

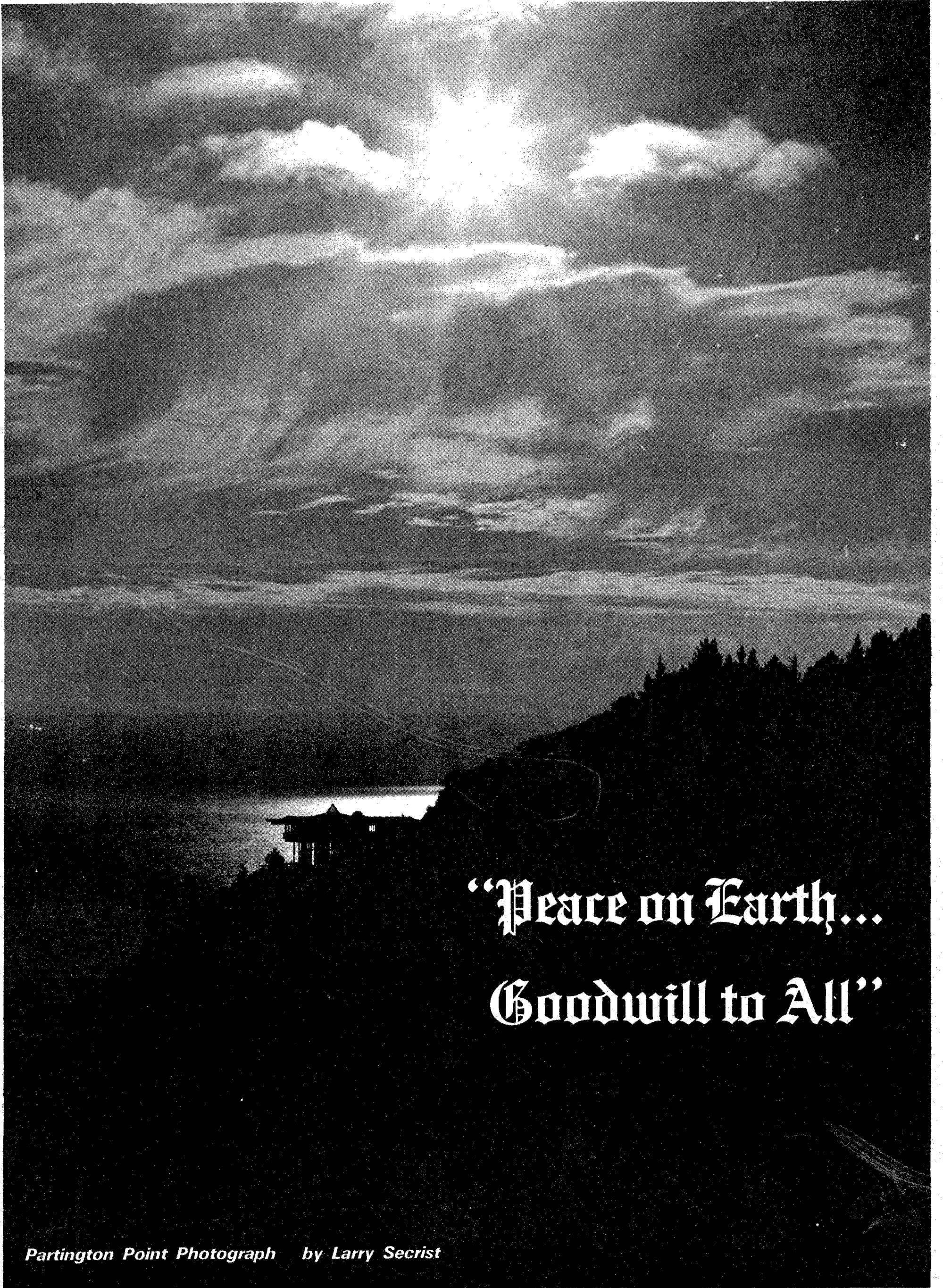
The Big Sur Gazette

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VOLUME ONE, NO. 5

BIG SUR, CALIFORNIA 93920

DECEMBER, 1978



“Peace on Earth...
Goodwill to All”

Partington Point Photograph by Larry Secrist

Incorporation Subject of Town Hall Meetings

The Big Sur Incorporation Feasibility Study was presented to and discussed by the community at Town Hall Meetings held at the Grange and Pacific Valley School on November 15 and 16.

Prepared for the Committee for the Incorporation of Big Sur by William Zion, a consultant in local and regional government, the 27-page report was presented in summary form by members of the committee, after which Chairman John Harlan moderated the community discussions.

The following is an attempt to summarize the 90-minute discussion period during the meeting at the Big Sur Grange Hall.

For anyone wishing to listen to a recording of the entire meeting, the "Gazette" has filed a copy of the tapes with the Big Sur Library.

Prior to the summarizations of the feasibility study by committee members, at the request of the chairman, the consultant presented some introductory remarks.

Mr. Zion began by saying that the study was designed to serve two purposes: to provide a basis for community discussions and to fulfill the requirements of LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) by justifying and documenting the feasibility of incorporation.

Regarding the differences incorporation would make when a community incorporated, the consultant cited three: first, the town would assume responsibilities for planning, land use, and environmental protection; second, it would assume the responsibilities for police and road functions; and third, the town would assume certain revenues from the county and state to pay for those responsibilities.

The report discusses the question of whether Big Sur is really a community. Mr. Zion reasoned that "the number of local organizations and services indicate that this is a community, but as an outsider this is a value judgment. How do you feel about Big Sur as a community, and how do you feel about your ability to select your own leaders?"

Regarding governmental alternatives to incorporation, he named four: to remain 'as is', special districts, municipal advisory council, and area planning commission. Of these alternatives, "only incorporation shifts county authority, responsibilities, and revenues to the community."

Relating the effects of Proposition 13 to the alternatives, Mr. Zion stated that special districts are in trouble fiscally throughout the state, and that it is unknown how a municipal advisory council or area planning commission could be financed.

In concluding his remarks, Mr. Zion said that Proposition 13 had strengthened counties, weakened special districts and schools, and had left cities in the most flexible position because "cities have so many different revenue sources, it is difficult to affect them fiscally."

The Community Responds

The community discussion began with a question from Christian van Allen who asked if incorporation was a response to a National or State Park threat.

John Harlan responded that incorporation represented "a matter of determination of local residents to administer their own affairs of government at a local level."

Bob Cross responded that change was inevitable and imminent, and that incorporation was necessary to "avoid losing our land or control over it to National Park or Forestry Service or some governmental seashore agency."

Mel Kelm of Pfeiffer Ridge spoke about his personal experience with the National Park Service in Yosemite when they condemned his property. "After five years of litigation, I received about half its value."

"Big Sur is probably the most beautiful place in the United States, it's the largest area with the fewest people, and when Congress gets around to creating another park, we are it."

"Incorporation," he continued, "is the only way to avoid that because one government agency can't take over another, but they can take private land, and they vote on that, you don't."

Mr. Kelm related that, after a ten-year battle, the unincorporated, so-called town of Wowona is being condemned next year by the National Park Service. "This will happen to Big Sur, and once it starts, we won't have the option to say let's incorporate quick and stop it."

Regarding the prospect of Big Sur staying "as it is," Mr. Kelm said he didn't believe that was possible, and concluded: "If we ignore the change, someone else may take away the rest of what we have, including our future. If we take the trouble to govern ourselves, we can determine what our future will be, and that's our choice."

Sam Goldeen pointed out that decisions such as making parks are political decisions, and politicians are much more responsive to a town than to a group of irate citizens.

Robert Zobel related what he learned the week before while attending a President's Advisory Committee meeting in Monterey with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Forestry. "The present administration," he said, "is actively considering the Department of the Interior to take over the U.S. Forest Service."

"At the administrative level, they are talking about making this area into a National Seashore where, by natural attrition of the change of property, they would acquire everything."

Gary Koepfel summarized a series of events which

began in November, 1977, with the discovery and public disclosure of the Adams-Turnage-Shaw-Farr National Park Service campaign documents. Then, last summer, two National Park Service representatives were given a two-day tour of the area, and shortly thereafter Congressman Leon Panetta announced his \$350,000 Big Sur Study bill.

"Even though we have had past threats and probable future threats, there are many good reasons to incorporate as stated in the feasibility study," Mr. Koepfel concluded.

Doug Glendon expressed dislike about the threat of a government takeover and said "let's not use those threats, let's find out how we're going to finance it."

Joyce Honeychurch suggested things could be kept as they are, that petitions have worked against threats in the past and they could do so again. She expressed fear of the "wolf among us" to create pressures for commercial development.

Bill Burleigh did not think that incorporation would lead to commercialization "because the non-commercial property owners outnumber the commercial property owners about 5 to 1, and they would control the vote and the Town Council."

Don McQueen stated that he did not want to belabor the threat aspect of incorporation, but he had moved to Big Sur because the McQueen family had owned hundreds of acres in and around Yosemite, "and every blasted square foot of it was stolen by the National Park Service."

Mr. McQueen also related that if the USFS were to be absorbed by the National Park Service, that Big Sur would become "an instant inholding."

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

Jim Josoff introduced himself as a "brand new resident who would play the role of Devil's Advocate." He stated the report was "extraordinary," but asked for a statement of the disadvantages of incorporation. He also asked how increased tourism and related problems would be solved "because the avowed purpose of the Coastal Commission is to open up the Coast to tourists."

Bill Zion, the consultant, responded to the disadvantages of incorporation: "The principle one would have been increased taxes, but Proposition 13 has made that impossible. The second one is civic leadership and the ability to elect people to carry out the town's business. The disadvantages tend to be straw men."

As to the advantages, Mr. Zion pointed out that the federal or state government always looked to the local government representative, which is now the county, but would be the town if incorporated.

Regarding the question of pressures to allow more motels because of the high revenues from the motel bed tax, Mr. Zion said "it is a temptation, so you'd want to watch that, which I think you would want to do here anyway."

However," he continued, "it doesn't look like the town would get into financial straits, which would force it to do that. The growth of the existing revenue should be adequate for normal cost increases."

In response to a question from Steve Beck regarding any state laws that would determine services the town would have to finance, Mr. Zion said basically none except for adequate Environmental Impact Statements for major projects.

Roger Newell said that he didn't go along with the "big threat reason" but rather wanted to take a "more reasoned approach" to the question of incorporation.

Mr. Newell said that he did not believe there was a consensus about what is scenic beauty and what is a rural way of life. He described the community as "politically inexperienced and relatively naive" and suggested a Municipal Advisory Council to get some "practical experience."

Mr. Zion replied, "In a community this small, it's my inclination that you know each other well enough that you don't have to go through that, but I could be wrong."

Ray Sanborn asked why a town was needed for planning because the Citizen Advisory Committee, which is made up of local people, was presently working on the Local Coastal Plan.

Sam Goldeen responded by saying that the Citizens Advisory Committee was appointed by a supervisor and had not been elected by the Big Sur community.

When Christian van Allen asked what would happen to the income if the coast had a slow tourist season or a disaster, John Harlan referred to the accumulation of the budget surplus during "banner years" to compensate for "drought years."

PLANNING

On the subject of planning for the future, Marge Adams said "our input will be considered by the county, but if you talk to the county officials, you'll find out that what we want is not necessarily the way it's going to be."

Frank Pinney, likening present events to what happened to the Essellen Indians, and concerned about "the pressure I've seen put on these resources," said he tended to favor the incorporation concept, and he suggested a three-part action be taken: "Elect our own planning commission now, use that as a step to see where incorporation will take us, and then have an election as to whether we do or do not incorporate."

Bob Zobel cautioned the group about believing that it was petitions which persuaded Mr. Panetta to withdraw his bill: "The main reason he pulled his bill was because it

was adding fire to the incorporation movement."


Reading from the October 4 minutes of the Big Sur Foundation, Gary Koepfel offered the following information: "Shaw noted that representatives of the NPS had come in with a study at the instigation of the Foundation, but were 'derailed' by our legislator; the surprise appearance of the Panetta bill had also diverted actions in advocacy. Was it an activist group or a planning group? Newell urged that the Foundation review and evaluate specific examples elsewhere—e.g., Cape Code Seashore and Jackson Hole—to seek a model for Big Sur. He noted that when the role of the Foundation toward Federal management first surfaced, the negative publicity that followed was used to instigate the incorporation effort in Big Sur. Sam Farr agreed with Adams that the Foundation needs to do something aggressively, but no action can be taken out of political context. Rightly or wrongly, he said, many Big Sur citizens believe that incorporation will prevent Federal takeover; if the Foundation now comes out strongly in favor of a National Parks concept, incorporation will be assured."

Roger Newell reiterated his desire to explore more alternatives and obtain more information.

Tom Nash, speaking on the issue of incorporation being the only alternative that provides residents with a vote, said "one of the reasons we're having trouble with the Coastal Commission is that they're not an elected entity, so they're not responsive to our needs. Not one of the Board of Supes comes from this area. We just don't have local representation where we need it."

Referring back to the Municipal Advisory Council alternative, Doris Fee stated that there were only two in the state, and there is a reason it is not prevalent.

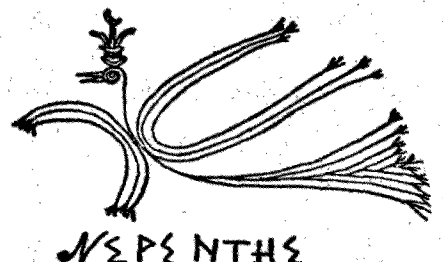
At the end of the meeting, a straw vote was taken indicating 22 for, 11 against, and 36 wanting more information or more time to make a decision.



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BIG SUR LPC WORK PROGRAM APPROVED

SANTA CRUZ—Regional coastal commissioners Monday approved Monterey County's "work program" for developing a Big Sur Local Coastal Program (LCP).

County planners welcomed the long-sought approval but said the \$58,293 which they were allotted may not be enough to do the job.

"If we have problems with data availability or run into arguments with the coastal commission staff, we might have to ask for a supplemental grant," said senior county planner Bill Farrel. "The budget's fairly tight, and the work's extensive."

The county had requested \$67,083.

Regional coastal planner Lee Otter said details of the Big Sur LCP had been worked out in close coordination with state commission staffers and that he expects no changes from that quarter.

If state commissioners and county supervisors give quick approval as expected in late December or early January, the total Big Sur LCP including zoning ordinances and other implementation measures could be done by December 1979, Farrel said.

Changes Accepted

At Monday night's meeting, Central Coast commissioners agreed to make most of a dozen changes requested by county Planning Director Ed DeMars, including a word change to eliminate what he saw as anti-residential bias.

Wording suggested by the coastal staff directed the county to "specifically consider the limitation on residential buildout imposed by the limited capacity of Highway 1."

At DeMars' suggestion, that was changed to "limitations on buildout imposed by the limited capacity of Highway 1 and water resources."

Even as reworded, however, the county will still have to consider "the need to accommodate the priority uses" designated by the Coastal Act, which places residential use lower on the scale than such uses as public recreation.

Water Studies Costly

According to Farrel, the commission's directive to prepare "water budgets" showing how much development could occur in given watersheds without harming plant or animal life could be a high cost item.

