



President's Message

January 2011

Hello FMA! As I compose this, the rain, that has generously fallen these past few weeks, continues to make music as it lands on my roof. The area that we call home is green, moist and beautiful. I am fortunate to live here.

It is time to look ahead and plan for 2011. First, an announcement. I am sad to report that long time officer/trustee Kate Barrett has tendered her resignation, effective immediately, due to personal reasons. Kate has served Fitch Mountain Association in many capacities for many years. Although she is unable to complete her terms of Treasurer and Trustee, she will continue to support and participate in the activities sponsored by the FMA. THANK YOU KATE! That being said, we have openings for Vice-president, Treasurer, and Trustee, effective immediately. Please contact me if you would be willing to be considered for any of these positions. We will also have 2 other Trustee positions open in July. The future and fate of FMA is dependent on its volunteer participants. Long time Fitch Mountain resident and FMA Trustee, Donita Proctor, has composed a piece on the Association's history. The question that remains to be answered is what is the future, if any, for FMA?

That will be answered by residents who are willing to give of themselves to continue the work of the organization.

We do have plans for this spring. There will be a work party organized to clean up and beautify the bbq/picnic area of the Villa. This will be a 2 day event as we will clean and prep the picnic tables on day 1 with painting planned on day2. This is a community service project that will be done in exchange for the fees charged for renting the area for our July meeting. More details to follow. I am sure that there will also be opportunities for continued collaboration with *Fire Free Fitch*. FMA participated in several work parties to help eradicate Scotch Broom and open access to the top of the mountain for fire vehicles.

A survey conducted last year indicated that a winter meeting should only be held on an as needed basis. Electronic communication allows for ease of information exchange. If, after reading the information presented in this newsletter you believe a meeting is in order, please notify me. We appreciate your input!

An organization is only as effective as its participants. Hope to hear from folks soon!

Laura E. Rodriguez, President
ann-and-laura@comcast.net

The History of FMA

Donita Proctor

The officer openings mentioned in Laura's column certainly speaks to our future. The discussion about the dependency of the volunteers for office to ensure the continuance of the organization is real.

Since rekindling the FMA in 1999 officers have served an average of two terms (4 years) trustees an average six years. Al Pucci is now in his 11th year having volunteered to serve and having been elected for two six year terms. I have served two terms as President, one year interim President and am completing my sixth year as a Trustee.

Examine our history since 1999 in this article and in the article *The Distant Past* to evaluate our effectiveness in stewardship of the neighborhood. This will help you decide if the FMA should continue as the representative agency to state and local officials. Jane Moore and Sylvia Seventy called for reinstatement of FMA after the road collapse at the Fitch Mtn. Viaduct which left a gaping hole in Fitch Mountain Road for TWO YEARS. *Note: While there were no meetings held during the hiatus our status as a non-profit was maintained with the State of California.*

Within one year we were working closely with C.D.F. (now Cal fire) to mitigate the fire potential in our VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE. Through a grant we were able to have officials do fire inspections on each house, that had not been completed in many years.

We held an educational meeting and safety training in August 2001 at the Villa for all residents of Fitch Mtn. We continue that effort by working closely with Fire Free Fitch a new non-profit with the single purpose of fire mitigation.

The association monitors the development of the Open Space district by communication with the City of Healdsburg representatives, Open Space district representatives, and the current owners of the property Francez, LLC.

We have started a new dialog with 4th District Supervisor Mike McGuire about the sale/acquisition of the top of the mountain and Open Space District.

We maintain close collaboration with Sonoma County Sheriff, and the California Highway Patrol in addressing traffic and illegal parking on the mountain. The Del Rio Woods Parks and Recreation district is frequently communicated with to ask for mitigation of tangential problems brought by visitors to the district.

We monitor and educate the membership on river issues and support the Russian Riverkeeper organization. As an educational agency we have brought you speakers and leaders on topics that cover environmental, safety, health, and law enforcement.

Presentations

Curtis Associates: to discuss septic systems

Marta Williams-Community septic systems

John Murray-Del Rio Woods Parks and Recreation District

Barry Dugan-Healdsburg Tribune Russian River History

Don Wilson-California Dept. of Fish and Game, Effect of dams on the Russian River

Verdone: Laguna Foundation:

The Eradication of Ludwiga

Kim Batchelder: Open Space District-Healdsburg Ridge trails

Circuit Riders: Presentation on eradication of Arondo Dunax

Riverkeeper: McEnhill: Health of the Russian River

These are a few of the presenters from the past 11 years. The recap is not to pat ourselves on the shoulder but rather a reminder of what has been accomplished in the past 11 years and *The Distant Past*.

