

Sierra Recreation Association

March 1998

From the Prez

Our 1998 Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 24, and it is time for all park members, not just the board of directors, to give some thought about the direction the park has taken this past year and develop some expectations for 1998-99. Our fiscal house is in order, our roads and water system have been getting some much needed maintenance and our five acre subdivision is in the final stages of approval. We still have much to be done, but we are progressing.

The board believes we have a good handle on the Park's business, but we can use your suggestions. Please take a minute and send to us in writing, questions or recommendations you have regarding the Park. If you do this before the annual meeting it will give us an opportunity to do our homework and address them at the annual meeting.

Del

Sierra Park Lodge #376

Our business meeting is on the second Saturday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center. We encourage all Lodge Members to attend the meeting and social time.

The fourth Saturday, at 6:00 p.m. is potluck night. Odd Fellows and non-Odd Fellows are welcome. It is a great opportunity to become better acquainted with your neighbors and find that we have some pretty good cooks in our Park.

Our annual corned Beef and Cabbage Feed was held on Saturday, March 14. There was general agreement that this was one of the best! Many thanks to the people who decorated, cooked, set up, and tore down. Bob Snell did a great job organizing. Many thanks, Bob.



Park History - by Clare Smith

I was pleased when I received "a bit of history" from Louis Florence. On November 28, 1948, when the first group of people met to discuss the possibilities to establish our park, he was elected as secretary/treasurer. On June 26, 1949, he was subsequently elected to the first board of directors for a three-year term. Needless to say, he played a commanding role in the development of our wonderful area. His letter is quoted as follows:

"Sorry! I do not remember the names of all the people who played a very important role in establishing the Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association.

A group of Odd Fellows got the idea of establishing a recreation park in the Sierras for use of members and their families as early as 1947. A steering committee headed by Alvin Faye (Sonora) was established to search for and recommend suitable property for the project. Alvin lived in the Sonora area. He owned a business on Highway 108, just above Sonora. His knowledge of the area was

extremely valuable in contracting local Real Estate Agents and Attorneys. Herb Kearns (Stockton) was a key member of this committee. Loren Hosmer (Modesto) and a Mr. Monday (also Modesto) and I (Tracy) and others were on this steering committee. Some time early in the program, Gene Bianchi (Oakdale) who was Past Grand Master, came on the committee. He later became President of the Association and he was primarily responsible for getting approval of the California Grand Lodge to use the "Odd Fellows" name in our Association title. I was selected to serve as Secretary/Treasurer until I left the area in 1951.

The committee considered several locations and decided to purchase the 740 acres near Long Barn. I think the price was \$76,000.00 We had no money at that time. Members of the committee went to several lodges in Stockton, Lodi, Modesto, Oakdale, Tracy, Sonora, and Manteca. We presented our plans to the members of those lodges and were able to "borrow" money on sheer faith. We were able to purchase the property with a \$10,000.00 down payment and the balance in installments.

We then hired an Attorney to draw up Articles of Incorporation and filed with the State of California as a Non-Profit Recreation Association.

As soon as we got incorporated, we elected a Board of Directors and Officers of the Association. We hired a civil Engineer to survey the property and draw up subdivision plans. We filed our subdivision plans with the county. We also sold some timber on the property to help defray our expenses.

We had a temporary setback about that time. The previous owner had died; consequently, the property had become part of an estate. We had purchased it from the apparent heirs. However, other parties had different ideas and claimed to be the legal heirs. They filed a lawsuit against the sellers and named the Odd Fellows Association as co-defendants. This stopped our progress temporarily. We hired an attorney and filed a counter suit. The court ruled in our favor, i.e., that we (The Odd Fellows) had bought in good faith. We were released from the litigation and permitted to proceed with the provision that our installments be paid and held in escrow pending final outcome of the lawsuit. Note: We had to pay the cost of our legal battle.

At the time we purchased the property, we were not able to obtain Title Insurance due to some clouds caused by Old Spanish Land Grants.

During the development period, the Officers and Board Members served as volunteer sales representatives to show the property to prospective buyers. Some of the early buyers also volunteered to serve as escorts to show lots to other members. Some of the board members and volunteers were on site every weekend to assist prospective buyers.

The association bought a surplus Army squad tent and put it up on the property for overnight and weekend use by volunteers and other members. There were many very enjoyable times spent by members in that tent during the formative months. I will always have very fond memories of the times spent there. Especially when the Bob and Mabel Morris family and the Florence family spent weekends there. We had to hide our food from the bears. There was an apple tree on the meadow that produced excellent apples for pies and apple strudel. (The bears also liked the apples.)

(Continued on page 4)



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 15, 1998

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

MINUTES - Motion by Bonner, second by Hague to approve the minutes of the February 15, meeting with the correction that the date of the corned beef and cabbage potluck be changed from March 16, to March 14. Motion carried.

MEMBERS BEFORE THE BOARD - None.

CORRESPONDENCE - Jasper Morrison, complaint about garbage around the cabin next to his. The Health Department is to be called.

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT - Water usage was 160,000 gallons this month.

Completed projects

- Replaced 4-inch ball valve on Rebecca and Deborah.
- Replaced 2-inch ball valve on Rebecca and Deborah.
- Replaced 40 feet of 2-inch water line.
- Plowed snow and sanded roads.
- Installed paper towel racks in the men's and women's restrooms.
- Picked up Track lighting at Sugar Pine hardware to be installed in the lodge.
- Cleared roads to the water tanks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WATER - Water usage this month was up to 160,000 gallons in February. The water usage was up due to the break mentioned under the Park Manager's report.

