



## Dorothy Gilbert and the Phoenix Mountains Preserve

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1960-64

Home Introduction 1960-64 1965-69 1970-74 1975-79 1980-84 1985-89 1990's

1960

***Two County Parks Will Go To The City, 4/16/60***, Arizona Republic.  
***Public Faces Loss Of Parks Land by Ben Avery, 3/13/60***, Arizona Republic.  
ACC# 98-1906 4/3

Newspaper articles written by Ben Avery that prompted Dottie Gilbert into action.

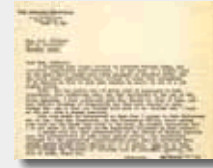


**Letter to Governor Paul Fannin, Ben Avery and others, 6/4/60.**  
ACC# 98-1906, 4/3

Dottie Gilbert wrote letters to influential officials and individuals to convince them that Phoenix would benefit greatly by preserving the land bordering the Squaw Peak Park. The grassroots effort by Dottie Gilbert protected the land from being sold to real estate developers.



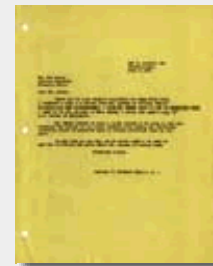
**Letter to Dottie Gilbert from Ben Avery, 6/6/60.**  
ACC# 98-1906, 4/3



**Letter to Governor Paul Fannin from Obed L. Lassen,  
State Land Commissioner, 6/6/60.**  
ACC# 98-1906,4/3



**Letter to Ben Avery from Dottie Gilbert, 6/9/60.**  
ACC# 98-1906, 4/3



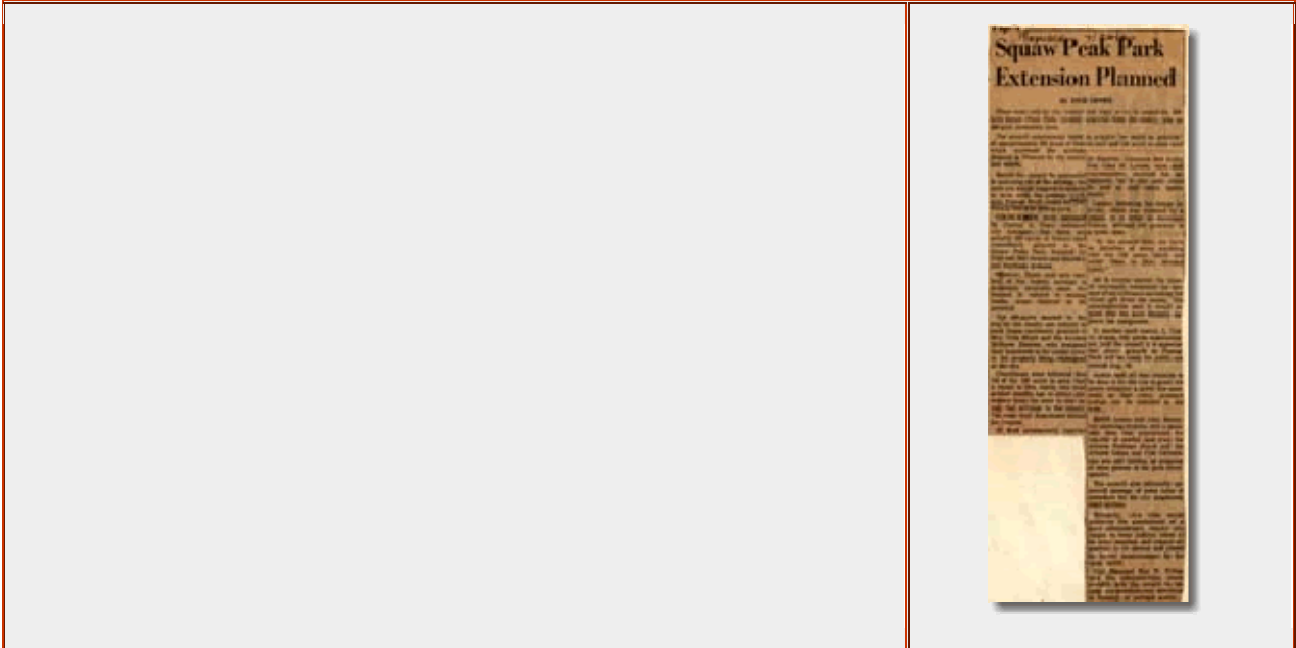
**Letter to Dottie Gilbert from Assistant City Manager  
Charles A. Esser with a copy of Proposed Park  
development of Federal Lands Adjacent to Squaw Peak.**  
ACC# 98-1906, 1/51, 3 pages

An exchange of letters during June demonstrates the grassroots effort in place to preserve the Phoenix Mountains.



**Peak Park Extension Planned,by Jack Crowe 7/26/60,**  
Arizona Republic.  
ACC# 98-1906, 4/3

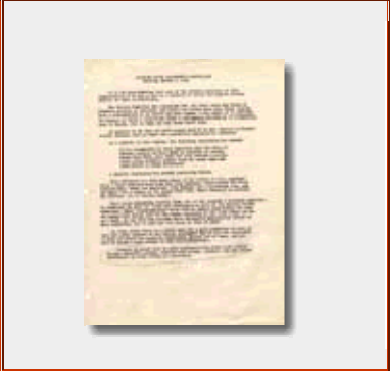
Phoenix City Council voted to acquire as much as possible of the public land area of Squaw Peak Park. In August the city filed for 1500 acres.



**1961**

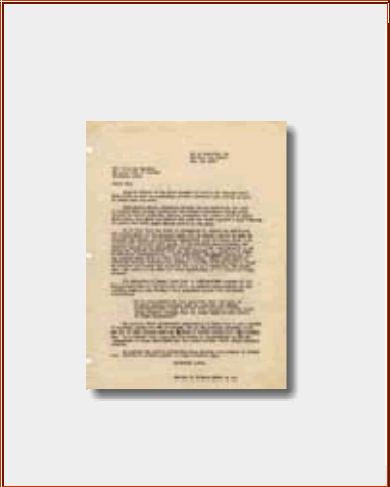
**Arizona State Horsemen Association (ASHA) Minutes  
3/3/61,  
ACC# 98-1906 4/3**

Establishment of the Trails Committee on February 10, 1961 with a mission to acquire as much land as possible for Squaw Peak. Dottie Gilbert was on this committee.

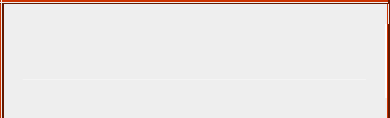


**Exchange of letters concerning the acquisition of 599 acres of federal land. 2/16/61 ACC# 98-1996 4/3, 5 pages**

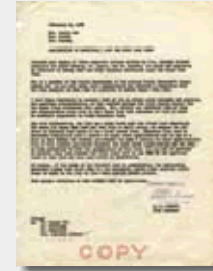
On February 16, 1961 Dottie Gilbert sent letters to Cedric Austin, Parks Commissioner; Sam Mardian, Mayor of Phoenix; Charles Esser, Assistant City Manager; and Alex Cordova, City Assessor as she began her campaign to prompt Phoenix to acquire 599 acres of federal land adjacent to Squaw Peak Park. Letters illustrate her style: factual information embellished with persuasive language.



**Letter from Alexander Cordova, City Assessor explains the federal land situation, 2/24/61.**



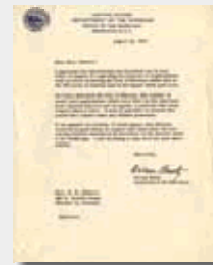
ACC# 98-1996 4/3



**Letter to Orren Beatty , Administrative Assistant,  
Secretary of Interior from Dorothy Gilbert , 8/10/61.  
ACC# 98-1996 4/3**



**Letter to Dottie Gilbert from assistant to the Secretary of  
Interior, Orren Beatty suggesting it would be a year to  
clear the land for acquisition.  
ACC# 98-1906, 4/3, 3 pages**



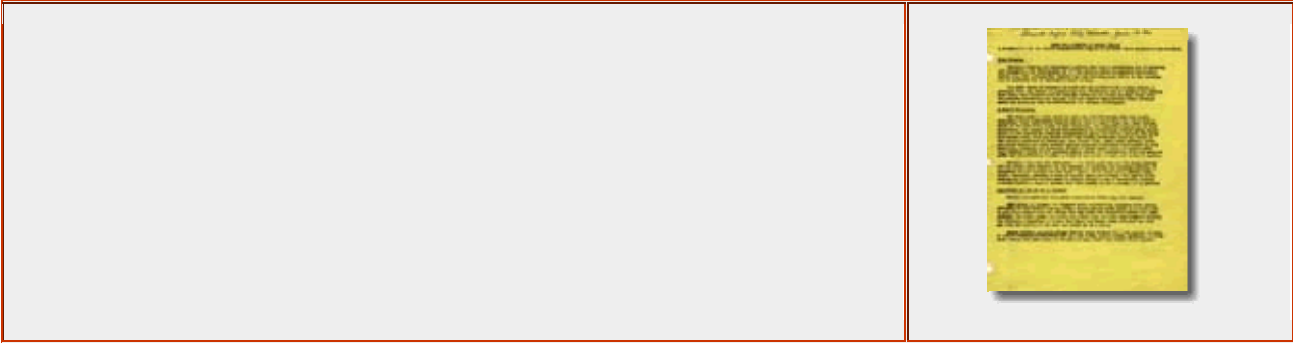
**Hand drawn map describing the federal land in  
question, 7/11/61.  
ACC# 98-1906, 4/4, 3 pages**

Also two letters, one from Charles Esser, Assistant City  
Manager and the other from A.A. Cordova, City Assessor  
demonstrate the grass root effort in place to preserve the  
Phoenix Mountains.