You vote on this effectiveness with your continued membership and willingness to step forward and run for office. Leadership is vital to sustaining this organization!

We ask that you consider the implications of a demise of FMA due to lack of volunteer leadership.

Communication with you, dear members, has been enhanced by a twice a year newsletter. We maintain an association web site, and an e-mail "blast list". We collaborate with the newest neighborhood watch group on the mountain: Camp Rose/ Del Rio.

We look forward to your suggestions and recommendations as to our future. Your actions determine the our operation. As you review this history, judge for yourself if we have remained true to our stated mission.

The Distant Past

“One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade”

Chinese proverb

Fitch Mountain is lucky to have many multi-generational families who may have had a grandparent who were active in bringing change to our community or were members of the association. The properties bought in the late 30's have been retained as a legacy and have been passed to grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

We are grateful for Don McEnhill retiring trustee of FMA. The memories offered in this document come from the years spent here since his family purchased property in 1937.

This property retention has enabled the new generations to enjoy the pleasures of the area. Perhaps descendants and new residents don't know the events of time past and FMA activism on protecting and improving this community.

Do you know the past history of what has been done by the association on your behalf?

Did you know that absence of fire coverage led to the formation of CSA 24?

Do you remember a time when during summer months you could turn on your faucet and find no water due to an aging/poorly maintained water system?

Community leaders stepped forth to take charge, form a Community Service District to rectify the situation. Meetings were held with county officials, The Local Agency Formation Commission to set the boundaries and define the scope of CSA 24.

A tax measure was put on the ballot to fund fire coverage at a time when state budgets were cutting back fire services. In a recent issue we gave you a list of historical events. Here we will elaborate on them! Sadly, many of these former leaders have passed on. They dedicated many hours of service to the association as officers and trustees. The leadership hard work paid off December 20, 1976 when the county formally recognized the district. According to state records the Del Rio Woods Homeowner Association was formally established on July 9, 1965. It notified members of disassembly January 25, 1979. In 1979 FMA achieved formal status as a non-profit having united all former associations as the representative agency for Fitch Mountain.

In October 1993, pursuant to the Cortese-Knox government reorganization law, CSA 24 and several small districts were dissolved. They rolled into CSA 40 fire service, CSA 41 multi-service district by *Resolution 93-1598* by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. The advisory committee for CSA 24 was abandoned and no longer had direct input to the board of supervisor representative in the 4th district. You will note in the following Barry Dugan editorial that supervisor/advisory committee relationships were not ideal.

Healdsburg Tribune November 2001

25 YEARS AGO November 23, 1976

Fire Truck Easily Approved by Fitch Mountain Votes

Fitch Mountain voters easily approved a special district tax for fire protection Tuesday. "It's not a big surprise," said Fitch Mountain Association President Jack Armstrong Wednesday morning after he learned the 158 "Yes" votes gave a 63.9 percent plurality to the funding of County Service Area No. 24. Votes approved taxation of up to \$1 per \$100 assessed valuation for the purchase and manning of a fire truck. Sewer and water service were also listed on the ballot, but backers of the measure say the money will be used for fire protection. Supervisor William Johnson hopes to present an acceptable package to the Healdsburg City Council that will call for CSA 24 to pay the city to house and man the fire truck. The truck is expected to be able to climb the steep hills on the mountain. It will probably be a used vehicle. The district's tax rate will be set by the Board of Supervisors during budget sessions next year. "The next step is for us to see about getting water for fire hydrants," Armstrong said. The City Council has not announced a commitment either way toward helping Fitch Mountain residents house their fire truck. **They turned down earlier appeals because no procedure had been made for mountain resident to pay for the service.** A "victory" party will be held by the FMA Sunday at 11. a.m. at the Camp Rose Inn.

Your Water System

Establishment of the Fitch Mountain Water system rehabilitation was a top priority of the trustees due to a dearth of water in summer months and boil water orders in winter. Mobilization really began when the former system owner was notified of mandatory upgrades to the system that would have resulted in a 68% increase in monthly charges.

Fitch Mt. needs massive water fix

By GERONIM KOHNER

Faced with a deteriorating water system which delivers water that is unsafe to drink, Fitch Mountain residents may have to pay up to \$2.1 million to rebuild the system that serves 327 households.

