

Loch Lomond Recreation Area Opens

4-18-67

By Don Righetti
Sentinel Staff Writer

The city opened its Loch Lomond reservoir recreation area to something less than a crowd Sunday as inclement weather kept fun seekers to a minimum.

But if past trends continue this year, fishermen and hikers will show up in droves at the watershed area. Some 42,000 visitors came to the recreation spot last year, an increase of 30 per cent over the previous year, which was the first season the area was open.

Anglers will account for a large percentage of this year's crowds. The reservoir has been stocked with 75,000 young rainbow trout and thousands of fishermen will be anxious to take them home. They should have pretty good luck—58,847 fish were taken from the reservoir last year.

Installation of a new aeration system should make the fishing better than ever. The system was constructed to improve the water's drinking qualities, but the fish will enjoy it too.

A two-inch line pumps air 90 feet down into the reservoir's water, adding oxygen and equalizing water temperatures to make a better fish environment.

The Loch Lomond watershed recreation area, located 10 miles north of Santa Cruz, is comprised of wilderness terrain heavily wooded to the water's edge. It offers fishing, boating, picnicking and hiking to the

recreation seeker.

The recreation program is under the direction of the city water department, and the public is asked to be aware that the primary function of the reservoir is to supply safe drinking water. For this reason, no body contact, such as swimming or wading, is allowed.

The area is open Friday through Tuesdays each week from April 15 to October 31. Hours are 6 a.m. to sunset. Fishing, as well as the other recreation activities, is confined to the open hours.

Picnic areas are equipped with tables and fireplaces and each area is furnished with running water and rest rooms.

A store in the recreation area offers drinks, food, bait, tackle and sundry items. The concessionaire also rents row boats and electrically driven craft.

Private boats not more than 18 feet long nor less than two-passenger capacity are permitted, but they must be hand launched, since trailer launching is not allowed. Internal combustion power boats are not permitted.

Admission to the area is \$1 per car or 25 cents each for pedestrian. A 50-cent fee is collected for launching boats.

Only 10,000 of last year's 42,000 visitors came from Santa Cruz County. Some 22,000 were from Santa Clara County and most of the remainder came from Monterey, San Francisco and the San Joaquin Valley.