

Ben Lomond Residents Wrangle Over Park Plans

By Bill Neubauer
Sentinel Staff Writer

A wild Ben Lomond Business Association meeting during which women called one another liars was topped in the nearby town park Thursday night by the wild dash of a naked young man across the beach area into the waters of the San Lorenzo River.

In the park, about 20 male and female companions of the young man cheered him when he returned to the barbecue area to put on his clothes and dry off.

In nearby Ben Lomond Recreation Hall, the business group split sharply and bitterly on the question of Ben Lomond Recreation District's summer program of free movies. Group president James Clark sought vainly for many minutes to limit the discussion to the question.

Defending the free movie program were Mrs. Paddy Smith and Mrs. Alice Earl Wilder, who served together as recreation district directors for many years until Mrs. Smith chose not to seek re-election last November.

"It seems to me," Mrs. Wilder told the group, "that people have a direct responsibility to provide wholesome programs for the summer. Last year the movies did appeal to the people—not to the hippie types, but to the local people. We counted over 100 at these movie programs. There has to be a group willing to give properly supervised recreation. I'm getting tired of hearing people say they can't do anything because of the hippies. There are a lot of local people using the park who are not hippies. It doesn't seem right to me to cater to the bad element by denying the good element a decent place to go."

Mrs. Smith defended the program by saying, "A lot of families enjoyed the movies last year and we had no trouble. What are we going to offer the people if we don't give them recreation, a place to go? Ben Lomond is still a tourist town and you have to give them something if you want the tourists to come here."

Mrs. Ruth Wilson, Ed Peterson, John Bell, Ray Wilson and other Ben Lomond business people argued however that the movies did attract undesirables to the park. Bell said, "There isn't one family represented here that allows their children to use the park." A motel owner said, "Our people don't go to the movies or the park." Mrs. Wilson said, "Anyone who wants to go along with last year's programs at a higher cost is signing a blank check. There'll be a People's Park."

Tempers rose as charges and counter-charges were made, and then "liar" was hurled to and fro.

By a voice vote of about 12 to 1 the business group voted to recommend to the recreation district that money not be utilized for movies but be spent for wholesome entertainment elsewhere in Ben Lomond, "not down here in this stagnant pool."

Another lively argument then developed over the general state of the park's summertime use.

Bell told the gathering, "Times change. The park was once a good place for our kids to go. But I said two years ago people should go down there and take a look at the people using the park. Have you looked at the types there tonight?"

Speaking of park supervision last year, Paul Hartman, the district's recreation consultant, said that while not everyone who used the park was dressed as some people might like, there had been only one occasion to call the Sheriff's department.

"Last year we did have kids using the park whose parents don't care about them, who don't have much of a home life or of anything else, and some of these kids are going the route we don't want to see our own kids take."

"But I'm pretty proud of the supervision we had last year, and I'm pretty proud of the qualities shown by our supervisors. Complaints about some of the participants in park programs may be legitimate. But as for complaints about the job

the supervisors did, well I don't think you have any legitimate complaints."

Mrs. Wilson paid tribute to the programs developed by Hartman, calling them "wonderful." Her complaints, she added, were directed at park management.

The group passed a motion at this point recommending that the recreation district not increase its tax this year, that the tax be no more than that levied last year.

Mrs. Wilder commented,

"When you want supervision, it's strange you don't want to pay for it."

The group also passed a motion recommending that a proposed \$1500 expenditure for a children's wading pool be cancelled by the recreation district and that the money be spent on providing adult supervision of the park at all times it is in use. Other business included:

Baseball Field — The group will write a letter to the SLV Unified School District's governing board requesting Hartman's aid in marking off a baseball field on property near the Mormon church for use this summer in Little League and other baseball play. Use of the property is being donated by owner Ed Peterson, who said he had spent about \$300 leveling the property.

Peterson said, "Some of us are always being accused of doing nothing for this town. This is evidence of our willingness to do something to provide recreation of a wholesome type away from the park and its corrupting influences."

Beautification — The group

will buy flats of flowers for planting along Highway 9 and other places to improve the town's appearance. The planting will be done by the Ben Lomond 4-H Club, and the watering will be done regularly by the Ben Lomond Volunteer Fire Department.

Hole-in-One-Tourney — The group agreed to conduct a hole-in-one golf tourney at Boulder Creek Country Club August 9-10. First prize will be a new car valued to \$4000 if a golfer achieves an ace at a designated hole.

Quentin Warden Defends Prison

By Peter Walls
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Declaring that he hasn't seen anything new in the correctional field in 28 years, the warden of San Quentin Wednesday said the purpose of prison remains the same: segregation, protection and preparation — segregation of convicts from society, protection from each other and themselves, and preparation for their return to society.

Louis Nelson, defending the traditional role of prisons, added, "I see no reason to apologize for punishment," which he said was the main deterrent to crime. "I know why I'm not in prison. It's the fear of punishment," he said, remembering his brief flirt with crime at the age of 18.

His speech at the luncheon of the California Probation, Parole and Correctional Association's annual convention in

SV Gets Budget For Recreation

A tentative \$8100 budget for 1969-70 has been submitted by the recently formed Scotts Valley Recreation Committee to City Administrator Friend Stone.

The first such budget in Scotts Valley history, it will suffer the same paring most budgets suffer, Stone indicated, but he hailed it Thursday as another indication that the city is moving forward with its plans to provide recreational outlets for its young people.

The budget allots to major items \$1200 for Hangar (a former barn near City Hall) improvement, \$1000 for a summer recreation director, \$2000 for playground leaders, \$1000 for equipment and supplies, \$1000 for playground supplies, and \$750 for a possible swim program.

Stone said he had no quarrel with the listed expenditures as such. "But I think I can get some of these things, like Hangar improvement, at far less cost through use of city and volunteer workers," he added.

Stone said, too, that the \$750 allotted for a possible swim program is in his opinion merely a request for a city guarantee the money will be available if needed.

"I think the swim program, if it materializes, will more than pay for itself," he said.

The recreation committee is presently negotiating with the Loyal Order of Moose for use of the swimming pool at their clubhouse near Scotts Valley.