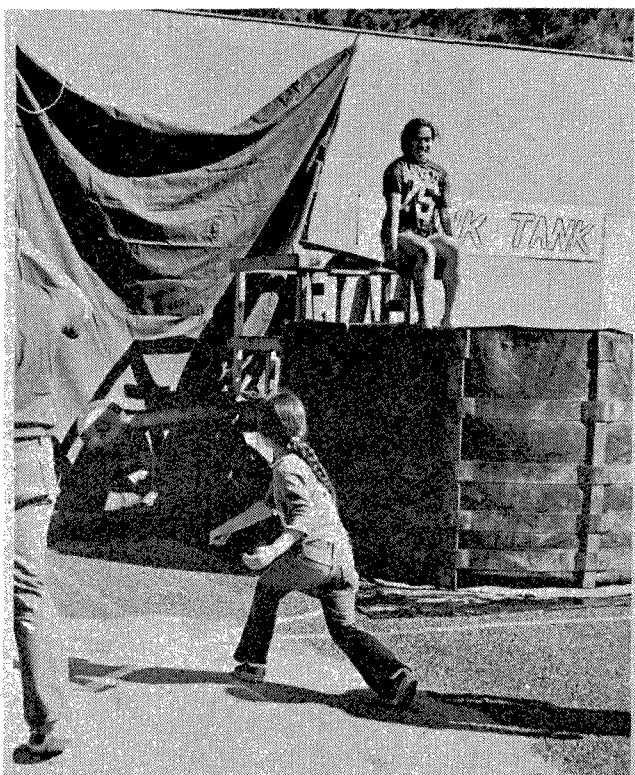


The Big Sur Gazette 25c

VOLUME ONE, NO. 4

BIG SUR, CALIFORNIA 93920

NOVEMBER, 1978



BULLSEYE AT 1978 CAPTAIN COOPER CARNIVAL. Tiffany Trotter demonstrates steady aim and good follow-through as she dunks her mother, Tu Trotter, at this year's carnival. The "people dunk" was one of the many



events that delighted people of all ages. For complete story and more photos please turn to the centerfold.

Photos by Paula Walling

VENTANA DENIED COASTAL PERMIT

The Regional Coastal Commission denied Ventana Inn's application to build 36 units at their Oct. 30 hearing.

Although the majority of the commissioners favored the proposal, eight voted for and six against. The Coastal Commission rules require nine yes votes rather than a simple majority.

The decision has been appealed to the state Coastal Commission, but a date for the hearing has not been set.

The decision ends months of debate between those who called the proposal an "expansion" and those who called it a "completion."

Commissioners Comment

The hearing produced no new information, but the commissioners summarized their concerns and explained the reasons for their vote.

Speaking in support, Commissioner Liddicoat said, "As responsible citizens we must weigh the economic factors, and see whether or not recreational use can be provided on an on-going basis in this area."

Commissioner Taylor expressed concern that "we are denying this applicant but approving more private homes in Big Sur, and this in direct contradiction to the Coastal Act."

Referring to Ventana's 100 campsites, Commissioner McCarthy stated that because the state could not afford all the facilities needed by the public, they must rely on private facilities to provide public recreational opportunities.

Also favoring the application, Commissioner Walters reasoned that "equal opportunity should be available to all people in the state," and Commissioner Franco stated, "The county approved this application."

Commissioner Bedesem voted in favor because, "I don't see how we can vote one way with individual homes and another way with a hotel complex."

Also supportive was Commissioner Hughes because it "maximizes recreational opportunities . . . to as many types of people as possible." Commissioner Blohm was critical of the commission for "dragging its feet" on the LCP.

Abuse of Power

Opposing the application, Commissioner Rote felt he could not agree with more than five or six of the 19 findings, and Commissioner Garcia stated that the water availability may not be sufficient to accommodate the development.

Commissioner Taylor, speaking in favor, stated, "I'm deeply disturbed by the kind of data that's been presented in the findings . . . that's the worst possible case of misrepresentation and inaccuracy that's been presented."

Commissioner Wyman, concerned about LCP, water, and traffic questions, felt that "the disadvantages outweigh the advantages," and Commissioner Levy expressed the same concerns.

After the vote was taken, Commissioner Liddicoat stated for the record, "I must say that the action taken in this case demonstrates an intolerable abuse of power and it will severely strain the credibility of this commission with so many other oppressive votes that you have taken."

Norman to appeal scenic easement

Big Sur artist and resident Emile Norman was granted Coastal Commission approval to replace a caretaker's trailer with a house, but the permit conditioned that 100 of Mr. Norman's 120 acres must be placed in scenic easement.

An earlier, highly controversial staff condition to require a 10-foot public trail easement through the Norman property had been withdrawn by the staff.

Richard Brownyard, counsel for the applicant, advised the *Gazette* that Mr. Norman has decided to appeal the scenic easement condition to the State Coastal Commission.

Capricious Action

Mr. Brownyard stated that small property owners were not required to dedicate property to obtain

a permit, but that larger property owners were being discriminated against.

"The Commission's action is a capricious tying-up of large parcels and is inconsistent with their attitude toward small parcels. If a scenic easement is not required for small parcels, by what line of reasoning should it apply to large parcels?"

When asked if the viewshed were a consideration, Mr. Brownyard said, "When one commissioner pointed out that the majority of the 100 acres was not visible from either Highway 1 or the Big Sur River, the staff replied that they did not have time to determine how many acres might be visible."

As yet no date has been set for the hearing to appeal.

Nature Conservancy seeks subdivision of Big Creek Ranch

In two separate actions the Nature Conservancy has applied for a three-parcel subdivision of Big Creek Ranch and development of a trail, camping area, a road, and a small building to be used for an Interpretive Center.

The request to subdivide involves three applications, according to County Zoning Administrator Robert Slimmon.

The first application requests a minor subdivision of three parcels consisting of 2,058 acres, 1,790 acres, and 10 acres.

The second application seeks a use permit for an Interpretive Center, and the third is an application for design approval.

South Coast Advisory Denies Approval

The South Coast Advisory Committee voted unanimously to deny approval of the request for a use permit to build the Interpretive Center because there were no provisions for potable water, proper sanitation facilities, or a sewage disposal system.

The committee does not act on subdivision requests, but Chairman Marion Harlan commented that, "It looks like they figure on subdividing again and again. When they

Continued on page 20

Big Sur Incorporation Study Released

By GARY KOEPPPEL

A study which explores the feasibility of Big Sur becoming a town has been released by the Committee for the Incorporation of Big Sur and has been distributed to the Community.

Town Hall Meetings were held at the Big Sur Grange on November 15 and at Pacific Valley School on November 16 to present and discuss the study and the prospect of incorporation.

Due to *Gazette* publication deadlines, the meetings and the community's response to incorporation will appear in the December issue; the following article attempts to present the highlights of the report and is not intended as a comprehensive summary.

PURPOSES

The 27-page report was prepared by William Zion, a well-known and highly respected consultant in local and regional government, at the request of the Incorporation Committee.

The purpose of the report, as stated, is to provide the community with accurate and detailed information on the general purposes, governmental alternatives, town services, revenues, expenditures, and organization, including a discussion of the timing of incorporation and its impact on the county.

As stated in the report, the committee has agreed on "four purposes for changing the status of Big Sur from an unincorporated area completely governed by the county to an incorporated town."

- To preserve Big Sur's natural scenic beauty.
- To protect the rural way of life of its residents.
- To improve local public services.
- To achieve self-determination and local control of local affairs.

AREA AND BOUNDARIES

The total area proposed is 170,533 acres, 123,988 of which are owned by state or federal agencies, and approximately 27% or 46,545 acres, constitute private property ownership.

The report explains the northern boundary was selected because Palo Colorado residents are "more oriented toward Carmel-Monterey." The County line was selected as the southern boundary to "avoid leaving an unincorporated stretch in the southwest corner of the county." The ridge-top eastern boundary was selected to include relevant watersheds and to protect local water quality.

According to a 1975 special census, the area proposed contains a population of over 1,200 residents, and the county Registrar of Voters indicates that 525-575 voters reside within the boundaries.

GOVERNMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

The report addresses the five governmental choices available to any unincorporated community: incorporation, independent district, dependent district, municipal advisory committee, and area planning commission.

In discussing the difference between incorporated and unincorporated status, the report states:

"A common complaint of unincorporated communities is that the county is 'too far away,' is not responsive to local needs and attitudes, or follows policies at variance with local preferences. This system is often seen as unrepresentative by small communities, in that they are traditionally represented at the county level by only one supervisor out of five, and even he may have a much larger constituency elsewhere in his district whose attitudes are at variance with the small community, particularly if it has unusual characteristics. Thus there may be the local impression that the most important local governmental decisions about the community — those concerning land

Continued on page 20

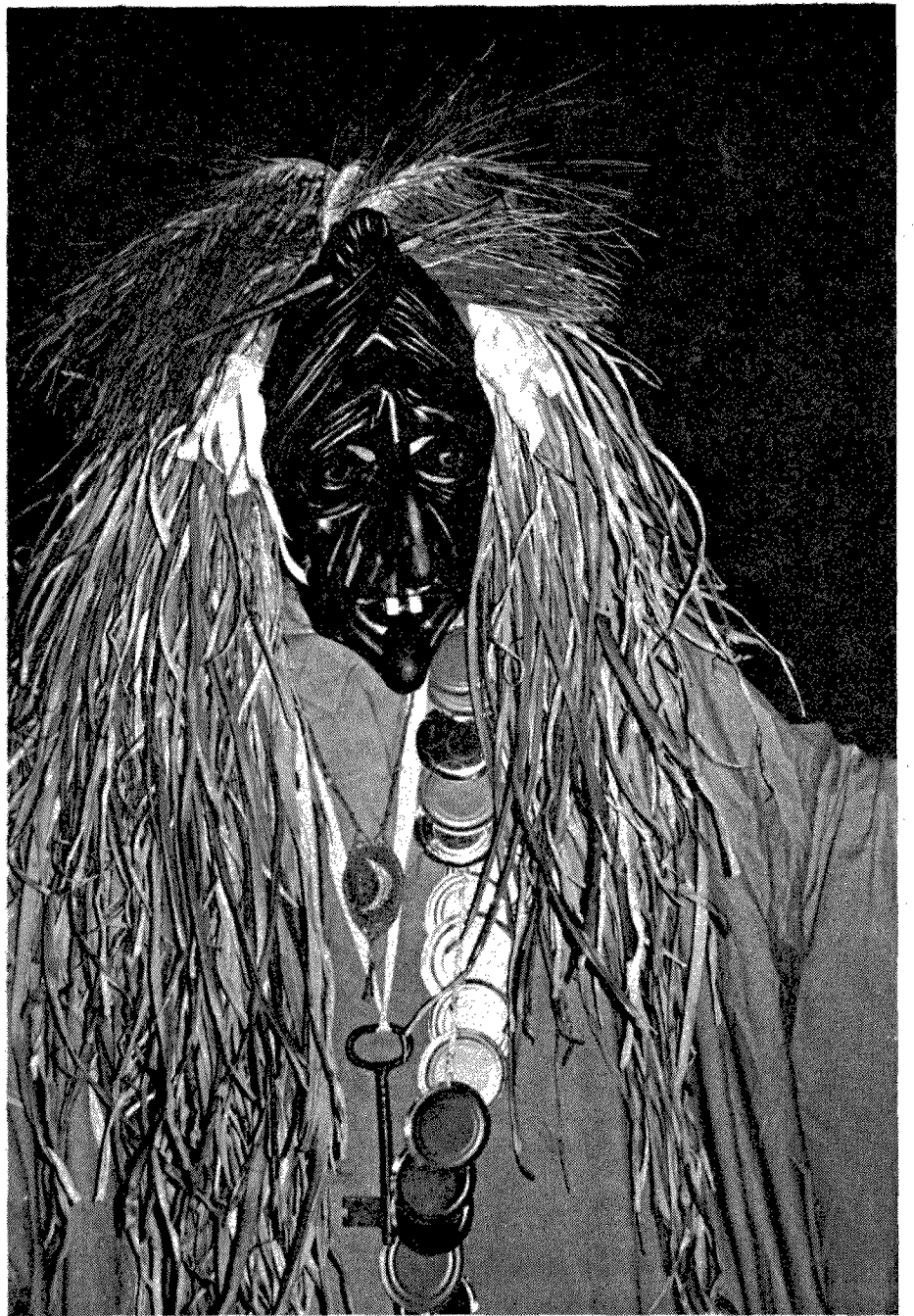
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NEPENTHE HALLOWEEN PARTY

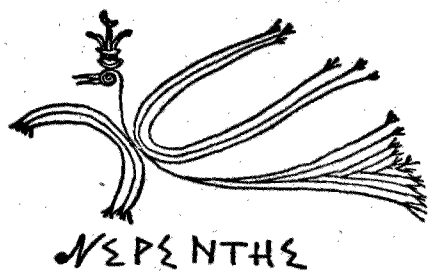
Beardslev



Halloween Party

ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY. Dancers in extraordinary costumes crowded Nepenthe's festive terrace at this year's All Hallow's Eve Party. Since 1949, when the Fassett's purchased Nepenthe, the traditional event has been a local highlight of the autumn season. Until recently, the party signalled the seasonal closing of the restaurant. Lolly Fassett said this year's attendance reminded her of past record crowds. Shown above: A prominent personality, "The Witch of Cannery Row," visited Nepenthe during the Halloween gala. The witch, with mask sculpted from dark redwood burl and frock fashioned of dry pampas grass, was one of the evening's highlights. Some Big Sur residents are already beginning plans and designs for next year's costumes, but another year must pass before the local witches and goblins will emerge to haunt again.

Photo by Paula Walling



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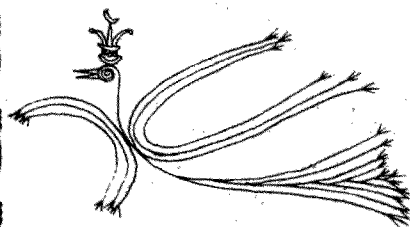
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Fire Suppression Training

By FRANK PINNEY

Structure Fire Suppression, eighteen hours of intense practical training, ended for the Brigade on Sunday, October 15, with a series of difficult drills run at the old Post Office by River Inn. Smoke bombs created a sense of realism as each Brigade member acted out different roles in fighting simulated fire situations.

Working together as two engine companies, the fire fighters employed the Brigade's two engines in attack and back-up positions to deal with the drills set up by the instructor, Captain Dan Guice of the Mid-Carmel Valley Fire Department. The back-up company set up a water holding basin using a tarp in the creek and pumped reserve water to the attack engine fifty yards away. Dan set up the drills to simulate our local conditions to insure

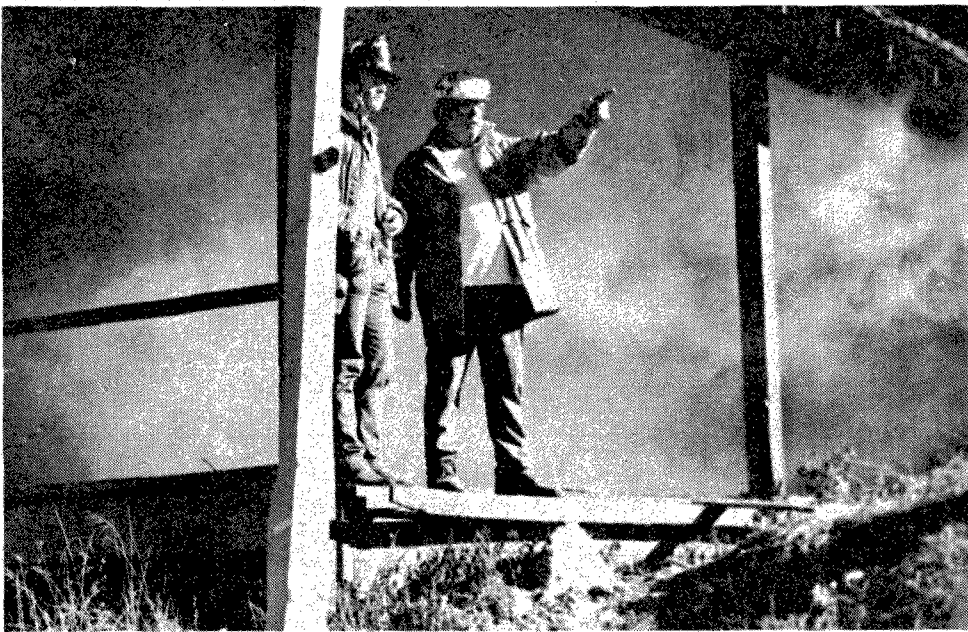
we test our skills and equipment as realistically as possible.

Closely working with the Brigade during the drills were Curtis Rial and Tom Mounts of the U.S. Forest Service, Big Sur Station. Curtis is supervisor and has committed to keep the Forest Service engine ready for use even after the fire season ends. This means that the USFS can roll its engine to a fire and members of the Brigade can act as Curtis' crew. This extra support will mean that the community will have three engines to respond throughout the winter, thus increasing our fire suppression capability significantly over past years. Curtis is a veteran fire fighter with several years experience in structure fires. He commented at the end of class that, "This is the best group of volunteers I have worked

with. You concentrate on getting the job done and follow your officer's instructions—something many volunteer outfits fail to do."

Upcoming training will include a class at Monterey Airport in oil fire fighting, our own general alarm procedures and then on November 28-30, a special class in CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation). Barbara Chamberlain and members of the Volunteer Ambulance crew will conduct the three night CPR class to qualify all the Brigade members in this essential fire fighter's skill.

This kind of support and cooperation within the community will insure that we can continue to increase our capabilities to serve our community and achieve an even broader base of self-sufficiency. Don't forget to make your 1978 donation to the Fire Brigade before the end of the calendar year!



FIRE CHIEF WALTER TROTTER directs attack on vacant smoke-filled structure at the old River Village with Instructor Captain Dan Guice of Mid-Carmel Valley Fire Department critically observing the training session.



JULIEN LOPEZ unrolls another hose line as Training Officer Frank Pinney removes salvage cover in simulated drill as Captain Dan Guice looks on.



ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF Pat Chamberlain assists a fireman don breathing apparatus supervised by Training Assistant Peter Stock.

MARBLE-CONE FIRE UP-DATE

On Nov. 3, 1978, four 10-person Los Padres National Forest crews will begin work in the Big and Little Sur Rivers on a Marble Cone burn area rehabilitation project designed to reduce the chances of flood damage this winter.

The primary emphasis of the project is to prevent the possibility of channel blockage and "surge sequence phenomena" by bucking up riverbed logs and debris into floatable lengths that are unlikely to create blockages in the drainage ways. During "surge sequence" the following events occur: organic debris block the channel causing sediment and debris to back up; the blockage is released causing a high momentum mud-rock flow damaging downstream developments and resources.

During and after the Marble Cone fire an interdisciplinary team studied the burn area to determine what watershed improvement measures should be undertaken for rehabilitation purposes. The major drainage systems within the Ventana Wilderness were surveyed as a part of that assessment. As a result, recom-

mendations were made that a multi-year treatment program should be initiated to prevent downstream flood damage. Preliminary channel treatment was done in September and October of 1977 on approximately 113 miles of channel, at a cost averaging \$3,300 per mile.

In May 1978, forest service hydrologists re-evaluated the channel conditions. They stated that the most successful treatment appeared to be "dimension reduction" of moderate and heavy debris into floatable pieces (3-foot lengths or less) that have little chance to become lodged in the drainage.

Due to time constraints and the importance of the project, crews will be using chain saws within the wilderness area. The \$90,000 project, treating 75 miles of drainage should be completed by Nov. 30, 1978.

The fire is out but should not be forgotten! For further information contact Tom Lowell or Tom Mounts, Fire Prevention Technicians; Charlie Jones, Visitor Information Specialist, U.S.F.S., Big Sur, CA, 667-2423 or Bob Hammond, Resource Forester, U.S.F.S., King City, CA, 674-5542.

Dear Editor:

At the Nepenthe fire, in the excitement and awe of the moment everyone went into action.

It seemed that all levels of Big Sur were represented and many of the outside visitors became one in interest and effort.

It was like a holocaust—before we knew it the chimney melted and a big gaping hole showed raging flames soaring to the sky.

As I walked through the house out to the roof with all the hysteria of the moment around us, I felt inside of me that Nepenthe would be protected.

Our guardian angel was there and out of the seeming chaos came together such beautiful united effort.

When I felt that the fire was out I went down into the most unbelievable mess.

It really looked hopeless! When all of a sudden, Brigade Fireman Gary Koeppel said, "Lolly, everything is going to be O.K. We'll have you open as usual in 30 minutes." With that statement he started moving things and getting his crew doing the clean-up.

Our people cleared off tables, and away we went. Everyone worked as though trained for the moment.

In about 40 minutes Nepenthe was operating again as usual.

It truly seemed a miracle.

God Bless All of You

Lolly

(Editor's Note: Due to "Gazette" deadlines, articles on the Nepenthe and Lime Creek fires will appear in the December issue.)



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Views and Viewpoints

Editorial

Where is justice, and why is it not in its department?

It is disconcerting to note that the public disclosure of the selectively distributed prescriptive rights questionnaire published in the September Gazette, and the subsequent articulate outcry from the affected property owners, has evoked an embarrassed response from the Central Coast Commission and has generated an obfuscating pre-election attack from the Attorney General's office complete with an attempt to discredit the Gazette with the slanderous and hysterical counter-charge of yellow journalism.

To date, despite dozens of letters from affected property owners to the Attorney General, and despite their four appearances of submitting testimony to the Coastal Commission, the persons whose property is shown on the questionnaire's parcel maps have not learned specifically who instigated the prescriptive rights "investigation", or who selected the "target areas" and by what criteria, or why they as owners of the investigated property were not notified, or why public hearings were not held.

Neither do the affected property owners know how much the questionnaire clouds their title, or whether the Central Coastal Commission will repudiate the investigation and withdraw the questionnaires.

Although the return envelope accompanying the questionnaire was pre-addressed to the Central Commission's office, and although the project's "consultant", Linda Locklin, was "borrowed" from the Commission staff by the AG's office, and despite the fact that Chairwoman Henderson acknowledged having seen the questionnaire "waved under her nose," and despite the fact that Chief Staff Planner Miller had "outlined some areas" to Deputy AG Ken Williams, nonetheless, it has become apparent that most members of the Central Commission were absolutely innocent of prior knowledge that the Attorney General was conducting these investigations in their coastal zone.

Reactions by commissioners to the secretive manner by which the prescriptive rights investigation was initiated and conducted ranged from bristled defensiveness to indignant outrage.

Commissioner Blohm objected to being misled by the staff, Commissioner Liddicoat stated that the matter was "entirely outrageous," and Commissioner James Hughes pointedly criticized the Attorney General's Office for not conducting the investigation "in a forthright and candid manner... the State Coastal Commission and the Attorney General's Office owe us the courtesy of being party to what's going on in the area."

As yet, however, the Commission has taken no action. In the meantime, not only are the MacAbee Beach and Otter Cove questionnaires still being distributed, the October 15 Sierra Club Newsletter, "The Ventana," has announced a prescriptive rights investigation in a new peninsula area: "A similar study is in progress for the upland dune areas adjoining Monterey-Seaside-Sand City beaches, from the Del Monte Beach residential tract on the West to Tioga Avenue in Sand City on the East."

It is significant to note that the format used by the Sierra Club for the announcement was lifted word for word from Appendix A, page 29 of the Attorney General's 112-page *Prescriptive Rights Manual*, titled "Sample Newspaper Advertisement." The format for the controversial questionnaire was taken from pages 23-27 of the same manual. Hence, the AG's Office and the Sierra Club are actively using the manual to guide them in conducting prescriptive rights investigations.

The response from the AG's Office has gone from no response to a pre-election media blitz replete with denials,

disclaimers, cries of yellow journalism, and protestations that prescriptive rights inquiries could benefit property owners.

Deputy AG Getz, the Central Commission's legal representative, continued to deny that he had prior knowledge of the questionnaire or its selective distribution, in spite of the fact that it was being prepared in, distributed from, and returned to his Santa Cruz office.

Three weeks before the election, after the questionnaire surfaced as a campaign issue, Assistant AG N. Gregory Taylor prepared the Letter-to-the-Editor for Evelle Younger, which appears elsewhere in this issue, and he marked the draft "highest priority" to obtain Younger's signature amidst his busy campaign schedule.

The Taylor-signed-by-Younger letter criticizes the Gazette article as "inaccurate and inflammatory," it complains that his office was not contacted, and it objects to quotes from unidentified persons: the "informed source" was a Coastal Commission staff member who requested anonymity; the "peninsula attorney" has a client whose property appears on the parcel maps and whose rights could be compromised by his comments; the "concerned homeowner" is the person who leaked their questionnaire to the Gazette; and the "South Coast resident" was not asked for permission to be quoted and therefore was not identified. Finally, after stating that many people had been contacted about the investigation, the letter discusses the limited "scope" of the "study," criticizes the "vast areas indicated by your article," and totally ignores the fact that the "vast areas" were correct verbal descriptions of the actual parcel maps.

Finally, in the October 28 *Herald*, deputy AG Ken Williams stated that "the *Gazette* article was 'to me, yellow journalism at its best' because the Attorney General's Office was not contacted for an explanation." If affected property owners cannot be given the courtesy of knowing about the Attorney General's selectively and secretly distributed questionnaire, by who's logic does he think his office should be contacted prior to its disclosure to the public?

If that constitutes yellow journalism, what is the color of the justice associated with this prescriptive rights investigation?

Where is Justice, and why is it not in its Department? Senator Nimmo, in response to letters from concerned property owners, wrote to one person as follows:

"As you pointed out, the thrust and purpose of the questionnaire is obvious. It is also, in my opinion, totally inappropriate.

"Some weeks ago in a meeting with Mr. Younger, I attempted to point out to him the actions being taken by the environmental activists in his office and the practical and political effects that those actions inevitably entail. Without going into detail, I must tell you that I got a totally negative response.

"I have also discussed the problem with an assistant Attorney General who is a personal friend of long standing. He advises me that the environmentalists in the office are simply 'out of control.' While I find that kind of situation impossible to understand, the obvious facts bear out the truth of it."

Hopefully, George Deukmejian, the newly-elected State's Attorney General, will take firm and immediate action to replace the over-zealous activists in his office and to reverse their callous disregard for private property rights while, at the same time, equitably assure the public's right to adequate coastal access.



Local government should be independent or else it isn't local government.

Dusan Petrovic

Viewpoints

Here are some rules:

Letters, preferably typed, should not exceed 300 words. The *Gazette* reserves the right to edit or reject letters which do not meet its standards of good taste, accuracy, and length. Letters must bear the name, mailing address, location and telephone number of the writer. Only your name and "Big Sur" (or elsewhere) will be printed. No anonymous letters accepted for publication.

Be your own editor. Brevity means more viewpoints per issue can be included. The success of *The Big Sur Gazette* depends on your response. Let us hear from you.

ATTORNEY GENERAL WRITES TO GAZETTE

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter in response to the article, published in the September issue of the *Big Sur Gazette*, concerning the implied dedication study being conducted by this office in the Otter Cove and MacAbee Beach areas. The article referred to is entitled "Attorney General Solicits Affidavits to Establish Prescriptive Land Rights—Cannery Row, Carmel, Big Sur Beaches Sought." That headline, and the article itself, is inaccurate and highly inflammatory.

It should be noted that no one from the *Gazette* took the time to contact this office concerning the scope and purpose of this study. Instead the article relies on "informed sources," "one Peninsula attorney," "one concerned homeowner," and "one south coast resident." None of these individuals were named or otherwise identified in the article. This office would have been more than happy to explain the nature and scope of this study. In fact, other newspapers have contacted this office concerning this investigation and presumably will be publishing more balanced accounts as to what exactly it entails.

The purpose of this letter is to provide a balanced account of the scope and nature of this investigation for your readers. The questionnaire, referred to in the article was issued by this office pursuant to an implied dedication study of the MacAbee's Beach and Otter Cove area. This type of study is mandated by the California Coastal Zone Act and is currently being conducted in various areas throughout the state. This is a routine investigation designed to determine whether or not there are such public rights in the area prior to the allowance of

development. Its purpose is to protect both the private as well as the public rights in the area. In the majority of cases no prescriptive rights are found and the owner holds the property free of any public rights.

The areas under investigation were chosen by the Coastal Commission on a priority basis in light of potential future requests for development. In addition to members of the public, private landowners and public officials have been contacted or have discussed this matter with this office. Their continued input into this study has been helpful and has been requested. As of this date, no conclusions have been made with respect to the public rights in the area in that the investigation is not complete.

It is not the intent of the investigation to create public rights or to attempt to acquire the property as is implied by your article. In fact, as stated above, in the majority of these studies no evidence of prescriptive rights are found. The scope of this particular study is limited to the MacAbee Beach and Otter Cove areas and not the vast areas indicated in your article.

I invite the members of your staff to contact this office concerning any further questions you may have on this study.

Evelle J. Younger
Attorney General

Editor's Note:

The "*Gazette*" stands by the article as written with one exception: the Regional Coastal Commission per se did not know about the questionnaire; only one staff member and one commissioner have admitted some prior knowledge of it.

Readers unfamiliar with the September article will be sent a complimentary copy upon request so they may judge for themselves.

Editorial

POLLS LEAVE FEW ELECTION SURPRISES

The Nov. 6 election proved dull to all but the most avid poll-watcher. While polls may give newspeople something to do before the election, they certainly give them little to do but tally after.

Polls reduce the impact of election results. They taint every major campaign these days. Like packaged instant food, a campaign today comes almost pre-digested.

The reader or listener now has nothing to do but look down the list of candidates and propositions to see if the polls were wrong—that is, to look for some element of surprise. Polls have virtually taken the joy out of voting, and with it, some of the meaning. Edwin Newman says of the poll, "It discourages spontaneity and aggrandizes the predictable." A voter is often left with the feeling of going through the motions rather than decision-making.

The polls are getting so accurate as to discourage the very activity they are supposed to draw attention to: voters voting.

Polls continue with their com-

puterized methods to depersonalize all but local elections. Local polling does not pay. For polls to have any validity, huge numbers of people not likely to change their minds must be consulted. Pollsters can't get the bandwagon effect without both hoards of people and the mass media cooperating. It is difficult to determine which feeds on which.

But some good seems to have come from this watering down and eroding away of the voters' effectiveness: a renewal of interest in local government. Local government yields surprises, even delights, because it is the one place the polls fear to tread. Polls like to be right, and one speech at a barbecue can turn a local election.

Our county election revealed one such surprise this time when Barbara Shipnuck unseated Ed Norris in the supervisorial race. Long live the element of surprise. Long live local government. The polls can go on with their big business of predicting, but the people will find a way of keeping surprise in their lives.

Prescriptive rights manual available

Copies of the state Attorney General's report titled *Implies Dedication and Prescriptive Rights Manual Relating to California Coastal Commission Matters* can be obtained by writing to: R.H. Connett, A.A.G., Attorney General's Office, 555 Capital Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814.

To Gazette Readers:

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The Big Sur Gazette

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Gazette readers respond to prescriptive rights

Bravo!

Dear Editor:

Bravo for your full and responsible coverage of the notorious prescriptive rights questionnaire! Prior to your printing of the questionnaire and maps of targeted sites—and your subsequent insightful articles—concerned property owners were ignored by public officials. The *Gazette* broke open discussions between frustrated property owners and the resistant Coastal Commission concerning this selectively distributed, surreptitious document.

I am not surprised at the accusations hurled at your paper by those responsible for this shameful attack on private property. These discomfited people are sputtering because you have revealed their intentions. "Every brickbat is a bouquet."

But your paper still has lots of work to do. Even after three stormy public hearings before the Commission—and considerable other press coverage—the far-reaching, really pertinent questions concerning this extracurricular grab for property remain unanswered:

1. How could such a thing have happened? Why weren't the commissioners informed of this survey? Is the staff ignoring the commissioners?

2. Why would this questionnaire be sent out of and returnable to the office of Deputy Attorney General Getz, c/o the commission—and Mr. Getz and the commission still deny knowledge of it?

3. Why weren't property owners notified, and why were there no public hearings?

4. Why was the questionnaire selectively distributed to the very people who would be most likely to benefit from trespassing—and therefore most likely to sign it?

5. Why, if this action is in the best interests of property owners, as now piously claimed by its sponsors, did staff fail to fully inform owners and the commission, even in public hearings after the questionnaire had been uncovered by owners?

6. Why wasn't Parks and Recreation (the agency responsible for public accesses) notified before an expensive, abrasive survey such as this was undertaken?

7. Why wasn't there a review of previous official decisions on public access in the targeted sites; and why are present offers of access by Cannery Row being ignored?

8. Why was our Monterey County Planning Director—now at work on LCP programs—not informed about this questionnaire, when public access is a critical element in local planning?

9. Has the commission decided to ignore the commission's own carefully wrought criteria for selection of public accesses and to opt for public access to the exclusion of all other considerations?

10. If the commission has

decided to abandon all considerations except public access, why continue with the complex, expensive, time-consuming LCP programs which purport to rely on local input to sort out priorities?

11. The Attorney General says this survey is being made not only to protect public rights, but also to "protect" private property rights in future permit procedures. Interesting; but under all the surrounding circumstances, the nagging question remains: Is this title laundering or title busting?

12. Since this survey seems to have been initiated and pursued by staff and the Attorney General without commissioners' knowledge, what status does the survey have at this point? Will a compliant commission rubber-stamp this unauthorized raid on private property and freeze it into policy, or will the responsible commission repudiate it, both per se and as a precedent?

13. Why does the commission continue to seek public input and then block meaningful dialogue between property owners and the commission during public hearings by—for instance—a refusing to permit discussion of such issues as this questionnaire (Sunset Center, Carmel, Oct. 5); b) failing to compel full response by staff (Convention Center, Monterey, Oct. 19); c) instructing commissioners not to respond to property owners (Santa Cruz, Oct. 30); d) constantly answering citizens through commission attorney instead of directly?

We must rely heavily on publications such as yours to help us get answers to these and many other relevant ethical questions, in order to protect ourselves from what coastal zone residents perceive as an emergent police state mentality insofar as private property rights are concerned. The United States accords more protection to the rights of citizens of captured countries than the Coastal Commission accords to the rights of citizens of the coastal zone. The vigilance of the press is the first line of defense of coastal residents, who—in turn—are the first line of defense for the whole state of California against violation of private property rights.

Continue to pursue, to probe, and to publish!

Robert L. Speer

Clarification

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on your new local publication the *Big Sur Gazette*. The paper should be of great interest to the Big Sur residents and visitors and also to those of us who must maintain our appreciation of Big Sur from a more distant point.

Apart from conveying my good wishes, I also wanted to assure that the letter from Charles Getz relative to the Attorney General's prescriptive rights study clarified any mistaken impressions you might have had about the study being

requested by the Central Coast Regional Commission as described in your September issue of the *Gazette*. The article also raised some concerns that could probably have been clarified had we talked them over in advance. I hope in the future you will feel free to get in touch with me so that we can clarify areas of possible question. Again, best wishes in this ambitious undertaking.

Edward Y. Brown
Executive Director
Coastal Commission

Power of Press

Dear Editor:

Congratulations! I have just read where Deputy Attorney General Williams has called you a "yellow journalist." As a former editor myself, I know that there can be no higher compliment from a bureaucrat. And to have caused so much "pain" with your very first issue certainly augurs well for the future. It's your Medal of Honor—wear it proudly.

One can count on the fingers of one hand the "great" newspapers in this country. Size, circulation and advertising revenue have nothing to do with it. The things that make a paper read, noticed and respected are "guts" and honesty. And I am sure that you are now realizing the "power" of the press.

The *Gazette* certainly offers an alternative to some of today's sad, pale newspapers, and I look forward to your soon becoming the important daily for the Central Coast.

William E. Brown
Big Sur

Raw Nerve

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on courageous journalism of the highest form! I refer, of course, to your excellent coverage of the odious prescriptive rights questionnaire which has been disseminated by the California Coastal Commission, through the Attorney General's Office. This questionnaire has caused hordes of trespassers to swarm over private property all along the coast so that they (the trespassers) might sign the questionnaire in the hope that such trespassing and violation of private rights will give them some claim to "public rights" on private property.

