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IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
3/12/66

Another chance for those who enjoy the outdoors to cover both  
*Rare* Lopez Canyon and the *Scenic and controversial* Nipomo-Oceano Dunes in one weekend is the dual  
offering of the Sierra Club for next Saturday and Sunday, March 19  
and 20. This double-header weekend *also took place* ~~was scheduled~~ a month ago in mid-  
February as a special offering *at that time* for the visiting Kern-Kaweah Chapter  
of the Sierra Club from ~~Bakersfield~~ Kern County.

This month the popular double program is being repeated by  
special request of the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club from  
Monterey County.

Lopez Canyon, hidden wilderness gem in mid-California, is  
located east of San Luis Obispo, enclosed *protected* by the high ridges of  
the Santa Lucia *mountain* Range. Off the beaten path of tourists and some-  
what remote even from motoring byways, this unique *and park-like* canyon shows no  
evidence of ever having experienced forest fire. The Golden Cup Oak  
here reaches maximum size. The moist and shaded depths of the canyon  
display a variety of ferns, including the rare five-finger fern, much  
maidenhair and tall woodwardia. The clear stream, Lopez Creek, flows  
all year round. *Wildflowers and wildlife abound.*

The Lopez Canyon outing on Saturday, March 19 and the Nipomo-  
Oceano Dunes outing Sunday March 20 are designed to acquaint Sierra  
Club members visiting from Monterey and Carmel, with two areas of  
major conservation interest in San Luis Obispo County.

The weekend events are not limited to Sierra Club members,  
however. Anyone interested is cordially invited to participate by  
making reservations for the Lopez Canyon trip with the leader, Mrs.  
Kathleen Jackson of Paso Robles, phone 238-4353 *by Thursday - March 17.* No reservations

(MORE MORE MORE)



No reservations are necessary for the Nipomo-Oceano Dunes section of the weekend.

The group will start off as guests for doughnuts and coffee from 8:00 to 8:30 Saturday morning at the home of <sup>outing leader</sup> Mrs. Jackson, 1039 Chestnut Street, Paso Robles. Cars will then caravan to a locked gate entrance to Los Padres National Forest. A short road-in-the-sky drive will bring the party to the trail-head of little-known Lopez Canyon. *District Ranger Don Arundell may accompany the group.*

Shadowy forest slopes of the rare knob-cone pine, sunny open woodland, numerous creek crossings, forest pools fern-fringed, and a secluded seldom-visited campground, will make a beguiling six easy miles - all downhill - to a car shuttle, picnicking for noon lunch enroute.

At the end of the day, the group will car-camp in Pismo State Beach. Arrangements for this are in the hands of Park Supervisor Ray Westberg of Oceano *and Asst. Supervisor AL ULM.*

*The slides will show the scenic nearby Pismo to Point Sal coast area and the unique Nipomo-Oceano Dunes, which have been proposed for state park acquisition. This 17-mile stretch of unspoiled scenic shoreline was featured in the lead article of Sunset Mag's recent Feb. issue under the title "Pismo: the long beach, the white dunes, the delicious clams."*

An evening campfire program will be presented <sup>at 7:30</sup> with a showing and commentary by naturalist Bill Denneen of Nipomo, who is an instructor of colored slides ~~of the scenic nearby coast and the unique Nipomo-Oceano Dunes, which the Sierra Club wishes to see preserved as a state park.~~ The slide showing will be accompanied by <sup>commentary of</sup> a talk by [naturalist Bill Denneen of Nipomo, who is an instructor in the Biological Sciences Department of Allan Hancock College]. Pismo State Beach Park Supervisor Ray Westberg will give a brief talk on the problems of maintaining campgrounds in a sand dune environment and discuss the development of Pismo State Beach campgrounds. Campfire music and singing will conclude the evening. Other campers and visitors in the area, as well as the public are cordially invited to attend.

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Sunday morning, March 20, meeting at 9:00 a.m. at the entrance to Oceano Campground of Pismo State Beach, the group will conduct a hike and sight-seeing tour of the Nipomo Dunes, which any interested persons may attend. Both the massive and wind-sculptured dunes, which are state owned immediately south of Arroyo Grande Creek at Oceano, and the towering dunes near scenic Oso Flaco Lake at the southern portion of the San Luis Obispo County dunelands, and which are owned by the Union Oil Company, will be covered. At noon the group will picnic at Maidenform Flats, made popular by dune vehicle recreationists on their well-known dune cleanup <sup>parties</sup> ~~trips~~. The trip will conclude by three o'clock.

Those coming should bring sack lunch, ~~and~~ drinking water and a sweater. The public is cordially invited, and children are welcome.

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"Already, we have more interest shown in the Lopez Canyon-Nipomo Dunes ~~and~~ excursion than in all of the outings offered in the whole first year after Ventana Chapter's establishment," states Miss Carol Finley, Ventana Chapter Outings Committee member who is coordinator for the trip. She also commented, "I think the Sunset Magazine's February article on Pismo really sold most of them on coming."

The Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club, based in Monterey and Carmel, showed phenomenal growth during its first year, jumping from a membership of 200 to 400. Immediately upon organization the chapter engaged in dynamic participation in conservation problems of Monterey County and has continued to work with vigilance on county planning with particular attention to the protection of scenic resources. Among Ventana

Chapter's prominent members are: L. Bruce Meyer, M.D. who is Chapter Chairman; State Park Commissioner Margaret Owings; noted photographer Ansel Adams; & State Senator Fred S. Farr of Monterey.