

The First Fifty Years

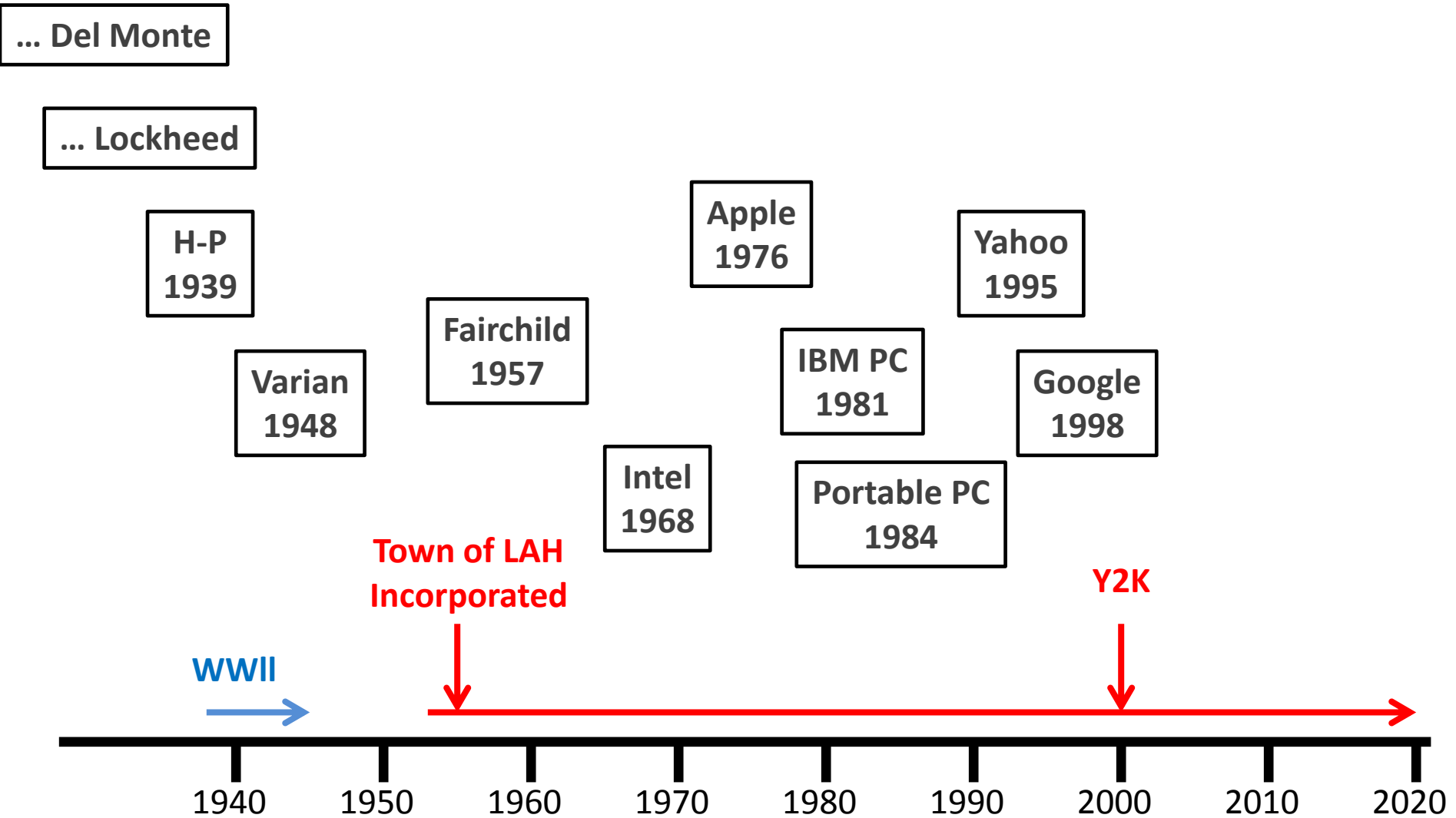


It All Started Here...



Robleda and Dori Lane

A Visual Time Scale



In The Beginning

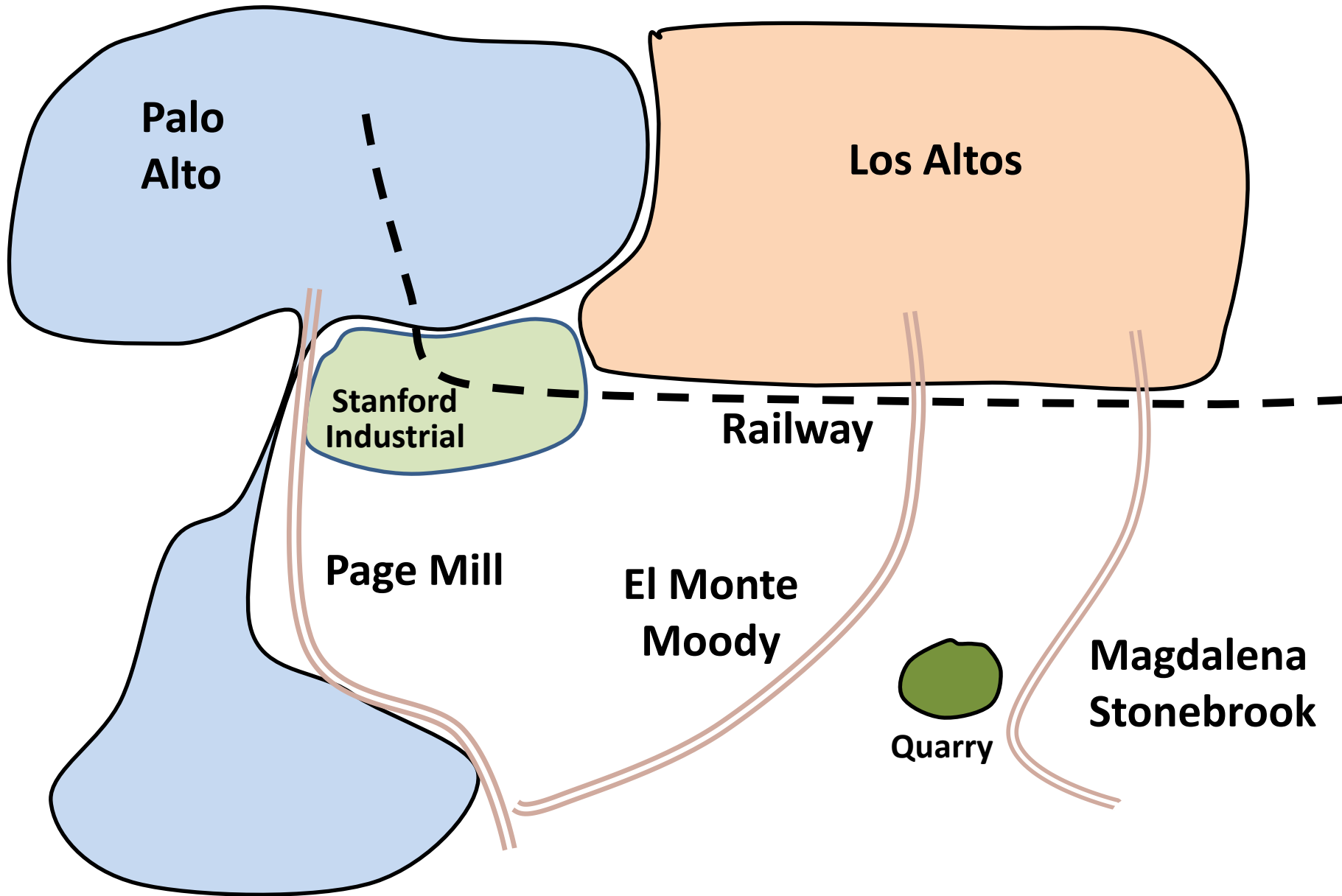
Motivations To Incorporate a New Town - And The Opposition

PRO

CON



The Shape of a New Town



Extract from “The 15th Anniversary Booklet”

By 1950, something like 500 families lived in the unique little area that is now, Los Altos Hills. They did not exist as a town, they were merely a charming part of Santa Clara County, nestled against the hills.

The people in the area did not want a town. They wanted to be left alone in peace and quiet to enjoy the beauty of their rural hills. They had no desire to become a “city”, in fact, they disliked the very word and the regulations and the work and the taxes it would mean.

But they had discovered by this time that they were not to be left alone in peace; for the nervous angry sound of bulldozers were drowning out the purr of agricultural tractors discing the orchards.

They awoke to the fact that land speculators and developers, in their desire to get as good a return as possible, wanted to build many more than one house per acre...

Furthermore, they soon learned that the developers with large sums of money at stake could devote more time to arguments before the County Planning Commission and the County Board of Supervisors, 14 miles away in San Jose.

