

The La Honda Voice



Friday, February 11, 2005

Fire Insurance Availability in La Honda

A recent La Honda resident contacted the La Honda Guild Board about the difficulties in obtaining fire insurance here in town. Evidently the wildfires in Southern California in October has made some insurance carriers back away from insuring any homes in wooded areas. Since the La Honda area is predominantly wooded, this has turned into a real problem for some people here.

This excerpt is from the consumerwatchdog.org website (<http://www.consumerwatchdog.org/insurance/nw/nw004695.php3>):

" Ever since wildfires devastated Southern California last October, insurers have been working to avoid too much risk in the next catastrophe -- and a growing number of homeowners are finding it hard to obtain insurance as a result. In the past year, more than 110 San Diegans have filed written complaints with the California Department of Insurance, saying that insurers have either canceled or declined to renew their existing policies or declined to issue new policies. "I have no insurance on my home. I'm really concerned," said Jill Francis, who recently learned that her insurer -- First
(Continued on page 3)

Birds & Disease Warning

The Department of Fish and Game released on February 10, 2005 a request for "Northern Californians to remove bird feeders to slow the spread of avian disease." The request says, "The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is encouraging northern California residents to remove bird feeders for at least one month to help slow an outbreak of salmonellosis, a disease affecting small brown birds known as pine siskins that live primarily in wooded areas. Human exposure to and contraction of the disease from wild birds is rare and unlikely, especially if basic precautions are taken. However, pets can contract
(Continued on page 3)

The History of La Honda, continued...

This continues excerpts from "The History of La Honda" written in 1941 by Werner (Bud) Foss and provides real insights into what La Honda was like over 100 years ago. Thanks Bud, who still lives in San Mateo! Thanks also to Charlie Catania who provided me with a copy of "The History of La Honda" and Mary Bordi who introduced me to Bud.
(Continued on page 4)

Objectivists Message Board turns to Philosophy

I have to admit, I didn't follow all the talk about objectivists on the message board this past week, even though I was a philosophy major for a couple years. I believe the thread was related to the winery issue, since far back in the thread there was a link to an objectivist website that gave T.J. Rodgers, who owns the Clos de la Tech winery above La Honda, an award

(<http://www.objectivists.org/ObjectivistActivism.html>).

However, the following message in the thread was the one that struck a chord with me...if only more people would believe and follow this advice.

"When the Dali Lama came to Stanford for a visit, my husband, as Director of Event Operations, was involved in the staging of his visit. After giving a speech, the Dali Lama took questions from the audience and someone stood up and asked (I'm paraphrasing here), "Do you have to be a Buddhist to achieve enlightenment?" The Dali Lama answered (again, I'm paraphrasing), 'Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Moslem...It doesn't matter as long as you are honest and have a warm heart.' Maybe it really is that simple." From Heather (message #6137)

Conservation Easement

Larry Fama (message #6150) posted that a "conservation easement is the right thing to do," likely in reference to the Clos de la Tech winery property above Cuesta La Honda. He listed an article from the San Francisco Chronicle website (<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2005/02/06/REGFQB592G1.DTL>) that says,

""Conservation easements...are voluntary legal agreements between

landowners and conservation organizations that permanently limit the use of land to protect its conservation or agricultural values. People grant easements because they want to protect their property from inappropriate development while retaining ownership of the land. Easements allow landowners to continue to own and use the land and to sell it or pass it on to their heirs, often with significant tax savings..."

...on the other side...

Deborah Ettiger (message #6154) provided a link to a Santa Cruz radio station website that had additional links *against* conservation easements. The summary of a guest on the station, Clarice Ryan, is, "Cash strapped farmers, ranchers and timberland owners are being lured by a coordinated effort to transfer present or future land management options to government and/or its partners. Conservation easements are intended to create corridors that will eventually link up with one another and become off limits to citizens. Learn about the deceptive ploy that hurts not only landowners, but also subjugates all Americans to a globally arranged new order." See this website for additional links:

<http://www.freedom21santacruz.net/radio/>

...But in response to the above summary of this speaker, David Ehrhardt (message #6155) says, "OK, I admit that I am not well-schooled in land rights issues, but this seems like deliberately provocative, deceptive, and even paranoid language. The text implies that land in easements is being taken out of the public domain. Since this land is privately owned to start with, this characterization seems like an out and out deception."

Birds & Disease Warning

(continued from page 1)

the disease, especially if they are exposed to fecal matter below the feeders. Pine siskins are brown, streaked birds with yellow patches on the wings and tail. Their diet consists primarily of seeds, making bird feeders particularly attractive. Birds contract the disease from one another, most often by eating fecal-contaminated food - but also by sticking their heads inside tube feeders where their eyes come in contact with the feeder itself. California's West Nile virus hotline has received many tips from concerned citizens reporting dead pine siskins throughout the forested areas of northern California, from Grass Valley to Eureka. Salmonellosis is a bacterial disease and is not related to the West Nile virus.

