

QUICKSILVER COUNTY PARK NEWS

Newsletter of the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association
WINTER 2014-2015 ISSUE 115

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Time for a New Year's resolution for great projects for New Almaden Quicksilver County Park and the Casa Grande Museum. Proposals have gone to the Parks Department for the final approval of the historic Bell Tower at the Hacienda Entrance to Almaden Quicksilver, the restoration of the pathway from the parking lot of the Casa Grande to the exit gate on Almaden Rd., the building of the water trough at Jacque Ridge and a new trail in the Park along the incline railroad route.

The Bell Tower was on hold until the new bathrooms at the entrance were completed. They are completed and the engineer of our project will submit his plans for the Bell Tower, Monday, Feb. 9, 2015 and we will begin on Wed. Feb. 11 to construct the walls. We have the bell, now we need the tower.

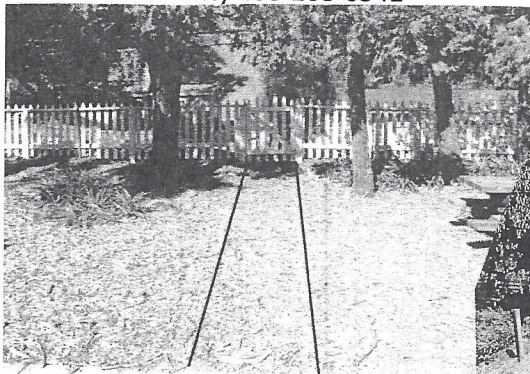
The pathway project is waiting for ADA approval and we will work in this as soon as the County Parks Risk Assessor signs the proposal. Thanks to our terrific Interpreter Supervisor, Julie Lee, this project should happen.

Up in Almaden Quicksilver County Park is a wonderful well in the field at Jacque Ridge. In cooperation with the Santa Clara County Horsemen Association, we will help with putting in a pump, building a fence around the solar panels, and installing a water trough.

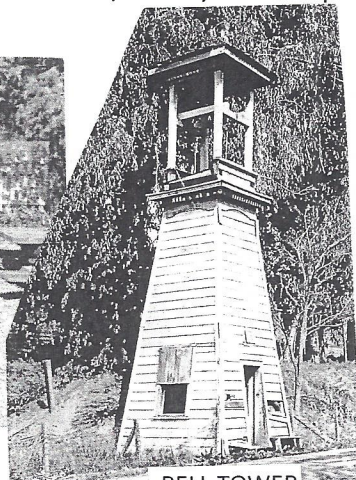
The last proposal, not yet drawn up, will be presented to the Parks Dept. this year for a new trail up by English Camp along the Incline Railroad Road. This would be a sweet trail for hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers, to see magnificent landscapes, great views, and experience nature at its best.

Contact us if you would like to help on any of these projects.

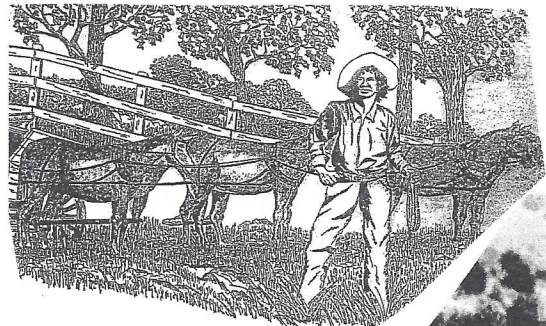
Kitty 408-268-6541



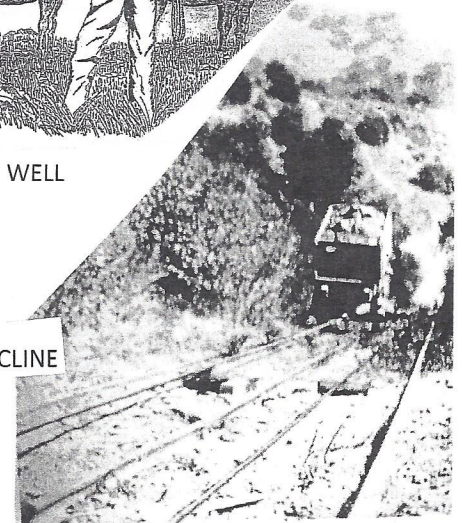
PATHWAY



BELL TOWER



Jacque Ridge WELL



INCLINE



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Congratulations on receiving the President's Volunteer Service Award, and thank you for helping to address the most pressing needs in your community and our country.

