



NEW CAMPSITES are being prepared for the influx of tourists expected at the Castle Crags State Park. There are 59 campsites already with more planned. Here, Leo Mason, left, and Jim Hartman, are busily engaged at repair work on one site. — Photo by Don Kettler



MAKING WAY FOR PROGRESS are these houses in Castle Crags State Park. The park entrance, office, staff residences and service yard are all in the path of the new improvements scheduled for the Highway 99 freeway which will slice through the park. — Photo by Don Kettler

New Highway 99 Freeway Will Slice Through Castle Crags State Park

By PEGGY WALSH
CASTELLA—Along with the influx of campers next month, the staff of Castle Crags State Park is anticipating the arrival of other guests . . . state highway engineers, contractors and heavy equipment operators.

The park entrance, office, staff residences and service yard are all in the path of the new Highway 99 freeway, Gibbons and Reed contractors, Lake City, have been granted the contract for the 4.4 mile section of four-lane freeway which will slice through this little community and the 5,000 acre state park adjoining it.

Land clearing operations have been started by the contractors north and south of the state park but Jewell N. Caughell, park supervisor, says he intends to remain unperturbed until the equipment starts moving in.

"Relocation is the responsibility of the state division of highways," he said. "Our job is to keep the park in operation." He admits this may not be efficient or convenient and is looking forward to a more tranquil time next year after the upheaval has been completed.

The park has 59 campsites, used to full capacity during the three summer months. With an average stay per car of 1.7 days, this means a rapid turnover of camp visitors each day. Caughell estimates that about three fourths of the 63,000 park visitors each year come during the summer months, most of them planning on an overnight stay.

Those arriving late in the day are apt to be disappointed, Caughell said. Last August 485 cars were turned away and there is no estimate of those who read the "no vacancy" sign and drove on without making inquiries.

The spectacular Castle Crags from which the park draws its name attracts more camera fans than hikers. According to the register at the Crags only 138 hikers completed the 2.7 mile climb last year to the end of the crag trail. Those who inquire about the trail difficulties are told "It's downhill all the way back," Caughell said.

The park is primarily an area in its natural state. There are only 2.8 miles of road open to the public. The trail to the Crags and a one-and-one-half mile trail along the Sacramento River are the only maintained trails.

"Most people come because they are attracted to the out of doors for one reason or another," Caughell said. Some fish, some hike, some take pictures, some just sit around or get acquainted with those camping nearby. He said the majority of the campers are considerate of each other and eager to cooperate with the park staff. "Of course, we remember a few of the others," he admitted ruefully.

Wildlife in the park includes deer, bear, chipmunks, squirrels, skunks, porcupine and bobcats. Except for the chipmunks and squirrels, the wildlife is not seen except by the very observant, Caughell said. He tells of two bear that became a nuisance last year and had to be trapped and moved out. "We protect the bear from the people, rather than the people from the bear," he said, "because a bear in its wild state prefers to be left alone and only upon encouragement becomes a bum and a menace."

The park has a developed area on the east bank of the Sacramento River for picnicking and day visiting only. Although there are no group picnic facilities, this area is the scene of many school, club and organizational outings, Caughell said.

One of the most consistent of the visiting groups is the Wednesday morning breakfast club from Dunsmuir, a group of retired and pensioned people, who will resume their weekly breakfast picnics as soon as warm weather is established.

Caughell who is more eager to talk about the park than himself states he came to Castle Crags two years ago from Jedediah Smith State Park at the extreme northwest tip of the state.

He says his assignments in 11 years of state park work would sound like a California travelogue. But he says each particular area from the desert to the redwoods has its particular charm and working with the two other permanent staff members and three seasonal staff members at Castle Crags is a pleasant, challenging job.

Meanwhile the survey stakes at the park entrance announce impending change.



THIS SCENIC ENTRANCEWAY to Castle Crags State Park is scheduled for relocation under present expansion plans of the Highway 99 freeway. The new route will cut through the park proper. — Photo by Don Kettler

Present Wheat Program Will Continue One Year

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senators had a choice of at least four widely varying wheat programs today as they tried to choose a way to ease mounting grain surpluses.

It appeared likely that no matter what their decision, the present wheat program—which helped build up the huge grain stocks—must continue another year.

On June 1—just 10 days away—Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson must announce a new national wheat program. Present law requires an allotment of at least 55 million acres and a support price of not less than 75 per cent of parity.

Parity is a price determined under farm law to be fair to farmers in relation to their costs.

Both the Senate and House would have to agree on a new program before June 1 to make it effective for the coming year. The House, working on a different program, is not expected to act on it before that date.

Wheat is grown under strict production controls, with each farmer allotted a specific number of acres for his crop. He is penalized if he grows more. But despite sharp acreage cutbacks, the amount of wheat grown has greatly exceeded that sold. The government holds more than a full year's supply obtained under price support loans.

How to cut production still further without hurting the farmers who grow the wheat has become a major problem.

