

Sierra Recreation Association

October 1998

The Most Beautiful Flower

Author Unknown

The park bench was deserted as I sat down to read
Beneath the long, straggly branches of an old willow tree.
Disillusioned by life with good reason to frown,
For the world was intent on dragging me down.

And if that weren't enough to ruin my day,
A young boy out of breath approached me,
all tired from play.
He stood right before me with his head tilted down
And said with great excitement, "Look what I found!"

In his hand was a flower, and what a pitiful sight,
With its petals all worn-not enough rain, or too little light.
Wanting him to take his dead flower and go off to play,
I faked a small smile and then shifted away.

But instead of retreating he sat next to my side
And placed the flower to his nose and declared
with overacted surprise,
"It sure smells pretty and it's beautiful, too."
"That's why I picked it; here, it's for you."

The weed before me was dying or dead.
Not vibrant of colors, orange, yellow or red.
But I knew I must take it, or he might never leave.
So I reached for the flower, and replied, "Just what I need."

But instead of him placing the flower in my hand,
He held it midair without reason or plan.
It was then that I noticed for the very first time
That weed-toting boy could not see; he was blind.

I heard my voice quiver, tears shone like the sun
As I thanked him for picking the very best one.
"You're welcome," he smiled, and then ran off to play,
Unaware of the impact he'd had on my day.

I sat there and wondered how he managed to see
A self-pitying woman beneath an old willow tree.
How did he know of my self-indulgent plight?
Perhaps from his heart, he'd been blessed with true sight.

Through the eyes of a blind child, at last I could see
The problem was not with the world; the problem was me.
And for all of those times I myself had been blind,
I vowed to see the beauty in life, and appreciate
every second that's mine.

And then I held that wilted flower up to my nose
And breathed in the fragrance of a beautiful rose
And smiled as I watched that young boy,
another weed in his hand
About to change the life of an unsuspecting old man.



Sierra Park Lodge #376

On Saturday, October 24, the Sierra Park Lodge #376 receive Walter Johnson, Deputy Grand Master of California for his official visit. A short Odd Fellows Meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m., followed by an open potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. The lodge will furnish a beef roast. Please bring side dishes and deserts. All park residents are welcome.

Our regular monthly meetings are held on the second and fourth Saturday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Hall. There is a potluck held the fourth Saturday before the Lodge meeting, to which all are welcome.

Welcome to the Park

Welcome to the following families who have recently bought property in the park. The Sammets who bought the Greff cabin, the Manns who bought the Thompson cabin, the Vierras who bought the Rogers cabin. We hope you love it here as much as we do!



**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
October, 1998**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Del Wallis. Invocation by Richard Bonner. Those present were Del Wallis - President, Jim Morrison - Vice President, Richard Bonner - Treasurer, Fred Coleman - Secretary, Deena Hague and Gene Reed. Those absent were Greg Brown, Robert Snell and Ron Hawke - excused. Randy Tolbert also absent, excused.

MINUTES - Motion by Morrison, second by Hague, to approve the minutes of the September meeting as mailed. Motion carried and so ordered.

MEMBERS BEFORE THE BOARD - Ed Smith, discussed the sign and gave a history of the park and Odd Fellows Lodges that purchased the area. There is only one Odd Fellows Sierra Park. He felt we should change the new sign back to Odd Fellows Sierra Park.

Ann Coleman, status report on sign. The sign will be installed this next month. See action taken under new business.

Jim Shoemaker, would like the old roller to help in recycling. See action taken under new business.

CORRESPONDENCE - (1) From community Development Department regarding the five acres. Hearing will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors chambers, October 21, 1998. (2) Letter from the Department of Forestry to Earl Hitch about trees needing to be removed. (3) Request for form from the Corporate Compliance Center, Sacramento. (4) Information from the Department of Health Services - impact of 2000 problems on public water systems. (5) Information from Grayhill about work on five acres. (6) Letter from Department of Forestry about amendment to water course. (7) Letter from the Sands about their move to Mount Miguel Covenant Retirement Community and children, who are joint owners of the property, will continue to use the cabin. A very nice letter and the board wishes the Sands the best of luck and we will miss you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WATER - Morrison - Water usage was 270,000 gallons this month. The 210,000 gallon tank work has been completed. Bacteria okay. Will start filling Monday. It meets state standards. There were some problems with the bottom of the tank. If we would not have repaired it we would have lost it in five years. Cost then would have been \$100,000. Need to repair the four other tanks next year. A homeowner broke a line. It will be fixed. Cost time and material for repair.

ROADS - Reed - Roads were all in good repair. Ditch work is still in progress and is about 70% complete.

BUILDINGS - Hawke (absent) - Well houses have been sheet rocked. Bids are out for electrical on wells #2 and #5.