Perplexing? Indeed it is! But the *Big Sur Gazette* alone and unafraid among all of the newspapers had the courage to print the questionnaire in its entirety. We, who had questioned the legality of the questionnaire had been lied to, lectured to, and laughed at and told that the questionnaire must be a figment of our imagination.

But the *Big Sur Gazette* printed for everyone to see, proof positive of the existence of this damnable tool to hijack property away from private land owners. The highest accolade that you could receive is the fact that this has been called

"yellow journalism" for that is always the last ditch failing scream of the wrongdoer when he has been found out by the press. I call your story "courageous journalism" and there are hundreds more who agree with me!

I even pressed a member of the California Coastal Commission to tell me what "errors" he thought were in your article, and he was unable to answer, and finally admitted that he "might have been thinking of another article..."

Yes sir, Mr. Editor: The *Big Sur Gazette* served notice to the California Coastal Commission that the citizens of this area were not going to be caught napping while totalitarian efforts to relieve them of their own rightfully owned property went on.

Keep up the good work and keep pounding for the rights of the private citizen! And, whenever they call you a "yellow journalist," know that you have hit a raw nerve and that you are being paid a high compliment because this epithet is only used when all other dirty methods have failed to destroy or intimidate clean and honest newspaper reporting.

If what you did is yellow journalism, then I suggest that all newspapers dye their paper supplies yellow, too and give us the same up-front, on target, brilliantly brave reporting that you did!

You make me proud that I was ever a newspaper-woman!

Clare Carey Willard
Coastal Zone

Diablo

A letter to the editors of the "Big Sur Gazette"

I would like to sustain the discussion on nuclear power plants and with the proposed Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant in particular. As citizens we can't be over-concerned about this issue because it affects both our health and political futures, whether we live in Big Sur or anywhere else along the Pacific coast. The utility corporations have awesome power over our lives. They are semi-monopolies and are protected under an umbrella of federal and state regulations which favor corporations. They also have historically deep-rooted lobbying and propaganda machinery. They are able to seed newspaper, magazine and television media with expensive advertisements, ads the individual citizen can't afford in rebuttal.

Anyone who has done serious research into the biological and economic effects of nuclear power plants will probably come up with the conclusion that nuclear power is neither safe nor economically wise. If you are interested in finding out more information on the energy situation, I suggest you write the U.S. Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C., and request House Report No. 95-1090—*Nuclear Power*

Costs, Twenty-third Report by the Committee on Government Operations. The report is free, and is a fair and detailed report, which includes minority and dissenting views. If you would like to read an excellent book on the history of utility corporations, I recommend *The Electric War*, by Sheldon Novick, Sierra Club Books, 1976.

It is of utmost importance that as private citizens we should have a say in whether or not Diablo Canyon is activated. Pacific Gas & Electric is spending a lot of money, money which is added on to our future bills, in convincing the public of the necessity and benefits of this insane method of boiling water. Final hearings on Diablo are scheduled to begin on Dec. 4 in San Luis Obispo. Perhaps if enough citizens speak out or write letters along with their utility payments, Diablo Canyon will remain a sterile white elephant rather than becoming a radioactive one.

William Witherup
Big Sur

History

Dear Editor:

We have been camping in your land for 20 years now and can't get enough of it. We brought our kids there when they were small and now they bring their children and we are all

fascinated and in love with this coast area from Monterey to Cambria. We grope for every piece of history we can get from anyone we talk to while we're there. We spend hours just looking at the natural wonders of the Pacific and the shores that surround it. For too short a time we're a part of it and we feel we belong to something that is indescribable!

Good luck with your newspaper and we are collecting every article you write on the history of this land. If anyone ever writes a book about it all—please advertise it so we can all buy a copy! We think personal history, as you have been using, is much more interesting than historical articles.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Donovan
Manteca, Calif.

Hope

Dear Editor:

Thanks so very much for revealing the facts about the 'questionnaire' and 'manual' to the public. You are doing thousands of us the greatest favor to come our way in years. In fact, I thought we were doomed forever to the whims of these tyrants! Perhaps now, because of your courage, we can begin to have hope and courage for the future.

Mrs. Joseph R. Costa

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fo

OPINION

An open letter to the Coastal Commission

By JIM JOSOFF

At your Oct. 19 meeting in Monterey, Commissioner Franco said that the Commission would welcome and respond to letters from the public concerning any matter, but in particular the prescriptive rights questionnaire which has had such a devastating effect on property owners here. Several other commissioners agreed with Mr. Franco.

I am tired of finding myself angry with the Commission and am writing this in an effort to explain, in a spirit of conciliation, just what it is that you are doing that is so disturbing to property owners, and to suggest steps which I think you should seriously consider. You have just been granted a two-year extension and this is therefore an appropriate time for you to appraise realistically your procedures and your stance, vis a vis the property owner, and determine if there are things you can do to improve the situation.

I submit to you that it is time for all of the commissioners to spend an afternoon or two together...a private afternoon, if possible away from both public and staff...a time during which you consider a number of points.

Before discussing those points very briefly, I think it is necessary to say that it would be insufficient for your response to be that you are all busy people, having other public and personal commitments and outside responsibilities...that you are too busy to devote still one more afternoon to this kind of thing...that you are too busy to become involved with the nitty-gritty of the operation. I think you must remember that when you

became a commissioner, you undertook certain responsibilities. The one you are shirking is your responsibility to the private property owner.

I believe the public would like you to consider first whether or not all parts of the Coastal Act are valid within the framework of what we call the American system, e.g., are they compatible with the American Constitution, the American Dream and American customs. At the meeting on the 19th, most of you who were present seemed to one degree or another to be apologetic and/or defensive about the questionnaire. Several of you stressed what you considered its legality. At other meetings many of you end up talking about the fact that you must enforce the law. It is time for you to decide which parts of the law you do like, and which you are truly uncomfortable with. I suspect that, being normal God-fearing citizens, you find yourselves seriously troubled by the more horrendous rip-offs possible under the law, by the enormous abuses of power possible. If these parts of the law offend and frighten you as they do property owners, then you are in the best position to begin to change the law. Obviously, attempts to amend the act would be most effective if support for, or even initiation of, these changes came from the very people who are charged with implementing it.

The next point you should consider is whether or not your administrative procedures are sound. I have spent almost all my adult life working for non-profit institutions and know from first-hand experience that such organizations must be

constantly aware of the tendency to become less efficient than a for-profit business enterprise. Further, unless they are constantly vigilant, they tend to slip easily into patterns of behavior that diminish accountability. Staff members all too frequently end up carrying out the role that truly belongs to the volunteer, e.g., staff tends to make the decisions. Staff, having more information, and more time, tend to become the "experts"...the volunteer tends to rely more and more heavily on them...it's easier...and in many cases the volunteer becomes a rubber stamp for whatever the staff wants.

Concretely, one of the terribly important things you should consider is whether or not one of you...or subcommittees of two or three of you...should be charged with reading every recommendation prepared by staff before it may be sent out. This would cause the staff to become more truly a supporting staff and not the tail that wags the complacent, well-intentioned dog. You have perhaps no conception of how disturbing it is for property owners to learn that you have not even seen the apparently official recommendations they receive...or that the insidious questionnaire could have been sent out without your knowledge.

The next point you should consider is whether or not you are showing an unfair bias in favor of the Sierra Club. It is disturbing for property owners to attend hearings and find that their case has been postponed because some man from the Sierra Club has called and cannot be present, yet the applicant has arrived with, and is sitting with his high-

priced lawyer, architect and whatever. It is disturbing for the chairman to generally give the Sierra Club spokesman the last slot in the roster of speakers.

Another point you should discuss is whether or not you have been guilty of overkill, and was that really your intention. Or has your staff been guilty of overkill in your name? I think it would be easy for you to slip into overkill. It is natural for people to resent criticism...to become angry...and subconsciously rigid when criticized, to become even more unbending than they appeared in the beginning...to begin to feel that it is "them" against "us." It might even be natural for you to begin to cast the property owner in the most unfavorable light, that of "abuser" of the land. It appears that you have made that role assignment, in marked contrast to your apparent affection for the Sierra Club.

All of these points relate finally to your relationship with the owners of private property in the Coastal Zone. At the meeting on the 19th, we asked how the members of the Commission felt about the private property rights statement the Board of Supervisors had inserted in the Work Program for the County LCP. One of you then quoted sections of the law dealing with private property; two of you noted the fact that the Constitution had been interpreted by so many statutes and precedents that it no longer stands alone as the law of the land. That is of course correct...as far as it goes. Yet all of the laws and precedents which interpret the Constitution do not modify or amend it. They explain, interpret, and elucidate...but they do not

amend it.

However, it is precisely this kind of attitude on the part of the commissioners that is so offensive to private property owners. Most property owners are becoming aware of what the act has to say about their rights. Yet, what is immediately important to them is how you, the commissioners, feel about private property rights, not what the law says. You appear to be zealous in carrying out some provisions of the act. You appear to pay only lip service to the parts that pertain to private property rights. You must ask yourselves if that is in truth how you feel.

All of this amounts to quite a bit of communal soul-searching. I would suggest that you hold the retreat without any staff present, that a few of you play "Devil's Advocate" to the rest, and that you be careful that you do not subconsciously turn the session into a white wash.

I believe you are primarily honorable people who for one reason or another are proceeding pell-mell towards disaster for the owners of private property on the Coast. I cannot believe that this is your intention and have made these suggestions in the hope that you do not either.

TRAFFIC COUNTERS MISSING


In an effort to assist the County Planning Department verify data in the Subregional Analysis concerning use of Highway One by local residents, CalTrans has recently conducted traffic counts on a number of county and private roads in the Big Sur area. Counters were put out about Oct. 4 and remained in place for two weeks.

Unfortunately, three counters, CalTrans advises us, have been lost and are assumed stolen. These were on Palo Colorado Road, Sycamore Canyon Road, and Pfeiffer Ridge Road, all in locations close to Highway One. They were noticed as missing about Oct. 10. The counters are state property and are valuable—around \$800 each. CalTrans would appreciate the word being spread of their loss. If found CalTrans should be notified where they can be recovered, or they can be delivered to the Maintenance Station in Big Sur. Thanks for your help.

Bill Farrell
Monterey County
Planning Commission

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COMMISSIONER LIDDICOAT RAPS COASTAL COMMISSION

By PAUL BEATTY
Santa Cruz Sentinel
Staff Writer

Her membership in the California Coastal Council, which contends coastal commissions are misusing power, "is not an ethical conflict of interest with my sitting on the Central Coast Commission," Aptos Supervisor Marilyn Liddicoat said Thursday.

Liddicoat called a press conference to introduce Joseph Mastroianni, president of the council, and to talk about the purpose of the newly formed statewide council. She is a member of its board of directors, and is the only incumbent coastal commissioner on the council's board.

"The Coastal Act as intended by the legislature is good, and as it was intended by the people it is good, but as it is implemented by the regional commissions and the state commission it has many glaring faults," Mastroianni said.

He and Liddicoat agreed that the coastal commissions are going beyond the "intent" of the Coastal Act in denying property rights.

Liddicoat complained the commission is not considering the economic impact on some owners of large developments, and unnecessarily driving them into bankruptcy.

She noted that recently the Central Coast Commission turned down an expansion request for a project in Monterey County on an 8-6 vote (9 votes are needed for approval) denying a planned expansion of the existing 22 units up to 60.

Liddicoat said the economics of that development were based on the expansion approval. She called the voting of two local commissioners on that issue "acts of incredible arrogance that usurped an individual's property rights."

Liddicoat said she also found it "intolerable" that the local coastal staff had recommended a \$2,500 fine against residents of Pot Belly Beach because they had taken beach sands to

cover stones that were placed along the beach embankment to protect property against storms and high tides.

Last winter, storms and tidal action forced waves to reach the homes, and even the Army was called on for help.

Mastroianni and Liddicoat confirmed that they and the council support the Coastal Act and its intent to prevent "rape of the coast."

Liddicoat said she would work to preserve the Santa Cruz north coast in its undeveloped state.

But in areas that have allowed development and that have not been made into public recreational areas, the two believe that property should not be "confiscated from private ownership by coastal commission interpretations of the Coastal Act."

They called such local and state policies "extortion," and scored the commission staff for encouraging public use over private property to create public rights-of-way.

They said that land dedication demands by the commission are confiscatory, and that the open policy on appeals by such groups as the Sierra Club should be controlled at least to the point of requiring bonds on such appeals to pay costs for delays, if the appeal is found to be unwarranted.

The council was formed Aug. 22 and has about 3,000 members, Mastroianni said.

Asked what his salary is, he replied, "I don't think I have to tell you that."

Where lands are confiscated for public access or recreational use, the council members said, "The land should be purchased by the state."

Liddicoat said that her agreement and leadership in the council will not prevent her "carrying out the Coastal Act."

But, she made it clear that her votes will follow more closely the interpretation of the council, and not the interpretation of the usual majority of the Central Coast Commission and its staff.

National Park Service says "no" to couple for house

Rob and Dawn Hincee spend their weekends on a project that could affect their neighbors and many other people across the country. They're building a house.

What makes their house different is its location within Grand Teton National Park—on land owned by the Hincees, but coveted by the National Park Service.

The Hincees are "inholders," members of an increasingly vocal group who own land inside national parks and recreation areas. The park service wants them out and has threatened condemnation if they build.

"We've decided to at least call their bluff," says Hincee, a 26-year-old U.S. Forest Service employee. "We'll fight them, not only for our benefit, but for the sake of our neighbors, too."

The federal government owns 97 per cent of Teton County, and residents of nearby Jackson Hole who have problems with the federal government have banded together in the Grand Teton Landowners Association and become active in the National Park Inholders Association.

The groups oppose a policy prohibiting building on unimproved land within parks. That policy, says Grand Teton Park Superintendent Robert Kerr, reflects a national goal of keeping parks in their natural state.

But it is in conflict in Jackson Hole because a 1950 Grand Teton Park expansion surrounded homesteads as old as four generations.

"We bought our land here in 1946," says Esther Craighead of Moose, another of the group's leaders. "The park service said it wasn't

interested in it, but four years later they surrounded us."

Mrs. Craighead, her husband, Frank, and his brother, John—both nationally known wildlife biologists—have fought a condemnation battle with the park service for a year.

"The only way to fight this is to take them to court," she says. "Park policies are unfair and illegal in many cases, but we have to take them to court to prove it."

Writers Frank Calkins and Rhodella Hunter, his wife, are embroiled in a similar fight with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over their home on the National Elk Refuge just south of Grand Teton Park.

"We told them we would be willing to trade for comparable land, but they weren't interested in that," says Calkins. "We couldn't replace it for twice what they offered."

The battle has been in limbo since summer, when President Carter intervened to stop threatened condemnation actions and the park service began reviewing its policy toward inholders.

That review is to be completed in mid-November, but the Hincees' home could change the picture.

"We haven't taken any action, because none of the inholders has taken action," says Kerr, "but his action may force a reaction."

The park superintendent says he can't predict what action the park service will take.

"But we are aware he's building on his property, and it is under review," he says.

Hincee says he decided to go ahead with the prefab log house after a year without getting cooperation from the government on a request for a land trade.

"It's kind of ridiculous," he says. "It's not like we're in the middle of the park—we're only 100 yards from the boundary. Kelly's an established town, and there are houses on both sides of us."

U.S. LAND OWNERSHIP UP-DATE

Reprinted with permission from the "California Grange News."

Since the early days of our nation's history, land ownership has been a goal for most Americans. It was considered in saucy esteem that only landowners were allowed to vote in the new republic. Ownership was reserved exclusively for men, since it was thought at the time to be far too important to be entrusted to women. Times have changed! Women have achieved a new role in society and, in general, our country has moved toward a more equitable distribution of land.

Today, individual land ownership for farmers is threatened by inflation and eroded purchasing power. Real estate values and taxes have jumped tremendously. Many growers see the potential of land ownership slipping away because they simply cannot afford it. While housing costs have doubled over the past decade, real estate values nearly tripled. This makes land more appealing to investors outside of agriculture. The USDA reports that net farm income across the nation has actually declined since 1973, forcing many farmers to sell their land to corporations or land speculators.

Who Owns the Land?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently estimated that the Federal government holds about one-third of our country's 2.3 billion acres of land. Another

51 million acres are owned by Indian tribes. For these two categories the USDA says the data is quite accurate, beyond that they can only estimate.

The remainder of the public lands are owned by the states (97 million acres) and other governments (39 million acres). It isn't known how many of the 27,000 possible jurisdictions (states, counties, municipalities and townships) and various government agencies actually own land. The amount of U.S. land in private hands is 1.3 billion acres according to rough USDA estimates. "As best can be calculated privately held land breaks down as follows: 63 per cent in farms and ranches (3 to 4 million owners); 32 per cent in forests (4 million owners); 5 per cent in housing, businesses, roads, etc."

The USDA reports there are 47 to 58 million owners of occupied housing unity. These residences cover only 2 per cent of the nation's land area, but represent over 3/4 of the owners.

California Figures

The most recent U.S. Census estimates land ownership in California as follows: Federal government, 45.3 million acres; Indian lands, 500,000 acres; and privately held land, 49.8 million acres.

There are about 101 million acres in our state and the pressure for private ownership of these acres in California, as well as for the rest of the nation, will continue. Land ownership is a symbol of freedom dear to the hearts of most Americans. There will always be a certain mystique to having a piece of ground you can call your own.

