

HUMMER

Campground of the Rockies

June, 1997

Park County Issues

Water

If you think I'm biased about the water issues in Park County, you're right. I like living in Park County, and I'm invested in real estate her, just as you are. Even if you live in Aurora, you have to be concerned about what that city is attempting to do in the County. Noone knows what the effect will be of what has been proposed.

I'm referring to the "conjunctive use" water project proposed by Aurora. The proposal is that Aurora will take aquifer (underground) water when needed and return that water at a later time. The problem is that later never arrives. In Park County, there are 8 years of not enough water for ever 1 year when there is an excess. If the numbers were reversed, the project *might* have some merit. Even then, the hydrological engineering would have to be studied long and hard to *insure* there would be no degradation to current County usage. Remember the use of Agent Orange in Viet Nam by the military to defoliate trees? And the medical experiments on the unknowing? It has been many years later that both the *fact* of these efforts has surfaced, as well as the now-emerging *results*. What comes to mind is a saying: It's easier to gain forgiveness than permission. Do it, let the chips fall, and then say, "I'm sorry."

In the latest bull-etin sent to Park County residents, Tom Griswold, Aurora Director of Utilities, tries to convince us that he is concerned about our welfare. Aurora *is willing* to do this, that and every other. It's all a smokescreen; I don't buy it, and I hope you don't, either.

My perception is that what the Front Range wants is to get its foot in the door for the *rest* of Park County's water (over 80% is already owned by municipalities and other special interests on the other side of the mountains), pump some of it, and then cry 'we need more-more-more.'

If Aurora is so sure that this thing will work, I propose it put up a \$10 Bezillion bond, in advance, to be drawn on should any resident suffer damage any time in the foreseeable future - say 1,000 years.

Should you want more information about these efforts by our 'loving neighbors' to the east, contact the editor - I have a bezillion bytes of info I'll share.

Real Estate Taxes

You have more than likely received your notice of the recent real estate assessments, known as a Real Property Notice of Value (NOV). The Notices were mailed to Park County property owners in mid-May.

According to Park County Assessor David Wissel, "We have provided you our estimated *actual value*. Virtually all properties have experienced an increase in actual value. The most dramatic changes have occurred in the South Park areas."

Further, states Wissel, taxable, assessed value has gone up from \$137.3 million to \$181.5 million, while actual value has increased from \$988 million to \$1.2 billion. He requests that we ask ourselves if the assessor valuation is reasonable, as of June, 1996.

In most instances, the valuation is probably reasonable. The assessor used market value to determine the assessment value, which is a fair approach to the task.

CORA is in the Northwest Fire District. NFD as a whole went up 61%. The whole of Park County went up 37%, while School District RE-2, which includes all of Park County south of Kenosha Pass, increased by 50%. The increase in NFD was exceeded only by the Town of Alma (69%) and Western Union - Hartsel (67%).

Why am I telling you this?

Park County is one of the 10 fastest growing counties in the United States. The County infrastructure has not kept up with the rapid growth. Although taxes and value are not directly linked (the Commissioners determine mill levies), taxes tend to follow re-valuations. The County needs funds to develop our infrastructure (roads, services, etc.).

Our taxes will probably be hiked by the Commissioners to pay for the improvements.

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Being the first has its advantages. For example, Eve did not have to listen to how much better a cook Adam's mother was, and Adam didn't have to 'fess up to how many girlfriends he had before he and Eve got together.

Social Activities Committee

Ed. Note: Marida Wheiles and Marilyn Lobb are co-Chairing the Committee; Marge Moore is Publicity Chair, and will be reporting the schedule of events.

Grill nights are held on Saturday each week during the summer, unless another event is scheduled. Grilling begins @ 5:30, eat @ 6. The theme is varied each week, such as Italian, Mexican, etc.; check the bulletin board in the Clubhouse and the service centers for the theme each week. Bring your own meat to grill and a side dish to share. Drinks and table service are provided. When the Committee provides the dinner, there is a small charge.

Birthdays is celebrated on the second Saturday of June, July, and August, in conjunction with Grill Night. Three additional months are celebrated with the current one, to cover those birthdays when most folks are not at CORA. Of course, we also have a party when someone is here on his or her birthday during the non-summer months - just an excuse for another celebration. Plastic babies are cooked into the birthday desserts to identify who will bake for the following month.

