

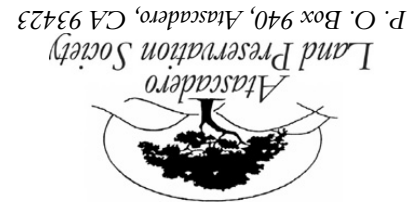
BACK TO SQUARE 4

You have probably already heard that our efforts to purchase the 103-acre Davis property, abutting the Eagle Ranch at the western border of Atascadero, have irrevocably broken down. Last year, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the landowners had signed an agreement that provided for a purchase price of \$1.75 million or a price equal to a valid appraisal by a mutually agreed-upon appraiser (whichever was lower). The exhaustively thorough appraisal, done by a firm selected by the landowners, came in with an appraised value of \$900,000. Despite substantial financial expenditure and over a year of TPL staff time and countless hours of ALPS volunteer time, the landowners chose to terminate the agreement after seeing the appraisal. The California Resources Agency, the primary source for grant money for the purchase, had turned down our application last year, indicating that they didn't see that there was a "willing seller," but encouraging us to re-apply for this year's grant cycle. In the end, their perception proved to be accurate. While we had hoped to provide public access to this beautiful piece of property and to engage in some steelhead restoration projects, we now must content ourselves with the hope that its current zoning will at least protect the property in its existing state.

So... why "Back to Square 4?" Because we are still far beyond Square 1, which occurred over fifteen years ago, when your land preservation society was instrumental in assisting the City of Atascadero's purchase of Stadium Park. Square 2 consisted of obtaining key Creek Reservation properties and lots abutting the creek via donation by Atascadero Mutual Water Company and by purchase. Our extensive campaign to raise funds through private donations to purchase and preserve "Stadium Lane," the five-acre property that serves as half of the gateway to Stadium Park, was the successful Square 3 chapter in the history of ALPS. Purchase of the Davis property was to have been the next step in our evolution.

Perhaps this article should be called "Ahead to Square 4." Your Board of Directors will be determining the future direction of ALPS over the next several months. We know that stewardship and maintenance of our existing land will be part of those plans. We will be seeking further opportunities to conserve special places in Atascadero and will focus on solidifying our volunteer base for maintenance and improvement of those properties. We will discuss what direction to take for the next phase of ALPS. We can use your help in those efforts. Please call, write, or e-mail a Board member with suggestions for Square 4, to be part of this volunteer effort for our community, or if you have interest, skills, and energy to devote to ALPS as a committee member or Director. — Dug Chisholm

Mail to:



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- President: Dugald Chisholm
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family. In recent years concerned citizens and various groups such as ALPS and ANTA have worked tirelessly to restore Stadium Park to its original natural beauty. It indeed can provide a wonderfully rare experience to excite your imagination.

At Tent City, spectators were entertained by the complete re-enactment of life as it was in the early 1900's. They saw hand made farm equipment, tasted organically grown food items, purchased heirloom seeds, learned about the food dehydrating process, followed the step by step action of land purchasing as it occurred back in the early days. Its amazing how far a plug nickel will go! Apple Bobbing Anyone?

SAVE THIS DATE!

Please plan to join us Sunday, December 16th for a Holiday Social at the Colony House from 3-5 PM

STADIUM PARK

By Bill Shepard

Plans are being developed to enhance the hillside area at the entrance to Stadium Park. A planting of oak trees and various native shrubs in a



“natural pattern” has been started with the addition of 4 Blue oaks and 3 Valley oaks in two separate plantings. Each one has been mulched heavily and surrounded by wire. Thus far, only one fatality has occurred. In addition, we have planted a Toyon, and a Mountain Mahogany.

In the flat area by the road, about 8 oak trees



have been planted in tubes, most of which are surviving.

A significant problem is watering,

since it has to be brought in by truck. Fred Frank has supplied water with his 100 plus gallon “portable” tank. We are looking in to the possibility of utilizing an irrigation system installed under the bridge, and not used at present. This would allow us to develop the area much more. A pathway up the hillside lined with various native plants with signage, is a possibility. We are also looking forward to working with ANTA in their plans to undertake an extensive planting of oaks throughout the city.

PRESERVING HISTORY

By Geri Brasher-Phemister

We are beginning the process of organizing the history of ALPS. Board member Geri Brasher Phemister has agreed to collect, collate and develop a chronologically arranged scrapbook of what we are about and what we have done. ALPS was founded in 1989. Its purpose is to acquire scenic open space in the City of Atascadero in order to preserve it in a natural state for the enjoyment of present residents and for future generations. Its method of acquisition is free market based--using outright purchase and/or soliciting gifts of land that meet its criteria.

To that end, many of our friends donated money, helped with fund raising events and provided other enthusiastic support which resulted in the many significant acquisitions ranging from our assistance to the City of Atascadero in purchasing Stadium Park, accepting Atascadero Creek property from Atascadero Mutual Water Co. to purchasing the Stadium Lane property from Nellie Kennedy. All of these endeavors have generated a lot of publicity, and we need to organize this history. This is where you, our friends,

come in. If you have any literature, press articles or pictures in any way related to ALPS, please let Geri know. She needs your input to make the history as complete as possible. She can be reached at 466-5461 or emailed at geri@supportalps.org.



COLONY DAYS

By Debra Stafford

On Saturday, October 20th the Atascadero Land Preservation Society (ALPS) and the Atascadero Native Tree Association (ANTA) celebrated the founding of our city and honored the visions set forth by E.G. Lewis, our Founding Father by participating in the Colony Days parade and Tent City.

In 1913 Mr. Lewis and various other nationally recognized land management experts established far reaching goals to provide for the health and welfare of our citizens. People from all over the world were invited to settle here. As a visionary, E.G. Lewis recognized the importance of establishing and protecting natural resources. He set aside parcels for open space and created our first creek reservations to ensure the quality of life for all. Original parcels were sold to individual investors according to personal wants and needs. Soil samples provided



information on suitable sites for various crops. Due to its climate and varying soil types, Atascadero was called upon to provide dehydrated foods to our armed forces during the war. As we geared up for production, the war ended.

Of course, no discussion of the past is complete without the mention of Stadium Park, the first gathering place of our citizens. Stadium Park remains “a crown jewel” to history buffs and resource lovers. It is a wonderful place to stroll around with your

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EAGLE SCOUTS

By Bruce Bonifas

Over this past year, our Stadium Lane property (entrance to Stadium Park) has benefited

with the installation of 4 beautiful and unique benches. The benches are the result of



two Eagle Scout projects. Tommy McNamara and Steven DeCou both decided to work on these projects to meet the Community Service requirements for their Eagle Scout Badges. Both young men did a great job in creating a unique design which nicely compliments the natural setting of the land. The young men were required to not only coordinate the projects with ALPS representatives, but they also needed to obtain all the materials, organize the work crew and oversee implementation of the entire project. All of the benches came out beautifully and are a great addition to our community park. ALPS representatives spoke at Steven's Eagle Scout ceremony thanking him for the benches and encouraging him to keep actively participating in Community Service throughout his life. "Community Service not only aids the community in which you live but also is a great opportunity for you to meet more of your neighbors and townspeople. Being active in your community keeps you connected and engaged with your town as well as bringing personal satisfaction." Thank you Tommy and Steven for a job well done!