

CUMMINGS VALLEY PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Newsletter #15, June 30, 1994

*** MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT**

CVPA is alive and well! Outgoing President, Ray Heit did a great job guiding us through last year with such things as discovering what the Supervisor candidates stand for and keeping track of the status of the proposed Buddhist retreat in Brite Valley. With his invaluable knowledge of land use issues he will continue to guide us as an ex officio member of the Board.

I am delighted with our new Board with Betty Malone as Vice-President, Ann Miller as Treasurer, Carol Wein as Recording Secretary, and Laurie Rude as Corresponding Secretary.

With our current membership of 490 we are a force to be reckoned with. How effective is CVPA? We will never know how many developers/land speculators have shied away from Cummings Valley because of our existence, but we do know about one case. Solveig Thompson, CVPA member and realtor, was involved in a potential purchase by a developer of 171 acres across Cummings Valley Road from the school. When she advised him about CVPA the developer withdrew immediately.

We try to keep our name and activities in the news as often as possible to let developers and land speculators know we are here.

With your continued support we look forward to a future of peaceful rural beauty for Cummings Valley.

*** CVPA BARBEQUE/PICNIC**

Our second annual BBQ/Picnic was held on June 4, at Horsethief Park in Stallion Springs.

The 60 plus members and guests had a great afternoon enjoying the warm sunny day, the delicious whole lamb barbequed on a spit, barbequed tri-tip, beans, salads, desserts, coffee, etc.

Great credit to Lucy Gaglione and Dorothy Woods, chief organizers. Many thanks also to Les Hansen, our local Cummings Valley ostrich rancher, for donating the lamb. He also, along with his brother-in-law Dave Wheeler and Dick Brown of Honey-Do Ranch on Cummings Valley Road, performed as BBQ Chef.

We thank all the following for donating prizes for the raffle held throughout the afternoon: Bear Valley Springs Oak Tree Country Club (\$25 gift certificate), The Sizzler (steak dinner for two), The Summit Dining Hall and Saloon (\$35 gift certificate), PaPa's Pizza of Stallion Springs (large pizza), The Juicy Bean of Old Town (specialty coffees for two), 'hachapi Tees (T-shirt), Springs Emporium (champagne), Betty Schreiber (two handcrafted Lady Bug houses), and John McGregor (decorative "apple spoons" from his workshop).

Music was provided by Jim Lane and his guitar and Jon Hammond arrived as festivities were winding down to entertain us with the sweet tones of his dulcimer!

Thanks to all who helped make the BBQ a big success.

*** PROPOSED BUDDHIST RETREAT - BRITE VALLEY**

At our April meeting Jim Ellis, division chief of Kern County Planning, told us that the application for conditional use permit had not been accepted by the County due to inadequate information. He also said that the County views the retreat as a recreational facility rather than a church and therefore a zone change from E (estate residential) to RF (recreation/forestry) will be required. This means the proposal will require Board of Supervisors approval. It could be as much as a year before it goes to hearing.

As of June 24, the county planner handling this project reports no change in status.

*** CITY OF TEHACHAPI ANNEXATION OF CCI?**

Off and on over the past few years the City of Tehachapi has toyed with the idea of annexing the State prison in Cummings Valley. The appeal is the tax money (about \$220,000 a year) that would go to the City instead of to the County. Stumbling blocks are that the City would then have to provide services to CCI at considerable cost and such a non-contiguous or "island" annexation would require special legislation by the State. The City has asked State Senator, Don Rogers, to sponsor such legislation.

Although there may be little chance of this annexation occurring, the CVPA Board believes we should be doing our homework to evaluate the possible impact of annexation should it occur.

*** CVPA MISTLETOE REMOVAL PROGRAM**

The program has been virtually completed. The contractor, Venable's Autumn Leaf Tree Service, has done 262 trees for 64 participants. There are several people who requested participation but could not be contacted by the contractor to arrange for doing the work. Anyone still interested can call the contractor at (805) 399-7719. It was gratifying that so many cared so much about their oak trees.

*** TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

Our membership year is from July 1 to June 30. So, it is time to send your \$12.00 per family dues unless you are paid until June '95 or you are (and need to remain) on honorary status.

Look at your mailing label on the renewal slip below. If it shows A 95 in the center of the top line, you are paid up for the 1994 - 1995 year and owe no dues. If it shows A 94 or earlier, please return the renewal slip with your check.

If your label has an I instead of an A you have been on honorary status (non dues paying). If your financial situation will now allow you to pay the \$12.00 dues, we would welcome you back as a regular paying member. However, if finances are still difficult, we certainly understand and will be happy to keep you on honorary status until you can afford to pay.

We try to minimize the reminder mailing cost, so please cut out the renewal slip and send it in as soon as possible.

Remember that CVPA's clout comes from having a large membership (at last count we have 490). You do not have to be active to be apart of that clout. Not having time is not a reason for non-renewal. The only time you really have to spend is the couple of minutes to return the renewal slip with your check. Please do it now and save us all time in not having to do follow up.

Thanks for your past and continuing support.

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Yes, we (I) want to continue to support CVPA !

Enclosed is our (my) \$12.00 dues for the
July 1, 1994 to June 30, 1995 membership year.

Address Changes?

Mail to: Cummings Valley Protective Association
c/o Chuck McCollough
17851 Tejon Drive
Tehachapi, CA 93561

* DODDER

What in the World is dodder? As a verb it is what a lot of old folks do. As a noun it is a parasitic plant also known as the love vine, devil's gut, witches hair and several other aliases. Occurrences of dodder have been reported in Bear Valley and Stallion Springs. The seeds sprout in the soil and send up long filamentous tendrils usually orange yellow or sometimes white searching for a host plant. When one is encountered the dodder entwines itself around its host and invades same with haustoria (rootlets) to sap nourishment therefrom. Its connection to the ground then disappears and it spreads from plant to plant. It can be devastating to some crops and landscape plants. If allowed to produce seeds (from minute flowers along the tendrils) they can remain viable in the soil for five years.

Recommended control is to burn it as soon as possible and before it seeds (but this may not be practical for most people). According to the Kern County Farm and Home Advisors office the only effective chemical spray is no longer available. Perhaps the most logical method is carefully removing infested plants and putting them in plastic bags for disposal followed by vigilant destruction of any new growth.

* MOUNTAIN LIONS

Melissa and Bob Sutton report seeing a mountain lion on at least three occasions in the Oak Flat area ("Hidden Oaks") between Stallion Springs and Bear Valley Springs. Residents in the northern part of Stallion Springs have also seen big cats.

It is exciting to have these beautiful animals around, and we must remember that it is we who have moved into their territory. We don't believe there is any need for adults to be concerned, but it might be wise to keep smaller children close to home in less populated areas.

If you have a close encounter with a big cat, advice from Scott Rogers, Bear Valley Springs Ranger and naturalist, is to "stand still, stand tall and make noise".

Remember, no one has been killed by a mountain lion, bear or rattlesnake bite in the Tehachapi area in the span of anyone's memory.

Quote

"No civilization is complete which does not include the dumb and defenseless of God's creatures within the sphere of charity and mercy" - Queen Victoria.



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