Burro Days (See separate article)

Movie Night We're trying this out to see how much interest there is. Check the bulletin board for dates and titles of shows.

Christmas in August is a time to celebrate a holiday that most of us don't have together. Bring a gift for each person in your group - marked appropriately (girl, boy, woman, man) for the gift exchange. Santa and elves will be there!!

Soup N' Sew is held Tuesday, and is open to

Marge Moore anyone. Look for the notice on the bulletin board as to what is being taught and when. Lou Ann Stewart is currently teaching silk ribbon embroidery.

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| July | 1,8 etc | Soup N' Sew |
| | 5 | Craft Show/Flea Market (See separate article) |
| | 12 | Birthday Celebration - for July, April, May, September. |
| | 19 | Polish Night - \$2.00 for adults, \$1 for kids under 10 |
| | 26 | Burro Days - Burrito Breakfast - \$2 for large burrito, \$1 for small, with green chili. Served from 7:30 - 9:30 AM |
| Aug | 2 | Finger Foods Pot Luck - bring anything that can be eaten with your fingers. Try your favorite recipe. Grill is optional. |
| | 5, 12 etc | Soup N' Sew |
| | 9 | Birthday Celebration - for August, October, November, December. <u>Bingo</u> follows the dinner. |
| | 16 | Christmas in August @ 4 PM Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings. Holiday salad or desserts. \$2.50 for adults, \$1 for kids under 10. |
| | 23 | Homemade Ice Cream Social - with cookie bars. NO grill. Followed by movies. |
| | 30 | Highway Cleanup. Breakfast afterward for cleanup crew. Grill Night followed by DANCE, with Nancy Schreiner, DJ |

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Burro Days

Each year since who knows when, Burro Days in Fairplay has commemorated the role the burros played in South Park mining. Many years ago, the miners who worked either side of Mosquito Pass challenged each other to a burro-with-miner race.

Each year since who knows when, CORA has entered a float in the parade. The Social Committee recruits and coordinates volunteers to decorate and ride on the float. One of the Committee guards the hard candy to make sure there is some to throw to the kids along the parade route.

This year, Burro Days falls over the weekend of July 26 and the Committee is now putting out the call. If you'd like to help in some way with the float contact one of the Committee members, identified elsewhere in this *Hummer*.

And if you'd like to man the CORA booth over that same weekend, contact Paul Pierce of the Real Estate Committee. This is one of the ways we spread the word about our Campground to the locals and any visiting tourists.

- Calendar of Events**
- 7-13 ... Facilities Committee meeting @ CORA; 2 PM @ Clubhouse
 - 7-16 ... Board Meeting @ ACT - 7 PM
 - 7-18 ... **Hummer** mailing
 - 8-1 ... Official Annual Meeting Notice, proxy, ballot, & nominee mailing
 - 8-15 ... **Hummer** mailing
 - 8-20 ... Board Meeting @ ACT - 7 PM
 - 8-31 ... Annual Meeting @ CORA - 9 AM
 - 9-14 ... Facilities Committee meeting @ CORA
 - 9-17 ... Board Meeting @ ACT - 7 PM

Pool Rules

There are very attractive cables stretched above the pool. There are also some very strict rules:

- * Hang from a cable once = 1-day pool eviction
- * Hang from the cable again, you're out for the season.

Tell your guests, because not knowing the rules will not be an acceptable excuse.

Manager's Corner

We had a great start-up for the summer season, with the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Pool Opening, the Board Pancake Breakfast, and a grand time with Jack Blease.

The pool has been the thing for the last several weeks. There was someone (about 20-30 each time we checked) in the pool over the entire Memorial Day weekend. Water aerobics are off to a good start at 8:00 AM Monday through Friday. Please feel free to join in, whenever you're here.

We've had problems with the boiler for the pool, so it's been closed a day at a time, here and there. The repair has required new parts, and we feel this has solved all of the problems. The temperature has held very well, both in the water and out.

However, it gets a bit warm during the day, with the sun out. For the plants that people have put in the enclosure -- Thank You! Some are having a hard time adapting - the temperature has topped at over 100 degrees, which is high for any plant that will thrive in Colorado. This is a trial and error time for us and the plants, trying to find out what works the best.

We also had bedding plants donated, so a group of us planted them on Saturday. Check out the planters in the courtyard of the Clubhouse to see how they're doing. We've had quite a bit of rain recently - Andy Jackson measured 2/3's of an inch one evening - so they should get a good start. We've had this cycle of thunderstorms every afternoon during the first full week in June - even spotted a tornado a couple miles northeast of Rafael's and Patsy's ranch.

The fire evacuation routes are being developed on Silverton Northern. The cleanup on Memorial Day weekend didn't go as well as expected - only 6 sites were cleaned and the refuse removed to our burn site.

It still seems a bit quiet around here, as some of the regulars are not here yet, and those that are here are busy doing their thing. It's nice to hear people say, "It's nice to be home," when they come in the gate.

It's nice to have you here, too!!!!

Eva & Wayne

Area Cultural Happenings

Senior Poetry Contest

Anyone 50 years or older is invited to submit poetry of any style to a publishing company in New Mexico. The contest is for anyone from the 4-Corner states (Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah). The theme is *Life's A Blast*, and entries are limited to 20 lines. There is no entry fee.

For further information, contact Peter at POB 1423, Fairplay, or leave a message at CORA, with your name, address and request for the info.

Salida-Aspen Music Festival Concerts

Twenty years ago, a group from Salida contacted the world-famous Aspen Music Festival about bringing the superb musicians of that festival to the Arkansas Valley. Just one concert was given in that 1977 inaugural season, but was so popular, the season was expanded to 6 the following year.

This year, the concerts start July 5 and continue for the following 5 Saturdays. The performances are balanced between established between established guest artists-in-residence, and young artists on the verge of world recognition.

The performances range from a night of favorites from the great operas, to mother-daughter concerts, to the American Brass Quintet.

There is a flyer on the bulletin board in the Clubhouse. Tickets are general admission and cost \$7; a Season Sponsors contribution is \$125 and entitles the sponsor to 2 tickets to each performance. Contributions are tax deductible.

CORA Weather

Precipitation was 15% below normal in 1996, but so far in 1997, both snow and rain have exceeded the annualized average of 13.5 inches. Most of the overage of precipitation fell during February and June, the two months when it is the most helpful.

If it continues at the present rate, we should have a banner year, with total precipitation in the range of 16". The South Park Ranger District of the Forest Service keeps the records. The lowest recorded by the Fairplay office in the last 10 years was -26 degrees. Last year, there was agreement we had a -39 degree night at CORA, and this year, -37 degrees.

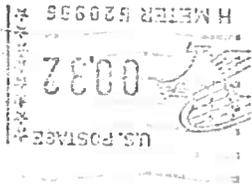
The 600-foot elevation difference makes a major difference in the weather experienced. We had 1/2" of rain at CORA on the night of June 8; there were 2" of snow and a bunch of rain as well.

Rules/Regs &&&& Nomination Petitions

have been mailed to all members. If you have not received either or both of these, call ACT Accounting, 303-779-5151, to get your copies. The rules have been updated, so you might want to read them carefully.

Letters to the Editor

Enough letters have been sent to the editor to fully fill this issue of the *Hummer*. It's been decided that letters which speak to issues the Board needs to deal with will be discussed by the Board at its next meeting. Others will either be printed in their entirety or summarized here, because many of your letters speak to the same issue.



Campground of the Rockies Association
 PO Box 4318
 Englewood, CO 80155-4318
 Campground Phone: 719-836-2533

WELCOME HOME!!!

***** FOR YOUR INFORMATION *****

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

REAL ESTATE...PAUL PIERCE WOODY STEPHENS...FACILITIES
 SOCIAL ACTIVITIES...MARIDA WHEILES & MARILYN LOBB PETER BURTON...COMMUNICATIONS

All members are encouraged to attend Management/Planning Meetings on the first Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November; and Regular Board Meetings every third Wednesday of every month except December. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM in Suite #120 7400 E. Arapahoe Road Phone 303-779-5151

Board of Directors
 CAMPGROUND of the ROCKIES ASSOC'N

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