

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



THE DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER +++ WINTER, 1986-87
P.O. Box 453, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 + Vol. 7, #2 + Gloria Nowak, Editor

MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR CONTRIBUTORS! Neither space in this newsletter nor words in the dictionary would be adequate to express our deep gratitude to all the individuals and organizations responding to our recent appeal for contributions to our fall 1986 land purchase fund. From hundreds of persons we have received amounts ranging from \$2.00 to \$1,000.00, and they are still coming in every day. The California Turtle & Tortoise Club chapters have donated as much as \$2,500.00. Between all this and funds received from other sources, on November 7th we were able to close escrow on the 950-acre Rudnick property within the Desert Tortoise Natural Area. However, in spite of all this there is an outstanding loan that must be paid off in order to complete the Rudnick transaction; so if you have not yet sent in your tax-deductible contribution, there is still reason and time. Again, our most sincere thanks to all those who have already done so.

A GIFT OF LAND FOR THE TORTOISE...for more good news, the Committee received a donation of 10 acres within the Natural Area in August; and there some possibilities of more land parcels being given to the tortoise in the near future.

PLEASE COME TO OUR ANNUAL BANQUET! The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee will hold its annual banquet-meeting on Saturday, January 31st, at Hodel's Buffet, Highway 99 at Olive Drive, Bakersfield. The meeting will begin at 2:00 PM, and all interested persons are welcome to attend it. It will be followed by a social hour at 6:00, dinner at 7:00 and the program at 8:00. The dinner will be \$8.00 per person, which includes tax, tip and beverage. The program will be a very interesting and unusual presentation by Anna Martyn, who is a professional museum preparator and the Natural History Curator of the Maturango Museum in Ridgecrest. She gives lectures on wildlife for schools and clubs. Her program is entitled, "An Inside Look at the Lives and Structure of Desert Wildlife." Anyone interested in desert biology should find it a fascinating and memorable experience. Plan now to attend, and send in the reservation below.

RESERVATION FOR ANNUAL BANQUET

Send to Secretary, Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.,
P. O. Box 453, Ridgecrest, CA 93555; before January 26, 1987.

Please make a reservation for _____ person(s) in my name, for the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee annual banquet at Hodel's Buffet, Bakersfield, CA, Saturday, January 31, 1987. I understand that the dinner will be \$8.00/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 _____

THANKS AGAIN TO THE FENCE MENDERS! Fence party #6 took place on Saturday, November 15th, and was attended by 14 people. They managed to accomplish 16 major repairs, 42 minor ones and the replacement of many signs on the fence around the Natural Area. In addition, many yards of fence were straightened, and a wrecked and abandoned car was removed from inside the Natural Area; a task made considerably more difficult by the absence of any wheels on it. Participants in this latest fence-mending session included Stan Zuber from the Ridgecrest BLM office, Mimi Loutrel & Marv Cornett, Mary Ann & Ron Henry, Mike & Mary Shepherd, Glen Crites, Carol & Clay Panlaqui, Laura Stockton, Bev Steveson, Warren Forgey and George Moncsko. The Committee wishes to announce that the sign which is missing because of vandalism will be replaced on or about March 1st.

IT'S MEMBERSHIP TIME! You are invited to help our efforts by joining or renewing your membership in the Committee. You will notice that an application blank has been attached to this newsletter for your convenience. Active participation is always welcome, but it is not necessary for membership. Neither is any scientific knowledge about the tortoise; just a love for it and a desire to save it from ultimate human destruction. If you have already become a 1987 member, give the application to a friend!

PRODUCT NEWS: In the near future we will present some brand-new fund-raising products. In addition to our ever-popular T-shirts, wind chimes, postcards, etc., we will feature a group of beautifully carved and polished tortoise figures which will be functional as well as attractive; and some new tortoise-design stationery items. Moreover, our best-selling "I May Be Slow...But I Get There" T-shirt will soon appear in a new color, as well as in the traditional blue and yellow. Available now are two recently produced and elegant bordered color photo postcards showing a tortoise or a trio of kit foxes, and also a beautiful "Desert Tortoise Natural Area" sew-on patch. Write for order forms for our fund-raising products. They make wonderful gifts for people, and for the tortoise.

Best wishes for the new year. SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL BANQUET!!!

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

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