. As expected, the water that fills them after the winter rains had evaporated, allowing the plant life that flourishes in the dry pool beds to sprout and mature. We saw several large purple spreads of the endangered Mesa Mint. These are true "belly" flowers. They are so tiny that to see and smell an individual flower you have to get down on your belly (or hands and knees)!

We also found two other rare flowers in these same pools, the beautiful yellow Golden Stars and a six-petal, purple-with-a-white-throat flower, *Brodiea orcuttii*, normally found in grasslands, near vernal pools, and in the coastal areas and foothills.

Ominously, we also encountered clear evidence of developer-wrought destruction in the pool areas. We visited the two principal vernal pool sites on López Ridge, one controlled by the City-run Parks and Recreation Department and the other by the state-run CalTrans. Each of these governmental bodies has erected a fence around the vernal pools site under its jurisdiction — sites that are legally protected from development. Each has easily-visible destruction caused by heavy equipment used on the adjacent housing sites.

At the CalTrans pool site we circled the fenced-in area and found a large section of the western boundary fence had been bulldozed down. Dozens of heavy-duty metal poles supporting the fence had been bent down at their base so that the fence lay flat on the ground. Tracks from the heavy construction vehicles crisscrossed parts of the pool areas, having crushed vegetation wherever they traveled. Why did they do this? By crushing the fence they gain access to an old road that cuts several minutes of travel time for their construction vehicles in the area.

At the City pool site we found similar evidence of encroachment. Indeed, during our visit and the hike the following weekend vehicles were observed cutting through the site. These incidents were reported to the proper authorities. Such protests, however, have only bought us temporary reprieves in the past. We need to do more. Add your voice to ours and contact the following people to express your indignation that the American Newland Company and its subcontractors so casually destroys fences and threatens the existence of these priceless pools:

Ed Struicksma, City Councilmember whose district includes this area. 202 C St., San Diego. 236-6655.

John Rieger, CalTrans. 2829 Juan, San Diego. 237-6699.

Friends' Outing Schedule

Starting with this issue we are publicizing not only our own hikes and outings in the preserve, but also those of the San Diego County Archaeological Society. All outings are free to members and the general public. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and a snack for longer hikes. Rain cancels. For more details call Elberta Fleming at 271-6710.

June

BIRD WALK

Saturday, June 3, 8:00 a.m. (1-2 hours).

Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mountain Rd. Bring binoculars and bird book.

JOHNSON-TAYLOR RANCH TOUR

Saturday, June 3, 11:00 a.m. and Noon (1 hour each).

Conducted by San Diego County Archaeological Society.

DUSK HIKE

Friday, June 9, 6:00 p.m.
Meet at Johnson-Taylor Ranch off Black Mountain Road.

WATERFALL HIKE

Saturday, June 17, 7:00 a.m.
Meet at Parking-Staging area off Black Mountain Road.

JOHNSON-TAYLOR RANCH TOUR

Saturday, June 17, 11:00 a.m. and Noon (1 hour each).
Conducted by S.D. County Archaeological Society.

LOPEZ CANYON HIKE

Sunday, June 18, 7:00 a.m. Meet at Sorrento Valley Blvd. (dead end).

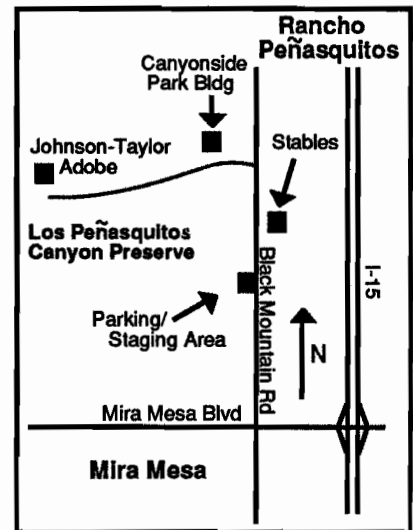
WALDEN POND HIKE

Sunday, June 25, 7:00 a.m.
Meet at Johnson-Taylor Ranch, 7:00 a.m.

