



# BENNETT VALLEY VOICE

VOLUME 5 Number 3

BENNETT VALLEY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

July, 1982

## MEMO FROM THE BOARD

BVHA  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
1981-82

Well, here we are, well into summer-- even if summer weather hasn't arrived yet.

We'd like to bring you up to date on items we've brought to your attention.

1. 7129 Bennett Valley Road. This lot split was approved by the P.R.A.C. members with numerous conditions. However the Board felt that because the problems of slope stability, etc. of the proposed roadway had not been sufficiently addressed, the necessary supportive studies had not been provided and the problem of the erroneous zoning had not been resolved, the approval should be appealed to the Planning Commission. An appeal was filed and the hearing before the Planning Commission held on June 17, 1982. Their decision was to uphold the appeal - and deny the subdivision without prejudice. (Without prejudice means the applicant can submit a new plan within a year's time.)

We have just received notice that Mr. Neal, the applicant, has filed an appeal of the Planning Commission's decision. This will go before the Board of Supervisors; however, no date has been set.

2. The proposed change in Fire Protection Boundaries. The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on June 29, 1982, on the LAFCO approval of the transfer of portions of Pressley Road and 3 parcels on Petaluma Hill Road from the Bennett Valley to the Penngrove Fire Protection District. This hearing was continued to JULY 27 at 2:15 P.M. so that Supervisor Adams could collect more information from all Bennett Valley Fire Protection District residents. LAFCO spokesman, Jim Moore, informed the Board of Supervisors that a protest petition needed to be submitted and that at least 25% of the area affected by the change needed to register a protest. Apparently noone was aware of this requirement before the hearing. Therefore, it is our understanding, Supervisor Adams plans to send out a survey to BVFPD residents to get their feelings on whether this change

President	Tamara Boulton
Vice-President	Nancy Batson
Secretary/Treasurer	Barbara Maberry
Ted Chamberlain	Max Moberly
Bill Jacobs	Paul Mowbray
Sam Mitchell	Warren Watkins

.....  
is warranted. It is very important to the welfare of the Bennett Valley Fire Protection District that you respond!

You may recall from our April newsletter, that your board of directors took a stand in opposition to the transfer. Essentially, our reasons are that the change does not improve the fire protection to the area proposed for detachment due to the similar response times between Penngrove's closest sub-station and Bennett Valley's main station plus the fact that there is already a mutual aid pact between the two districts. However, the loss of revenue is significant as far as the Bennett Valley FPD is concerned and it would be detrimental to the continuation of good fire protection as is now afforded Bennett Valley residents.

WE URGE ALL MEMBERS, even if you've already called or written, TO RESPOND TO SUPERVISOR ADAMS' SURVEY! Don't forget!

## DAIRIES IN BENNETT VALLEY?

.....  
In previous newsletter articles we have written about early agricultural pursuits in the Bennett Valley area. There were the vast acreages of vineyards around the turn of the century which were destroyed by disease and subsequently removed. Only recently have grapes made a significant comeback here using pest-resistant varieties. Even more recently, as has been reported, wineries have been established. But the question of what happened agriculturally here between the two wine grape booms has

not been addressed.

Well, a little talk and research has revealed that many farm and ranch efforts had their day in and around the valley. In the early 1900's there was some timbering. Also, apple, pear, and walnut orchards were planted during these years, and substantial numbers of turkeys and sheep were raised. Most of these activities are now minimal or non-existent. Additionally, our dairies are gone.

It was somewhat surprising to me to discover that the dairy industry, which thrived in the 1930-1960 years, was probably the most dominant single purpose business ever to locate here! In fact, at one time there were in excess of 13 grade A dairies (processed into milk) and 9 grade B dairies (processed into cheese, etc) in the area stretching from the city of Santa Rosa to Enterprise Road and between Bennett Peak and Pressley Road. There was the Sartori dairy near the Bennett Valley market, the Dedekam dairy at the golf course, the Mitchell brothers dairy at Matanzas Creek dam, and the Gambonini, Carithers dairy where the landmark white Carithers home stands today. Up the valley, the LaFranconi dairy is now Matanzas Creek Winery and vineyard, the Walker dairy was across from the Woodside development, and the Jacobs and Burnside dairies were in the center of the valley behind Walker's. Further south was the Raffo brothers dairy on Enterprise road. The remaining grade A dairies included the Orr dairy along Pressley Road, the Guenza brothers operation at the end of Guenza Road (of course!), the Rucker dairy nearby, and the Moller dairy on Crane Canyon Road. This completes the loop around the valley. The numerous grade B dairy operations sold their product for cheese making or used it in animal feed. These dairies were largely located along Grange Road or off Bennett Valley Road.