In my Inaugural Address, I stated that we need a new era of responsibility—a recognition on the part of every American that we have duties to ourselves, our Nation, and the world. These are duties that we do not grudgingly accept, but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit than giving our all to a difficult task. Your volunteer service demonstrates the kind of commitment to your community that moves America a step closer to its great promise.

Our Nation faces the most challenging economic crisis in a lifetime. We will only renew America if we all work together. Individuals, the private sector, and government must combine efforts to make real and lasting change so that each person has the opportunity to fulfill his or her potential.

While government can open more opportunities for us to serve our communities, it is up to each of us to seize those opportunities. Thank you for your devotion to service and for doing all you can to shape a better tomorrow for our great Nation.

A thank you letter from the White House and signed by the President was given to each of the Lifetime Achievement Award recipients.

White House recognizes county park volunteers

New Almaden's Kitty Monahan and Mike Boulland honored

Eleven volunteers from Santa Clara County and one from the greater Bay Area received special recognition from the White House and the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

The volunteers have devoted nearly 70,000 hours of service to Santa Clara County Parks and now received Lifetime Achievement Awards through the President's Volunteer Service Award program. The honors are part of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation established in 2003.

All of the award recipients received the awards from the White House at the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors meeting on Nov. 18.

Kitty Monahan and Mike Boulland are volunteers from Almaden Valley. Monahan donated more time than anyone else in the group, and will be honored for accumulating a total of 11,500 hours across all county parks. She has served as a docent, an Adopt-a-Trail volunteer, has been on the Volunteer Coordinating Council, served as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, as well as at special events and special projects, and in numerous other roles. She also is a founding member of the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association.

Boulland has long been involved in the Friends of Santa Teresa Park and has donated 7,000 hours of his time at Santa Teresa, Almaden Quicksilver and many other parks. He has served as a docent, an Adopt-a-Trail volunteer, served on the Volunteer Coordinating Council at special events, as well as for special projects, and in many other roles.



County park volunteers (left to right) **Art Boudreault, Roy Ichinaga, Ron Horii, Mike Boulland, Ranger John Heenan** accepting for **Richard and Margaret Brunner, Kitty Monahan and Jamie Day** received recognition from the White House and the Board of Supervisors for their service. Not pictured: Chere Bargar, Bill Hein, Bob Mayer and Dean Thames.

Five are from other areas of San Jose. Bill Hein and Dean Thames are from Willow Glen. Combined, the two have served more than 13,000 hours as Range Officers at the Field Sports Park.

Ron Horii and Richard and Margaret Brunner are from the Santa Teresa area of San Jose. Horii has served a total of 8,000 hours across all county parks. He has volunteered as a docent, at many volunteer events and in many volunteer groups and has captured countless beautiful photographs of wildlife, landscapes, and volunteers and events in the parks. The Brunners have volunteered 4,500 hours at Mt. Madonna Park where they have served as Camp Hosts for many seasons.

Roy Ichinaga, from the Berryessa neighborhood, has devoted more than 5,000 hours at many county parks. Among other roles, he has served as a South Bay Fishing in the City Docent and at other volunteer events including Trail Days, Beautification Days, Coastal Cleanup Days, National River Cleanup Days, and as a maintenance and resource management volunteer.

