

Let's Go...



Buena Vista's trolley is a surprise to most visitors. Ernest Allington waves a welcome to Karen Smith, 10, and her mother, Mrs. John Henry Smith, of 350 Ninth avenue.



Playing train beside the narrow gauge ore car and trolley track is the favorite

to Camp Shangri-la

Sunday, December 10, 1950

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Mrs. Mathew Gorman (right) shows Mrs. Smith the community mail box, formerly a locomotive headlight.



Buena Vista, Tiny Settlement On Shelf Above Winding Creek, Has Real Community Spirit

Buena Vista Camp is the Shangri-la of Santa Cruz county. This little paradise is hidden away on a shelf near the top of the mountainside along San Vicente creek.

Its only road connects with Highway 1 (the Coast road) in Davenport, 11 miles northwest of Santa Cruz. The turn-off, which is not marked, is at the Davenport store. The thoroughfare winds east along the creek, then climbs the moun-

The only traffic problem the residents encounter is inadequate parking space when all eight families have visitors on the same day. This difficulty is quickly solved, however, by the eight Buena Vista automobiles being parked in the community garage at the foot of the first slope below the residential area, leaving the upper parking lot open for the guests.

There are no speeders, for everyone is familiar with the narrowness of the road; and no need for traffic patrols, for everyone learns where the turn-outs are and the driver



Mrs. Lee Banek picks some of her beautiful roses for Karen.

girls. She also helps with sewing problems. When she came to Buena Vista seven years ago she did not know how to sew. Mrs. Ferreira taught her. Now Mrs. Cole, who recently re-covered the divan in the Cole living room with Mrs. Ferreira directing the project, also is consulted about sewing and upholstery.

Versatile Mrs. Cole transports Buena Vista's seventh grade school pupils to and from the Pacific school in Davenport. Her husband, equally versatile, superintends the maintenance of the community's road and makes sure that the garbage service is regular and ample.

The trolley, too, represents a big event in their daily life as it takes their fathers to work and brings them home.

In their make-believe trains, however, they pass up the lone trolley for the ore trains. It's much more fun to tie seven wagons, one behind the other, and go clanking and tooting on imaginary tracks.

Buena Vistans, proud of their modern paradise, also are cognizant of the part their quarry has played in the history of this area. Today's Shangri-la is part of the old Rancho San Vicente, the 10,802 acre Spanish grant made to Blas Escamilla in 1846. His descendants still reside in Santa Cruz county.

game of "Shangri-la" children. Karen watches while Geraldine Towell heads the string as chief engineer, followed by George Shipp, Michael Banek, LaVyrne Cole, Patrick Banek, Ava Ann Towell, Linda Cole, Edith Louise "Cookie" Shipp and "Butch" Shipp. Cookie's doll is in the caboose.

Rare Shearwater Bird Is Found On Beach Here

Clark Streator of Otis street, well known collector of birds who was for many years connected with the United States Biological survey, said yesterday he found a slender bill shearwater at the Santa Cruz beach.

He said this bird very seldom is seen here, as it is a native of New Zealand, where it is known as the "mutton bird." The young become very fat and are eaten by the natives.

Streator, who saw two of the birds on the local beach and captured one to take to his home, said there are five varieties of shearwater. Two varieties have been seen on the Monterey side of the bay, the only place in the United States the bird has been found.

It follows schools of sardines, skimming close to the waves.

The shearwater is a gray bird, with white feathers under the wings.

Watsonville Marine Wounded

Private First Class Ernest E. Butler of Watsonville and Staff Sergeant Bob Call of San Jose are among the marines in Korea listed as wounded in Casualty List No. 171, issued yesterday afternoon by the department of defense in Washington, D. C.

Butler is the son of Mrs. Maxine L. Garrett of 48 Brannan street in Watsonville. Call's wife resides at 2348 Madden avenue in San Jose.

Austria has 13 universities or institutions of university rank with total enrollment of 35,000.

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JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
HOME AND GARDEN LIGHTING CONTEST

Crystal deposits found in the Santa Cruz Portland Cement company quarry, where most of Buena Vista's menfolk work, make a unique display in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Freeman Cole (right).



RENT CONTROL LIFTED IN SANTA CLARA, MARIN

San Francisco, Dec. 9 (P).—U. S. Housing Expediter Tighe Woods has lifted rent controls throughout Marin county and in the city of Santa Clara.

The National Geographic Society says the best estimate of Tibet's population is about 3,000,000.

25 Complete Cub Leaders Instruction

Twenty-five persons have completed the den mothers and cub masters training course held at the Mission Hill school auditorium.

The course was given by the Cub Scouts to train the leaders in administration, games, handicraft, ceremonies and other activities of scouting. The final session was

40 Seeking U. S. Citizenship To Appear In Court

Monday, December 18, will be Naturalization day in the superior court.

Forty petitioners for citizenship are slated to appear with their witnesses to be examined for citizenship.

inside to the tiny little settlement. It ends with a U turn in the heart of the village.

The eight families who live in Buena Vista are enthusiastic about life in their Shangri-la.

The climate is good, with sunshine nearly every day of the year. Summers are cooled by breeze from the Pacific ocean. Winters are tempered with rain.

Lawns are beautiful the year around. Roses rival hothouse varieties during the summer months. Vegetables are large and crisp. Fruit trees are planted beside redwoods on the slope.

Timber covered slopes are fine for hiking. Also nearby is San Vicente creek and its tributaries, which afford good fishing in season and where deer can be seen daily drinking the cool, clear water.

The road, which all the families travel on the average of three or four times a week going to Davenport or to Santa Cruz, is a scenic drive which has few rivals for its length—three miles.