You might ask "Why did all these dairies locate in Bennett Valley?" or "What happened to all the dairies?". First, I am told, the region was chosen because of its good climate, plentiful water, abundant feed, well-drained soil and proximity to markets in Santa Rosa, Marin, and San Francisco. Milk trucks from Petaluma Co-op (Clover), Golden state (later Foremost), Stornetta, Marin Dell, Bordens, and Safeway were regular

sights here, originally taking the milk in the familiar 10 gallon galvanized cans and later hauling it off in stainless steel tanker trucks. Of all the dairies in operation, only the Walker dairy chose to process its milk and deliver it locally to stores and homes. Remember the refillable glass milk bottles at your doorstep?

The closure of the Mitchell brothers and Jacobs dairies in the early 1960's ended the industry here. Larger, more modern dairies were in operation in the San Joaquin Valley. Land and feed costs had increased when the region became popular for homesites, horses, grapes, and golfing. Labor costs became prohibitive when automatic milkers and new barn designs came into use. Poor health of some long-time dairymen forced them to shut down, and large ranches were divided into smaller ones. Some of the cattle herds we see today in Bennett Valley are reminders of the once dominant industry. The dairy herds included Jersey, Guernsey, and Holstein. Each dairyman had his favorite breed. Some said the Holstein gave the most milk but with lower milkfat. Others liked the Jersey because of its high fat content, but it yielded fewer gallons. The Guernsey, I was told, was a compromise but had potential breeding problems.

Other remnants of the dairy era are still visible. Some of the lakes and ponds we see along the roads today were created to service the massive needs for water by dairies. Structures that are visible include the Matanzas Creek Winery which was a former milk barn. Other milk barns have become nice homes as evidenced at the old Rucker dairy, now a veal operation. The milk barn on the Jacobs ranch remains untouched since the last cow walked out in the early 1960's. Barns on the Carithers, Mitchell, and Guenza properties are still standing. Look for these reminders of dairy prominence on your way through the valley.

.....Warren Watkins.....

In closing--our annual election meeting will be coming up in October--you might want to circle the 3rd Wednesday now. We will be reminding you again before the meeting.

Have a safe & happy summer!