TIMBER - Coleman Small dead cedar around the gate was taken

down. Panels for gates to timber area should be in in a couple of weeks. Trees on west Jordan to come out in two weeks. Trees in park with yellow Xs are a problem with power lines and need to come out. PG&E put on the yellow Xs. Letter from Craig concerning ditch, culvert, and water bar work and grading work. Bids for next year's timber cut are going out.

RECREATION - Snell (absent) - Snell absent, we need workers for November 14, 1998 meal. Coleman to pick up turkey and start two beef roasts left over from Labor Day BBQ. The Park furnishes the meat. The rest to be brought by those in attendance. Please bring Salads, potatoes, desserts, etc. Will start at 6:00 p.m.

HEALTH AND SAFETY - Hague Letter written to homeowner about wood next to propane tank. The squirrels thank you all for slowing down. Discussion about speed bumps. Snell is checking on a new type that is being tried out in Modesto. Home owners near the five acres are riding ATVs in the five acre parcel.

EQUIPMENT - Brown (absent) - International tractor two front tires. Service on other vehicles; oil filters, etc.

FINANCE - Bonner - Bills this month were 26,999.65 This includes tank repair from water. We are using the contingency fund to help pay for the water tank. This is left over from the last year. Other money to be shifted from water reserve fund to pay for tank. Motion by Morrison and second by Hague to pay all bills. Carried and so ordered.

OLD BUSINESS - Motion by Coleman to place old sign with Odd Fellows Sierra Park facing forward behind the flag pole. Bottom of the sign four feet from the ground with benches on both sides and a plaque telling the history. Sign to be installed before next meeting. The rest to be installed later. Second by Morrison. Motion carried.

There was a wedding last month that used the Recreation Hall. Things have been missing since. They used our things, forks, knives, plastic. We had to do major cleanup. The record player also was broken and a whole case of paper towels was used. Motion by Coleman, to raise the deposit on buildings and picnic grounds be raised to \$250.00 for use by park residents. Second by Morrison. Motion carried.

Mike Cook did not show up, to be rescheduled.

Eight homeowners have not paid their assessment. They will be taken to small claims court. Three have not paid their late charges. They will also be taken to small claims court. Motion by Hague to take the eight homeowners with unpaid assessments and the three with unpaid late fees to small claims court. Second by Reed. Motion carried.



Doing this will cause the \$10.00 late fee to go up to possibly \$75.00 to cover court costs.

All use of facilities requests must be in the form of a written request to the board. No more phones requests will be accepted.

The board to have Pat Toepel to attend a future meeting concerning our water system. He has a class III water license.

Morrison is to check on a problem that we had last year with the gate. Protection for a lightening strike on power line.

Letter to property owner discussed.

NEW BUSINESS - Motion by Reed and second by Morrison to sell the old roller to Mr. Shoemaker for \$1.00,

to help smash items for recycling. Motion carried. Jim was the only person to show an interest in it. It will be used in the park. Note - Please recycle. The area down by the yard, just past the garbage bin. It is being maintained by Jim Shoemaker.

Gate sign chains to be changed to the Odd Fellows three links and FLT to be placed in the links, in natural color. The sign donated by Maynard to be placed above the fire place in the Recreation hall.

Meeting closed at 10:55 a.m. by Del Wallis. The next meeting will be held November 15, 1998, at 8:30 a.m.

Checks disbursed for August 1998

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	
10/03	8892	Acordia of California	Worker's Compensation Insurance	422.00
10/03	8893	JS West & Symons	Shop supplies	128.10
10/03	8894	Twain Harte Lumber	Building and Water	299.53
10/11	8895	JS West & Symons	Propane	38.39
10/11	8896	Village Mail & Print Stop	Newsletter printing	53.09
10/11	8897	Porter/Cal Western	Water tank repair	19,345.00
10/11	8898	AquaLab	Water testing	100.00
10/11	8899	Mother Lode Portable Toilets	Health and Safety	127.45
10/11	8900	S&K Automatic Gates	Service Call	75.00
10/11	8901	General Plumbing Supply	Water	115.13
10/11	8902	Cal Sierra Disposal	Garbage	1075.97
10/11	8903	Zaks	Equipment	272.11
10/11	8904	PG&E	Utilities	706.65
10/11	8905	AT&T	Telephone	10.78
10/11	8906	Pacific Bell	Telephone	59.31
10/11	8907	US Bank	Payroll tax deposit	862.71
10/11	8908	US Bank	Payroll deduction - Employee retirement	175.00
10/11	8909	Eric A. Carlson, Accountancy	Professional services	500.00
10/11	8910	Jasper Morrison	Mileage	45.00
10/11	8911	Fred Coleman	Mileage	56.50
10/11	8912	Deena Hague	Mileage	37.50
10/11	8913	Randall J. Tolbert	Payroll	768.15
10/11	8914	Michael W. Caropresso	Payroll	479.07
10/11	8915	Randall J. Tolbert	Payroll	768.14
10/11	8916	Michael W. Caropresso	Payroll	479.07
10/11	8917	Void		
			Total bills	26,999.65

Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association
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