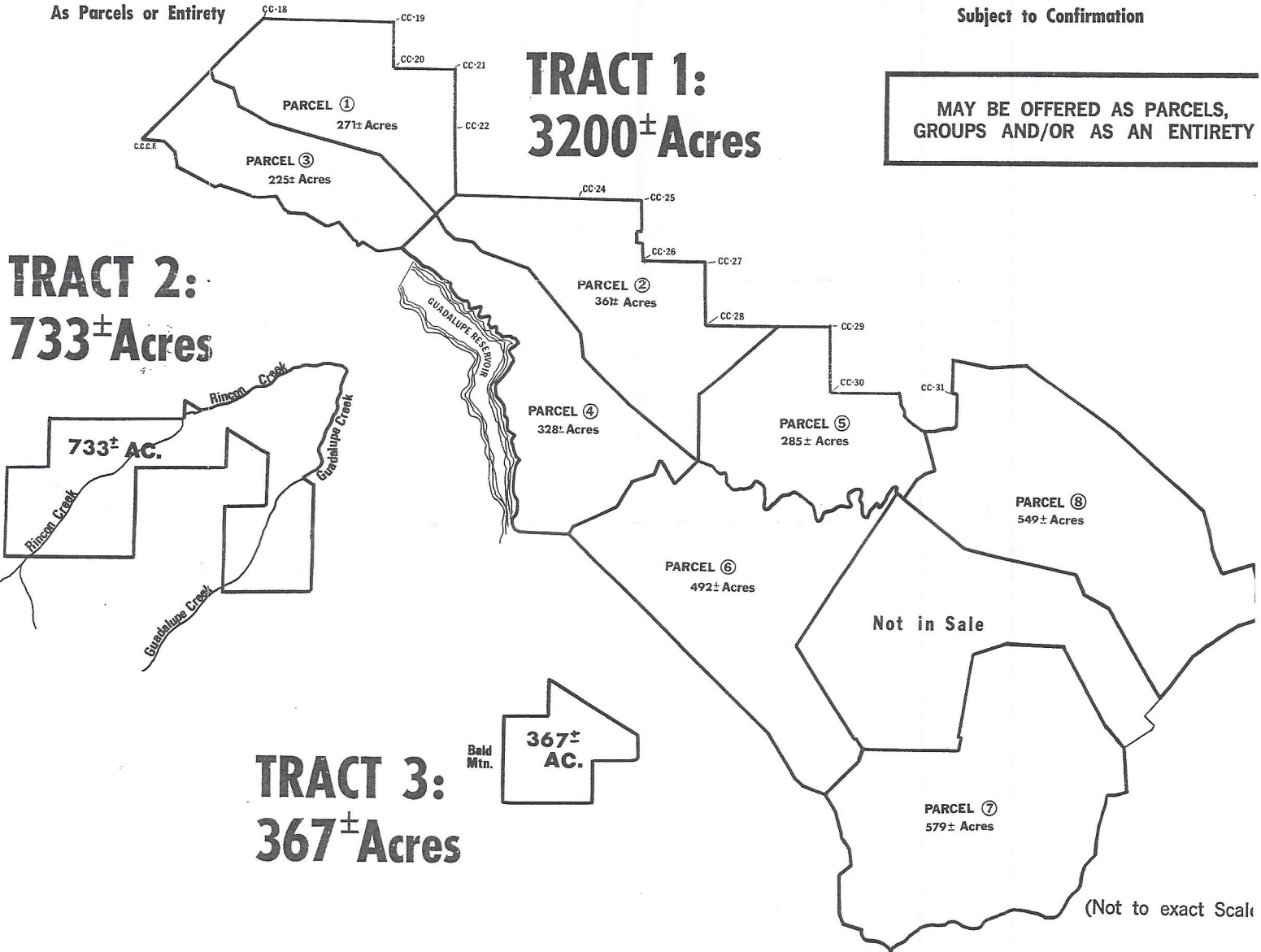
Two of the honorees are from South County. Jamie Day from Gilroy has served nearly 6,000 hours at Chitactac County Park as a Site Host and interpretive docent. Chere Bargar of San Martin has served nearly 5,000 hours at Coyote Lake - Harvey Bear, Mt. Madonna, Calero, Almaden Quicksilver and more. She has donated her time as a Trail Watch volunteer on horseback and on foot, has been active with Friends of Bear and Coyote Park and the Volunteer Coordinating Council, among other positions.

Bob Meyer of Los Gatos adds more than 4,400 hours of service. He has been very active with the New Almaden Quicksilver County Parks Association and has served as a docent and Adopt-a-Trail volunteer at Almaden Quicksilver. Art Boudreault of San Rafael [and formerly Almaden] has nearly 5,500 hours of service as a docent at several parks and with the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association.

