

CUMMINGS VALLEY PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER NO. 18, APRIL 10, 1995

BUDDHIST RETREAT/TEMPLE

The project is still on hold. The Yuan Yung Buddhism Center's Grand Master (actually a lady) came from Taiwan in late March to look at alternatives for a different location from the Brite Lake property. She and her entourage visited properties with landowner Rob Schultz and various realtors. Although the Grand Master spoke no English, Rob could detect that she is a very outgoing, bright and perceptive leader. So far we have no indication of what they are thinking.

OAK TREES AND PIPELINES

When the Mojave gas pipeline and the All American oil pipeline went through Cummings and Brite valleys hundreds of oak trees were destroyed where the lines traversed the hillsides. Large ugly scars were left to detract from the scenic beauty of our area.

Planting new oaks on these scars might be a project for CVPA to undertake. With this in mind a couple of owners whose properties bear the worst scars were contacted to see if they would want new trees planted. Lo and behold, we learned that they had been contacted about yet another new pipeline tentatively following the route of the Mojave line. This is to be a 12 inch line transporting gasoline from the Bay Area to Arizona and New Mexico. The pipeline company is Santa Fe Pacific Pipelines, Inc.

CVPA sent a letter to the right of way agents requesting a meeting to discuss ways to minimize damage and maximize restoration, especially replacing oak trees.

The meeting was held on March 30. Representing the pipeline company were Bill White, Vice President of Engineering for Santa Fe Pacific, Bill Van Heusen, right of way project manager of Bechtel Corp. and George Vogeler, right of way agent of Paragon Partners who have the right of way contract. CVPA was represented by Chuck McCollough and Ray Heit. Major landowners opposing the project were CVPA member Bob Sutton and Jean Prel. Larry Davenport, Board Chairman of the Mountain Meadows CSD was also present.

In response to CVPA's concerns, Mr. White assured us that every effort would be made to confine the work area to the existing Mojave work strip in visually sensitive areas if the Mojave route is followed. As for restoration of oak trees in the damage zone no commitment was made except that they would have an environmentalist meet with us in early May.

Acorn planting ideas will be put on hold until the new pipeline route is certain.

TRASH PICKUP ALONG ROADSIDES

We are once again considering a trash collecting project some weekend when good weather is likely. Previous suggestions for such an effort have faltered because of liability fears. At the February 21, 1995 Board meeting the Board and Board Advisory Committee agreed that we cannot let the California "law suit mentality" stand in the way of public benefit projects such as this. More on this as plans develop.

BUS TOUR OF CUMMINGS AND BRITE VALLEYS

The bus tour of 1993 was so popular we have decided to do it again. June 10 is the date, and, as before, it will start at Boomtown in Stallion Springs. Jerrie Cowan and Jon Hammond have agreed to co-narrate as they did last time. Added attractions this year will be Jack Palance's Holly Brooke Ranch and the Hansen's ostrich ranch. Bob and Patty Souza have again graciously invited us to go through the 1888 Elijah Stowell house so beautifully refurbished by them.

We are preparing for two bus loads of about 40 people each with one in the morning (10:00) and the other at about 12:15. Cost will be \$5.00 per person. Those who wish can bring a picnic lunch to eat at Horsetheif Park in Stallion Springs.

To reserve a place on the tour send your check to Ann Miller, 27620 Oak Flat Drive, Tehachapi CA. 93561 as soon as possible so we know if we have enough participants to go ahead with the tour. The first bus will be filled as reservations are received unless the afternoon tour is requested. For more information call Gloria Gossard at 821-0618.

MARCH 3 MEETING

A good turnout of 46 people heard Miles Muzio, meteorologist, in an informative and entertaining presentation about weather in the Tehachapi area. He explained why we have so much variation in conditions depending on location relative to up slope or down slope air flow. Thanks to member Pete Hussman for arranging this program.

APRIL 6 MEETING

As expected, a large group of about 65 to 70 came to hear our new supervisor, Steve Perez, tell us about his experiences, problems and perceptions of his first 94 days in office. It is clear that we have a hard working dedicated supervisor who will work to represent the wishes of his constituents. From comments heard after his address, people seemed favorably impressed by what he had to say.

FUTURE MEETING MAY 4

Our speaker will be Ed Sampson, owner of Mourning Cloak Ranch in Golden Hills. The Sampsons specialize in growing native plants about which he will speak.

Two days later on Saturday, May 6, CVPA members will have the opportunity to tour the Mourning Cloak Ranch starting at 9:30 AM. The tour includes the outstanding carriage collection and the beautifully landscaped grounds. The tour costs \$2.00 and for another \$5.00, an excellent picnic lunch in their private park is included. Ample parking is available at the ranch.

For reservations call Gloria Gossard at 821-0618. All reservations must be received by April 21.

FUTURE MEETING JUNE 1

This is our annual meeting with election of officers.

Our speaker will be Mary Ann Floyd, a rural community activist and founder of the Association of Rural Town Councils. This organization was formed to monitor development in rural areas. She will describe efforts to limit growth in the Antelope Valley area and the mutual support system developed among the rural communities.

Thanks to Gloria Gossard for arranging the April, May and June programs.

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