

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 1987

MEMO to: Elizabeth Scott-Graham

RE: Abalone Unlimited

After further casual conversation, Clarence Minetti, visiting with

Geylord 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: "Influences! 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 than waited for my reply, but I was reluctant. . . . Actually I was trying to collect my thoughts for a sound reply. Then he said: "Now! 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 Museum 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 all 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 assassin's way of Pt. Sal State Beach area.

Ever,