

CVPA Newsletter

QUARTERLY No. 26

JULY, 1997

THIRD BIENNIAL BUS TOUR

Our June 21 bus tour of Cummings and Brite Valleys was a big success in all respects. We've heard many favorable comments, and we are delighted to have gained 10 new memberships. It was also a successful fundraiser netting \$459. Of the 89 participants 37 were CVPA members and 52 were non members

The tour began in Stallion Springs and included occasional geological narrative along with the usual narratives on history, flora and fauna, and farming/ranching. The first point of interest was a drive by of the Holly Brooke ranch owned by Jack Palance. It is managed by Cody Palance who hosted the 1995 tour groups for a look at the ranch buildings and other points of interest. A stop in front of the original Cummings ranch house allowed a discussion of the history of the ranch and the Cummings family.

A drive by of the old Banducci ranch below the grade up to Alpine Forest Park brought to light some interesting facts about the ranch which was a favorite way station for travelers who could avail themselves of blacksmith and wagon wheel repair services as well as overnight accommodations. The first disembarkation stop was at the marble quarry near Brite Lake. After some 120 years since marble was quarried and shipped to San Francisco to make the sidewalk in front

of the city hall and other uses the small excavation in the side of the hill is not very impressive because of soil and vegetation cover. However, large blocks of marble with the lines of drill holes still showing attest to the quarrying activity. Of equal interest are the Indian grinding holes in the top surface of the undisturbed marble outcrop. Because of the relative softness of marble these holes are perhaps the

largest and deepest in the Tehachapi area. It should be noted that the quarry is on fenced private property, and uninvited visitors are not welcome.

The next stop was hosted by Rob Schultz, owner of the 500 acre ranch originally belonging to the

Wiggins family. The original but modified house dating back to the late 1800s was viewed and discussed along with the nearby pioneer graveyard. The final highlight of this stop was the beautiful big barn built by a Mr. Chapelet, a top Lockheed executive, in the 1930s. This man owned the ranch for a period of time and had Howard Hughes as his occasional guest. The barn is beautifully built with features such as a tack room, milking room, kitchen and bathroom and a loft that is floored with tongue and groove hardwood lumber and holds 200 tons of hay.

Then to the old Brite Ranch where remnants of the original

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Chuck McCollough, Rob Schultz, Jerrie Cowan and Jon Hammond at the Schultz Ranch (originally owned by the Wiggins Family).

PUBLISHED BY:
CUMMINGS VALLEY PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
17851 TEJON DRIVE TEHACHAPI CA 93561 (805) 822-3478

JUNE MEETING

The meeting of June 5 was our annual meeting and election of officers. The nominees were presented by nominating committee chairman, Ben Rude. A motion was passed to elect the slate of officers as presented. Our Board for 1997-1998 is Joe Fontaine, President; Jo Anne Huckins, Vice President; Al Sanbrano, Treasurer; Gen Swingle, Recording Secretary and Ben Rude, Corresponding Secretary. CVPA thanks those elected for taking on the job of running the organization. Thanks also to former Board members Ann Miller and Carol Wein for their years of service. Both have agreed to give us the benefit of their experience by serving on the Board Advisory Committee.

The program for the evening was hosted by Jon Hammond in his wonderful old barn on his Linda Vista Ranch. Jon presented a musical program with his mountain dulcimer followed by a slide show of agricultural activities of days gone by in the Tehachapi area. Looking at the pictures of gorgeous big peaches and other produce one has to wonder what happened to the kind of folks who were willing to put out the effort to produce those kinds of results.

Thanks to Jon for his hospitality and entertainment and to those who brought the good things to eat and drink.

SEPTEMBER BARBECUE

Bob and Patty Souza have offered to host our annual barbecue at their ranch on Cummings Valley Road just west of the Pellisier dirt extension. It is a beautiful setting with great facilities (including recently built bathrooms).

The date is Saturday, September 27 and the time is 5:00 PM. We will do tri-tip this year which we will plan to serve about dark when the meat bees (yellow jackets) will hopefully have gone to bed. The price will be \$6 for members, \$8 for non members and \$3 for children under 12.

Joe Fontaine has offered to bring a telescope for a little star party for anyone interested.

