

Sand Plant Near Scotts Valley Continues To Be Debated

By DENISE SIEBENTHAL
Sentinel Staff Writer
(First of 3 parts.)

Driving into Scotts Valley down Mt. Hermon Road, it's difficult not to notice the white slashes in the tree-covered hillsides made by several sand and gravel operations.

One of these operations, the Felton Sand Plant run by the Kaiser Industries Corp., has been under fire since it received the original use permit in August of 1958.

Nearby residents of the 275-acre mining operation on Conference Drive off Mt. Hermon Road have objected through the years to alleged violations of the use permit.

The use permit states that Kaiser should avoid creating swamplike conditions, must furnish property owners with the comparable amount of water if the water becomes polluted and that it shall not pollute the streams.

Other conditions state that the company shall not cut land at more than a 45 degree angle, shall preserve the aesthetic value and scenic beauty of the area, shall develop entrance roads that do not cause congestion, shall comply with county requirements to preserve the scenic value of the site and shall conduct operations only during daylight hours.

The permit was revoked for a few months by the County Board of Supervisors in 1961 because of alleged excessive cuts in the soil, impairing of the water supply and pollution of a stream.

Supervisors, however, reneged on this decision and allowed Kaiser to continue its operation after holding a public hearing on the issue in February, 1962.

The company agreed to "bench" the cuts, to plant the benches with trees, to plant trees to screen the operation from the road, and to construct a catch basin to hold runoff water.

Later in 1962, the County Grand Jury urged the district attorney to force the operation

into compliance with its use permit. Its recommendations were squashed by the planning commission, which said it had no jurisdiction to take the suggested steps.

George DuFour, owner of a trout farm near the operation, at that time complained to the jury that water pollution from the mining had forced him out of business. It took him until 1965 to settle with Kaiser out of court.

The operation was again the brunt of the County Grand Jury in 1970, after a landslide on the Kaiser property above what was then Mt. Hermon Road. The company was cleared of any responsibility for the slide that was blamed on historical instability of the ground. Eventually the slide area was closed and the Mt. Hermon Road bypass was built.

Calling herself a spokesman for her neighbors, Dianna Glidden of 1750 Conference Drive is today's outspoken critic of the operation.

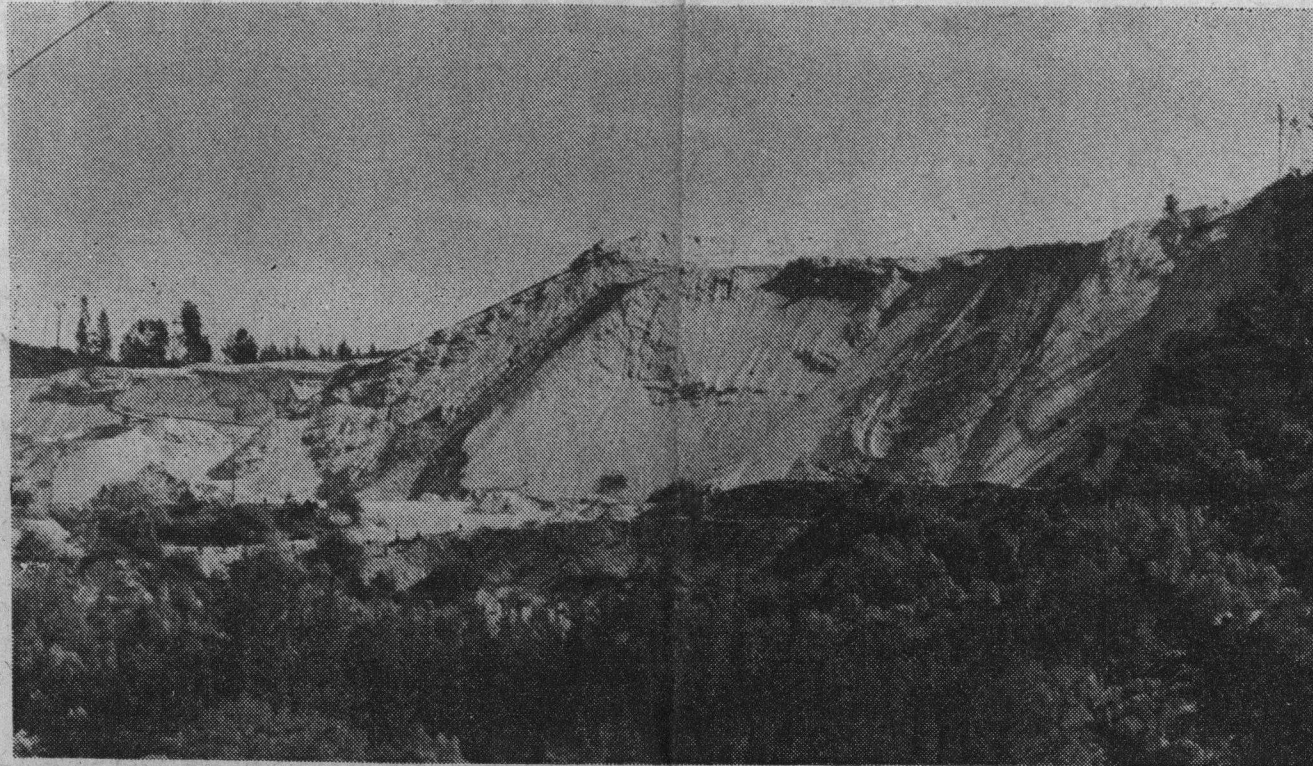
Glidden's chief complaint is against the noise the facility's trucks and conveyor belt make at night when the 1958 use permit states, "Operations shall be conducted only during daylight hours."