AUCTION

As Parcels or Entirety

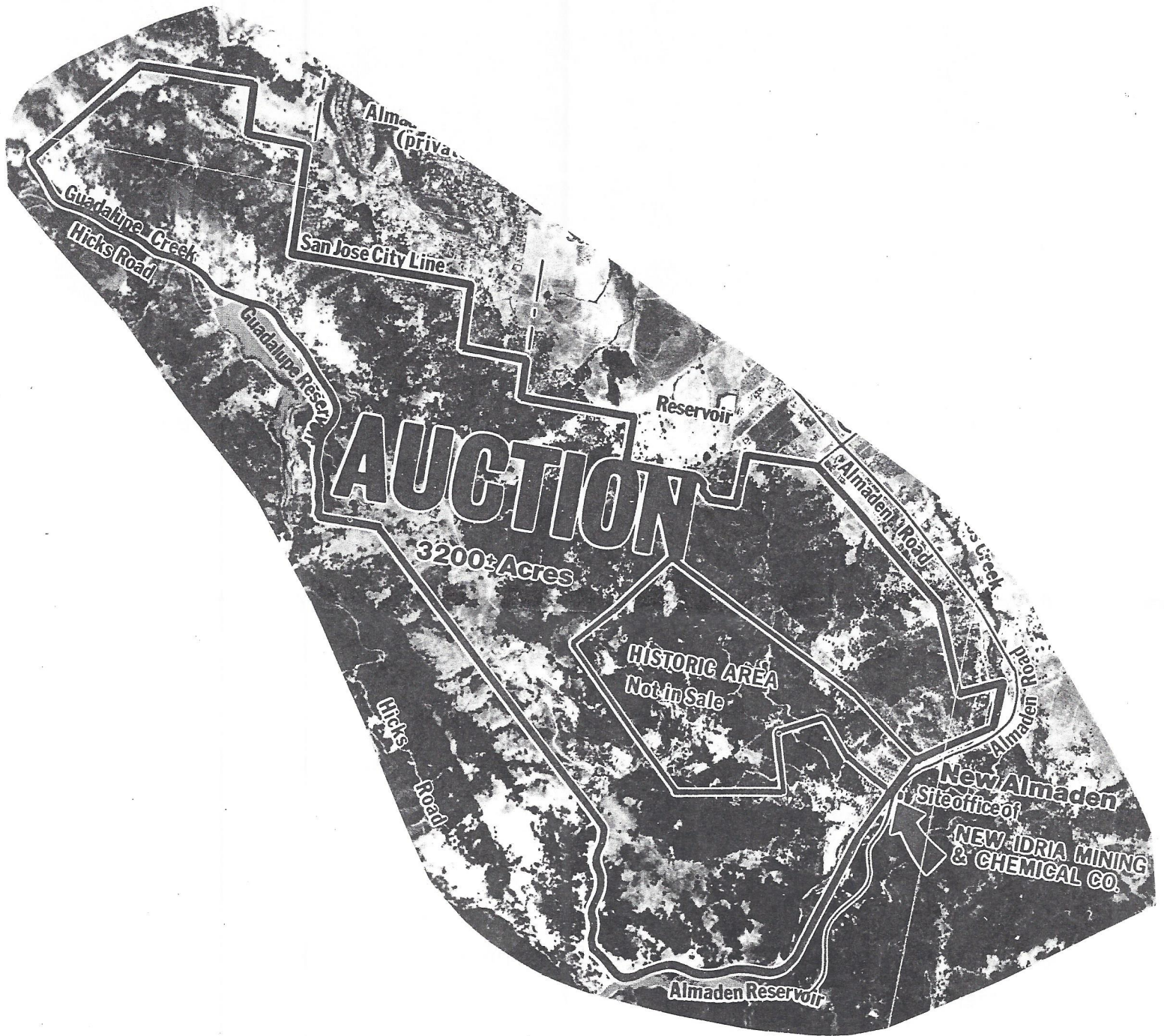
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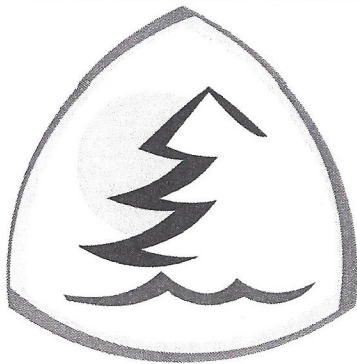
SALE On TUESDAY, JUNE 26 at 1 P.M., DST

TRACT 1, PURCHASED BY COUNTY PARKS:

PARCELS 1,2,3 AND 4 IN 1973: PARCELS 5,6,7,8, AND HISTORIC SITE IN 1976



Archive Highlight: 2015.2.036, which is a brochure announcing the auction of 4200 acres of property in New Almaden which had been declared surplus by the New Idria Mining & Chemical Company. As a result of the planned land auction, the County purchased and paid for a portion of the land prior to the auction. An auction of the company's other assets was held as planned on June 26, 1973. Check it out at scc.pastperfect-online.com.