FRIENDS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Postponed. Please check future newsletter for new date

Rain cancels all hikes



Ranching in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and the Johnson-Taylor Adobe

John Northrop

[With this article we begin a series on the history of the Johnson-Taylor Ranch area. We'll look at the buildings, the occupants — from the earliest Indians, the Spanish and Mexican periods, and the American period — and some of the uses the land has been put to. We'll also report on the restoration currently underway and the soon-to-open museum at this site. This site is historic since it is San Diego's earliest land grant, its oldest rancho — having been used for stock raising since at least 1770 — and the site of the road to Yuma, a major thoroughfare to the East.. John Northrop is a geophysics consultant and author of several books on the Preserve and the surrounding area. —editor]

The Spanish Period

Cordero, a Spanish "Leatherjacket Soldier" from the San Diego Presidio, grazed sheep in what is now Peñasquitos Canyon from about 1770 until the Mexican Revolution of 1822. His rangan, roughly, from the San Dieguito River Valley on the North to Sorrento Valley on the South, and from Black Mountain (then called Cordero Mountain) on the East to Torrey Pines Beach (then called Cordero Beach) on the West, encompassed most of what is now Mira Mesa, Del Mar Mesa, Rancho Peñasquitos, Carmel Valley, and the lower part of Peñasquitos Canyon. The lands were considered to be part of the lands belonging to the San Diego Mission de Alcalá.

He conducted a wool/hide trading business out of an adobe house built beside El Camino Real on the northeast shore of Cordero Slough (now called Peñasquitos Lagoon).

The Mexican Period

In 1823, the first Mexican land grant in San Diego was awarded to Captain Francisco Maria Rufz, Commandant of the San Diego Presidio. Capt. Ruiz got about 8,486 acres and called it Rancho De Los Peñasquitos [little cliffs in spanish].

Rufz built his adobe Hacienda, at the west end of his Rancho, which he called El Cuervo. He grazed Mexican cattle in Peñasquitos for 14 years. In 1837 he deeded the property to his friend, Don Francisco Maria Alvarado, in exchange for the latter's taking care of him in his old age. Don Francisco, and later his son Diego, also grazed cattle for 22 years on the property. Under terms of the treaty that ended the Mexican-American war they were allowed to keep the property.

The American Period

In 1859, Diego's sister, Estefana, married Captain George Alonzo Johnson, a wealthy Colorado River Boat pilot. Johnson built an adobe ranch house at the upper (east) end of the canyon. It forms part of what we know call the Johnson-Taylor Ranch. In 1860, Diego sold a half interest in Peñasquitos Rancho, including the part called El Cuervo, to Capt. Johnson. Johnson grazed cattle and planted a commercial orange orchard, among other activities, on the Ranch.

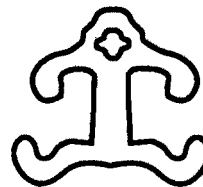
After a period of financial difficulties Johnson lost the Ranch when the bank foreclosed in 1880. The 1880s were a time of land speculation [!] and the Rancho land passed through several hands quickly, being divided in the process. 7,000 acres, including the Ranch buildings, were eventually

sold to a New Mexico cattleman, Col. Jacob Shell Taylor. This is the same man who founded Del Mar and built the famous Casa Del Mar Hotel.

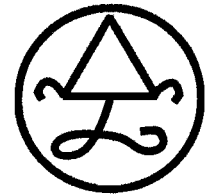
Although he grazed cattle and raised thoroughbred horses on the land Taylor's main interest was development. With several financier partners he divided the land around the Johnson's old ranch house into ten-acre tracts and attempted to sell them, unsuccessfully. An enlarged and improved Ranch house was touted as a resort hotel, along with his Casa Del Mar Hotel. Taylor soon encountered financial difficulties, sold the Ranch area, and left San Diego in 1890.