"There are 47 streams in the study area (Malpaso Creek to the San Luis Obispo County line), and we'd have to look at about 25 of them," Farrel said. "But maybe if Highway 1 development constraints are determined first, we won't have to go into so much detail on water."

Otter said that Big Sur residents Jim Josoff and Bob Zobel both wanted references to development limitations stricken altogether, but commissioners declined to do this.

At the request of DeMars and Big Sur resident Gary Koepfel, commissioners in several places reinstated wording saying that policies, plans and implementation techniques must "recognize and conform with constitutional rights and private property rights." The wording had been added by county supervisors and deleted by the commission staff.

Big Creek Hearings Due

In other action affecting Big Sur on Monday, commissioners:

—Decided to hold a full public hearing on a request by the University of California at Santa Cruz to develop three forest camps at Big Creek Ranch, acquired this year by the Nature Conservancy.

The commission's executive director had recommended that a routine administrative permit be granted, but commissioners James Hughes and Robert Franco asked that it be set for regular hearing to discuss traffic and water use. Commissioners James Rote, Zad Leavy and Robley Levy said the commission should take a closer look at development requests by public agencies; Leavy and Mrs. Levy also said they wanted more information about a Nature Conservancy proposal, now before the county, to split off two large parcels for eventual sale to the university.

Coastal Commission Delays McQueen House Permit

The Regional Coastal Commission withdrew Mr. and Mrs. Don McQueen's house application from the Nov. 27 consent agenda and scheduled it for a full public hearing.

Carl Larson, speaking for the Sierra Club, raised the question of tree-cutting for firewood, and asked the commission to look into the application more thoroughly. "If the forest is to be managed, it should be managed from the beginning," he reasoned.

Commissioners Walters and Taylor also requested more review. According to Commission rules, if two commissioners object to an application it is automatically removed from the consent agenda.

Commissioner Zad Leavy offered "direction to the staff" for their further review: "Even though the water comes from the National Forest, and there is no well proposed at this time, there should be a condition prohibiting transfer of water off-site."

"Second," continued Mr. Leavy, "if there is going to be a condition indicating that the structure will not be visible from Highway 1 (and I understand the house will not be visible), the applicant should agree to remove anything that is visible."

Commissioner Taylor expressed her concern about tree-cutting, and she understood the well was located within the National Forest, and she would like to see that water related to public access and public use rather than for private homes.

Don McQueen, who did not attend the hearing, responded to the *Gazette*, "I was told by staff member Riek Hyman and by Commissioner Zad Leavy that they couldn't find any

problems with my application, and both said I didn't need to attend the hearing in Santa Cruz."

"There is no tree-cutting or even trimming in my application," continued Mr. McQueen, "and none is planned because the site is in a meadow. The only trees we cut up are the downfall from the 1972 mudflows which we are salvaging for firewood. Neither Carl Larson nor the Sierra Club have ever been on the property."

When asked about the question of public versus private use of the water, Mr. McQueen replied that the water comes from a spring—not a well—located on Forest Service land, the use for which was established in 1936. He said he had a permit and state water rights for residential and agricultural use from that spring, and he has never transferred nor intends to transfer any water from the

source. Responding to the question of "What next?" Mr. McQueen stated that "it's really something to be told there are no problems, and then he delayed by non-existent problems and false issues. Guess I'll have to get a lawyer."

"Imagine, needing a lawyer to help get permission to build a house which would be out of the viewshed, and served with pre-existing utilities of power, telephone, water system and road on 69 acres of land, all of which except the actual building site has been in scenic easement for nearly 20 years."

"I think the whole thing is becoming immoral."

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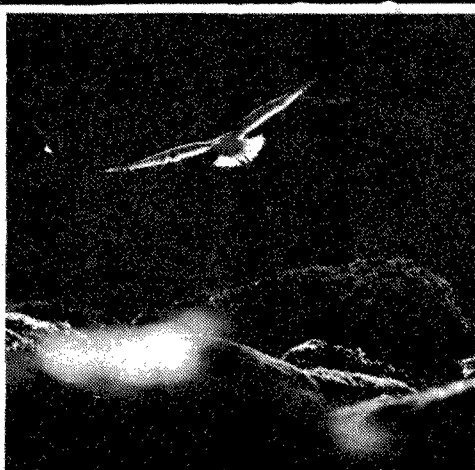
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CPOA Elects New Officers

By Gary Koepfel

At the annual meeting of the Big Sur Coast Property Owners Association, the members elected new officers and board of directors and listened to guest speaker Robert Slimmon, Monterey County Zoning Administrator, who summarized the history of zoning in Big Sur, and amplified on the subject of the new "CZ" zoning for Big Sur.

Outgoing president, Roger Newell, congratulated president-elect Katherine Short, vice president Marion Harland, secretary Barbara Richardson and treasurer Charles Mohn.

The new Board of Directors are Marilyn Able, Lloyd Addleman, John Cluett, Mary Fee, John Harlan, Marty Hartman, Gary Koepfel, Don McQueen, Helmut Morganrath, Ray Sanborn,

Howard Sitton, Frank Trotter.

History of Zoning

Robert Slimmon began his talk on the history of Big Sur Zoning by pointing out that in 1929 Monterey County was the first county in the state to adopt zoning, and that in October of 1930, the Big Sur Coast was the first area in the county to be zoned.

Although the zoning allowed residences on lots of 6,000-square feet until 1959, Mr. Slimmon said "that had not been the cause of any problems because nobody took advantage."

Between 1959 and 1962, the existing Master Plan was discussed and developed. "Messers Owings and Campbell were hired as consultants, and we picked the best things from both plans."

In 1963 new zoning called "Scenic Conservation" was

adopted for a 1,000-foot meander line, of whatever was visible from Highway 1.

Beyond the sight line, land was zoned Transitional with a 1-2½ acre minimum from Malpaso to Rocky Creek, and a 5-10 acre minimum south of Rocky Creek to the county line.

The "Interim Ordinance" was a temporary emergency regulation which required a Special Permit for all development except agricultural uses. It was in force between 1976 and 1978, but having passed its two-year limit, no Special Permits are now required.

Until the drafting and adoption of the "Local Coastal Plan," which is required by Coastal Law, applicants for a single family dwelling in the Scenic Conservation zone need to obtain design review and siting, Planning Commission approval, then a Coastal

Permit. Houses in the Transitional zone require a Coastal Permit and a Building Permit.

"CZ" Zoning

Regarding the new "CZ" or Coastal Zone rezoning, which the Board of Supervisors adopted on Oct. 10, a Use Permit will be required for all developments whenever the Planning Commission and Board officially apply it after public hearings.

The "CZ" Zoning is not presently in effect, and when Mr. Slimmon was asked when it would happen, he said, "I don't have a ready answer to that. Any person or group, the Planning Commission, or the Board, could ask for it to be applied here at any time. Public hearings would be held, and three votes of the Board of Supervisors is the bottom line."

PRESCRIPTIVE RIGHTS FOR DEER?

Reprinted from the Herald

Do shrub-munching deer have "prescriptive rights" to visit Pebble Beach residents?

"Only if they play tennis," quipped Deputy Attorney General Charles Getz.

Central Coast commissioners were discussing a request by Charles Crocker to install a tennis court and make some other changes on his 17 Mile Drive property.

The applicant's representative, Lars Heinesen, expressed concern about wording of a proposed permit condition that seemed to indicate Crocker could not keep the mesh fence he uses to keep deer out.

"If you let deer in it's impossible to maintain your landscaping," Heinesen said. "It's impossible to keep a decent-looking place with deer roaming around, and it creates an eyesore for

tourists going by. You have to keep the little rascals out."

Commission chairman Mary Henderson, smilingly twitted executive director Edward Brown about the proposed requirement for fencing "low or open enough to permit free passage of deer and other native wildlife."


"You want the applicant to put climbing plants along the fence and then you want to let deer in to eat it," she joked.

Commissioner Marilyn Liddicoat, referring to a much-discussed current topic, asked whether the public deer had acquired prescriptive rights to cross the private property, drawing Getz's quick quip in response.

"Let's strike that condition," Brown said, and the commission did.

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Highlanders Press Commissioners on Prescriptive Rights

By GARY KOEPEL

"We are still concerned by the questionnaires being promulgated by the Attorney General's office, and we consider the affidavit on the second page of the questionnaire to be a confession of unlawful trespass on private property.

"Some of the residents are considering prosecuting for trespass.

"We request this commission to either get the same information as on the questionnaire from all property owners under your jurisdiction or void and terminate the questionnaires and all the results so far."

With the above statement, the president of the Carmel Highlands Property Owner's Association, Bill Reordan, began the fourth confrontation in three months with the Central Coastal Commission over the controversial prescriptive rights investigation being conducted by the Attorney General's office.

Angry and articulate Highland residents sought recourse from the Central Commissioners and urged them to take a stand, to find out exactly who authorized and instigated the investigation, to repudiate the use of a precedent-setting questionnaire/affidavit, and to clarify which beach areas have been "targeted" for investigation.

Several residents pointed out the increased amount of trespass, litter, and vandalism were linked directly to the timing of the questionnaire's selective distribution.

Some Commissioners hemmed and hawed, but Commissioner Liddicoat strongly advised the residents to contact the newly-elected attorney general who would be "much more respectful of private property rights" than the former one, and Commissioner Hughes requested a formal inquiry to the State Commission to find out exactly who instigated the investigation.

The Questionnaire and Trespassing

Robert Speers, another Highland's resident, testified that the questionnaire had precipitated a flood of trespass, and requested that the commission take appropriate action.

"We have a lot of visitors in our scenic area; the tourists are happy, take pictures, and answer questions, but we have people now who are sullen, they photograph things not of tourist interest, and they won't answer questions."

When pressed by Mr. Speers to see if any action had been taken since their last encounter, Commission Chairmadam Henderson replied that any action, if taken, would be taken by the Attorney General's Office.

Speaking for deputy Attorney General Charles Getz, a substitute, Ms. Nicholson, reported that "until the investigation is complete, it can't be determined whether or not it's a trespass or an exercise of prescriptive rights, so I don't think any action at this time would be appropriate by the Coastal Commission or the Attorney General's Office."

Resident Clare Carey Willard requested that one of the Commissioners move that the Regional Commission publicly repudiate and disavow the questionnaire, and request that the State Commission ignore the results of the questionnaire.

Highlands resident Mary Ruth Spencer requested the Commission to make their statements public regarding the investigation being limited allegedly to Otter Cove and McAbee Beach to alleviate trespass in other areas.

The Chair responded: "If trespass is occurring, it is important that you contact your local law-enforcement

agencies. The question of trespass, or the prescriptive rights for access, is a question that is not going to be resolved by this commission."

Commissioner Liddicoat suggested that the best remedy would be to contact the new Attorney General en masse for relief. "The new Attorney General will be much more respectful of private property rights than the past Attorney General has been."

Who Instigated Investigations?

When Commissioner Walters asked if it had been determined definitely whether the State Commission had ever asked the Attorney General's Office to conduct prescriptive rights investigations, Executive Director Ed Brown replied that a contract had been established between the Attorney General's Office and the State Commission.

Commissioner James Hughes asked the State Commission Representative on the Central Commission, Commissioner Ruth Andresen, "whether the State Commission had acted upon this questionnaire as a policy matter with a formal vote of the State Commission, or whether it was an administrative matter between the staff members of the Coastal Commission and Attorney General's Office?"

Mrs. Andresen replied that "The first notice I had of the questionnaire was a discussion at a Coastal meeting here about two weeks ago. To my knowledge, it was not discussed at the State Commission, nor did the Commissioners involve themselves in the discussion and decision-making."

Commissioner Hughes concluded that the issue should be brought before the State Commission as a policy matter and get some clarification. "If not, we're going to keep going around the mulberry bush with the Regional and State Commissions and Attorney General's office."

Expressing concern, Mrs. Andresen replied that she had already reported the matter to the State Commission, "and it is a subject of concern that this Commission was uninformed that this investigation was happening until we read it in the newspaper."

Against Wife-Beating and For Apple Pie

Commissioner Blohm reminded the Commission that "three weeks ago, Mr. Williams from the Attorney General's Office told a resident, Mr. Nix, that staff member Mike Miller of this commission had requested the investigation. Somebody here is not telling the truth."

Chairmadam Henderson revealed that the Attorney General did begin a study of prescriptive rights, and they did contact staff persons in various regions to suggest areas that might be studied. She stated that Mr. Miller had responded with some suggestions, of which not all were accepted, but that he did not initiate the investigation.

In response to the charge that the investigation's questionnaire encouraged unlawful trespass, Mrs. Henderson said that this Commission did not sanction trespass or invasion of property rights.

"We could also state we are against wife-beating and for apple pie," she concluded.

New Target Area

Commissioner Hughes also requested that the State Commission clarify the status of the newly-named beach area under investigation, as publicized by the October 15 Sierra Club newsletter to be "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."

Executive director Ed Brown explained that there were various areas included in previous acquisition lists and bond acts which are being evaluated by the State Department of Parks and Recreation and by the Department of General Services. He said that those kinds of investigations were separate from the implied dedication studies in which the Attorney General's Office was involved.

"There is a number of those kinds of investigations taking place, which is just a part of the acquisition process that goes on day in and day out throughout the state, not just in the Coastal Zone," Mr. Brown concluded.

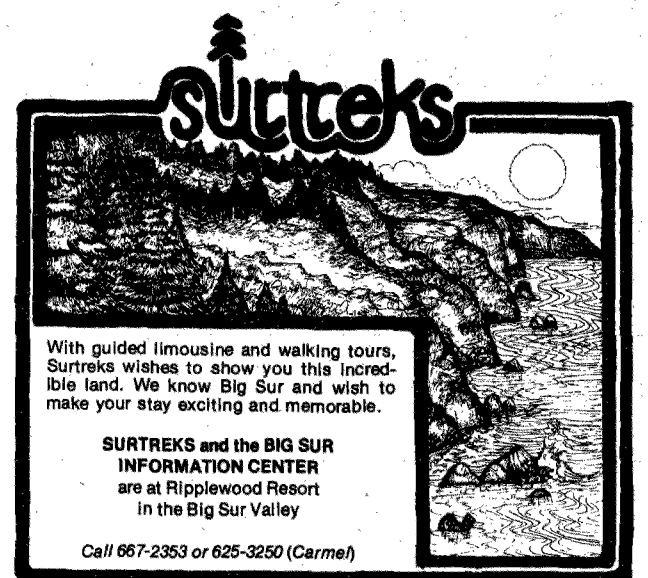
NEW "TARGET AREAS" ANNOUNCED

Two new beach areas in December, according to Mr. Woods, because he has not been president for five years and the mail had been delayed.

The two new areas announced in the letter are Yankee Beach and Malpas Beach. The questionnaires and parcel map which accompanied the letter are identical to those which had been selectively distributed in September.

The letter, dated Nov. 6, was not received until early

The total number of "target areas" discovered so far are five: Otter Cove, McAbee Beach, Yankee Beach, Malpas Beach and the area beaches described in the Oct. 15 issue of the Sierra Club's Ventana Newsletter: "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."



