



San Marcos Association Newsletter

January

2001

WAP hearing is set for February 22

The CDRC hearing, which precedes the County Commissioners' hearing by at least thirty days, is set. The latest proposal by J.R. Hale Construction of Albuquerque is considered to be adequately complete and received in time for the February hearing.

You probably saw the Sunday, January 21 story in *The New Mexican*. It presented many of the facts in the modern manner of "balanced reporting". We do not pretend to any such balance. While we will present all the available facts, we see some opinions, projections and promises as more meaningful, probable and trustworthy than others. We are more concerned with the welfare of our community than with exactly where Santa Fe County can buy the gravel needed for roads.

We see the promise of 50 jobs averaging \$16,000 per year (or \$6.15 per hour for six day per week work) as being inconsistent with other like operations. How many of these jobs are to be filled by local people? How many are drivers for contract trucking companies who are already employed? We would guess that the estimates of multi-millions to be paid in gross-receipts taxes in future years (for which there are now not even any water contracts) to be overblown.

There is no mention of the jobs which will be lost in the area or the businesses which will be closed. A recognized benefit of the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park was to help existing businesses and to allow for the regrowth of some which had recently closed and others which were in planning stages.

Trail riding in the park would be greatly affected by the noise and pollution emanating from such a close-by operation (much closer than the quarter mile *The New Mexican* erroneously reported). The existing horse and bicycle tour operations feel they would probably have to close. A number of trail riding groups have expressed extreme interest in using the park. They would bring the kind of increased traffic to the area which would help support a restaurant, which has, to date, been a most marginal undertaking. There are B&B operations which are in much the same position as a restaurant. Existing businesses in Cerrillos would all grow beneficially from the existence and use of the park. It is not difficult to imagine more than 50 new and improved jobs from such growth.

The blanket denials of any dust problem, of destruction of landmarks, of noise and diesel pollution are typical of such operations. Does anyone know of a case in which such: "Oh, no...no...no.." denial had any real meaning once the operation started? The word then becomes something more like: "Oh, that's done by our subcontractor, and we have no control

Annual Meeting February 15

The meeting will be at the Turquoise Trail Elementary School at 7:00 PM on Thursday, the 15th.

In addition to an annual financial report of the Association, there will be the election of Officers and Board members, a question of dues, other money matters, discussion of the WAP situation, the status of the State Land near South Fork, and Randy Mormon of the New Mexico Public Interest Research Group will speak about a bill coming before the Legislature to cause zoning laws to be in accord with city or county plans which otherwise have no force of law.

The Board of Directors will recommend a slate of Officers as follows:

President	Donna Herring
Vice President	Walter Wait
Secretary	Virginia Eldridge
Treasurer	Hugh Nazor

To be presented for reelection to the Board of Directors are: Reneé Ingold; Walter Wait; and Donna Herring. The remaining directors will continue on the Board serving their second year.

As the Board may have up to eighteen members, and wishes to have at least twelve at any given time, additional nominations from the floor will be welcomed.

For many years the dues of your Association have been \$10 per person per year. As was detailed in the last letter, the need to mail this quarterly newsletter has greatly increased operating costs. The Board of Directors will propose to the meeting an increase to \$15 per person and a new membership of \$25 for a household. As most people have been paying \$20 for two adults, and as individuals have paid only \$10, the increase would be \$5 on all memberships.

WAP from Pg 1

over exactly how he does.....” Sure, a newspaper feels it has to print “both sides” even if and when the reporter knows the disparate relative validity of differing opinions.

It is said that the operation would not “disturb” Buffalo Mountain. They are only going to cut off the body and remove it, leaving the head. They are not to “disturb” it, just blast and remove more than half of it. Now there is candor in expression to the public. How much else from the same source would you be inclined to take at face value?

A million tons a year removed, with no noise or pollution. Let’s see: a 25,000 pound (net) truck would require 80,000 trips to haul that much. Over a 50 week, 6 day, 8 hour year (2,400 hours) that is more than one very large diesel truck every two minutes. Now consider that one is arriving as another leaves. That is more than one truck at any point along the road every minute. At forty miles per hour, there would be 8 trucks going in each direction at all times along the 5.5 mile road. Add the noise and fumes from filling those trucks with crushed rock, and you begin to visualize one source of noise and dust. Now consider that there is blasting, moving crushing, moving again, (at a minimum) all before filling trucks. Do you believe: “There is not going to be a dust problem”?