**Presentation to the Phoenix City Council by ASHA  
7/12/61 Need for Bridal Paths.  
ACC# 98-1906, 1/52, 5 pages**





**1962**

**Letter to Stewart Udall, 1/17/62.**  
ACC# 98-1906, 4/4

Letters sent to politicians by James Witty, Trails Committee ASHA, to solicit support for trails and park expansion were also sent to: Morris Udall 8/3/62; Wesly Bolin 8/3/62; Carl Hayden 8/3/62; Governor Paul Fannin 8/3/62; and later Mrs. Barry Goldwater and President of the Biltmore Hotel, Wrigley Offield.



**Letter from Fred Weller, State Director, Department of Interior**  
ACC# 98-1906, 4/3, 2 pages

Defines the land that is under general mining laws.

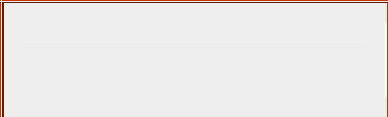


**Presentation on June 25, 1962 by ASHA Need for a System of Hiking and Riding Trails.**  
ACC# 98-1906, 4/4, 4 pages

Delineates ASHA's past accomplishments and future plans to the Phoenix City Council.



**Arizona State Horsemen Association organized a petition, 6/62.**



ACC# 98-1906, 2/3

ASHA presented the petition to the Phoenix City Council with 1300 signatures; calling for as much land as possible to be added the Squaw Peak Park. This moment is considered the grass roots beginning of Phoenix Mountains Preserve Council.



## 1963

### **Summary written by Cedric Austin concerning bond money, April 9, 1963.**

ACC# 98-1906, 4/1



### **Letter from U.S. Bureau of Land Management, June 18, 1963.**

ACC# 98-1906, 4/1

The letter details legal issues concerning the acquisition of additional land earmarked for preservation.



### **Need for a Larger Squaw Peak Park, December 5, 1963.**

ACC# 98-1906, 4/1, 3 pages

The ASHA Trail Committee Region I continued their pursuit to attain the 599 acres. It took a decade to clear mining claims off federal land. Seventy-eight percent of Phoenix Mountains was privately owned.



McNamara, also with Archives; and Heather Knowles,  
[Library Instruction, Systems and Technology](#), at  
[Arizona State University Libraries](#).

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# Two County Parks Will Go To City

Maricopa County will turn over two regional parks, North Mountain and Squaw Peak, to the City of Phoenix Parks Department July 1, it was announced yesterday by Mrs. James T. O'Neil, chairman of the board of supervisors.

North Mountain Park, lying north of Sunnyslope, contains 275 acres. Squaw Peak Park, which takes in the famed mountain of that name, contains 388 acres.

"BOTH OF these parks lie in the area annexed by the City of Phoenix," Mrs. O'Neil said.

"It is the feeling of the county board that it should concentrate on developing the two regional parks beyond the city limits—Estrella Mountain Park and Lake Carl Pleasant Park.

"The Phoenix Parks Department, which operates on an independent budget, is in a position to carry on the development work the county has started in North Mountain and Squaw Peak parks."

North Mountain Park was acquired by the county parks department from the federal government in 1955. It cost the county only \$4,000, although today the

275 acres are valued at more than \$250,000.

Since acquiring the land, the county built roads, constructed picnic facilities, and otherwise improved the tract.

SQUAW PEAK Park was acquired by the county through the generosity of several public spirited citizens, who turned over state grazing leases so the famed mountain could be transformed into a park. This was done in 1959.

A county highway crew at present is building a road into the park and developing bridle paths. This will be completed by July 1, Mrs. O'Neil said.

The county is also planning to pave Lincoln Drive, which will skirt the City of Phoenix filtration plant and traverse the edge of the park.



# Public Faces Loss Of Parks Land

By BEN AVERY

IF THE PEOPLE of Arizona want to reserve for public use state land, which now rings major cities, they are going to have to put an initiative measure on the next ballot.

A bill introduced by Rep. Arthur B. Schellenberg (R-Maricopa) permitting counties to acquire state land on the same basis state departments acquire it for public use, has been killed in the House Committee on Livestock and Public Lands by livestock interests. The bill, as written, deals only with land for parks, and limits the county to leasing land within six miles of city limits. Land is needed just as badly for schools, flood control structures, and other public purposes.

There is a legal question concerning the qualification of the county to obtain such land now, although in years past land commissioners and governors looked with favor on public use of state land, and permitted counties to acquire leases by exercising the power of institutional taking as an agency of the state. Governor Pyle looked with favor on the people being allowed to use their own land for recreation purposes.

★ ★ ★

The present land commissioner, Obed M. Lassen, has seemed reluctant to permit the county to lease state land even when the present lessees assign their leases.

A recent example was the acquisition of the Squaw Peak county park. The Biltmore Hotel and Mrs. Howard Smith assigned their leases on that section of state land to the county parks department, but Lassen refused to let the county have all of it. He held back some of it so it could be sold to real estate speculators.

★ ★ ★

The county's lease assignments from Lee Ackerman for the area around Carl Pleasant Lake were transferred Friday, but when the county gets the bill it will have to begin paying \$1 per acre per year on a commercial lease.

That land, plus many millions of other state acres, under grazing leases brings in around three cents an acre. That includes much of the desert area north of Phoenix.

This land was selected from the federal bureau of land management by the state land department because of its great potential future value. Now it is in the path of future development, but unless the state land department changes its policy, or the legislature acts to effect a change in policy the taxpayers in every county of the state will have to start buying back someday what is public land today.

This situation affects every city and town in the state that has state land around its outskirts. Governor Fannin has announced his feelings that this land should be reserved where needed for public purposes, but he seems reluctant to change the policy the land department now is following.

The governor has this power, because present law places the responsibility on his shoulders, not the shoulders of the land commissioner, to determine whether state leases now held for speculative purposes, should be taken away from the speculators and the land reserved for public purposes.

4/3

9-7-60  

# City Seeks Park Land

CITY council ordered city officials yesterday to try to obtain 500 acres of federal land in the vicinity of Squaw Peak for park purposes.

Administration officials said they will file an application with the U.S. Department of the Interior for purchase of the acreage for one-half of its appraised value.

The land sought is located north of the present city Squaw Peak Park and is bounded by Northern, Dunlap, and 24th and 32nd streets.

Several months ago the city obtained the Squaw Peak Park land, totaling 388 acres, from the county. The acreage is under a state lease.

The city hopes to develop Squaw Peak Park along the lines proposed for the development of Papago Park, where a \$1 million recreation area is contemplated.



cc. to Mr. Obed M. Lassen, State Land Commissioner  
Mr. Charles A. Esser, Assis. Mrg., City of Phoenix  
Mr. Ben Avery, Arizona Republic  
Mr. Wrigley Offield, Arizona Biltmore  
Mrs. Howard J. Smith

480 N. Ocotillo Rd.  
Phoenix, Ariz.  
June 4, 1960

The Honorable Paul Fannin, Governor  
State of Arizona  
Capitol Bldg.  
Phoenix, Ariz.

Dear Governor Fannin:

Mr. Ben Avery's article in the March 13 issue of the Arizona Republic (section 3, page 8, indicates that the leased land around Squaw Peak which the Biltmore Hotel and Mrs. Howard Smith have assigned to the county parks department is being partially held back by Land Commissioner Obed Lassen, for sale to real estate speculators.

It is providential for North Phoenix that this land is still undeveloped, owing to Mrs. Smith's wish to keep it for the citizens of the city and the Biltmore's wish to keep it for the recreational enjoyment of the winter visitors. South Phoenix has South Mountain Park, and North Phoenix needs a similar vast desert park-- left largely as nature designed it-- for the use of its citizens. This we need far far more than a hundred thousand new little houses sitting like checkers on a checker board all over our mountains and valleys.

If you would care to join my husband and me in a horseback ride over the brown of the hill into the valley east of Squaw Peak, I can show you in a few minutes how grand it is to have the feeling that civilization is far away and that you're in real wilderness. Last weekend, Mr. Gilbert and I rode for four hours without retracing our steps. Our Cub Scouts have often hiked in that area. Our Boy Scout Troop has often camped there overnight.

There are thousands of acres of wilderness land (including three parallel canyons) lying between North Phoenix and Paradise Valley. I doubt if Mr. Lassen has any idea of how extensive and how enticing this area is. The 388 acres set aside for a park are only 388 drops in the bucket. We want the bucket full and running over.

Yes, we in North Phoenix and in the burgeoning Paradise Valley area to the north need this desert jewel in its urban setting, left just as it is, rough and uncut by roads-- a place to ride and hike and climb and picnic. We don't want to travel 20 miles or more to the South Mountains for the great outdoors which has drawn so many of us to Phoenix.

Believe me, I feel most strongly that you could do nothing more beneficial for all the citizens of north-, east-, and west-phoenix than use your influence to see that this entire area is kept wilderness park. I promise you my support as a citizen in helping to keep this area for our children much as it is now, a primitive, undeveloped area.

