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Harry Willson

Prospects for horseback riding in the Nipomo Dunes brought one family down from the north county last Sunday, August 15, to hike along on the weekly Sierra Club walk series, "Sunday in the Sand Dunes".

Mr. and Mrs. Russell G. Harrington of Templeton, with daughter Judy and son Billy are a riding family, always on the lookout for interesting new places for family horseback trips in San Luis Obispo County.

"A great riding area --- and this would be a good place to train a colt, too," commented Mrs. Harrington, as the group plowed through a dune hollow, deep in soft sand.

John Fleming, Assistant Leader of the outing, and Vice-Chairman of the Conservation Committee of the Santa Lucia Group of the Sierra Club, pointed out that 600 acres of sand dunes in nearby Pismo State Beach were officially opened by the State Division of Beaches and Parks in July for horseback riding.

Sunday visitors from Lompoc's newly organized Arguello Group of the Sierra Club, were Mr. and Mrs. Austin H. Peltier. It was the Peltiers' first visit to the Nipomo Dunes. They stated:

"We are impressed by their beauty and by the variety of recreation potential here." They plan to arrange a dunes outing for the Arguello Sierra Club group from Lompoc soon, they said.

Others on the trip came from San Luis Obispo, Halcyon,

(MORE)

Morro Bay, Paso Robles and Santa Barbara.

In Maidenform Flats, popular dunes camping spot, the hikers stopped to exchange greetings with the Santa Maria 4-Wheelers, 75 strong, holding their monthly family picnic. Nel Leal, State 4-Wheeler Treasurer, Mac McCain, local 4-Wheeler president, Roy Spuhler, Safety Chairman of The Sand Bugs, and Harley Estabrook, Rally Chairman, chatted with the Sierra Clubbers. Both recreation groups are major users of the sand dunes.

An unusual feature of last Sunday's outing was the constantly moving cloud shadows, blowing steadily all afternoon over the undulating dunes, giving the impression that the entire sand dune area, as far as the eye could see, was (flowing - and on the move) (alive with mysterious movement). Camera fans along were frustrated in their attempts to capture the unusual phenomenon.

The next regularly scheduled "Sunday in the Sand Dunes" trek will take place Sunday afternoon August 23. Meeting time is 3:00 p.m. Meeting place is at the intersection of Highway One and Oso Flaco Lake Road. The leisurely two or three mile outing is open to the public. Children are most welcome. A naturalist will accompany the group to point out special features of the area. Participants are advised to bring drinking water, a snack and sweater.
