

Read 1-11-76  
approved as read  
[Signature]

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MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting - Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Assn - Dec 7, 1975

Meeting called to order by Pres Bell at 9:00 AM. Those absent - Stephenson - excused absence.

CARETAKER'S REPORT:

Installed heat tapes on pipes - snow removal - built top on loader - worked on culverts - took week off for vacation last week.

Minutes for Nov. 2 read and approved as read.

Members before the Board - Cole - about vandalism at his property.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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From Alameda Council Boy Scouts of America re withdrawing offers to Park made in past.

From Kar Const Co noting that his subcontractors and suppliers have been paid in full on tank and our balance is now due.

From Robert Holmes, Jr, regarding 1975 assessment

Two letters from Mike Balanesi. He wants to know about survey of his and Richard Scott's lots -- This is in reply to Board request for those interested in survey.

From Russell Martin saying he bought Grimshaw cabin - Assessment was pro-rated and paid to title co. - balance to be paid by Grimshaw, so please bill only amount he owes to Assn. Bell contacted title co. and they are handling correspondence.

From Patrick Grimshaw showing concern and will be settled by title co. and parties concerned.

From Tuolumne County - a notice of completion of new water tank.

From Small Claims Court - re Dick & Steve Tripp suit about Park Grader and accident with their automobile. Tripp's want costs - Court found in our favor.

From Balanesi - re Pyzak letter about responsibility for culvert installed. He thinks member should be notified before any thing is done. BOD says Pyzak knew culvert was to be installed and is responsible for installation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Roads - Johnson - Drainage working well - some dirt from bar ditches needs removing - Abraham needs to be one way in winter - needs more rock down at turn by Ruth & Jordan. Discussion on drainage. No action on Burkhart Const re patchwork - so far no word from them, so no action until we hear from them.

Water - Bell - Rec call from Enguard Coating Co on how coat on tank turned out - suggested heating up inside of tank to dry - suggested hold out 'til spring and warmer weather as cost of heating and drying in winter is prohibitive. Water can't be put in tank until coating is dry.

Equipment - Cole - About big plow ready for snow - discussion on chains on front of plow truck. Mr. Grover says he will give bid on providing chains - repair links - repair - etc. Motion by Johnson, S by Wallis - Purchase barrel of cross links at lowest quoted price. 7 Yes, 0 no - passed.

New top on loader - for weather protection built by caretaker and Pat Jones. Mr. Grover will donate canvas for side curtains for loader. Discussion on selling plow from International pick-up truck now 3 years old. Full hydraulic controls. Notify members of sale. Motion by Wallis, S by Johnson - to sell plow from International pick-up on minimum bid of \$700.00 - bids in by Dec 24th. Passed, 7 yes, 0 no.

Recreation - Harmer - Deposits were received from three groups for the use of the Rec Hall. Motion by Wallis, S by Dean - to accept the three groups on the dates asked for. Passed.

Bill Furman's Scout group wants to camp in the camp ground on a winter weekend - OK, can use rest rooms in Rec Hall.  
Harmer reported potluck last night very well attended. Xmas Tree decorated by all. No more potlucks 'til spring.  
Discussion - Who can clean up Rec Hall after winter groups - suggested Bob Walker be contacted if he wants job.

Wallis reports - Posts to keep snowmobiles off foot bridges by lake installed - signs in four places warning of thin ice on lake installed. Also sign on new toboggan run showing return run. Snowmobiles asked to stay off toboggan runs.

Real Estate - Wallis - Del Wallis wrote asking to be put on list and one for Wm Gillis wanting one of 3 lots on Abraham when available after cleared of Girl Scout action. His request put with others already making request previously. No response from Girl Scouts Trustees of Cedar Brook. Response from Boy Scouts forwarded to attorney. Legal action proceeding.

Bell reported deeds being drawn up for land swap soon to be forwarded to patent attorney, then to us by U S Forest Service.

Buildings - Dean - Panels to be installed on Rec Hall Porch for winter.

Health & Safety - Pat Jones reported 2 dead trees near road going out of Park - danger of falling on road and power line. Johnson and Jones will go and look at and decide on action. Dead tree in back of Burton lot on Assn property should be removed to prevent damage in case of falling. To be investigated.

Finance - Walton - Read budget sheet June 1 to Nov 30, '75. Paid out expenses of \$3489.49. Bal Nov 30, 1975 Checking \$3855.90; Savings \$23919.90; Equipment Reserve \$6705.68; Accounts Receivable \$2506.18. Motion by Cole, S by Wallis - to pay the bills. Passed.

Motion by Hildebrand, S by Harmer - that we pay tank cont Kar Const final payment as completion papers recd and agreement was pay by 30 days after official completion. Passed, 7 yes, 0 no.

Walton suggests for better accommodations we move to Modesto our checking and savings accounts, same Co, different branch. Motion by Hildebrand, S Harmer - to transfer checking and savings accounts to Modesto branches of same banks. Passed, 7 yes, 0 no.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Wallis asked how many inquired about lot survey - Cole says a number have requested the survey at \$60.00 (the price previously stated only if everyone in an entire block requests the survey). Cole hopes to gather the information on the total number by January 1st and is requesting all who are interested, but have not signed up to do so immediately to see if they can qualify for the price quoted.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Wayne Merritt from Santa Cruz is requesting to join the Order and the Assn as he has purchased the Gregory-Jenkins cabin. An effort will be made to contact someone from Santa Cruz Lodge to take his application.