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Views and Viewpoints

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.

Editorial

Will Big Sur's History Survive?

History, unless it is rewritten by a regime with its own ax to grind, comes about through individual and group interaction. Where no such interaction exists, history, except for geological history, doesn't exist.

Archaeology obviously relies on the former existence of such interaction. Unless we were to establish our own cemetery, we can never be part of Big Sur's archaeology (only the Esalens and early settlers can). It is even difficult to get your ashes buried here, impossible if your acreage is small. Alas, it is hard to care whether we are ever to be candidates for a dig.

But social history is another matter. We are history, each of us. Our polarities, often petty, form the stuff of which history is made.

It is sad to think that we could see Big Sur's colorful history come to an abrupt end in a single generation. But it is possible.

When government takes over land, history, except for press releases, ends. Nationalization of scenic land may (or may not) protect the landscape, but it heralds the destruction of a valuable human resource, its history.

To quote one prominent resident speaking of the families who have occupied this unique area since birth: "They are not bears. They don't belong in a zoo!" The National Park Service does relegate human beings to zoo status. It allows us to live out our lives in captivity—or to move and sell out to the lowest bidder, the government.

There appears to be a trend in government to take over, through state, federal or private trust to be held for the state or federal, all land that is not flat. It is a trend that will relieve future generations of a great deal of interesting history.

Consider Big Sur's history. It certainly involves use of the land few people would condone today: clear-cutting of redwoods and tan-bark oak, mining of lime and gold, the senseless massacre of sea otters. Yet with all that, neo-history buffs abound. The new Big Sur Historical Society has many followers both inside the community and out. People are wanting and needing to know their roots. Carl Sandburg said, "It's important for us to know where we came from and what brought us along."

Had Big Sur been nationalized at some point early in its history, there would be simply nothing to record. It is of no interest to anyone in the course of human events which rangers occupied which parks or how many visitors they entertained. It is hard to take a transient of any sort seriously.

Much as we may like its individuals and wish time and again they could stay, the park and forest service have to make vagabonds of their employees—otherwise they would have a park. Thus park promotions depend not only on testing, but on transfers, rightly assuming that most everyone wants to seek promotion.

Untidily though it may be, history is made of people, people who agree and disagree, and without them we are without history. This resilient land and its people (only the hardy ones) have thrived together and will, I hope, continue to do so far into the planet's future.

Parks want history-under-glass, without the lively debates that made that history in the first place. So long as debate is alive and well in Big Sur, history will remain so. Once various governmental agencies and foundations begin their pickling process in an area, history will be on its way out.

So when someone asks about our heritage, be sure they plan to nurture it and not embalm it.

MORE INFO

Dear Editor:

Having read the Zion Report and its summary in the November Gazette, and having been unable to attend the town meeting on Nov. 15, I am writing for more information.

Surely the subdivision of Big Sur (which is what the Incorporated Town proposes) only weakens the impact and clout of the magnificent coastal strip which is Big Sur. The area boundaries are puzzling. To exclude Palo Colorado and an approximately 10 mile stretch of the northern end and to include the long southern stretch needs explanation. Quite frankly, I suspect the political expedient of a gerrymander. (The Chairman of the Comm. for Incorporation happens to live in Lucia.) To fracture Big Sur seems a curious way to 'save' it.

Faced with a \$208,939 loss in revenue if the town incorporates (page 27 of the report), will the county continue its support of the Pacific Valley School, the Captain Cooper School, the Library? Will the town of Big Sur assume these services? With what financing?

It is only wishful thinking to suggest that the town of Big Sur can come up with its Local Coastal Plan that will differ substantially from the LCP for the whole coast that is now being hammered out so laboriously by the Monterey Planning Commission, the Citizens Advisory Committee and others.

Lastly, does a big stretch of Big Sur want to be smothered by a whole new layer of bureaucracy? (Page 25 of the report.) As an individual member of the Big Sur community, I want no part of being spoken 'for,' or 'to,' by a Town Council, or a Town Planner, or anyone else. I enjoy the freedom to speak for myself.

Barbara Richardson
Big Sur

LUDICROUS RESPONSE

Dear Editor:

Only those who, like me, have taken the trouble to attend staged "public hearings," and have thereby learned to see through the devious machinations and outright lying by some public figures, can muster the healthy scepticism necessary to understand what can go on in government. As a citizen with such experience I find it hard to express the contempt I feel for some of the politicians who sit on the dais where they proudly wield a dictatorial power into which they have been catapulted by appointment or election, that is far in excess of anything they ever earned or

achieved in private life.

In the letter from outgoing state's Attorney General Evelle Younger (probably prepared for his signature by some miserable little staff clerk), he disclaimed the obviously nefarious purpose of the numbered "prescriptive rights" questionnaires sent to a selected list of people, and chided your Gazette for protecting some of its informed sources by not naming them. Then his letter continued, "private landowners and public officials have been contacted or have discussed this matter with this office," without naming one landowner or official to whom the questionnaire had been sent, or who was contacted about it!

A child could see through such inconsistency. Obviously, Younger's letter was a ludicrous response to your well-documented articles.

Thank God Younger will no longer be California's Attorney General. Let us hope that George Deukmejian, newly elected to that office, will repudiate the deplorable "prescriptive rights" fishing expedition, and clean up the vile mess it has created.

Edgar Bissantz

USFS SEEKS YOUR INPUT

The U.S. Forest Service manages over 360,000 acres of the Los Padres National Forest, 154,470 acres of which has been designated by Congress as the Ventana Wilderness.

The public is invited to participate in developing the "Management Direction," from which will eventually evolve a Management Plan for the Ventana Wilderness.

By January 1979 a final list of concerns and issues will be selected. When a comprehensive range of management alternatives has been developed, it will be described in a "Draft Ventana Wilderness Management Direction Document," which will be available for public review by August 1979.

The final management document is scheduled to be completed by March 1980.

Interested citizens may get on the mailing list to receive planning materials by sending their name and address to U.S. Forest Service, 406 South Mildred, King City, CA 93930.

To Gazette Readers:

DEADLINES
for
Letters to the Editor
ARE THE
FIRST
THURSDAY
OF EVERY MONTH

PUBLIC RIGHTS AND TOWN

Dear Editor:

We have been following the discussion in the Gazette about the recent questionnaire concerning public use of coastal lands. We are frequent and appreciative visitors to the coastal zone area and feel that presentation of a contrasting viewpoint is necessary to balance the vehement local response.

The intent of the questionnaire appeared to us to be to determine the

natural easement points along the coast used by the public for recreational purposes, regardless of ownership. And probably, in the end, to ensure the public continued access to these points. The fear of residents of having their land taken from them "lock, stock and barrel" seems an extreme paranoid reaction. As responsible members of the public so derided as thoughtless tourists, we're dismayed at the lack of respect of local property owners for the needs of the many who could not choose to live in the region to experience the beauty of

nature that exists there, and nowhere else. It seems terribly presumptuous for someone to think that the exchange of some number of dollars between two people should confer the power of absolute control of such a priceless natural resource as the California coastline.

The economy of the entire area is, in fact, extremely dependent on the public, who are forced to "lawbreaking" by defensive property owners in order to pursue their preferred recreations, be they fishers, surfers, sunbathers, wood scavengers, or campers and hikers. And not all these lawbreakers are non-resident tourists either. We've tried to be as respectful of the property we've had to cross as we are of the land we've gone to such difficulty and effort to visit. We know first hand that all members of the public are not as conscientious and responsible as we all would like, and we clean up after them and resent it too.

We, too, find the selective distribution of the questionnaire offensive, and would rather that the state "acquire," not "prescript" the necessary easement points, in cooperation with

local government units and property owners. We also think that incorporation as a "town" (township seems more appropriate) is a necessary move in the face of state and county encroachment on local development, or control of development, as the case may be. We consider ourselves Big Sur residents in spirit, as the many other regular visitors do, and wish you luck in preserving the treasure of Big Sur and the Central Coast for all of us.

Sherry Cosgrove
Glenn Young

IMPACT

Dear Editor:

Neighbors have been giving us copies of your new Gazette. I want to compliment you on the fine progress you have made in such a short time—a well-rounded newspaper.

I'm attaching my subscription for a year.

I wish to also thank you for your stand against the unwarranted moves made by the Coastal Commission. Your editorials are excellent and are making an impact on the Sierra Club members of the commission, certainly "packed."

P. L. Fahrney

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Viewpoint

COASTAL COMMISSION DRIVE TO DISTORT STATISTICS

By FRANK CRISPO

THE CANNERY ROW Merchants' Association has recently become aware of a questionnaire, seemingly sponsored by your office, which is being selectively circulated throughout the state, that has all the earmarks of being a secretive backdoor assault upon the inherent rights of private property owners within the Coastal Zone of California.

To us, the obvious purpose of this so-called questionnaire is to compile a contrived and falsely distorted set of statistics which will not surely be used as the basis for a prescriptive rights confiscation of private property here on Cannery Row, specifically the McAbee Beach area, and elsewhere in the state.

We are extremely agitated at what appears to be another example of the California Coastal Commission and its staff using willing and/or pliable members of your office to further the Coastal Commission's delusions of supremacy over the lives and property of every citizen within the coastal zone.

Conduct such as this can serve only to undermine public confidence in the office of attorney general. A quick, emphatic repudiation of this document and its originators would help restore the confidence of all property owners up and down the state.

The threat implicit in this document is sure to produce adverse and counterproductive results along our entire coastline.

First, it is likely this threat will have the negative effect of reducing accesses in many areas, as property owners limit or restrict their property confiscated at a later date by the state of California.

Secondly, it could severely hamper and prejudice the ability of our local city planners to develop a comprehensive local coastal program for Cannery Row in a timely manner.

Public access at McAbee Beach here on Cannery Row has been under discussion for some time between the Coastal Commission, property owners and the city of Monterey, both within the permit procedure and in developing our local coastal program. Owners have publicly expressed a willingness to accommodate public interest on this property at the sole expense of the owners by providing showers, locker rooms, toilets, etc. for skin divers and others who may desire to use this beach. This arrangement would cost the state nothing and be consistent with ideals envisioned by the people under Proposition 20.

We are convinced the Coastal Com-

mission and its staff have a very improper imbalance of views that prevail in its interpretation and implementation of the Coastal Act.

Clearly the legislature intended that the act would be based on "home rule" and that the traditional powers of local government in land use decisions would not be usurped as long as the local actions were consistent with the policies of the act.

The legislature has given the commission little direct authority over "content" in development of local programs. Their power to issue guidelines is directed to format, procedure and methodology.

We are also convinced, by a consistent pattern of their actions, that there is a conscious conspiracy within the Coastal Commission and its staff to slow and/or stop all growth within the coastal zone, and, by their repeated interference, to delay and obstruct the ability of the local government bodies to develop a local coastal program in a timely manner, with the specific purpose and intent of usurping the task of local planners in order that the commissions themselves can then develop the "content" of all local coastal programs throughout the state without the necessity of local input and with none or little concern or regard for the desires or economies of the local communities.

We are appalled that this commission has been unwilling to accept any real checks and balances, and, more importantly, unwilling to accept liability for its errors and abuses.

It is not our intent to disagree with reasonable regulation or the Coastal Act itself. But we do vigorously disagree with actions which are unreasonable, unnecessary, unrealistic, abusive and excessive. We object to the commission's constant involvement where it completely ignores or misunderstands the social and economic conditions and needs of the local community.

It is clear to us that our Coastal Commission and its staff are grossly guilty of abusing the discretionary authority and power granted to them by the legislature.

We formally request that you initiate an impartial investigation to determine if, in fact, the Coastal Commission is carrying out its responsibilities as intended by our legislature in a fair, reasonable and timely manner.

We have not forgotten that it was due to the governor's personal last hour lobbying efforts and promises of reasonable implementation that the act became law over stiff opposition. It is obvious these promises have been ignored.

The actions and abuses of the Coastal Commission have adversely affected the lives of all citizens and property owners within the Coastal Zone. We believe our constitutional rights are being violated.

Citizens in the Coastal Zone of California can find themselves very much in sympathy with the emotions of John Hancock and the fathers of our Constitution on July 4, 1776. It is ironic that now, 202 years later, the exact words spoken against King George of England by the founders of our independence can be quoted directly to express our own dissatisfaction here in California. No more eloquently or forcefully can our grievances be declared than through the words contained in the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights, we quote:

"... that all men are created equal . . . that they are endowed with certain unalienable rights . . . that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it . . . when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and provide new guards for their future security . . . The history of the present king . . . is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny . . . to prove this let facts be submitted . . .

"He has called together legislative bodies

at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant . . . for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

"He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

"For abolishing the free system of . . . laws . . . establishing therein an arbitrary government . . . so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies.

"For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

"He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection and waging war against us.

"In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress . . . our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury."

Bill of Rights, Article IV and V:
"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses . . . and effects against unreasonable . . . seizures, shall not be violated . . .

"No person . . . shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property . . . nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation."

(Editor's note: Frank Crispo is the president of the Cannery Row Merchant's Association. His article is excerpted from a letter he sent to State Attorney General Evelle J. Younger.)

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Del Monte Forest Explores Incorporation

Reprinted with permission from the Monterey Peninsula Herald

The concept of an incorporated "City of Del Monte Forest," but with toll gates intact, and residents exercising local control yet not paying a penny more in taxes, was presented to about 125 Del Monte Forest property owners recently. They had crowded into the theater at Robert Louis Stevenson School one evening to hear attorney and forest resident Saul M. Weingarten explain the concept of an "urban forest community."

The event was sponsored by the Forest Committee in the town hall tradition to explore future alternatives. The tax impact, since the advent of Proposition 13, is potentially "zero," Weingarten said.

Twentieth Century-Fox is buying the land at Pebble Beach, he said, "but not the right of persons to govern themselves."

Annexation Threats

He suggested that forest residents might act now before Monterey and Pacific Grove "bite off more portions of the forest," as in the case of Shepherd's Knoll (annexed by Monterey), citing rumors that Pacific Grove would now like to annex the Spanish Bay area.

Earlier in the evening, James O'Brien, also a forest resident, outlined work done two years ago in an incorporation study, which had no support at that time.

That, Weingarten said, was because people in the forest do not want curbs, gutters and sidewalks, but do want to keep the toll gates, without which the area would not be the same.

Most people see the benefits, he said, in having a general law city, with five local council members to govern them, rather than "a fraction of a county supervisor and planning

commissioner at a great distance."

"Not so," said Harold A. Solomon. "Who needs all those local politicians and what would they do?"

Unpaid Officials Proposed

Local government would be filled by part-time unpaid city officials, Weingarten suggested, saying that studies by the impartial Coro Foundation said that it could be done.

Most of the audience questions, however, concerned the cost of a local government. Many doubted that it could be accomplished without added expense.

Weingarten explained that local residents are already paying for government services through subventions, or taxes collected by federal and state government, and then turned back to incorporated cities and counties.

Examples he gave included money collected from the sales tax, the property tax, and the gasoline and motor vehicle taxes. That money would be returned to the forest residents on a per capita basis and would finance an incorporated city, Weingarten said.

He added that previous studies show that the forest could operate even without money from the property tax.