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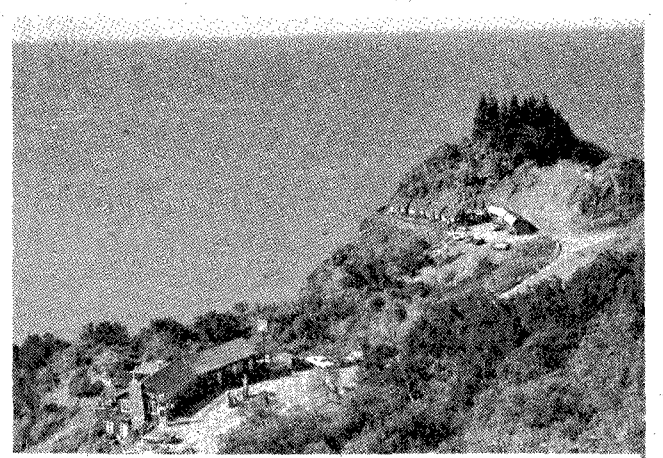
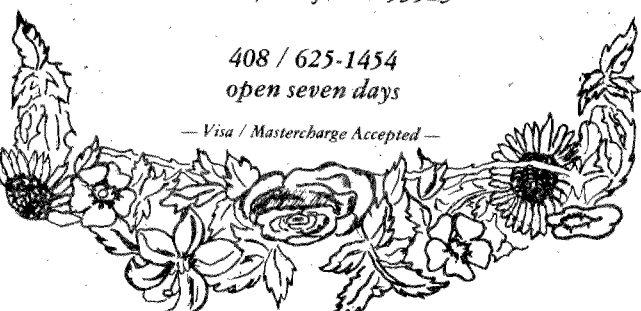
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VISIT TO TOW TRUCK MIKE

By JACK CURTIS

You drive through the gate marked "St. Francis of the Redwoods," and bend through the trees past the simple redwood sanctuary on the riverbank to a secluded parking spot. A familiar white tow-truck is parked in front of a woven reed fence that screens a small house trailer.

There are no other cars, old tires or junk.

The black, long-haired cat greets you with quiet sagacity and warm yellow eyes. He doesn't move, he feels safe and secure where he is.

"Hey, Mike!" you call before intruding any further.

"Come on in." He meets you in the immaculate yard, a reserved person, his own person for sure. The alert eyes fit his dark, thin face. His build is slight, but with a double-boomed tow truck he doesn't need so much muscle.

He is dressed in work

clothes, clean, tidy.

Usually small trailers will pick up the rancid smells of food or sweat or deodorants, but this trailer smells like home. It's small but it's as well organized as a taut ship. The divan is comfortable and there are no grease spots on the upholstery.

You're almost ready to call him Mr. Kleen, but the obvious fact is that everything in this trailer and outside has a purpose and is regularly used. The photographic slide tray, the books, the rooster-eyed scanner that arbitrarily crows a radio call on the emergency band. There is nothing you have seen yet that shows pretense, phoniness, or even devotion to Sears styles. It's basic Big Sur.

And you know as well as other old coasters that he has carried this tidiness beyond the home and the truck to the coast itself. You know he's towed the roadside eyesores to town for pay or no pay. You know he's scaled down our cliffs

with his cable and iron hook to clear the beaches. Most folks up and down the coast know it, and we take it for granted.

On Sept. 5, 1975, the young man named Trike Mike, who was pumping gas at Fernwood, underwent a conversion of sorts when he saw a way to be of more real service to his neighbors. Putting every cent he could mortgage himself for into the white tow truck, and limiting his efforts to locals, he soon became known as a good Samaritan, and 667-2518 was either memorized or written right under 'Emergency,' and his name became Towtruck Mike.

Any coaster with a car knows him. We know him in fire or flood, day or night, rich or poor, good scene or bad.

"What can I do for you?" he asks.

"Nothing today, Mike. I robbed the bees and thought you could use some fresh honey." You look at the little jar you've brought as a token payment for a very large favor. "How's it going with you?"

"I'm being evicted." He keeps it simple. He lays no bad trips on anyone. If you don't know the score, that's

your fault.

But you already know that last year he helped his not-so-tidy friends, temporarily loaned them space with the best of intentions. You know he's been a zealous caretaker of the church whenever unidentified people, including clerics, have come through the gate.

You suppose you'd better stay out of it. After all, it's Church business. Still, St. Francis of the Redwoods has been on the river long enough to be a part of the community like any other neighbor with a common cause, and surely St. Francis would have been comfortable beneath these birdy trees.

"Is it settled?" you ask, "the eviction?"

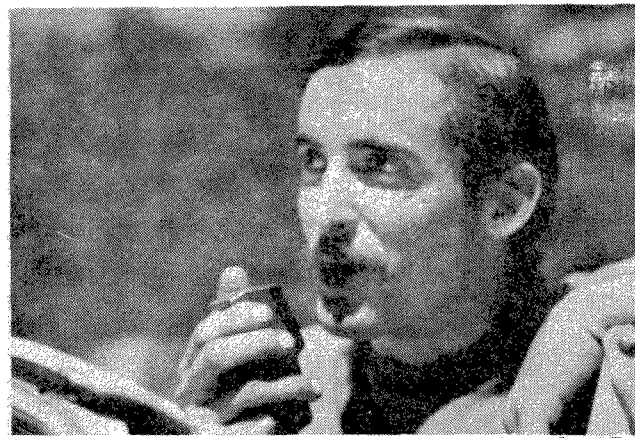
"Miracles are supposed to happen," he smiles.

"But if they don't..."

"I have to have a place out of the flood plain to be of service," he replies. "If the people don't realize my loyalty and my work for them, and all the times in the future that I would help again, then I'll do something else."

"Can you find a place like this somewhere else in Big Sur?"

"I just need radio



TOW TRUCK MIKE receives emergency call on the CB.

reception and a phone, I here or not, and if I am, need to be ready to roll at any time. I don't like to bother close neighbors in the middle of the night. And I don't need anybody looking over my shoulder."

"Don't hold your breath, Mike," you say, "you've got a lot more faith in the unselfish intelligence of this community than I have."

"I have a faith," he says. "I believe a miracle can happen. I am either needed

You leave the token jar of honey, and you write a token appeal. You haven't had any faith in this community since the power princes commenced grinding us down in their feud, but when you're in real trouble, you can always lean on Towtruck Mike.

So long as he's around.

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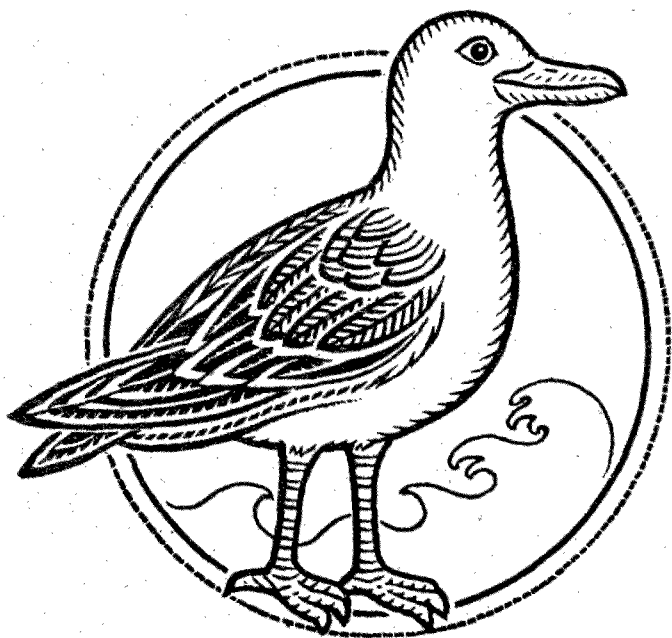
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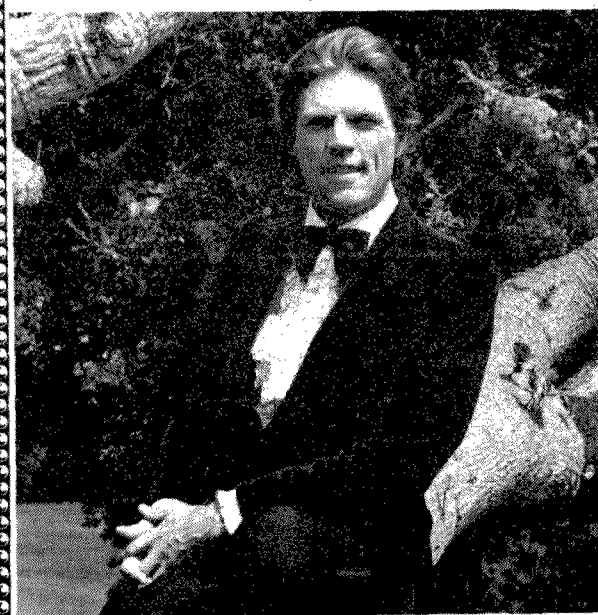
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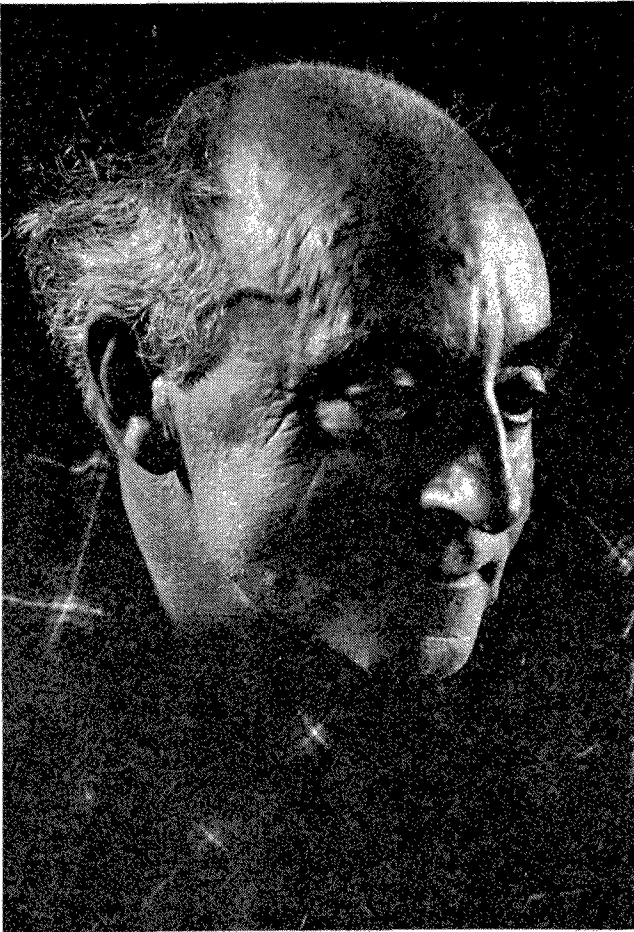


Photo by Wynn Bullock—1955

Courtesy of Tom Broadbent

HAWK'S PERCH

Selected Poetry
by
Eric Barker

Edited by WILLIAM WITHERUP

Eric Barker was a resident of Big Sur for over 15 years until his death in 1974. During his life he published at least five collections of poetry. In chronological order they are: "The Planetary Heart," Wings Press, 1942; "Directions in the Sun," Gotham Book Mart, 1955; "In Easy Dark," Hardy and Ruth Hanson, 1958; "Looking for Water," October House, 1964 and "Under Orion," Kayak, 1970. Almost all of his poems were printed in magazines and/or collections. Thanks to George Hitchcock, editor of "Kayak" magazine and Kayak books, we have permission to reprint poems from Eric's last book.

COAST FOG

Not far above
 Their cries tell us
 Gulls are flying inland
 In a sky as blind as the sea.
 Tonight the eye knows nothing,
 Even the road is lost.
 But cries of identity
 Fall from the sea's thick cloud:
 'Hear where we fly
 Knowing exactly where to go.'

Mountain laurel—
 Sage—
 Yerba buena—

Fingers of fragrance
 Touching us
 Where we walk to smell to see,
 Lighting up the dark.

We are under the fog
 As fish are under the sea.
 Three days now, three nights.
 But tomorrow the weatherman says
 The sun will tell the earth the time again,
 The dark green bay will unfold its shadow—

We can lie with our girls
 On the beach,
 Lie still and warm
 And pick out the stars.

 IN MEMORY OF ROBINSON JEFFERS
 d. Jan. 20, 1962

If he could have looked ahead
 And found the unusual weather:
 Snow, rarest from clouds in our
 Mild winters, falling outside his
 Windows, over Point Lobos and the
 Coast-range mountains, he might have
 Chosen the day he died as a good time
 To leave: the quietest heart of winter
 Anyone here remembers, the unheard
 And unheard of snow; the strange white
 Landscape. In that silence he was as safe
 As the birds and beasts in his poems,
 A sanctuary from his own kind where
 He could keep, immaculate, his own
 Identity, and leave his beloved coast
 At last and leave, save in his poems,
 No trace; no trace at all.

THE ALBATROSS

I think of those outside the pale of thought.
 I want to forget them, but the sea
 Keeps washing their victims up at my feet:
 The willets and sanderlings,
 The cormorants and gulls;
 The little pigeon guillemots and the terns,
 The tropic birds and the great wings from the north.
 Dead in thousands, thousands dying,
 Blinded, choking on the thick black spew from the sea,
 Dragging ruined wings across the defiled beaches.

I pick up a dead tern, black all over,
 The eyes burnt out with oil,
 The feathers glued stiff against the wing bones,
 The beautiful feathers that the sea winds divided.
 I think of the broken migrations,
 The winds empty over the capes of the north.
 I think of the nestlings frozen in the tundra.

Where is Proteus?
 Where is Poseidon?
 Are they, too, unable to rise?

But the derrick rises, wholly evil,
 Alien beyond the shoreline.
 Below, the giant drill breaks open the ancient sea bed,
 Releasing the hoarded fossil stench,
 Puking the black filth into the troughs
 Where the dead sea birds ride.

From the derrick top a banner floats.
 The wind unfolds its emblem:
 An albatross, mired
 In the stagnant clutch of the sea.

 THE HARP
 (for Buzz)

It was dark as a cave
 Round the base of the old tree,
 A dank airless place
 Sour with rot and mildew
 Where saplings
 The color of old flesh
 Grew thick as mangroves,
 Squeezing out the light.
 Only bugs got in there,
 The always damp ones,
 The kind the sun would kill
 At a single stroke.

A green thumb itches
 At such long neglect.
 A crying need
 Can dream a cry for help.

Next morning I attacked
 With a billhook. It took me hours
 To reach the upper air.
 Scratched, stunk, bitten,
 I came out into the sunlight,
 Black and blinking, like a miner.

I had never seen the shape
 Of the tree before.
 A few feet from the ground
 It began to open like a harp,
 Closing in a green arch near the top,
 Unfulfilled, waiting...

I wiped the billhook clean
 Of all that choking blood, and
 Looked up—clear to heaven—
 The leaves were rocking in a stream
 Of sunlight, the deep open frame
 Was beginning to hum—

A wind was rising.

REFLECTIONS IN THE KITCHEN

On this grey morning
 There is nothing to console me:
 The unwashed dishes,
 The dirty bottoms of the saucepans;
 The cake of soap
 In its abalone shell
 Exudes a bubble like the eye of a squid.
 It is all very depressing.
 And I ask them,

On that morning when I am ready to die
 When I look in the cracked mirror
 And perceive unequivocally
 That I shall not be using you again,
 Will you still look at me
 As blankly as this,
 Immersed in your own voids,
 Withdrawn as ciphers?

That is a very lonely thought.

But you all look so dumb.
 You all look so helpless.
 Especially
 The dirty bottoms of the saucepans
 Like those of babies

Waiting to be wiped.

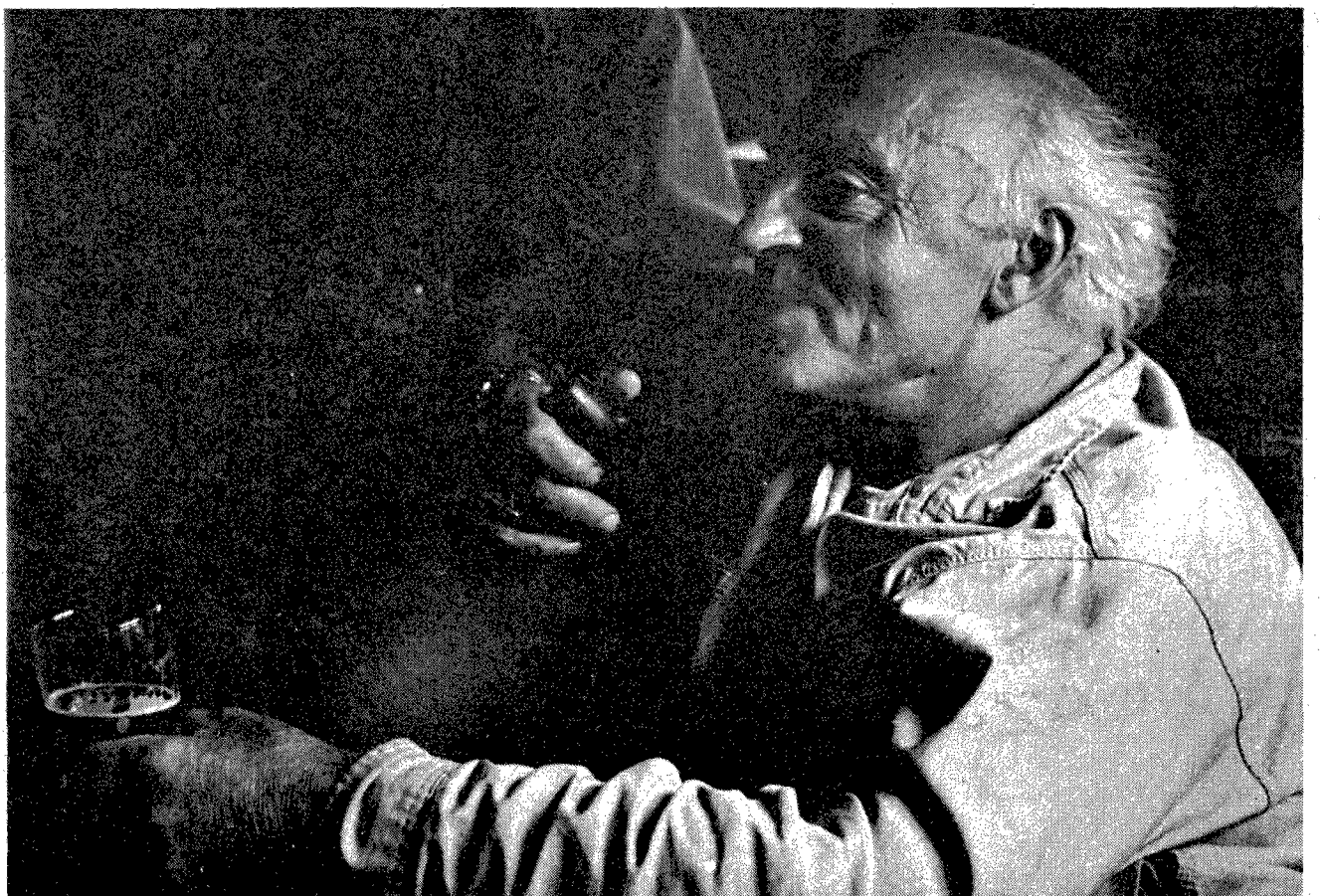
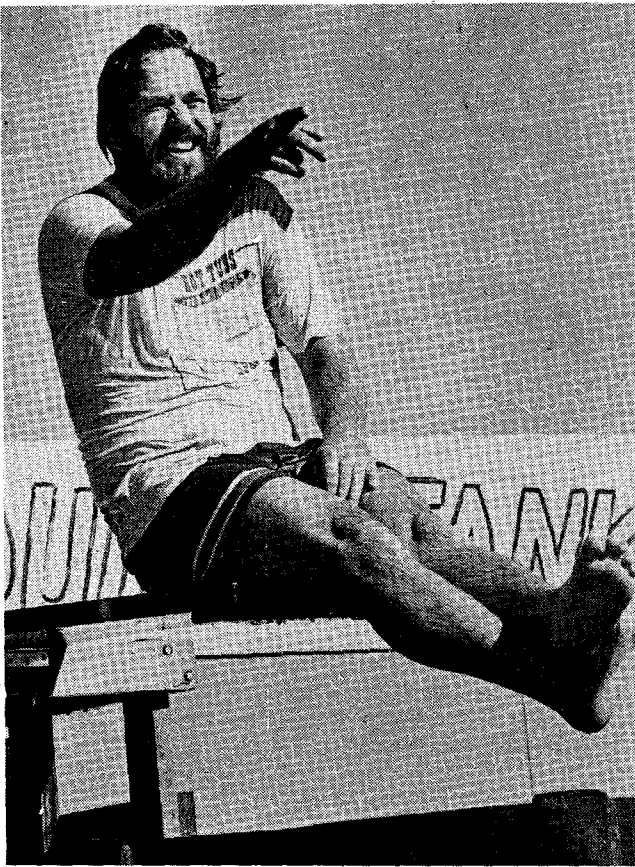


Photo courtesy of Claire Chappellet



THREE YEAR Parent's Club President, Ron Thrash, pokes fun at potential dunker.