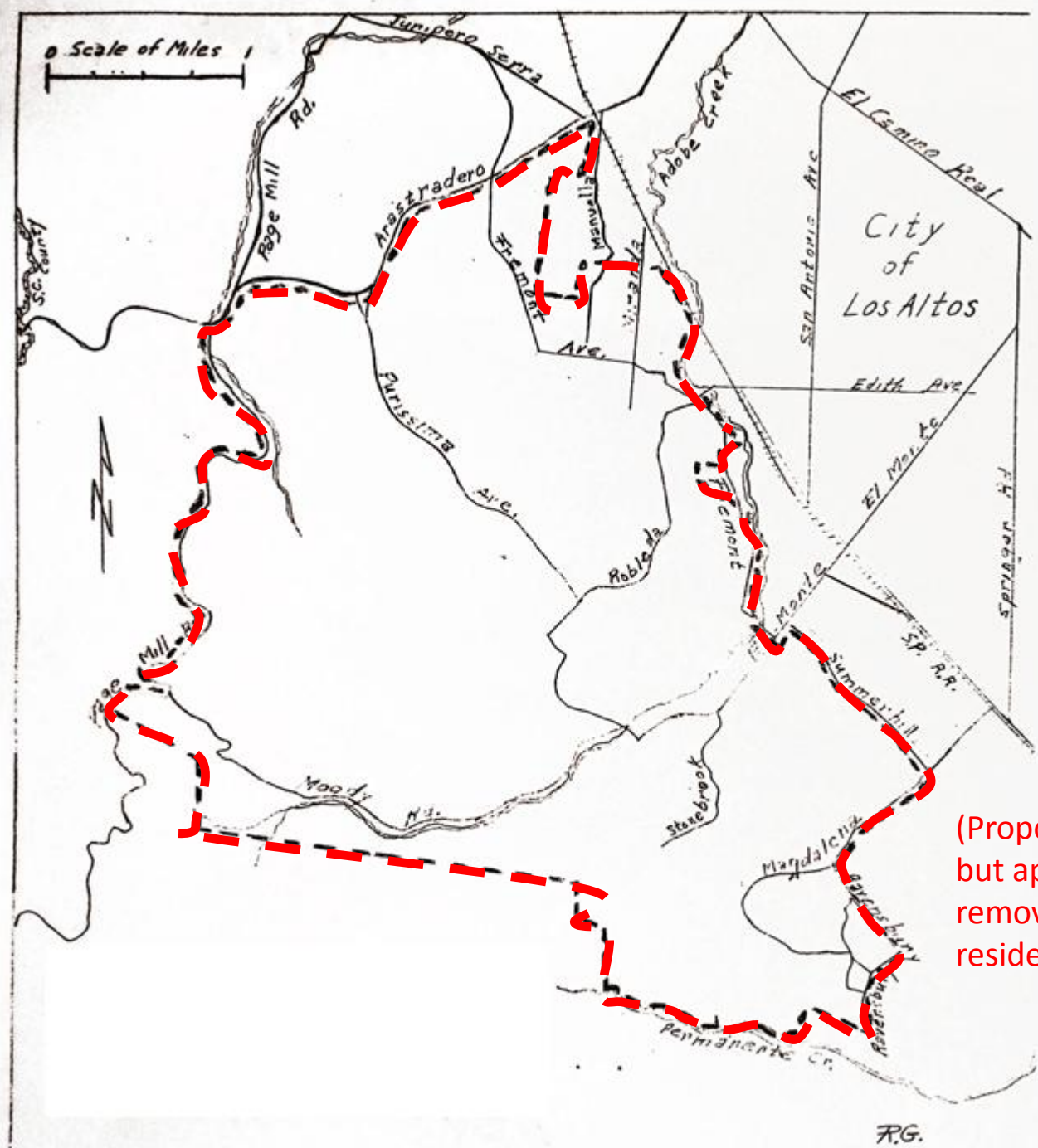
The Formation of the Town

Bill Simrell recalled “...The Hills zoning began to show signs of crumbling about 1950 and four neighborhood owners associations were formed to defend it...”,

- **Page Mill Road Association** - to combat quarrying, headed by Wallace Stegner.
- **Robleda Association** - to oppose variances and use permits for smaller parcels and non-residential uses, headed by Joseph McKenna.
- **Moody Road Association** - opposing resorts and quarrying, headed by Frank Duveneck.
- **Purissima Hills Association** - to bring in Hetch Hetchy Water, but also concerned with zoning, headed by Carol Fortriede.

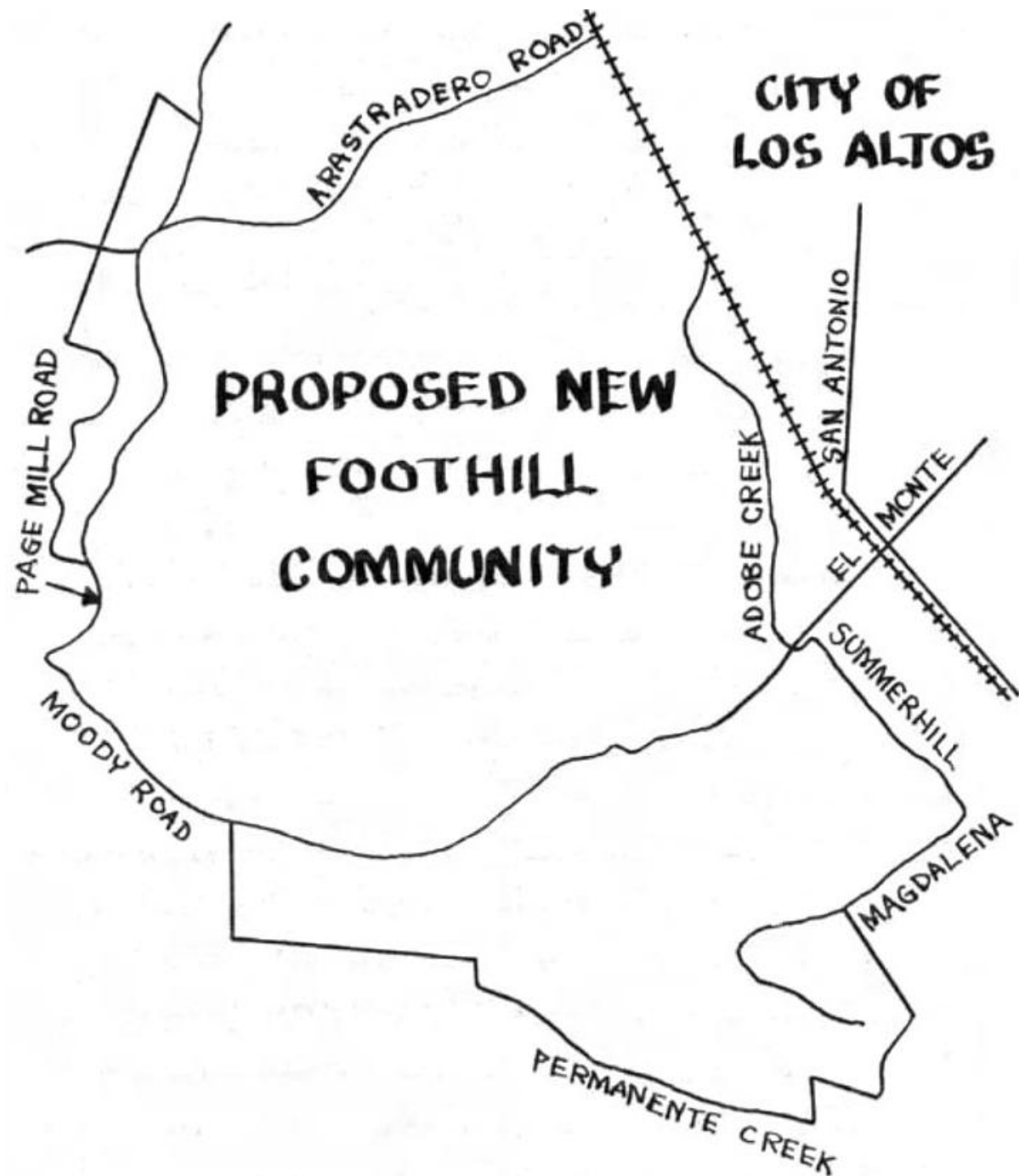
(**The San Antonio Hills Association** had already been in existence for some time and was quite strong.)

Acting separately, these associations were meeting with only moderate success, and it was felt necessary to join together as the “United Foothills Property Owners Association” for greater effectiveness. Even this proved insufficient, however, and the idea of incorporation was broached, studied, worked out and adopted.