**SANTA CLARA
COUNTY PARKS**

You're Invited! New Volunteer Orientation Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Interested in becoming a volunteer with Santa Clara County Parks? Join us **Wednesday, February 18 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.** at the Volunteer Office in Santa Teresa County Park for a New Volunteer Orientation!

The Orientation will include:

- ◆ An overview of the Department and Volunteer Program
- ◆ Current volunteer opportunities throughout County Parks
- ◆ A chance to meet staff and other volunteers
- ◆ How to apply for volunteer positions, register for training, receive uniforms
- ◆ Volunteer recognition in County Parks

RSVP:

All are welcome, but please register by contacting the Volunteer Program at: volunteer@prk.sccgov.org or 408-918-4930.

Location:

Muriel Wright Center, 298 Bernal Rd in San Jose and within Santa Teresa County Park. Directions: Proceed up Bernal Rd and turn towards the Pueblo Day Area. Turn left at the sign for Muriel Wright Center and proceed past the gates into the parking lot.

parksforlife

Volunteer Events

Santa Clara County Parks
Volunteer Program
408-918-4930
volunteer@prk.sccgov.org
parkhere.org

Saturday, March 28
Park Beautification Day
Calero

Saturday, April 4
Park Beautification Day
Casa Grande

Saturday, April 11
Park Beautification Day
Stevens Creek

Saturday, April 18
Pond Beautification Day
Sanborn

Saturday, April 25
Earth Day Trail Day
Sanborn

Sunday, April 26
South Bay Fishing in the City
Ed Levin

Sunday, May 2
Trail Day
Ed Levin

Saturday, May 9
Trail Watch Academy
Muriel Wright Center

Saturday, May 16
National River Cleanup Day
Various Parks

Saturday, June 6
National Trail Day
Almaden Quicksilver

Saturday, June 6
Festival in the Park
Hellyer



Group Volunteer Opportunities

Would your company or group like to volunteer at Santa Clara County Parks? If our scheduled events don't fit your schedule, we'll see what we can do to match your group with a park need! Contact us with the following information:

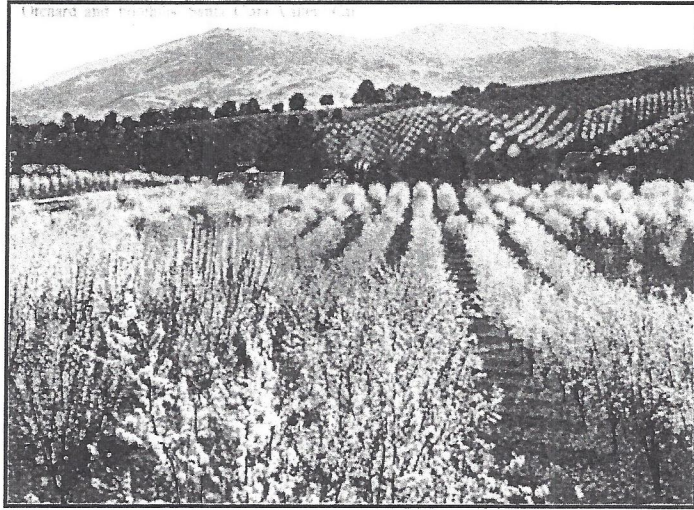
- Your name, phone number and email address
- Group name and size
- Proposed project date and time
- Preferred park(s)
- Type of work you're interested in

The Valley of Heart's Delight

The Valley of Heart's Delight

The Santa Clara Valley is
 To those who hold it dear
 A veritable Paradise
 Each season of the year.
 One loves it best in April
 When the fruit-trees are in bloom;
 And a mass of snowy blossoms
 Yield a subtle sweet perfume.
 When orchard after orchard
 Is spread before the eyes
 With the whitest of white blossoms
 Neath the bluest of blue skies.
 No brush could paint the picture
 No pen describe the sight
 That one can find in April
 In "The Valley of Heart's Delight."

