

Boy Scouts Start Game Bird Farm At Rancho Santa Fe; Valley Quail, Ring Neck, Golden Pheasants Due

Boy Scouts of troop 21 have set up and are operating a full-fledged game bird propagation farm near the original Osuna ranch house on Rancho Santa Fe. They hope to do a good turn for their community by increasing the game birds in San Diego county the first year by something like 150 California valley quail and 200 ring neck and golden pheasants. So far as its sponsors know, this is the first and only project of its kind ever undertaken by a scout troop.

"It's a great idea!" declared O. Rey Rule, president of the Rancho Santa Fe Home Owners' association. "The members of this community are standing by and applauding because we think it a fine, constructive, character-building piece of work but the job is being done entirely by the boys themselves and the whole credit belongs to the scouts."

The farm grew out of a campaign to control the natural enemies of game birds such as hawks and coyotes which the local scouts decided to undertake. As an aid to this campaign, R. M. Clotfelter, scoutmaster, conceived the idea that the boys could make a more notable contribution to our native environment and at the same time increase their interest in protecting native birds if they would start propagating more game birds.

Out of this idea the present project gradually developed. The superintendent, E. D. Platt of the state farm of Chino, Calif., was contacted and he at once approved the idea of bird propagation by Boy Scouts. He offered good advice and co-operation, including the breeding stock.

Get Busy at Once

The boys thereupon became scouts in more ways than one. They started on a search for a location and materials with which to build pens. They scouted successfully. A site was donated by the Santa Fe, building material was salvaged from an abandoned tennis court and poles made from handy eucalyptus trees.

Every afternoon after school hours and Saturdays were given over to work on preparing the ground for cover crops and building pens. Games and playgrounds were deserted for the exciting task of getting ready to receive the parent birds.

Finally everything was in readiness and Saturday, March 4, the birds arrived in crates and were released in their new home. There were five pairs of quail, six pairs of ring neck, one pair of golden and one of silver pheasants.

It was a great day for the members of troop 21. Much greater in fact for the boys than for the birds, who could not imagine what all the fuss was about and gave unmistakable signs of not caring much for the strange quarters. Since then,

however, they have become accustomed to their new surroundings and friends and appear to be prospering.

Assignments Made

Assignment of work has been made and the scouts are all ready for the exciting business of hatching and caring for the fuzzy little strangers expected some time next month. Some of the boys are much excited over the prospect and many of them cannot believe that banty hens will hatch quail and other small hens will act as foster mothers for the pheasants. They are willing to be shown, however, and this spring promises to be one of the most exciting ever experienced by the boys of Rancho Santa Fe.

Further details of the project may be obtained from Clotfelter and so many requests have come in that the scouts have decided to receive visitors for their pets. The visiting hours are from 4:30 to 5:30 every evening.

BEAUTIFUL DEVELOPMENT BACK IN GOOD STANDING



Santa Fe Rancho houses that became homes yesterday when their owners paid up all delinquent taxes and the county authorized purchase of all Mattoon bonds against the district.



This is the golf course at Rancho Santa Fe that went back on the county tax rolls yesterday when Mattoon district problems of the Rancho were settled.



Included in yesterday's Mattoon district settlement for Rancho Santa Fe was this home of Bing Crosby, radio and film star. His place was headquarters for the historic Osuna rancho and these pepper trees are reported more than 100 years old.

GIFTS OF GREAT PRICE EXCHANGED AT COURTHOUSE



A gift of gifts of great value was made yesterday at the county treasurer's office when representatives of Rancho Santa Fe paid into the county treasury \$204,000 in delinquent and current taxes and took receipts assuring undisturbed ownership of homes that had been jeopardized by the Mattoon district. Leaders in the settlement were (left to right), Charles A. Fowkes, S. R. Nelson, secretary of the Rancho Santa Fe association; Dr. Carl Bertschinger, president of the association; James B. Abbott, legislator for Mattoon district relief and since has directed the settlement program for Rancho Santa Fe; A. C. Meyer, wealthy Rancho Santa Fe land owner; and U. T. Clotfelter, vice president of the Santa Fe Land Improvement Co., who delivered the money.

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