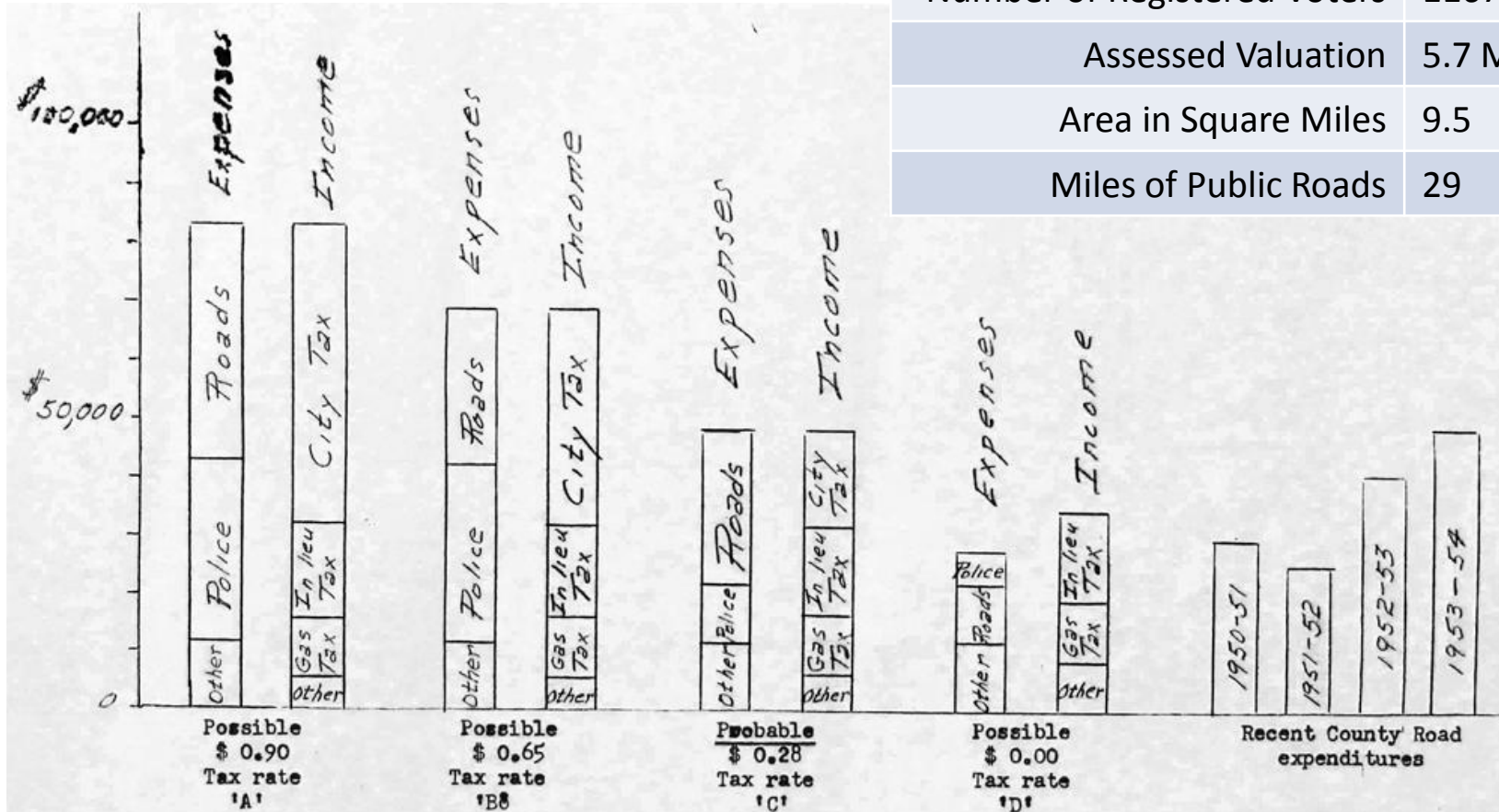
Rex Gardiner's original hand-drawn map proposing the outline of Los Altos Hills

(Proposed border annotated in Red – but approx 1000 acres eventually removed by County Supervisors due to residents' protest)



Main Parameters to Determine Viability of Incorporation

Parameter	Estimated
Number of Population	2500
Number of Registered Voters	1167
Assessed Valuation	5.7 Million
Area in Square Miles	9.5
Miles of Public Roads	29



Graphic illustration of possible and probable annual budgets and resulting taxes.

Estimates of recent annual county road expenditures shown for comparison (same area).

1956 - New Year's Arrival

Palo Alto News and Palo Alto Shopping Review

PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1956

Phone DA 3-1311

5c Copy
\$1.50 month

Los Altos Hills becomes city

Incorporation wins by 424 to 339 vote

By DON FREEDMAN

The Midpeninsula has a new city—Los Altos Hills. Incorporation of the foothills community as Santa Clara County's 14th city was approved yesterday by the unexpectedly narrow margin of 424 to 339.

One opponent of incorporation immediately announced he will attempt to block formation of the new city.

Some 2,500 people in nine square miles of rolling foothills, a last outpost of rural living, will officially begin a new life as a city in about two weeks or less. The board of supervisors must certify election results and then final action will be taken by the California Secretary of State.

Voters selected five men to serve on the new municipality's first council. They are:

Arthur E. Fowle, 85, 26311 West Fremont Ave., a retired business executive;

T. A. Duncan, 46, 10285 Magdalena Ave., a chemical engineer;

Sidney W. Treat, 70, 12870 Robleda Ave., retired business executive and teacher;

Leighton M. Bledsoe, 52, 25525 Moody Rd., lawyer;

Dr. C. Easton Rothwell, 53, Page Mill Road, Hoover Library director.

Although the government cannot be officially organized



ARTHUR E. FOWLE



T. A. DUNCAN



SIDNEY W. TREAT



LEIGHTON BLEDSOE



DR. C. EASTON ROTHWELL

P.A. News
Jan 11, 1956

Los Altos Hills becomes city



Some of the Co-Conspirators

- **Bill Simrell** – Chair of the Incorporation Committee
- **Rex Gardiner** – The “PG&E Man”
- **Gardner Bullis** – The Attorney
- **Earl Dawson** – Money to build Town Hall
- **Irma Goldsmith** – Motivation behind “*Open Public Trails*”

... and major “shapers” in later years

- **Art Lachenbruch** – “Slope Density” man
 - **Mary Davey** – Open Space
 - **Lois Hogle** – Open Space
 - **Wallace Stegner** – Open Space
- } CGF and MROSD

First Town Council

From The Recollections of Irma Goldsmith

IRMA C. GOLDSMITH.... bought a home in Los Altos Hills in the Spring of 1954 . Shortly thereafter Bill Simerell asked me to very actively help in the incorporation of the Town. Which I did.

The incorporation was successful and those who had worked on the project then formed the Hills Association to protect it. The first meeting and organization was held one very rainy stormy night. Officers were elected and I served as the first treasurer, as well as District Representative.

FOUGHT MANY BATTLES

The Neary Quarry was destroying our light roads with their heavy loads of gravel and rock, etc. and this was finally brought to a halt by long court action requiring much work from those same people who founded the Town as well as converts who came along later and aided.

Those who opposed the Town now filed petitions to ballot for the survival of the Town..they lost and the election strongly supported the town's incorporation...through again the will of the people and again strong support by the Los Altos Hills Association.

From The Recollections of Irma Goldsmith

(continued...)

The next threat was the route of #280 which should realistically have been routed along the railroad tracks and not along Purissima Valley thus splitting the town right down the middle. Forces with more money proved to be stronger than the limited number of residents who were pitted against neighboring towns and the University of Stanford.

During this time I worked for the Association to set up a workable trail system and called it the TOWN PATHS so that it would clearly be a part of the transportation system of the town to safely accommodate all those who wanted to walk or ride their horses. Bikes and all wheeled vehicles came under the Vehicle Code and used hard surfaces only and that was of course for the safety of pedestrians and equestrians, including the bicyclists for gravel and dirt are often the cause of serious bike accidents. The Town Path maps I presented were accepted into the General Plan around 1967.

Once Upon a Time - an “Orchard Community”



Primarily an "Orchard Community"



