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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Due to the unprecedented popularity of two recent outings conducted by the Sierra Club in the/^{controversial} Nipomo-Oceano Sand Dunes of south San Luis Obispo County in January, there will be a repeat scheduling of two similar excursions into the scenic dune area this coming weekend of February 5 and 6.

102 persons, ranging in age from two to seventy-two, were attracted to the easy Sunday stroll to see the butterfly trees of Pismo State Beach on January 23. Another easy Sunday stroll of approximately four miles round trip will be conducted in the white, wind-sculptured open dunes in the south section of Pismo State Beach next Sunday afternoon - February 6. This section of the dunes is particularly remarkable for its wide variety of beautiful and massive sand formations and for its ancient Indian shell mounds. The outing will be of interest to any age. Children will enjoy sliding down the many hollows of the towering dunes in this area.

Meeting time and place will be 2 p.m. at the entrance to Oceano Campground of Pismo State Beach, 3 miles south of the town of Pismo Beach. A State Park Ranger will be guest guide for this interesting excursion. The public is cordially invited.

At the mid-January meeting of the California State Park Commission in Santa Barbara, enthusiasm was expressed for creating an extensive state park and recreation mecca in the Nipomo-Oceano Dunes rather than acquiescing to proposed industrial development of the area.

Sunset Magazine's current February issue focuses its lead article on the Pismo Beach and Dunes recreation attractions.

(MORE MORE MORE)

Unique Overnight Trip into the Dunes

Several family groups and individual campers joined the first Sunset Sunrise Knapsack Trip conducted by the Sierra Club in January. Although the overnight campers did not hear the mysterious "sand music" reported to be characteristic of night breezes in the dunes, they enjoyed the sunset over the sea and were entertained by Bernard Burdett and son John of San Luis Obispo, identifying the many constellations visible in the bright winter night sky. As the sunrise wakened them in their sleeping bags, they were surprised to find all the shadow surfaces of the dunes sheathed in white frost.

A repeat of this unusual excursion is planned for this weekend. Meeting time and place is Saturday February 5, 4:15 p.m. at entrance of Oceano Campground of Pismo State Beach, 3 miles south of the town of Pismo Beach on Highway One. Cars will shuttle to Oso Flaco Lake ^{start} for the ~~xxxxx~~ of the short two mile backpack hike, which is easy enough for beginners. The brilliance of a full moon is expected to enhance the dramatic scenery of the towering dunes at night.

In addition to food and water for two meals, and the usual overnight backpack equipment, it is requested that those attending bring two aluminum foil deep-size cake pans filled with quick-igniting charcoal for cooking supper and breakfast. This will eliminate leaving any camp trace in the white dunes. Small backpack type stoves are also practical.

After the 7 a.m. sunrise and a leisurely Sunday breakfast, some will return to cars at Oso Flaco Lake. Others plan to continue with a morning hike northerly through the length of the scenic dunes, seven miles to Oceano, picnicking for lunch enroute, and joining the scheduled Sunday afternoon walk in the wind-sculptured dunes section of Pismo State Beach.

Rain will cancel both these outings. For further information please phone leader, Mrs. Kathleen Jackson, Paso Robles 238-4353. Membership in the Sierra Club is not required. All are welcome.