The plan is to remove 1 million tons of processed rock a year. But the newspaper quote said there would be only blasting for “a split second, once or twice a month”. 1 million tons is 2 billion pounds! To blast that much out only once a month would require over 160,000,000 pounds per blast! Those are very big blasts! But, we are told: “There is not going to be a dust problem”.

There will be 15,000 to 25,000 gallons of water a day to keep down the dust on 7.3 acres of roads and a 22 acre pit area. That is about enough water to spread on the roads alone with less than a tenth of an inch depth per day or on the roads and pit area with two one hundredths of an inch. Guess how many seconds that would take to dry out in our typical conditions. Right, no time at all!

We cannot begin to even mention all the problems and potential abuses of this operation. There will be more opinion and information on the web site <<http://www.sanmarcosassociation.org>> as it becomes available.

We do wish to mention two additional things. Property values in a fairly large area would be negatively affected for 30 years or more. A large area up Goldmine Road, as an instance, is in the path for noise and dust. The lost taxes from land already subdivided (but which would be much less likely to be sold or built on) would be a great loss to the county.

Finally, the Traditional Village of Cerrillos is a treasure. It is mentioned as a model in plans for small communities planned and approved for development in this part of the county. While it had a mining history in the past, it is now a

residential/bedroom community. It is quiet. It is peaceful. It is next to a large, new, open space park which is the same. All recent county activity has been in the direction of giving this village the respect it deserves. To blight this area by permitting the proposed zoning change would not only be a sharp reversal of policy, it would be a sign of total disregard for the entire area.

The need to be involved

It is little fun going to County Board meetings. There seems to be an endless amount of business which always has to come before the item(s) for which most of the attendees came. Too often, people are not made to feel as welcome as the sitting authority should (legally, morally and politically) make them feel.

Nonetheless, one of the most profound and direct ways in which a citizen may ever participate in our government is through attendance (to speak or just to be counted) at such meetings. Voting is something we should all do. Volunteering on boards and committees is wonderful for those with the time, expertise and interest. Involvement by attendance for issues which affect your neighborhood is a once or twice a year event which should not be avoided.

The County Development and Review Committee will be meeting February, 22 on the WAP issue. A few weeks later, the same issue will come before the County Commissioners. What is decided there is of great importance. Not only the specific ways in which such a spot rezoning is wrong for the location involved, but how the County authorities will or will not respect the existing plans, and development of this part of the county are at question.

All know, from the CGP case, how impossible it is to hold such operations to any meaningful controls. All know there is a bill to come before the legislature to regulate such mining. It is known that there is an approved plan which recognizes the area in question as involved both in open space use and with a Traditional Village. It is also recognized that there is a move to give meaning (teeth) to such approved plans with supporting legislation. If all of this should be ignored by looking only to the wishes of industrial, monied interests, what hope have we of anything being done properly in central Santa Fe County?

We hope you see why this is not just another issue. If the people are not protected in this case, when will they ever be? It is a very clear-cut case of legal protection for the people vs. just rolling over for the short term benefit of totally inappropriate money interest. Please come to the meetings.

The “Trail Grill” to replace The Dove

Buzzie, whom some of you will know from his work at the Dove and elsewhere, will be opening his new western theme, varied taste restaurant at the familiar location across from Lone Butte. See you there.

The Latest ATV Robbery

A home on Don Jose Loop was burgled very recently. The Sheriff says that the thieves came via ATV from the direction of Crazy Rabbit Road. They entered the immediate area not by the road but down the area between the two ends of the road -- behind the homes. They entered by putting a brick through a window, and then went through drawers until they found money.

All people in the area should note details of any ATV riders they see. Please note time, place and all the details of people, clothing, and machine characteristics you can notice. Honest ATV riders should not object to this. They have nothing to hide. It is the relatively few causing the problems, and we can all help to catch them.

Ortiz Mountain Health Center

The Health Center next to the Post Office in Cerrillos provides truly excellent medical coverage. Not only is service reliable and fairly prompt, it is affordable for all! Those who have insurance (or a LOT of money) pay full price. Others are seen on a sliding scale. The following is an article from the Center. What they need more than anything else is for more of us to use their services.

One just needs to open a newspaper or turn on the TV to hear about all the changes buffeting the health care system: funding and maintaining a break-even budget are more challenging than ever. And despite strong support from Presbyterian Medical Services, the Ortiz Mountain Health Center (OMHC) is not immune to this.