By Clara Louise Lawrence
 From "Poems Along the Way"
 published by Tucker Printing Company,
 San Jose, 1927.



In earlier times
 Santa Clara
 County earned
 the nickname
 "The Valley of
 Heart's
 Delight," a
 modern day
 Eden because
 of the acres
 and acres of
 trees laden
 with fruit
 blossoms.

Clara Louise Lawrence was known for her descriptions of the early Santa Clara Valley— an example being her poem "Valley of the Heart's Delight." She resided in San Jose on Randol Avenue near The Alameda between 1922 to 1942. She was a poet of local significance, a member of the San Jose Poetry Club and also wrote children's stories. Lawrence was one of the original members of the San Jose Branch of the League of American Pen Women that was founded in April of 1922. ❖

Bobcats spotted in Almaden

Almaden resident Al Jefferis had a couple of unusual visitors on Christmas morning.

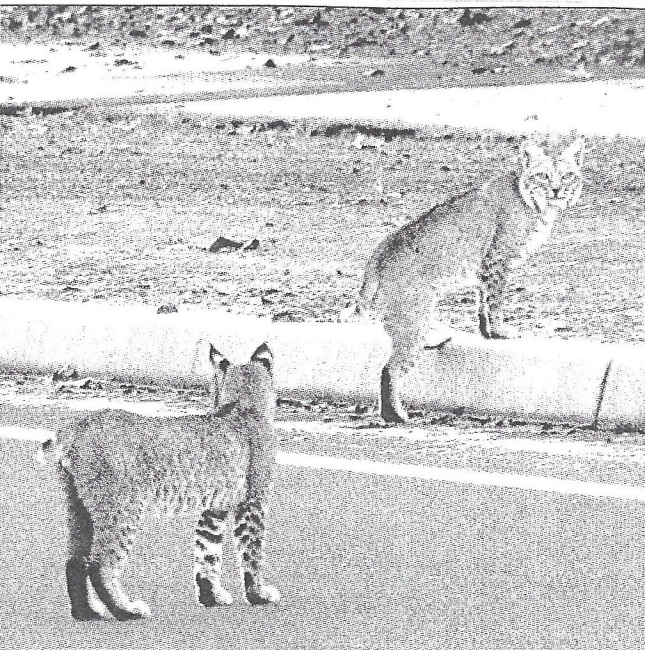
He spotted a pair of bobcats on Camden Ave near Harry Road on Christmas morning which appeared to be young cats perhaps from same litter as it is their breeding season. Fully grown bobcats are usually solitary and very shy but with the drought they have probably come down to the valley in search of rodents and water.

Bobcats look different than mountain lions. They have stubby or bobbed black-tipped tails and usually have tufted lynx-like ears. They are also small, usually no more than two feet in height and 13-40 pounds. Their coats are reddish brown, typically with spots and stripes of black.

Small pets (small dog, rabbits) left unattended could be at risk, although a barking dog would likely scare off a bobcat. Bobcats usually shy away from humans and loud noises will frighten them off.

Humans are more likely to hurt a bobcat. Hillside development destroys their habitat, and cars and pesticides can be lethal for bobcats and other wildlife. In particular, if you put poison out for rodents, and a bobcat or other wild animal or bird eats that rodent, the secondary poisoning can harm or even kill the wild animal.

If you see a hurt bobcat (hit by a car, limping, etc.) do not approach it. Contact the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley at (408) 929-9453. For more information visit their website at www.wcsv.org. *Photo by Al Jefferis*





NAQCPA

New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association
P O Box 124 New Almaden, CA 95042

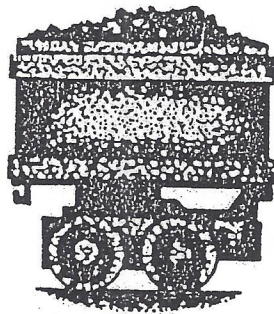
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ORGANIZATION
CAMPBELL, CA
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PERMIT 5710

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NEW ALMADEN

QUICKSILVER



COUNTY PARK

ASSOCIATION



NAQCPA

New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association
P O Box 124 New Almaden, CA 95042