That is the bottom line in a Santa Rosa engineering firm's report, which recommends that Fitch Mountain residents turn to their County Service Area (CSA) 24 to underwrite the reconstruction program.

The recommendation would appear to involve the purchase of the Fitch Mountain Water Company from its owner, Warren Toomey, who has previously of-

fered to sell the aging system for \$117,000.

Reconstruction of the water system, under public management, would cost Fitch Mountain households anywhere from \$300 to \$900 a year, depending on the availability of grant funds, according to a report recently issued to all Fitch Mountain residents.

Routine operation and maintenance of the water system would also require monthly payments of \$25-\$20, the report said.

Meeting set for Saturday

Called by the seven-member Fitch Mountain Advisory Committee, the notice invited all Fitch Mountain water users to a meeting Saturday at the Community Center, 121 Marston St., at 10 a.m.

Coincidentally, the notice went out while about one-third of the Fitch Mountain Water Company's customers were under orders from the State Health Department not to drink their water without first boiling it (see accompanying story).

Advisory Committee member Bill Mulgrew said the purpose of Saturday's meeting will be to present the engineer's report on the water system's shortcomings and cost estimates of the needed repairs.

The report, commissioned by the Board of Supervisors in April at the request of Fitch Mountain residents, was written primarily

by Jack Coble of the Kelly Consulting Eng. of Santa Rosa.

Coble is scheduled the report's findings, a state health report on the cost of the water system's reconstruction and state health department's response.

Clark said, when he was in the state Dept. of Health Services, he was in charge of the state's water system's reconstruction.

Clark's office was at the time of the report's release, when he was in the Russian River basin water area in Camp Rose area of Fitch.

The Health Department's report was filed but the crisis was a result of the water system's failure.

Coble's report says that no storage capacity, protection, and safety, and only low water in the "small diameter, 4" galvanized steel pipes."

In addition, the system has a "leaky" system that makes a "leaky" system. Water flows in a "leaky" system from a shallow Russian River, the report says. The report says that the McDonough Heights system is "leaky" because of the "leaky" system from a "leaky" system. The report says that the McDonough Heights system is "leaky" because of the "leaky" system from a "leaky" system.

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If anyone thinks the water customers on Fitch Mountain are overreacting about the state of their new water system, consider these facts.

After 10 years of work, The Fitch Mountain water system was completed early this year at a final cost of \$3 million, when it was estimated that it would cost \$2.2 million.

Guess who has to pay for the cost overruns? If you're answer is the 335 customers on the mountain, go on the next question.

After the County Service Area (CSA 24) advisory Committee approved the project and its estimated cost, the County Public works Department deleted the Del Rio well from the project and started secret negotiations with the City of Healdsburg to provide a permanent source of water.

Guess when the CSA 24 Advisory Committee found out about the deleted well and the negotiations with the City of Healdsburg? If you answered "after the fact," you're starting to get the picture.

After these shenanigans came to light, the customers of the new water system held a raucous meeting and were told that the cost overruns and the right to hook up to Healdsburg would cost them another \$23 to \$45 per year.

The cost of getting their old Del Rio well back could cost as much as \$176 per year. CSA Chair Bill Mulgrew has resigned over the whole mess. In a letter to Nick Esposti, Mulgrew asks the pertinent question: "If you didn't know who is responsible for the burden placed on Fitch Mountain resident?" (this is a bonus questions so think about it)

Esposti says he was left in the dark when it came to the changes and cost overruns.

I think I was kind of bypassed also... it's a little bit disturbing." Esposti said this week. "A lot of things were taking pace that no one had a handle on. I was left out in the left field also."

In a diplomatic assessment, Esposti said "I shared my frustration with Public Works over this a few weeks ago." You're on your own to fill in the blanks on what kind of "sharing" he did. All answers are correct, but keep in mind children may read them.

During the project construction, however about \$500,000 worth of cost overruns occurred (they paid the contractor for lost profit for not retrofitting the Del Rio well. These changes were approved by the Board of Supervisors, but Esposti said the board did not know that the project was over budget. He said change orders on projects are approved on a regular basis, often without discussion, and the board was never told that the projects was over budget. But did anyone ever ask?

In a letter to Esposti, CSA 24 Advisory Committee member Donald King states that "it is beyond my comprehension how the entire basic plan for the water system could be changed without consultation with the Advisory Committee and the approval of your board. The Advisory Committee and the property owners in County Service Area 24 are entitled to an explanation of how these events could have occurred.