The Cattle Barons

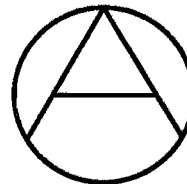
Rancho Peñasquitos once again passed through several hands, including land speculator Adolf Levi. In 1910 Levi transferred title to the upper ranch to San Diego cattleman Charles F. Mohnike. After a fire destroyed the wooden parts of the ranch building in 1911 Mohnike made repairs and converted the building to a bunk house for his cowboys. He also built a large adobe barn and the third adobe home in Peñasquitos, the Mohnike Adobe, still located at Horseman's Park. Other cattlemen who grazed cattle Peñasquitos included the Hastings family and the Brown family, J. Chauncy Hayes, F.A. Everett, and Writ Bowman, of Tijuana Race Track fame.



Peñasquitos 1823-1875



López 1826-1948



George Alonzo Johnson
1859-1881



Norwood Brown 1976-1986

Some Cattle Brands Used in Peñasquitos Canyon

In the land boom of the 1920s another attempt to subdivide Peñasquitos, this time as Pompeii Farms, ended in failure. In 1921 two well-known San Diego cattleman, George Sawday and Oliver Sexon, gained control of the ranch and stocked it with cattle. Sawday and Sexon, Inc., operated the ranch until 1962 when they transferred the property, which had grown to 14,000 acres, to developer Irving Kahn, reportedly for more than \$10,000,000.

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

Irving Kahn's grandiose development plans for a shopping center and golf course in Peñasquitos Canyon were not approved and the ranch was sold to Peñasquitos Inc., which later became Genstar Properties (now American Newlands, Inc.). In 1976, Genstar donated the floodplain of the canyon to the City of San Diego as an open-space park in exchange for building rights on the adjacent mesa tops.

A Short History (Cont'd)

During this period, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Cummings and Mr. and, later, Mrs. Russel Peavy continued to operate a private cattle ranch in Peñasquitos until 1972 when it was opened to the public for horseback riding. (Up until then, riders from the old Black Mt. Stable were not allowed in Peñasquitos Canyon). In 1973, Norwood Brown, a La Jolla rancher, obtained a lease with the City of San Diego for grazing rights in Peñasquitos Canyon for \$6 per head per month. Brown grazed his herd of range cattle there until 1984 when he sold it to one of the big ranches near Julian. When he retired, the lease was taken over by his partner, Mr. Ray Witter, who introduced his herd of Black Angus cattle that now can be seen grazing in the western part of the Preserve that Capt. Ruzf called El Cuervo.

Horse Farms

When the Black Mt. Stable closed, Horseman's Park was the first public riding stable to be opened in Peñasquitos Canyon. It is located at the Mohnike adobe on the east side of Black Mt. Road. Later, the Peñasquitos Ranch Stables was opened at the Johnson-Taylor Ranch by Jerri Donnelly, a County Volunteer. She operated it until 1988. The Johnson-Taylor Ranch House is now a Park Headquarters for San Diego County Parks and Recreation Dept.

Future Plans

Long range plans for the Johnson-Taylor Ranch include a visitor center as well as construction of nature walkways and establishment of a small pasture for grazing a limited number of horses and livestock. The historic buildings are being restored to reflect the periods they were built in. There are even plans to replant Johnson's orchards. In that way, the historical ambience of the old adobe will be preserved for all persons to enjoy.

Additional Reading

For a more detailed history of the early history of the Johnson-Taylor Adobe and Peñasquitos Canyon, the following books are recommended:

Ewing, Nancy H. (1988) *Del Mar Looking Back*, Del Mar History Foundation, P.O. Box 926, Del Mar, CA 92014.

Northrop, John (1987), *Riding 'Round Peñasquitos; A Trail Guide to Riding and Hiking Trails in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, San Diego, CA*, and (1988) *A Short History of Carmel Valley and McGonigle Canyon, Del Mar, CA*, Windsor Associates, P.O. Box 90282, San Diego, CA 92109

Ward, Mary (1984) *Rancho de Los Peñasquitos: On the Road to Yuma*, County of San Diego, Dept. of Parks and Recreation.

Summer Safari 1989

There are still a few spots left in the Summer Safari program. This unusual adventure in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve is for children who are interested in learning about their natural world. For seven years this unique program has enriched the lives of many San Diego youngsters.

