



BENNETT VALLEY VOICE

VOL. 11 NO. 1

BENNETT VALLEY HOMEOWNERS ASSOC.

FEBRUARY 1988

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NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We welcome to our Board of Directors two new faces, Bill Wright and Wells Wagner. As you will see they have both dug in with both feet and are hard at work. Bill Wright has served on the fire board for a number of years and is the new Treasurer. Wells Wagner is a vineyardist and agriculturalist in the valley and is heading our road safety committee.

MEMO FROM THE BOARD

The results of the BENNETT VALLEY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION ROAD SAFETY SURVEY are partially summarized below. The responses will be analyzed (comments, speed limit recommendations, and ideas to make our roads safer) by the areas from which the responses originated: Holland Heights and BV Road from the city limits to Woodside Club Estates-BVHOA; BV Road from Woodside Club Estates to Enterprise Rd.-Bennett Ridge Community Association; Bennett Ridge-Bennett Ridge Community Association; Grange Rd. and Crane Canyon Rd.-BVHOA; Pressley Rd. to Sonoma Mt. Rd.-BVHOA; Sonoma Mt. Road to Enterprise Rd. and BV Road to Warm Springs Rd.-Enterprise/Sonoma Mt. HOA. The representatives from each of these organizations comprise THE ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE, WELLS WAGNER, CHAIRMAN. The individual groups will make recommendations to the full ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE who will compile the results for presentation to the Board of Directors of the Bennett Valley Homeowners Association for review. Once approved, the report will be submitted to Janet Nicholas for implementation by the County Road Department.

Although we had planned to submit the report to Janet in December, the analysis proved to be much more work than anticipated (especially the comments) and it will be early spring before the full report is ready. In the meantime, I have an appointment with Janet for Monday, February 8th to give her a progress report.

At that meeting I will also discuss with Janet her ideas for an Anti-Litter Campaign for the Valley. Janet wrote the BVHOA voicing her concerns for preservation of the beauty and rural character of the Valley. She suggested installing signs at all entrances to the Valley informing travelers that they "Are Entering Scenic Bennett Valley-Please Do Not Litter and Obey All Speed Limits". The actual wording of the signs would be heavily influenced by the BVHOA. Wells Wagner is chairman of the committee to work with Janet to implement this plan. He will use the same membership comprising the Road Safety Committee. This a tremendous opportunity to have a road clean up day throughout the Valley and to make recommendations on how to implement a regular litter pickup. Further information will be forthcoming as plans are solidified.

As all of you are aware the Valley suffered a series of annoying brownouts and blackouts late last year to the point that the irritation of the residents became local news in The Press Democrat. Your association complained to P.G.& E. and to the P.U.C. On December 8th I received a call from Leo Conner, Division Manager for P.G.& E. Mr. Conner wanted to inform me what P.G.& E. had done to solve the blackouts and brownouts that had plagued our Valley for years. It was discovered that the controlling

computer that distributes power had seriously underestimated the power requirements of the Valley and no one was "questioning the computer". When it was finally realized what the the real problem was, the allocated amperage from the Bellevue Station to the Valley was increased from 90 amps to 200 amps. Mr. Conner requested that I communicate this, to the Valley residents and should further problems develop to call him at 579-6360.

In conclusion, we are entering a very productive year for accomplishing our goal of preserving the RURAL AND AGRICULTURE NATURE OF THE BENNETT VALLEY. There are plans by the County Road Department for various road improvement projects; these will be reviewed by the Board of Directors of the BVHOA for conformance to THE RURAL AND AGRICULTURE NATURE OF THE BV. Michael Bates heads an "ad hoc" committee which is attempting to halt the problem of building permits being issued through the Planning Department without going through our Bennett Valley Design Review Board. Taking on the County is no small task but a necessary one to all residents new and old alike. I consider success in this effort as the most important project we have undertaken this year. Look for an update on this in the next VOICE. ATTEND THE MEETINGS - WE NEED MORE FINGERS.

Terry Babineaux

(The following is a partial summary of the road survey)

BENNETT VALLEY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION ROAD SAFETY SURVEY

Many people are concerned about the traffic problems throughout Bennett Valley--primarily the speed and improper passing. Would you please take a few moments to answer the following questions? Please feel free to make any comments as we need to know precisely what B.V. residents feel on this issue. Thanks!

Do you feel the current speed limits in the Bennett Valley are too high?