"True or False"

So let's see if we have this right: the county Public works Department decides on its own, with pressure from the state Health Department to abandon the well that many Fitch Mountain residents swear by, and enter into negotiations with the city of Healdsburg for water. Their explanation has been they underestimated the sentiments of the people up there for their old well.

Then, county spends \$500,000 more than it budgeted for the project, and the Board of Supervisors doesn't even notice. Is anyone minding the store?

What makes this even more outrageous, is that this isn't county taxpayers' money they're playing with, it's the property owners on Fitch Mountain. There are only 335 water customers who are now stuck paying for the county's actions which have cost them nearly \$ million instead of the original \$2.2 million. And they may end up with water they don't want. How many happy water users will there be then on Fitch Mountain? (Any number less than 10 is correct)

What riles up Fitch Mountain water users is they are being backed into a corner to use the city of Healdsburg's water, fluoride and all. It would cost them \$280,000 to just hook up to the city.

The city, meanwhile is counting on the money to drill new wells in the aquifer of Dry Creek. What the city or county haven't talked about yet is what kind of opposition they might encounter in Dry Creek when they sink a well and start sucking water out of the ground. How many grape growers and well owners are going to sit back and let their livelihoods be threatened by a huge new well alongside Dry Creek? That one's too easy, so no credit for a correct answer.

Grade your own papers and turn them in when you're done. We're all on the honor system here, aren't we?

HEALTH DEPT ALERT

Dirty water hits Camp Rose area

A "boil water" alert was issued for some 110 Fitch Mountain residents two weeks ago, when a high flow on the Russian River river they, brown water into their homes.

The alert was lifted Monday, 10 days after it went out, amid charges that the Fitch Mountain Water Company failed to notify all affected customers — as required by state Health Department officials.

One Fitch Mountain resident, who was asked to remain anonymous, said Monday that two of his neighbors were not immediately advised of the "boil water" situation. One did not hear about it until Jan. 20; the other finally got the word Monday.

The resident said he did not want to be identified for fear of "outrage" by the water company, shared by Warren Toomey.

A Fitch Mountain Water Company spokesman said Tuesday that she called customers for in-

formation on Jan. 17 after the Health Department alert went out.

"We did a pretty thorough notification of residents in that area," she said. Toomey was out of town and unavailable for comment Tuesday.

"I wouldn't believe a thing they told me," the resident said, referring to his past dealings with the Toomey company.

A report received by a Santa Rosa engineering firm points to a report of Toomey's company by a public agency as the first step in a solution to Fitch Mountain's lingering water woes last year.

Prompted by a tip from Fitch Mountain residents on Jan. 27, state Department of Health Services district engineer Dave Clark collected water samples from homes in the Camp Rose area of Fitch Mountain.

Clark said Monday that the turbidity of the water samples measured 80-85 units, compared

to the more low drinking water from the Russian River of 0.5 units.

Turbidity reflects the "cloudiness" of the water caused by suspended particles. Clark said, noting that high turbidity indicates chlorination "ineffective" because various pathogens are "sheltered" from the disinfectant by the particles in the water.

Immediately after testing the Camp Rose water, Clark said he ordered the Fitch Mountain Water Company to advise its customers that their water should be boiled before it is consumed.

Clark said the water company was advised to "contact everybody by phone" and that water service would not be restored.

When asked Monday about reports that not all Camp Rose area customers were notified, Clark said that was "very possible."

The State Health Department tagged the system after a "boil water notice" was sent for the 110 customers in the Camp Rose area in 1985. Rehabilitation of the system which included the Del Rio and Camp Rose customers (327 households) was at that time projected to cost \$2.214 million. Projected household cost for the 327 customers was to increase from \$7.50 per month to \$15.00-\$20.00. In addition the household cost for loan pay-back was projected between \$300.00-\$900.00 yearly. The final annual cost was adopted at \$340.00. December 2, 1987 there were 17 properties in the McDonough Heights area offered connections to the new system though they were within the city limits. These properties were to pay a connection fee and to have the loan pay back on their property taxes. See Healdsburg Public Hearing for city properties becoming part of CSA#24. The state health department condemned the Del Rio well as unsafe. This action ran up the cost overrun charges. Eventually an agreement was made with the City of Healdsburg to be the primary provider of water. It came at a dear cost. The transaction required an agreement to give up some of our the water rights.