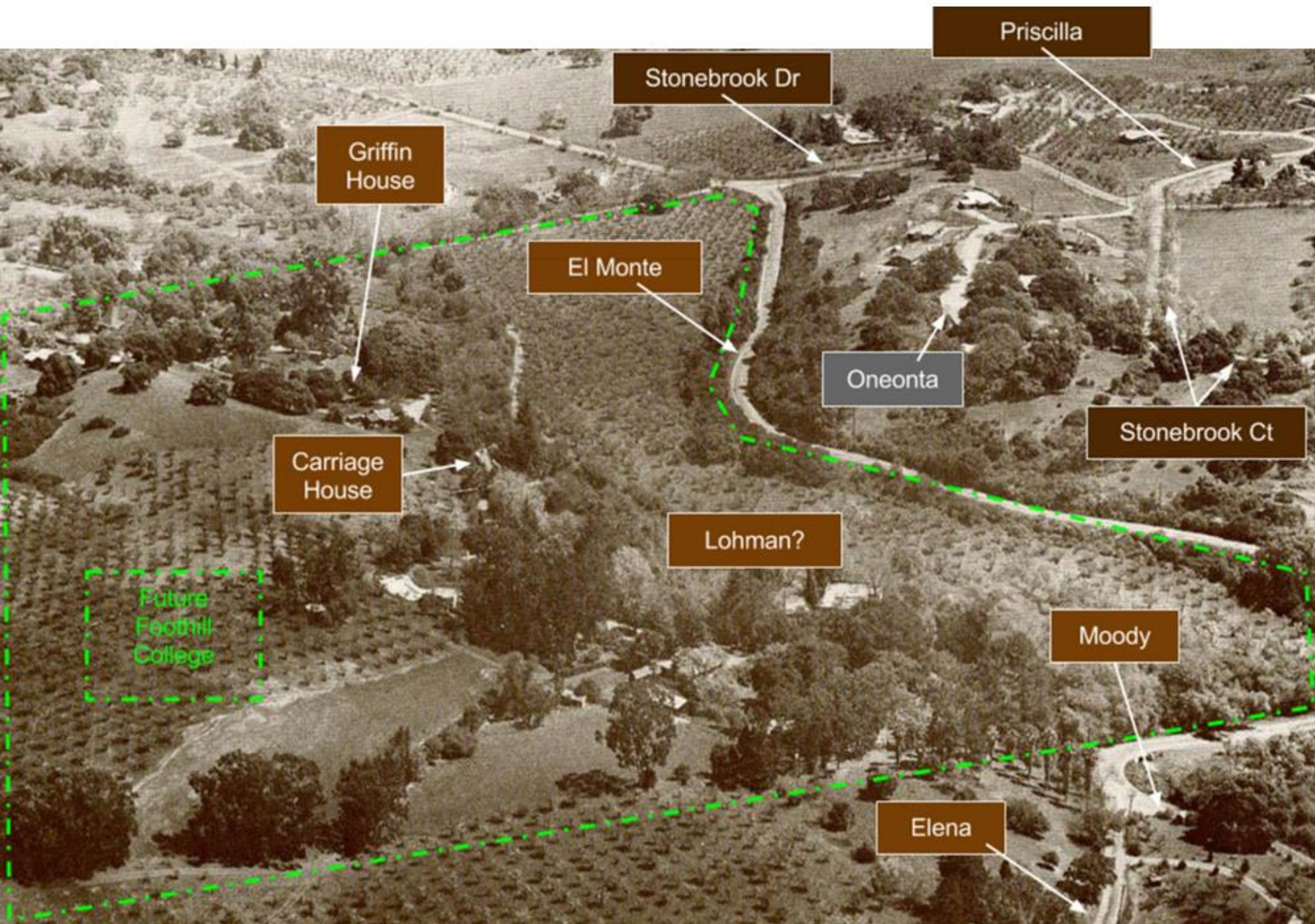
Westwind Barn next to Byrne Preserve

Westwind
Barn



Orchards Along El Monte Road





Adobe Creek Lodge (Martinelli → Dave Bellucci)

- 1955 - Adobe Creek Lodge was sold by The Haas Family to Frank Martinelli.
- Picnicking with restaurant ambience.
- Fine outdoor dining without the bother of packing food, driving, and finding parking.
- Five swimming pools, hiking trails, horseshoe pits, sunbathing lawns, basketball courts, and baseball diamonds.
- 1965 - Incorporation of Los Altos Hills happens – zoning residential only and no commerce
- Time-limit to phase out on Adobe Creek Lodge's commercial existence.
- Conditional use permit to continue as a day resort for only for 20 more years.
- By **1976** would have to revert to Los Altos Hills “single family residence” zoning.
- Martinelli put the property up for sale - the use restriction was public knowledge.
- Nonetheless there was a buyer...
- In 1961 (Six years after LAH was incorporated, and with only 14 years left of the 20-year grace period) David Bellucci, a hotelier from Marin County, paid \$1 million for Adobe Creek Lodge.



Some 10 years later, around 1970, approximately 8,000 people came to Adobe Creek Lodge each Saturday and Sunday for 15 weeks out of the year.

In 1973, with the expiration of the use permit less than three years away, Bellucci proposed converting the Country Club into a major tennis establishment. The lodge would become a nonprofit, private membership operation that (he claimed) would conform to Los Altos Hills zoning.

There would be up to 12 tennis courts, plus an amphitheater for 3,000 spectators, a pro shop, locker rooms, and dining facilities. Major tournaments would be staged in Los Altos Hills, using the model of Forest Hills, New York.

Law Suit by Confederación De La Raza Unida

San Jose Mercury News, Oct. 1972

La Raza Homes In Los Altos Hills?

LOS ALTOS HILLS — This bedroom community for the affluent, in trying to oust a business it doesn't want, may have brought in apartment houses for low-income families, which it also doesn't desire.

David Bellucci, owner of the Adobe Creek Lodge country club at 26200 Moody Rd., revealed he has given an option on 30 acres of his land to a Chicano group, Confederación de La Raza Unida.

And if a lawsuit he has filed against the town goes against him, he may sell La Raza 70 more acres.

It all hinges on that suit and one other, however.

La Raza has filed a suit in Federal Court in San Francisco against the town's policy of prohibiting any housing except single family homes. La Raza maintains this policy is discriminatory and unconstitutional.

Los Altos Hills' zoning laws discriminate against minorities and poor people, the coalition of Mexican-American

organizations believes.

La Raza said that if it wins the suit it will try to get federal funds to buy the land and build apartment houses.

The confederation has options also on 6.5 acres near the Adobe Creek property. That parcel is owned by Frank Martinelli Sr.

Bellucci has been told by the town that he must cease all commercial operations at his lodge by 1976. He has filed a suit in Federal Court in San Jose to overturn the town's order.

He said if he loses the suit he may offer his remaining 70 acres to La Raza.

"If they (La Raza) win their suit and I lose mine, there's no reason not to offer them the chance to buy the whole thing," Bellucci said.

"I've been here for 12 years, and the city has tied my hands. I don't really want to see the land developed, but they came to me with a proposal and under the circumstances I thought, 'well, why not?'"

10/5/72 SAN JOSE NEWS

Law Suit by Confederación De La Raza Unida

P.A. Times Oct. 1972

New move to crack Hills zoning

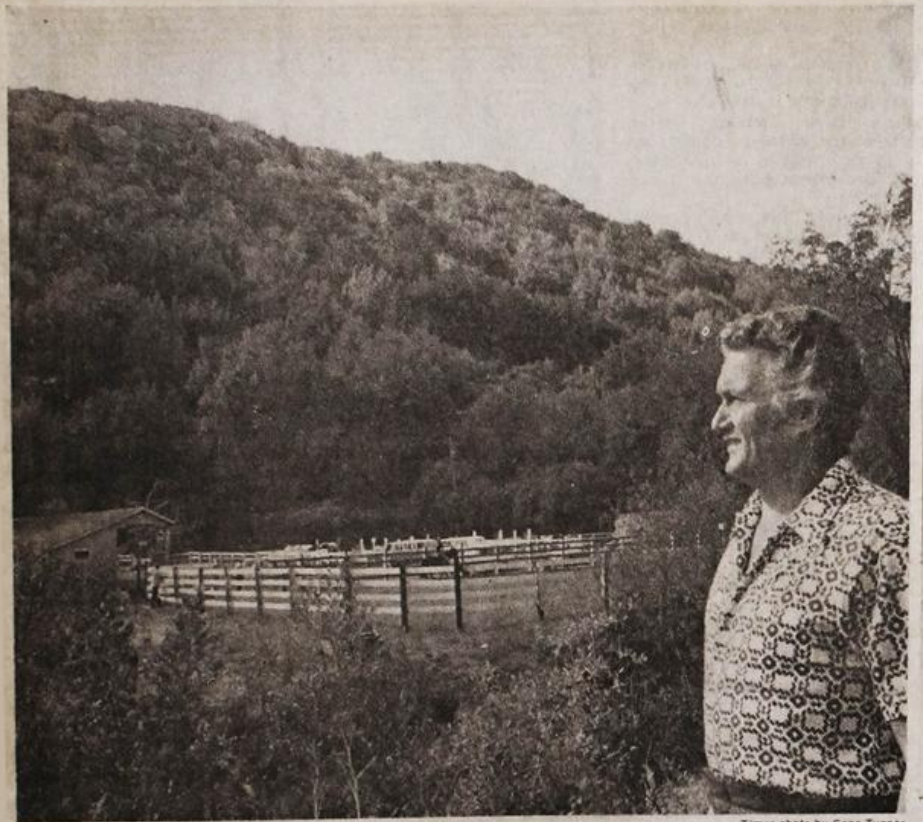
By ROBERT I. PACK

Two of the foremost adversaries of the Town of Los Altos Hills—the Confederacion de la Raza Unida and Dave Bellucci, the owner of Adobe Creek Lodge on Moody Road—have reached a preliminary agreement which could lead to the building of low-income housing on scenic lodge property.

The Confederacion has obtained an option to purchase 30 acres of the 100-acre Adobe Creek Lodge tract as a site for federally-subsidized low-income housing. The purchase price would be \$14,000 an acre.

The sale, however, is contingent on the Confederacion's winning a suit it has filed against the town to break the town's one acre minimum zoning requirement for each residence. That suit will be heard Nov. 20 in U.S. District Court in San Francisco.

Low-cost housing plans New move to crack Hills zoning



Times photo by Gene Tupper

Low-income homes on Adobe Creek land?

Owner David Bellucci of Adobe Creek Lodge looks over the riding area and entire hillside which the Confederacion de la Raza has under option.

- 1973 - The lawsuit by Confederación De La Raza Unida failed at the District Court level.
- 1974 - Appealed to the United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, and failed again at that level.
- 1976 – The 20 year Clock on Conditional Use Permit expires
- Belluci continues to negotiate and wrangle, offering different models (e.g Non-profit membership-owned club, or a “Supper Club”, or a ...) but encountered financial difficulties.
- 1979 - Adobe Creek Lodge ceased commercial operation, Belluci continues to live on the property.
- September 1980 the lodge's movable property was sold at auction.