Road Acquisition

Although the toll gates and roads in the forest are now privately owned by Pebble Beach Corp., they could be acquired by negotiation or eminent domain, or could be operated by agreement with property owners, as is done presently, Weingarten said.

Attorney William C. Maxeiner, seated in the audience, told the group that should incorporation become a fact with the blessing of the state Legislature, buying the toll gates and roads would preclude the collection of gas tax and

motor vehicle money.

"You can't have your cake and eat it too," Maxeiner said. "Why would the legislature give us special dispensation to charge a toll to the public, for the exclusive use of 2,800 homeowners?"

But if residents do incorporate, as an "urban forest community," a concept in effect in the states of Illinois and Wisconsin, Weingarten said, it would be possible to restrict and limit traffic through the forest and to designate some of the roads as "scenic."

Such a concept could pose a threat to either Pebble Beach Corp. or Fox, he said. But a private corporation is analogous to a shopkeeper who will leave the store after all the goods are sold (referring to the 1,800 undeveloped lots).

Concern about responsible development means the area should incorporate, Weingarten said, adding, "Not to do it invites destruction of the forest."

A show of hands at the meeting indicated the majority favored pursuing further information about the concept.



CAPTAIN COOPER boys and girls wearing pilgrim hats and Indian headdresses enjoyed a small feast at school the day before their big Thanksgiving feast at home. Room mother Dana Knutson of Point Sur Navy Base serves popcorn to Ani De Groat. Seated clockwise around the table from Ani are Ehren Woyt, Lynette Solanoy, Larry Warner, Chris Patterson, Basil Sanborn, Skye Morganrath and Charles Endsley. Children's comments are listed below.

CHILDREN'S FEAST

"We had apples, popcorn, caramel corn, toasted bread, gingerbread, banana bread. . ."

"I didn't have anything for the feast 'cause I wasn't here."

"Crackers, apples, celery sticks, carrot sticks. . ."

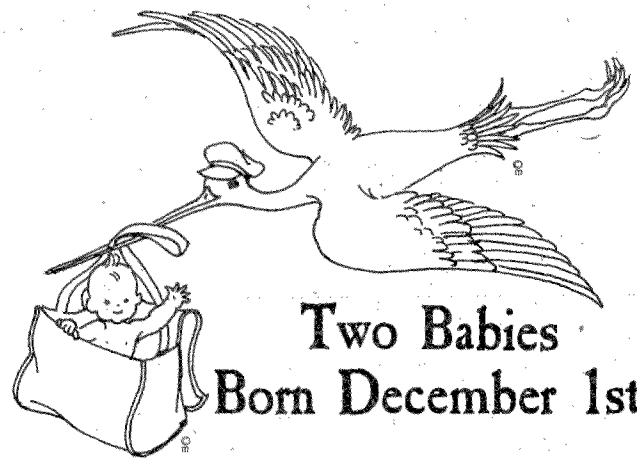
"If I came I would have brought pumpkin pie!"

"Peanuts, apple juice, sunflower seeds, those little boats Jesse brought—the Mayflower and the Speedwell."

"We put on our hats. They were Indian hats and Pilgrim hats."

"The road was really muddy and I was sick."

"In the blocks, we built the Mayflower and sailed back east. We sailed to a new land."



Two Babies Born December 1st

EICHMANS HAVE A GIRL

Allen and Regina Eichman received an early Christmas present with the December 1 birth of their daughter, Sarah Eichman.

Sarah weighed 6½ pounds, measured nineteen inches, and was born at the Natividad Hospital in Salinas.

The early birth delayed the Eichman's move to their new home on Partington Ridge, but as of press time the family had gotten settled in.

RIALS HAVE A BOY

La Juana Rial gave birth to her eighth child, a son, Dec. 1, 1978. Daniel Austin Rial, born at 3:05 p.m., weighed 11 pounds, 11 ounces and was 23 inches long. Father Curtis Rial works for the U.S. Forest Service.

PACIFIC VALLEY SCHOOL NEWS

by Peggy Harding

Students Prepare and Serve Thanksgiving Dinner

The children at Pacific Valley School decided that they wanted to spend some of the money they had earned to provide a giant Thanksgiving treat for their families and teachers.

Under the direction of Lela Avery, and with the assistance of some of the other mothers and friends, the boys and girls of the school purchased and prepared "from scratch" a magnificent feast for more than 70 people.

There were turkeys and stuffing, yams, salads, vegetables, relishes, and two kinds of pies. The tables were decorated with fresh greenery and even the paper napkins were individually hand decorated by the children.

The dinner was served at the school on Friday evening, Nov. 17, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Sale of T-Shirts And Sweatshirts

The students made more than \$160 on their recent sale of Pacific Valley Otters T-shirts and sweatshirts.

Anyone who missed the sale at school will find a selection available at Pacific Valley Center for as long as they last.

They make great Christmas gifts!

School Will Be Open Even On Rainy Days

School at Pacific Valley will be open every school day regardless of the weather. If the roads are in poor condition, the school will decide whether or not there will be a bus run; but even on days when there is not a bus run, classes will be held for all children who arrive at the school by other means.

Christmas Vacation

Pacific Valley School will be closed for Christmas Vacation from Dec. 16 to Jan. 2.



The General Store is having a Sale

20% OFF Wood Carving Tools
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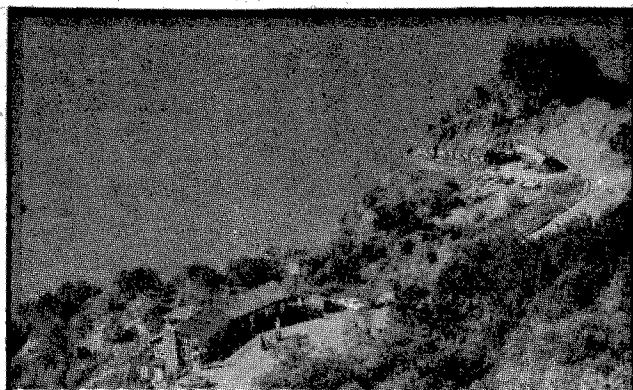
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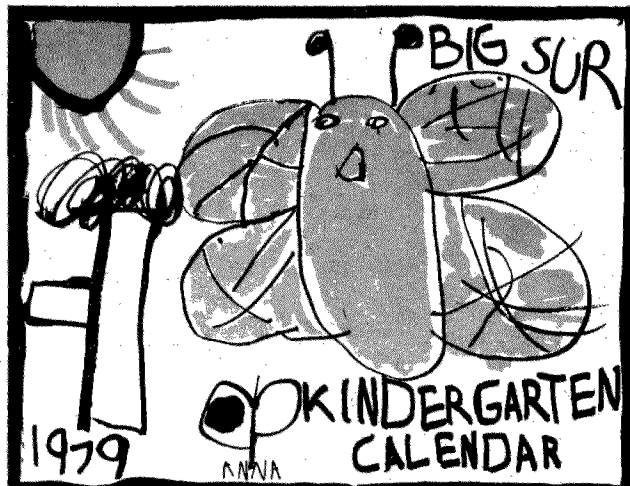
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Thank you for supporting the Captain Cooper School Library



Fire Suppression Training

By FRANK PINNEY

Big Sur residents have always had a tradition of taking care of their own needs, and you will find them constantly working toward self-sufficiency in many areas of their public and private lives. Last month we exercised the self-sufficient ethic again when the Fire Brigade needed training in the fundamentals of emergency first aid.

Now, the reader will remember from our past articles on Fire Brigade training that our Brigade is an all-volunteer outfit. This means that the thousands of hours spent by the members each year to maintain and improve our fire service are donated. This is also true of the Big Sur Ambulance which is a highly proficient service operated for the community by our neighbors.

In making up the Brigade training requirements, we realized that many times we will be called to an emergency in which an injury may occur, and we decided to cover our need for Basic Life Support training to prepare for such an emergency. Basic Life Support is a term which means those steps which you can take to maintain the life functions, breathing and circulation, until medical aid

can be obtained. The training focuses on the technique of CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) and the course contents are established by the American National Red Cross.

We turned to the Big Sur Ambulance Crew for aid in accomplishing this training, and Barbara von Protz-Chamberlain responded that the Ambulance Crew would conduct an intensive three-night course, to be held the week after Thanksgiving. We invited six members of the Palo Colorado Canyon, Mid-Coast Fire Brigade to join us along with Tom Mounts from the Forest Service. Almost 30 people including the five instructors donated more than 400 hours of their time to complete the course requirements.

The large class was broken into smaller groups for practical training using specially designed "dummies" as victims. Tori Cheseborough, Martha Wright, Hilton Reilly and Ralph Fairfield each took a group through the life-saving steps while Barbara moved from group to group checking on techniques and assisting the instructors. The course prepared us to deal with several commonly encountered life-threatening

emergencies: an unconscious victim with or without a heart beat, or breathing, an obstructed airway for a conscious and unconscious victim, CPR with two rescuers and finally CPR on a specially designed and engineered "dummy" which gives a printed transcript of the effectiveness of the rescuer's performance. The "dummies" were on loan from the Carmel chapter of the Red Cross.

The Fire Brigade enthusiastically thanks the Ambulance Crew for a tremendous course and a milestone of cooperation and mutual support. In the midst of all this talk of volunteer support for our community, let us all remember that these services would not be possible if it weren't also for your generous donations this year to help the Fire Brigade sustain its high level of service to you. A tax-supported fire district would cost in the hundreds of thousands of dollars to provide essentially the same services we are able to provide through the volunteer efforts of your neighbors.

Make your donation payable to the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade and mail it to Chief Walter Trotter today!

GRATIFIED

Dear Chief Trotter:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of Oct. 25 regarding training that has been presented for members of your fire brigade. My apologies for not responding sooner but there is a lot going on here on the hillside.

It is always a pleasure to do what I can to assist organizations such as yours who are constantly looking for ways to improve their skills and become more effective in their service to the community. The participation and appreciation of the members of your brigade is gratifying to me.

Cedric Rowntree
State Fire
Training Director
Retired

FIRE BRIGADE GIVES MID-COAST ENGINE

The Mid-Coast Fire Brigade took delivery of the engine which gave the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade its start four and a half years ago.

Volunteers were jubilant when the engine started. They planned a barbecue to celebrate its arrival in Palo Colorado.

Initially, the engine will be stationed at the home of Fire Chief Larry Snow.

The Volunteers plan to equip it thoroughly and give it a complete mechanical rehabilitation. They will repaint it bright red with

gold and black pinstriping. History of Engine #195

Engine #195 has a successful history. It was the truck that got the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade started.

Former head of Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park Jim Davis arranged the truck as a gift to the Brigade in the summer of 1974. On August 1, 1974, the Brigade was chartered with Monterey County.

It was Engine #195 that extinguished a house fire at Riverside Campground in January 1976, the first time in Big Sur's history that a building was saved when a major fire was underway. Engine #195 has rolled on every major fire since the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade was formed.

Our local Brigade now has two engines and is getting delivery of a third, a late model, fast-attack pumper from the California Division of Forestry, which is why they are able to give their original truck to the Mid-Coast Volunteers.

Brigade Fire Responses

By MARY HARRINGTON

Nov. 10, 1978 the Big Sur Fire Brigade responded to a reported structure fire at Nepenthe. The fire was found to be in a free-standing aluminum flu in the center of the dining room. Nepenthe staff had smothered the fire in the fire pit, and Don Krausfeldt, a Brigade member who was at the restaurant, directed firefighting from the roof. The aluminum flu glowed like a hot poker and eventually collapsed in one section. Guests were evacuated from the smoke-filled room and bar. After a check to make sure that the roof had not caught fire the Brigade mopped up water from the hoses, and Nepenthe business proceeded as usual.

Cause of the fire was judged to be soot buildup in the flu which ignited due to a hot fire. Damages were placed at approximately \$3,000, including temporary loss of business.

Late the next night the Fire Brigade responded to a major structure fire at Lime Creek at the home of Christian van Allen. Lack of a telephone delayed report of the fire. By the time firefighters reached the structure it was engulfed in

60- to 80-foot flames, and the walls were collapsing. A small shed storing slabs of wood was also on fire, and fire was rapidly spreading to the brush. Two residents assisted with hand tools in battling the brush fire. Nearby resident Eric Ericson, who had reported the fire to 911, assisted greatly by remaining on the highway to direct firefighters as they arrived. U.S. Forest Service units from Big Sur and Pacific Valley, and CDF also responded to the fire. Fire suppression efforts continued through the night. Esalen provided breakfast for the firefighters. Damage was total loss of house and shed. Exact cause of the fire is still under investigation but is suspected to be fireplace related.

On Nov. 29 the Brigade responded to a smoke investigation on the west side of the highway in state park area. Source of reported smoke was never discovered.

On Dec. 2 the Brigade responded to a smoke investigation one mile up the country road at the Bixby end. Source of smoke was never discovered.

Winter months and cold

weather bring an increase in house fires. The Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade reminds residents to clean chimneys and flues especially when fireplaces and stoves are used every day. Soot buildup can be rapid. Heaters also should be cleaned including dust behind grillwork. A vacuum or hairdryer works well for this purpose.

Outside, brush should be cleared from around the house and tree limbs pruned back from chimney and stove pipes.

If you have a Christmas tree, Chief Trotter suggests the type of stand that allows the trunk to sit in water. The bowl should be filled every few days as the tree will continue to take up water. Otherwise mist the tree every day after unplugging any lights. A tree kept in a warm room without precautions can dry out enough to reach the flashpoint. Check the wiring on your lights very carefully. Mice may have attacked the wiring while the lights were in storage. Be careful not to overload outlets. Christmas trees have started many home fires. Please make sure yours is not one of them.



THE VOLUNTEERS of newly formed Mid-Coast Fire Brigade of Palo Colorado Canyon. Above L-R: Brian Morton, Norman Cotton, Patrick Allan, Allan Lewis,

Craig Craven. Below: Ron Cook, Bob Douglas, Lee Falkenberg, Larry Snow, Jim Cox.

Fire Prevention Slogan of the Month

\$5.00 Award for best slogan

EXAMPLE: REDWOOD OR BLACKWOOD? THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

Mail entries to USFS, P.O. Box 64, Big Sur, Ca.

In Big Sur
DIAL 911
in case of
emergency

Give a lasting Christmas gift this year.
Send your tax-deductible donation
in the names of your friends

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The Big Sur Fire Brigade
c/o Chief Walter Trotter
Big Sur, California 93920

BIG SUR: LOVE IT & LEAVE IT

So far this magnificent stretch of California coastline has kept developers at bay -- but may not be able to do so forever

Reprinted with permission from the July 14, 1978 Monitor.

By **BRAD KNICKERBOCKER**
Christian Science Monitor News Service

The precious heritage of the past...the hope and challenge of the future. For thousands of years, man has stood in awe of the beauty and grandeur of what early explorers in the bay now named San Francisco called "el pais grande del sur"—"The big country to the south."

Native Indians, Spanish and Mexican settlers, white homesteaders and ranchers, artists and writers and other 20th century free spirits have viewed this spectacular chunk of California's Pacific Coast with special reverence.

