

The

Mountain Memo

Volume XV Number 1

Spring Issue

February 1999

From the point of view of the residents, this Winter has been mild, with the exception of about two weeks of very slippery conditions and an accident on Hill road that caused a head injury, but ended without major consequences.

I thought I would start out with a bit of humor and give you some Board News on the next page.

A man runs into the vet's office carrying his bird, screaming for help. The vet rushes him back to an examination room and has him put his bird down on the examination table. The vet examines the still, limp body and after a few moments, tells the man that his bird, regrettably, is dead.

The man, clearly agitated and not willing to accept this, demands a second opinion. The vet goes into the back room and comes out with a cat and puts the cat down next to the bird's body. The cat sniffs the body, walks from head to tail, poking and sniffing the bird's body and finally looks at the vet and meows. The vet looks at the man and says, "I'm sorry, but the cat thinks that your bird is dead, too."

The man is **STILL** unwilling to accept that his bird is dead. So the vet brings in a black lab, the dog

sniffs the body, walks from head to tail, and finally looks at the vet and barks. The vet looks at the man and says, "I'm sorry, but the retriever thinks your bird is dead too."

The man, finally resigned to the diagnosis, thanks the vet and asks how much he owes. The vet answers, "\$650." "\$650 to tell me my bird is dead?" exclaims the man.

"Well," the vet replies, "I would only have charged you \$50 for my initial diagnosis. The additional \$600 was for the *Cat scan* and *Lab tests*."

Upon entering the little country store, the stranger noticed a sign saying; DANGER ! BEWARE OF DOG! posted on the glass door. Inside he noticed a harmless old hound dog asleep on the floor beside the cash register. He asked the store owner, "Is THAT the dog folks are supposed to beware of?" "Yep, that's him," he replied. The stranger couldn't help but be amused. "That certainly doesn't look like a dangerous dog to me. Why in the world would you post that sign?" "Because," said the owner replied, "before I posted that sign, people kept tripping over him."

-Thanks to Jim O'Brien-

The annual meeting will be held at The Panorama Restaurant, May 1, 1999 at 1:00 PM. The meeting must be completed by 3:00 PM. Of course those who are interested in eating (or drinking), the restaurant will be open at 3:00 PM.

There will be a Board meeting on February 27, 1999 at 12:00 at Lot C-4 (Wilson cabin).

The fate of the Newsletter is uncertain, I will not continue as publisher after this issue. It used to be almost cut and dried, but there is too much diplomacy involved for my taste. If there is anyone who thinks they would like to continue the *Mountain Memo* you may contact the Board through any of the members.

The roads continue to be a source of consternation, even though there are much worse road conditions in some other communities. I have heard about two options which may be solutions. One, involves land owners with backgrounds in road work and heavy equipment operation, while the second, involves the State Highway Division and is referred to as Orphan Road acquisition. Just how either

of these options could be played out is beyond my present knowledge.

The Board has been getting an awful lot of static about what has transpired these past few months. I, for one, have wondered whether they may have gone out on a limb when it comes to spending. I have supported their initial decisions but was unaware of the ramifications of these decisions. Now it is beginning to come to light. And as I was taught "You make your bed you lie in it" so when you criticize the Board for their actions, you must remember, they did it, not in self interest but in what they considered, the interest of the Association. I request that you express your opinions but keep in mind their actions, whether you agree or not, was taken on your behalf.

That other problem, road upkeep, has only become a major problem since the influx of full-time residents on the mountain. It is hoped that the options mentioned earlier can create a solution.

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Bud Wyman

CACAPON HIGHLANDS PROPERTY ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

From the desk of Sandra Wilson, (Chairperson)

February 12, 1999

I was up on the mountain last week and had a most relaxing quiet time while staying at my cabin. With a fresh cup of coffee in my hand, I looked out my window and watched deer walk among the trees. I slowly opened the door for a better view and sensed a fresh scent of aroma in my nostrils. I breathed in deeper and closed my eyes, allowing the gentle breeze to touch my face. As I stood there in total indulgence, I thought... *"I love the smell and feel of being in the mountains. It's so refreshing just to be up here."* I also thought how I wanted my children and grandchildren to experience the same moment. I want them to feel the quiet and peace of the mountain atmosphere. I thought to myself, "We almost lost this wonderful sensation just this past summer." I'm sure every property owner of Cacapon will concede that this too is a dream of his or her own. However, did you know that our community almost lost some of the beauty and tranquility of Cacapon Highlands?

