

# CVPA NEWS

Published Quarterly by Cummings Valley Protective Association, Inc., a Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation  
13 Years of Community Service

P.O. Box 1020, Tehachapi, CA 93581 (661)822-3478

No 48, August, 2003

## COME ONE, COME ALL! HEAR SOME LOCAL HISTORY!

CVPA Meeting "Stories of the Fickerts"  
Thursday, September 4, 2003 at 6:30PM  
Dessert and coffee buffet

**WHERE:** At the Armstrong's house (next to the Fickert Family Cemetery), in BVS, see location below. The cemetery will be unlocked for this event.

**WHAT?** You didn't know there was a Fickert family cemetery in Bear Valley Springs? The CVPA, in collaboration with the AAUW, Tehachapi Mountain Branch and the Tehachapi Heritage League, are sponsoring this special event. This is your chance to see the Fickert family cemetery and to hear stories about the Fickerts, shared by locals who knew them.

**BRING:** A dessert to share, and a flashlight. You will need to walk to the house, so wear comfortable shoes and see the instructions below.

**SPECIAL NOTES:** Parking is limited – please carpool as much as possible. Some walking will be required, so if you need special accommodations, call Janice Armstrong at 821-0346. We will be sitting outside so dress accordingly (casual).

**LOCATION:** Dan and Jan Armstrong's home, 24121 Rand Court, BVS. However, this house isn't accessed via Rand Court, so follow these directions: From the Whiting Center, go about 1.5 miles west on Bear Valley Road. Turn right (west) on Silver Creek, then turn left (south) on McCray. Park on McCray or Silver Creek. At the end of McCray, you will walk about 0.2 miles up the paved road that says "Armstrong". Walk past and behind the yellow Victorian and past the cemetery. The road ends at the Armstrong home. There is limited parking along McCray and Silver Creek, so please bring as few cars as possible. If you can do it, meet your friends at the Oak Tree Country Club lot and drop a car there.

**RSVP:** Please call the Armstrongs at 821-0346: leave a message as to how many and who will be attending (so we can make sure we have plenty of chairs!). We will call in gate passes for all who RSVP.

*The Fickerts moved to Bear Valley in 1869. Starting with 160 acres ("squatter's rights"), the ranch grew to over 25,000 acres, and remained in the family until 1967. The family cemetery is on a knoll due west of the Fickert ranch complex, which is on Bear Valley Road between Silver Creek and Deertrail. One knowledgeable local reports there are 17 graves in that cemetery, but only 4 or 5 of them are marked. Burials occurred there from the 1880's to 1967.*

What's it like living next to a pioneer cemetery? Well, Janice Armstrong reports the neighbors are right quiet – she never hears a peep from the place.

Come join us for a casual evening of dessert and friendship and stories of one of Tehachapi's most famous families.

## ANNUAL CVPA BARBEQUE

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003, that is the magic day! The barbeque will be at the beautiful Souza Ranch. The party begins at 5PM and dinner will be served at 6PM. The price is \$15 per person for CVPA members and \$17 per person for non-members. Entertainment will again be provided by Betty Casey and JJ. This year we will have a Silent Auction of donated new and antique items. Anyone wishing to donate an item(s) for the Silent Auction should contact Jo Anne Huckins at 822-6589. To sign up for the barbeque, mail your check to the PO box at the top of the newsletter. See you there!

We'd like to have six or eight volunteers to make "Dump Cakes" for the BBQ dessert. This recipe was the hands-down vote winner at the test BBQ, so give it a try! No dirty dishes or mixing bowls since it is made and baked in one pan. Select your favorite pie filling for this cake and follow these steps:

Preheat oven to 350° F with rack in center of oven.