Thank you most sincerely for anything you can do to make this possible.

Sincerely yours,

*Dorothy V. Gilbert*



# THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

THE STATE'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

120 EAST VAN BUREN STREET

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

June 6, 1960

Mrs. E.R. Gilbert  
480 E. Ocotillo  
Phoenix, Ariz.

Dear Mrs. Gilbert:

I received your (copy) letter to Governor Fannin today, and certainly appreciate your interest. I do not know of a single case in the past where leases have been assigned to another party, and the state land commissioner has refused to honor the assignment. If he should do this to just one rancher he would be out of a job mighty quick.

Under the law public use of state land is supposed to take precedence over commercial use, but that provision of the law is now being ignored. I have conferred with Sen. Harold C. Giss of Yuma, and Sen. Robert Prochnow of Flagstaff, and they have agreed to help change the law to that its intent will have to be carried out. I hope we can get such a change enacted.

Also you might be interested to know that I spoke to John McChesney, who at one time was interested in the Clearwater Hills, about adding some land to the Squaw Peak area to the east. He seemed interested but I do not know if the county parks department followed up that contact.

I agree with you that preservation of the charm of Phoenix depends upon the preservation of some open spaces within, and immediately adjacent to the population concentration area. And we certainly have enough space around here--nearly all of it public land--to do this. Only through the interest of citizens such as yourself, however, can this be done. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ben Avery





OFFICE OF  
**State Land Department**  
STATE OF ARIZONA  
Phoenix, Arizona

OBED M. LASSEN  
STATE LAND COMMISSIONER

*cc to Ben Avery, Charlie Esser, Mrs. Smith*

June 6, 1960

Honorable Paul Fannin  
Governor of Arizona  
The State House  
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Governor Fannin:

Reference is made to a letter addressed to you from Mrs. E. R. Gilbert, 480 E. Ocotillo Road, Phoenix, Arizona, and of which I have a copy.

Mrs. Gilbert's letter refers to the 526 acres of State land which we have in Squaw Peak. For your information, and to keep the records clear, 388 acres are leased to the County, and the balance of 138 acres - partly on the east and partly on the north and a little on the west of the section - are under grazing lease to Mrs. Howard Smith. The balance in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of this particular section is owned by an individual and, therefore, is land over which we have no control.

At the present time, we have no intention of doing anything with the 138 acres which are under lease to Mrs. Howard Smith.

Yours sincerely,

*Obed M. Lassen*

Obed M. Lassen  
State Land Commissioner

OML:bka  
cc: Mrs. E. R. Gilbert

*2/10*



480 E. Ocotillo Rd.  
Phoenix, Ariz.  
June 9, 1960

Mr. Ben Avery  
Arizona Republic  
Phoenix, Ariz.

Dear Mr. Avery:

Thank you for your support regarding the Squaw Peak area. I received a copy of a letter from Mr. Lassen to Governor Fannin in which you may be interested. I told Mr. Esser about it and he suggested that I send it to you and also to Mrs. Smith. I shall also send a copy of your letter to Mrs. Smith.

Mr. Esser intends to have a title search of the area to see who controls the balance of the land. Perhaps some others, Mr. McChesney included, might be prevailed upon to donate additional land to the park.

At any rate, we can try. We at least ought to be able to get the additional 138 acres which Mr. Lassen is holding back.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy V. Gilbert (Mrs. E. R. )





CITY OF PHOENIX

ARIZONA

August 31, 1960

Mrs. Elbert R. Gilbert  
480 East Ocotillo Road  
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Dottie:

I think you may be interested in the preliminary plan of development of Federal lands adjacent to Squaw Peak. I am passing on to you a proposed plan which has been approved by the Parks Department and the Planning Commission.

Sincerely,

*Charlie*

CHARLES A. ESSER  
Assistant City Manager

CAE:hk  
Enc.

PROPOSED PARK DEVELOPMENT OF  
FEDERAL LANDS ADJACENT TO SQUAW PEAK

INTRODUCTION

This statement was prepared by the City of Phoenix Planning Department and sets forth the proposed development plan for the 599 acres of Federal lands North of and adjacent to Squaw Peak Park in the City of Phoenix.

The attached map shows the location of the land and its relationship to Squaw Peak Park. Also indicated is the general location of a proposed street system and type of park facilities tentatively planned.

PROPOSED STREET SYSTEM

Primary access into the northern 200 acres will be provided from Shea Boulevard as it crosses the northwest part of this area. Because of extreme variance in topography between the northern and southern parts of these lands, additional primary access from Shea Boulevard will be provided as necessary. In both areas (northern and southern parts) a street system can be developed which will be adequate to serve the proposed park facilities. Tentative plans seem to indicate the existing road system, with certain changes, will be suitable to serve this area.

PROPOSED TYPES OF PARK FACILITIES

Picnic areas, day camps, scenic drives, overlooks, bridle paths, nature trails, preservation of scenic Arizona landscape, flora and fauna are the types of park uses best suited for this area.

PICNIC AREAS

The locations of picnic areas as shown in the accompanying map, when developed, will include ramadas accommodating large and small groups. These ramadas will be comparable to the facilities provided in South Mountain Park.

DAY CAMPS

The day camp areas are located away from the more congested areas to permit better control and maximum privacy for organized groups using these areas.

SCENIC DRIVES AND OVERLOOKS

Along the drives which meander through this area are several good locations where "lookouts" can provide excellent views of the terrain to the North, East, and West. This plan proposes to utilize these vantage points wherever possible.

BRIDLE PATHS AND NATURE TRAILS

A large portion of this area is best suited for such uses as bridle paths and nature trails. Marked trails can be provided throughout the park for riding and self conducted nature tours.

### LAKES FOR FLOOD CONTROL

The Bureau of Reclamation indicates a possibility of the creation of a lake or lakes in the area to control drainage water from the Phoenix Mountains. In turn, fine picnic areas adjacent to these lakes could be created.

### WATER SUPPLY

A suitable water supply will be provided to the picnic and day camp areas as they are developed.

### REVENUES

Revenues from this area are not anticipated. However, in the event revenues are produced, they would be applied to offset the operating cost of the park.



# Republic 7/26/60 Squaw Peak Park Extension Planned

By JACK CROWE

Plans were laid by city council last night to try to extend the 388-acre Squaw Peak Park, recently acquired from the county, into an 800-acre recreation area.

The council unanimously voted to acquire "as much as possible" of approximately 299 acres of federal land and 158 acres of state land which surround the acreage donated to Phoenix by the county last month.

Should the council be successful in amassing all of the acreage the park site would compare favorably in area with the present 1,176-acre Papago Park, slated for conversion into a \$1 million park.

**COUNCILMEN** were informed by Charles A. Esser, assistant city manager, that there are actually 599 acres of federal land immediately adjacent to the Squaw Peak Park, bounded by 32nd and 28th streets and Glendale and Northern avenues.

However, Esser said only one-half of the federal acreage is potentially available since the balance is subject to mining leases, some believed to be patented.

The 388-acres donated to the city by the county are subject to state leases previously granted to Mrs. Viola Smith and the Arizona Biltmore Estates, who assigned their leaseholds to the county prior to the property being reassigned to the city.

Councilmen were informed that 138 of the 158 acres in state land is leased to Mrs. Smith, who tried several months ago to obtain permission from the state to also assign that acreage to the county. The state land department denied her request.

**IT WAS** subsequently reported

by Republic Columnist Ben Avery that Obed M. Lassen, state land commissioner, declined the assignment "so it (the land) could be sold to real estate speculators."

Lassen, following the charge by Avery, which was repeated by a citizen in a letter to Governor Fannin, advised the governor in a letter that:

"At the present time, we have no intention of doing anything with the 138 acres which are under lease to Mrs. Howard Smith."

**AS A** routine matter, the council informally authorized the passage of an ordinance accepting the recent gift from the county. The administration said it would request that the state formally approve the assignment.

In another park matter, L. Cedric Austin, city parks superintendent, told the council it is expected that picnic grounds at Papago Park will be ready for public use around Aug. 15.

Austin said all that remains to be done is for the city to grant the power company a power line easement so that water pressure pumps can be installed in the area.

**BOTH** Austin and John Beatty, city planning director, told a newsman later that negotiations for transfer of needed land from the Arizona National Guard and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission are still holding up progress of other phases of the park development.

The council also informally approved passage of some rules of procedure for the city magistrate court system.

Primarily, the rules would authorize the appointment of a court administrator, require city judges to wear judicial robes at all court sessions, and require all sessions to be opened and closed by formal announcement by the court bailiff.

City Manager Ray W. Wilson said the administration would probably ask the council to appoint the administrator sometime in January or perhaps sooner.



AIRIZONA STATE HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
Meeting, March 3, 1961

It is my understanding that one of the primary purposes of this organization is to try to set up a network of trails throughout Arizona similar to that in California.

The Trails Committee was organized Feb. 10, 1961, with Bud Brown of Prescott serving as chairman. The State was broken down into three regions with a subcommittee to be active in each region. I was asked to be chairman for Region 1, which I discovered after I had agreed extends up to Wickenburg, down to Globe, over to Yuma and who knows where else.

It appears to me that the most urgent need is to get started in Phoenix itself, because that is where the population explosion is centered.

