

SC members
1977
To Kathleen and Gaylord Jones

FINAL

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The Robert F. Hoover plaque "For Distinguished Service" was awarded to Kathy and Gaylord Jones this year by the San Luis Obispo Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, particularly for their continuing effort to protect the Nipomo dunes, at their annual banquet. The Sierra Club, too, salutes their contribution to conservation, in particular to the preservation of the Nipomo Dunes of South San Luis Obispo County. ^{THIS WORK TOWARD}

We asked Kathy to tell us something about the background and the years of work that led to this award. She said... and we paraphrase:

Gaylord and I
"Well, first - the award took us completely by surprise. We looked at each other in astonishment - tears came to our eyes - and then the feeling was one of such joy. It was sobering, too, to have a flash of remembrance back over a great deal of very hard work and years of perseverance. Tears and relief and joy happened all at once. We were grateful to our friends for the commendation.

"As for the years of work, what does it take to win a conservation battle? Probably there is first always a deep attachment to a place.

"Well - first - the award took us completely by surprise: [Gaylord and I looked at each other in astonishment - with sudden tears - and such happiness.] It was so unexpected - and overwhelming. We were grateful to our friends for the commendation.

"As for the specifics, we understand this ^{AWARD} came to us for our participation in various California Native Plant Society activities, ^{FURTHERING THE SOCIETY'S GOALS} we are charter members, we serve on the conservation committee, are outing leaders, contribute wildflower photography, promote membership, give testimony at public hearings. . . . But we are told that the award focused particularly on our continuing effort to protect the Nipomo Dunes. These efforts to date have culminated (resulted) in the Classification Hearing of December 1974 when the State Park Commission endorsed further dunes acquisition and seashore acquisition. But it has been

"But it has been a long vigil, going back sixteen years

"We are gratified, elated, that ~~XXX~~ our efforts, with the help of others, have achieved (reached) a milestone in protection of the dunes. With the approval of both the State

Park and Recreation Commission (at their December 1974 Classification Hearing) and the Coastal Zone Conservation Commission (February 1975), ^{nine} ~~Nine~~ miles of beach and dunes are now in the General Development and Resource Management Plan of the State Parks and Recreation Department. This assures a measure of care for 9 miles out of the 18

It has taken (Pismo State Beach to Pt. Sal State Beach) ³⁰⁰ ~~-/more~~ than 14 years to gain 9 miles. Thus, the job is only half done. We must hasten. For there are ever more machines plying their recreation through the sandhills, and there are ever more human beings recognizing reaching for their need of wide and quiet spaces, ^{SEEKING} ~~their need~~ of the comfort and tranquil refreshment of natural beauty.

has it taken to win even this much of "What ~~does it take to win~~ a conservation battle? /Probably there is first an abiding love of a place, of an environment that is beauty and is home to one's spirit. Then there is the feeling of urgency to protect it, particularly if harsh destruction obviously threatens. And then there is the action, usually difficult

"What has it taken to win even this much of a conservation battle? ~~It has taken~~ for any conservation campaign, The framework ⁴⁵⁰ is essentially the same/ whether the cause be saving a forest wilderness, a mountain valley, a reach of river or a scenic panorama of seashore and sand dunes: first love of a place, an area of beauty and tranquility that stirs one's aesthetic and spiritual response

it is first a magic in some special place, to which one's spirit becomes bound ⁴⁰⁰ in consistent effort. ^{IT IS A DEEP LOVE FOR SUCH A PLACE. SECONDLY} There is a feeling of urgency to protect ~~and to preserve so that~~ the beauty may continue for others to share/ it, particularly if harsh destruction ~~threatens~~ obviously threatens. There is a wish to share it with others who are responsive.

So a plan is needed - and help - and unceasing work. One goes to sleep with questions to resolve. One awakens with ideas. Letters ^{MANY ARE} carefully written. Telephone conversations ^{many are}

^{There are} Trips to someone of key assistance. Meetings: embattled sessions with a chamber of commerce, with land developers; encounters with a combination of agreement and opposition from all sorts of vehicle recreationists, ^{even confrontations.} withstanding blunt roadblocks of local government leaders, negotiations, disappointment even in supporters, whose help dissolves when the rough going gets difficult, exhaustion, discouragement. One prays, one seeks more people for ideas, one prods one's own imagination. . . But in the dark, one by one, stars come through: an unexpected turn, ⁵⁵⁰ ~~and doors open~~, a direction clears, and doors open.

A public official with vision and conscience influences a major decision. The vote carries.

Milestone!

"Nine miles of the Pismo/Nipomo Dunes are now under State jurisdiction.

And Nine miles yet to go. The long vigil lengthens. On our banner there is one word.

With others who are counting their milestones year by year may we share our word:

V-I-G-I-L-A-N-C-E!

-Kathy and Gaylord Jones