



Sierra Mountain Park Association
P.O. Box 311, Chatsworth 91311
Newsletter for July 1971

Dear Friends,

WE ARE AT THIS TIME RE-EVALUATING the impact our group has made on the community. It is most important to have all members (and friends) at this next meeting when every member will be asked what he considers our strengths and our weaknesses. Once we make these determinations we can focus on an immediate goal and establish a priority list for more efficient handling of the many aspects involved in an undertaking such as ours. Come and freely express your ideas that's on Monday, July 19th at 8:00 pm (7:30 for board members) at the regular meeting area of the Glendale Federal Savings and Loan in Chatsworth (21821 Devonshire Blvd.)

THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY could not allocate the \$10,000 for the AB 2470 feasibility study due to the enormous fiscal problems on the state level. However, Assemblyman Cline had backed up this bill with a resolution (ABR 88) which is a request for the State Department of Parks and Recreation to make a study and has received assurance from them that they will make the study anyway.

ON A NATIONAL LEVEL We expect very soon to contact members of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR) on a tour of our mountains in conjunction with their "Los Angeles Region Urban Recreation Study" in which they are including the Santa Sierra Mountains along with the Santa Monica Mountains as a possible National Urban Park. (BOR handles all the requests from throughout the state of California for the Land and Water Conservation Funds.)

BROUGHT TO POWER What about the desecration that continues in the mountains area while the studies are being made. There are some agencies in Ventura County who are boldly considering putting a moratorium on areas under consideration until studies are completed. One might ask why such actions should be considered 'bold' ??? when it would seem that such a moratorium should be (for the public welfare) a normal requisite accompanying all studies of this nature.

SOME HAVE SAID THERE IS NO RUSH No one will build or develop up there for a long time. If such is your belief then consider what the present state of the area (the old pass and the Simi Freeway) is: The next time you drive up Topanga Canyon toward the Simi Freeway onramp take note of both sides of Topanga in the Stony Point area because it is CPD zoned (Commercial Planned Development) then take note of the methods being used to 'preserve the landscape' by the German American resort interests alongside a good size piece of land along the old pass that exquisite panoramic view of San Fernando from the Simi Freeway is endangered by the owner-developer's plans for a housing development on both sides of the freeway in the area of the old Iverson ranch also owned by developer is the high ridge running parallel to and south of the old pass and just north of the old Stage run. In addition to this land fill plans are being considered along the old pass. Does any of this disturb you? If it does you can do something about it NOW by filling out a membership form and mail it or bring it to the next meeting of SMPA. Membership forms are available at all meetings.

THOSE WHO HAVE BECOME so caught up in man-made environment and realize tremendous profits by it have sometimes - by their own success - become blinded to the needs and feelings of others. The public is no longer asked what it wants, nor is it often given a choice. Instead it has been led to believe 'the professionals' must determine their needs and what is best for them. More often than not we find that when a question of profit is involved the welfare of the individual takes a back seat. If these powerful money oriented groups cannot comprehend the value of fresh air, open space, beauty as nature formed it and the need for room to grow physically and emotionally then we shall teach them. People have not yet become mechanized and the needs of the public ...the people...must still be considered above the needs of companies, corporations and all other \$ oriented self-interest groups. Any ideas and suggestions are welcome..(Read Walden by Henry David Thoreau and Space and Survival.)

WE ARE GAINING IN STRENGTH AND SUPPORT so it is imperative we not waste any of it. If each member is willing to accept a responsibility, no matter how small, for some specific aspect of the activities involved in seeing this project to a successful conclusion then the battle is as good as won. 'Many hands make light work.' Just how much do we really want to preserve those mountains...enough to go out of our way for it?

WE DO NOT NEED MONEY FOR TIME AND WORK INVESTED...WE DO NEED MONEY for communicating with the public; printing, zexxing, paper, stamps, etc. Therefore, until better ideas come forth, we have an immediate offer of a benefit for SSMPA by a donation of a portion of the profits of a Tupperware party to be given by Martha Letterbaum on Thursday, July 22, at 8 P.M. at 10515 Cozycroft Ave., Chatsworth..RSVP 341-1817..bring friends and please support this our first modest fund raising effort.

AND NOW THE REAL MONEY QUESTION...We've informed you of all the small things we need money for...but our efforts now must be directed toward fund raising in a much larger sense for the purpose of purchasing land to protect it for future generations and when our incorporation proceedings have been completed we will be forming a land trust to protect these mountain areas. Others have raised large sums and now we must do the same or watch acre after acre of beauty disappear.

MEMBERS OF NATURE CONSERVANCY (a national land trust)who are, if certain requirements are met, in a position to raise funds for purchasing lands possessing natural attributes worthy of preserving. were conducted on a tour of the mountains recently to determine the feasibility of receiving their aid in the purchase of some parcels of land. Great tax benefits are received by landowners who donate land and still can live on it.

FAMILY (OR POCKET) DEEDS HAVE PROVEN to be a very effective fund raising and land preservation project in the case of the American River Association in northern California.

Come to Monday's meeting! WE NEED YOU! and bring friends
Help grow a park

See you Monday..

Doris
Newsletter editor

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