CLOWNS KEEP AN eye on artists John Villa and Basil Sanborn as they work on carnival decorations.



GIL FULTON BEGINS artistically painting the lovely face of Shelley Thrash.



1978 Captain Cooper Carnival delights all ages

Story and photos by Paula Walling

"This is more fun than I've ever had," said a child visiting this year's Captain Cooper Carnival. He was leaving the dart throw and heading for the people dunk, his arms filled with small prizes and a large stuffed dog. In one hand he carried an ice cream cone, in the other a green helium balloon. His day was complete.

Children and adults strolled from booth to booth on the school playground in painted faces or plain, in costumes or street clothes. The day was warm and windless, perfect for the annual fund-raising event.

The booths this year were especially colorful and large signs made them easy to find.

Kitchen Helpers

In the center of all the activity under a bright, billowy parachute was the most popular stand of all, the Kitchen. Holly Fassett and Martha Wright kept everyone well fed, and provided soft drinks and ice cream to help cool off the carnival-goers. Ray and Celia Sanborn blended cool, healthful, and refreshing "smoothies" for many repeat customers.

Christa Griggs was in charge of the very successful Stuffed Animal Booth. Cindi and Rod Ortiz had over 100 "Spin Art" enthusiasts come to their booth. Mrs. Fish of Point Sur was, you guessed it, in charge of the Fish pond. The booth never looked better.

Cakewalk

Linda Thrash operated the very successful Cakewalk. Parents brought some extraordinary looking cakes this year. One was a doll surrounded by a lacy yellow formal dress made of intricately decorated icing. Jonathan Newell won the wierdest cake of all, one with icing done in the likeness of Count Dracula. Such a prize made him the envy of many children.

Burleigh's Bean Bag Toss

Once again Judge Bill Burleigh took charge of the Bean Bag Toss. He runs the booth each year—even when his children are not attending Captain Cooper. People look forward to finding him there.

Noon yard-duty supervisor and part-time teacher's aide Chris Warner and her husband Cliff were in charge of a nail-hammering booth that brought out a good sense of humor in some and a bad temper in others.

Festive Touches

Two people added especially festive touches to the Carnival. Sylvia Rudolph, unrecognizable as a clown, sold helium balloons with names, pictures, and special messages drawn on them. Occasionally they would get away and come to rest in the Curtis brush or beyond. Gil Fulton painted the faces of adults and children—and at least one dog. Faces were adorned with stars, hearts, stripes, clown faces; whatever the request, Gil's painted faces added to the merrymaking.

Dana Knutson of Point Sur headed the ever-popular Dart Throw. Balloons for the booth were again donated by Vern Lange (Hayward Lumber Company).

John and Carol Endsley also of Point Sur managed the White Elephant booth. Parents donated many valuable and useful items to this year's booth and the Endsleys did an excellent job of dispersing it.

Melinda Douglas, Captain Cooper's most frequently requested substitute who taught Kindergarten and first grade most of last year, sold baseball caps with the school's initials—while they lasted. Melinda is the wife of Principal Bob Douglas.

People Dunk

Many good sports took their turn at the most popular activity of the day, the People Dunk—including Principal

Bob Douglas, Busdriver Larry Brassfield, Parents' Club President Ron Thrash, Point Sur Executive Officer Andy Knutson (who headed the booth), and parents and community members, Tu Trotter, Tori Chesebrough, Chris Warner, Pam Forsythe, Dave Wheeler, Fred Patterson, Rubin Wright, Ken Jones, Gary Lasham and Jack Rogers. For ten cents, children and adults had the chance to dunk their favorite authority figure. Fortunately those good-natured souls who volunteered had a warm, pleasant day for getting dunked. Not all late October days in Big Sur have been so fair.

Old Friends

Two former principals, Gerald Traynor and Jack McCormack were on hand for the festivities, and seemed relieved not to be part of the People Dunk. Judy McCormack, who has often taught as a substitute at Captain Cooper, came with husband Jack and their daughter, Mary.

Second-Third grade teacher, LaVonn Curtis and half-time teacher Lori Perkins sold tickets for all the day's events.

Setting Up and Taking Down

So much that is unseen goes into each Carnival. The work of building booths this year was done by Don Case, Bob Douglas, John Endsley, Ron Thrash, and Dave Wheeler.

Roger Newell striped the parking lot to facilitate the coming and going of such a large crowd. He also headed the clean-up crew this year.

Charlie the Juggler

Charlie the Juggler, accompanied by Smokey the Bear, came to the Carnival, the siren on the Forest Service truck announcing their arrival. Charlie (Jones) delighted the late

afternoon crowd with his expert juggling act, and the children delighted in seeing Smokey the Bear again so soon. He visited during Fire Prevention Week in mid-October.

Raffle Prizes and Winners

Beverly Newell and Bobbi Colvin, assisted by Marty Morganrath and Lois Farber gathered prizes from Big Sur and Peninsula businesses and dispensed tickets for this year's raffle. The raffle has generally been the greatest money-maker of the Carnival events; it is also the most time-consuming to organize.

The entire Carnival grossed \$1,730.00 this year, the most ever earned by a Captain Cooper Carnival.

The money in previous years has been used for a variety of classroom materials and playground equipment, as well as for grounds-keeping equipment. This coming year with Proposition 13's affects on the school district still unknown, the money may well be used for items traditionally furnished by the district, such as paints, construction paper, library supplies, and other basic teaching materials.

The staff at Captain Cooper on behalf of the children wishes to thank the local businesses and individuals for donating such a wonderful variety of valuable prizes, and to thank the Monterey Peninsula businesses who supported our small school. Additionally, thanks go out to those who bought raffle tickets, sold them, attended the Carnival, built the booths, worked them, baked cakes, cleaned up the grounds, and dismantled booths.

The overwhelming success of the Carnival truly shows the Big Sur Community's ability to work together. From 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the last Saturday of October, the school was truly transformed—enriched both in spirit and monetarily.

Below is listed the results of this year's Captain Cooper Carnival Raffle:

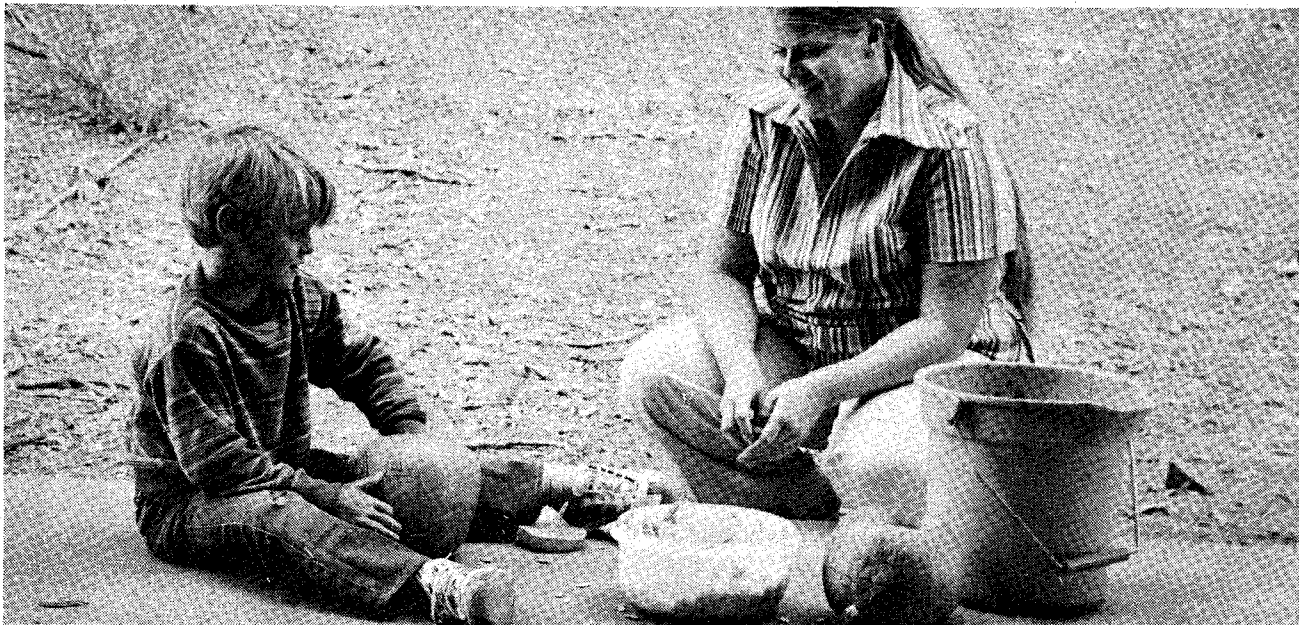
- | | |
|--|--|
| Cambria Pines Lodging & Dinner - Faust
Carmel Center Cleaners - \$10 cleaning - Morton
Montgrove - Cannisters - Rogers
Carmel Builders - Box of Hinges - Kelly
Carmel Bay Co. - Bear Mugs - Lopes
Dansk II - Casserole - Krausfeldt
Adam Fox - Wine Server - Hartman
Joynt Venture - Leather Book - Lange
Brinton's - 1-Gal. Paint, Roller & Brushes - Moore
Coast Gallery - Sea Otter Toy - Hodson
Coast Gallery - Posters - Morrow-Walling-Kelly
Big Sur Lodge - Toy Raccoon - Stock
Coast Gallery - Toy Raggedy Andy - Estribou
Pentony - Toy Goldfish - Ward
Gene Estribou - Glass Bowls - Stock, Reynolds
Gene Estribou - Glass Candy Cans - Rogers, Farber
Barnyard Florist - Dried Flower Arrangement - Farber
Coast Gallery - Greeting Cards - Stock
Ventana Country Store - Woodcarving Set - Curtis
H & H - Mother Dog with Pups - Curtis
Phoenix - Toy Polar Bear - Nelson
Coast Gallery - Ceramic Planter - Davey
Long's Drugs - Wall Decorations - Lopes
Long's Drugs - Book - Griggs
Coast Gallery - Books - Colvin-Fleener-Wright-Collins-Estribou
Al Jardine - Beasy Boy Record - Patterson
Thunderbird - Dinner for Two - Lopes
McQueen - Mexican Tea Set - Solano
Big Sur Gazette - 1-Year Subscription - Tootle Liptac
Scissors City - Haircut - Bliss-Douglas-Benson-Fleener
PR Hair Design - Haircut - Dyer, Farber
Cornucopia - Dinner for Two - Burleigh
Peyton's Place - Dinner for Two - Bossie
Ripplewood - Pizza for Two - Allen | Ventana - Deli Lunch - Riverside Campground
Ventana - Deli Lunch - Tootle Liptac
Rocky Point - Dinner for Two - Douglas
River Inn - Breakfast for Two - Riverside Campground
Nepenthe - Dinner for Two - Mahoney
Fernwood - Dinner for Two - Sanborn
Straw Hat Pizza - Dinner for Five - Wright
Dinner cooked in your home by Faye Harrington
and Clovis Harris - Somerville
River Inn - Gasoline - Webster, Walling
Ventana - Dinner for Two - Patterson
Ventana - One Night's Lodging - Allen
River Inn - Gift Certificate \$10 - Curtis
Deetjen's Big Sur Inn - Dinners - Selig
Cloud Art Glass (Barnyard) - Campbell
Farm Center - Gift Certificate - Fleener
Cambria Village Coffee Shop - Two Meals - Specker
Amy's Beauty Bar - Wash Set - Sanborn
Coast Gallery - Frog Ash Tray - Chesebrough
Green Thumb - Plant - Share
Coast Gallery - Post Cards - Went
Arco Service Station - Motor Oil - Curtis
Tillie Gort's Restaurant - \$5 on Dinner - Newell
Big Sur Bazaar - Surprise Gift - Lewis
Coast Gallery - Homestead Prints - Mara of Pooh Corner, Santos
Coast Gallery - Ceramic Bird House - Thrash
Coast Gallery - Hummer Feeder - Farber
Pooh Corner Quilts - Grib-Sized Baby Quilt - Ramona Layman
Monte Mart - Ham - Allen
Dominique's (Barnyard) - Haircuts - Allen, Klein
Coast Gallery - Candles - Share-Morganrath-Allen (2)-Benson-Woyt-
Chesebrough-Elliott-Burns-Newell-Jones-Eisenberg-Ziegler-Farber-
Braid-Davey-Mohlar-Estribou-Bourlin-Perkins-Harris-(Karen) Goodride-
Hacienda Hay & Feed - Burroughs
Sambon's - Dinner for Two - Ergovich |
|--|--|



LaVONN CURTIS AND Laurie Perkins sell tickets for the day's events to Tracy Trotter.



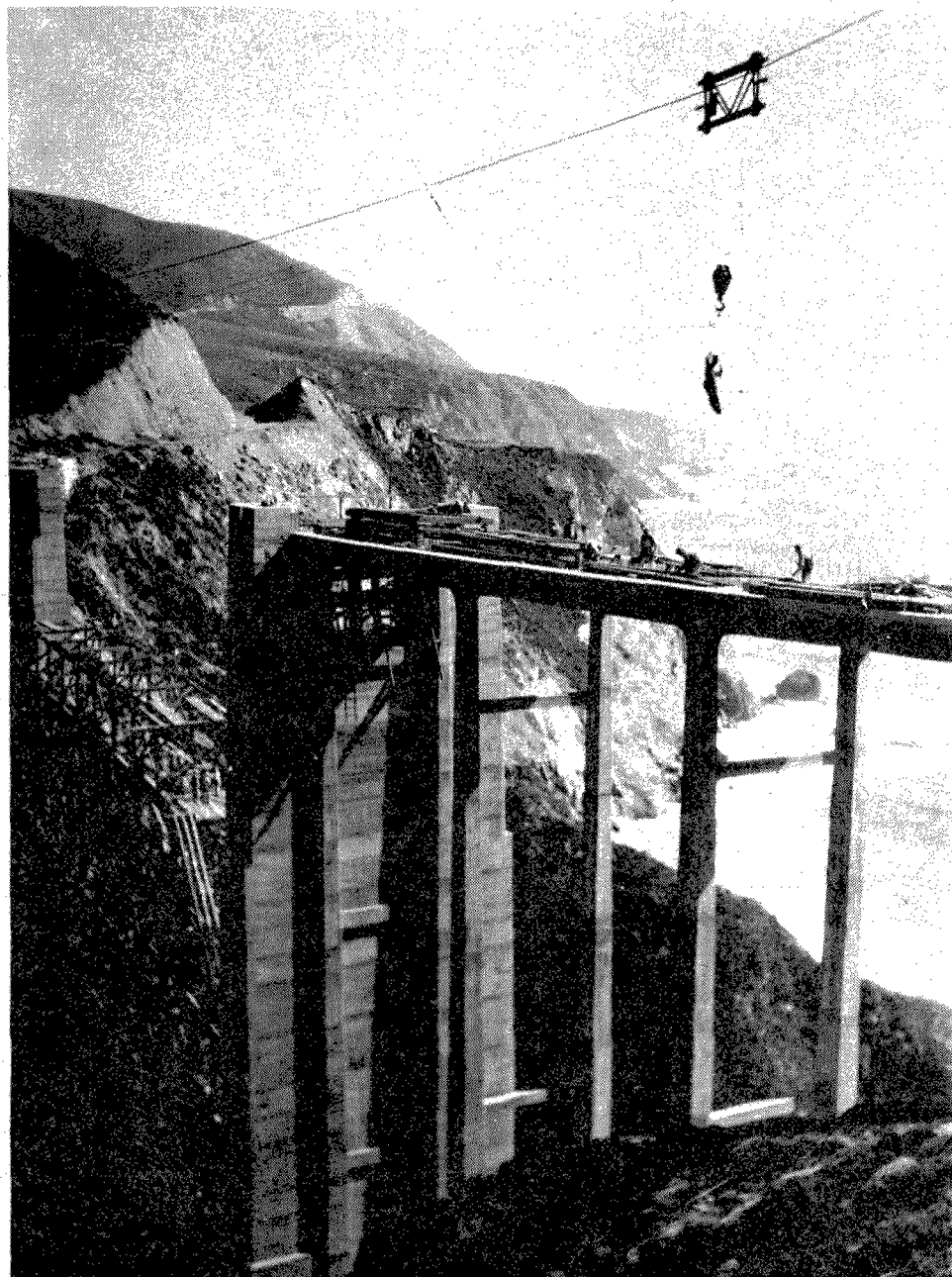
BALLOON CLOWN, Sylvia Rudolph, sold helium balloons with personalized pictures and messages.