Benson, who has had difficulty winning congressional approval of his farm plans, wants to lower wheat price supports over the next three years, and gradually let farmers grow as much wheat as they want. His theory is that lower prices will cause many farmers to quit growing wheat.

He proposes to base price supports not on parity, but on average market prices of the three preceding years. A bill to authorize his program was introduced Thursday by Sen. Everett M. Dirksen (R-Ill.), the GOP floor leader, as a possible substitute.

Pending before the Senate is a stopgap wheat program for the next two years approved by its Agriculture Committee.

It would retain the 55-million-acre planting allotment, lower supports to 65 per cent of parity for those complying with individual farm allotments, and tighten penalties for excess planting. Those who voluntarily reduce planting 20 per cent below their allotments would be offered price supports at 80 per cent of parity.

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), acting for a group of Midwest wheat senators, offered a similar plan that would keep the minimum support rate at 75 per cent and offer 85 per cent of parity support for those cutting back 20 per cent of allotments.

Sen. Frank Carlson (R-Kan.) urged a plan that would let farmers sell wheat at market levels, give them an incentive payment above this on their share of the domestic market, and let surpluses move into export at world price levels.

Sen. Homer E. Capehart (R-Ind.) offered the most drastic proposal. He would cut off all farm price supports at the end of this year and then freeze the 9 or 10 billions worth of wheat and other commodities now in government hands because of past programs.

Capehart contends that the price support and planting controls have failed and it will cost taxpayers and farmers less to halt the whole thing now than continue it.

He said the huge surpluses could be disposed in an orderly way over the next several years.



PARK SUPERVISOR Jewell N. Caughell at Castle Crags State Park remains unperturbed by all the construction activity around him. "Our job is to keep the park in operation," he said philosophically. The park is primarily an area in its natural state, and lovers of the out-of-doors make it a special stopping point. — Photo by Don Kettler

Portland Firm Hit By FTC

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fred Meyer Inc., a 13-store retail chain in the Portland, Ore., area, Thursday was accused of soliciting discriminatory prices or promotional allowances from four suppliers.

The Federal Trade Commission said the firm violated the Clayton anti-trust law by getting the four to help defray the cost of an annual coupon book promotion.

The FTC also issued separate complaints against the suppliers. It said Idaho Canning Co. of Payette, Idaho; Tri-Valley Packing Assn. of San Francisco, and Burlington Industries, Inc., of Greensboro, N. C., paid Meyer advertising allowances not available on equal terms to competing retailers.

The FTC accused Idaho Canning and Cannon Mills Co. of Kannapolis, N.C., of charging less for merchandise than they charge competing customers.

The FTC said Meyer offers a coupon book each fall. The book sells for 10 cents and contains 72 coupons. These offer merchandise free or at a reduced price.

The complaint said that in 1956, Meyer sold about 140,000 books and almost 900,000 coupons were redeemed.

Actress Tells Stork Date

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Actress Joan Caulfield, who separated from her producer husband Frank Ross Jan. 1, has told friends she is going to have a baby in September.

She obtained a preliminary divorce decree April 15.

Miss Caulfield, 34, said she told the 54-year-old Ross the news "and he's very happy to hear of it."

When a reporter asked if they had reconciled, the actress answered: "We just don't see eye to eye on many things. We have until April 15, 1960 (when the divorce decree would become final in California) to make up our minds."

BUDGET APPROVED
PORTLAND (AP) — Voters of Parkrose school district northeast of here approved \$28-113 Tuesday a budget for the fiscal year 1959-60.

Involved in the election was a \$1,181,940 levy, which put it above the 6 per cent limitation set by state law.

"DENNIS THE MENACE"



"DID YOU EVER THINK OF ALL THE LEMONADE YOU COULDA MADE WITH THIS WATER?"

GRANGE NEWS

GREENHORN
YREKA—State and district officers were guests of the district meeting of Home Economics Clubs held recently at the Greenhorn Grange Hall. The visitors were Mrs. Mabel Glenn of North Sacramento, state chairman; Mrs. Nora Arnold of McArthur, district chairman; and Mrs. Clara Williamson, state secretary of the grange.

Mrs. Florence Burgess, chairman for the Greenhorn group, opened the meeting.

Mrs. Glenn spoke of the worthy projects accomplished by members of Home Economics Clubs.

Mrs. Haldis Ralston, past Pomona chairman, said that all clubs have been most active in devoting their efforts to bring about improvements to grange halls.

Mrs. Clara Williamson explained the duties required of her as state secretary and also told of the work accomplished by granges in the Legislature.

Mrs. Rosamond Westover was honored with a birthday cake by Mrs. Arnold, while the group sang birthday greetings to her.

Recipients of special prizes were Mrs. Mazie McFall, Mrs. Mabel Glenn, Mrs. Rosamond Westover, Mrs. Clara Williamson. Gifts were also presented to Mrs. Ralston, past Pomona chairman, and to the new chairman, Mrs. Myrtle Brown.

The meeting was closed with a verse read by Mrs. Laura Cawley.

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