Ingredients: 1 can (20 oz.) of crushed pineapple, undrained  
1 can (21 oz) pie filling  
1 pkg. plain yellow cake mix  
12 T (1½ sticks) butter, melted  
½ cup unsweetened grated coconut  
1 cup chopped pecans

Spoon the pineapple evenly over the bottom of an ungreased 13"x9" baking pan. Cover the pineapple with the pie filling. Pour the dry cake mix evenly over the fruit mixture so that it reaches all the sides of the pan. Drizzle the entire pan with the melted butter. Sprinkle the coconut and pecans evenly over the top of the cake. Bake the cake until it is deep brown and a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake topping comes out clean, 55-60 minutes. Remove from oven and place pan on wire rack to cool. Refrigerate.

## MOTOCROSS UPDATE

CVPA and many of our members have sent letters of opposition to the Kern County Planning Department to oppose the two applied for "after the fact" Conditional Use Permits for the two illegally-constructed motocross tracks. The Wilsted track is in Brite Valley, along Highway 202, just east of the "T"

intersection where the east end of Cummings Valley Road intersects with Highway 202. The Memoli track is on Banducci Road in the Cummings Valley, just west of Pellisier Road. Here is a status report on each track:

Wilsted Track: Kern County Planning Commission requested the applicants conduct an acoustic study.

Memoli Track: A number of CVPA members attended the July 10 hearing at the Kern County Planning Commission. During that meeting, Mr. Memoli stated that they would agree to a limit of one rider (their son) allowed to use the track, and no others. They agreed to keep the track watered. They must provide acoustic information related to the motorcycle to the Planning Department. This track will be placed on the agenda for the Kern County Planning Commission on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

## BUS TOUR REPORT

The CVPA biennial bus tour day was June 14<sup>th</sup>. How this event has grown – we had two bus runs and the tour sold out almost as fast as we opened it for registration! This has become a very popular event, and with good reason. Jon Hammond and Chuck McCollough served as very able tour guides. Besides all the historical and geologic highlights supplied by Jon and Chuck, we were especially lucky to see marvelous wildflower displays, thanks to the wonderful wet spring we experienced in the Cummings and Brite valleys. We regret we didn't have room for everyone. Best solution? Join the CVPA (see the form on the back side of this newsletter) and get notice of this event via newsletter prior to the notice in the local papers!

## FIRST COMMERCIAL WINE VINEYARD RECENTLY PLANTED IN THE TEHACHAPI AREA!

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, a CVPA team consisting of Jo Anne Huckins, Jim and Dawn Nelson and Chuck McCollough helped plant a 3,000 vine Zinfandel vineyard at the Souza Ranch. This is the first commercial wine vineyard in our area, and we will all be following its success. Hopefully we will all be toasting its success with some wonderful local wine! The group finished planting the CVPA assigned row. Our CVPA efforts will be memorialized by a plaque on the post at the end of the row. The CVPA team then

went on to help others in the planting of more vines. After a delicious lunch, a number of stalwart vineyard planters resumed the task until it was finished around 4PM.

Thanks to the Souzas for including the CVPA in this special activity! We so appreciate being part of the vineyard.

## **CAN YOU BELIEVE WE HAD A PRACTICE DEEP PIT BARBEQUE?**

If you like to eat, the CVPA is the group for you. This group will use any excuse to get together for a meal. The excuse in early July was a practice deep pit barbeque at the Souza Ranch. You see, we now have the facilities for a deep pit barbeque at the Souza Ranch, and we didn't want to practice on all the CVPA members who attend the upcoming annual barbeque in September.

We all acted as quality assurance for Chuck McCollough's trial run as a deep pit BBQ-Meister. You can tell that this Chuck guy is truly organized, for he even had two versions of meat for us to evaluate, AND even had developed an evaluation form for each of us to complete.

According to Chuck, we used boneless chuck. The meat was cut into two 10 pound pieces, each uniquely seasoned, and placed in Reynolds turkey-size oven bags, and sealed without cutting slits, then placed in Trader Joe's brown paper bags. Large coarse weave burlap onion bags (donated by Grimmway Farms – thanks Grimmway!) were pre-soaked in water, then the meat-in-bags was inserted, and wrapped butcher-style into neat packages, with wire, being sure there was a loop for hooking the meat in and out of the concrete pipe hole.