CHRIS WARNER, noon yard duty supervisor and teacher's aide watches her son Larry prepare carnival jack-o'-lantern.



MILL CREEK, named Bixby Creek after completion of the bridge, is pictured before construction.



BIXBY CREEK BRIDGE under construction. A song by Ric Masten tells of a worker, "Jimmy Cole," being buried in the bridge. Pat Hathaway says, "There's someone buried in every big bridge if you listen to the stories."

BIXBY CREEK BRIDGE

46 years old this month

By PAULA WALLING

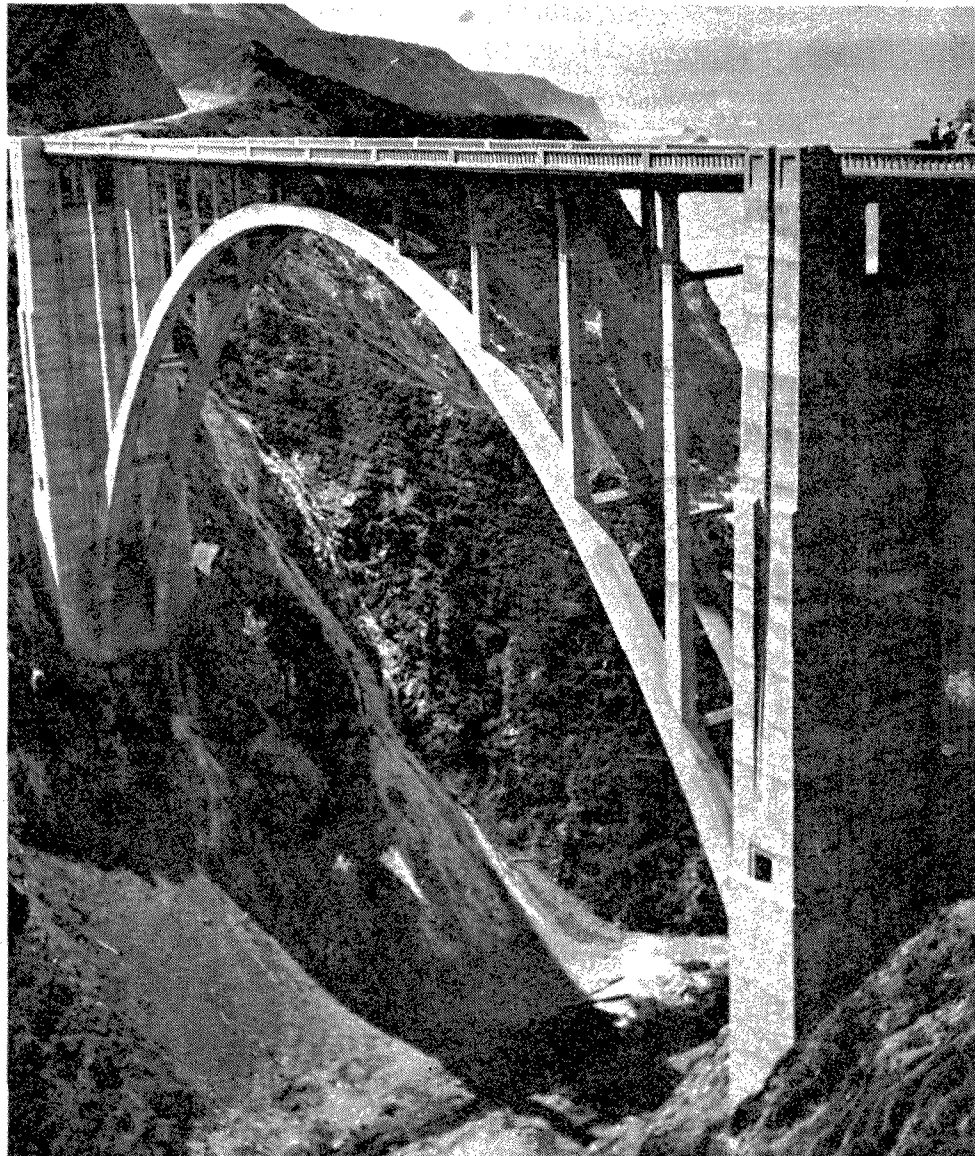
Photos by Lewis Josselyn from the Pat Hathaway Collection

November of 1932 brought important changes to the Big Sur Coast. Officials that year dedicated two major links in the chain of Highway One bridges, Bixby Creek Bridge (also called Rainbow Bridge) and Rocky Creek Bridge. Both are concrete arch spans, Bixby being the more spectacular of the two.

The Old Coast Road, now "the road less traveled by," had, of course, been the main road to Big Sur until this opening, an event that led the way to the final opening of the Carmel-San Simeon Highway in 1939.

At its opening, Bixby Bridge was reported to be "the largest of its kind in the world" by the *Monterey Peninsula Herald*. Work on the bridge began on Aug. 13, 1931 and was completed in November of 1932 at a cost of more than a quarter of a million dollars.

The accompanying photographs show Bixby before, during and after its building. An opening day photograph shows the dignitaries who took part in the dedication ceremony. Slides of these were shown, recently, by Pat Hathaway at the Oct. 29 Big Sur Historical Society Meeting.



A THIRD PHOTOGRAPH from the same angle shows Bixby shortly after its completion. Both Bixby and Rocky Creek bridges were built by the Ward Engineering Company. Rocky Creek Bridge was started eight months after Bixby. They opened to traffic the same day.



OFFICIALS DEDICATE BRIDGE. Left to right: F. W. Panforst, state Highway Engineer; Senator-elect E. H. Tickle; Audrey Maudsley; T. A. Riordan, state Labor Commissioner (who represented Governor Rolph); John Skeggs of the Highway Commission; John Howe, Highway Commission Secretary; and Lester Gibson, division engineer for the highway department. Audrey Maudsley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Maudsley of Carmel, is shown cutting the silk ribbon to open the bridge to traffic.

Omission: During the printing of last month's centerfold on Idlewild, a credit to Paul Hettich was sadly lost. Under *Hotel Idlewild*, "Brochure Courtesy of Paul Hettich" should have been included.

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BIG SUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETS

By MARY HARRINGTON

Sunday evening, Oct. 29, the newly formed historical society held its first meeting in the lobby of the Big Sur Lodge, a room just feet away from the original Pfeiffer Lodge.

Photographer Pat Hathaway of Pacific Grove brought a number of photographs and slides taken in the 1930s, mostly by Lewis Josselyn. Many of them were of the construction of Bixby Bridge, the limekilns up Bixby Canyon, and the tramways by which the lime was transported in barrels down Long Ridge to Bixby Landing. Audience participation helped identify and explain the photographs.

Chairwoman Sylvia Eisenberg introduced the founding members, herself and Toni Nicklaus, Pat Addleman, Lucy Post and Dottie Williams. The first meeting began what they hope to make a tradition—meeting in historic places and having the theme center around the history of the location. Possibilities for the future are the Jardine Ranch, original homestead of the Pfeiffer family, the Castro Ranch, the Log House at Nepenthe, originally the Trailways Club, the Post homestead, the Grimes Log House and the de Angula retreat.

The honored guest and speaker of the evening was Esther Ewoldson, whose parents operated the Pfeiffer Resort from around 1908 until it was taken over by the state park system in 1934. The Pfeiffers never intended to start a resort, but geography and circumstances eased them into it. In the early California tradition guests were always welcome; a central location along the trail and Florence Pfeiffer's cooking brought many of them. The family gave up their own beds, shared their meals and fed and stabled the stock.

An unpleasant neighbor beating his mule in the yard precipitated Mrs. Pfeiffer into a decision to charge overnight guests. She approached John Pfeiffer hesitantly with the story, but, as he also didn't care much for the gentleman concerned, he agreed.

Gradually, the small house with only one bedroom was

expanded to accommodate more guests. A large screened-in porch was added as a dining room, and several small cabins were built, including some with one wall completely open to the outside for those who wanted to enjoy the outdoors. Due to the condition of the road in winter, the lodge was strictly a summer resort.

The resort life was informal. A brass ship's bell from the wrecked *Majestic* called guests to meals where good food was abundantly served family style. Most people arrived by stage, which in summer months came down the coast, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and returned on alternate days. It was a long trip, and when Esther herself was ready for high school she went to live with relatives in Monterey. Special arrangements had to be made to attend school in Monterey because town administrators, looking at their flat maps, scheduled Big Sur children for King City schools.

In response to a question Esther explained the history of Waylon Camp. Dr. Charles Waylon, friends and family, would camp each summer across the river from the lodge. They had platforms built, and each spring John Pfeiffer would put up tents for them. There was also an open air cookhouse. A group of 10 families used the camp, bringing their own horses which the young people would ride down from San Jose. As early as perhaps 1912 Dr. Waylon looked at the property where Waylon Camp is now and asked if they could rent that piece and build some cabins. The last of those cabins was torn down by the park in 1971. One building is now at Point Lobos, and two others became the foundation for a house that Hans and Esther built at McWay Canyon.

According to Jim Fife the park has maps showing locations and size of all the early buildings in the park area, including the old saw mill where the Pfeiffers milled out their lumber.

Roy Trotter talked about the old cattle drives, a highlight of the year in country where most everyone ran cattle. He and his brother Hank tried to arrange to stay overnight at Aunt Florence's because the

food was so good. She was also renowned up and down the coast as a great fisherman.

Hans Ewoldson told of coming to work for John Pfeiffer and extolled him as a "natural naturalist." Pfeiffer had come to Big Sur at the age of seven; and through careful observation, knew all about the country. Hans once helped to fix a fence around the orchard to keep the deer out. As he began to close the last hole, John said to him, "Don't close that, how will the deer get in?"

The meeting was really an informal visit with Esther and Hans, a sharing of their memories and pictures.

The next meeting of the Historical Society is tentatively set for some time in January. Postcards will be mailed when the date is fixed. If you did not attend, a call to any one of the members will put you on the list.



ESTHER EWOLDSEN, assisted by husband Hans and Hank Adams, shows her family scrapbook to the Historical Society members. Photo by Paula Walling

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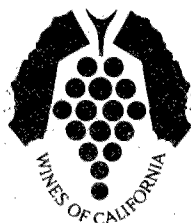
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Photography by Horst Meyer

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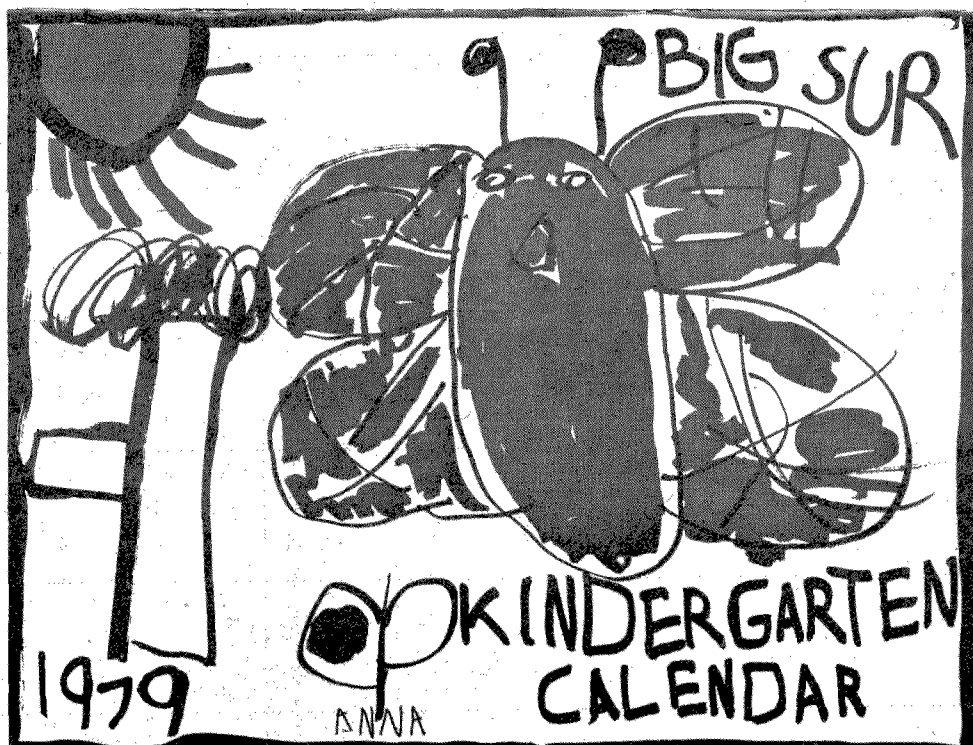
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FIRST GRADER Anna Allaire, daughter of Martha and Ken Wright, drew a Monarch butterfly for the cover of this year's Big Sur Kindergarten Calendar.

1979 Kindergarten Calendar

By PAULA WALLING

"Even the littlest one could help," said first-grader Kenyon Taylor some years ago. And in that spirit, the kindergarten and first grade children at Captain Cooper School have been producing a calendar and using the money it brings in to purchase books for the school library, a library that is used constantly and lovingly by all the children.

In three years *The Big Sur Kindergarten Calendar* has earned money enough to purchase over 600 new library books for the school.

The children who produced the pictures for the first calendar are now in third and fourth grades.

First Calendar in 1976

The original 1976 calendar cover, a dragon, was drawn by fourth grader Jonathan Newell who is now in Bob Douglas' classroom.

In 1977, the cover was a sea otter painting done by Laura Burr who now lives in Lafayette, California.

The 1978 cover was the effort of five children, Chris Steeb, Ric Lekberg, Kimberly DeLoach, Skye Morganrath, and Ninive Clements.

The new 1979 calendar cover was done by Anna Allaire, and the back of the calendar by Skye Morganrath. The months are as follows: January, Basil Sanborn; February, Charlene Endsley; March, Ehren Woyt; April, John Villa; May, Chris Patterson; June, Danielle Rial; July, Eric Griggs; August, Keri Knutson; September, Ani De Groat; October, Larry Warner; November, Mariah Derr; December, Sara Lee. The inside back pages were drawn by Jeremy Edwards and Jesse Marron.

Current School Year Production

The calendar is always the work of the children of the current school year, and so it necessarily gets printed late in the year—late October to mid-November. All drawings are thus done by the children in the first month and one half of school.

Each book purchased with calendar money bears a bookplate with a reduced picture the same as the calendar cover for that year. Children take pride in seeing this proof of the books they were able to purchase for themselves.

The Magic Fishbone

In previous years, nearly all books came from Carmel's *Magic Fishbone Bookstore*, which was the most outstanding children's bookstore in California and perhaps the

nation. This year its proprietor Martha Bruggeman sadly gave up the business, and with it went the children's literature classes she gave for parents and teachers, the well-organized and delightful field trip experience she provided for children, and her unerring ability to select the highest quality books for children of all ages and adults of kindred spirit.

Selection of Books

The 600-plus calendar-funded books were selections filtered first through Martha Bruggeman's scholarly vision, and were secondly chosen by teachers at Captain Cooper, taking into account specific interests of Big Sur children.

Often the children themselves ask if certain books can be purchased. Happily, they can and are. Frequently, parents suggest books to buy. Librarians are also consulted.

In the absence of *The Magic Fishbone*, the calendar books this year will be purchased mainly at Thunderbird Bookstore, whose fine children's section is rapidly expanding.

1000 Calendars for Distribution

This year 1000 copies of the Big Sur Kindergarten Calendar will go on sale in Big Sur and at stores in Carmel, Monterey, and Pacific Grove. They are being printed by Lee Printing of Monterey and will sell locally for \$3.00.

When the children have drawn a variety of pictures for the calendar, the job of selecting quotes from children's literature begins. Quotes which hopefully relate to the picture in some way accompany each month's drawing. The black and white pictures are often used by children as coloring books as well as calendars.

Additionally, the calendar features the children's birthdays (as well as those of others connected with the school), phases of the moon, common holidays, and rare celebrations that are of particular interest to children.

Grandmother's and Grandfather's Day

It is good to know for example that the swallows always return to Mission San Juan Capistrano on St. Joseph's Day (as Leo Politi's *Song of the Swallows* tells children), that Grandmother's Day is the last Sunday in September, and Grandfather's Day is the second Sunday in November.

The Big Sur Kindergarten Calendar tries to feature the large and small celebrations that make life worthwhile.

Do you know someone who has moved and would like to keep in touch with Big Sur? Why not send them a gift subscription to the Big Sur Gazette?

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SMOKEY THE BEAR VISITS CAPTAIN COOPER

By TOM LOWELL

On Oct. 2 Smokey the Bear and Friends appeared at Captain Cooper School aboard U.S. Forest Service Engine 225 as part of their Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 8-14) activities. The students were delighted to see their old friend back in town once again, and intently listened while Smokey the Bear declared that "Smokey's friends don't play with matches," and "Remember, only you can prevent forest fires."

Fire Prevention Technician Tom Mounts explained the "hows and whys" of fire prevention, and passed out posters and games.

Fire tools and the functions of the engine were explained and demonstrated by Big Sur Engine crewman George Billinger.

