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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"The important thing about this Nipomo Dunes area is that it should be conserved for the public use," stated Dr. Robert J. Rodin of Cal Poly's Biological Sciences Department, in concluding the Sierra Club' Sunday afternoon walk in the Dunes yesterday. "Also, I feel that if a coke conveyor belt is to be run through the Dunes, it should be entirely underground," Dr. Rodin added.

Unusually clear weather, showy stands of autumn Goldenrod and a "find" of White Heliotrope in blossom, rewarded those who joined the excursion.

James B. Park, instructor in General Science at San Luis Obispo Junior High School, who, with Mrs. Park accompanied the group, commented that the Sunday walk in the dunes had been a revelation, saying: "You look at the area and think it's just nothing but a lot of sand; then you start walking up the slopes and through the flowers and you find it teeming with life everywhere. It is surprising and fascinating. I think a lot of study projects could be started and completed here. Certainly it is a great place for student field trips."

Tracks of deer, fox, rabbits and the many dune rodents were noted, as well as the lacy sand patterns made by Jerusalem crickets and other sand insects.

Replying to a question raised about how much actual recreation use is currently made of the sand dunes, Mrs. Alice Caras, of the welfare department staff, commented: "It isn't how many use it now that is significant, any more than the number of recreationists in Yosemite Valley was significant in 1891 when it was set aside as a national park. What is significant is the demand for this kind of

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recreation ten, twenty, thirty years from now with current statistics indicating that in 35 years the population of the United States will double. This will mean 400 million people, mostly living in urban areas, who will exert ever greater pressures to get out of urban areas into open space of almost any kind for recreation."

June Fairborn, a guest on the outing, pointed out that we need more foresightedness, that Oregon had set aside its coastline, all except a few miles, back in 1917. "How far behind does this put our thinking on the value of saving the coastline of California?" she asked; adding, "Right now we seem years behind the times."

The next "Sunday in the Sand Dunes" trip of the Sierra Club is scheduled for November 14, at 3 p.m. The public is welcome on these easy and leisurely walks to become acquainted with one of San Luis Obispo County's scenic coastal recreation areas. Further information may be secured from trip leader: Mrs. Kathleen Jackson, 1039 Chestnut Street, Paso Robles.

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