“...A throng of restaurant owners and barkeeps, bid on the collection of restaurant furnishings, kitchen equipment, garden furniture, tennis nets, and other relics of the club's heyday.” Los Altos Hills administrator Karen Jost recalls Bellucci from this period, or possibly afterwards. He would come to the town on a motor scooter, in a terry bathrobe, saying that he didn't have money because the town had taken it all...” (Town Crier)

June, 1993

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1993

Old Resort's Former Owner Beaten to Death

Adobe Creek Lodge was
fixture of Los Altos Hills

Our Correspondent

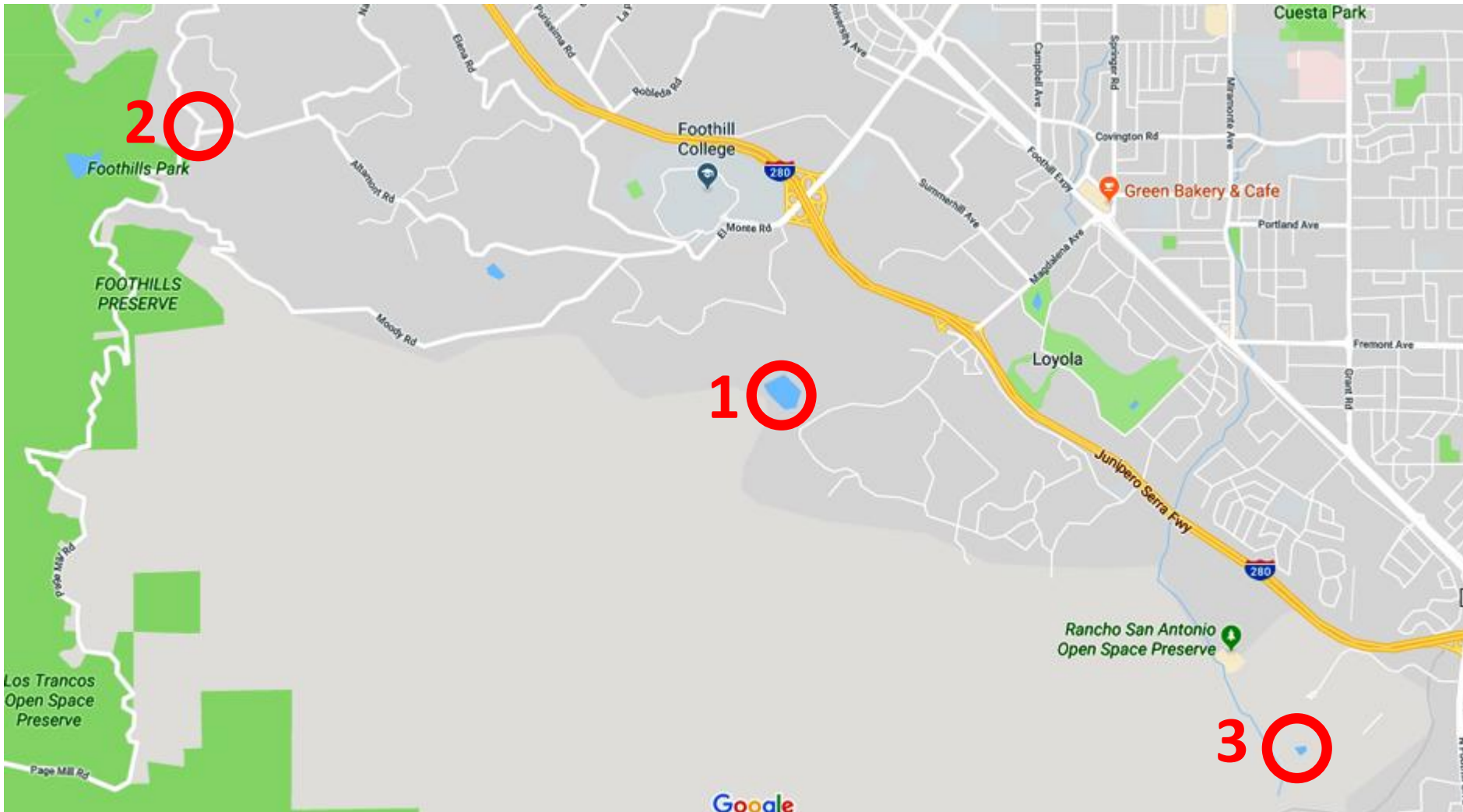
Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz County authorities are investigating the bludgeoning death of David Bellucci, former owner of the historic Adobe Creek Lodge in Los Altos Hills.

Bellucci, 69, was found beaten and barely alive early Sunday morning at his home in Santa Cruz County. He died later at Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital, a Santa Cruz County sheriff's spokesman said.

A Tale of Three Quarries

- 1 Neary Quarry** – Stonebrook off El Monte (Town Founding)
- 2 “Mrs Elsie Taaffe” Quarry** – Page Mill and Altamont (Bill Clayton)
- 3 Kaiser Permanente (Lehigh)** – South off the end off Ravensbury (MROSD)



The Neary Quarry

1935 - Quarry started by George and Ethel Neary

1956 – Town Incorporated – No commercial operations... 30 year phase-out

1985 – Land containing the Quarry, about 300 acres, sold to developer (Vidovich)

This property is located partly within Town Boundaries, but mainly in unincorporated County.

San Jose Mercury News (Peninsula Extra) April 19, 1989

Plan for subdivision, lake just rekindles old enmity

By Don Brignolo
Mercury News Staff Writer

In the early days of Neary Quarry, in the foothills above Los Altos Hills, it was the noise and dust from rumbling trucks that drew the ire of neighbors.

The trucks still rumble by.

But lately it has been a developer's plan to do away with the quarry — by building luxury homes on the ridge above and diverting Hale Creek to turn the quarry into a lake — that has neighbors in alarm.

The quarry, started in 1935 by George and Ethyl Neary, began to

make headlines in the early 1950s as the area's population grew.

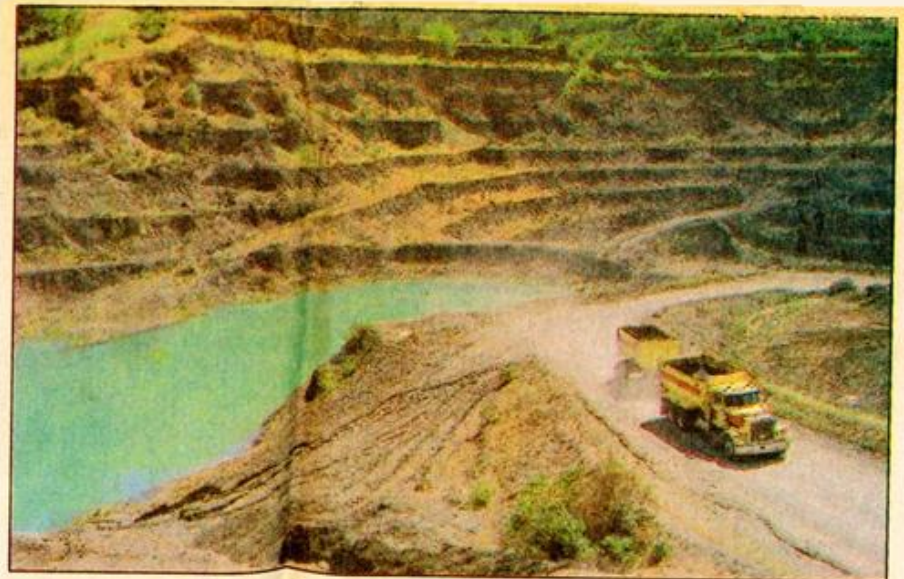
It figured prominently in the battle for incorporation of Los Altos Hills in 1956.

Those who sought incorporation wanted the quarry shut down, said the son of the founders, George Neary Jr. He has lived in Chico since 1976 and sold the property four years ago, after inheriting it.

Critics complained of noise and dust from the trucks and quarry operation — and they still do.