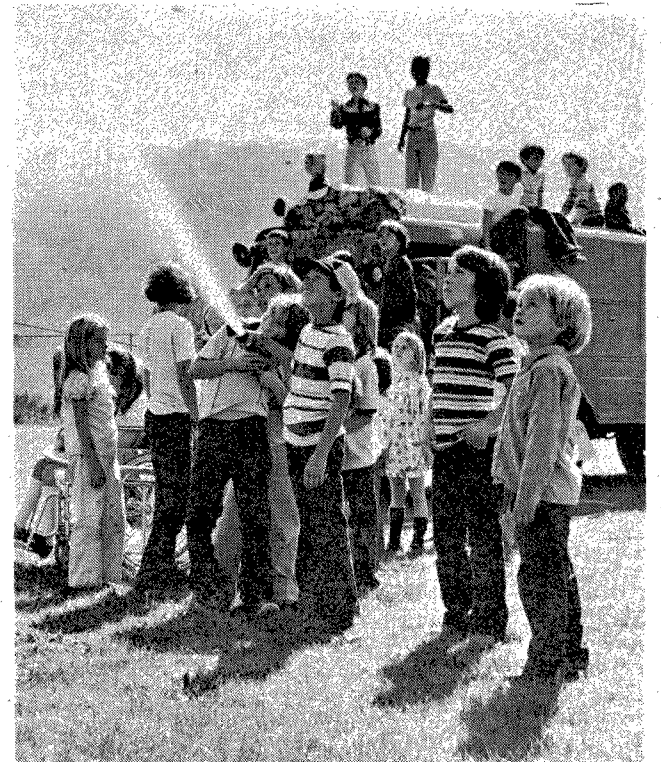
Students participated by extending the live reel and the structure lay. Others checked out the compartments on the engine and the cab. Red lights flashed and sirens blew while the students had the run of the engine.

On the previous Sunday, Oct. 8, Smokey the Bear and Friends passed through Big Sur and made stops at the following locations: River Inn, Big Sur Campground, Riverside Campground, Ripplewood, Fernwood, Pfeiffer-Big Sur State Park, Ventana, Nepenthe, and the Coast Gallery. A reliable source has reported that Smokey the Bear was seen juggling at many of these same locations.



SMOKEY THE BEAR (Tom Lowell), and USFS Rangers Tom Mounts and George Billinger demonstrate equipment

and pass learning materials to the children during "Fire Prevention Week."



FLANKED by Eric DeGroat and Michael Eaton, Sean Smythe aims the fire hose and makes a rainbow as Ebb Espinoza, John Villa and other children look on.

Photos by Paula Walling

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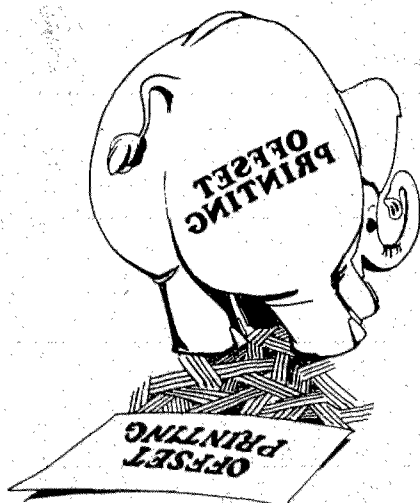
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The Book Nook

By HARMON BELLAMY

Editor's Note: The Big Sur Gazette is pleased to add "The Book Nook" by Harmon Bellamy as a monthly feature. "The Book Nook" column is over 30 years old, and is published regularly throughout the country in newspapers and magazines.

Harmon Bellamy is the author of 11 novels and scores of magazine stories and articles. We are pleased to welcome him to our growing list of Contributing Staff Writers.

DOWN THE SEINE AND UP THE POTOMAC With Art Buchwald
Putnam's, 500pp, \$10.95

This fellow, Buchwald, gives me insomnia. I read Russell Baker in the New York Sunday Times Magazine, or is it Times Sunday Magazine; well, anyway, every Sunday; and he is funny. But I always sleep well. And I read that author or authoress, Erma Bombeck, several times a week in the dailies, and that Bombeck woman's excruciatingly comical book about the grass growing greener over the septic tank had me in stitches, but I always slept fine. Then along comes this Art Buchwald, whose columns I sometimes read and sometimes manage to miss and who is surely one of the three funniest writers alive

(if you overlook S. J. Perelman and a couple of others), and he gives me insomnia.

I'll tell you how it happened. First of all, it's a big book, exactly 500 pages, and it contains dozens and scores and even, yes, even hundreds, of his newspaper columns written and printed over the last twenty-five years. In fact, the red, white and blue book jacket actually advertises "Twenty-Five Years of Art Buchwald's Best Humor." It even has a smattering or a handful of articles that I am sure were not printed columns because they are a bit risqué, in fact somewhat too outspoken or raw for today's editors, although maybe not for the readers, and much longer than Buchwald's usual short pieces which are always very politely written without swearing or dirty words like in this handful of raunchy selections which I am sure were written especially for this book, you know, to spice things up a bit, as the saying goes; maybe even to prove that Buchwald can compete with regular raunchy writers who are constantly knocking out best sellers.

Well, anyway, I started reading **DOWN THE SEINE, etcetera**, and discovered that it is split into XV different parts, each part more or less concerning

a particular subject, starting with the late forties after the war when Arthur was assigned to Paris by his newspaper for about fifteen years or so. He had a lot of fun and adventures in Paris and other foreign countries in the vicinity and you get all that in his columns. He met a lot of bigwigs and sure learned a lot about foreign customs and everything, so by the time he was transferred to Washington, D.C., about 1962, he was quite experienced and no longer naive and gullible and knew what most things were about. That is why he was able to tackle the tough administrations like Johnson's and Nixon's and Ford's and get by without too much difficulty, although he did suffer a vast pain under the heart from disappointment because he failed to make President Nixon's enemy list, which he surely had expected to make, because he was an unremitting critic of Tricky Dick for a long time. However, that isn't why I got insomnia.

The trouble was that I got more and more involved with Art Buchwald's trials and tribulations, and his complaining only made me laugh more every time I picked up the book. You see, I have other things to do besides read books for review and this is too big a volume to manage at one sitting or reading. I had to space myself, if you want to know the truth. But by the time I got toward the end, with maybe a hundred pages still to go, Buchwald's troubles and problems around the Potomac were getting funnier and funnier, and I hated to put the book down with me on the home stretch. So I took the book to bed as I do almost every night, and I was really into the thing, and all of a sudden it was "Lights out. It's after midnight. If you want to continue reading, go into the

living room or some place, and let me sleep."

Well, I never like to go into another room and desert the little woman because I might wake her up when I crawl into bed later. So I put the book away and turned out the lights and soon I discovered that I alone was awake. I turned this way and that, and all I kept thinking of was Arthur's pieces about Watergate that had kept me in stitches, and finally I said to myself: "To hell with it." I got out of bed and put on my robe and went into the living room with the book, turned on the weakest light, and picked up where I'd left off **UP THE POTOMAC**, all about Watergate and the guys who were responsible.

I tried not to laugh out loud and I wasn't the least bit sleepy. Twice I put the book aside, realizing how late it was, closed my eyes, tried to doze off, but that's when I realized it was impossible. I had insomnia and Buchwald was responsible.

I heard the shuffling of feet on the carpet, and there was the missus, eyes wide with surprise. "Do you know what time it is?"

"I only have another ten pages to go. This Buchwald is really hilarious."

"You're mad. It's after three o'clock. Go to bed. You'll finish tomorrow."

"I have insomnia. I can't sleep. I'll be along in a few minutes. This Buchwald—say, listen to this one—"

She shook her head and tossed up her arms. "I give up," she said, and disappeared into the bedroom before I could read her a passage or two.

But I didn't—give up, that is. I had insomnia. I think I'll write Buchwald that he's a bad influence. I wonder how many other readers are having the same problem. If you like humor, satire, farce like I do, watch out for **DOWN THE SEINE AND UP THE POTOMAC**.

ENERGY and ENVIRONMENT

By HANS EWOLDSEN

One of the most discussed problems is the increased use of energy and the effect it will have on the environment and on our natural resources. It seems that almost everybody has a different solution to this problem and a plan to prevent any detrimental effect the increase of energy producing plants will have upon the environment.

Instead of worrying almost exclusively on the effect, it seems to me that we should examine the cause, which might effect the environment adversely. If we look at our present use of energy, we must realize that we not only use a large amount for the necessities of living but much for our personal comfort far beyond that which is necessary for a comfortable life. Of course nearly everyone has a different idea of what is necessary for a comfortable life, and it is not my intention to spell it out but rather leave it to everybody to determine what is essential and what is not. It is my conclusion that the demand for increased energy is our excessive use of it.

By far the most important cause for the increasing demand for energy is the increasing population. To obtain and maintain an environment most of us would like to live in we would have to turn the clock back at least 50 years or dispose of half of the population of California. Since neither of these seem practical, we will have to find other solutions.

It is easy for people to say, "I don't want a nuclear plant" or "I don't want a coal operated plant." Some suggest wind power, and some sun power. If they had practical experience in these last solutions they would know they could never solve our present problem. Increased technology might make these practical in the far future. We have over 200 million people in the United States now who are not likely to give up their comfortable life based on the use of plentiful energy unless circumstances force them to do so.

My solution to this problem is:

1. Convince people to stop indiscriminate breeding.
2. Reduce the use of excessive energy.
3. Realize that the people are here now who want to live and have to make a living.

Ultimately we will have to learn to use our resources according to our needs rather than to our wants. This should be the first step toward saving energy and resources, not the last.

Editor's Note:

Hans Ewoldsen is a past director of the Monterey Area. For years he has worked closely with the Coast Resource Conservation District, and he is chairman of the Forest and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

Coast Resource Conservation and Development Area. For years he has worked closely with the Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

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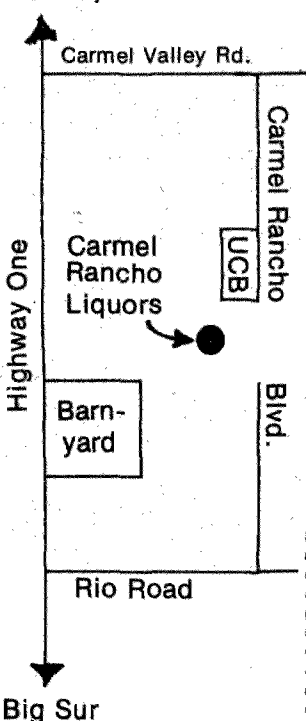
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

San Lucia Mission October 22nd, 5 p.m. Episcopal Service Between River Inn and Big Sur Campground	St. Francis Church Saturday Mass, 4 p.m. Catholic Service 1/2 Mile North of Fernwood
Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park Sundays, 10 a.m. Non-denominational Service State Park Campfire Center	Immaculate Heart Hermitage Sunday Mass, 11 a.m. Mass on weekdays, 6:15 a.m. Evening Prayer, Sundays at 5 p.m. and weekdays at 6 p.m. Catholic Service 1/2 Mile south of Lucia Lodge

Wildlife Section



Jeff Norman, editor of the Gazette Wildlife Section, grew up on the Monterey Peninsula, and works for the U.S. Forest Service. He is interested in all things pertaining to the Santa Lucia Mountains, and hopes that this column will enhance other people's appreciation of this coast.

The Gray Whale

Summer Grounds 
 Migration Route 
 Calving Areas
 Present →
 Former 



Gray whales passing Big Sur

By KATY STOCK

This Sunday gaze out over the Pacific Ocean and watch for the migrant gray whales. They will be passing the Big Sur coast in greatest numbers in December and January, on the way to their winter grounds off Baja California in Mexico where they will calve, breed, and avoid the ice of Alaska. We can also see them as they travel north along the California coast from February through April, returning to their summer grounds to feed.

If you haven't in the past, take some time to observe these incredible beings. When you see their misty spouts, disappearing flukes or black-gray backs, realize that whales are the highest form of intelligence in the oceans; and that this intelligence is as developed, or more so, than our own. When you see the mothers with calves leisurely traveling north, you'll get a sense for their caring family structure. And, if you could stick your head underwater and tremendously heighten your awareness, you could pick up their complex sounds and songs that allow communication at great distance.

The gray, *Eschrichtius robustus*, is the most primitive of all whales. They spend the summer months feeding off Alaska, eating tons of benthic (bottom) organisms daily in preparation for their migration and 6-month fast. Unlike most baleen whales that feed on free-swimming krill, the gray whales are bottom feeders. They scoop up massive amounts of bottom material and lift their tongues to force it through the baleen (sieve-like plates that hang from the upper jaw) and swallow the critters caught there.

When the ice begins to thicken and form on the northern seas, the gray whales segregate by sex, age and reproductive status and begin their 8,000-mile round trip. They travel steadily and deliberately on their southern migration, going 4 to 5 knots and surfacing every 3 to 5 minutes to blow 3 to 5 times. Although thought to travel a bit further offshore, we are more likely to see gray whales "hanging out" in the coves and inlets on their northern migration, when the pace is 2 to 2.5 knots (half the speed of their southern travels). According to underwater sound tests there appears to be no difference in the gray whale's day and night

travel. In this way they are able to travel as much as 185 kilometers a day on the southern migration, and about half that on the northern.

The gray whales almost always calve in the quiet, warm-water lagoons off Baja California. The calves are born flukes first, and are immediately buoyed up to the surface for their first breath of air, either by the mother or by an assisting female without calf, sometimes called an "aunt" whale. But sometimes the mothers won't make it as far as Mexico to have their calves: Gray whales will sometimes give birth off Northern California! Day-old calves have been seen in calm coves and harbors in Northern California, nursing at the surface while the mother rolls on her side, raising a fin and part of her flukes.

But now there is reason to have a deep concern for the future of the gray whales. This past June, in what appeared to be pure politics, the gray whale was removed from the endangered species list, thereby opening the door to their commercial hunt. As well, with the expansion of offshore oil development throughout its entire

migration route, there is a strong possibility that oil spills will produce adverse effects on the gray whale. In the event of a spill, it is suspected that both the inner and outer seals at the blowhole will become inflamed and lose their waterproofing qualities, and allow water and oil into the lungs.

With these acute possibilities affecting the gray whale, your observations are especially valuable at this time. Watch for mating and feeding behavior, interaction with killer whales (the gray whale's only natural predator), mothers with calves, and surfing. (Yes, surfing!)

And if you should see one spying out, wonder...who's observing whom?

(Editor's Note: Katy Stock, Greenpeace coordinator, has lived most of her life on the Monterey Peninsula. She worked six years for the Monterey Peninsula SPCA. She says, "Since whales have evolved for millions of years, longer than we, I wonder if we can learn from them and their gentle, caring ways.")

Craft benefit for sea otters and Greenpeace

Greenpeace and the Friends of the Sea Otter, two community environmental organizations, will benefit from the first annual Monterey Bay "Artisans Give Thanks to the Animals" Christmas gift show.

The three-day event will take place at the Holiday Inn at Highway 1 and Rio Road in Carmel over the Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 24-26.

A variety of 25 different crafts will be on sale: blown glass, photographs, copper-enameling, batik, stained glass, weaving, jewelry, wood and metal sculptures, pottery, paintings, miniature furniture, painted eggs, leather work, quilting, Mexican folk art, pine needle baskets and non-whale, product scrimshaw.

There will also be Friday night wine-tasting and preview, as well as a Saturday night raffle, with prizes given by the artists involved.

Included in the gift show will be a children's art display gathered from young people across three counties, depicting their feelings on whales, otters and ocean ecology. The tables will be turned and children will be teaching adults about caring.

The times are: Friday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from noon to 9 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

It is special indeed to have artisans, environmentalists, children and the local community involved in a joint effort. Several Big Sur artists will be participating. Looking forward to seeing you there!

For further information, contact Katy Stock, (408) 372-8171.

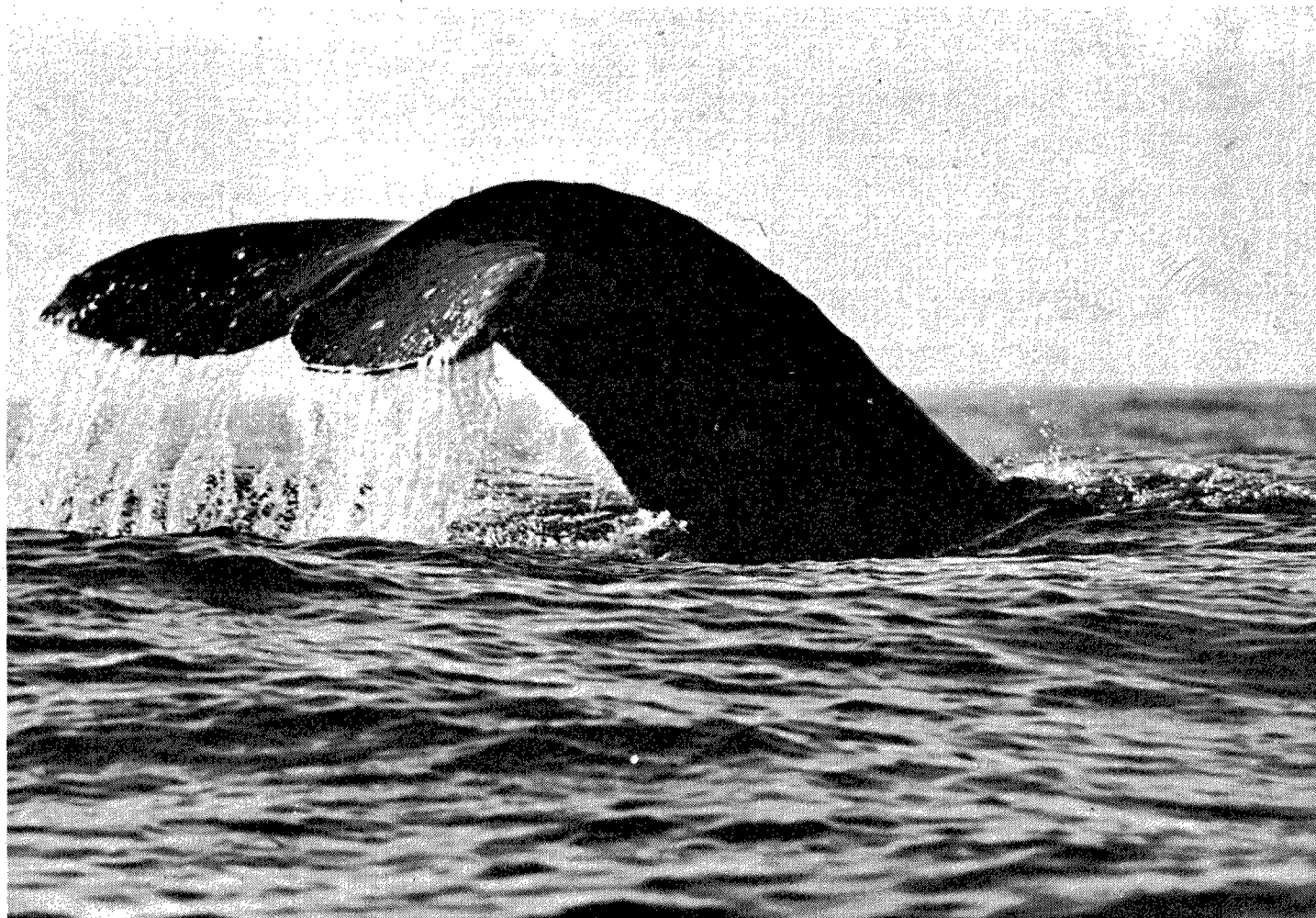


Photo by Alan Baldrige

California Grey Whale dives off point Pinos



PACIFIC VALLEY SCHOOL children in costume at the annual Halloween Party. From left, Joaquin Sullivan (robot), Golden Rose, Sean Ra Cassidy (in mask), Holly

Watson, Embree Mayer, Sheryl Hoffman, Sterling Rose, Elizabeth Lunney (behind Sterling), Nora Bateson and Jennifer Lunney.

