

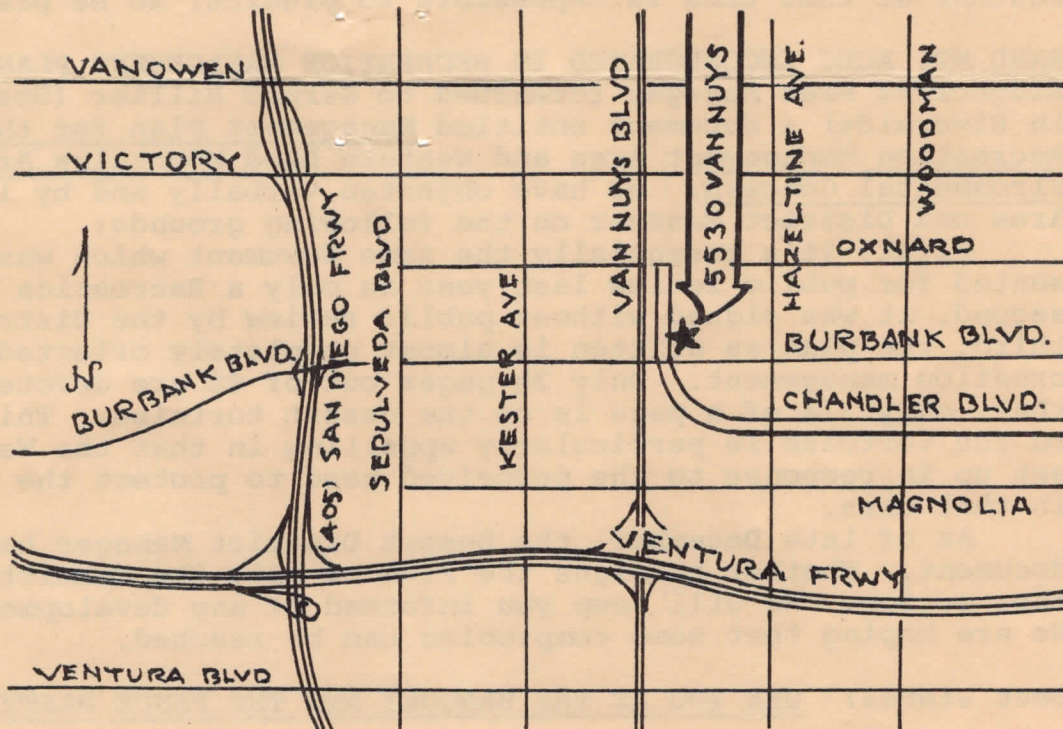
TORTOISE T-R-A-C-K-S



THE DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER +++ WINTER, 1983-84
 P.O. Box 453, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 + Vol. 4, #3 + Gloria Nowak, Editor

PLEASE COME TO OUR ANNUAL BANQUET! Our yearly banquet-meeting will be on Saturday, January 28th at Longfellow's, 5530 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys. See map for directions. The meeting will begin at 2:00 PM, with the dinner at 6:30 and the program at 7:30. The deadline for reservations is January 23rd, so send us the blank below with your check, payable to the Committee. The dinner will be \$9.00 per person, which includes the tax, tip and beverage. Plan now to attend. As the previous issue mentioned, there will be a fascinating illustrated presentation by Phil Pister of Bishop, nationally known for his work with the Desert Fishes Council. A graduate of the University of California,

Berkeley, he is a Fishery Biologist with the State Dept. of Fish & Game and was the 1978 recipient of the American Motors Award for his conservation efforts. His subject will be, "Freeway to Extinction: Man's Earthly Dominion in the 1980's". This is a vital look into the future for all of us; a program that you won't want to miss.



RESERVATION FOR ANNUAL BANQUET

Send to Secretary, Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.,
 P. O. Box 453, Ridgecrest, CA 93555; before January 23, 1984.

Please make a reservation for _____ person(s) in my name for the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee annual banquet at Longfellow's, Van Nuys, CA; Saturday, January 28, 1984. I understand that the dinner will be \$9.00 per person, including tax, tip and beverage.

I am enclosing a check for \$ _____, payable to the Committee.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

ORGANIZATION IF ANY _____

PERSONAL INVITATION TO A "FENCE PARTY"! Remember the "Pit Party" last January? A group of volunteers joined Committee members and the Bureau of Land Management to fill in a deep mining pit in which 3 tortoises were trapped the previous summer. Well, the next order of business is a FENCE PARTY, to repair some breaks in the fence around the DTNA. This will take place the weekend of February 25th and 26th. Only a small crew will be needed, but they must be willing and able to put in a good 2 days' work. Steve Smith of BLM will be on hand and will provide all fence materials needed, but he asks that those who attend bring wire cutters, large pliers, good gloves and if possible, a come-along, an iron bar, chain and pulley, and a fence post pounder. The meeting place will be the Interpretive Center at 9:00 AM Saturday. Plan either to camp or stay over in California City or Mojave. If you can help with this, please notify Carol Panlaqui at 229 N. Brady, Ridgecrest, CA 93555, (619)375-4812; at least 2 days before the weekend. The weather at that time is impossible to predict, so be prepared for anything!

RAND MT. ACEC INCORPORATED IN RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN: In October the Ridgecrest Area Manager forwarded to Gerald Hillier (Desert District Manager in Riverside) a document entitled Management Plan for the Rand Mountains Recreation Management Area and Western Rand Mountains Area of Critical Environmental Concern. We have objected verbally and by letter to both the Area and District Manager on the following grounds:

First, it's essentially the same document which was produced and presented for public review last year as only a Recreation Management Plan; second, it was signed without public review by the District Manager; and third, the plan as written is almost completely oriented toward vehicle recreation management. Only 2½ pages out of 46 are devoted to wildlife and of that, only 3/4 of a page is on the desert tortoise. This lack of attention to the tortoise is particularly appalling in that the Western Rands ACEC was set up in response to the perceived need to protect the tortoise populations in that area.

As of late December, the Desert District Manager had not signed the document. Whether he signs the Plan or not, the Committee anticipates further action. We will keep you informed of any developments on this problem. We are hoping that some compromise can be reached.

- C.P.

Best wishes! SEE YOU AT THE BANQUET AND THE FENCE PARTY!!!

DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMMITTEE, INC.
P. O. Box 453, Ridgecrest, CA 93555

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Non-Profit Bulk Mailing Permit #76 Ridgecrest, CA 93555