"There were some among the

See QUARRY, Page 4



Trucks still haul volcanic rock from Neary Quarry

Neary Quarry – Looking Towards Los Altos



Neary Quarry – Looking Towards The Ocean

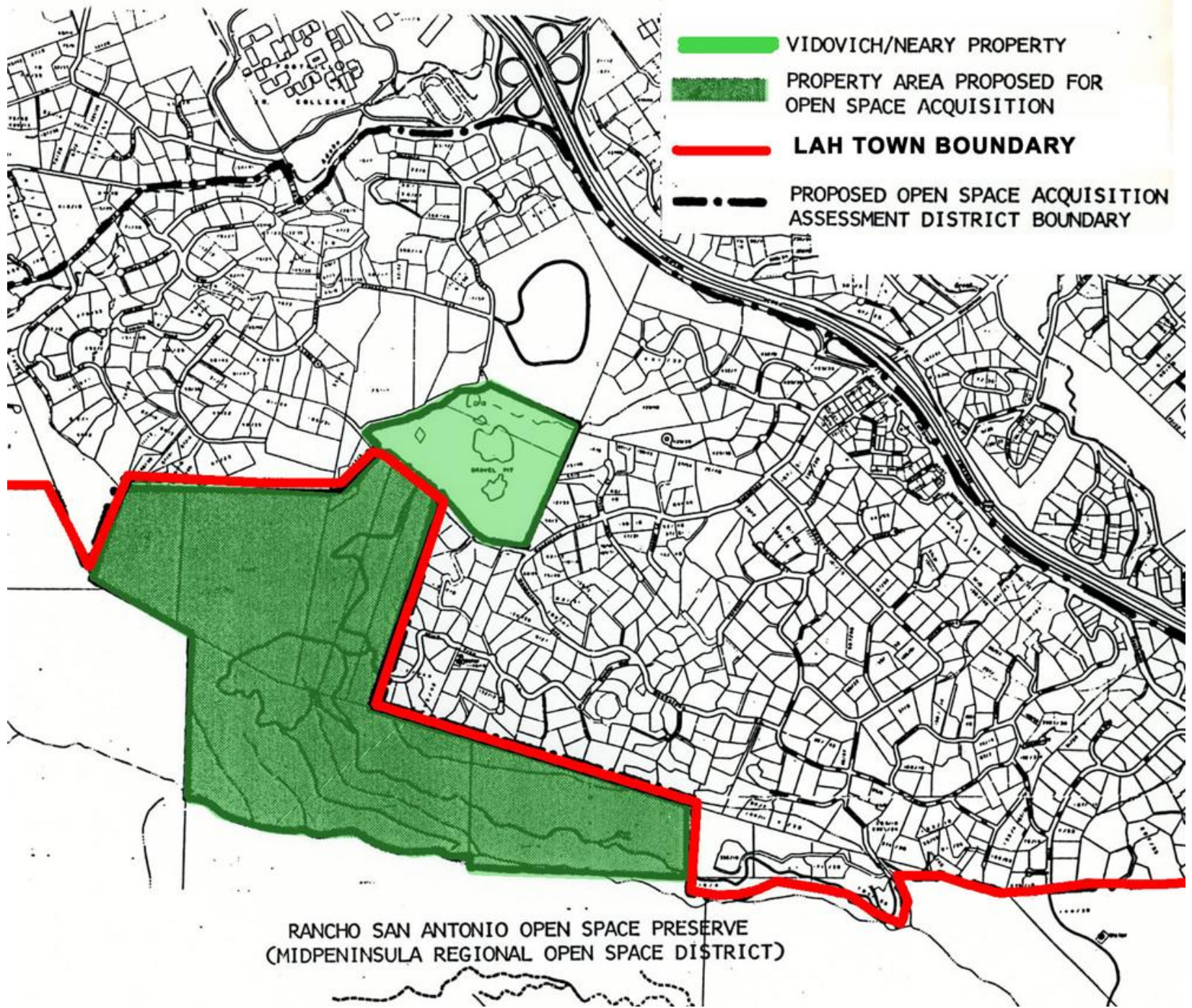


Neary Quarry

(... and the ridgelines behind it)



← Foothill College Parking Lots →



RANCHO SAN ANTONIO OPEN SPACE PRESERVE
(MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT)

PROJECT SITE PLAN

SOURCE: FRISBE ASSOCIATES PLANNING COMPANY

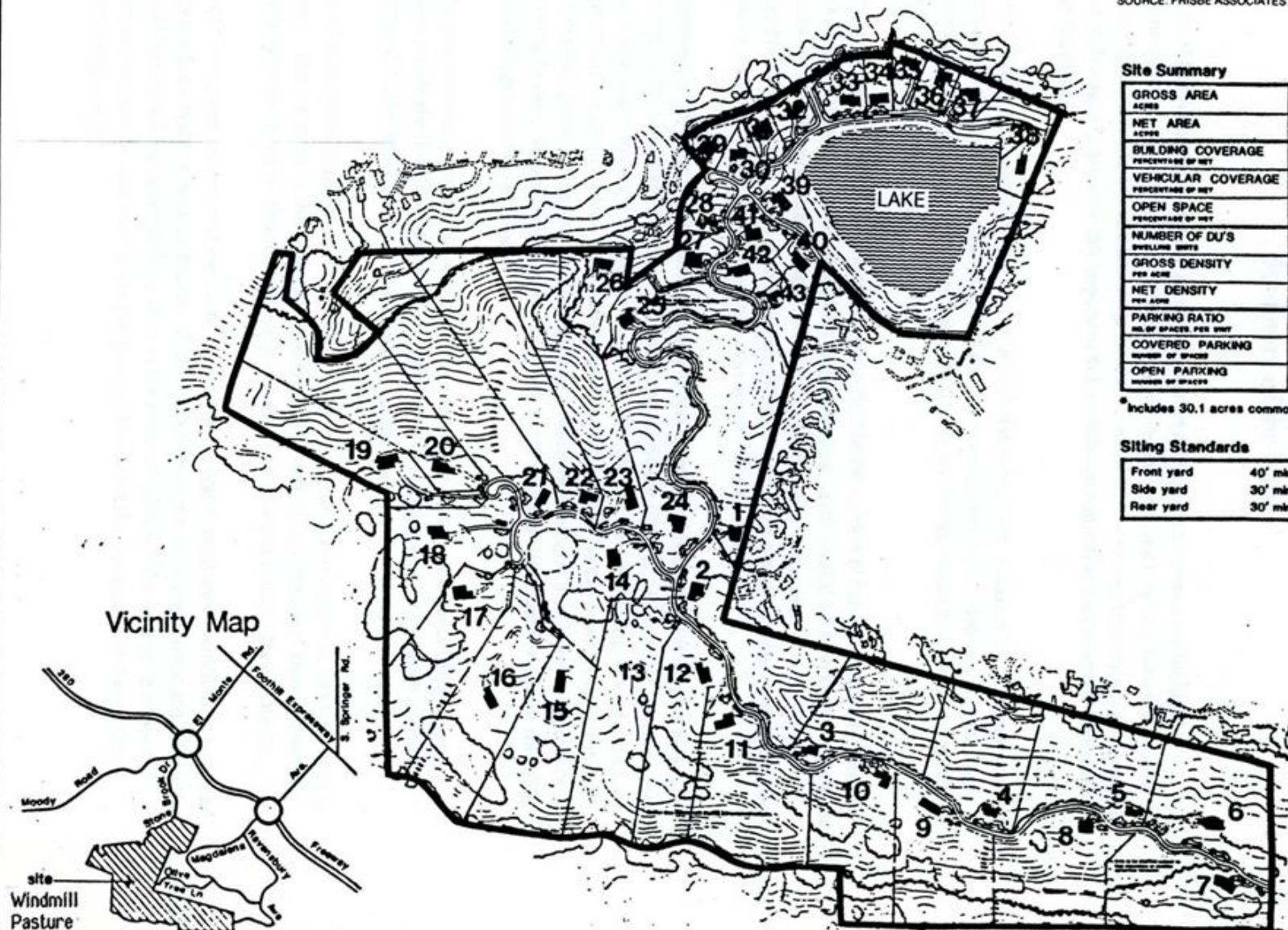
Site Summary

GROSS AREA ACRES	358.0
NET AREA ACRES	340.3*
BUILDING COVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF NET	1.4
VEHICULAR COVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF NET	0.8
OPEN SPACE PERCENTAGE OF NET	97.8
NUMBER OF DU'S DWELLING UNITS	43
GROSS DENSITY PER ACRE	0.12
NET DENSITY PER ACRE	0.13
PARKING RATIO NO. OF SPACES PER UNIT	5.5
COVERED PARKING NUMBER OF SPACES	150
OPEN PARKING NUMBER OF SPACES	88

*Includes 30.1 acres common open space.

Siting Standards

Front yard	40' min.
Side yard	30' min.
Rear yard	30' min.



Vicinity Map



Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve (MROSD)

elp

An Initiative was organized, to put a measure on the Ballot (Measure **B**) specifying more restrictive zoning rules for the property if it were to be annexed into Los Altos Hills

Whereupon, a Counter-Initiative was organized, to put a measure on the Ballot (Measure **C**) specifying less restrictive zoning rules for the property if it were to be annexed into Los Altos Hills

INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS

The Town Attorney has prepared the following Title and Summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

INITIATIVE TO REGULATE AND LIMIT DEVELOPMENT OF UPPER NEARY QUARRY LANDS IF ANNEXED TO THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS.

If the Initiative were to be adopted and the Upper Neary Quarry Lands were annexed to the Town of Los Altos Hills, then the Town General Plan and Zoning Law would be amended to restrict the number of single family homes which could be built on lots having a minimum net area of 10 acres each. Clustering of homes would be prohibited. Homes could not be sited on ridgelines or hilltops, and would be limited in height so as not to interfere with views of ridgelines or hilltops. Maximum development area or floor area could not exceed that which is allowed presently in the Town on a one acre flat lot. Dedication of conservation easements to the Town would be required to permanently preclude construction of a dwelling unit not allowed under the Santa Clara County Zoning Ordinance on November 28, 1988. The City Council could adopt additional restrictions on development, and may re-number Section 10-1.1001.