We include a 1990 editorial from the Healdsburg Tribune regarding relations with the City of Healdsburg.

COMMENTARY

Fitch Mt. water customers left out to dry



Memories of the water system from Don and John McEnhill.

(Their family has property on the mountain since 1937)

Don McEnhill

"I remember when Arthur "Bud" Schwartz owned and ran the Del Rio Woods water system.

The well was behind his Summer house on the private road behind the store. (Del Rio Court) The pipes were reclaimed boiler pipes from old World War One battleships.

The reason my father bought our cabin in 1937 was that Bud told my Dad that the cabin owner had not been paying her bill.

There were a few redwood tanks above the 'Upper road' that stored the water pumped from the Del Rio well and the well below the start of

'Orchard road' (Redwood Dr.). Buds sons Kenny and Dick (my age) would tend to leaks with clamps, and also put in the Dam boards to start the summer. I was more interested in swimming, diving off the railroad bridge, playing tag on the dam apron, catching turtles and laying on the beach listening to big Band music piped down from Palomar. My older brother has a much better memory."

From John McEnhill

The original Del Rio Water Company well was close to the river at the junction of Orchard Road (Redwood Drive) and Fitch Mountain Road. In the floods of Winter 1938 or 1939. the well and the electric pump machine fell into the river and were lost. I remember this because for some reason I have forgotten, I was there with Dad and a group of other men, standing in the rain and dark, except for someone (Bud Schwarz I think) who had a flood light and had it shining on the pump and pipe leading down into the well. We watched as, slowly, the pump and pipe were surrounded by the rushing water and fell into the river. As a result of this, Bud built the new pump house next to his family's house on the road that dead-ended at Capt. Moore's house and across the street from the house we used to rent. These things I remember from first hand observation. Many details I do not remember anymore. Buzz"

Nothing New Under the Sun

The development of subdivisions: Camp Rose, and Del Rio found eager families, who were drawn by the beauty and pleasures of living by the river, establishing summer homes.

Many of the original buyers had roots in San Francisco and the bay area as the development was advertised heavily in *The San Francisco Call* as early as 1909.

The attractions are no different than those luring the nonresidential visitor today. Perhaps, with one exception, the visitors have a tendency to foul the nest. The earliest record we could find of the Del Rio summer dam was 1934. The 77 year history of the dam installation was stopped in 2002 by the Sonoma County Regional Water Quality Board as a protection to Salmon that was declared endangered in 1999.

This recreational facility was enjoyed by several generations of families as noted in the remembrances quoted above.

Certainly as early as the 1970's problems were wrought by changes in societal values. Slowly the community changed from owners spending Memorial Day to Labor Day were being replaced by conversions of property into year 'round residents.

We can decry a generation "gone wild" but it is not a new phenomenon. Efforts to control and protect the area can result in labels of, killjoy and protectionist by disrespectful and belligerent youths. The efforts to handle this has been going on for years. We provide the following articles from July 1984 and 1986 to illustrate the situation.

Del Rio Woods Parks and Recreation District adopted a drinking ban in 2010.

The articles on the next page reference homeowner complaints of near riots, broken beer bottles, litter on private property, parties on the beach until early morning hours and a homeowner being threatened by arson. In other words, nothing new under the sun.

California. Dept. of Public Works,
California. Division of Highways -
1934

... Application for the
construction of the Del Rio
Woods Dam in Sonoma County
was filed on April 19, 1934. The
proposed dam will be a timber
flash- board structure located on
the Russian River about 2 miles
easterly from Healdsburg.

California Highway and Public Works
Volume 12-13 Page 278

The final test of a leader is that he
leaves behind him in others the
conviction and the will to carry on.
Walter Lippmann (1819-1974)

Officers

President, Laura Rodriguez
2010-2012

Vice President: Vacant
2010-2012

Secretary: Ellen Silge
2010-2012

Treasurer: Vacant
2010-2012

Trustees
Don McEnhill (retiring)
2005-2011

Donita Proctor (retiring)
2005-2011

Al Pucci
2008-2014

Kate Barrett (resigned)
2008-2014

Financial Report:
Checking: \$1072.91
Savings: \$1849.26

Drinking Ban Considered



1-29-1984 Ralph Nelson chats with beach-goers during a tour of a Russian River beach. —Mark Adams

Drinking ban studied by river group

HEALDSBURG — So-called beer keg parties at popular Del Norte Beach along the Russian River near here may be banned because of the sometimes "obscene" behavior of party-goers.