As a starter in this region, the following resolution was passed:

It is recommended by this committee that the City of Phoenix acquire as much land as possible to extend Squaw Peak Park, also that the city provide a bridle trail along Glendale Avenue from the canal bank and 16th Street to Tatum Boulevard.

A similar resolution was passed concerning Tucson.

City officials are very much aware of the wishes of this organization. I have obtained maps from the City Assessor, interviewed the Parks Commissioner, taken the Assistant City Manager for a horseback ride, and the Mayor for a picnic in the Squaw Peak area. Their interest is evident. The problem is, of course, money.

This is an exceedingly crucial time, for at the present a citizens committee is studying the need for Parks and Recreation as part of the Phoenix Growth Committee. Their recommendations which will be handed down within the next few weeks will become part of the funds requested in the bond issue. As far as I know, no one from the Arizona State Horsemen's Association serves on this committee, but we must get our story to them at once.

In other words there is a vital need for a good committee to work on this and other aspects of the Trails system. If any of you are interested or know of others who would be interested, please let us know, and you will be given a warm welcome to the Trails Committee.

Insert: We would like to have representatives from trail riding groups, Sheriff's posses, resorts with horses, stables, and any others interested in trail riding as recreation.

480 E. Cootillo Rd.  
Phoenix, 12, Ariz.  
Feb. 16, 1961

The Hon. Sam Mardian  
Mayor, City of Phoenix  
Phoenix, Ariz.

Dear Sam:

Despite action of the City Council in voting to enlarge Squaw Peak Park as much as possible, private interests are moving in upon it from east and west.

Palm Canyon Drive, slashing through the mountains to the east of Squaw Peak already overlooks the desert wilderness valley which should be public property. While, alongside the access road to Squaw Peak Park, Russ Lyon has within the past two weeks posted a sign offering 20 acres for sale, zoned three houses to the acre.

It is fine that the city is attempting to obtain an additional 599 acres north of the present park, but an effort should be made to acquire the valley and mountain immediately east of Squaw Peak. This is the most desirable park area. If the mountain goes private, the natural screen which guarantees seclusion is lost. According to a map which Mr. Cordova provided for me, the property in question is owned by Foothill Development Co., John McChesney, Sudagack Investment Co. and Ernest Bass. Some of this might be bought. Other land might be obtained through donation. Or perhaps a wealthy citizen might be found to acquire and donate the land to the city as a memorial. The point is-- any action at all must be taken immediately or it cannot be taken at all.

The extension of Squaw Peak Park is the immediate concern of the Trails Committee of the Arizona State Horsemen's Association. At its initial meeting last Friday, this committee passed the following resolution:

"It is recommended by this committee that the City of Phoenix acquire as much land as possible to extend Squaw Peak Park, also that the City provide a bridle trail along Glendale Avenue from the canal bank at 16th Street to Tatum Boulevard."

The Arizona State Horsemen's Association is less than a year old, but it already speaks for 650 horsemen. One of its primary purposes is to see to it that Arizona sets up a system of bridle paths such as California has. As a starter this organization wishes to concentrate on the enlargement of Squaw Peak Park and the access bridle trail along Glendale Avenue.

We applaud the city's forward-looking program and promise to assist your efforts to provide parks in every possible way.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy V. Gilbert (Mrs. E. R.)



480 E. Cactus Rd.  
Phoenix, 12, Ariz.  
Feb. 16, 1961

Mr. Charles Esser  
Assistant City Manager  
Phoenix, Ariz.

Dear Charlie:

You've already done so much for Phoenix in trying to enlarge Squaw Peak Park. I want to thank you personally-- and now in my new position as a member of the Trails Committee of the Arizona State Horsemen's Association.

I also want to tell you that according to maps furnished by Mr. Cordova, the city park and proposed extension does not cover the valley immediately to the east of the peak. This apparently is private property, partially owned Foothill Development Co., John McChesney, Sudascheck Investment Co., and Ernest Bass. Roads and houses are encroaching rapidly upon this area from the east (drive out Palma Canyon Drive to see what I mean). And within the past two weeks, Russ Lyon has offered 20 acres for sale adjacent to the road leading into the park-- zoned three houses to the acre.

I certainly don't want to interfere with the city's efforts to acquire this property nor to draw public attention to the problem prematurely-- thereby jeopardizing its efforts. But the city should try to buy the property it cannot obtain through Federal and State sources-- at least the valley and west slope of the mountain immediately to the east of Squaw Peak. If this is financially impossible, let us appeal to these individuals to make some donations or find us a millionaire who wants to name a park after his mother. It never hurts to try. The most qualified person with the right contacts should, of course, make this effort. But if no one else can be found, I'll do it myself.

You may be interested in knowing that the Arizona State Horsemen's Association Trails Committee, at its organizational meeting last Friday, passed the following resolution:

"It is recommended by this committee that the City of Phoenix acquire as much land as possible to extend Squaw Peak Park, also that the City provide a bridle trail along Glendale Avenue from the canal bank and 16th Street to Tatum Boulevard." Passed unanimously.

This new organization speaks for 650 people. Its purpose: to see that Arizona, which has 65,000 horses, develops a system of trails similar to the vast network of trails which California has developed over the past twenty years.

Again, Charlie, sincere thanks for your unheralded work in the furtherance of Squaw Peak Park.

Sincerely yours,

*Dorothy Hilbert*  
(Mrs. E. A.)

480 E. Occotillo Rd.  
Phoenix, 12, Ariz.  
Feb. 16, 1961

Mr. Alex Cordova, City Assessor  
City of Phoenix  
Arizona

Dear Mr. Cordova:

Mrs. Spalding and I wish to thank you for the interview which you granted us recently and the maps with which you provided us.

You may be interested in knowing that at the initial meeting of the Trails Committee of the Arizona State Horsemen's Association last Friday, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"It is recommended by this committee that the City of Phoenix acquire as much land as possible to extend Squaw Peak Park, also that the City provide a bridle trail along Glendale Avenue from the canal bank at 16th Street to Tatum Boulevard."

This organization, although less than a year old, already speaks for 650 people, who are vitally interested in the formation of a system of bridle trails throughout the state-- similar to the fine network of trails which crisscross California.

Again our sincere thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy V. Gilbert (Mrs. E. R. )

480 <sup>th</sup>. Cactus Rd.  
Phoenix, 12, Ariz.  
Feb. 16, 1961

Mr. Cedric Austin  
Parks Commissioner  
Phoenix, Ariz.

Dear Mr. Austin:

Mrs. Spalding and I wish to thank you for the interview which you so courteously arranged for us. We are very much heartened by the interest which the Parks Department is showing in the acquisition of more land for Squaw Peak Park, and wish to assist you but not in any way which might hinder your efforts.

I should like to draw your attention to the fact that private interests are encroaching upon this natural park area with alarming rapidity. Palm Canyon Drive to the east of Squaw Peak already overlooks the valley where it widens out into your most valuable park area. And within the past two weeks, Russ Lyon has posted a sign adjacent to the road leading into Squaw Peak Park, offering 20 acres for sale, zoned three houses to the acre. I have called the real estate office and learned that the price is \$7500 per acre. The Biltmore property lies across the road to the east, and a Texan owns property to the north, which is for sale at \$3500 per acre. South of Lincoln Drive Russ Lyons has three parcels of property, ten, twenty, and forty acres zoned R-3 and R-4-- for apartments. The property south of Lincoln Drive should not necessarily be added to the park area, but should it be zoned for such dense population? In addition to trying to obtain state and federal land, I feel the city should make an earnest effort to buy such property or persuade others to donate it. At the very least the city should investigate the zoning, will three houses to the acre on this magnificent property enhance the Park of the Biltmore property or the mansions now building to the East?

If it is financially i-possible to buy this land, surely an effort should be made to encourage citizens to donate some of their holdings. Perhaps a wealthy citizen might be interested in making a gift of it to the city as a memorial. I draw your attention to the copy of the June 6, 1960 letter from Ben Avery which you have in your files in which he says: "...I spoke to John McCheaney, who at one time was interested in the Clearwater Hills, about adding some land to the Squaw Peak area to the east ((he must mean "west")) He seemed interested but I do not know if the county parks department followed up that contact."

Knowing that you must proceed quietly in matters <sup>such</sup> as land acquisition, I have not written a letter to the editor nor tried to interest a columnist in a story, nor made public statements in P.T.A., school and scout circles. But matters are moving so rapidly that it may be the time is ripe to make some noise out loud. Phoenixians, who only last week learned that the praying monk on our second most famous landmark (after the Grand Canyon) is now privately owned will waken tomorrow to the realization that it is now too late to save a sizeable portion of the Phoenix Mountains.

I am writing you now, not merely as an individual, but as a representative of the Arizona State Horsemen's Association Trails Committee. This new organization already speaks for 650 people, and one of its primary purposes is the establishment of a system of trails through out Arizona--

similar to that vast network of trails which crosscross California. At the organizational meeting of the Trails Committee at Arizona State University last Friday, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"It is recommended by this committee that the City of Phoenix acquire as much land as possible to extend squaw Peak Park, also that the City provide a bridle trail along Glendale Avenue from the canal bank at 16th St. to Tatum Blvd."

Mr. Austin, we do appreciate and applaud your efforts as Park Commissioner. Please call on us for any assistance we can render.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy V. Gilbert (Mrs. E. R.)



