

Bike Path Raises Ire Of Ben Lomond Foes

By PAUL BEATTY
Sentinel Staff Writer

The proposed \$140,000 bike path from Felton to Ben Lomond — initially proposed over a year ago at \$25,000 by county planners — has been dubbed "a mini-Mt. Hermon Road bypass" by Ben Lomond opponents.

The building of the Mt. Hermon Road bypass in 1971 - 72 was the most heated issue in San Lorenzo Valley in many years.

The primary complaint about the bike path is that it is (tentatively) layed out to run within one foot of the living room and kitchen windows of the James Bailey home on Fremont Avenue in Ben Lomond.

"We've built this house with our own hands, and not for all the money in the world would we give it up," exclaimed Lea Bailey.

She added, "I'm not much of a fighter, but this has my dandruff up."

The Bailey's problem is that their house sits next to the City of Santa Cruz' right - of - way for the Loch Lomond to Graham

Hill pipe line.

It is this right - of - way the county will request the city allow to be used for the bike path.

The other alternative being studied at the Fremont Avenue end will have the bike path run within a few feet of the windows of the George J. Effenberger home, and area residents dislike this idea to the same degree they dislike alternative number one.

The expenditure of up to \$140,000 was set by the county transportation commission last week and the commission also approved an expenditure of \$14,760 for an engineering study of Phase I.

Phase I includes that area of the path from its southern entry - exit off Highway 9 at San Lorenzo Way to its northward entry - exit at Glen Arbor Road.

Phase II, from Hermosa Avenue to the intersection of Glen Arbor Road with Highway 9 at Ben Lomond, requires little engineering as it parallels the road.

The Phase I path from its entry - exit parallels San Loren-

zo Way to its deadend (it may run along San Lorenzo Way, Ron Marquez, a county engineer pointed out), then from there it runs north to Brackney Road and at that point enters the dirt path right - of - way.

The right - of - way is about 10 to 15 feet wide and is subject to landslides on the upward side and cave - ins on the downward side.

The quarter - mile path, like many valley roads, is carved along the mountain side and is subject to landslides on the upward side and cave - ins on the downward side.

Jim Bailey pointed out, "The county will have to put up cyclone fences along parts of the path, or they'll be losing riders over the bank and into the river."

The river courses its way to the sea about 40 to 50 feet below the path, and down fairly steep slopes.

Planner Marquez stated that those residents in the area, including the Baileys, Curtises, Effenbergers and the residents of Rose Acres senior rest home, all oppose the path's tentative location.

They point out that earlier this year when the path was being discussed at county government, they had presented petitions with 30 to 40 signatures in opposition, but that now the petitions have been lost at the county government center.

Marquez pointed out that the final pathway has not been decided and that it will have to receive final approval from the transportation commission.

The Baileys and Curtises countered that they have not been notified of prior meetings on the plan, and that county authorities are not listening to them — and, in fact, will not answer the phone after they announce their names.

They state, "Consistent efforts to contact various county departments for information



This path, running right up against the home of Mr. and Mrs. James (Lea) Bailey in Ben Lomond, is tentatively projected to be a portion of the \$140,000 bike path between Felton and

Ben Lomond. The bike path is now in the hands of the engineers, but initial plans show the path running along a Santa Cruz City right - of - way

that includes this pathway. Lea Bailey, standing on her porch, is not looking with favor on the project. Photo by Sentinel photographer Pete Amos.

over the past year have been futile.

"The fact that these trails are also for bikes and horses has been kept from the public eye. Petitions have also been ignored; supervisors are not available — How does a taxpayer get heard?"

"Several hundred thousands of dollars are about to be washed into the San Lorenzo River this next year and not one county official could be persuaded to walk this mile before the money was authorized," the resident claimed.

Marquez stated he had been out to the site and walked the area.

"Our problem is," he stated, "that on one side we have a great many people asking us to get bike paths, and on the other side we have the area residents saying, 'don't do it here' — so, how do we resolve it?"

Marquez said that long - range plans include the county

urging the state to build a Highway 9 shoulder - path as part of the Boulder Creek to Santa Cruz route.

Other concerns of off - road paths, expressed by residents, is that the sheriff will have an

impossible time policing the areas and "our children will not be safe."

They also fear the pathways will be used by motorcyclists and horsemen.

Sentinel

Thursday, Nov. 14, 1974

Page 21

By 1817, according to my historical tipster, the Russian company was making a profit of more than 250 percent on the transaction, and baby you can't get more capitalistic than THAT!

No wonder our mission went bust.

But by 1820 the Spanish became very cranky over seeing Russian ships in San Francisco bay, and shooed them away.

Of course this was highly embarrassing to the Russians, turning them red.

And they have remained so ever since.

Tanaka

TOKYO (AP) — About 300 housewives demonstrated in front of Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka's official residence today demanding his resignation because of inflation.

—NOW OPEN—

EVENINGS 'TIL 9 P.M.

**FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING CONVENIENCE
MONDAYS THRU FRIDAYS 9:30 A.M. 'TIL 9 P.M.**

OPEN SUNDAYS 12 to 5 P.M.

Hart's FABRIC CENTER

SANTA CRUZ STORE ONLY — 1142 SOQUEL AVE.