"If these people drinking the beer would just act with a degree of civility towards each other and toward those of us who live by the river we wouldn't have to consider such a ban," said Ralph Nelson, president of the mountains association which operates the 8.5-mile swimming hole and beach.

One river resident — but up with him what he said are horrendous and sometimes intoxicated teenagers — has asked Nelson to consider banning all use of alcohol.

"It's the only way we can keep our discipline up here," said 31-year resident John Fox, who owns his home near the park.

could get support from a majority of river residents to impose what was defined as a "river prohibition."

"A lot of people like taking a beer or two and going down to the river," said Nelson. "There's no harm in that sort of thing."

Such a law could also be "next to impossible" to enforce, he added.

Fox argues beer-drinkers exploit the isolation of the beach and that the ban would give officials an "enforcement tool" enabling them to solve a wide range of problems resulting from juvenile drinking.

"It's become a hotspot where kids from Healdsburg, Santa Rosa and other places come to get away with whatever they can," he complained.

He also argued the sheriff's department has already promised to respond "with as many troops" as necessary to cut down the group's committee of residents which supports his idea.

Beach-goer Tom Cooley, who lives in Healdsburg, has been urging an alcohol prohibition for months.

"It would be a small price for us to pay," he said, indicating many homeowners said they enjoyed drinking along the waterfront.

Nelson said the commission recently examined the legality of both an outright alcohol ban and a "keg party" prohibition, and discovered there are no legal questions about the ability of the park district to impose them, so some had previously thought.

Two weeks ago, Nelson said he broke up a "beer riot" between two beach parties after members of one group tossed a pit bull belonging to the rival gang into the river.

That same day, Nelson said, one been "recuperating" in the shade while drinking.

Since early spring, families in cactos have been tipped into the water, litter has been strewn in bushes on private property, and parties have continued until early morning hours, beer bottles have been broken on stones on river rocks, complaining homeowners have been threatened with arson and a real estate broker organized a group of 50 people.

In early June, when the sheriff promised to lead up 8 mountain river patrols near the beach, the problems have subsided, added Fox.

But Fox and some other residents fear the problems will re-surface as soon as the month's attention over state police patrols ends.

"The homeowners up here are being intimidated by young people and are reluctant to be involved,"

sues, face to face, in measured tones. Now, THOSE were the good old days.

FITCH MOUNTAIN residents' talk of "beach terrorism" presents a new issue for this Board of Supervisors but it strikes a familiar chord. Does the name Alice Hinton ring a bell? Alice's name was something of a household word along the Russian River in the long, hot summer of 1978. A Camp Rose resident, she led a crusade against nudity on Russian River beaches and fought for a county ordinance against public urination.

She had seen plenty of both, she said, from her river front home.

Since any discussion of nudity produces suggestive snickers and bad jokes, Alice took more than her share of censure. I know someone who went to a Halloween party dressed as Alice Hinton, wearing an old fashioned bloomer bathing suit and striped beach stockings. But she was persistent and, in the long haul, reasonably effective. There are county ordinances on the books today prohibiting both of these conditions.

The new Camp Rose crusader is Ralph Nelson, president of the Fitch Mountain Association, who is keeping a photographic record of the mountains of trash left behind by weekend beachgoers. A clipping published in our newspaper of Nelson with his pile of litter has found its way to Hinton, now a resident of Aromas, a rural community near Watsonville. I think it is safe to say, after reading her letter on the subject, that Nelson's publicized interest in the problems at Camp Rose Beach pushed her button.

"I am alive and well," says Alice, "and living in beautiful Monterey County where people actually use indoor plumbing and have the nerve to wear clothing on their private and public beaches! The only excitement I've had in the past four years is writing a letter to the editor here when two weirdo's from my son's high school went to the prom in drag. Ho hum."

Alice comes right to the point, telling of the clipping sent by a friend. "There is a huge photo," she says, "of Camp Rose Beach and Ralph Nelson in the midst of garbage. Call me perverse, but it did my heart good to see old Nelson amongst the trash for I can vividly recall the one (and only) Fitch Mountain Association meeting I ever attended. Nelson stood up and informed all the other good citizens that Camp Rose Beach had NEVER had a problem 'til I came along."

"I was making waves, therefore I was giving the Mountain a bad name. All but two members treated me like I had a communicable disease.