Dues: (\$15.00) _____

Additional Contribution: _____

YEARLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE DUES:
\$15.00 PER HOUSEHOLD
CHECKS PAYABLE TO NAQCPA

Hacienda Project: _____

Membership: RENEWAL NEW GIFT

DATE: _____

Total: _____

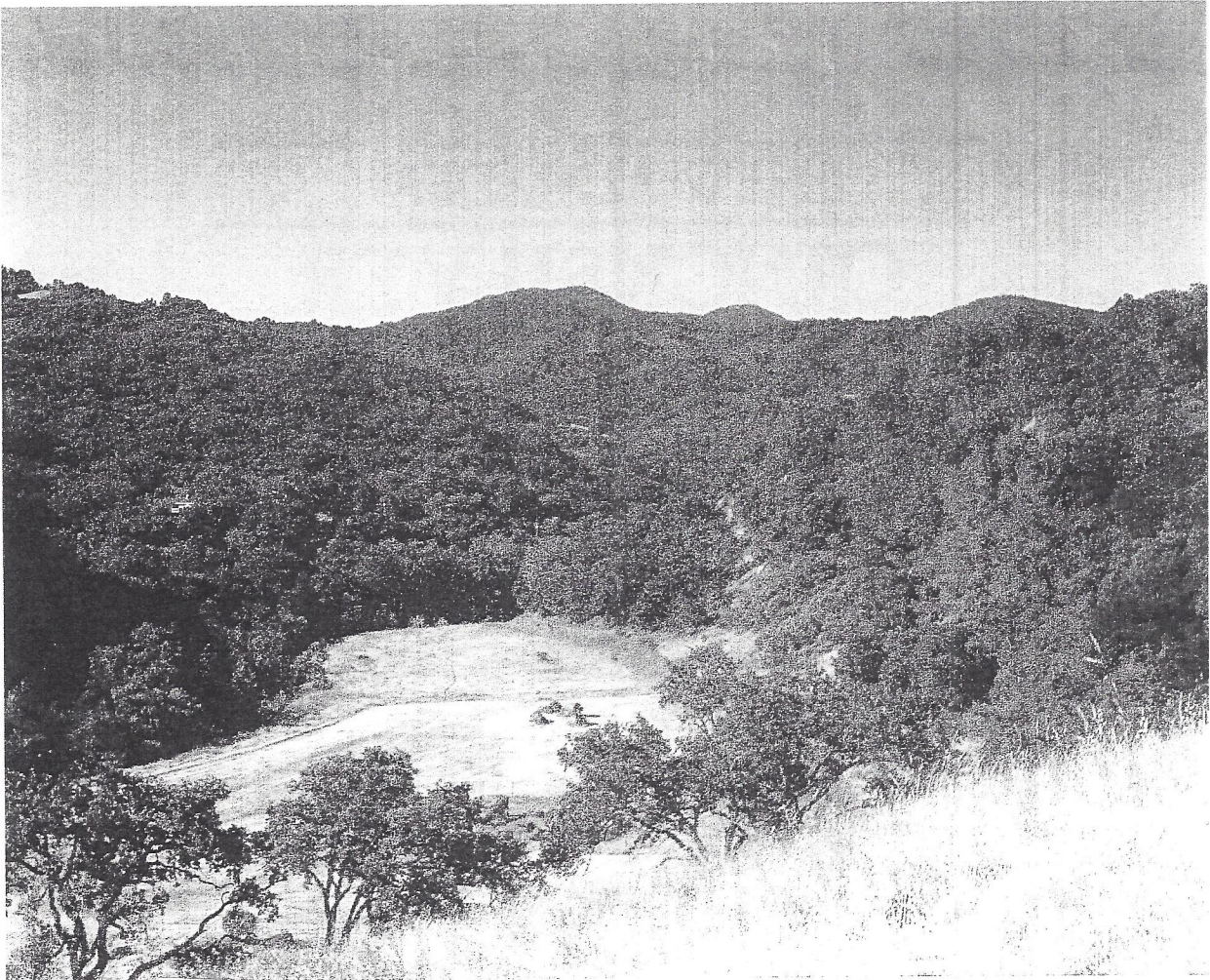
NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____



SPECTACULAR VIEW FROM PROPOSED TRAIL ON THE INCLINE RAILROAD