BENNETT VALLEY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

July 1982

W. O. & Ruth Adams  
 Ed & Gail Akamine  
 G. Aldridge  
 James & Janet Alfieri  
 Mr. & Mrs. John F. Azevedo  
 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Babineaux  
 Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Baculo  
 Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Bartlett  
 Nancy & Richard Batson  
 Bennett Valley Farm  
 Bruce & Virginia Benson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Berger  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Bertram  
 Norm & Eve Boling  
 Gordon & Tamara Boulton  
 Jan & Al Brutocao  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Buck  
 Faith & Patrick Campbell  
 Jeannine Carniato  
 Robert & Patricia Carroll  
 Mr. & Mrs. G. R. Chamberlain  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ted Chamberlain  
 Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Christensen  
 Mel & Nancy Clarke  
 Myron B. & Sue Close  
 James & Margaret Coops  
 William & Joan Costello  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jacques Crapuchettes  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Cuneo  
 B. J. & J. P. Dayton  
 J. E. Destruel  
 David C. Detrick  
 Mr. & Mrs. Norman E. Dolan  
 Ray & Carolyn Dowdy  
 Grace E. Dumm  
 Melvin T. & Helen E. Ehlers  
 Norine M. Elledge  
 Suzanne Emrich  
 Marilyn K. Evans  
 Yvette Fallandy  
 Leonard & Bertha Fillmore  
 James R. Fatland  
 Richard Frahm  
 Josee M. Ghilarducci  
 Duncan & Helga Gillies  
 James & Barbara Grant  
 William & June Greer  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Gregerson  
 Henry & Joyce Gronroos  
 Thomas & Nancy Gross  
 Walt & Carol Guanella  
 Paul & Rita Hamilton  
 Paul G. & Shirley I. Hannon  
 Stephen & Mary Harper  
 Doug & Sylvia Havemann  
 Fred & Diane Hazlett  
 Clifford V. Heimbucher  
 Dick & Sandy Hensley  
 Ms. Ann Hodder  
 L. B. Holloway  
 O. P. & Mary Lou Hopkin  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Horgan  
 Darryl & Linda Huismann  
 Weldon & Gladys Jackson  
 Bill & Ruth Jacobs  
 Norman F. Jacobson  
 Louis & Ruth Jaroslovsky  
 Noral K. Jefferson  
 Ron & Marcia Johns  
 Jon & Betty Joslyn  
 Ernest & Lorraine Keefer  
 Joseph & Carolyn Keith  
 Frank W. Kimper  
 Fred & Penny King  
 Mr. & Mrs. Clint Koch  
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward T. Kreger  
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Krutak  
 Barbara Kunz  
 Frank & Marjorie Lange  
 Rudy & Pat Lapera  
 Paul & Maureen Larson  
 Leo Leggins  
 Jim & Verlene Leih  
 Mr. & Mrs. Harold S. Levenson  
 Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Loving  
 Raymond & Peggy Longman  
 William Morris McCarty  
 Myron & Ann McClure  
 Mr. & Mrs. Keith McDaniel  
 Martin & Olga McDonough  
 Royal E. & Betty McShea  
 Barbara & Ken Maberry  
 Bill & Sandra MacIver  
 Millie Mansfield  
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian L. Marcar  
 Larry & Joan Maroni  
 Glenn Martinez  
 James & Michele Martino  
 Robert H. & Jessie Mastin  
 Kenneth & Leane Mesches  
 Mr. & Mrs. Sam Mitchell  
 Max & Dona Moberly  
 Dr. & Mrs. S. L. Monroe  
 June Mow  
 Paul & Margie Mowbray  
 Bill & Nancy Murray  
 Michael F. & Adeena Nelligan  
 Mr. & Mrs. George Nicholas  
 Doug & Pat Noren  
 Frank P. Pennucci  
 Mr. & Mrs. Raymond L. Petersen  
 Dale & David Phillips  
 George & Margie Phillips  
 Jack & Roberta Phillips  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Quibell  
 Barbara T. Reid  
 John & Jean Richardson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Kent Richmond  
 Dr. Lois M. Roberts  
 Douglas & Mary Agnes Robertson  
 Frank & Carole Robison  
 Douglas & Rollandine Rorick  
 Richard & Karla Ruiz  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Saitone  
 Mr. & Mrs. David Sandine  
 Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Savio  
 Jacques & Sande Schlumberger  
 Lucia & James Schultz  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ron Schultz  
 Robert Seisums, M.D.  
 J. Anna Settle  
 Philip & Linda Sevier  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Shane  
 Tom & Mary Sharpe  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Shultz  
 Mr. & Mrs. E. Kent Sibbald  
 Richard & Mary Sibbet  
 Stan & Karen Sommer  
 Bob & Sharon Sorani  
 Eugene & Adrienne Staggs  
 Bill & Kathy Stambaugh  
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward Steensland  
 Dave Steiner  
 Clay Stephens  
 Philip Fay Stevenson  
 James & Marilyn Stocks  
 Phil & Judy Temko  
 Robert D. Thompson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Thompson  
 Jim & Linda Thorpe  
 Dwight & Clarice B. Tipton  
 Jack & Cheryl Tolin  
 E. J. Tripp  
 Mr. & Mrs. John F. Trowbridge  
 Jane M. Turner  
 Robert & Beverly Turner  
 Mrs. William L. Velasquez  
 Views Land Company  
 Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Voigtlander  
 Mr. & Mrs. Rolland Von Stroh  
 John & Terry Votruba  
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry L. Walker  
 George M. & Anne Waller  
 Ervin L. & Vera Watkins  
 Warren & Marilyn Watkins  
 Brent & Sally Welch  
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry White  
 Mr. & Mrs. Sam White  
 Mr. & Mrs. J. Winset  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Q. Winter  
 Mr. & Mrs. Adam Wolf  
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Wolf  
 Judy & Tony Wolff  
 Dave & Sue Zedrick  
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Zografos