There is no unemployment, for the menfolk of the eight families work for the Santa Cruz Portland Cement company, seven of them at the firm's limestone quarry which is about half a mile on up the hill from Buena Vista and one at the cement plant at the north edge of Davenport. The camp is on company property and the eight cement block houses are owned by the firm.

There is no housing problem and no need for rent ceilings. All but one of the dwelling rent for \$5 a month, unfurnished. This rental fee includes water, which is piped into the settlement from San Vicente creek dams; electricity, from what is part of the cement company's system, and garbage service.

Transportation is furnished the workmen in a trolley which runs on the narrow gauge electric line over which limestone is hauled from the quarry three and a half miles to the cement plant. The trolley makes four trips daily, accommodating the workmen on day and night shifts.

Mail also is carried on the trolley from the Davenport post office to a community mail box fastened on a trolley pole near the center of the settlement. The mail box is a headlight from an ancient steam locomotive. One of its main advantages is the glass front through which Buena Vistans can see if they have any letters.

nearest one backs into it to permit another car to pass.

But what really makes Buena Vista a Shangri-la is the community spirit which prevails among the residents.

When someone is ill, all are anxious to help. Bob Shipp, 29-year-old Buena Vistan whose hips were crushed in an accident at the quarry about two months ago, knows how helpful his neighbors can be. Shipp's wife and three children are grateful, too, for the cakes, pies and other gifts from the other community residents.

Mrs. Claude Wilson always can be depended upon in emergencies. For instance, when one of the three children of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Banek suffered a severe cut on his arm, it was Mrs. Wilson who bundled the tot and his mother into her car and took them to a doctor.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and their son, Billy, are the old timers of Buena Vista. The Wilsons have lived there 20 years. Billy attends San Jose State college.

Mrs. Banek is known for the fine cakes she bakes and for her rose garden. She shares the cakes and the blooms with the other folks of Shangri-la.

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Towell, who have five girls, and Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Ferreira, who have two children, usually have the prize vegetable gardens of the community. When they harvest their carrots, tomatoes and other crops, it means there are vegetable stews and tomato salads on eight tables. Mrs. Ferreira helps the other housewives with their sewing problems.

When Ernest Allington was called into service, the community gave him a big going-away party. And when he returned, they all joined with his wife and child in welcoming him home.

Newcomers to Buena Vista are Mr. and Mrs. Mathew Gorman and two children. But they have been there three years, so really are like old-timers in community activities.

Mr. and Mrs. Freeman Cole and three children are the other Buena Vista family. Mrs. Cole is responsible for the beautifully kept hair of the Buena Vista women and

Religious Census To Be Completed By Next Spring

The Santa Cruz area religious census, being conducted under the

Their son, Dale, goes to Santa Cruz High school and works in a Davenport business place after school.

Georgia Towell attends Mission Hill Junior High school in Santa Cruz, her father taking her daily.

Before a trip to town, each Buena Vistan usually canvasses the neighborhood to see if there is something he can get for someone who can't make the trip that day.

The men of the community are as good at baby sitting as the women, and the youngsters are almost as much at home in any dwelling in the camp as in their own.

While their parents gather on one lawn or the other to visit, the tots play train. Naturally, it is their favorite game because they know all about trains. The narrow gauge ore cars trundle through the center of the community every 30 minutes carrying limestone from the quarry to the cement plant.

Firemen Make Better Grades In Latest Test

Firemen who took their semi-annual written examination Friday morning to test their knowledge of information required as result of their training classes, made better grades than in last year's exam.

The test, consisting of 100 questions, and efficiency reports furnish a basis for merit promotion under the salary step system.

Chief Jack Sinnott said that results will not be known until tomorrow, but preliminary checks show an appreciable rise in the general training standard. He said men who made 40 or 50 in last year's tests are now securing 85 or 90.

ONLY MINOR DAMAGE TO POWER LINES

Gwynne Bishop, Coast Counties Gas and Electric company's electrical superintendent, said today damage to the lines in the county during the recent storms was not extensive.

Bishop said a slide in the Lompico area which took out a few lines, since repaired.

The limestone quarry has been in operation nearly 100 years. Much of its ore was shipped from the old wharf built at Davenport Landing, just north of the present town of Davenport, in 1868 by Captain John P. Davenport of whaling fame, and from the wharf at Williams Landing, near where Davenport is today.

At the turn of the century the quarry and lime kilns were operated by W. J. Dingee, who was succeeded by John Q. Packard and F. W. Billing. From them the quarry was bought in 1905 by the newly incorporated Santa Cruz Portland Cement company, which in 1906 erected the cement plant at Davenport. For many years the superintendent of the cement plant resided at Buena Vista.

The narrow gauge electric railroad was put in 24 years ago when the cement company purchased the equipment from a Juneau, Alaska, mine.

City Employees To Have Yule Party Dec. 19

City employees will hold a Christmas party at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall December 19, it was announced yesterday.

The group will have dinner, and dancing will follow. Entertainment will be provided, according to License Inspector Tom Kelley who is in charge of arrangements.

David Campbell Gets New Rating

David R. Campbell of 1418 Soquel avenue has been advanced to the rate of aviation machinist's mate, third class, it was announced yesterday.

Campbell is serving aboard the escort aircraft carrier USS Sicily, now a part of the Pacific fleet in the Korean war zone.

PETITION IS FILED

A petition for distribution to the sole legatee was filed in the Claus Carlson estate. The property in the estate was appraised at \$13,963.93. All goes to Eleanor Pyeatt.

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST