



PCPOA

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PCPOA News

President's Message

The Land Rush of '06

"The Great Placerita Canyon Land Rush of 2006" is stampeding throughout our quiet, bucolic canyon.

As you by now are aware, the big city folk from way over the hill are attempting to build out the vacant land at 13th St. Couple this with the proposed invasion from the oil field owners off Sierra Highway to put in 190 houses up there, just above Placerita Canyon, and we have a serious dilemma on our hands. Either we roll over and let our fair City of Santa Clarita do the planning review and approvals for

us, or we rise to the challenge and have a positive impact on all this threat to our quality of life.

Well let me tell ya like it is. Your Placerita Canyon Board has rolled up its sleeves and are prepared for the long haul. We have already appeared at several meetings regarding the 13th Street development, also known as the North Newhall Specific Plan or the Casden Project. With regard to the oil field "improvement" aka Heritage Hills, we attended four meetings with the folks from Heritage Hills and frankly, told them like it is. In both

cases, we strongly emphasized our commitment to upholding our long fought for Placerita Canyon Special Standards District, the purpose of which "is to maintain, preserve and enhance the rural and equestrian character of Placerita Canyon".

For each of these projects, affecting both ends of our canyon, the planning process has truly just begun. For the Newhall Specific Plan, a North Newhall Discovery Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, September 21 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Santa Clarita City Council Chambers. This will be followed by a four day "Charrette" which is scheduled for September 25--28 from 10-8 p.m.

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Placerita GOLD

by Linda Tarnoff

Shirlemae Beverly

Imagine after having driven through the Mojave Desert on your way to Placerita Canyon, and instead driving right through, stopping at only one stop light, and on over the Newhall Pass, end-

ing up in San Fernando, where nobody knew where Newhall was.

This is how local resident Shirlemae Beverly and her husband Chuck recall arriving in the small community of Newhall in 1956. Orig-

nally from North Dakota, 15 miles from the Canadian border, Shirlemae came from a large family of 12 children, nine brothers and three sisters. A middle child, she started out on a rural scholarship as a teacher

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Open Membership Meetings - STAY INFORMED !!!

Your Board of Directors has voted to have Four meetings each year that are designed for open discussion by members of the PCPOA. This means YOU. There is a lot going on, your board works hard to look out for all of us in the Canyon, and **WE NEED YOUR HELP AND INPUT !!**

Mark your calendars for the Third Wednesday of February, August, and November. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for May and that will constitute the fourth open meeting. Watch for posters, mailings, and emails for time and locations. **PLEASE HELP US PROTECT OUR CANYON.**

each day at Hart Hall. This interactive process is designed to flesh out details for a plan that is anticipated to become before City Council during the early part of 2007

Day 1 — September 25: Traffic and Transportation

Day 2 — September 26: Environmental Issues and Landscaping

Day 3 - September 27: Financing of Infrastructure and Economics

Day 4 — September 28: Design, Code Standards and Closing

In addition, special presentations geared toward each day are scheduled from Noon to 1 p.m. with Evening Wrap-ups from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For Heritage Hills, the developers have submitted preliminary plans to the City of Santa Clarita and are now addressing comments and suggestions made by PCPOA. This project too is expected to make its rounds in 2007.

Your participation in any way, shape or form is critical to insure our

success at having an influence on the Planning Process. Although the PCPOA Board of Directors is committed to leading the charge, it is incumbent upon each and every one of our residents to be aware of what is going on. If not, imagine a day in the not too distant future, when densely packed houses dot our perimeter boundaries. However, to have an opportunity to be a player at the table -- in hopes of crafting projects that we can benefit by -- can only be better than what we are threatened with now.

Our next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15 in the evening. Mark your calendar now. Presentations will be made on the status of both of these planning efforts, focusing attention on specific proposals and information we have at that time. Please take the time to put your hat in the ring and join us in making a difference.

Open Space (Take Two)

Linda Tarnoff

Our Santa Clarita City Mayor Laurene Weste, who just happens to be a resident of Placerita Canyon, is now working with an exploratory committee, as well as meeting with residents and other interested parties, to look at open space options.

"I want to see how the committee and the community want to proceed on acquisition of Open Space", says Mayor Weste "which could include creation of an Open Space District".

One needs to look no further than the east and west end of Placerita Canyon to see that remaining open space is rapidly being challenged by developers.

Mayor Weste adds that "without the public's effort soon, there will not be much open space left for acquisition."

The PCPOA Board will be monitoring the Open Space issue closely and keep you informed.

What Can YOU Do?

The PCPOA serves a large area, and within that area are a lot of varied interests. There are issues that concern some of your neighbors, and are of no concern to others. We need your expertise in finding solutions to all these issues. The committees listed below are looking for participation. Please contact PCPOA and offer your assistance.

Trails	By Laws
Newsletter	Special Events
Disaster Preparedness	Welcoming Committee

Community Planning

Newsletter Help !

If there is anything that you have, or information that you can share with your neighbors, please get it to us so that we can put it in our newsletter. Especially Photographs. If you don't have a digital photo that you can send us, we can scan your print photo. I promise it will come back in good condition after scanning.

Stories of days past, and of recent history are indeed welcome. Suggestions for interviews to guarantee that our "Placerita Gold" column remains as interesting as this very first one.

YOU are the PCPOA, and this newsletter is for you.

GOT CANS, paint that is?

By now you are all familiar with the City's recycling program for paper, cardboard, plastics, aluminum, and metal cans.

However, what you might not know about is the City's specially funded paint and other hazardous container pick up program. With one phone call, this handy program can be scheduled to come to your home once a year to pick up certain amounts of leftover paint containers, batteries, used motor oil and filters, pool and hobby chemicals, poisons, metal polish, etc.. In a recent 'test' of the program two weeks ago. Someone **actually** came and picked up the paint containers and we didn't have to wait until the annual County Hazardous Waste Roundup to be held later this year.

Contact info: City of Santa Clarita, (661) 286-4098. You will be asked to describe the materials you have for pickup, and then they will contact their contractor, Curbside, Inc. (800) 448-7587 which will in turn promptly contact you with collection information and a pick up time. However, if you can't wait, Los Angeles County operates a special Saturday through Monday (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) drop off service for paint and other hazardous containers in Sun Valley at 11025 Randall Street.

And if old sofas, furniture, beds, refrigerators, televisions, electronics, and computers are destined for the dump, just call Blue Barrel, at (661) 259-2398, to schedule a bulky item pickup. Four pickups are available each year, with a maximum of three items per pickup.

p.s. The City advises It is now against the law to dispose of fluorescent light bulbs and household batteries in the trash. The same holds true for computers. Blue Barrel operates a drop off container at 25722 Springbrook (X Drayton).

at the State University in North Dakota, and with supervision, became a teacher at the age of 17 which led her on a career which lasted over 40 years. After three years of teaching in Boise, Idaho, she married Chuck, an aerospace inspector.

Following his service in the Korean War, they journeyed to California in 1956 where Shirlemae secured employment as a teacher with The Newhall Unified School District, first living in Sylmar for six years and then moving to Placerita Canyon in 1962. At first she had been reluctant to live in the same town as her students, hence living in Sylmar those early years. However, after a sweet deal, (\$28,000 for an acre), to buy their current house in the Canyon from the previous owner, due to her teaching his two daughters, coupled with her just receiving a M.A. degree from CSUN in Counseling and Guidance Education, she and her husband decided to make the move to Placerita Canyon, where they have remained ever since.

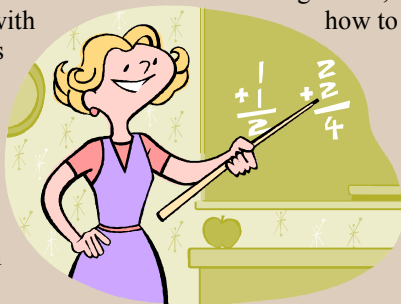
Camp Beverly

For 34 years, Shirlemae served as a devoted teacher at Newhall Elementary School, finally retiring in 1991. She recalls fondly the early years when there was one school in Newhall, one school in Sulphur Springs, one in Saugus and one in Castaic. In Newhall, there were a total of 16 teachers serving approximately 200 students. She commanded such a following that the principal routinely assigned all the Placerita Canyon children to her 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms, such as Candy Bloom (now Candy Veluzat), Candy's two sons Paul and Daniel, PCPOA Board member Val Thomas' kids, all the Zamora Kids and the list goes on. Many of her students hung out at her home in the summer, which became known as "Camp Beverly". Her two sons, Bruce and Craig, were also enrolled at Newhall School, which raised the bar even higher for them. While it was a simpler time in the early years, towards the latter part of her teaching career, teachers became frustrated with how to deal with multiple languages and requirements for interpreters. But she somehow made it work and fun for her young students.

What's to Eat?

In the early years, other than the legendary Saugus Café, only one other restaurant was in Newhall, the Bamboo Inn, where the tattoo parlor currently is off Lyons. She also remembers the journey to the High Chick, a "hamburger joint" in the outlying area, as well as the TIPS restaurant out there. For shopping, they would venture to North Hollywood where Sears is located, small stores in San Fernando or Sylmar such as Country Cousins, next over to Fallbrook Square, driving through orange groves to get there, and later to Panorama City with its vast collection of shops. (Author's note: this brought back childhood memories of begging my mother to take me to the North Hollywood Sears where I could sit in their display saddles!)

When Lyons Avenue developed, Country Cousins opened shop which pleased Shirlemae very much. Most significantly, if she



and her family wanted to celebrate a special event, they would venture all the way over to Ventura Boulevard!

The Great Manure Fire of 1962

Not too many houses existed in Placerita Canyon when Shirlemae and Chuck set down roots here. It was pretty much open space, Burbank Creamery Dairy, and Melody Ranch. The acre and single family home that they purchased was carved out of a 40 acre parcel and an original guest house with the old barn located in the parking lot of what is now Master's College Fine Arts Building off of Quigley and Placeritos.

It was good that few houses existed at that time because a giant manure pile erupted in flames on Onardarka Ranch, now Circle J, on that dark day in 1962, right after they moved to their new



The original guest house, worth saving from 1962 fire

home. This fire, fueled by overgrowth, and streaming sparks from the manure pile, quickly consumed much of the Canyon, including Melody Ranch. With Chuck not home, Shirlemae jumped on the roof of the old guest house, and using a borrowed water hose due to lack of water at the back of the property, saved the guest house from destruction. When a two foot pile of not yet cleaned up cottonwood leaves erupted in flames, she was forced to jump from the roof, an act to which she now attributes occasional back pain. All the cattle from the dairy galloped off, and were found wandering throughout the canyon, along with many loose horses. Hay stacks smoldered for days.

What Happened to?

And that old barn somehow survived the fire, giving way to a chapel and then the first Grace Baptist Church. Ultimately, Grace was bought out by Master's College, and relocated to Copperhill. What is now the newly turfed Master's College athletic field used to consist of over 40 oak trees and lush grass, a child's paradise. Upon owner John Pettinger's passing, his wife let the parcels go to Master's. A community protest erupted with the demise of the trees. In the same vicinity too, a big oak tree grew in the middle of the Placeritos and Quigley Intersection. And much of that vacant land in the Canyon became more houses, including the Town and Country Estates.

Life After Retirement

Upon retiring from Newhall School District, Shirlemae decided to explore new educational horizons, going back to school, receiving a Psy.D. in transcendental psychology and a Ph.D. in Applied Biosciences which includes hypnotherapy and biofeed-

Continued Page 4

back. She is immersed in teaching classes, and her dissertation has become two volumes, the first on finding the mind, and the second on minding the body. In addition, she and Chuck, who have now been married over 51 golden years, spend time on an



Shirlemae Beverly standing at intersection where the giant oak tree once stood. inherited 200 acre former plantation in North Carolina, which after a local road crew went through for a planned road extension, tapped water, and now has a 20 acre lake in the middle.

Reflections

Shirlemae and Chuck moved to Placerita Canyon, seeking out a quite country life for themselves and their two young boys, who

used to play and ride their horses in Fox's Pasture, then vacant Melody Ranch, etc.. Placerita Canyon was a community within a larger community, the tenor of which still remains. However, then everybody knew each other and truly cared, whereas now, residents are more isolated even if spaced closer together. What bothers Shirlemae is her former students, many who grew up in the Canyon, cannot afford to live here unless they inherit from their parents or become wealthy in their own right. Many of her friends have since sold out for the highest dollar and moved on, but she and her husband are committed to staying.

She also feels that if the City would have incorporated sooner, then perhaps development would have been more organized, with more roads and infrastructure built in. She adds that many artsy, talented people live in the canyon whom local residents should get to know.

Guess the bottom line is, though everybody has different interests, everybody moved to our Placerita Canyon for the same reasons, to have a quiet country life. What we still have and enjoy today are worth the effort to preserve and maintain. And perhaps we should all take the time to get to know Placerita's Gold.

Future Newsletters will include interviews with other long time residents, enabling us to learn even more local history to instill further pride in our beloved canyon. Any suggestions for interviews, please contact:

Linda Tarnoff havahunchranch@aol.com

Arson In Our Canyon

Scott Dickens

As some of you may know there were three set fires in Newhall creek, one at the west end of the canyon at Pine and 12th street, 2 more further south near the new community center on Market Street. I was one of the first to see the fire in our canyon from San Fernando Road. I turned on to Pine and stopped at 12th, the fire was down in the wash. I grabbed the fire extinguisher from my car and ran towards the fire, Jerry Hurley and another man were also getting fire extinguishers. I was first to the fire, pulled the pin and – nothing – the powder dribbled out of the nozzle for less than a second. The other fire extinguishers arrived and knocked the fire down, one was empty, the second still had some use. We saw the second fire and the good extinguisher was taken to that fire.

The first fire rekindled itself repeatedly and we were forced to try to shovel sand on it with our hands as neither of us had a shovel. I quickly found a broken sink and used that as a shovel.

Meanwhile we were trying to call the fire department. We were, of course, using our cell phones. **911 was busy!** I had to lookup the fire department number in the white pages of the phone book I had in my car. 911 from a cell phone calls the Highway Patrol, Good if you are reporting an accident on the freeway, bad for reporting a fire, really bad when the number is busy.

The fire department was reached, and we reported 2 fires. We were later told by the fire department that there were three total. It took about 20 min for the fire department to show up, as they had been busy putting the other two out first, (six or more fire trucks) as ours was contained. It took a team of three about ten minutes and a lot of water to completely put out the fire we had contained.

Lessons:

- Call the fire department, from a landline if possible.
- Have more than one fire extinguisher.
- If you have a cell phone, know this number: 323-881-2455 (LA County Fire Department)
- Carry a shovel in your car or truck at all times.
- Knocking the fire down was much easier than putting it completely out.
- Nothing beats water for a brushfire.
- That one person can make a difference in a "small" brushfire



PCPOA Past President and Board Member Scott Dickens and Durango on Main Street of "Deadwood"

(AKA Melody Ranch)

Planning For Our Canyon's Future

WHAT WE LEARNED FROM YOU

Approximately 60 residents of Placerita Canyon had an opportunity to voice their wishes and concerns for the 13th Street property as part of the PCPOA Board's outreach effort to gather as much information as possible on Thursday September 5 at Placerita Baptist Church.

Based on community input, the following wish list was assembled:

- No change to Special Standards District
- Develop a Western town themed light industrial area next to the railroad tracks
- Inclusion of a western themed hotel on site. Councilman Bob Keller suggests a re-creation of the SOUTHERN HOTEL
- Incorporate shops and good size restaurants
- Include trails
- Build high end equestrian center with meeting and banquet facilities
- Maintain aerial Fire Department access
- Minimum half acre lots
- A Par 3 golf course on the MWD right of way
- Synergize with downtown Newhall Redevelopment
- Join with Sand Canyon, Agua Dulce and Castaic

communities who also have their own Special Standards Districts

- Tie in the proposed extension of the Santa Paula Filmore Heritage line – possibly with jitney transport to the 13th Street site. The aim would be to make Santa Clarita a tourist destination.

However, as a part of this process, the following concerns also expressed by local residents:

- Increased traffic
- Potential for increased crime
- Channeling of Placerita Creek
- Potential for high density

The PCPOA Board is delighted with the large turnout and excellent suggestions for possible use on this valuable parcel of land. Ben Curtis, PCPOA Board President, will be presenting your suggestions and comments to City of Santa Clarita staff and the project consultant for incorporation into the discussion for proposed use. In addition, Board members Patty Pierce and Val Thomas will continue working with

Placerita Canyon residents to ensure that representation occurs during the entire "charrette" process.

- Canyon residents are all encouraged to attend the North Newhall Discovery Workshop on Thursday, September 21, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Please bring your ideas and show your support.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR !!!!

CASDEN/NORTH NEWHALL SPECIFIC PLAN

BRAINSTORMING SESSION



Thursday, Sept. 21 6pm - 8pm
North Newhall Discovery Workshop #2
Santa Clarita City Hall Council Chambers
23920 Valencia Blvd., Santa Clarita



Placerita Canyon Trails Council

MISSION STATEMENT PLACERITA CANYON TRAILS COUNCIL

The Trails Council is dedicated to the acquisition, maintenance and preservation of current and future riding and hiking trails in and adjacent to Placerita Canyon, as well as to foster direct trail linkage to surrounding open space such as Hart Park, Whitney Canyon, Golden Valley Ranch and Whittier Berrite. To actively work with the City of Santa Clarita and the Santa Clarita Valley Trails Advisory Committee to ensure that any future developments at the east and west ends of Placerita Canyon include the provision of appropriate trails, and that the extension of Dockweiler Road incorporate as well as extends the existing Placerita Canyon Backbone Trail. In addition, the Trails Council will liaison with and/or partner as necessary with other similar focused organizations such as Equestrian Trails, Inc., SCVTAC, AVTREC, the Acton-Aqua Dulce and Sand Canyon Trails Councils, etc., to ensure that trails continue to exist, that the equestrian and rural lifestyle is adhered to, thereby enabling future generations to experience and enjoy.

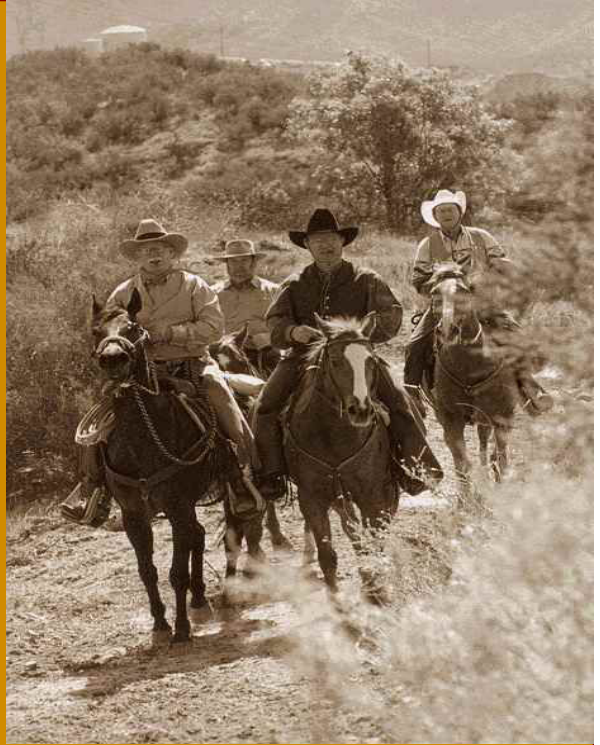


Photo By: Jack Hummel Photography



Photo By: Jack Hummel Photography

Contacting the PCPOA

Below is contact information for your Placerita Canyon Property Owner's Association:

President:	Ben Curtis bwcurtis@pacbell.net (661) 255-1169
Vice President	Gene Leary geneleary@comcast.net (661) 2355-3298
Secretary	Annette Mathews anetM@aol.com (661) 287-9006
Treasurer Rob Hall	r3hall@earthlink.net (661) 253-0262

Board Members

Del Nelson	nelsonconstr@earthlink.net (661) 254-1321
Scott Dickens	scottdickens@earthlink.net (661) 259-8567
Val Thomas	bionic1@sbcglobal.net (661) 255-2967
Patty Pierce	ivanafive@msn.com (661) 254-5078
Linda Tarnoff	haveahunchranch@aol.com (661) 253-9753

Placerita Canyon Property Owner's Association

Post Office Box 22224

Santa Clarita, California 91322

<http://www.pcpoa.com>

The PCPOA is formed under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a Public Benefit Corporation that is exempt from Taxation.



Snow on Placeritos in 1988 - Photo by Del Nelson



PCPOA's Believe It Or NOT
And you thought it was always HOT here !!

PCPOA.COM

Please visit the Placerita Canyon Property Owner's Association website at www.pcpoa.com. We are still under construction, but check back every day or so for up to date Canyon News and information. As with the newsletter, we are looking for content!!! If you have anything that you would like to see addressed on the site, please let us know by contacting us as shown in the contact section of the newsletter.



Photo By: Jack Hummel Photography

Old Time Placerita Fare - (Or Not)

Squirrel Stew

Prep Time: 3 hours

Cooking Time: 2 hours

Servings: 2-3

Recipe Comments: Served with biscuit for a hardy meal.

Ingredients:

- 2 squirrels
- 1 cup vinegar

- 1 onion, diced
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 1/2 season salt
- leaves from 3 stalks celery
- 4 carrots, diced
- 4-12 red potatoes (depending on size)

Recipe Instructions: Wash dressed squirrel thoroughly and dice into bite

size pieces. Combine vinegar, onion, salt, and pepper in deep container. Add squirrel and enough water to cover. Let stand 3 hours. Remove squirrel and place in a roasting pan, brown in 375°F oven. Add seasoned salt, celery leaves, carrots, and potatoes. Again cover with water. Cover pan and continue cooking until tender.

Placerita Community Calendar

<u>September 2006</u>	
9/20/06	PCPOA Board Meeting
9/21/06	North Newhall Workshop 6:00 to 8:00 PM
09/25...09/28	North Newhall Planning Meetings Hart Hall
09/23...09/24	Hart Of The West Pow Wow Hart Park 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
<u>October 2006</u>	
10/07...10/08	SC Street Art Festival 10am—6pm Downtown Newhall
10/15/06	Bow Wows and Meows Pet Fair Hart Park
10/18/06	PCPOA Board Meeting
<u>November 2006</u>	
15-Nov	Open Membership Meeting - TBA
<u>December 2006</u>	
20-Dec	PCPOA Board Meeting