



# THE PONDEROSA

MARCH 1979

the PINE RIDGE ASSOCIATION  
NEWS LETTER



## FROM UNDER MY BRIM

This is the start of a formal news letter for the PINE RIDGE ASSOCIATION. It will come out at least four times a year, giving information on what the ASSOCIATION has done, and will be doing; and will include, among other things, articles by, and of interest to the members. For the name of the newsletter, I propose "THE PONDEROSA". The word PONDEROSA means "BIG", and many things are big at Henry W. Coe State Park, but what I'm really referring to here are those large trees called PONDEROSA Pines. Their uses are many, and valued. This paper, or the house in which you live may have come from this pine, but their value as living members of the natural environment should not be underrated. They are a part of the unique place that Sada Coe Robinson gave to the people of California because she knew "From these quiet hills comes the peace of one's soul, and the food for the power of thought." send me other ideas for the name of the newsletter - Barry.

## WHAT'S HAPPENIN'

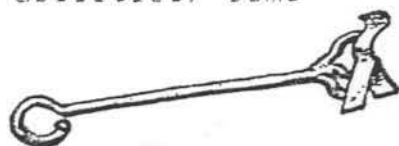
\* We are looking for a treasurer for The PINE RIDGE ASSOCIATION. Some one with background in accounting practice. The treasurer is responsible for; balancing the checking account, keeping track of monies coming in and going out, filing the required annual reporting forms to the IRS, Board of Equalization, Registry of Charitable Trusts, State Franchise Tax Board etc. and making sure that we maintain the tax exempt status that it took several years to establish. The treasurer also maintains inventory records of materials offered for retail sale at the PINE RIDGE museum, and issues purchase orders to replenish those inventories when they run low.

The actual amount of work involved is not all that great but, if not properly taken care of, inadequate book keeping could force dissolution of the ASSOCIATION if we were to even inadvertently run afoul of IRS regulations.

If a volunteer to fill the position of treasurer is not found by June 1979, the ASSOCIATION's goals will have to be restructured. Retail sales at the park would be halted and a valuable service to the public, and an important source of ASSOCIATION revenue would be lost.

If you know of any one that would volunteer their knowledgeable time, let Barry know.

\* The ASSOCIATION would like to publish "a PINE RIDGE ANTHOLOGY", with writings by Sada Coe, and illustrations of the PINE RIDGE COUNTRY. What is needed for this is a person with literary abilities, some spare time, and some real creative energy.



\* Members of the ASSOCIATION have started work on refurbishing the Park relief map. When complete (if it should be by the time you read this) it will have areas colored to represent the various plant communities within the Park (grassland, oak woodland, chaparral etc.), improved labeling of points of interest, and proper location of hiking trails, and fire roads.

\* For the past several months, two S. J. S. U. students, Rick Hopkins and Tom Smith, have been conducting a study of mountain lions in the Mt. Diablo Range. To date they have captured and attached radio tracking collars to three lions in the immediate area of the Park. One was a large male weighing over 140 pounds, another lion captured north west of the Park was recently relocated in Kelly Cabin Canyon. Rick and Tom will be presenting a couple of programs on their work at the Park. Check with the Park for dates and times for these presentations.

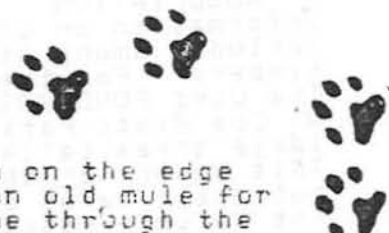
## \* SUNDAY APRIL 29 --- SPRING ROUND-UP ---

We'll be having a BBQ-potluck at Manzanita Point. Bring your own meat, beverages, plates, cups & utensils (we'll supply the heat). Also bring one casserole or salad or vegetable or dessert to be shared potluck style. Come join the company of other ASSOCIATION members at 11AM, we'll eat at 2pm. Those wanting their food driven to Manzanita Point, have it at the museum by 12:30 (people unable to hike the two miles may get a ride in at this time and back out in the afternoon). Be sure to join the fun, and bring any friends that might be interested in the ASSOCIATION.

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## SUPERSTITIONS

by Sada Coe from her book  
"The Pine Ridge Country"



An old claim dweller lived alone in his little cabin on the edge of a small clearing. He had a few cows, a dog, and an old mule for companions, and in his spare time, he ran a trap line through the hills during the winter and sold the fur at the nearest market.

The door of his cabin was always unlocked. Nearby ranchers passed by once in a while as they hunted for lost cattle or were mending broken fence lines, and sometimes they stopped and shared a cup of coffee with him, or had a plate of beans. He was always glad of conversation and hurried about to set out cups and saucers on the old rough table. Always there would be an extra plate and cup on the table at a place where no one ever sat. If there were four of them to eat, there would be five cups and plates.

"Is there some one staying with you Joe?" asked one of the men as he saw the extra place set. "There are only four of us today." Joe smiled in his grizzled way, but did not immediately reply.

"Here," continued the man, thinking Joe had made a mistake in their numbers. "There's no sense in washing more dishes than we have to. Better put these back in the cupboard."

"No! No!" said Joe at last. "That is for the Unknown."

"The Unknown!" echoed the man while the others sort of smiled and pretended they hadn't heard. "Who is the Unknown?"

"That's just it," replied Joe. "No one ever knows. But he might come. I never sit at the table without setting a place for him."

"Well I'll be ----!" whispered the man under his breath.

The four of them sat down to their meal, and the extra plate and cup remained on the table with its empty chair beside it in all readiness. Thus the old claim dweller lived, and to this day it still remains a custom to those living in the hills, that they never shall sit down to a meal without first preparing a place for the Unknown Guest.

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The PINE RIDGE ASSOCIATION newsletter is published by the P. R. A. which was established to give assistance to the educational and interpretive activities of Henry W. Coe State Park. Membership is \$2.00 per year, or \$25.00 Patron Membership for which you will receive a copy of Gadsden Coe Robinson's limited edition of "THE LOST TRAILS OF THE SANTA CLARA". All membership dues and donations are tax deductible.

