

From: Kathleen Jackson - Sierra Club
Paso Robles, Calif.
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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arriving at 1:00 p.m. at Oceano Campground of Pismo State Beach on Saturday, November 20, will be families from Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, as well as some from various parts of SLO County -- for the Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club's two-day family car camp -- to explore, enjoy and learn about the Nipomo Dunes.

Santa Barbara leader of the outing, Mrs. June Colfax, will arrive with her five children early Saturday. She will be assisted by local co-leader, Kathleen Jackson of Paso Robles.

After convening at Oceano Campground and selecting campsites, those who wish to experience the sport of riding the dunes will meet at 2:00 p.m. at the Oceano Ramp, where some volunteer sand vehicle owners of jeeps and dune buggies will be available for those who wish rides. To facilitate the visitors taking turns for the dune riding, they will hike down the beach a couple of miles, to a point opposite Barbecue Flats. Visitors plan to contribute to a "kitty" to help defray gas and oil costs for the excursion.

After dinner in camp, there will be a campfire program at 8 p.m. Master of Ceremonies at the campfire will be Bill Denneen of Nipomo, instructor in natural sciences at Hancock College, Santa Maria. Recreation clubs who have been particularly invited to the campfire program are the Santa Maria 4-Wheelers, The Dune Riders, the Arroyo Grande Sportsman's Club and horseback riding groups. However, any recreation organization is welcome and all interested persons are

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cordially invited. It is hoped that the campfire time will serve as a friendly get-acquainted opportunity for many of the recreationists who enjoy the shoreline recreation areas of south San Luis Obispo County.

Supervisor Layle Carpenter and Planning Commissioner Ivan Tarr of San Luis Obispo County, have also been invited. Starting 9:00 a.m. Sunday Nov. 21 from Oceano Campground, the public is cordially invited to accompany the group on a dune hike and picnic. Out of county visitors will return south during the afternoon.

On Sunday November 14, among those who braved the rain to join the Sierra Club Sunday afternoon sand dune walk, were Miss Carol E. Finley from the Hastings Natural Science Study Reservation in Carmel Valley and Frank Heinsohn of the San Luis Obispo County Planning Department.

The walk on Sunday traversed the dune area from Oso Flaco Lake to the boundary of Dune Lakes, Ltd. and included inspection of several of the picnic flats and shallow valleys through the dunes, as well as particular attention to the proposed site of a coke conveyor from Union Oil's Collier Carbon and Chemical Corporation and P. G. & E. land in the dunes.

Asked what she thought of the area, Miss Finley commented: "I've heard about these dunes and read about them. I've even read the National Park Service report on them, which rates them as the best on the coast. But I didn't imagine how big the area is until today. The dunes are big. The expanse of them is big. It's just what California needs in the way of big space for outdoor recreation." She went on to say that she certainly agreed that there is plenty of space to plan areas devoted to different kinds of recreation - "for vehicle recreation and horsebackers and

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hikers and someplace that's set aside for those who like quiet and solitude, and areas for us natural scientists, too, if the vehicles will just keep off the vegetation"....

Frank Heinsohn of the SLO County Planning Dept., expressed satisfaction in becoming acquainted with the area particularly in view of the public discussion and study of Shoreline Master Planning which has been scheduled by the SLO County Planning Commission for Wednesday morning, Nov. 17 in the SLO County Court House.

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Further evidence of the attractiveness of south SLO Co as a potential resort center and recreation mecca, came from the comments of out-of-county visitors this weekend to Oceano and the south county sand dunes:

Fred N. Eaton of Pasadena

Fahdil Mehmed of Los Angeles

Mary Ann Cox of Hollywood

....came to Oceano for the purpose of photography, having been requested by the Sierra Club to develop a colored slide program of the Nipomo-Oceano-Pismo Dunes. They spent a number of hours on several different days hiking into the dunes. Were impressed with the great variety of sand dune formations and with the presence of wildlife, as evidenced by many animal tracks near vegetation areas. Rain and unsatisfactory lighting prevented them from photographing as they had hoped to do.

When the welfare problems of the south county were pointed out to the visitors, Mr. Eaton remarked: "I should think recreation and resort type development would be the solution to that. There is the

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scenery and all the makings for an unusual and marvelous recreation area already here. The natural features are just made for it.

All that is needed is state acquisition for the permanent protection of the recreation resource here and that would protect the investment of private interests who would invest in resort type development, too. Once you were sure the land would be permanently set for recreation, then private development could really build this area into a recreation mecca."

"This is great," said Faidil Mehmed; "it is just the sort of place that we in Los Angeles like to get away to for a weekend or vacation. Up here you have room to breathe and plenty of space for active recreation or quiet relaxation."

"How lucky that the area is so attractive and can offer so many different types of outdoor recreation." stated Mary Ann Cox.

The photographer team also visited Lopez Canyon, where a few pictures were possible between showers - of the abundant and colorful autumn vegetation and wilderness quality of the upper reaches of the canyon.

Escaping from the steady downpour, the trio took refuge a on Saturday night as houseguests of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan P. Jackson in Paso Robles. They plan to return to the south county during clear weather at some future time, to photograph the Nipomo Dunes, and south county shoreline area.

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