In Summer Safari children are introduced to the natural environment and the fascinating Indian and early history of the people who lived in the Canyon. This special enrichment program takes children on mini-discovery expeditions in Los

Peñasquitos Preserve and involves them in projects which encourage awareness of natural phenomena. Nature crafts stimulate creativity and instill a sense of the early history of the area. This year children will explore the grassroot jungles to experience a close-up look at the amazing world of insects through the Summer Safari's special INSECT ZOO.

Summer Safari headquarters will again be at Los Peñasquitos Canyonside Recreation Center.

SESSION I: July 10-14, 9:00 a.m. - noon. Grades 2,3,4.

SESSION II: July 17-21, 9:00 a.m. - noon. Grades 4,5,6.

The fee is \$40.00 for each session.

For information call 271-6710 or write to Dr. Elberta Fleming, 10311 Caminito Surabaya, San Diego, CA 92131.

SUMMER SAFARI is sponsored by the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc. and co-sponsored by the Los Peñasquitos Recreation Council, and Home Owners of Peñasquitos Association (HOOPA).

Wildlife of the Preserve A Need for a Continuing Census

Mike Kelly

What will happen to the Peñasquitos Preserve's wildlife with housing and commercial development encroaching on all sides? Habitat pressure occurs when they lose land to the housing and commercial developments on the mesa tops and side canyons. A marsh habitat was lost to development on the bottom land just north of the Johnson-Taylor adobe. This was used by a number of bird and aquatic species.

Development pushes the animal population onto the bottom lands of the preserve. They compete for the dwindling food supply and some disappear. Increasing numbers of hikers, horseback riders, and bikers bring further pressure, particularly when they venture off the main trails — often the case with the biking clubs currently abusing the preserve.

Help us track the animal population of the Preserve. Write or call to let us know of sightings of wildlife, big or small. This includes insects, birds, mammals, reptiles, etc. Give us the date and time, and what you saw. When possible, tell us if it was a baby, yearling (in the case of coyotes or mule deer), or adult, and male or female. We'll publish a column of sightings.

To start, here's some of what I've seen in the last month. Seven mule deer does, yearlings and adults, all in one group, south slope, eastern end of the preserve. One adult bobcat, same area. Seven coyotes, 4 yearlings, 3 adults, in 1 group, side canyon slope, eastern end. One pair of adult great horned owls roosting in a group of trees continuously for 6 weeks now, same area. (We got some good pictures of these two!) All of the above were sited just before and during dusk. One pair of mule deer, a buck and a doe, both yearlings, same area (6 a.m.) One adult skunk, south slope facing Johnson-Taylor Ranch (11 p.m.).

Mira Mesa Day a Success

Thanks to everyone who staffed our booth at the annual Mira Mesa Day May 6. We tied with two other groups for the "overall best display" and will receive a cash prize.



FRIENDS OF PEÑASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE, INC.
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- Indian Culture
- Educational Workshops
- School, Family, Youth Programs
- Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)
- Other: _____

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Home Phone _____

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc. and send to:
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Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.
 P.O. Box 26523, San Diego, CA 92126

Thank you for your support! Your donation is tax deductible.

[Inspired by the recent vernal pools hike, Hilary McGuire submitted the following Song]

The Mira Mesa López Ridge Mesa Mint Hiking Song

© 1989 Hilary Paul McGuire

Come and find the Mesa Mint; Don't you know it's heaven sent? Where you gonna find it? Tell you where to find it— Mira Mesa! That's where...	Walking out on López Ridge In the Springtime sun, Pleasant hiking, Touching Nature, Loving life here...
You'll find the Mesa Mint, Out on López Ridge— Very rare, extremely rare; We must save it For our children...	In Mira Mesa, USA Mesa Mint has come to stay, If we save it. Can We save it? If we love it, we can save it...

Let's save the Mesa Mint;
 We know it's heaven sent.
 Gentle breezes
 Waft its fragrance
 Into your face, as you're...

(Repeat and repeat,
 whistling alternately
 while humming.)

Volunteers Still Needed

If you would like to help out on our newsletter, hikes, re- search, or other activities call Elberta Fleming at 271-6710 or Mike Kelly at 566-6489.