February 24, 1961

Mr. Austin and  
Mr. Beatty  
Mr. Cordova

ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND FOR SQUAW PEAK PARK

Attached are copies of three separate letters written by Mrs. Dorothy Gilbert addressed to Mayor Mardian, Mr. Esser, and Mr. Cordova, in which she expresses an interest in seeing that the City acquires additional land for Squaw Peak Park.

She is a member of the Trails Committee of the Arizona State Horseman's Association and as you will note, this organization has adopted a resolution that the City acquire as much land as possible to extend Squaw Peak Park.

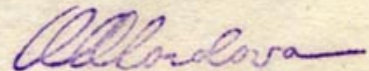
I have been instructed to contact both of you to obtain your comments and opinion, and possible recommendation, on the maximum acreage the City should acquire for the Squaw Peak wilderness area park. Mrs. Gilbert has verbally told me that her organization would like to see Squaw Peak Park extended so that it would be somewhat comparable to South Mountain Park.

For your information, the City has under lease with the State Land Department 546 acres in Squaw Peak Park and the City is still trying to acquire the 599 acres of federal land north of the State leased land. However, this land is presently encumbered with a number of small tract applications and it may be a year or two before the federal government can make a ruling on these applications. Even if the federal government rejects the small tract applications and the City is then permitted to file its application on this land, it may not be possible to acquire this land because the City would have to pay 50% of the appraised value of the land and this cost would be prohibitive.

Of course, if the price of the federal land is prohibitive, the surrounding privately owned land would also be too expensive, unless some property owners chose to sell to the City at less than current market prices.

Your prompt attention to this matter will be appreciated.

Original signed by:



City Assessor

A. A. CORDOVA  
City Assessor

AAC:pjk

cc: Mr. Esser (2)  
Mr. Williams  
Mr. Christie  
Mrs. Dorothy Gilbert ✓

E/K  
COPY



480 E. Coontillo Rd.  
Phoenix, 12, Ariz.  
Aug. 10, 1961

Mr. Orren Beaty, Administrative Assistant  
Secretary of the Interior  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Beaty:

I understand the City of Phoenix is trying to acquire 599 acres of federal land to add to Squaw Peak Park, and that this land is currently tied up by small tract applications.

I should like to urge your favorable consideration of the city's application. Phoenix is in dire need of this area for recreation because, as you know, with the exception of over-worked Encanto Park, there is no substantial park area between South Mountain Park and the Phoenix Mountains. The land in question is a natural desert-mountain park area-- and Phoenix is fortunate indeed that it is still potentially available. It is, also, happily situated near the fabulous resort area around Camelback Mountain and will provide our winter visitors with a fine place to "rough it."

You are, I know, quite aware that Phoenix is growing rapidly on the far side of Squaw Peak Park and this park should be left as breathing space between two solidly urban areas. We feel that Phoenix officials are very wise in seeking to expand the present small Squaw Peak Park boundaries as much as possible.

In this case we feel the welfare of the community should take precedence over the wishes of individuals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Dorothy V. Gilbert (Mrs. E. R.), Chairman  
Trails Subcommittee, Region I, Arizona State Horsemen's Assoc.

c. Mr. Esser





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

August 22, 1961

Dear Mrs. Gilbert:

I appreciate the information you furnished me in your letter of August 10 regarding the interest of organizations such as yours in having the City of Phoenix obtain title to the 599 acres of federal land in the Squaw Peak park area.

As I have informed the City of Phoenix, the number of small tract applications which were filed on this land have been rejected and are now on appeal, a process that could require about a year. It may be possible to shorten this period but I cannot make any definite promises.

If the appeals are denied, it would appear that Phoenix would be in good shape to acquire this land under the new pricing formula announced by Secretary of the Interior Udall a few weeks ago. I am enclosing a copy of it for your information.

Sincerely,

*Orren Beaty*  
Orren Beaty  
Assistant to the Secretary

Mrs. E. R. Gilbert  
480 E. Ocotillo Road  
Phoenix 12, Arizona

Enclosure





**CITY OF PHOENIX**

ARIZONA

July 11, 1961

Mrs. Elbert R. Gilbert  
480 East Ocotillo Road  
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Dottie:

Enclosed is copy of a letter to Orren Beaty re Squaw Peak Park. This will advise you the steps we have taken to get the information you requested.

Sincerely,

*Charlie*

CHARLES A. ESSER  
Assistant City Manager

CAE:hk  
Enc.

July 10, 1961

Mr. Orren Deaty, Administrative Asst.  
Secretary of the Interior  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Orren:

Charles A. Esser, Assistant City Manager, asked us to write to see if you could give us some information as to the status of the pending small tract applications on the federal land just north of the Squaw Peak Park area in Phoenix. The 599 acres of federal land in question is roughly bounded by Dunlap Avenue, 28th Street, Northern Avenue, and 20th Street. Sketch of the property is attached.

In 1960, the City acquired leases on 526 acres of state land for Squaw Peak Park. At that time, the City Council expressed its desire to acquire and file application on the 599 acres of federal land. An attempt was made by the City to file its application, but it was rejected by the local Bureau of Land Management because of the small tract applications on this land. It is my understanding that the local office had rejected the small tract applications, so that the City could apply for the land. When this was done, a number of protests were made by the small tract applicants to the local Bureau office and to their congressman in Washington.

We understand that it may take about two years for a decision to be reached on the small tract applications. It will be appreciated if you can let us know their status at this time. Also, if there is any way the City can acquire this land other than by having to pay 50% of the appraised value, under the present law.

There are a number of citizens' groups that are interested in the City acquiring the 599 acres of federal land which, together with the 526 acres of Squaw Peak Park, will give the northeast area of Phoenix a wilderness park similar to South Mountain Park.

Both Charlie and I know that you are very busy. I hope that this will not inconvenience you too much. If we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Our best personal regards.

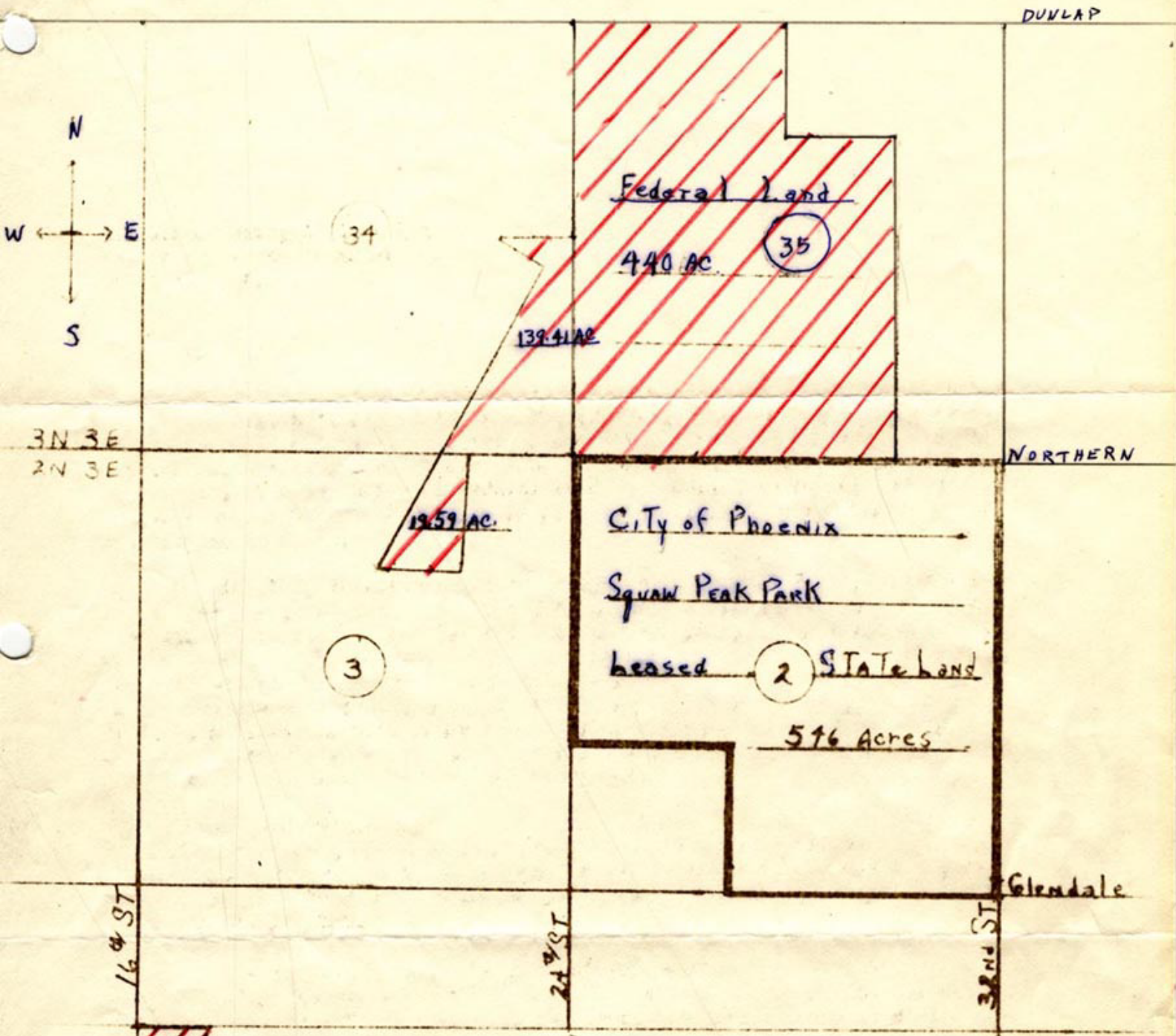
Very truly yours,

AAC:fhjk

cc: Mr. Vickers, Mr. Esser,  
Mr. Austin, Mr. Williams

A. A. CERDOVA  
City Assessor





LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER; WEST-HALF SOUTHEAST QUARTER; SOUTHWEST QUARTER NORTHEAST QUARTER; NORTHWEST QUARTER; ALL in SECTION 35, Township 3 NORTE, Range 3 EAST.