Pacific Valley School celebrates Halloween

The Halloween Party at Pacific Valley School on Oct. 31 provided a fun-filled afternoon for children, parents and teachers.

Some of the high points of the day were apple bobbing, a costume contest, a videotape show and a delicious

assortment of refreshments provided by the parents.

Winners of the costume contest were Joaquin Sullivan, robot, first prize; second prize was won by Golden Rose for her Japanese lady costume; Holly Watson, in a dancer's costume, won third prize.

Tor House Fund two-thirds of way

With two months to go to meet a \$100,000 deadline, the Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation president Fred Farr still feels confident that his group will make it. As of Oct. 30, a total of \$64,000 in cash and pledges had been raised.

"We are late in gaining momentum," Farr declared, "but a number of projects have begun to pay off. We have had 11 responses to a \$200 individual appeal sent out a week ago, offering a special printing of an unpublished Jeffers poem to be produced by the well-known Laguna Beach publisher Ward Ritchie. Only 100 copies will be printed for such distribution. A sell-out of this volume would realize \$20,000."

Farr also referred to a letter by Dame Judith Anderson being sent by her to many friends throughout the country, and stated that it was beginning to bring in a sizeable sum of money. A Dame Judith Anderson reading and reception

in Carmel is tentatively being planned for Sunday, Dec. 10.

Operational expenses have been made by two recent projects, the Oct. 3 "Jeffers Country" bus tour with Ansel Adams, which attracted 100 persons at \$25 a ticket. Also, volunteer groups of women have been canvassing all Monterey Peninsula bookstores and have placed copies of the "Jeffers Country" paperback book by Scrimshaw Press for sale, with profits going to the Tor House Fund. Santa Cruz, Salinas and Big Sur outlets are also selling the book. A few downtown Carmel business firms are likewise promoting this volume, whose illustrations were done by the late Horace Lyons, long-time mayor of Carmel. "We have sold several hundred of these volumes, which give us \$3 profit per book, and, we still have 800 books on hand to offer."

For further information, contact Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation Inc., P.O. Box 1887, Carmel, CA 93921 or call (408) 624-1813.

ANNUAL DISASTER MEETING HELD

The annual pre-flood and earthquake meeting was held in Salinas Nov. 1 and was well attended by representatives from over two dozen agencies.

The purpose of the meeting was to improve understanding of flood and earthquake operating procedures, and to coordinate the various agencies resources, roles and responsibilities.

Pat Chamberlain was invited to represent the Big Sur Ambulance and Gary Koeppel was invited to represent the community.

Post Marble-Cone

Art McDole, County Communications Director and Disaster Coordinator, described the rain gauge system which he created for the Big Sur watershed after last year's Marble-Cone fire.

The system consists of three segments: gathering data, analyzing data, and warning.

Storm and rainfall data are gathered from the U.S. Weather Bureau station in Redwood City, from seven rain gauges located on peaks in the Big Sur Watershed, and from a gauging system in the Big Sur River which computes the cubic feet per second of run off.

Data is transmitted by radio signals from the gauges and then analyzed; predictions are made and, if flooding seems imminent, the five warning sirens located in the Big Sur Valley are activated.

"Big Sur is the most critical area because of a short run off period and because the gauging station in the gorge is close to the highway," said Art McDole.

Last winter, according to Mr. McDole, the voice mode (verbal warning) was activated four times and the sirens were activated once.

Flood Potential 1978-79

According to the U.S. Forest Service reports, the potential for flooding of the Big Sur River is equal to or worse than last year.

Reasons given were that last year's rains followed two dry years, and with the low water table, the soil's absorption ability was high, and the first rains soaked in.

"If the intensity of rain is high and the duration short, extensive run-off could occur, but it is all very iffy, concluded Mr. McDole.

The USFS has begun work with hand crews to buck up logs in the channel to smaller, more floatable lengths of three to four feet.

Due to lack of funds, no preventive dredging of the channel is scheduled.

ESALEN CLOSED NOV. 17-26

Esalen Institute, including the hot springs, will be closed to locals and the general public from Nov. 17-26.

On Nov. 27 the hot springs will be reopened to local residents and the public with their customary schedules. Local residents may visit the baths from Sunday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. at no charge. The general public may use the baths from Sunday through Thursday from 1 to 5:30 p.m. at a charge of \$3 per person.

Claire's Cooking Corner

BIG SUR RECIPE



BEAUTIFUL BEAST

If you'd enjoy an alternative to pumpkin pie on Nov. 23rd, you'll be thankful that this edible-mousse materialized out of the cranberry bog of a culinarian's creative cranium. Out of all dessert recipes, this is my favorite festive pet ... richly light and lovely.

CRANBERRY MOUSSE

4 cups or 1 lb. fresh cranberries, rinsed and drained
1 1/2 cups sugar
2 pkgs. of 3 oz. strawberry gelatin
1 1/2 cup orange juice
2 cups (1 pint) whipping cream

Combine cranberries, sugar and water in pot and bring to boil. Lower heat and simmer for five minutes, or until cranberries are just tender. Drain juice from cranberries. Re-heat juice to boiling point and add gelatin, stirring until dissolved. Stir in lemon and orange juice. Chill until mixture thickens slightly.

While gelatin is thickening, prepare a foil collar for a one-quart souffle dish. Cut a three-inch strip of foil -- long enough to go around outer edge of dish. Tie or tape the collar to outside of dish, so that it extends two inches above the rim.

Whip cream until stiff. (Reserve a half-cup of the cream to decorate the top.)

Puree half of the cooked cranberries in blender and fold, with whipped cream, into the slightly thickened gelatin mixture. Pour into souffle dish. Chill until firm. Remove collar and spoon remaining whole cranberries on top. Melt jelly and spoon it over cranberries. Garnish edge of mousse with small rosettes of whipped cream ... and ENJOY!!

CORRECTION

The correct final game score for the 1978 softball league championships was Point Sur 14, Ventana 2. The Gazette wishes to apologize for the printing error in last month's issue.

The Gazette:



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Fri., Dec. 1

Lecture: Knowledge Update—The Rivals: The U.S., the Soviet Union and the Cold War, Richard Kezirian, 1:30 p.m., MPC room E-3, Free.

Film: Le Mouton a Cinq Pattes (The Sheep Has Five Legs), 8 p.m., MPC room M-10, general admission \$2.

Concert: MPC Jazz Ensembles—Don Menza, tenor-saxophonist, guest, 8 p.m., MPC Music Hall, general admission \$3.

Sat., Dec. 2

Film: Audubon Wildlife Series: Wilderness Alberta, 8 p.m., MPC Music Hall, general admission \$2.

Tues., Dec. 5

Concert: Christmas Concert—MPC Concert Band and Community Band, 8 p.m., location to be announced, free.

Wed., Dec. 6

Play: Two one-act comedies, *Chamber Music* and *fragments*, 8:30 p.m., MPC Theatre, admission to be announced, continues 12/7, 12/8 and 12/9.

Fri., Dec. 8

Ballet: *Nutcracker*, Santa Clara Ballet Company, 8 p.m., King Hall, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, general admission \$4.

Fri., Dec. 8

Lecture: Knowledge Update—A Cry For Help, Sydney Brooks of Suicide Prevention Center, 1:30 p.m., MPC room E-3, free.

Sun., Dec. 10

Concert: 29th Annual Christmas Concert—MPC Chorus, 8:15 p.m., MPC Music Hall, free.

Fri., Dec. 15

Lecture: Knowledge Update—Christmas With the Peninsula Players, 1:30 p.m., MPC room E-3, free.

Film: *The Quiet Man*, 8 p.m., MPC Music Hall, general admission \$2.

Dance Concert: MPC Fall Dance Concert, Frank Quilintang guest choreographer and dancer, 8 p.m., MPC Theatre, general admission \$2.50, continues Sat., Dec. 16.

Items on this calendar are subject to change and/or cancellation.

Personal

EARTH—Love it or lose it. M. Fontana

GURDIEFF-OLSPENSKY center accepting students. Call 624-0621.

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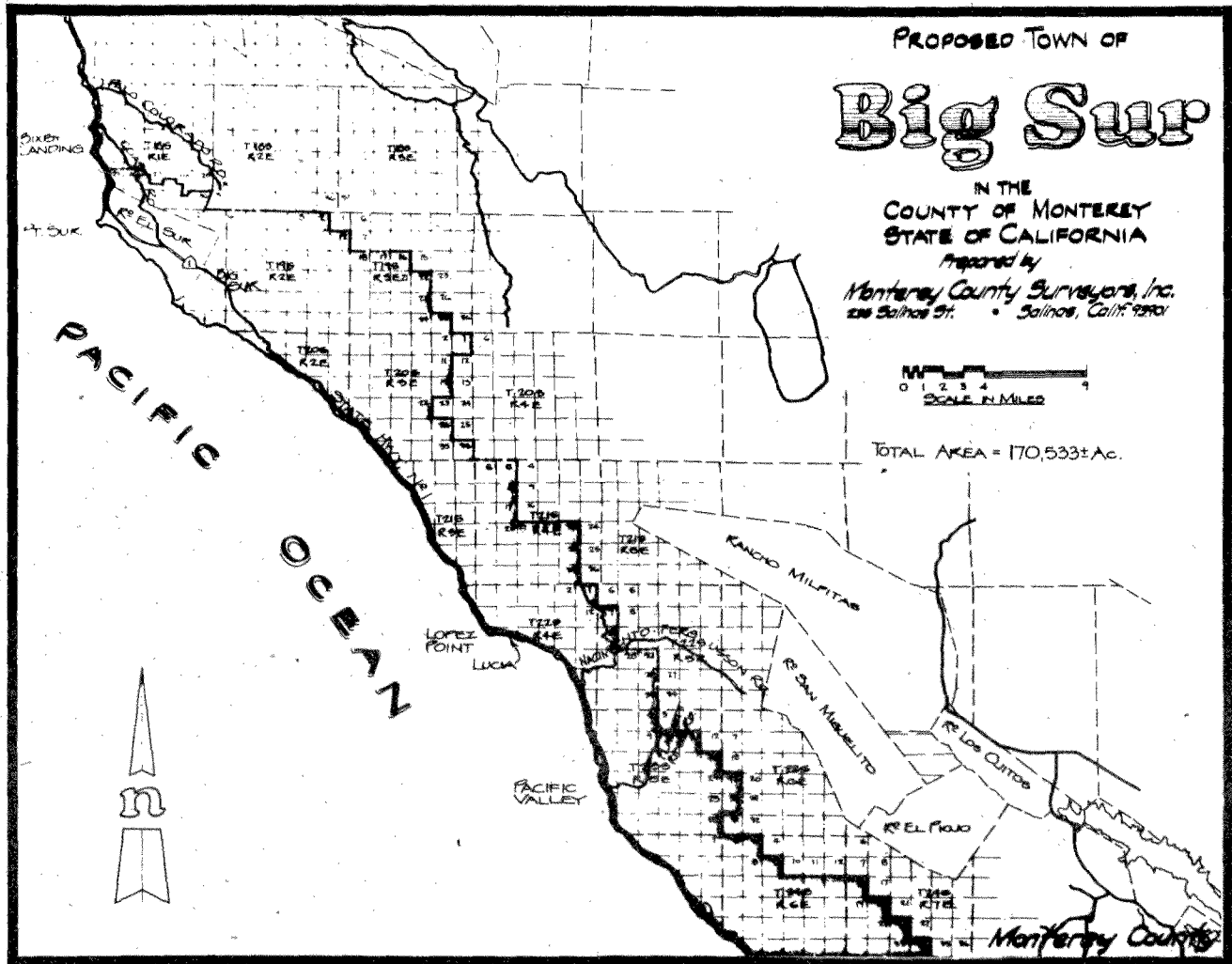
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Map of proposed Town of Big Sur.

Big Creek Subdivision

Continued from page 1

bought it last year, the land was supposed to stay that way forever. If they get the okay higher up, they'll have cut it up into four parcels in one year."

At the time of sale, Dec. 31, 1977, the property was subdivided into two parcels, of which one 120-acre parcel was retained by the sellers.

The two larger of the three proposed parcels will be gifted to the University of California and the 10-acre parcel with the Interpretive Center is planned to be retained by the Nature Conservancy.

All three applications will be heard by the County Planning Commission on Nov. 29 at 4:10 p.m. in Salinas.

Proposed Development

Regarding the development application, which has been submitted to the Coastal Commission, status at this time is unknown.

The request involves making a new access road to some existing older buildings which are referred to as the University Center.

Other proposed physical developments include an interpretive trail, camping areas, and resurfacing the entrance road.

As yet the coastal staff has not completed their findings on the proposed developments' impact on the carrying capacity of Highway 1, the availability of water, whether it requires an environmental declaration or whether it will prejudice the Local Coastal Plan, and other Coastal Act concerns.

CAC REQUESTS DELAY OF ALL MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

At the Oct. 24 meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee, the attending members adopted a resolution submitted by Lloyd Addleman to request the Board of Supervisors to delay all applications for major developments.

A similar motion had been made during the Sept. 12 meeting, but it had been tabled by the committee.

The text of the motion reads:

"The Citizens Advisory Committee of Big Sur requests a delay in all major development approvals, which might prejudice local coastal plan options, until a sure direction in planning is indicated by a final LCP.

"The committee does not take a stand for or against

any particular development project, but feels that a wise decision is impossible without the benefit of the present planning effort and that major changes in the present situation will serve to frustrate those of us who are working on the plan."

Copies of the recommendation were sent to the Planning Commission and both the Regional and State Coastal Commissions.

Members voting for the motion were Addleman, Dillon, Leavy, Mohn, Newell, and White. Those opposing were Fee, Harlan and Frank Trotter. Roy Trotter abstained.

Members absent were Honeychurch, Koepfel, Mahoney, McQueen, Mudd, Stewart and Wright.

Big Sur Incorporation Study

Continued from page 1

use, development, and environmental protection, and future community character generally — are beyond local control or even significant influence. Hence the heavy emphasis on "local control" and the lack of county responsiveness in most recent incorporations.

Incorporation gives the town "all the regulatory powers the county previously exercised, in particular planning and land use control."

In comparing incorporation to the other alternatives, the report states "As the only constitutionally-authorized 'general unit of local government' a community can have, a town government is a much more legitimate spokesman for the community than the other alternatives in dealing with other agencies of government."

The principal advantage of the town alternative, writes the consultant, lies in assuming "land use, control powers and responsibilities."

TOWN SERVICES

The incorporated town of Big Sur would assume the following town services: general government, planning, public safety, and roads.

The Town Council would be elected at large by the community, and it is assumed the Councilmen would appoint five to seven Town Planners.

The town business would be conducted by two employees, a Town Clerk and a Typist. Operational costs would include liability insurance and the services of a Town Legal Counsel.

Planning services would be provided by a part-time consultant to the Town Planning Commission. A Local Coastal Plan would be developed by the consultant and Town Planners, and it would be funded by the first partial year of surplus revenues.

Regarding police protection, the town could either contract with the county Sheriff's Department or establish its own department. The status of the Highway Patrol is uncertain at this time because of a pending request for the CHP to patrol state highways within cities.

The fire protection would remain as is, with the USFS, CDF, and the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade, which would remain an independent entity with the Brigade Chief designated as the Town Fire Chief.

Maintenance of 15 miles of roads would be the Town's responsibility after incorporation.

TOWN REVENUES

Revenues are described as coming from existing state and county taxes, the revenues of which currently go to the county. No new taxes are involved.

A detailed list of "subvention" revenues include, among others, franchises, permits, fines, cigarette, liquor and gas taxes.

Sales tax revenues (1 cent or the 6 cent state sales tax) and motel bed tax revenues (8%) constitute the sources for the majority of the income.

SUMMARY OF EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Expenses	
General Government	\$ 61,000
Planning & Water Protection	13,000
Public Safety	140,800
Roads	20,000
	\$234,800
Revenues	
Sales Tax	\$ 60,833
Motel Tax	125,840
Subventions	73,265
	\$259,938

PETITION CIRCULATED

The members of the Incorporation Committee have begun circulation of a petition which, if signed by 25% of the registered voters, will bring the subject to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) for their evaluation and for discussion at public hearings.

If 51% of the registered voters of the area oppose the proceedings, the matter will be dropped by LAFCO; otherwise, providing the feasibility can be substantiated, LAFCO will move to put the proposal on the ballot for a general election sometime in the future, either June or November of 1979.

Copies of the feasibility study may be obtained by writing to the Committee for the Incorporation of Big Sur, Big Sur, CA 93920. Copies are free to residents and \$3 postpaid for non-residents.

More information and a report of the Town Hall Meetings will appear in the December Gazette.

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