The Alternatives

	County Rules	Measure B	Measure C	Developer
Location of Homes	Not on slope > 30%	Not on Ridge	15 on Ridge	24 on Ridge
Number of Homes	7 Upper 2 Quarry	7 Upper 19 Quarry	15 Upper 19 Quarry	24 Upper 19 Quarry
Max Floor Area	Unknown	6,000 sq ft	15,000 to 34,000 sq ft	15,000 to 34000 sq ft
Max Dev Area	Unknown	15,000 sq ft	23,000 to 53,000 sq ft	23,000 to 53,000 sq ft
Min Lot Size	Unknown	10 acres	12 acres	10 acres
Public Open Space	Only if purchased	Only if purchased (*)	None – 100 acres private	None
New Road	Not needed	Not needed	Needed - up face of cliff	Needed – up face of cliff



OPEN SPACE DISTRICT SPEAKS OUT ON UPPER NEARY QUARRY LANDS

IN A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH MR. HERB GRECH, GENERAL MANAGER, MROSD, ON JUNE 1, QUESTIONS WERE ASKED BY A GROUP OF CONCERNED CITIZENS OF LOS ALTOS HILLS. ONE OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED WAS THE FOLLOWING:

Can the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District afford to purchase this property and would you?

ANSWER: "Based upon our preliminary estimate of value, the ridge portion of the property would be affordable under the current county density or the similar density allowed by Proposition B. It is not clear whether the District could afford it at the density allowed by Proposition C.

If after the election the completed formal appraisal confirms that the ridgelands are affordable, I am prepared to recommend to the District's Board of Directors that the District move promptly to enter into formal negotiations to acquire that portion of the property."

**PLEASE JOIN US IN VOTING FOR MEASURE B. PRESERVE THE RIDGE
FROM THE DEVELOPER'S MEASURE C.**

NOTE: Councilman Siegal's letter in support of Measure B was paid for by CITIZENS FOR REASONABLE DEVELOPMENT

Duvenecks say yes on B

EDITOR:

We wish to express our concern about the proposed development of the upper lands on the ridge above the Neary quarry. This land adjoins the 430 acres known as Windmill Pastures given by our parents, Frank and Josephine Duveneck, to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in 1977. Although the land had great potential for a high class development, we wished to see it preserved for all to enjoy as our family had. A lovely serene area, remote in feeling, it is a retreat within minutes of urban sprawl accessible for anyone to hike or ride.

We hoped that the Neary ridge property would someday become an extension of the lands of the Open Space District. It is very disturbing to think of large exclusive homes and development adjoining this pristine wilderness area.

We understand that there are two measures on the ballot for the voters of Los Altos Hills. We believe that Measure B is much more protective of the ridge lands and allows for a greater possibility of its acquisition as public open space.

We urge you to vote Yes on Measure B and No on Measure C.

Francis B. Duveneck
Elizabeth Duveneck Dana
Hope Duveneck Williams
Bernard H. Duveneck

Measure B was passed by the voters...

The ridge above the quarry was subsequently purchased and is now owned by MROSD – part of the San Antonio Open Space Preserve, and contiguous to Hidden Villa's Windmill Pastures.

Action taken to block Page Mill quarry

After hearing citizens complain that a quarry on Page Mill Road is a "desecration," the Los Altos Hills Town Council authorized the town attorney Monday night to file injunction proceedings, if necessary, to halt a resumption of quarrying.

Several citizens, some of whom said they represented

large numbers of persons, showed up at the Monday night council meeting to complain about an alleged resumption of operations at the old quarry near the intersection of Page Mill and Altamont Roads in the town.

They said they noticed renewed activity at the quarry last week and that the quarry

who walk and ride horses and bicycles along the twisting, narrow road. They also insisted that the road is not constructed to handle heavy truck traffic.

Conservationists throughout the Bay Area have long been waging a battle to save the road from the march of civilization.

They asked Town Attorney Robin D. Faisant to investigate and authorized him to ask for a court injunction against the operation if he feels it is warranted. The council agreed to place itself on call for an immediate special meeting at any time if necessary to deal with the matter.

Faisant indicated that the key to the matter is whether the quarry operation was ever legally "abandoned" — in which case a resumption would be illegal. He explained later that when the quarry area was an-

nexed to the town, the quarry was already there and was allowed to continue as a "non-conforming" use in a residential area. The entire town is zoned residential.

The nonconforming use permit is automatically revoked, Faisant explained, if the operation is abandoned or discontinued for as much as 180 days in 12 consecutive months — at which time the property would revert to residential use only.

The former owner of the property, Mrs. Elsie Taaffe, told the Times that she sold the quarry

last September to Wilfred J. Fleury, an East Bay contractor.

One of those protesting the new operation was nationally known author Wallace Stegner, head of Stanford University's creative writing program and a Los Altos Hills resident. Pointing out that children use the road, he warned that it would be "blood on someone's hands" if truck traffic from the quarrying isn't stopped.

Also protesting was Mrs. Mary Moffat, executive secretary of the Committee for Green Foothills. She called the operation a "blight" and a "desecration."

Former “Mrs Elsie Taaffe” Quarry – Page Mill and Altamont



5/18/65
**Report reveals details
in Clayton controversy**

All the pieces in the puzzle that led to the ouster of Los Altos Hills' energetic young Mayor William B. Clayton were fitted firmly into place before a standing room only Town Council audience Monday night.

The resulting picture was one of the town's leading official deeply and surreptitiously involved in the reopening of a hated stone quarry in the heart of the rustic-residential community.



WILLIAM CLAYTON

Clayton, who is married and has two children, ran unsuccessfully for the State Assembly in 1962 and has been active recently in the formation of the new, moderate California Republican League.

He is head of the Peninsula division of the League of California Cities, and formerly headed the Intercity Council of Santa Clara County.

... and Mayor of LAH

The Plot – In a Nutshell

Bill Clayton

- Family-owned Development Company “HATZIC”
- Address - 129 Fremont Ave, Los Altos
- Claims “Only brought a couple of clients together”

He had the property surveyed and mapped – 10+ Acres and 300,000 cubic yards of Rock

Brokered the sale by Mrs Elsie Orr Taaffe to:

- > W.J. Fleury (Business Partner) c/o 129 Fremont Ave, Los Altos, who then sold it to:
 - > Freeman Paving Company, (owned by Verne Freeman)
(Address on Trust Deed is 129 Fremont Ave, Los Altos)

Documents at the Santa Clara County recorder's office indicate Clayton was involved in the sale of the quarry from Mrs. Elsie Orr Taaffe to Wilfred J. Fleury, Clayton's business partner, and then to Verne Freeman, owner of the Freeman Paving Co., of Palo Alto.

The deeds transferring the land from Taaffe to Fleury and from Fleury to Freeman were filed by different title companies within 16 minutes of each other on last Nov. 2.

Clayton said he only brought a couple of clients together. His address was listed on at least one of the deeds as the return address, the records show.

—“That Mr. W. J. Fleury of Fremont, Calif., was not merely a ‘client,’ but was in fact Mr. Clayton's partner in a substantial business enterprise.

—“That the commitment to transfer the property from Mr. Fleury to Freeman Paving Co., was made several months before Mr. Fleury acquired the property from Mrs. (Elsie) Taaffe. . . .

—“That the dual transaction, Taaffe - to - Fleury - to - Freeman, took place on the morning of Nov. 2, 1964, through two escrow companies. . . .

—“That Mr. Fleury's address appeared only as c/o Bill Clayton, 129 Fremont Ave., Los Altos, and the Freeman Paving Co. address on the trust deed appeared as 129 Fremont Ave., Los Altos.”

—“That the price paid to the Taaffe family was approximately \$50,000 and the price paid by Freeman Paving Co. was approximately \$66,500.

Lehigh Quarry – (aka Kaiser Permanente)





Lehigh faces water board, county violations for Permanente Creek pollution

Published: 24 July 2019

Lehigh Southwest Cement Co. has until August to address the unauthorized discharge of mining waste into Permanente Creek, which flows through Los Altos and Mountain View.

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board and Santa Clara County officials discovered the pollution during inspections of Lehigh's Yeager Yard conducted in April and May, according to notice of violation letters the water board and county sent the company in June and July.

...that adversely affects beneficial uses," McCann wrote. "However, we are also concerned about potential impacts from leaching of metal(loid)s from the wasterock, particularly selenium. According to data submitted May 21, 2019, seeps from this slope contain elevated selenium concentrations."

In addition to the water board's water quality protection permit, the discharge violates county zoning ordinances and the California Code of Regulations. Penalties for failing to take specified corrective actions could include fines and criminal and civil prosecution; the water board set an Aug. 30 deadline and the county set a series of deadlines beginning June 28 and ending Aug. 14.



Los Altos Town Crier

Serving Los Altos California and Surrounding Communities Since 1947

Lehigh faces water board, county violations for Permanente Creek pollution

Published: 24 July 2019

The Yeager Yard discharge is just one of several problems Lehigh must address to appease regulators. In August, Santa Clara County officials issued a notice of violation after the company graded a utility haul road beyond agreed-upon boundaries. An administrative citation and notice of violation from Cupertino officials followed in May after Lehigh expanded the road without city permission. Both violations are noted in a July 3 letter Cupertino City Manager Deborah L. Feng sent to Robert Salisbury, a senior planner with the county, to justify why the county should deny a Lehigh application to amend its reclamation plan.