Lot 14, in SECTION 3, Township 2 NORTH, Range 3 EAST.

LOT 1; EAST HALF SOUTHEAST QUARTER; EAST HALF NORTHEAST QUARTER; ALL in SECTION 34, Township 3 NORTH, Range 3 EAST,

EXCEPT PATENDEED MINING CLAIMS THEREOF:

ALL LANDS LISTED ABOVE BEING IN THE GILA AND SALT RIVER BASE AND MERIDIAN, COUNTY OF MARICOPA, STATE OF ARIZONA.



*Presented before City Officials, July 21, 1961*

### NEED FOR A SYSTEM OF BRIDLE TRAILS

A presentation by the Trails Subcommittee, Region I, Arizona State Horsemen's Association

#### City Planning

Phoenix, despite its phenomenal growth, has done a remarkable job of planning and channeling its development. We of the Arizona State Horsemen's Association salute you, our governmental leaders who are devoting your lives to the exciting job of creating one of America's great cities.

You have teams of planners at work who can predict with a high degree of accuracy that the center of population will eventually lie at Central and Bethany Home Road, that Phoenix will be solidly urban as far north as Bell Road, with the suburbs stretching far beyond. You are experts at planning these developments and planning them scientifically for maximum efficiency.

#### A City's Character

But what makes a city great is not only its efficiency but its innate character, that indefinable quality which sets it apart from all other cities. Think of the Old World charm of San Francisco, the beautiful waterways of Fort Lauderdale, the manner in which Philadelphia is identifying itself as the birthplace of our nation by rescuing Independence Hall, Old Christ Church, the Betsy Ross House, etc. from the slums which had wholly swallowed them up. Think of the winding parkways of Cleveland, the forest city, where deep ravines, lakes and woods remain in their natural beauty although completely surrounded by city dwellings, industry and commerce. Think of Miami Beach with its public white sand beaches. Think of the gleaming white beauty of Washington, with its spacious parks and breathtaking beauty-- a city we are proud to call our nation's capital.

Phoenix, too, has its character-- one which grew out of its early history and has since been fostered by our Chamber of Commerce and booming resorts. To residents of Los Angeles and New York, alike, it is known as a western town, bluff, informal, genuine, a town of boots, spurs and horses. The symbol which beckons our would-be vacationers is almost always a man on horseback, resting a moment beside a saguaro cactus. And this symbol is not a phony. It is genuine.

#### Importance of the Horse to Phoenix

Phoenix is pulsating with horse activities. There are, for example:

The Rodeo of Rodeos: Our biggest civic celebration, complete with school holidays, is the Phoenix Jaycee Rodeo. People who've never been on a horse love to put on a western hat and string tie and watch the Sheriff's posses and rodeo cowboys, the rodeo queen and hordes of little boys on their own backyard Dobbins, the Governor, Secretary of State, the Mayor and every other official who will get into the spirit of the west and climb up on a horse.

Other Rodeos and Horse Shows: Nearly every weekend for nine months, Phoenix or one of its nearest neighbors has its own rodeo, junior rodeo, gymkhana, or horse show. During the past year, in Phoenix proper, there were these horse events:

**Horse Breeders:** Just outside the boundaries of Phoenix are many breeders of horses-- quarter horses, Apalocas, thoroughbreds, ponies, Arabians (Paradise Valley is the center of Arabian horse breeding in the United States). Of the 145 members of the Arizona Quarter Horse Breeders' Association, 35 list Phoenix proper as their home. Many of the others buy their feed, equipment and supplies from Phoenix firms.

**Trail Riders:** Trail-riding as a form of recreation is increasing rather than declining in popularity. It draws support mainly from residents of this area, but also attracts riders from all over the United States.

The fifteenth annual Los Caballeros ride this April had 226 riders and 72 employees. Fifty-six riders came from Phoenix.

In addition, there is the all-female counterpart, Las Damas, the Tonto Rim Riders, the Sycamore Canyon Trail Riders, the Verde Vaqueros, the Remuda Riders, and many other trail riding groups such as the Desert Saddlebags.

#### Economic Impact of the Horse

Figures are not available for Phoenix proper, but the following figures should serve to demonstrate the numerical importance and economic impact of the horse-centered activities in this community. Figures are approximate.

In Arizona: 58,000 horses

In Maricopa County: 35-40,000 horsemen

20 riding stables, putting out 100,000 rides annually

15 organized equestrian clubs with 2,500 members

30 resorts advertising riding

Three to four million tourists visit the Valley of the Sun annually, adding \$150,000,000 to its economy, and many of these come to ride horseback.

## Urgent Need for Trails

with all this horse activity in and around Phoenix, there is only one dedicated bridletrail in the city-- the Central Avenue bridle path which stretched from Bethany Home Road to Northern Avenue (and without question, this lone bridle path greatly enhances the beauty of the most beautiful street in Phoenix). It is self-evident that if there is no place to ride, there will be no horses. Trails must be established promptly in this burgeoning community.

## General Objectives in the Phoenix Area

To supplement the one existing bridle path, the Trails Subcommittee, Region I of the Arizona State Horsemen's Association, proposes a Valley of the Sun Circle Trail, which, by using chiefly canal banks, river bottoms and washes will encircle the Salt River Valley and provide access to Squaw Peak Park, South Mountain Park, Papago Park, the Salt River and McDowell Indian Reservations, and the long-standing sheep trails to the north.

We intend to seek a dedicated bridle path along the canals through the Salt River Water Users' Association, and we recommend access trails wherever new roads are built or old ones widened. We believe progress can be coupled with beauty and we wish to see many parkways and tree-lined streets similar to Central Avenue in the Phoenix of the future. The choice as to which streets shall be so developed we leave in the capable hands of our city planners. We would like to see trails established in all suitable parks and we would like to see trails leading into them and tying them into a general system.

On a wider front, the A.S.H.A. is working for a trails system in the Tucson and Prescott areas and we wish eventually to tie all parts of the state into a general trails system.

In the Tucson area, the establishment of riding and hiking trails along the Rillito River is a major project of the Pima County Parks and Recreation Department in cooperation with the A.S.H.A. Fifteen miles of easements have already been secured, and this is but the first ~~step~~ link in a system of trails which will include the Pantano wash, Sabina Creek, the Santa Cruz River south to Nogales.

## Specific Objectives in the Phoenix Area

1. Extension of the Central Avenue bridle path to the Arizona Canal, either north along Central Avenue or east along Northern Avenue from Central to the Canal. Better maintenance of this bridle path is highly recommended. There are dangerous uncovered holes in the path and a high concentration of broken pop bottles. The trimming of overhead trees, however, has improved greatly since the city assumed control of the bridle path.

2. Bridle Path along Glendale-Lincoln. To provide access to Squaw Peak Park we propose a bridle trail along Glendale-Lincoln from the canal at 16th Street to Tatum Boulevard. This bridle trail would be simple to provide now since no one has as yet built along this new road. It would permit access to Squaw Peak Park, not only from the canal but also from the fabulous resort area near Camelback Mountain. We refer you to the attached letter from Mr. Ashley of the Judson School who would like to see the bridle path extended along Lincoln to Scottsdale Road. We are happy to second Mr. Ashley's suggestion.

3. Squaw Peak Park. Of the greatest urgency is the extension of Squaw Peak Park, ~~which is~~ it is most gratifying to know that Squaw Peak belongs to all of the people and, unlike Camelback Mountain, cannot be cut up for homesites. We salute the vision of those who made this possible.

However, the boundaries of the park need to be greatly extended, ~~which is~~ IS



is nothing short of a miracle that there are still some 3,000 acres of undeveloped land in this area-- a place for Cub Scouts to climb, for Boy Scouts to camp out, for families to picnic, for winter visitors to "rough it"-- as well as for horse-men to explore.

There are at least three parallel canyons lying between North Phoenix and Paradise Valley where you can top a ridge, blot out the city, and feel like Marcos de Niza himself in a primitive wilderness. Of this area, 546 acres now comprise Squaw Peak Park-- chiefly the slopes of the rugged old mountain itself. Immediately to the north are 599 acres of Federal land, now tied up in homestead applications, which Phoenix would like to acquire. But the most usable areas are the valleys east of Squaw Peak, and these should be added to the park if it is humanly possible before we have houses sitting on every promontory peering down into every valley nook and cranny.

We hope, not merely as horsemen, but as parents and citizens that Phoenix will give careful consideration to all means of enlarging Squaw Peak Park, through purchase, acquisition of leases, condemnation or solicitation of land gifts from land owners. We refer you to the attached letter from Mr. Whigley Offield of the Arizona Baltimore Hotel supporting this general proposition and also to support from the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Madison Meadows School P.T.A. Board, and Boy Scout Troop 261.

