

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATES

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Nov. 10, 1973

Mrs. Gaylord Jones
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Dear Kathy:

I tried to reach you by phone this morning because you have been so much on my mind ever since I received your nice letter after my appointment to the PG&E Board. Mainly I was distressed to hear of Gaylord's and your own health problems. But you two are like Ansel Adams when he had a heart attack a few years ago and was told to slow down. He did -- to about twice what the average person does. But please be careful and do not press your luck too far.

You refer to my letter to Mr. Sibley. If I did not list the Dunes as one of my resident projects (13 years) it was just an oversight. We have continued to keep ourselves informed as to what is happening through Ken. Believe me the PG&E is most unhappy with the delay and would like to see the County and the State get on with it. All they can do is go along with all the local demands for access, rights-of-way, lot splitting, etc., all of which takes an unconscionable amount of time. We all know Mr. Mott for a fighting Irishman who does not give way easily. The County, of course, is trying to get as much mileage out of the deal as it can.

I am delighted that TNC is taking an active interest in the Dunes area. Perhaps this might act as a catalyst to move the negotiations between the State and County along more rapidly. I shall be interested to know (if you are free to tell me) what the Conservancy has in mind. There is so much to be protected down there and if a private group like TNC could supplement what the State has in mind it would be tremendous, but I can see trouble ahead. South County is not about to be happy about losing revenue from taxes which TNC would request. As you perhaps know, TNC paid taxes on NCCRP in Mendocino County until this year - from 1958. They went to Court and finally got a ruling in their favor. Taxes had gone up to \$10,000 a year. I would suspect a Court case in SLO County.

We are continuing to be busy. I am very busy with my two new jobs. I accepted an assignment on an advisory committee to the University of California Land and Water Natural Areas System for the purpose of raising 2 million dollars, one million for acquisition of new areas to bring the total to 50 (18 of which are already in the system.) The second million will be for management of the overall system. Ford Foundation has given us \$250,000 matching 3 to 1, for the first million. The committee with which I am involved numbers about 25 people from all parts of the State but mainly from the South. We had our first full meeting of the committee, including the faculty advisors, last week at one of the reserves already in the system known as the Boyd Deep Canyon at Palm Canyon

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about 9 miles east of Palm Springs. It is a fine group of people and we look forward to about 2 years of working together toward our goal. Dick went with me and enjoyed the outing thoroughly. Dick is a fine botanist and he had a lot of good talk with the several botanists present. These reserves will be used as teaching areas for the life sciences and will represent all of the California land types. Each reserve will be administered by the campus closest to it.

We continue to be most active in the Tomales Bay Project and we try to keep the needles sharp in our Canadian friends to move just a little faster than they are used to doing. Our Arctic International Wildlife Range project (like all good projects, it seems) has run into Canadian politics and native claims problems. But, we will stick with it and get the most we can.

Sempervirens Fund is doing very well and Dorothy is most active in this area.

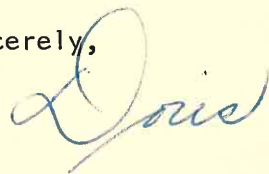
Point Reyes Burd Observatory is always broke. This is one great bunch of young scientists doing a tremendous job for humanity and someone soon, we hope, will recognize it and help financially. The sky is a little brighter than it has been, so we are hopeful. We have a woman volunteer who has good ideas and good contacts. She wants to head a fund raising committee. All power to her.

And so on and on. The appeals for help from young people mount. I always feel so helpless and try to advise them on where to find money while they sort out their lives.

Healthwise: Dick is fine except for migraines; George is always tired but continues to work time and a half; Dorothy has not been too well -- she has a heart problem which she must watch; and I am fine. I find that with the office here at home I must discipline myself to put in my hours at the desk because I see things around the house that need to be done. It is so easy to get up and do 'em. But I also find it so easy to come in here after dinner if I goofed off during the day and get caught up. It seems to be working out really fine.

Enough, Kathy. This is Saturday and Dick is at a Sierra Club Foundation meeting today. My best wishes to you and Gaylord. We are so glad that you are there watching over those Dunes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Louis", written in a cursive style.