In the hole, crumpled newspaper and kindling were lit, then oak was added (any hardwood will work) until a one foot plus glowing bed of coals was developed (this required 5 hours). Then the meat was lowered onto the coals at just after midnight, the lid put on and sealed... We found the meat cooked perfectly in 17 hours. The burlap was scorched and burned, but the brown paper was fine, and the oven bags were intact, with wonderful meat juice present.

Meat seasonings: This was the big vote on the ballot. The Prime Cut house brand received the most votes.

Now you know how deep pit BBQ works – come join our

highly qualified quality assurance staff on September 27<sup>th</sup> to try out another batch!

Interested in learning more about deep pit? Contact Chuck McCollough to volunteer to help prepare the meat for the barbeque! And if deep pit beef doesn't entice you, Jo Anne Huckins' rave review beans and pineapple dump cake dessert surely should.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS 2003-04**

Besides the September events listed above, we will have events in November, February, April, and June. More details will be presented in upcoming newsletters. We'd love to hear your suggestions for speakers – contact a board member or drop a note to the PO Box.

## **CVPA BOARD MEETINGS 2003-04**

Board meetings will be held at President Jo Anne Huckins' home (29260 Stallion Springs Road) at 4PM on these dates: Tuesday October 14, 2003; Wednesday January 28, 2004; Wednesday March 31, 2004; and Wednesday May 26, 2004.

## **Election Results**

Our fiscal and membership year runs from July 1 through June 30 and, in accordance with Art. V of the Bylaws, we have the following officers/board members and committee chairs to punish for the new year. We thank the previous board for its service and hope the new board can be as tolerant of the membership and serve as well. We just know that somewhere out there are officer wannabe's-in-hiding waiting to spring into action at next nomination time to save us from the officer shuffle/recycling cycle we cannot seem to shake. So, here's to those hiding, may your spring spring next spring! And for:

- President we have JoAnne Huckins of much previous board service in one capacity or another,
- Vice President is the new Janice Armstrong, yeah, and then yawn for
- Recording Secretary is again Barbara Zervas
- Treasurer is again Priscilla Mester, and
- Corresponding Secretary is again Gail Bennett.

Hello!! Janice Armstrong has also agreed to be this News Letter editor-in-chief, relieving a grateful CM of that task of many years... *jm*

## Renewal Membership Particulars

Please send this form with your payment to renew. Consider renewing for more than one year. Check your address label for accuracy. If the year at top center of the label is 2002 or earlier, you have not paid dues for the 2002-03 membership year which began July 1<sup>st</sup>. We value your support!

### Cummings Valley Protective Association, Inc.

Renewal Membership Application - July 1 through June 30

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(If not same as local)

#### Check Appropriate Area

- |  |   |                                       |                                      |   |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alpine Forest Park  | <input type="checkbox"/> Country Oaks     | <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Hills | <input type="checkbox"/> Oak Knolls  | <input type="checkbox"/> Stallion Springs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bear Valley Springs | <input type="checkbox"/> Cummings Valley  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hidden Oaks  | <input type="checkbox"/> Old Town    | <input type="checkbox"/> Tehachapi        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brite Valley        | <input type="checkbox"/> Fairview Ranches | <input type="checkbox"/> Indian Hills | <input type="checkbox"/> Sand Canyon | <input type="checkbox"/> ? _____          |

e-mail addr: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual dues are \$12 per family.**

Please check one:

- One year \$12     Two years \$24     Three years \$36

**Mail with payment to:**

Cummings Valley Protective Association  
P.O. Box 1020  
Tehachapi, CA 93581-1020



P.O. Box 1020  
Tehachapi, CA 93581