#### Do-It-Yourself

Despite our wish to see an extensive trails system throughout this area, we do not wish to impose any financial burden on our community. We remember with gratitude that a private citizen named Murphy planted the trees along Central Avenue and carried water to them in a wagon, thereby making possible our loveliest street. We acknowledge the unremitting efforts of a group of private citizens connected with the Horse Lovers' Club who secured the dedicated bridle path along that street. We appreciate the fact that Phoenix would today have no South Mountain Park, were it not for a private citizen, James Dobbins, who took the chairmanship of a committee to secure a public park in the South Mountains.

As private citizens, we, too, are willing to work for the trails system. We wish to secure your approval of our plans and your assistance in obtaining rights of way. But we would try to develop the trails on a do-it-yourself basis, laying them out and maintaining them to the maximum of our ability.

Elaborate trails are neither necessary nor desirable. A dirt shoulder along a highway is all that is needed. Would it, for instance, be feasible to place the highway to one side of the highway right-of-way, giving a but more leeway on the other side for a horse or a boy on a bicycle?

We would also try to interest organizations which are members of A.S.H.A. in beautifying portions of the trails system in which they are particularly interested.

#### Conclusion

Other states and communities have developed extensive parks and trails. California is honeycombed with trails. The Appalachian (A.P.) Trail runs the entire length of the Eastern seaboard, from Maine to Georgia. Philadelphia has over 100 miles of trails in its huge Fairmount Park and adjacent park areas. St. Louis has its extensive Forest Park. Even little Greenwich, Conn., has 75 or 80 miles of bridle trails for its horsemen.

#### Attached Letters of Support

We draw your attention to supporting letters from Senator Goldwater, Cong res-

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man Rhodesan Governor Farmin, County Manager Miller, Mayor Marzhan ; also to letters from Mr. Wrigley Offield of the Arizona Biltmore Hotel, Mr. Jack Stewart of Camelback Inn, Mr. David Ashley of the Judson School; also to letters from Mrs. Mary K. Boli, President of Desert Estates Property Owners Association, Mr. Ted Mieger, Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 261 located at Simis School; also to a resolution passed by Madison Meadows P.T.A. Board and a telegram from the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs.

*Bud Brown, Trails Club  
Dorothy Gilbert, Trails Subcommittee Chair  
Dr. Thos. W. Fitch, Jr.*



4123 E. Solano Drive  
Phoenix 18, Arizona  
January 17, 1962

The Honorable Stewart Udall  
Secretary of the Interior  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Udall:

C  
O  
P  
Y

The Arizona Horsemen's Association has been sponsoring two projects, which we think will benefit the City of Phoenix and the State of Arizona. One of these projects is a complete trail system for hiking and riding in the State of Arizona; the other is the expansion of park facilities in our County and State.

As the present time we are doing all we can with other Civic bodies in expanding Squaw Peak Park, which lies just within the City limits of Phoenix at about 24th Street and Glendale Avenue. Some months ago, the City of Phoenix made application to purchase 599 acres of Federal land directly north and slightly west of Squaw Peak Park. The City of Phoenix desired to purchase this land from the Federal Government in order that it might be added to the current Squaw Peak Park. As Squaw Peak Park stands today, it is 546 acres of mountain and desert land, and we are most hopeful that we can add the 599 acres of Federal land to this park for the good of all our citizens.

I am advised by the City of Phoenix that their acquisition of the 599 acres of Federal land is currently being held up because of the possibility of the land being sold to individuals as small tracts.

I am writing to you in order that you might assist the Arizona Horsemen's Association and all of the Civic bodies behind the program in expanding Squaw Peak Park. We believe it would be of far greater value to the total public to have this beautiful area preserved as a recreation park facility for its citizens and visitors.

We would, therefore, appreciate whatever action you can take to expedite the sale of this Federal land to the City of Phoenix as a park area.

Very truly yours,

James C. Witty

JCW:mp  
CC: Mrs. E. R. Gilbert (blind)  
Charles Lindaur (blind)



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
3022 Federal Building  
Phoenix 25, Arizona

February 12, 1962

Mr. James C. Witty  
4123 East Solano Drive  
Phoenix 18, Arizona

Dear Mr. Witty:

Your letter of January 17, 1962, to the Secretary of the Interior regarding Federal lands in the vicinity of Squaw Peak has been referred to this office in order that we may provide you with additional information regarding the status of the lands.

The lands which are situated in sections 34 and 35, T. 3 N., R. 3 E., and section 3, T. 2 N., R. 3 E., have been and are still involved in considerable controversy. All or portions of the parcels are affected by claims located under the general mining laws, an application for exchange, and an application for selection, both filed by the State of Arizona, and applications under the provisions of the Small Tract Act.

During an examination of the area, officials of the City of Phoenix were contacted and it became evident that the lands had potential value for recreation purposes as an addition to the Squaw Peak Park. The City of Phoenix could not file an application since the lands were embraced in a prior exchange application filed by the State of Arizona. This matter, however, was discussed with officials of the State and a solution of the conflict is possible.

Before final action can be taken to meet the desires of the City, prior existing rights must be considered and adjudicated. The initial step in this process was consideration of the small tract applications. This resulted in a decision holding the applications for rejection. Some of the applicants appealed the action and the cases are now pending in the Office of The Secretary as indicated in your letter.

We are initiating an investigation to determine the validity of the mineral claims affecting the lands. Once this has been completed, we will then be in a position to consider the possibility of transferring title to the City of Phoenix under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. In the meantime, however, the lands are being classified for recreation purposes under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. This will segregate the lands pending consideration of any existing rights.

As you can see, the status of the lands is quite complicated and it will take considerable time to adjudicate the asserted rights. You may rest





assured, however, that we are well aware of the desires of the City and their needs for lands to meet the demands for public recreation sites.

If you have any additional questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred J. Waller".

Fred J. Waller  
State Director

NEED FOR A SYSTEM OF HIKING AND RIDING TRAILS

A Presentation by the Trails Subcommittee for Region I,  
Arizona State Horsemen's Association

Introduction

Maricopa County can list as its principal assets an unequalled climate and a wealth of natural beauty. These inherent assets plus a vigorous promotion campaign are attracting new citizens so rapidly that proper community planning is almost unattainable. In the face of this population influx, the Trails Committee of the Arizona State Horsemen's Association believes that our County Supervisors and our Parks Department are doing a tremendous job of planning for the future. The system of parks which you have just created is a monument to your vision. Now we should like to invite you to look again into the future with us.

We don't want dull, drab, characterless unrelieved urbanization. We want the breathing space provided by parks, we want vistas of uncluttered mountains, we want spots of beauty in our midst, paths for walking, trails for riding -- we want the freedom to continue to enjoy the assets of climate and beauty which brought us here in the first place.

Arizona State Horsemen's Association Trails Committee

The Arizona State Horsemen's Association is a statewide association of horsemen. The Trails Committee of this Association is headed by Bud Brown of Prescott and is divided into subcommittees for three regions. We represent the Trails Subcommittee for Region I (Maricopa, Gila and Yuma Counties). We have been meeting monthly since February, 1961, to devise a reasonable trails system for this area.

Valley of the Sun Circle Trail

In conversations with City and County Parks and Highway officials, we have been advised to shun arterials and concentrate on secondary roads and particularly canals, river and stream beds and proposed flood control corridors. Accordingly, we have drawn up a plan for a Valley of the Sun Circle Trail, some 150 miles in length, which would encircle the Valley and tie together all city and county parks which are suitable for hiking and riding.

The proposed Trail would run from Granite Reef Dam along the Arizona Canal to its termination at 75th Avenue, south along Skunk Creek, New River and the Agua Fria to the Salt River, through the Gila River Indian Reservation to South Mountain Park, through the Park and north again along the Canal system.

We have received such excellent cooperation that we are now assured of about three-fourths of the trail. The first segment became a reality when the City of Phoenix put in good condition the east-west trail through South Mountain Park, some of which had fallen into disrepair in the years since it was constructed under the C.C.C., and some of which had been obliterated by new roads cutting through the park.

Through the superb cooperation of the Salt River Project, permission has been obtained to add some 100 miles of trails along canal banks. It is high time that our Canal system was recognized for what it is-- a tremendous asset for recreation and a thing of beauty-- sparkling water in an arid land. Incidentally, we appeal to landowners whose property abuts canal banks, either to leave the natural screen of mesquite, catclaw and Palo Verde, or to beautify the canal banks by the planting of oleander or other hedges or trees.



Stone walls, chain link fences and unsightly industrial areas can soon transform a lovely stream into a dirty ditch.

After exploratory talks with the individual councilmen most directly concerned, we have formally requested permission from the Gila River Indian Community Council to follow a trail across the Gila River Indian Reservation. Our representative was received with courtesy and interest, and we are hopeful that our request will be granted.

The remaining segment needed to complete the Circle Trail lies along the course of Skunk Creek, New River and the Agua Fria River south to the Salt River. These are unproductive lands because heavy storms can at any time convert them into raging streams. The stream beds are, however, privately owned, and we have been informally advised by Phoenix Title and Trust Co. that there may be as many as 500 property owners to seek out in this area. Inasmuch as this would appear to be beyond our capabilities as private citizens, we may wish to select an alternate route, lying as close as feasible to the stream beds. We wish to ascertain whether the County would consider granting a trail right of way along a north-south avenue from the Arizona Canal to the Salt River. as a tentative suggestion, we propose the following: 75th Avenue from the Arizona Canal to Bethany Home Road, west on Bethany Home Road along the Grand Canal to 107th Avenue, south on 107th Avenue to McDowell, west on McDowell to El Mirage, south on El Mirage to the vicinity of the Salt River.