But like other North American natural treasurers from Yosemite Valley to Cape Cod, from the Boundary Waters

canoe area in Minnesota to Florida's Everglades, Big Sur in recent years has felt the pressures of growth. The special reverence has been tinged with self-interest and sometimes greed.

And then there are the tourists who wend their way along Highway 1, the twisting, two-lane road that clings to the side of the Santa Lucia Mountains where they drop into the sea. Not too many years ago just a few thousand visitors came. There were 1½ million last year, and the number is expected to double before the end of the century. The highway from Carmel south to the Hearst Castle at San Simeon is jammed on peak summer days.

What, then, is being done to preserve Big Sur, to ensure that "the greatest meeting of land and water in the world," as poet Francis McComas put it, remains unspoiled for future generations?

Several efforts are under way. At both state and local levels, government agencies and citizen groups are working to balance private and public interests. The question that remains: Will the steps be right, and will they be taken soon enough?

The sea otters, golden eagles, wild boar, the redwoods, madrone, dune grasses and wildflowers are increasingly threatened by chain saws and bulldozers. There are no shopping centers, fast food franchises, or parking lots here yet, mind you, but in Big Sur even a tastefully designed \$300,000 home can be seen as a blight on the landscape.

This area, which didn't get electricity until the 1950s, has seen its population double and number of homes nearly triple since 1960. The numbers seem small (1,813 residents and 846 dwelling units in 1977). But the new homes, particularly those nearest the sea, alter the natural view, and new homes often require dirt roads to be cut away from the highway for access.

Photographer Ansel Adams, who has been recording Big Sur's beauty for half a century and has lived here for 16 years, calls the rate of growth "almost exponential."

California is in the forefront among the 30 states planning for the future of their ocean or Great Lakes coastlines. Voters approved a coastal protection initiative in 1972. State legislation that took effect last year set up statewide regional coastal commissions to carry out a general plan to preserve the natural resources along California's 1,100-mile shoreline.

Key to the California Coastal Act will be the local coastal programs now being developed by the 15 counties and 54 cities along the coast. By 1980, each local entity must put together a land-use plan and zoning ordinance. This must

be approved by coastal commissions made up of local elected officials and citizens appointed by the governor and Legislature.

Under the overall state plan, new building is to be concentrated in areas already developed; public access to the sea must be maintained; farmland is to be preserved; and public recreation areas are to be expanded.

Meanwhile, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and Regional Coastal Commission pass judgment on each new application for development in Big Sur. There is the expected tugging and hauling between pro-environment and pro-development interests, as some home-building and subdividing continues during this transition period. In some cases, this pits neighbor against neighbor.

Larry Spector, who came from southern California to build the 24-unit Ventana Inn here in 1972, has been trying to get permission to add the 36 units he had originally planned before the new law went into effect. Many residents cite the Ventana Inn as an example of tasteful development working well with the environment. But some consider any commercial development in Big Sur inappropriate.

Spector had dubbed his opponents "instamatic environmentalists" and "green panthers." He approves of the state's Coastal Act and has deeded the county 100 acres in "scenic easement," which means he will never build there. But he complains that "the environmental laws of California can be bent and twisted by people seeking delay, who create such economic burdens that most people fall exhausted by the wayside.

"The problem is, we're dealing with some very fierce issues," he says. "People have a right to develop their land—in other words not to go broke—and other people have a right to enjoy the coast without a lot of ugly development."

Own home 'regretted'

Up the hill from Spector lives attorney Zad Leavy and his family who also moved here (about four years ago) from southern California. Mr. Leavy opposes the Ventana expansion on the grounds that there isn't enough water here to supply them, and more motor inn units will mean more automobiles.

Leavy acknowledges he is part of the development he fears will expand to the danger point. He regrets the road that had to be cut through the forest to his new home and





Photographs by Sterling Doughty

the utility wires strung through the redwoods.

"I'm sorry now that those lots were for sale," he says. "I could have found somewhere else to go. But that's the pattern—the guy who built yesterday is today's conservationist."

In line with his new environment consciousness, Mr. Leavy now is working with the newly founded Big Sur Land Trust. This non-profit organization is raising money to buy land and scenic easements, as well as soliciting donations or property, particularly from the big traditional family-held tracts that are breaking up in the face of inheritance tax and development pressures.

"One of the big incentives for landowners in dealing with a trust is that they can do some awfully beneficial estate planning," says Leavy. "The tax laws give great incentive to putting land into open space."

"The thing that most people don't realize is that the public part is just as growth-inducing as the private part," says Will Shaw, a Monterey architect who owns a home in Big Sur. "New trailers for federal employee housing, camping, grocery stores—they're no different from an ordinary developer in many ways."

Mr. Shaw, Ansel Adams, and other landowners recently formed the Big Sur Foundation to "put some massive muscle on the Big Sur area" and fill the "voids in management" by state and local agencies.

"It hasn't reached that proportion here yet, but we've seen areas like Lake Tahoe, where overdevelopment has spoiled a fine asset," says Shaw. "This is a much more serious problem than a lot of people realize."

There have been some suggestions that the federal government ought to turn more of Big Sur into parkland. The notion raises a lot of hackles, however, and Ansel Adams (who originally suggested a Yosemite- or Redwoods-like solution) now says something along the lines of the Cape Cod National Seashore may be more in order. There, public and private interests are blended with the refurbishing of older towns, preservation of historical homes, and protection of the fragile coastal environment.

California recently established a state Coastal Conservancy to use state money and clout to help protect the coast. The conservancy will be able to award local grants or undertake its own programs to protect agricultural land, restore degraded areas, establish buffer zones around parks and preserves, and develop accessways to the coast for the public. The conservancy also has eminent domain powers.

Government moving in

Both the state of California and the federal government are moving to increase their extensive holdings in the Big Sur area. Proposed expansion of the Los Padres National Forest and the Molera State Park are awaiting government funding. The prospect of increased government holdings here does not necessarily please local conservationists, however.

Some environmentally inclined officials hint that shuttle buses, tollgates along Highway 1, or, perhaps, limits on

the number of private autos allowed on the coast highway may have to be part of Big Sur's future.

No one knows for sure how it all will turn out. But there is a general recognition that crucial decisions are about to be made and that they will have long-lasting effects.

"It's not the sort of thing that you can remodel if you're not satisfied with the results...You don't get a second chance," says Ed Brown, executive director of the Central Coast Regional Coastal Zone Conservation Commission. "I think if there ever was a place where the term 'stewardship' was well applied, it's Big Sur."





A BLACK-TAIL deer, prevalent in Big Sur, curiously observes a photographer. (Photo by Jeff Norman)

THE BLACK-TAILED DEER

By JOHN DAVIS

One of the prominent mammals of the Big Sur coast, and indeed of Monterey County generally, is the Black-tailed deer, also known as the Southern Black-tail, Columbian Black-tail, and Coast Deer. Despite the difference in size between our deer and the much larger Mule Deer of the interior mountains, and the difference in tail pattern between them (entirely black in our deer, black and white in the Mule Deer), zoologists consider the two forms as belonging to the same species. In some areas they interbreed commonly and produce fertile offspring. Further, a series of populations ranging south along the Sierra Nevada, through the mountains rimming the south end of the San Joaquin Valley, and back northward through the Coast Ranges and along the coast, provides a gradient along which there is a gradual changeover from the Mule Deer to the Black-tail.

In our area, deer are primarily grazers in the late winter and spring, when the grasses and forbs (non-grass herbs) are green. When these food sources dry out later in the season they are no longer palatable and foraging deer depend almost entirely on browsing, eating the foliage of trees and shrubs, and lichens. Oaks are of great importance to deer, providing browse during the dry season and acorns in the later summer and fall. Where grasses and forbs remain green in waterbed areas such as parks and golf courses, the deer feed mainly by grazing the year 'round.

Antler growth begins in most bucks in March. The antlers grow rapidly in April and May, more slowly in June. By early August they have been completely stripped of their velvet and they are mature and

ready for use in mating season fights with other bucks. As the rut, or season of sexual activity, progresses, there are noticeable changes in the behavior and appearance of bucks. They gradually lose their fear of humans, become aggressive toward other bucks, and chase does more and more frequently. The necks of most bucks become noticeably swollen.

Most matings take place in September and October. The antlers are shed in December and January. Curiously, deer themselves often chew on shed antlers, consuming both bone and marrow, thus getting calcium and protein.

Most fawns are dropped in May and June, but occasional births have been recorded as early as April and as late as August. Births are single or twin. When winter food has been plentiful and does are in good shape twin births are more frequent. Fawns remain with their mothers for their first year.

Although hardly an endangered species, the numbers of local deer may oscillate widely between abundance and scarcity. Undoubtedly such oscillations were less pronounced before the decimation of the Black-tail's natural predators, especially the mountain lion. However, with good management practices the Black-tail will be a striking and valuable member of our fauna as long as suitable habitat for them remains.

(Editor's note: Dr. John Davis is on the staff of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California at Berkeley as a Research Zoologist. He is in charge of the Hastings Natural History Reservation. He is on the advisory board of the Big Sur Land Trust. Dr. Davis is the author of about 60 research papers and reviews in the field of vertebrate zoology.)



A PANAMINT Shoshone Koso tribe Indian drawing of black-tail deer. Reproduction by Jennifer Smith-Hendrix.

BLACK-TAILED DEER SONG

By A Pima Indian

Down from the houses of magic,
Down from the houses of magic,
Blow the winds, and from my antlers
And my ears they strongly gather.

Over there I ran trembling,
Over there I ran trembling,
For bows and arrows pursued me,
Many bows were on my trail.

Whale and Sea Otter Benefit Draws Large Crowds

Friends of the Sea Otter and Greenpeace had 40 craftmakers working for them over the Thanksgiving weekend in the "Artisans Give Thanks to the Animals" Benefit.

A preview Friday evening included wine-tasting. It took three rooms to accommodate all the crafts, which included quilt-making, clothing and pinata-making, handcrafted wine chimes, jewelry, leatherwork, hand-painted eggs, whales carved of redwood, paintings, lithographs, the sale of historical and local interest books and much more.

Greenpeace and Friends of the Sea Otter had booths set up giving information about

the sea mammals and displaying children's art from all over the Monterey Peninsula.

Each artisan contributed one craft to a raffle that was held on Saturday. The show ran three days.

The Carmel Holiday Inn convention rooms were crowded with Christmas shoppers and curiosity seekers.

The otters and whales may take no notice of the Christmas season, but if crowds are any indication, the two organizations designed to protect these unique creatures should have a prosperous Christmas. In any case, good will spread throughout the exhibit and sale. We wish them equal success in future ventures.



THE GREAT WHALES, redwood carvings by the Greenpeace volunteers. (Photo by Randy Puckett, drew praise from Paula Walling) visitors and were certainly well-received by



MARA OF POOH Corner sells lovely scenic or patchwork quilted bedspreads at the Friends of the Sea Otters-Greenpeace benefit. (Photo by Paula Walling)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



from
the

Gazette

Staff and Contributors

THE REDWOOD BEDROOM
for Neil Novack

The Redwood Bedroom we call it
A natural sleeping place
for all things organic
Surrounded by four giant redwoods
A tiny palace guarded by
four ancient towers

In the golden dusk
My little doe-eyed daughter of two
Will be softly snoring
And cuddling me
For warmth and love

I lie on my back as the light dims
and dream open-eyed

Bats, tiny blind shadows
flit and flutter
Dive and dance close
to my face
The bats and I have a symbiotic
relationship
I am the mosquito bait
And they keep me from becoming anemic

Lying awake, staring to the heights
of this wooden cathedral
I can almost count the number of stars

The Big Sur River is only
a child's stone throw away
Always busy washing and polishing
its rocks and pebbles
At night the river loses its shyness
And like a wizened old man
it may be gently prodded
Into telling its tales and
singing its songs

But one must listen:
Sometimes there is the whispering
between intimate friends
Sometimes the crying of a child alone
And sometimes this moonswept stream
produces such chorales
That Handel himself would weep

Every night fat masked raiders
scuttle down the trees
Whole families of raccoons
out to search for their suppers
They sound as if they are scratching
at some poison oak
Where the arms of the redwoods cannot reach

Then, one by one, like paratroopers
they jump
And never fail to leap across my legs
As if I were just another dead log

In the dim, foggy morning
when the river has wearied
And once more pretends to be
just a free flowing liquid
I awake and find
I am first in line
for the Dawn Recital

Through careful practice
I am proud to say
I have actually become the
earliest bird
Like royalty, I lie in my private booth
And prepare for the Avian Concert

Why the Steller jays are the first
to tune up
I don't think I'll ever know
And I'll be damned if it doesn't
always take them the longest

Then the silver piping sparrows
And the golden brassy crows
And the virtuoso mocking birds
practice their feathery scales

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK
The conductor's baton taps for silence
by the red-headed woodpecker
I wait in breathless anticipation
for this grandest of concerts
to begin

Then, as always, an argument breaks out
among a few of the blue jays
And it seems an interminable length of time
Before the Dawn is allowed to begin

Thomas Ruggiero

HAWK'S PERCH



Edited by
WILLIAM WITHERUP

Poems submitted for the Hawk's Perch should relate in some way to the experience of living or being on the Big Sur coast, especially the section from Bixby Canyon to Gorda. Though we will be provincial in content, style and form are open. The editor suggests interested contributors submit more than one poem at a time for consideration. Poems should be typewritten and, preferably, double-spaced. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must accompany all submissions. Address them to Hawk's Perch, *The Big Sur Gazette*, P.O. Box 125, Big Sur, CA 93920.

Contributors

—Erin Gaffill is a Big Sur resident. She is a junior at Carmel High School.

—Gary Cooke lives in Pacific Grove and works for the Monterey Peninsula Herald. A chapbook, *Butterfish and Other Poems* is due out in December from Heyeck Press.

—Art Troutman lives in Northridge, California.

—Sarah Estribou is a Big Sur resident.

—Bruce Roddan lives in Oceano, California and works as a librarian. He wrote this during a recent visit here.

—Thomas Ruggiero lives in Pacific Grove.

**THE BIG SUR RIVER
MEETS THE DREAM LADY**

Your flaunted beauty, your
elaborate blonde deceptions,
litter this riverbank like
aluminum cans. Your kisses
can't compare with the soft splashes
made by these invisible fish.
Your face can never be this still,
your eyes never as bright
as the chandelier made by the fog
trapped in this spiderweb.

On the far shore ducks
file down the bank and glide into water.
Here, at my knee, the sun begins to glow,
the size of a dime.
Its small white light warms me
more than any memory of you
that may rise within.

How could I have traded this moment
for all those nights and dreams?

Gary Cooke

THE SUN IS OUT

The sun is out,
The pelicans are on the rocks and
the day awaits.
Close to the edge of time
I stand at the waters edge.
The waves pound
emphasizing the dividing line.
Earth, water and air.
I, as the fire walk along the edge.
All four elements united.

Sarah Estribou July 1978

MELROSE PIERCE

Stop. Stop your gaze at life and look at me.
I want your attention, I am selfish and self possessed.

Don't intimidate me with your silence, your clarity,
your sultry quietude. Don't interrupt my vanity
with a pause of reflection.

