



the reactor

by Paul Azevedo

12-10-80

Barring a veto from Billy's brother, it appears that large parts of Pacifica will now become the responsibility of the federal government, as part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

It also appears that the state will be, or is now, acquiring most of Montara Mountain, perhaps right up to the backs of homes in the Willowbrook Estates area, as part of the huge McNee Ranch State Park.

Surrounded on the west by ocean, the south and east by federal and state parklands and SF watershed, Pacifica would seem to be forever (forever being a hundred years or so) protected from encroachment of subdivisions and the kind of sprawl we see on the other side of the hills.

NOW THAT THE die is cast, it is time to get down and do the real work to make this great achievement what it can and should be.

Pacifica needs to be a part of the process of developing the potential of Sweeney Ridge and the other pieces of land which will now come under the umbrella of the federal government.

It's fascinating to reflect that this conservationist victory was brought about through a lot of hard work by

IT'S ALSO time to congratulate Carl McCarthy, whose unrelenting work to call attention to the discovery site was probably the linch pin that made this whole thing possible. Carl McCarthy has taken so many people to Sweeney Ridge to see this magnificent view that some probably thought he owned the concession.

His constant work, his persistence, and above all his recognition that the discovery site is a magnificent combination of historical landmark and fabulous view, deserve whatever accolades we can heap on him.

If and when the scenic parkway is built to let park users drive up from the coast to enjoy the 360 degrees of grandeur available on a clear day, I hope that that roadway is designated the "Carl Patrick McCarthy Scenic Parkway." He deserves no less.

I WONDER how the ghosts of Gaspar de Portola, Don Francisco Sanchez, who owned this whole territory, and the Sneaths and the Tobins who in turn succeeded to control of this area would feel about its preservation. I think they would like the idea that it will be forever a public trust.

It will belong to everyone, for the use and pleasure of all.

Meanwhile, let's get the citizens committees in place, so that when the decisions are to be made, Pacificans will be united and decided on the way they want these park lands to be used and developed.

It's a long term project. It took 27 years from the death of Honora Sharp to the opening day of Sharp Park golf course. Likewise it may be the year 2000 before the ridgetops are in full use.

To accomplish that, and to carry on the work so ably started by Carl McCarthy, let us begin.