To help control the disease, DFG biologists are urging residents to discontinue feeding birds for at least 30 days, and when feeding is resumed, to:

1. Replace all food in birdfeeders and water in birdbaths daily. Clean up old food around feeders daily, and only use small amounts of food.
2. Decontaminate feeders by using a 10 percent solution of household bleach in water, preferably cleaned just prior to adding new food.
3. Spread small amounts of seed over a large area in the sun, instead of using bird boxes or feeders.
4. Also, vary the location of seeds to avoid encouraging a concentration of birds at one site.
5. Replace wooden bird feeders with plastic or metal. Wood harbors

salmonella bacteria and cannot be sanitized as effectively.

6. Use gloves when handling dead birds and bird feeders and wash hands with anti-bacterial soap when finished.

... More detailed information about that disease and tips on controlling it and other avian diseases can be found at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/news/news04/04060.html>"

From Georgia Stigall (from message #6153) who added, "Thought this might be of interest to some. There are pine siskins in our region - we get large flocks at this time of year..."

Fire Insurance Availability in La Honda (continued from page 1)

American -- would not renew its coverage on her Scripps Ranch home, which has been rebuilt after the fires... In addition, many companies have become much more concerned about the distance between a dwelling and brush or any combustible material... It used to be that 500 feet of clearance, no problem, and some people would insure down to 200 feet," said Gene Brouillette, vice president of Brouillette Insurance Services in San Diego. "Now, a lot of insurers like to see 1,500 or 2,000 feet. Insurers are a little more frightened, and rightly so."

See also:
<http://forests.org/articles/reader.asp?linkid=32162>
<http://www.insurancejournal.com/magazines/west/2003/04/07/features/27865.htm>

**The History of La Honda,
continued...**
(continued from page 1)

The La Honda School

"On July 11 [of 1874]...the same group who urged the building of the school, wrote to the Board of Supervisors, asking that the name "Bell School" District be changed to the "La Honda School District."...High School courses were started in La Honda early as June 8, 1874 but this proved to be too expensive and had to be discontinued. The courses offered were Composition, Arithmetic, Algebra, Grammar, Physiology, Nature Philosophy, and Botany. The high school started with 18 pupils but by the time school was over the pupils numbered three."

Roads

"The Searsville-La Honda Turnpike and the San Gregorio-La Honda Turnpike were two separate toll roads. Under pressure from the local farmers, mill owners and business men, both became free roads under county jurisdiction on October 25, 1879.



Early Motoring in La Honda

Knight Stage Line

Woodside and Searsville Timber lands brought luckless miners, timber me, and eastern settlers down the Peninsula. Transportation being poor, David Garland opened a stage route from Redwood City via Woodside to Searsville, but went out of business. Five years later, 1864, S.P. Blanchard started a stage line from Redwood City to Searsville, but sold out to Simon L. Knight at a good price...The new San Gregorio Turnpike road was the first road to be used as a stage route, rather than a logging road. The Turnpike Co. listed the following prices: 2 horse teams at 50cents, each additional horse at 10 cents a head; cattle were 10 cents a head; large mule teams at 2 1/2 cents a head. Mr. Baker was chief toll-keeper on the Turnpike road...

...The Board of Supervisors thought up a scheme to make money toward the county's debt. They sold the lottery tickets at \$2.50 a chance on \$20,000.00 in gold and Sime Knight sold the tickets, starting on June 10, 1871. A resident expected to win the money but a stranger walked off with the prize...

...The new coaches had a capacity of 18 passengers, nine in and nine out, plus the driver...The stage left every Monday, Wednesday and Friday via Haskin's Hill to La Honda and over the hill to Redwood City at 9A.M. and arriving at Redwood City at 3:40 P.M...The fares to La Honda was \$1.75; to San Gregorio \$2.50 and to Pescadero \$2.75, from Redwood City. On December 25, 1885, Sime saw a grizzly and two small cubs pass in front of the stage near Asa Weeks' cabin at Woodruff Creek...going down from the summit, he met George Douglass and his logging wagon. Trying

to swerve around it, his wheel fell off and the stage tipped over...Mrs. Belle Crowe, daughter of the Redwood City Mortician, received a fractured leg. [In 1889] the Knights started stages running daily, and gave people daily mail and transportation for the first time in the history of La Honda. The Ocean-Shore Railroad Co. opened on April 1907, and took freight away from the Knight Stage Co...they discontinued the company in 1910.

Motor Stages

Al Weatherbee started a fast freight line with a motor truck in 1905, and in 1912, he purchased a large Gramm Motor truck, capable of holding 22 passengers and a driver. He hauled freight and passengers from Redwood City to Woodside, La Honda and San Gregorio...The Pensilia rapid Transit Co. started running their busses from Redwood City to Pescadero in 1929, and shortly afterwards the pacific Greyhound Lines bought them out...The 32 mile trip now takes 1 hour and 25 minutes, while in the Knight Stage Line day it took six hours... You can now go from La Honda to Redwood City for 35 cents one way and 90 cents round trip.



The GrayLine Motor Tours Ad from the 1920's



A 1912 ad for a Gramm Motor Truck

Send your comments, suggestions, etc. to:

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