ROADS - **Reed** - Will check roads for the 1998 repair. Will report at the April meeting. Specifications for roads to be worked out before any bids are requested.

BUILDINGS - **Hawke** - Bids on the insert for the caretaker's cabin were from \$2600 to \$3400. Motion by Coleman and second by Reed to allow Hawke to work with two low bids and make a selection. Motion carried.

TIMBER - **Coleman** - (Report given by Craig Tolmie) 1. Wants to improve park roads. 2. Discussion about clean up in the area behind homes and fire break along ridge top. The two acres

behind homes and ridge top should be done at the same time to make it economical for the park. The most important areas for fire safety are: a) 100 feet behind homes, b) the ridge top, c) clear brush 25 feet on each side of dirt roads. We must do what is necessary to stop a crown fire. 3. Presented a timber management plan.

RECREATION - **Snell** - The corned beef and cabbage meal of March 14 was very good. There was a good turnout of 43 people. The fishing derby is coming up in June. We need donations for this event. It will be held June 13, 1998.

HEALTH AND SAFETY - **Hague** - The safety problems concerning children mentioned in the last meeting appears to have been solved.

FINANCE - **Bonner** - Bills this month total \$7924.32. Motion by Hawke and second by Coleman to pay all bills. Motion carried and so ordered. All delinquent accounts have been cleared up.

EQUIPMENT - **Brown** - No report.

OLD BUSINESS - Del reported the five-acre split has gone through the public comment phase and is on hold. The county has "discovered" that the Sugar Pine-Long Barn Road has not been officially abandoned and in an unrelated action the County Counsel is requiring additional conditions for the half-mile road. He recommended the board adopt a two-track approach to the five-acre split. The first would be to continue developing the five-acre split as planned, while the second would evaluate the expense and income to date and develop some hard numbers on what expense remains. In addition, attention would be given to what road maintenance costs would be, the right we would give up, i.e., legal, intellectual, and financial burdens we subject ourselves to. Motion by Coleman, second by Hawke to hire a licensed/certified appraiser to develop market value of the five acres as a seven-lot split, four-lot split and a five acre parcel.

NEW BUSINESS

- Proxy votes are to be sent out after the April Board Meeting.
- New contract for Mike from part-time to full time. Motion by Bonner and second by Hawke to increase Mike's Salary, effective March 1, 1998, to \$1150 a month and two weeks' vacation with pay after one year. Work week will be 40 hours and emergencies on weekends. Motion carried and so ordered.
- Motion by Bonner, second by Hawke to raise Randy's salary to \$2000 a month (\$100 increase). Motion carried and so ordered.



Meeting closed at 10:30 a.m. by Del Wallis. Next meeting to be held April 12, 1998, at 8:30 a.m.



Park History (continued from page 1)

In due time, the association got a water supply developed. The county and the association graded roads into and within the park. Members were able to build their summer (or recreation) homes.

All efforts of establishing and developing the Park has paid off in the enjoyment and pleasure of its members and residents.

I hope this gives you a little of the background and process that went into developing this wonderful park.”

Sincerely,
Louis Florence.

I would like to thank Carole Morris Rueb for obtaining this information from Louis Florence and sending it to us. Next month we'll share Carole's memories.

Checks disbursed for January/February 1998

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	
3/9	8653	Twain Harte Lumber	Roads, Water, Buildings	183.11
3/9	8654	US Bank	Taxes	649.08
3/11	8655	Randall J. Tolbert	Payroll	790.15
3/11	8658	Michael W. Caropreso	Payroll	451.19
3/15	8659	Randall J. Tolbert	Payroll	790.17
3/15	8660	Michael W. Caropreso	Payroll	451.19
3/15	8661	U.S. Postmaster	Bulk Mail Trust Fund Deposit	250.00
3/15	8662	Department of Motor Vehicles	Pickup License	159.00
3/15	8663	Duane StClair Trucking	Sand delivery	144.00
3/15	8664	Pacific Bell	Phone	59.63
3/15	8665	J.S. West Propane	Propane	110.91
3/15	8666	Mother Lode Portable Toilets		63.73
3/15	8667	Zaks	Shop supplies	38.81
3/15	8668	Modesto Welding	Shop supplies	26.91
3/15	8669	Village Mail and Gift	Newsletter	53.57
3/15	8670	Cedar Ridge Electric	Repairs of caretakers Cabin	327.50
3/15	8671	AT&T	Long Distance Telephone	5.98
3/15	8672	Cal Sierra Disposal	Garbage	434.60
3/15	8673	W.H. Breashears	Fuel	385.49
3/15	8674	AquaLab	Water testing	75.00
3/15	8675	PG&E	Utilities	506.59
3/15	8676	Eric A. Carlson Accounting	Professional services	350.00
3/15	8677	Tuolumne County Tax Collector	Property taxes	1,455.45
3/15	8678	Del Wallis	Office supplies	30.76
3/15	8679	Robert Snell	Mileage	37.50
3/15	8680	Fred Coleman	Mileage	56.50
3/15	8681	Deena Hague	Mileage	37.50
			Total	7,924.32

Voided Checks

8651 - 8652 - Printer misfeed

8656 - 8657 - Printer misfeed

Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association
P.O. Box 116
Long Barn, CA 95335

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

U.S. Postage Paid
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