With the amendment, Lehigh hopes to transfer mining aggregate to the Stevens Creek Quarry in Cupertino and to import up to 1 million cubic yards of construction soil each year to backfill the company's north quarry and prevent the creation of a pit lake, according to the company's application, which was submitted in May.



In 2002 – Some Members of LAH Town Council Had Some “Innovative” Ideas

The First Idea – an update of the Master Pathways Map:

- Deletion of easements totaling approximately 15 miles of proposed paths - paths already agreed to and shown on the 1981 map.
- Reflected a shift in political makeup among town leaders, toward those who sided more with private property rights than town recreation needs.
- Controversial elements were the off-road paths along property lines - They evoked either scenic enjoyment, or a potential security problem.

The Result

- Referendum placed on The Ballot to undo Council's Action
- Passed Overwhelmingly – Council's action successfully nullified

The Second Idea – ?

Originally, at incorporation, the Town only had one park (Edith). Since then, over time, it had acquired several “Open Spaces” -

- **Byrne Preserve** Initially (via Nature Conservancy) approx 55 acres
Town purchased/negotiated another 30 acres to make it happen -
for a total of about 88 acres
 - **Westwind Barn** Approx 15 acres (Countess Donation + small Town purchase)
 - **Little League Fields** Approx 10 acres
 - **O’Keefe Property** Approx 8 acres
 - **Juan Prado Mesa** Approx 13 acres
 - Other smaller parcels – mainly acquired through subdivision process
(Rhus Ridge, Murietta, ...)
- } (Caltrans Hiway 280 left-overs)

In 2002 – Some Members of LAH Town Council Had Some “Innovative” Ideas

The Second Idea -

Sell off some of the Town’s Open Spaces for development.

For example

- O’Keefe Property, ± 8 acres. Originally purchased by Caltrans for Highway 280 development, but found surplus to requirements. Subsequently sold to LAH inexpensively as between government agencies.
- Westwind Property, ± 15 acres (after moving the barn itself into Byrne Preserve).

The Result

- Ballot Initiative qualified – which designated the use of specified town-owned properties (to be either “open space” or “recreation”) , and forbidding any change in the designated use or disposal without a vote of the residents.
- Regime Change (Breene and Dean)
- Accepted by Town Council directly (without a requiring a vote of the people - to save the cost of a special election)

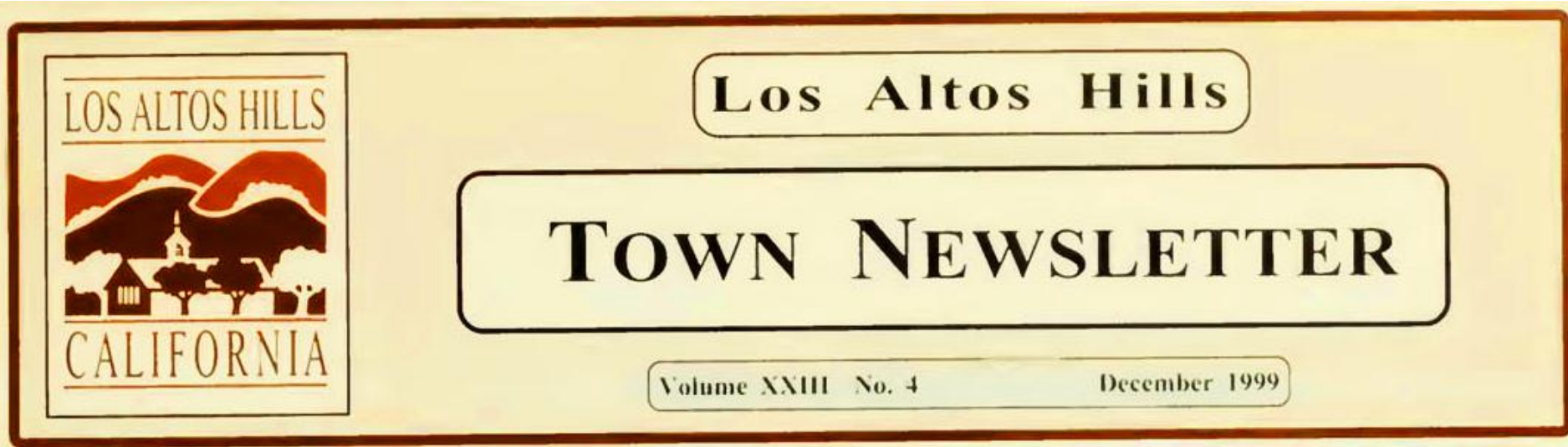
“Land Designations” defined in the 2002 Initiative

Common Name	APN	Designation
Byrne Preserve	182-21-016	Open Space Preserve
	182-22-014	
	182-22-022	
	182-22-023	
	182-48-020	
O'Keefe Property	175-39-012	Open Space Preserve
Central Drive Property	182-29-045	Open Space Preserve
Rhus Ridge Properties	336-30-012	Open Space Preserve
	336-31-022	
	336-31-023	
Juan Prado Mesa Preserve	336-42-019	Open Space Preserve
Murietta Ridge	351-37-001	Open Space Preserve
Little League Fields on Purissima Road	182-04-073	Public Recreation
Edith Park	175-25-059	Public Recreation
Westwind Community Barn	182-28-039	Public Recreation

Major Skirmishes – Legal and Ballot Box

- Vote to Incorporate the Town of Los Altos Hills - Early 1956 – Succeeded
 - Vote to Disincorporate the Town
 - Suit to nullify the Subdivision Ordinance
 - Petition to repeal Heavy Truck Ban
- } Late 1956 - Failed
- Petition to remove sewer requirements for subdivisions – 1965 - Failed
 - Council removes Mayor William Clayton for “questionable” activities – 1965
 - Suit by Confederacion de la Raza Unida (Bellucci) – 1972 – failed and appealed and failed
 - Recall of Council Members Davey and Kubby – 1973 – succeeded
 - Measure B (Neary Quarry Development) – 1989 – Passed (Rye Smith & MROSD vs Vidovich)
 - Referendum to overturn Council action on Pathways – 2002 passed (Schreiner & Vanderlip)
 - Open Space Initiative – 2002 – succeeded – Friends of Open Space (Couperus et al)

Y2K – Approaching Millennial Doom ?



**The more things change –
The more they stay the same...**

Extract - Town Newsletter of December 1999

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Fremont Road Pathway Project

The Fremont Road Pathway Project is nearly complete. Engineering is currently redesigning areas of a new asphalt shoulder berm to improve drainage while minimizing the impacts on adjacent neighbors. As in most construction projects, refinement of the design in the field is required, but we expect the end result to be a major improvement for the area.



— *Mark Miller, City Manager*

Extract - Town Newsletter of December 1999

Pathway Fees

Pathways Committee member Les Earnest has proposed a new method of calculating pathway in-lieu fees, and presented his ideas to the Finance Committee at their 11/1/99 meeting. Since pathways are developed on only one side of the road, developments across the road contribute their fair share to pathway improvements. The current fees are based upon the amount of road frontage, which makes the assessment on corner lots far greater than that of similar sized property with limited street frontage. The Committee recommended that a more equitable assessment would be one based on developed floor area. Staff is proposing an outside consultant be used to review all the Town's fees, and any pathway fee changes could be considered with the overall fee study.

Extract - Town Newsletter of December 1999

GARBAGE GOES WELL!

We are now into the second year of our new yard waste recycling program and our revised contract with LAGCO. Everything seems to be going very well. The Town is looking into the possibility of supplying lids for the recycling containers. Lids will allow you to put paper out even when it is raining and can give some protection from animals getting into the can and bottle-recycling bin. We hope LAGCO is providing excellent service and is responding positively to any problems or complaints. The Town would like to know if this is ever the case. Please call Town Hall at 941-7222, or any council member if you do have concerns.

Bi-monthly trash pickup

The outside contractor is now removing trash on a regular basis (twice a month) on major roads in town. Public Works Manager Jim Rasp is reviewing the performance of the contractor to ensure that they do a good job of cleaning up the roadside trash.

Extract - Town Newsletter of December 1999

In the Futute - A New Town Hall?

The Town Council received an outside consultant report on the condition of the Town Hall Buildings. They are in need of major repairs. The council appointed a 10-member committee of residents and persons familiar with building issues to review this report and make recommendations to the Council whether or not to remodel these buildings or replace them.

- Old Town Hall demolished July 2004
- New Town Hall dedicated June 2005
- Addition planning – September 2019



Extract - Town Newsletter of December 1999

Associate Planner Position

Carl Cahill began work as the Town's new Associate Planner on October 4th. Please stop by to say hello if you haven't already. Susan Stevenson will continue to work part-time as a contract planner until at least the end of October.

Extract - Town Newsletter of December 1999

And Finally...

EDITOR'S MESSAGE "OUR TOWN"

This issue of our Town Newsletter will be placed in a time capsule in Los Altos, to be opened in the year 2100. As our wonderful town celebrates the millennium, can you imagine what Los Altos Hills will be like in the next 10 years, let alone the next 100 years?

Forty-four years ago neighbors came together to create something quite wonderful. Their legacy to us is now in our hands. The late Wallace Stegner said it so perfectly, "All you have to do to feel the hills as a blessing, is to live within sight of them . . ."

...That's All Folks!