Say anything, I will agree with you. My personality
grasps at straws of thought, idea, meaning, to call
ME. Why are
YOU so melancholy?
You say you are not, but yet, you speak so softly to me.

My striking beauty must enthrall you,
absorb you,
condemn you. Why are you so obstinately untalkative?

Love me, but in an inferior way, you are a fool and
blind to ME! I am wondrous and delightful.

(But my hair is dirty and I am frustrated and young
and you are me from now.)

A violent expletive, Melrose Pierce.

Erin Gaffill

WEEKEND AT SUR

Life spent until then
if 'twere for any end
but prelude prerequisite

Reined back to mark time
in place, ere to live out
a lifetime in a week's end

Lost in shore and wood
a Life apart well lived
itself alone worth living

Art Troutman
December 2, 1974

OAK

While I am carrying your wood to the fire
heavy trappings of bark
fly away from my hands like birds.

The blue sky and white clouds of your death
fall also as the light
of a star seen through dense branches.

Last night, the moon sleepwalked your bones.
I hold your broken body close,
like a child whose smile has fallen to silence

and you speak
in the tongue of a man who has told the truth.

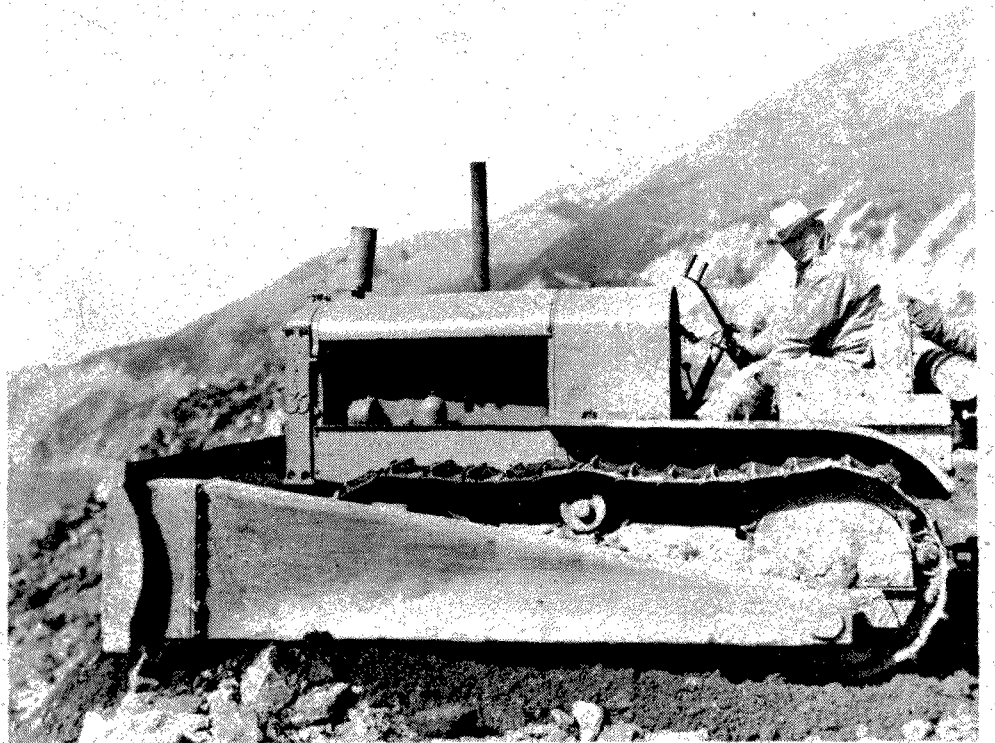
Brooks Roddan



OAK ON THE Coast Ridge Road. (Photo by Paula Walling)



AN UNIDENTIFIED workman poses next to a Chevrolet truck in 1926. An abandoned buckboard wagon and road building equipment are behind him.



BOB CLINCH driving one of the first bulldozers (a Caterpillar) brought to Big Sur. The photo was taken just north of Partington Point. The old Angulo Trail is visible in the background.

The Construction of Highway One

Photos by Lewis Josselyn from the Pat Hathaway Collection

By PAULA WALLING

The construction of Big Sur's scenic highway along the rugged mountains skirting the Pacific Shore involved the solution of difficult engineering problems. Carving a road along these precipitous headlands entailed displacement of enormous quantities of earth. The result was that numerous slides developed when the natural slopes were disturbed.

Walter Trotter Critical

Walt Trotter decries the primitive construction methods used at that time. "See all this," he said pointing to an old photograph, "no brush, no nothing." He said the workers "just took that Lorain and that Lima and that Northwest (steam shovels) and dumped the stuff over -- millions and millions and billions of yards of earth. And what they didn't, they set charges to -- dug coyote holes back in the hills -- set charges there, blew it off, dumped it off. All that rough goes in the ocean ... They ended up killing off all the abalone with the mud deposits." Engineers of the time said they attempted to prevent scarring and to preserve the scenic factors of the coastline.

We are used to the quirks of Highway One and would probably fight to see that not one changed. Some cherish the slides that close the road during a good rain, some curse them. Whatever feelings we may have, the road will not likely be built another way.

Nevertheless, Walt Trotter knows it could have been better built. "Had this been a modern constructed highway," he said, "it would have been all infilled, tailgated, the brush would have been cleared off all the cuts, they would have taken the dozers and gone down and compacted all the fill." Still looking at the picture he said, "Then they would have started up here at the top of the hill and made nice slopes all the way down, benched it down and you wouldn't have had all this ..."

National Industrial Recovery Act

Had it not been for the Depression, Highway One might not have been completed until more recent times, and if it were to be proposed today, it would be an environmentalist's nightmare. Imagine an environmental impact report on the construction of Highway One!

Funds for the completion of the highway came about

through congressional passage of the National Industrial Recovery Act in June of 1933. \$400,000,000 was appropriated at that time for state highway work across the country. Of that, over \$15,000,000 was given to California.

Convict labor was responsible for much of the cutting and clearing of the highway, and various work camps were set up along the coast, such as the one shown in the August, 1978 issue of the *Gazette*.

At that time, Highway One was referred to as the Carmel-San Simeon section of the Roosevelt International Highway.

Thirty-two bridges span canyons and streams. Of these, Bixby Creek Bridge, also called Rainbow Bridge, was at the time of construction the longest concrete arch span in the world.

Engineer Worked 18 Years

Lester Gibson, state highway engineer on Highway One for 18 years thought that surveying the land by pack train was the most interesting part of his job. This was done in 1918. In 1922, the first contracts were awarded, one company working north from San Simeon, the other south from Big Sur.

The first labor camp was at Little Sur in 1928 and was later moved to Anderson Canyon. There was also a labor camp at Kirk Creek. Of the 200 men building the highway, about two-thirds were convicts.

The highway cost approximately \$8,000,000 and was completed in 1937, opening to through traffic one of the world's most scenic drives. Highway One has been compared to Amalfi Drive in Italy, the rugged scenic coastal drive in Taiwan and roadways in the Andes, but to those who live on and near it, it is incomparable.

Rock Blasted to Open Road

Bixby Creek Bridge may have opened with a cliched ribbon-cutting, but the highway itself opened with a ceremony befitting the occasion, the blasting of a boulder out of the center of the road.

On June 27, 1937, Governor Frank F. Merriam lit a fuse to dynamite the one remaining obstacle to through traffic. Five hundred tickets to the ceremony were sold. The celebration included a barbeque, the arrival of a pony express rider, the dedication of Pfeiffer-Big Sur State Park, and a pageant depicting the history of the coastal region.



STEAM SHOVEL loads an old seven-yard Bulldog Mack truck at "Old Blue Slide" near Torre Canyon.

THE PAT HATHAWAY COLLECTION

Pat Hathaway, Photo Archivist
HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

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BARBARA SPRING
of Big Sur

Wood Sculpture

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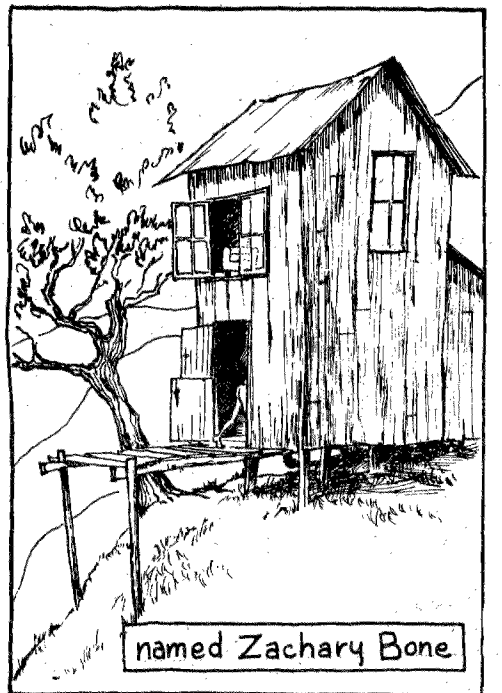
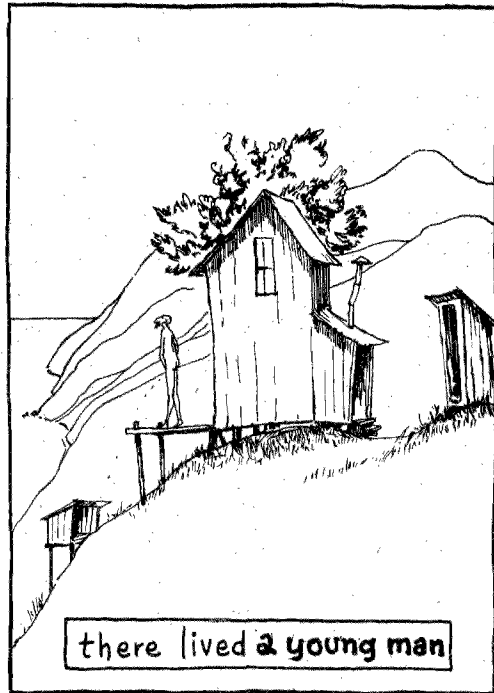
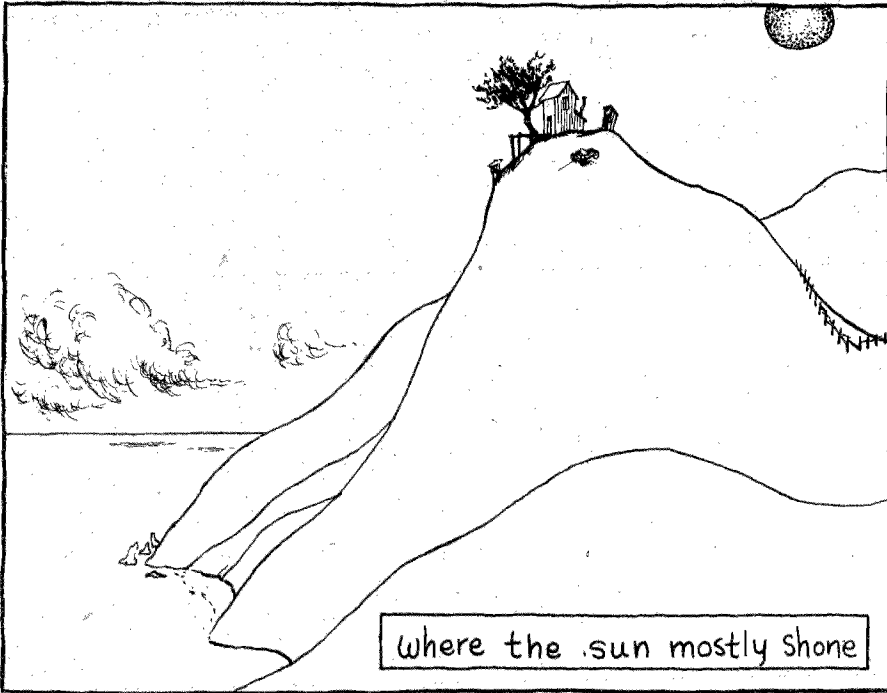
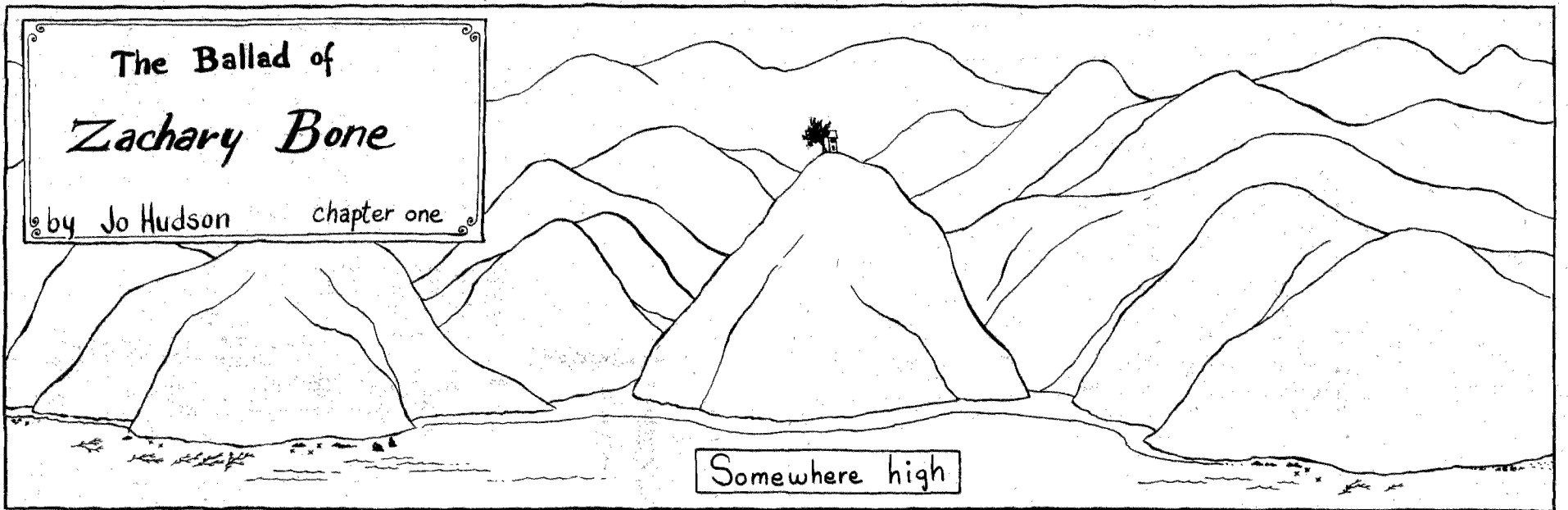


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ROAD WORK NEAR Grimes Canyon about 1935. The old Grimes homestead is barely visible in the background. The truck is parked at the "Spring of Youth," a spring that crosses the highway during heavy rain.



The members of the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade wish to express their deep appreciation to the volunteers of the Big Sur Ambulance Crew for the excellent course in Basic Life Support conducted November 28-30, 1978.