Meeting closed at 12:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
William Beauregard  
Acting Recording Secretary

For the History Buffs here is an excerpt from an article, "Arroyo de Sonora" by Carlo De Ferrari, Tuolumne County Historian, that was printed recently by the Daily Union Democrat:

"One of Sonora's prominent pioneer residents, a very Irish Irishman named Peter Mehen, was not in the least surprised by the astounding riches uncovered in the Lone Star mining claim.

Like many other Argonauts, he had arrived in California dreaming that he would find the ground of the mining region literally riddled with golden nuggets awaiting the gathering.

To facilitate his personal collection, Mehen provided himself with a stout iron-bound oaken bucket. And on the chance that he might be called upon to occasionally disinter a particularly large specimen from its native bog, he had thoughtfully added a pick and shovel.

One morning in the spring of 1840, Mehen launched his brief but spectacular career as a miner. Wisely seeking the counsel of experience, he made friends with several miners who were busy working in the Arroyo near the park site.

To them he naively confided his desire to quickly fill his bucket with golden nuggets and asked for suggestions as to where this objective might be accomplished with facility - and preferably without too much effort on his part.

Such faith in the productivity of the mines was not uncommon among newcomers, and the miners never batted an eye at the request - even though they were personally working hard to make an ounce a day apiece with their cradle.

Mehen was solemnly assured that such a place as he sought did indeed exist just up the creek where the water flowed over a stone ledge forming a small cascade which may still be seen under the Washington St. bridge.

It was a very rich spot he was assured, but the gold lay beneath the rocks and they would have to be removed first - but he would be welcome to the treasure if he would be willing to do the work. Thus Peter Mehen began his short mining career with a shattering, arm numbing assault upon the stone ledge with his pick. Quickly discouraged in his frontal attack, he then commenced a less vigorous attempt to outflank the stone reef by digging in the bank under which it disappeared.

While Mehen was so employed, his generous new friends thoroughly enjoyed the joke they had played upon him and gleefully called the attention of passersby to the "greenhorn" who was trying to sink a shaft in solid stone. Besides, the spot had been well prospected long before and the golden treasures trapped in its crevices claimed.

After a time, interest in Mehen subsided and he worked away diligently in the claim they had so graciously given him. Late that afternoon the miners below looked up to see him approaching. He was bent over almost double and at first glance they assumed that his back had fallen victim to the unaccustomed labor of mining; but a closer look revealed that Mehen's defects in posture stemmed only from his two-handed efforts to drag along his oaken bucket.

They had the feeling that somehow the joke was no longer on Peter Mehen, and their suspicions were quickly confirmed by a peek into his bucket which was nearly a third full of gold dust and nuggets. Some \$8,000 worth as the scales later confirmed!

In reply to their excited questions, Mehen explained that after digging a short distance into the creek bank he had uncovered a crevice in the ledge that had been literally filled with gold. No, it hadn't excited him - after all, wasn't that what he had come to California for? And no, he hadn't shouted news of his discovery - why interrupt the other miners who were undoubtedly busy collecting their own piles of nuggets?"

We hope you have enjoyed this little look into the past. We will tell you more about this early settler in Sonora and others later.

# YOUR PARK NEWS

## ODD FELLOW SIERRA PARK DEC '75

### SNOW TIME IS WITH US -

You're reminded - please make an effort not to park where you interfere with snow removal. If you can't dig out an area off the road, check with caretaker for an area where you can park your vehicle.

During the snow weekends and whenever ice is on roads all one way signs must be observed to protect road surface and promote safety.

Don't use toboggans, sleds and sausers on park roadways. Some serious accidents have been caused in the past between these and vehicles. There have also been too many close calls.

Our new toboggan run down off of the end of Jordan by the Scout Camp is in great shape and open, snow permitting. Snowmobiles are asked to keep off this run. Also, snowmobiles are cautioned to keep clear of lake as lake ice is never thick enough to dependably support a person, let alone a heavy snowmobile.

If the snow holds off or melts, please don't dump your pine needles or slash in drainage ditches as it plugs the culverts.

### DOGS -

We understand that Tuolumne County now has a leash law. More details in a later news letter.

### CONDOLENCES -

A note of sorrow - Young Dennis Aston, son of Norma Aston who owns a cabin here at the Park, was killed recently in an auto accident. Our sympathy to his family for this great loss.

### EQUIPMENT SALE -

In a policy to let members have a chance to bid on any equipment either bought or sold by your Assn. we have the following:

One Myers brand snow-plow attachment, complete with attaching brackets for a 3/4 ton pick-up. It has a 7 ft. blade, complete with hydraulic controls. This unit, new, would cost in excess of \$1700.00. It's three years old and a minimum bid of \$700.00 will be accepted.

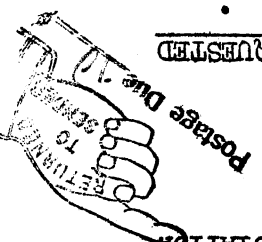
For more information and your bid, contact Ed Cole, Assn Equipment Chairman, phone (209) 524-3778. Bid deadline is December 24, 1975.



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