On: Bennett Valley Road	Yes: 142 : 61.47%	No: 89 : 38.53%
Grange Road	Yes: 96 : 50.53%	No: 94 : 49.47%
Crane Canyon Road	Yes: 83 : 45.11%	No: 101: 54.89%
Sonoma Mountain Road, Upper	Yes: 67 : 47.52%	No: 74 : 52.48%
Sonoma Mountain Road, Lower	Yes: 73 : 49.66%	No: 74 : 50.34%
Pressley Road	Yes: 58 : 43.61%	No: 75 : 56.39%
Enterprise Road	Yes: 54 : 42.86%	No: 72 : 57.14%

It has been suggested that roads should be double stripped to prevent passing, in whole or in part. Do you agree? Yes___ No___.

If yes, which areas do you feel should be double stripped?

All roads: Factored in results below

Bennett Valley Road: Entire Length:	89 : 40.09%
Bennett Valley Road: Curves Only :	133: 59.91%
Grange Road : Entire Length:	101: 53.44%
Grange Road : Curves Only :	88 : 46.56%
Crane Canyon Road : Entire Length:	106: 55.79%
Crane Canyon Road : Curves Only :	84 : 44.21%
Sonoma Mountain Rd.: Entire Length:	86 : 54.43%
Sonoma Mountain Rd.: Curves Only :	72 : 45.57%
Pressley Road : Entire Length:	71 : 50.00%
Pressley Road : Curves Only :	71 : 50.00%
Enterprise Road : Entire Length:	63 : 49.22%
Enterprise Road : Curves Only :	65 : 50.78%

DESIGN REVIEW VACANCY

There is a vacancy on the Design Review Board. If you are interested or know someone who is please contact George Nostrant at 546-5960 or one of the BVHA Board Members.

1988 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

We thank all past and present members for their support this past year. We had a great turnout on elections night and a large and welcome response on the road survey issue.

For those of you who are not members; being a BVHA member will help to keep you up to date on issues and information in our Bennett Valley Study District regarding land use, road issues, general plan updates, and local history by receiving the VOICE, our quarterly newsletter.

As well our monthly meetings are open to all members and residents to voice your opinions and concerns on issues at hand. The meetings are held at the Firehouse on the 3rd Wednesday at 7:30 PM.

Thanks again to all for your strong and helpful support.

WRITERS WANTED

Due to increasing workload on behalf of the board we are seeking members who would be interested in writing articles of historical and current interest for the VOICE. We are not asking for any one of you to sign for a 3 year stint but rather a part time or once written article of interest. Please contact Marilyn Franc for more information at 527-9347 or any one of the board.

Y-LUPA OR YA-LUPA

Much has been said about the proper way to pronounce YULUPA and the word's origin. According to Dr. Platon, M.G. Vallejo (he was the son of General Vallejo) Yulupa is an Indian word pronounced ee-oo-loo-pa. It means literally, "near the sea plunge" or "place of the sunset". In olden times, the conical mountain we know as Bennett Peak was named Yulupa. Due to its location, lying to the west of the

Sonoma Valley, during certain seasons of the year the descending sun would center behind this shapely peak creating quite a pleasant effect. Hence the Indian name. This same name, Yulupa, was given to the first rancho created from the lands surrounding Yulupa Mountain and deeded from Vallejo to Miguel Alvarado. Alvarado was a soldier who had served at the presidios in Sonoma, San Francisco and Santa Barbara. He gave ranching a try for a while but abandoned his effort after war began in California in 1846. Mariano Vallejo reclaimed the land (the land encompassed 3 leagues of land) but only after an extensive court battle.

Source - History of Sonoma Co. Cal., Vol. 1; Honoria Tuomey, 1926.

DAIRIES IN BENNETT VALLEY?

Editor's Note: This article first appeared on the VOICE, July 1982 and was written by past president and board member Warren Watkins. Now that the old Guenza Dairy is back in full operation, we thought you might enjoy catching up on some of the Dairies history in the 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

MEMBERSHIP DUES
THE BENNETT VALLEY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
1988

RENEWAL _____ \$^{7.00}~~5.00~~ NEW MEMBERSHIP _____ \$^{7.00}~~5.00~~

(Please Print)

NAME _____ OCCUPATION _____

ADDRESS _____

Please make checks payable to Bennett Valley Homeowners Assoc., and send in by March 31, 1988. Enclosed is a return envelope for your convenience. Send to: Bennett Valley Homeowners Assoc., P.O. Box 2666, Santa Rosa, California 95405.

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 1930-60 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 Del, 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 old Matanzas Creek Winery building 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.



BENNETT VALLEY
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
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