March 1986

Port Costa Conservation Society

Dear PCCS Member and/or Friend of the PCCS,

At the regular membership meeting on Jan. 8, 1986, the membership present expressed their desire to be kept up to date on efforts by the PCCS to preserve the Port Costa School and adjoining school property with some sort of newsletter. The following is the PCCS's first ever Newsletter which hopefully will be found as enjoyable as it is informative. Special thanks go to: Nora Ahern, Tina Beach, Mary Berggren, Edith Cappelletti, Helen Cunningham, Elsie Freitas, Eva Pembroke, George Raffetto, Joe Surges and Emily Urbick, who took the time to speak with Gloria De Forest and/or Betty Ligon on what they remembered about the origins of the Port Costa School. Other sources of information that deserve thanks include: the Contra Costa County Historical Society, the Crockett Historical Society, the Martinez Historical Society, the C.C.C. Planning Department, the C.C.C. Assessors Office, the C.C.C. Central Library, and the John Swett Unified School District Administration. Also a special thanks to Oriana De Forest who greatly assisted in spotting articles in the Contra Costa Gazette (two years worth viewed by microfiche!) about Port Costa and the building of the Port Costa School.

With 80 yes votes (none against) the voters of the Port Costa School District approved a $15,000 bond to build the much needed new school on April 11, 1911. (Crockett Signal) Over the summer of 1911, the old school was actually moved so that the new school could be built on the same spot (Helen Cunningham) and the students could continue their studies while the new school was being built. (Tina Beach) By September 9, 1911, the building of the school was underway by Martinez contractor, Luke Bulger and Sons who arrived to work on the 8 AM train from Martinez. (George Raffetto) Port Costa resident, Lorrie Estes tore the old school down after the new one was occupied and salvaged the building materials. (Joe Surges) A chronology of sorts of the construction of the school can be gleaned from the series of articles included here from the Contra Costa Gazette. Luke Bulger also built the Bull Valley Inn building for Jerry Burke shortly before he began construction of the school. Interestingly enough, this school is actually the third school building to be built in Port Costa. By 1882, Port Costa had a school (Martinez Historical Society newsletter) and in June 1886, a second school was built with a tax levy of $3,750 by contractor, Mr. O'Donnell. (Contra Costa Gazette) The Port Costa Brick Works supplied the bricks for the present school. (George Raffetto)

Besides this historical research, which is being done in connection with the proposed application for listing of the Port Costa School on the National Register of Historic Places, the Board of the PCCS has been conducting tours and interviews with persons and agencies that might be of assistance to preserve the Port Costa School and surrounding grounds. After the January regular membership meeting, at which the members present voted to pursue the acquisition or lease of the Port Costa School and the funding for this and its rehabilitation, the Board has met with Susan Angevin, Director of the Western Regional Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Peter Brand of the Coastal Conservancy, Sally Woodbridge, an architectural historian, Theodora Robertson, an architect and Bruce Johnstone of the Trust for Public Lands. All who have visited the school have been been very favorable about this project and very impressed with the condition of the building. Much work remains to be done just to begin this project and all PCCS members are encouraged to become involved. If you are a reader of this newsletter but not a member of the PCCS please consider a membership now, your support could be critical to the success of this important project.

C/O Post Office Box 28 **Port Costa, CA 94569** T20904C008.105

A Message from the

PORT COSTA CONSERVATION SOCIETY

The John Swett Unified School District has initiated discussions with the Port Costa Conservation Society concerning the acquisition of the Port Costa School. The District contacted the Society because it is their intent that the school should be under local control and used for community purposes. The Society has been encouraged by the interest shown by State, local, and private funding sources. Of major interest to all of these agencies is whatever historical documentation that can be provided about the building of the school and other buildings in Port Costa. The Society is considering commissioning an historical survey of Port Costa to document and organize the wealth of historical information about our community. If you have any information you would like to contribute please call or write Gloria DeForest, 787-1660, P.O. Box 47 Port Costa, CA 94569.

Membership in the Conservation Society is open to everyone! Please join us.

Michael Gleason
Chairman
P.O. Box 62
Port Costa, CA 94569
787-3085

1.2019.01.0088.107

BULLITEN! BULLITEN! BULLITEN!

TREE PLANTING March 8, 1986

SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Pot-luck lunch at the old school house at 12:00 noon. Everybody is welcome!

The Port Costa Tree Fund, Port Costa Recycles and the Department of Forestry will plant street trees at several locations to replace missing or damaged trees.

We will also, in conjunction with the Conservation Society and the Forestry Dept., plant several costal live oaks on Conservation Society land. These are native California trees to stay in keeping with the spirit of the Conservation Society.

Anyone wishing to help make sandwiches or help plant trees is welcome. We will meet at my house on Saturday morning or just look for the Port Costa Recycles truck later in the day.

Thank you,
Ridge Greene

PORT COSTA SETS THE PACE FOR RECYCLING IN

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

This is a true story.

Port Costa, though a small town by modern-day standards, is a giant in the field of recycling. Recycling, as everybody knows, is using things over again, or turning them in to be turned into something new or re-usable.

Recycling saves energy, conserves the earth's limited supply of natural resources, reduces litter as well as the need to expand existing landfill sites, and it may even save you money.

Port Costa residents can be proud of the fact that over $1,250 has been earned from selling the town's recycled material during the past two years (glass, newspaper, card-board and aluminum are the big moneymakers. We also collect tin, "junk mail," and used motor oil.) This money is used on a year-round basis to take care of the elm trees lining Canyon Lake Drive, and to plant new trees in town (see page 3 for details.)

On behalf of Port Costa Recycles, continuing efforts to inform public agencies of the importance of recycling have resulted in a recent initiative by the county's Solid Waste Commission to require all licensed garbage carriers to provide individual plans for providing recycling services to all customers.

Port Costa Recycles thanks you for your upport. Next recycling Saturdays are arch 15th and March 29th. For dates after hat and any information pertaining to re-ycling call 787-2254, Port Costa Recycles, ouis Stewart.

3/86

PORT COSTA TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY UPDATE

A lot is going on that we should all know about. The orginizations in town wish to inform all of us about upcoming events, projects, and potential projects. They need our participation and ideas to help determine the future of the many endeavors under way and on the drawing boards. So please, come to the meetings and get in-volved!

Probably the most important new project in town is the work being done to acquire the Port Costa Elementary School building. This project is still in its very early stages and community imput is essential. The Port Costa Town Council invites you to come to the public meeting on March 11, 1986. The acquisition of the school will be an important part of this meeting and we hope we will see you there.

If you haven't already heard, the long struggle for the Hyvest property came to an end when East Bay Regional Parks closed escrow on the property a few weeks ago. Grazing on the land will continue until final plans for the park are established. The best guess as to when work will start is about two years.

Without the help of the whole town this project would never have worked, this same spirit will help carry us through future projects.

Thanks for helping,

Ridge Greene, President
Port Costa Town Council

1986

T.2019.04.008. 108