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November 10, 1987 (Wednesday)

MEMO to Elizabeth Scott-Graham

President, People for a Nipomo Dunes National Seashore

RE: Possible opportunity for acquisition of Leroy Trust land - NIPOMO DUNES concept

Today as Gaylord and I lunched at the Far Western Restaurant in Guadalupe one of the two restaurant owners, Clarence Minetti (other owner is Clarence's cousin, Richard Marette) came to our table smiling pleasantly. (He had just been at another table with three men busily talking and did not even nod to us; but I thought, "He doesn't speak to Bill Denneen anymore because of Bill's opposition to Abalone Unlimited, so maybe he is ignoring us, although he and Gaylord are very long-time old friends.") We greeted him cordially and he sat down with us. My own reaction was that I would make this as pleasant an encounter as possible, avoiding any controversial issue.

The conversation began as very casual...on miscellaneous matters: (1) the exact boundaries of the recent TNC/Santa Barbara County purchase of 547 (847-?) acres. (2) Gordon Sand Mining property: Assessor's Parcel Nos. 113-020-02, -03, -04, an oddly oblique piece running northwest and southeast. I have a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Study, Guadalupe Dunes Sand Facility, in which one of the Recommendations is: "The dune area should be included in a seashore park as funds become available." (3) Then we talked about the Leroy Trust, "about 6,000 acres they have now," Minetti said. I asked, "What about that isolated small triangle of Leroy land near Pt. Sal State Beach?" Minetti: "Oh, that 64 acre parcel? -it is for sale - do you want it?" We all laughed; Minetti went on, "...the Leroy Trust offered it to Vandenberg, but they turned it down." "Is the Leroy Trust trying to sell other pieces of their land here?" I asked. Then Minetti launched into facts about the Trust: Leroy land is no longer under management of the agricultural company, but is managed by: Borel Bank & Trust, San Mateo, where Ron Flick is the Trustee. Since the death about two years ago of one of the two principal Leroy's - in France - and the more recent death of the Leroy brother living in California, and the following death of his wife, the Leroy Trust is faced with thirty-nine million dollars in inheritance taxes. The Leroy Trust's personal attorney is Allen Moltzen (telephone 415-434-2800) with the legal firm of Barger & Wolen, 650 California St., San Francisco 94108. Leroy Trust has a firm who handles their real estate: George Chisolm & McElvaine (telephone 415-398-3764). The rent/lease of Corralitos Ranch (Leroy land) (long operated by the Minetti family) has been raised three times - due to the Leroy Trust need for money. The raise in rent/lease "hurts" Corralitos Ranch. Minetti always enjoyed the Leroy family member he knew - who died early (?) this year.

(Next page regarding Abalone Unlimited)

Kathy

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 1987

MEMO to: Elizabeth Scott-Graham

RE: Abalone Unlimited

After further casual conversation, Clarence Minetti, visiting with Gaylord and me at lunch today at the Far Western, suddenly smiled and said to me: "I would like to propose a trade to you". . . I showed surprise: "What do I have that you could possibly want?" He replied: "Influence! You know a lot of people... You are listened to. . . ." -and he went on making some "flattering" remarks to me... then said: "You could swing this Abalone Unlimited project." "Oh, I doubt it," said I. Then he painted a picture of the needy economics of the town of Guadalupe -- in detail. He said I could "do something" for needy Guadalupe. I demurred, keeping very pleasant. Then he appealed to me: "The abalone - the red abalone - is becoming extinct. That is part of the environment that you want to save - the coast environment. You could be important in helping to save the red abalone. This Abalone Unlimited project needs to get going" . . . And he talked some more then waited for my reply, but I was reluctant... Actually I was trying to collect my thoughts for a sound reply. Then he said: "Now~~x~~ the trade I will make is this: if you will back up the Abalone project, I will bulldoze and develop a trail, a footpath from Point Sal State Beach up to Mussel Rock beach, right along the cliffs, just where you want it." He waited. . . Then I made my speech ... saying that I could not make this trade - that it was a matter of conscience - that I believed the shorelines not only of our area, but of all of California - and further...all the shorelines of the United States, and the shorelines of large lakes, and of the whole world, were deeply important for people, that shores of oceans and seas and lakes were places for peace and tranquillity and solitude - and were healing to the human spirit - that it was a religious thing - and I went on in this vein ... Mr. Minetti looked disappointed, but not beaten; he said: "Well - think about it." I smiled and told him, "Oh, I do want that cliff trail . . . but protecting and preserving this wonderful shoreline is deep within my philosophy. He said something more about saving abalone and then I pointed out to him that eventually there would be an end to oil extraction at the Guadalupe field, that the machinery would be removed and God would bring the wind to restore the dunes, but that solid cement buildings for propagating abalone would last and last and last, a disfigurement of a naturally beautiful coast.

We parted with smiles and a friendly feeling.

(I know the conversations I've reported are not verbatim, but you get the message. The facts I do know are correct.)

And herewith is a copy of enlargement of assessor's map of Pt. Sal State Beach area.

Ever,