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C. M. M. S. S.  
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All-11

January 26, 1971

Dr. Will Still  
1015 Leneve Avenue  
Richmond, Ca. 94532

Re: NIPOMO DUNES

Dear Will:

I have decided I had better send you a xerox copy of the letter on above subject which I wrote to Phil Berry last week, on January 21st. . . . Just so you would have some of the background information on the dunes campaign before you in capsule form, in case this matter comes up for discussion at any meeting of the Sierra Club Executive Committee of the board - or with others.

I note upon re-reading this long letter to Phil that I omitted mention that it was you, who, in late 1964, appointed me as Sierra Club Coordinator for the Preservation of the Nipomo Dunes. And those Club Presidents who followed you re-appointed me to this continuing responsibility until Phil Berry came into office in the midst of such a stormy Club period. Because of the storms and all the far-reaching decisions with which Phil was faced, I decided to say nothing about making the re-appointment for my conservation job. I decided to go ahead continuing to do what needed doing -- and have done so.

It seems that Lee Wilson and his close friend John Fleming (both on the SCRC) have taken it upon themselves to try to either minimize or kill further Sierra Club effort toward any large state park status for the Nipomo Dunes. John Fleming is reported as stating to Harriet Allen, Chairman of SCRC, that "the dunes are no longer a conservation issue," and suggesting that SCRC abandon any concern over the dunes. When this came to my ears, I checked immediately with the State Parks Supervisor of San Luis Obispo County, Richard Felty, who said, "That sounds ridiculous. Of course, we must be concerned for the dunes," and he enlarged on this subject.

Since then I have talked with someone else who holds a responsible job for State Parks, who knows John Fleming very well, and has known him for years, as John is a State Park Ranger, presently working at State Historical Landmark Hearst Castle. I was surprised at the next statement, which was: "Fleming is actually mentally ill. Wes Carter, Supervisor at Hearst Castle, says he is of no use at all any more; but you can't fire anybody from Civil Service; Fleming is a bit over 60, but he could keep on working until he is 70. He is a leech on the tax rolls. He does more destructive types of work than constructive. He has misused funds for hiring personnel. He has, without proper authority, changed some things around, gotten people in an uproar and the Supervisor has had to see to it that those things were undone and put back to normal. He has been a very agitating factor in any park where he has ever worked. Lively wanted to fire him long ago."

Santa Lucia Group and Chapter have not had good service on Club work from this man. Our present brilliant chapter chairman Harold Miesel could enlarge upon this.

I have suggested to Harriet Allen that perhaps the best idea would be to release Lee Wilson, John Fleming and Kathy Jackson, all three, from membership on the SCRC, and have two new appointees. In my opinion there is a strong psychological bond between these two men; they actually supply each other's need: I think Lee feels that John gives him "status" and that John feels he has "a real friend" in Lee. Know of all this, Will.

My best to you.

Kathy