This condition, however, is open to interpretation of what exactly "operations" are, according to John Warren of the county planning department and Bill Berger, plant manager at the Felton quarry.

Glidden presented Warren with a petition signed by 18 Mt. Hermon Road and Conference Drive residents in September, 1975. The petition protests the loud machinery allegedly operating at night and the vibration that some equipment caused in the ground.

Other nearby residents such as Alice Crosby on Conference Drive and John Duppen on Mt. Hermon Road say the sound of trucks and machinery at night doesn't bother them.

"There's noise, but we don't hear it anymore because we've been here so long... We lived down below Kaiser for two years and then we moved



Land 'scars' resulting from sand and gravel operations near Scotts Valley have resulted in complaints and questions.

where we've lived now for eight years, right across from their gate," Crosby said.

Duppen said he gets up early anyhow, so the trucking which starts around 5 a.m. doesn't bother him.

It bothers Glidden, however, and she's been anticipating getting her feelings known in front of the planning commission ever since Warren first told her

IRS Announces 5500 Deadline

The Internal Revenue Service has announced it will extend the filing time for annual returns (series 5500) for employers and administrators with returns due Oct. 15 and Nov. 15.

The extension — to Dec. 15 — is available only to employers and plan administrators who have exhausted all reasonable efforts to accumulate or develop necessary filing data to comply with the earlier deadlines.

A certification explaining the

there was a public hearing on Kaiser scheduled for December, 1975.

"That was the first date John (Warren) gave me. Then it was realized it was not going to be then and not probably until the summer. We were given the date of May 28. They even posted the signs two days before. I was then told that the planning staff had made their recommendations and Kaiser saw the recommendations and said they were not prepared.

"In other words, they didn't want to face the hearing. It was never permanently rescheduled and that is what has been happening ever since," Glidden complained.

The hearing is necessary for Kaiser to be granted a certificate which states it is in compliance with the 1972 quarry regulations passed by the county.

(This ordinance and Kaiser's answers to the allegations against its operation will be dealt with in the next two parts

of this series.)

Glidden went so far as to call the sheriff last month when she was awakened by the sounds coming from the mining operation.

A deputy came to her home at 4 a.m. on Sept. 17, 1976 and witnessed the alleged disturbance, Glidden said.

Much to her exasperation, she found out the next afternoon that he had failed to write up a report.

The sheriff's department then sent up a second deputy on Sept. 19, who classified the incident as "Keep the Peace." Apparently, no further action has been taken by the sheriff's department.

Kaiser is not the only mining operation in the area and it's not the only operation that must eventually comply with the county ordinance. It is, however, one of the biggest operations in the area and, as Glid-

den stated, "What's happening with Kaiser is obviously going to have an influence over all the rest. It's like children - If one gets away with it, all the rest will."

SC Equalization Unit Appointee

Robert E. Morton has been appointed office manager of the State Board of Equalization's Santa Cruz District Office. Morton, who will assume his

position Nov. 1, comes to Santa Cruz after 10 years service with the San Mateo district office. He succeeds Melville Duffy, who has retired.

STORYBOOK PARADE

SATURDAY
OCT. 30
AT 10 A.M.

With HOCUS POCUS as Grand Marshall. All children are invited to meet at Branciforte School For Judging At 9 A.M.



Parade will begin at 10 a.m. and proceed up Branciforte Ave. to Soquel Ave., Down Soquel Ave. to Seabright Ave. & Up Seabright Ave. To Gault School where ICE CREAM & INDIVIDUAL TROPHIES WILL BE PRESENTED!

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