USFS Plans Prescribed Burns

Smoke will again appear over the mountains of the Monterey Ranger District. However, this time it will be man-caused and there will be an objective to achieve. The U.S. Forest Service has spent the last six months preparing 1,000 acres for prescribed burning. Prescribed burning, a synonym for what most people have come to know as controlled burning, is a method used to eliminate unwanted vegetation by burning when conditions are most favorable to achieve specific objectives. The term prescribed is derived because a prescription is written for the area to be burned. The prescription establishes maximums and minimums of weather factors such as wind, temperature, relative humidity, fine fuel moisture, green fuel moisture, etc. These factors enable the fire boss to estimate the fire's behavior, the amount of heat required to meet the objectives of the burn, and his equipment and manpower needs.

Since 1975 the Monterey District has been involved in prescribed burning. This year's objective of 1000 acres is the most attempted so far. However, more burning is planned for future years and as our expertise and knowledge expands so will the yearly objective.

Much preparation is required before any work on the ground can be started. The environmental analysis process

can take up to a year for large or complex projects. Fuel samples and weather data must be collected. Project areas are divided into burn blocks for manageability. Field reconnaissances are conducted for archeological or historically significant sites and for threatened or endangered flora and fauna. As you can see, it is not a speedy process but we try to be as thorough as possible.

When the planning processes are complete and approved, field preparation begins. Our fuel management and fire crews are specifically trained to prepare and burn these areas. However most district personnel are involved in the project at some point in time and in many instances people from other Ranger Districts or other agencies assist.

It is our goal, through good fuel management, to reduce the possibility of catastrophic fires, maintain an effective fire control organization of a reasonable size and to meet current land management direction. We work for you, the citizen, and we know you are as interested in the management of our National Forests as we are.

More information regarding our environmental process or prescribed burning can be obtained by writing: U.S. Forest Service, 406 S. Mildred Avenue, King City, CA 93930, Attn: Fuel Management Officer.

A kaleidoscope of color and pattern characterize this unique yard goods shop. Fabrics by the yard, special orders of pillows, placemats, tablecloths and other accessories. You can purchase stretcher bars to make your own fabric wall hangings from the outstanding decorator prints. Only the finest imported and domestic fabrics are offered.



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TALES OF THE PAST

By HANS EWOLDSSEN

Tales of the past seem to have an attraction for newcomers in a community. Here is one about something that happened in the Big Sur area about 50 years ago. And it is true, too.

I was working at that time on the Hogue Ranch also known as the Bixby Ranch, and now the Chapman Ranch. Dean and I had been working on the old roads on the ranch. Most of these had been built when the limekiln was in operation on Bixby and Mill Creeks. It had been a hot day and we had worked up a craving for a glass or two of beer—homebrew at that time of prohibition. So we decided to make the trip down to Idlewild on the Little Sur River where the nearest supply was produced. Since we had not repaired the road enough to be able to drive a car to the ranch, we had to walk over the hill to the Sykes' place which was about 1/4 mile east of the old county road where it went over the Serra Hill, and where we had parked our Ford. By the way, the old timers had a tale about the road from the summit of Serra Hill down to the Little Sur: they said that the man who built this stretch of road had built it to spell his name, which was 'Schemn! Those who are familiar with the road will know why. Our trip to our version of a 'speak-easy' was successful, and when our thirst had been satisfied, we started on our return trip to the ranch. When we arrived back at the Sykes' place it was late and we didn't feel like walking over the hill in the dark. So we decided to stay the night with Vic, who was living at the place while making posts for the Sur Ranch. There was a spare room with a double bed next to Vic's

room which we gratefully made use of. Our trip so far had been uneventful, and we did not expect anything else on the trip to the ranch in the early morning. But we had not counted on Chuck, Vic's brother, who by the way, were both 200 pounders. Now Chuck had some trouble with his head which had at some time connected forcefully with a beer bottle during one of his fights. As a result of this he was sometimes 'out of his mind' as the saying is. Some days before our little trip, Chuck had about scared the daylight out of Dean and myself when we were working in some timber and brush. We heard something coming straight down the mountain, breaking through the brush and making enough noise to sound like a bear. It was only Chuck in one of his spells—breathing heavily and looking at us as though he would like to bash in our heads. But he only wanted to know where his brother Vic was. He kept looking at us for some time seemingly undecided as to what to do. Finally he decided to leave, to our great relief, for he was known to get very violent at times.

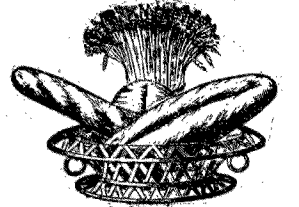
To return to our stay with Vic—Dean and I were sleeping peacefully when we were awakened by something or someone tramping into the cabin, through Vic's room and into ours. It was Chuck with a 410 shotgun. He walked up to our bed, pointed the gun at Dean and pulled the trigger. But nothing happened—apparently the gun was not loaded. While I (being a greenhorn) took the whole thing as a joke, Dean had sized it up differently. When the gun did not go off, Chuck started to turn the gun around, in slow motion as in a trance, to get hold of

the barrel and use it as a club. By that time Dean, who was not renowned for his speed (it was said of his father that one had to line him up with a tree to be sure he was moving) had disappeared over the foot of the bed in one bound (which I'm sure broke some kind of record), through Vic's room and out into the yard.

By that time I realized that something was wrong, and keeping my eyes on the gun, was about to imitate Dean when Vic appeared in the room. He got Chuck's arms pinned behind his back and yelled to me at the same time, "Get out!" which advice I did not need repeated, and probably breaking Dean's record, joined him in the yard.

While we were standing there shivering in our underwear, an unearthly noise came from the cabin which sounded like, "El usted muerte!" It wasn't long before Vic appeared and told us it was now all right for us to come inside as Chuck had recovered from his 'spell.' He explained that Chuck, in his demented state, thought that Dean and I were going to kill Vic. We all had breakfast together, after which Dean and I headed over the hill to home and work. Chuck had enough escapades to upset half the county, but later recovered completely from his injury and subsequent 'spells.'

Claire's Cooking Corner BIG SUR RECIPE



MUSTARD MOUSSE

This edible-mousse is the perfect companion for your holiday ham.

- 4 eggs
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 tblsp. unflavored gelatin
- 1-1/2 tsp. tumeric
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup cider vinegar
- 1/2 pint (1 cup) whipping cream
- 1 cup water



Beat eggs in top of double boiler. Mix together thoroughly the sugar and unflavored gelatin; stir in mustard, tumeric and salt. Add the water and the vinegar to the eggs, stir in the sugar mixture and cook over boiling water until slightly thickened, stirring continuously.

Cool until thick, whip cream and stir in. Turn into a 1-1/2 quart ring mold. When firm, unmold and garnish.

P.S. For those with Latin Tendencies, latent or otherwise, the addition of diced green chile peppers will bring extra spice to your gustatory adventure with the above recipe. Fold chiles in just before the whip cream. Felices Navidades!

A
Gazette
AD
MEANS
BUSINESS

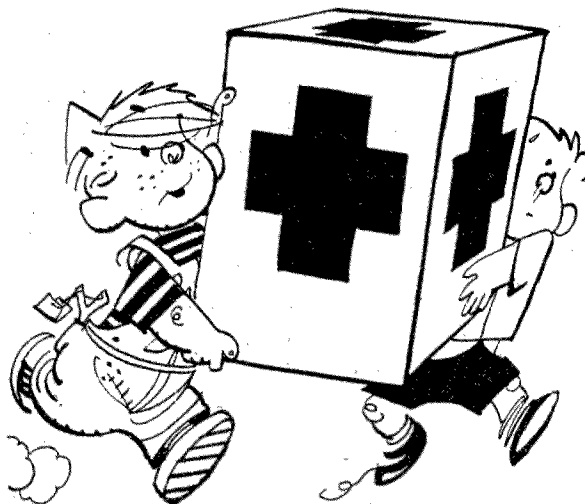
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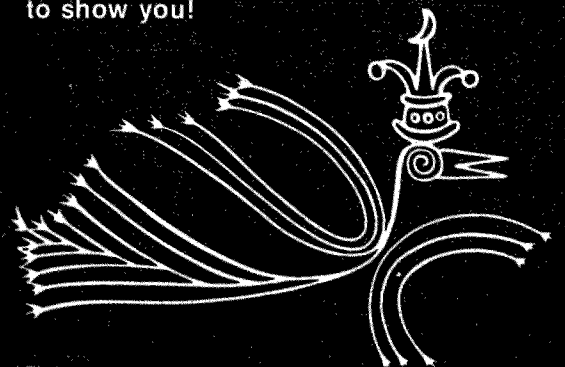
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THE BIG SUR FOUNDATION

225A Cannery Row, Monterey, CA

A STATEMENT OF GOALS AND POLICIES

The Big Sur coast is a unique natural resource. Its ocean and mountain majesty are unsurpassed anywhere in the world. Highway 1 may well be the nation's most scenic roadway. The Big Sur way of life is special, reflecting the values both of the pioneers who settled this coastal wilderness and the creative people who contributed to its renown. Today, the grandeur and lifestyle of the Big Sur coast are threatened by increasing pressures for use and development.

The Big Sur Foundation was formed in response to these pressures. The Foundation is a private, non-profit coalition of citizens, most with homes, businesses, or other property in the Big Sur area, and all with deep concern for the long term protection of its values.

The Foundation's goal, without precommitment to any solution, is to seek the best possible framework for the future of the Big Sur coast. Its objectives are twofold: (1) To preserve for future generations the natural splendor, historical heritage, and special character of the Big Sur coast; and (2) To support appropriate development, public and private, commensurate with protecting its scenic and natural resources.

Philosophically, the Foundation recognizes that the visual experience of the Big Sur coast is its primary value for most people. Accordingly, in evaluating proposals for the Big Sur coast the Foundation will be a strong advocate for the protection of its scenic beauty.

Geographically, the Foundation defines the Big Sur coast as the area extending from Malpaso Creek on the north to San Simeon, and from the easternmost extent of publicly-owned lands to 12 miles at sea.

Practically, the Foundation functions as a data-gathering, research, and resource center. In this capacity it has already contributed to an unprecedented natural resource inventory of the Big Sur region.

The Foundation is exploring all plans and proposals relating to the Big Sur area, and studying a broad range of innovative management concepts in other parts of the country. It is also consulting with other citizens and organizations, and with agencies at all levels of government. Ultimately, the Foundation will dedicate its staff and resources to the support and implementation of the comprehensive program—whether local, State, Federal, or a combination

thereof—found to be in the best interests of the land, the people of Big Sur, and the general public.

The specific concerns of the Big Sur Foundation are:

Improving Management of Public and Private Lands. Decisions affecting the Big Sur area are now made by 77 public agencies. Most of these agencies show concern for protecting environmental values, but have different primary goals, objectives and methods. Coordinated, responsive management is essential to maintain the integrity of the Big Sur coast.

Protecting the Area from Overdevelopment. Each year more people are attracted to Big Sur to visit or to live. It is a fragile and finite area. Its wilderness character will be threatened if too much residential or commercial development is allowed, and if public overuse of vulnerable areas is not prevented. The need for limits is already recognized at Point Lobos State Reserve, where public use is curtailed when necessary to protect natural values.

Preserving Human, Historical, and Cultural Values. The character of Big Sur involves a way of life and the people who sustain it—ranchers, artists, craftsmen, and homesteaders whose love of the land transcends rigorous living conditions and limited economic opportunities. The human, historical, and cultural heritage of Big Sur is a resource to be considered in any program for conservation of the land itself, and in any legislation affecting it.

Developing a Comprehensive Program for Scenic Protection. A long-range program sensitive to both public and private interests must be developed to protect the scenic values of the Big Sur coast, and the richness and diversity of its natural resources. The concept should be one that can be supported by local residents and property owners, but at the same time, be responsive to the public interest in scenic and recreation resources and visitor-serving facilities. The completed program should be presented to elected officials and administrative agencies of county, State and Federal governments for implementation. The Foundation proposes the following guidelines for development of a comprehensive program for the Big Sur coast:

—Standards and policies must be tailored to the unique nature of the Big Sur coast.

—Environmental constraints must be respected in an area as rugged yet as fragile as the Big Sur coast.

These include water supply and waste disposal; geologic suitability of terrain; protection of watershed, habitats, shoreline, and other environmentally-sensitive areas; and fire and flood hazards.

—The capacity of Highway 1 should be recognized as the major limiting factor in the future of the Big Sur coast.

—View protection is vital since traveling Highway 1 is the principal recreational use of the area.

—Agricultural uses of the land—ranching, grazing, farming, animal husbandry—should be protected, and other congenial uses encouraged. Any operation that might jeopardize the quality of the environment—logging, mining, quarrying, oil drilling—should be discouraged.

—While resource protection and public recreation are each important objectives, where the two are in conflict, protection of resources should have priority.

Supporting Other Projects. The Foundation will support projects and legislation reflecting its goals and objectives, by public or private agencies. New proposals should not duplicate work already underway, but should seek to harmonize local, State and national interests in the Big Sur region. The Foundation will work for funding by governmental, private, and non-profit organizations for purchase of scenic easements or other interests in lands of high environmental value. In all such efforts, the Foundation has the following policy objectives:

—Identifying and protecting historic elements of the Big Sur coast, including structures of special significance, and encouraging a quality of design sensitive to the area and its traditions.

—Seeking more flexible and imaginative means for fair compensation to landholders for preserving open land that might otherwise be developed.

—Balancing the need for public purchase of key lands against the merits of private stewardship as the best means of protecting scenic values and preserving open space.

—Finding means of relieving real estate and inheritance tax pressures that result in the sale or subdivision of land.

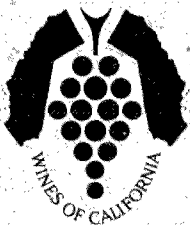
The Big Sur Foundation seeks the active support of individuals, organizations, and agencies sharing its goals. All activities of the Foundation will be consistent with its tax-exempt status.

Adopted November 9, 1978

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The Book Nook

By HARMON BELLAMY

**IF LIFE IS A BOWL OF CHERRIES
WHAT AM I DOING IN THE PITS?**
By Erma Bombeck
McGraw-Hill, 203 pp, \$7.95

If Art Buchwald has the funny-guy title sewed up for political humor and satire, Erma Bombeck certainly is the champ of plain everyday family hilarity. In her newest #1 Best Seller, on the market only a few short months after her previous book, *The Grass Is Always Greener Over the Septic Tank*, reached the top bracket, Erma seems again to have outdone herself. No wonder she is once more at the top of the list.

We don't know where she gets her titles, we don't even find a connection with any of her brief essays, but it doesn't matter. What does matter is the pure unadulterated reading fun, her wild and exaggerated complaining which mixes truth with fiction, the vast area of subjects on which she comments to the reader's delight, the joy that positively accompanies each and every article within the book's covers. As in earlier works, her new volume contains a goodly number of already published newspaper columns from her vast repertoire, and she

has garnished them with some brand new lengthier fun pieces that will only make you want more of the same. Some of her outlandish, incredibly imaginative themes are absolutely impossible to read without loud laughter.

In her own inimitable style, so far not copied by anyone else—who in the world would be capable?—Erma challenges many modern concepts ranging from laugh-provoking wedding problems to piteous motherhood problems to big and little family-endangered problems to non-traumatic health problems to current fashions and fads and travel problems and so on and on ad infinitum. Her supply of topics is limitless, her reporting literally unbelievable. It is not feasible nor even necessary to report all the doings of Erma and her husband and children and neighbors and other erstwhile characters, but anyone who has read her columns over the years—and there are millions upon millions of such fans—is sure to find all bound up in this new volume some of the most hilarious and delightful short pieces ever written by male or female since humor was first invented.

If you miss *If Life Is a Bowl of Cherries* you deserve to be in the pits.

JOHN E. SMITH

John Emerson Smith died at Community Hospital Nov. 11. He was born in 1912 in Klamath Falls, Oregon. His family moved to Prairie City, Oregon where John attended school. His folks were ranchers who were also in the logging contracting business.

In 1929 he joined the peace time army and served in the Philippines. During the Chinese-Japanese uprising he was close enough to dodge a few bullets. Later when he returned to the States he ran a supply boat between Fort MacDowell and Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay.

He left the army in 1934 and went home to Prairie City. There he met Mildred "Lukie" Speelman and they were married that same year in Payette, Idaho. They made their home in Prairie City where their two children, Virginia Marliene (Chase) and Gordon LeRoy were born. John worked in the lumber industry until 1958 when he moved his family to Paige, Arizona. His was one of the first families to arrive to begin construction on the Glen Canyon dam.

In 1960 John and Lukie came to the coast and managed Lucia Lodge for four years; then they moved up the coast to take over Ripplewood Resort. They were members of the Big Sur Grange. John was responsible for the present location of the library at Ripplewood Resort. He retired to Pacific Valley in 1975.

In addition to his wife Mildred and his two children, John is survived by six grandchildren, Michael, David, Jana Lee, and Lance Stevenson and Shane and Shelly Smith. He leaves a brother Frank of Prineville, Oregon and a half brother Randall of John Day, Oregon.

John was cremated and buried at sea. Contributions may be made in John's memory to the Radiation Therapy Department of Community Hospital, Box HH, Carmel.



THE LATE John Smith with wife Mildred.

The Coast Gallery will be Closed

Christmas Day

open the 26th as usual 9-5 p.m.

Merry Christmas!



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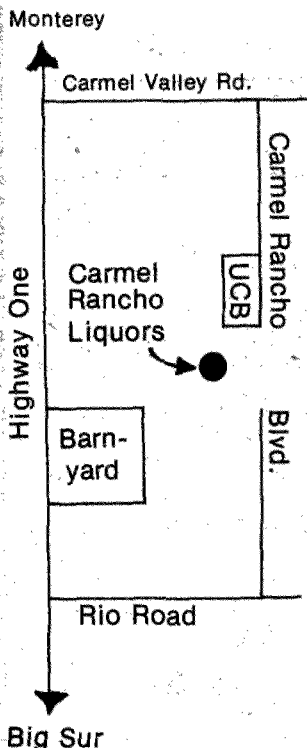
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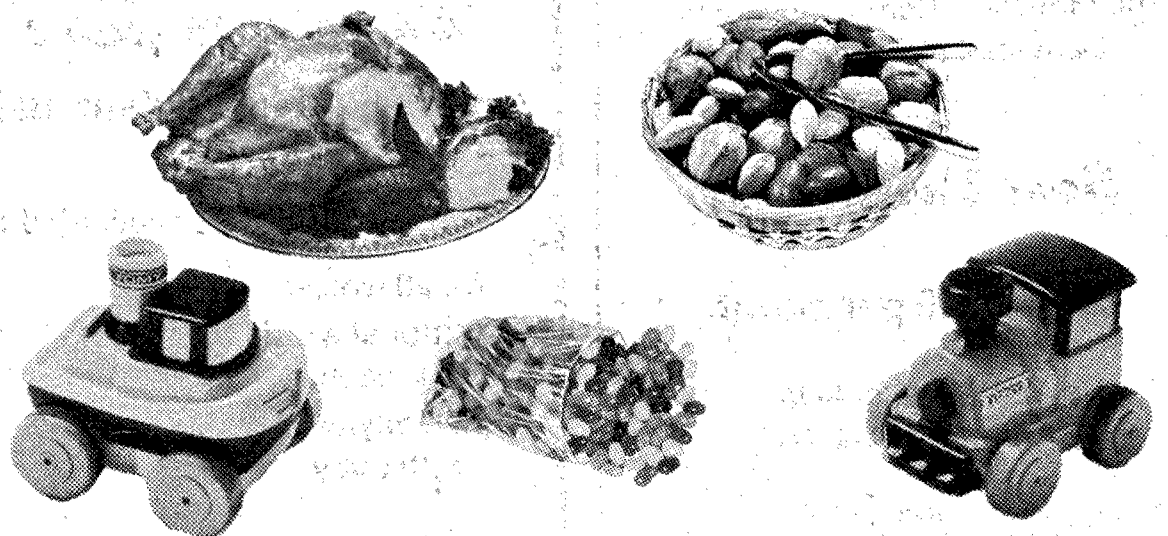
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Christmas in the Salinas Valley
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The Agricultural workers need toys (especially dolls), candy, canned and dried food, and cash to purchase their Christmas dinners.

If you can help, please phone Kaye Short at 667-2239 or bring your gifts to the Big Sur Library, Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 1 and 5 p.m. no later than Dec. 21.

Merry Christmas
and
Thank You

Compliments of The Big Sur Gazette

Gazette Classified

FIRE SAFETY

At last the rains have come and the possibility of large wild land fires has been greatly reduced. This year the Big Sur area managed to get through the fire season without any major watershed loss. Fire prevention activities alone cannot take full credit for the relatively quiet fire season, but credit should go to the safe attitudes and practices of both local and visiting public.

I would like to bring to your attention some of the safe guards a person may take, in conjunction with state fire laws, relating to fire safety with fire places and wood burning stoves.

A. The stove pipe must be free of holes and all joints securely fastened. It should be properly insulated when passing through the ceiling; then triple wall insulated stove pipe is required through the roof.

B. Provide and maintain a screen, 1/2 inch mesh or smaller, over the outlet of every chimney or stovepipe.

C. Maintain the roof of your home free leaves, needles, and other dead vegetative growth.

D. Remove any portion of a tree extending within 10 feet of a chimney or stovepipe outlet.

Fire prevention is a combination of legal, moral and environmental responsibilities. The time and effort you invest to make your home fire safe could very well prove to be a wise investment.

Tom Mounts
Fire Prevention Technician
Big Sur

For Sale

UPRIGHT PLAYER PIANO for sale. Best offer over \$250. Call 667-2508.

USED CHAIN SAW, 16" Homelite. Extra chains. \$100. 667-2490.

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1977 WINNEBAGO Motorhome. 26-foot. By day, week or month. References required. Call 667-2512.

Business Opportunities

CASH DAILY stuffing envelopes. Everything furnished. For details send 25 cents and SASE to: Adventure. Box 397, Seaside, CA 93955.

Real Estate Wanted

SMALL UNIMPROVED parcel for future homesite. Prefer ocean view with trees. Private party. Write: M. Oberman, 572 Amalfi Drive, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272.

Help Wanted

HOUSEKEEPER wanted. Call April, 667-2490.

Wanted

PHOTOGRAPH SOUGHT The Gazette would like to publish a photograph of the Highway 1 opening day ceremony. Please call us at 667-2222 or 667-2223 if you have such a photo to share.

Pets

REGISTERED AUSTRALIAN Shepherd puppies. Blue Merle and Black Tri's. for sale. \$50. Joanne Nissen, Hollister. 637-1153.

Personal

DEAR CAROLE: Love you more and more every day. Thanks for being the warm person you are. Love you always, Turtle.

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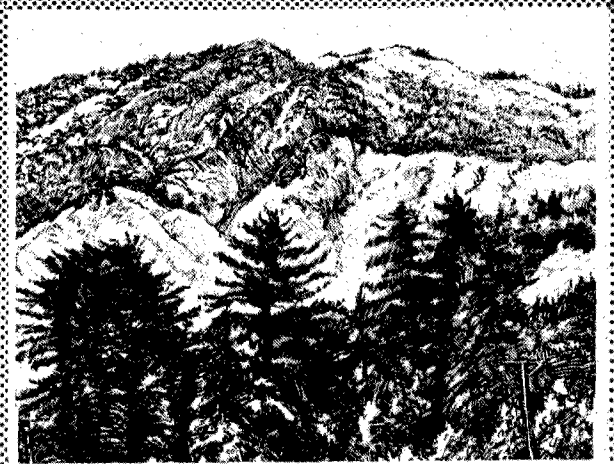
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Big Sur Church Services

San Lucia Mission

Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m.

St. Francis Church

1/2 Mile North of Fernwood
All denominations

St. Francis Church

Saturday Mass, 4 p.m.
Catholic Service
1/2 Mile North of Fernwood

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

Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park

Sundays, 10 a.m.
Non-denominational Service
State Park Campfire Center

ROBERT'S RAIN GAUGE

Captain Cooper School Principal Robert Douglas and his fourth and fifth graders have kept a record of the rainfall at the school since September. The rainfall record will be a monthly feature of the "Gazette". Below is a listing to bring us up to date:

Date	Amount	Total	Remarks
Sept. 5	.35	.35	1st day of school -- from Hurricane Norma
Sept. 6	.45	.80	
Nov. 20	.85	1.65	Light winds
Nov. 21	3.20	4.85	Light winds
Nov. 22	5.70	5.70	
Dec. 1	.40	6.10	

Rainfall is measured the morning following the storms.

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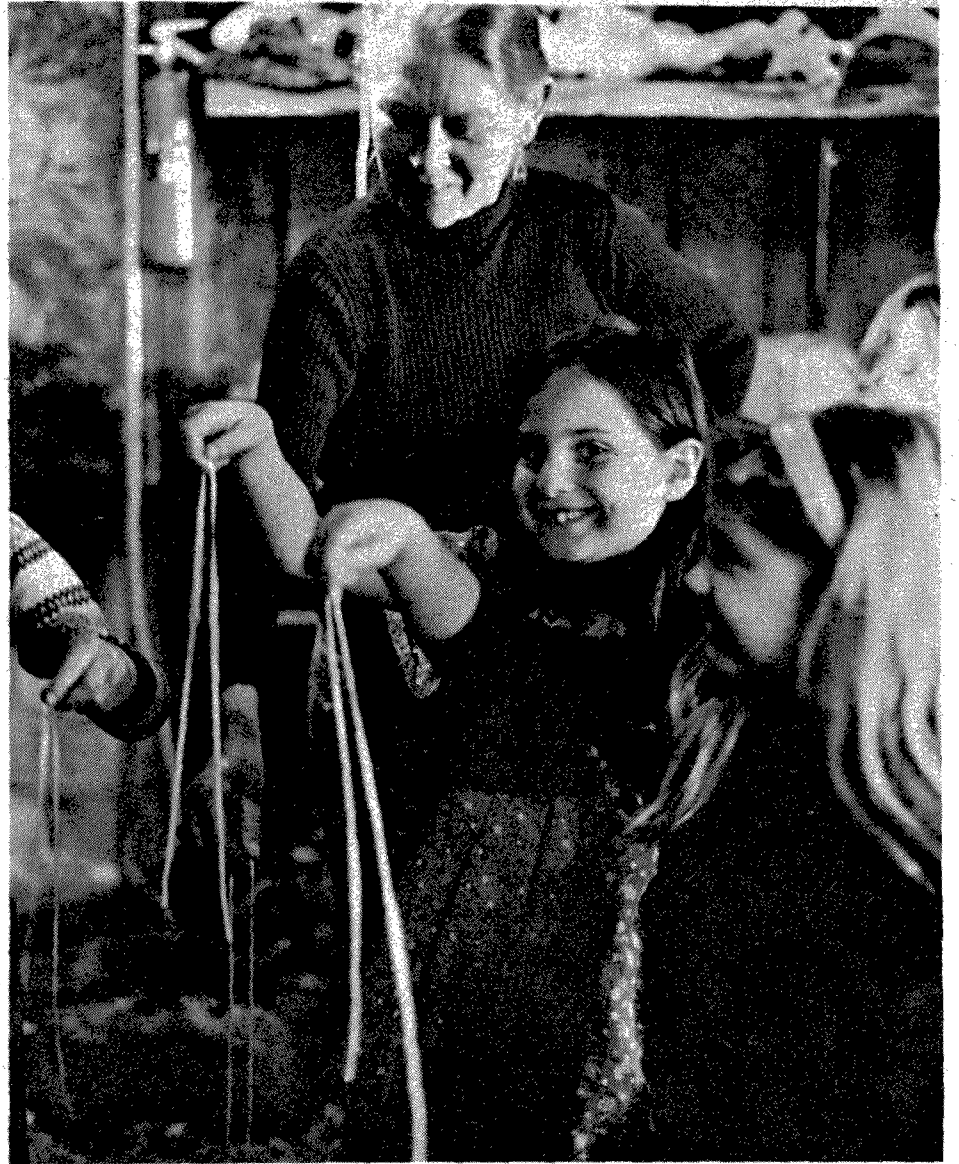
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1973—MUSIC SPECIALIST Bill Purdy directs the Christmas Program. From left: Elisabeth Leavy, Stephanie Dow, Lori Beat, Lisa Gray and Raffy Fisher.



1975—LAVONN CURTIS, 2nd-3rd grade teacher, Torre McQueen and Colleen Perry dip candles at Coast Gallery. Children in all grades made Christmas candles that year.



By PAULA WALLING

Christmas for the children of Big Sur has always included a Christmas Program. For all but two years, the years following the mud slides caused by the Molera Fire, the program has been held at the Big Sur Grange Hall. Before Captain Cooper youngsters staged their Christmas Sings, Pfeiffer School children held similar programs for their parents.

A photograph of this year's program will be included in the January Gazette, but for readers who like to reminisce, we include these portraits from Christmas of past years feeling that Christmas would have little meaning without children.

Happy Holidays to you and your family.



1972—THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM was held at Captain Cooper School because the Grange was in continual danger from mudslides due to the Molera Fire. Standing in back are Erin Gafill and Tracy Carter. Seated in front are Chris Newell, Thyme Lewis and Bobby Ruppell.



1975—FORMER TEACHER'S AIDE Lillian Hulbert escorts delighted children to Quentel's Evergreen Farm to choose a Christmas tree. Before Proposition 13 eliminated all field trips, Big Sur children made the yearly trek to select their own tree for the classroom

and the Christmas Program. From left: Raffy Fisher, Stephanie Dow, Shelley Thrash, Lori Beat, Michelle Case, Vanessa Shore, Colleen Perry, Mark Newell, and Tim Hulbert.



1975—JILL DE GROAT sings a French Carol, "Jeanette Isabella," with the children. Children shown: Richard Villa, Terri Leisure, Carolyn Burleigh, Larissa Asher, Erik

De Groat, Kevin Jankowy, Robbie Hawley, Todd Steeb, Jolie Clark, Darius Brooks, Ali Monroe, Natasha Hunt, Beaux Von Protz-Chamberlain, Jason Daniels, Tina

Staalenburg, Jason Cichoski, Michell La Belle, Marilou Pascua, Jonathan McQueen, Laura Burr and Jonathan Newell.