So mark the date on your calendar and plan to bring friends or neighbors who might like to learn about CVPA. The telephone committee will be contacting all Tehachapi area members in early September to get a head count, pass on more details about the BBQ and announce the September 4 general meeting. Long distance members can call Laurie Rude at (805) 821-1904 for BBQ details.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, September 4 is the date of our next meeting which will be at Cummings Valley School at the usual hour of 7:30 PM. Program to be announced.

YELLOW STARHISTLE

Anyone traveling from Stallion Springs or western Cummings Valley may have noticed two new pairs of signs - one pair on Pellisier Road and the other on Bailey Road. The

signs read "CVPA/KC Road Dept. Yellow Starthistle Control Research". These are test areas where CVPA in cooperation with Kern County Roads will try to determine if Yellow Starthistle and other undesirable weeds can be controlled or eliminated by different shoulder maintenance practices.

Instead of periodic grading which spreads weed seeds and provides bare ground in which weeds thrive we hope to establish a heavy cover of annual grasses which will provide competition for weeds and will require only an annual mowing. The grass stubble and root structure should help stabilize the dirt in wet weather and reduce erosion.

Initially herbicides will be used to eliminate unwanted weeds, but eventually their use can be discontinued. On April 26 we sprayed the test strips and other Yellow Starthistle infestations with Banvel, a selective broadleaf herbicide. Later, when grasses were dead we spot sprayed with Roundup and have done manual weed removal. The test areas were mowed recently, thanks to Chuck McCollough and Paul Beckett with his DR mower. The next step is seeding with annual grasses or bromes in late fall or early winter.

Although we like to see a minimum of signs, the test strip signs are necessary to alert road maintenance crews that these are special treatment areas.

MISTLETOE REMOVAL PROGRAM

We are considering a repeat of the 1994 mistletoe removal program. The contractor, Venables Autumn Leaf Tree Service, has agreed to do another program on the same terms as before. If we decide to go ahead with it, we will announce details in the October newsletter. The program would start after leaves fall so that the mistletoe is easily visible.

FINANCIAL AUDIT

Our new treasurer, Al Sanbrano, has had Al Swingle again audit the financial records. We are happy to report that Al Swingle finds the financial records in good order and kept in accordance with good accounting practices. Good job, Carol Wein!, and thanks to Al for again going over the books.



The Schultz Barn

MEMBERSHIP

July begins another CVPA activity year. That means membership dues need to be paid. Please take a moment to think about the fact that CVPA is your watchdog organization working to protect your rural quality of life. Without CVPA undesirable things could happen in Cummings and Brite Valleys and you, like the rest of us, would not know they were happening until it was too late. CVPA is alerted by Kern County Planning Department of any impending activity in our area so that we can research it and take an informed position in time to be heard by the Planning Department and our supervisor. Steve Perez.

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Don't you think this is worth a \$ 12 a year membership? Our voice is only as strong as the number of members we have, so please continue your support. Return the attached renewal form with your check right away. Remember, followup mailings and phone calls cost us money and the time of our volunteers. And long distance phone calls come right out of our volunteers' pockets.

Please do it now while this is fresh in your mind. Our sincere thanks

CVPA Membership Renewal Form

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

Enclosed is our (my) \$12.00 dues for July 1, 1997 through June 1998 membership year, or better yet, enclosed is \$24.00 which will carry through June 1999.

Name (s) _____

Mail to: Cummings Valley Protective Association

(if no label on reverse side)