People are so quick to write a letter of complaint. But, so slow to write a letter of praise. Therefore, I feel it only fitting to commend and thank the many property owners who have called to express words of support and thanks for fighting to save our trees from being logged. For those of you who did not have an opportunity to read the article printed in the *Messenger*, our case was a victory! The board can not express enough thanks and appreciation to all the owner's that called, left messages, or just dropped a note within the past few months. I would like to include some of the kind, thoughtful and wise comments that property owners have said to me:

"Thank God when we bring our friends up here, we don't have to be ashamed of the sight of nothing but tree stumps on the property next to ours. Thanks for your efforts in all the board has done."

"My wife told me she is so grateful to the board for stopping the logging, because when she has her coffee in the morning she doesn't have to look at ugly tree stumps while looking out the window. We can still see the beauty of the trees on our neighbors property."

"What was the purpose of spending all that money on saving our trees from gypsy moth if we were going to allow the trees to cut down?" (Of course the new owners know nothing of gypsy moth)

"We are so grateful for our board fighting the battle for us, so we did not have to take the time off work to go to court. And to think of the money for all the court cost that we would have had to put out, if you hadn't intervened for us."

"Thank you so much for taken prompt action against the logging matters. We did not have any trees taken down next to us. Who would want to buy property next to the one you pass on the main road with all those tree stumps? We would not have even known where to start if had fight this ourselves. We are happier to put out only two hundred dollars for a special assessment. We really appreciate our board, keep up the good work!"

"I thought about if I were on the board, how would I have handled the situations up here this past year? I could not think of any other way, but the way the board handled it, I realize they took action for all of us who own property up here."

"I am glad the board is taking action against the logging. These people are in violation of our covenants and restrictions. Thanks for your time and effort. We are so glad we have a board. The noise was so bad with continual saws and falling trees all summer."

"Thank you for doing what you could do to so that our property value did not depreciate. I know that the board always gets blamed for everything. I have also served on the board in the past and you have my total support."

**Annual Meeting
May 1, 1999 (1:00 PM)
Panorama Steak House**

Again, **THANK YOU** for your support in the kind encouraging words to myself and the other board members. I could not list all the quotes, but your words are greatly appreciated.

Did you know that a board member must have shoulders of steel, and are probably not even human? They deal with the criticism for anything that may go wrong or not seem right, because they tried to do what was best for all concerned. The board members are volunteers and have had to take time away from our family and jobs in order to tend to the business of your association. As for myself, it has been a valued learning experience, as to how much responsibility relies on a board member. I regret that you may have been put to any inconvenience, but assure you it was unavoidable in asking for a special assessment of \$200.00.

In every decision concerning the logging and the Fleece court case, we took everyone into careful consideration. If we had not taken the action we did, you might not have been submitting a claim to your insurance company for the money we needed to invest win this case against Fleece. The cost of planting new trees is something to consider also.

If you have any concerns, please go to your board for answers. Do not address your concerns with someone who is unfamiliar with facts regarding the matter at hand. When you hear any negative gossip, please consider the source (character) of the person. Is his/her name on the deed for the property he resides on? *"Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding."* Proverbs 17:28

Unless you have experienced the negative downside of being a board member, please carefully consider whether you are in position to criticize or participate in negative gossip.

Also, concerning the funds of our treasury.... We will build it back up again, so please do not be so fretful over what has happened during the past year. We need funds available so that when critical situations arise.

THANK YOU Barry Stahl (Treasury/Property Manager) for declining the wages of \$500.00/yr, in which the association agreed to pay him; however he declined to accept. Instead, he donated the fee into the Treasury Fund. **Thank You** also, to the other board members who have volunteered their time and money without asking for a refund.

If any property owner should have any doubts as to the funds of our association, you are free to send a request with an enclosed self addressed stamped envelope to Barry Stahl, 2634 Newton St., NE., Washington D.C. 20018.

Also, with regards to the **Grievance Committee**, if anyone has questions, you are welcome to attend our **Board Meeting at lot C-4, February 27, 12:00 PM**. Please do not be late, because questions regarding this subject will be addressed first and will not be reopened later. You must be a property owner (name on deed) to attend.



OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS to John McKeon concerning his father who is presently in critical condition with a brain tumor. Also, a special thanks to Cathy for taking care of John's secretarial work during this difficult time

OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS to Karen Day on her continual recovery.



GET WELL to Mitch Hanks. Mitch had an accident which resulted into a head concussion. Unfortunately, he was driving up Hill road and made a right turn onto Ridge Road and began to slide. So he opened his car door to see what was happening, and fell out and struck his head on the ground and rolled into a ditch. Fortunately, his friend called his cell phone and was able to locate his whereabouts. He was very lucky to have only suffered a head concussion.

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