Federal funding is affected to a large extent by how well services are utilized: if a health center is under-utilized, funding is cut which results in fewer services being available. At OMHC we provide high quality full primary care services to those who cannot afford healthcare as well as to those who can and those who have insurance (OMHC accepts over 50 types of health insurance). A mix of all is needed to financially maintain the health center.

OMHC is serving significantly fewer people than is mandated by our federal funding sources. Some say that this is because there are not enough folks in this area to support our own health center, others say that OMHC remains an unknown and therefore under-used resource. To shed some light on this issue and hopefully to increase utilization, the OMHC advisory council will be conducting a phone survey asking if people know about OMHC, do they use services here, why or why not and what type of advertising best reaches them. If you receive a phone call, thank you in advance for taking the time to answer our questions. If you don't receive a call and would like to give us some feedback, please call 471-6266 and ask for Jane or you can email us at: LuAnn Wosick@pmsnet.org.

The San Marcos Newsletter is published by The San Marcos Association, P. O. Box 722, Cerrillos NM 87010. Contributors articles are signed; those by the editor are not. Meetings of the Association are announced on the web site. The next meeting is February 15 at The Turquoise Trail School.

Directors, Officers and editors are listed below:

Donna Herring - President	Alexis Higgenbotham
Walter Wait - Vice President	Reneé Ingold
Virginia Eldridge- Secretary	Bill Rodriguez
Hugh Nator - Treasurer - Editor	Archie Tew
Linda Murnik - Copy Editor	

State Land near South Fork

We have reported, in the past, about an incident which happened involving an ATV using the section of State Land near the South Fork Road. There has been increasing concern by neighbors about the illegal use of this land.

Your Association had a meeting with officials of the State Land Office to examine possible solutions to what seemed to be a growing problem. We met with: Robert Jenks, Assistant Commissioner Surface Resources; David Coss, Director Field Operations Division; and Marcus J. Garcia, District Resource Manager, Santa Fe District Field Operations Division. They were all highly cooperative, and willing to consider a wide variety of options.

The meeting was very helpful in understanding the current situation. The State Land Office has a charter to generate income from State Lands. Most of these funds go to schools. Leases are issued for three years for agricultural (mostly grazing) purposes, or for commercial use. The former are cheap, the latter are relatively expensive.

The lessee is responsible for control of the leased land. That is, by condition of the lease, it is the lessee who is not only liable for enforcement of the use of the land, but for any action resulting from lack of enforcement. In remote, or sparsely developed areas, this is not a hardship. Near one of the most crowded developed areas in this part of the county, it is an impossible situation.

All of the ways in which the land might be made available to controlled public use were discussed. The key word here is "controlled" and the question of who would do it. The State Land office does not have the resources and, if there is a lessee, it is his job. The requirements are beyond the abilities of one man, and require some funds for upkeep.

The San Marcos Association cannot become the entity to create and maintain an appropriately controlled open space for this section. We have neither the needed very local manpower nor the funds. What is needed is a group from the immediate neighborhood which would be willing to organize to undertake this project.

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Santa Fe, NM
Permit No. 739

(please cut at dotted line and mail with payment)

Membership is open to any resident/property owner in the San Marcos area.

Please know that all the funds of The San Marcos Association come from your annual dues. 2001 dues are \$15 per person or \$25 for a household membership (subject to 2/15/01 meeting approval). The mailing of the newsletter is a considerable added expense, and the Association does need your dues as well as your involvement.

If your year 2000 dues are owing, please send a check to **The San Marcos Association, P. O. Box 722, Cerrillos, NM 87010-0722**. Please fill in and include this form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

email: _____

Particular concerns: _____

Thank you, your support adds to the "clout" of the organization as well as to its ability to fund its activities.

Helen Boyce

Helen's name has been removed from the list of active directors. She has retired from the Board of Directors after decades of leadership in your association. Helen moved here with Richard when there were six houses south of St. Michael's. She was a founder of the S.M.A.

She is known by hundreds who attended (or sent children to) her Turquoise Trail Learning Center. She has represented this area for the Association and as an individual before more public bodies and interest groups and has spoken out about more issues than can be remembered.

Her decision was not due to any lack of interest in the area or the association, but reflected a personal desire for more time at home.

We hope we can keep to her high standards as we carry on without her. We also have a small hope that she may someday find too much time on her hands, and decide to reinvolve herself in a more active role with your Association. She remains a member - of course.