Address changes? _____

c/o Jo Anne Huckins, Membership Chairman

Stallion Springs
29260 Horseshoe Drive

Phone no. current? _____

Tehachapi, Ca 93561

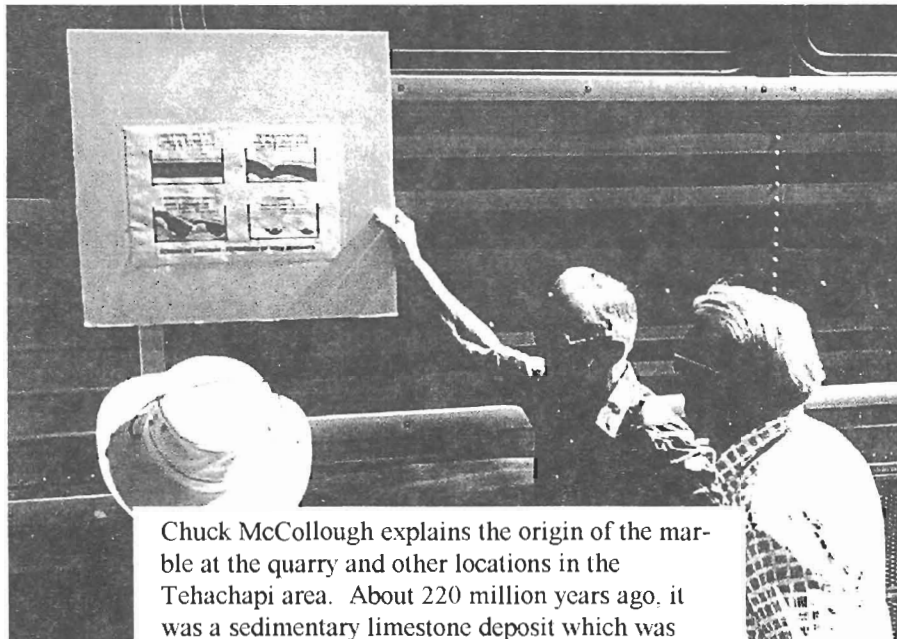
Please send this form with your check to renew. Check your address label on the other side for accuracy. If the year at top center is 97 or earlier, you owe dues for the 1997-1998 year.

(Continued from page 1)

home of John Moore Brite and his wife, Amanda can be seen as well as the "new" two story Victorian home they built in 1892.

Other drive by points of interest were the site of the now gone sulfur springs health resort and the Crofton Ranch where Rex Ellsworth raised race horses including the famous winner, Swaps. This property now belongs to Jack Palance.

A brief stop at the Souza Ranch was made to view the beautifully restored and maintained Victorian home built in 1888 by Elijah Stowell for his bride, Chloe Brite. Also of note are the beautifully kept grounds, guest house and two fine barns. The last tour stop was the Tehachapi Ostrich Ranch where



Chuck McCollough explains the origin of the marble at the quarry and other locations in the Tehachapi area. About 220 million years ago, it was a sedimentary limestone deposit which was converted to marble by heat and pressure from igneous intrusions and mountain building. Millions of years of erosion have left only occasional remnants of a once widespread unit.

CVPA member and ranch part owner, Les Hansen, led an informative and fun tour of the ostrich and emu raising facilities. As tours are prone to do it ended up in the gift shop where hundreds of fine gifts relating to ostrich eggs, leather and feathers are available. The hospitality of Les and Lorna Hansen then extended to serving juice, drinks and home made cookies before the bus re-

turned to Stallion Springs.

Credit for the success of this activity is due many people, but especially organizers, Gloria Gos-

sard and Laurie Rude; ranch hosts, Les and Lorna Hansen and Rob Schultz and narrators, Jerrie Cowan, Jon Hammond and Chuck McCollough.

C V P A Newsletter

Cummings Valley Protective Association
17851 Tejon Drive
Tehachapi CA 93561

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C V P A NEWSLETTER

A Little Nature Humor??

These are questions that people actually asked of Park Rangers around the country. Excerpted from Outside Magazine, May 1995

Grand Canyon

- Was this man-made?
- Do you light it up at night?
- I bought tickets for the elevator to the bottom. Where is it?
- Is the mule train air conditioned?
- So where are the presidents faces?

Everglades National Park

- Are the alligators real?
- Are the baby alligators for sale?
- Where are all the rides?
- What time does the two o'clock bus leave?

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

- How much of the cave is underground?
- So what's in the unexplored part of the cave?
- Does it ever rain in here?
- How many Ping-Pong balls would it take to fill this up?
- So what is this-just a hole in the ground?

Denali National Park

- What time do you feed the bears?
- Can you show me where the yeti (sasquatch) lives?
- How often do you mow the tundra?
- How much does Mt. McKinley weigh?

Mesa Verde National Park

- Did people build this, or did Indians?
- Why did they build the ruins so close to the road?
- What did they worship in the kivas? Their own made-up religion?
- Do you know of any undiscovered ruins?
- Why did the Indians decide to live in Colorado?

Yosemite National Park

- Where are the cages for the animals?
- What time do you turn on Yosemite Falls?
- Can I get my picture taken with the carving of President Clinton?

Yellowstone National Park

- Does Old Faithful erupt at night?
- How do you turn it on?
- When does the guy who turns it on get to sleep?
- We had no trouble finding the park entrances, but where are the exits?