"Now it is 1986 and Camp Rose Beach is having 'problems.' I hate to say I told them so, but I did. They thought if I went away they could bury their heads in the sand bar and have the meetings the first of each month and things would be the same. They should have kept me around. Maybe I made too much noise to suit them but at least their adjoining beach was cleaned of litter and there was a steady stream of law enforcement officers coming through when I was there. I never claimed to be running a popularity contest."

That's our Alice. As the song says: How can we miss her, if she won't go away?

This column on the right references news headlines from 1978 when our beaches made news for nudity on the beach. The most colorful quote in the article is from Alice Hinton who brought news and television reporters to the beaches in an effort to stop nudity. Hinton says, "I am alive and well living in Monterey county where people actually use indoor plumbing and have the nerve to wear clothing on their public and private beaches."

Luckily it is a battle won. THERE IS NO LONGER NUDITY ON OUR BEACHES!

The photo below is Camp Rose beach in 1934. Notice the cabins along the beach. Don McEnhill reports that they were torn down when the septic system leaked into the river.



Community Gathering Places



The beaches and dam were the favored gathering places for the youth of the mountain, there were two commercial enterprises left after the close of the Palomar Dance Pavilion/ skating rink.

This photo is the Del Rio Store about 1965-established in 1925

This family friendly store was a combination store and bar for (beer and wine) and soda fountain for children with separate facilities on each side of the room. Hamburger and Hot dogs could be ordered. The store went through a succession of owners through the years and closed in the 1980's. It is now a residence. It was a place to gather for a beer and catch up on neighborhood happenings. Pool tournaments brought many teams to play here, that introduced the area to visiting teams.

In 1972 the owners were Joyce and George Schroeder, who both served on the board of the Del Rio Woods Parks and Recreation district.

There was a succession of owners after the Joyce and George and problems began. The 1984 application for a beer and wine license was denied to the last owners as a direct result of neighborhood complaints to the Alcohol Beverage Control Department.

Don's Memories

Margaret (no last name) owned the store as far back as I remember

and lived in the back of the store. There was a bar at one end and a soda fountain at the other.

Margaret was usually behind the bar with a cigarette hanging from her lips and on three barstools in front drinking beer were Frenchie,

and Charlie St. John and Cap. Moore's wife. Frenchie's house was across the road and up from Buckley's. It burned down 1965-66, the driveway is still visible.

Charlie St. John lived in the house on Riverview across from Laura with the red, white and blue picket fence.

If you wanted some milk it was in the refrig next to the bar and Margaret would get it because us kids couldn't go near the bar. She also had the only phone in Del Rio until the late forties when a phone booth was put beside the store. Margaret sold Popsicles, Creamsicles, Fudgesicles and Eskimo Pies for the kids at the beach. When I was in High School, outside Margaret's was our hangout on weekends before we headed to Rio Nido.



Camp Rose Inn, established in 1907 has been owned by Jane Salvon Moore since 1970's. The former restaurant is now a residence, but the theater remains open.

Jane wrote a play about Capt. Fitch and wife Josefa, which was produced in 1976. Camp Rose and its owners played a significant role in the association history. It was a place for community entertainment, gathering place for neighborhoods and a hotbed of activism.

The Camp Rose Players are still presenting plays in the theater below the home under the direction of Jane Moore. She has recruited many mountain residents as actors in the plays. Visit Camproseplayers.com to join read the history of this theater and join the mailing list.

Jane has written articles for this newsletter in the past discussing the early days on the mountain. I hope you saved them!

Camp Rose was a wholesome place for families, who enjoyed movie nights, a game of scrabble or a game of pool, and Camp Burgers while visiting with their neighbors. Offered were meals, beer or wine, sodas and ice cream to the residents and beach visitors.

Celebrities visiting Camp Rose include Harry Morgan from the TV program, *Mash*. Gene Barry, star of the *Bat Masterson* TV series.

It was here that the Camp Rose Conservation Club (later changed to Fitch Mountain Association in 1979) was formed in 1974. Ben Salvon was an engineer for Sonoma County and led the committee forming the CSA 24 effort. Ben was a founding father who led many hours of meetings with officials and hosted the meetings at Camp Rose. It certainly helped that Ben knew many officials within county government and called on them to assist us in the process of approval by the Local Agency Formation Commission

We have been fortunate with the service of past officer's and trustees.

Will you step forward in a role of leadership?