#### Freeway Threat

We had no sooner obtained permission to include canal banks as part of the Circle Trail than we discovered that we would shortly be unable to cross the Black Canyon Highway. Bridges have already been built channeling the canal under the soon-to-be-extended freeway. This bottle neck and others which will develop every time a new freeway crosses the route of the Circle Trail have been discussed with County, State and Federal Highway engineers and here again, we are confident that a way will be found to permit hikers and horsemen to cross the freeways.

#### Access to Parks

Once we are successful in establishing our Valley of the Sun Circle Trail, we shall seek to tie into it all existing city and county parks and Indian Reservations which are suitable for hiking and riding. On the fringes of the proposed trail are Squaw Peak Park, Estrella Mountain Park, the Gila River Indian Reservation, South Mountain Park, Papago Park, the Salt River and McDowell Indian Reservations. We will also seek a connecting link to the McDowell Mountain Regional Park, Thunderbird Park, Lake Pleasant Regional Park, and White Tank Mountain Regional Park.

#### Flood Control System

We have appeared before you previously to request that a trail be placed along one bank of the proposed Indian Bend Wash Flood Control Corridor, and we will study other proposed flood control corridors to see how they may fit in with our overall plan for a trails system.

#### Verde and Salt River Trails

Because of the necessity of water for horses, it is logical that we seek to establish trails along canals or natural water ways. Hence our plans will encompass a trail north along the Verde River and east along the Salt River and its system of lakes.

### Black Mountain Trail

We have requested that a trail be placed along Black Mountain Road and suggest that an eight-foot right-of-way be left for a trail, separated from the roadway by a parkway, burm or ditch, depending upon the topography and land available. We understand that you have given informal approval to this proposal. We now request your formal approval. If this permission is granted, we shall then seek to tie the Valley of the Sun Circle Trail to the Black Mountain Trail, and we are currently investigating means by which this may be done.

### Squaw Peak Park

Our other principal objective is the estension of Squaw Peak Park. This matter concerns the City of Phoenix more than Maricopa County, since it is now within the jurisdiction of the City. However, we want you to know that we consider the expansion of this park to be vital to the future of North Phoenix, Sunnyslope, Paradise Valley, and Scottsdale. If sufficiently enlarged, it can serve North Phoenix as South Mountain Park serves South Phoenix. Certainly, it is strategically located near the fabulous resort area around Camelback Mountain. The park, which the County acquired in the first place through the courtesy of Mrs. Howard Smith and the Arizona Biltmore Hotel (by assigning their grazing leases to the County for a park), now consists of 546 acres. It includes most, but not all, of Squaw Peak (the lower slopes to the south are privately owned). Immediately to thenorth are 599 acres of Federal land now tied up in homestead applications which Phoenix is trying to acquire. If successful, the park would then consist of some 1100 acres out of the 3,000 potential undeveloped acres in the area. This would compare with 14,000-acre South Mountain Park.

Even though the additional 599 Federal acres are acquired, other lands should be added to make the park an entity: the southern slopes of the Squaw Peak which include the much used trail to the top (if this is impossible, perhaps the trail itself might be dedicated); the valley east of Squaw Peak and the western slopes of the mountains east of Squaw Peak necessary to permit privacy; an area northeast of the present park which would connect it with the Federal lands immediately north without the necessity of climbing over the back of the mountain. Every parcel of land which can be added to the park by Federal, State, County, City or private action will add immensely to its usefulness.

### Cost

The trails system outlined above sounds like an ambitious undertaking. Actually, it need cost the county nothing. It is not necessary to build trails. Horses and hikers can make their own, and members of the Trails Committee have access to earth-moving machinery if that is required. It is not now necessary to beautify trails. Private initiative and civic organizations can take care of this piecemeal, with a considerable assist from Mother Nature. But is is necessary now to have the grand vision of a parks system tied together by a trails network. The right-of-ways must be provided now or it will be forever too late.

### Presentation of Petitions

We wish to present two petitions, each bearing approximately 1,000 signatures. One petition requests the enlargement of Squaw Peak Park. It is addressed to the Supervisors of Maricopa County and the City council of Phoenix and reads as follows:

We, the undersigned, believe that the undeveloped land around Squaw Peak is a natural park area of inestimable value to Phoenix, and to the citizens of Maricopa County. We urge you to make every effort to add as much land as possible to the present small Squaw Peak Park.



The second petition is addressed to the Supervisors of Maricopa County, the City Councils of Phoenix, Glendale, Scottsdale, Tempe, Mesa, Tolleson and Paradise Valley, it reads as follows:

We, the undersigned, are interested in having each of you consider our plea for adequate bridle trails throughout the Salt River Valley area. We feel that consideration should be given to this immediately before horses are forced out of the communities.

This petition is addressed to you as the governing bodies of your respective municipalities, be it a town, city, or county. We respectfully request that you coordinate your street and highway departments, your parks and recreation departments and your planning and zoning commissions to the extent that a thorough study is made and plans adopted for proper bridle paths in the immediate future.

We believe it is to the advantage of the communities of the Salt River Valley that this planning be commenced immediately.

Most of the 1,000 signatures on these petitions are those of horsemen, and we present these requests as members of the Trails Committee of the Arizona State Horsemen's Association. But we firmly believe that our proposals would gain equal support among Boy and Girl Scouts, Indian Guides and Campfire Girls, members of the Audubon Society and Federation of Garden Clubs, among landscape architects and rock hounds and all manner of youngsters and oldsters who enjoy the out-of-doors.

#### Room for Beauty

There has been much talk lately of the need for beauty in our urban areas. Our plea to you, not merely as horsemen but as parents and citizens, is simply this: leave room for recreation and beauty.

Dorothy V. Gilbert (Mrs. E.R.)  
Chairman, Trails Subcommittee  
Region I



PETITION

TO: THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARICOPA COUNTY  
CITY COUNCIL OF PHOENIX

Gentlemen:

We, the undersigned, believe that the undeveloped land around Squaw Peak is a natural park area of inestimable value to Phoenix, and to the citizens of Maricopa County. We urge you to make every effort to add as much land as possible to the present small Squaw Peak Park.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Katherine A. Lopez	47 W. State ave.
Edmund A. Lopez	" " "
Beatrice A. Meyers	6628-110. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.
Mahab, Leni Taylor	147 W. Rose Lane
Jean Lenore Drumley	36 West Octello Rd.
Elizabeth Masten	2115 E Montebello
Paula D. Day	238 W Tamer Road
Mary Alice Healy	22 E. Marshall
Ellse R. Hart	7170 N. Central ave.
Jean Davis	5748 N 26 <sup>th</sup> Ave.
Bertha Lobin	833 - E. Deans Ave.
Jean Madrik	754 E. Culver Phoenix
Eleanor L. McDaniel	114 E. Tuckey Lane, Phoenix
Fanny T. Gilbert	6226 N. 14 <sup>th</sup> Street, Apt B
Arlene J. Ryburn	3932 N. Glenn Dr.
Frank H. Gilbert	5105 E. Exeter Phoenix
Abel H. Kappano	3932 W. Glenn St., Phoenix
Glenn J. Fullert	Paradise Valley Country Club
Charles A. Boergen	302 S. 83rd St. - So
Frank E. Boergen	302 S. 83 <sup>rd</sup> St.



Squaw Peak Park  
From Cedric Austin, April 9, 1963

Bond money

The City has written Washington and had conferences with the Bureau of Land Management recently to see how negotiations are coming along regarding acquisition of 599 acres of Deredal land. There are hitches and it looks as though some private claims will be allowed.

The City can't trade South Mountain land without an Act of Congress because the land is patented for park purposes but reverts to Federal Government (ck) if it is not used for that purpose.

The City has \$2,000,000 budgeted in 1961 bond issue for land acquisition and this money cannot be siphoned off for any other purpose. Of this, \$400,000 is available but it is pretty much committed to parks in West Phoenix, Paradise Valley and South Phoenix (some land will cost as much as \$5,000 an acre).

Austin doesn't feel that the Council would go along with their desire to buy Squaw Peak land at high prices since there already is a park in that area.

I asked him if 1,000 people had signed any other petition to acquire a given park. He said there had been signatures in Maryvale, South Phoenix, etc., but didn't say how many.

The City must some day buy Squaw Peak since it is now only leased from the State. But it is a commercial lease and the City can do whatever it wishes with the land. When improvements have been put in, then anyone bidding against the City would have to buy such improvements which would make it prohibitively expensive. It is possible that the state might sell off Squaw Peak land to private interests but Austin thinks there would be such a squawk they wouldn't dare.

The \$2,000,000 bond money is available in approximately the following manner (ck): 1962: \$400,000; 1963- \$300,000; 1964- 300,000; 1965- 300,000; 1966 300,000; 1967- \$400,000.





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

3022 Federal Building  
Phoenix 25, Arizona

IN REPLY REFER TO:

6400 (L&M)

June 18, 1963

Mr. Robert W. Dressel  
State Trails Chairman  
Arizona State Horsemen's Association  
4536 E. Calle Redonda  
Phoenix 18, Arizona

Dear Mr. Dressel:

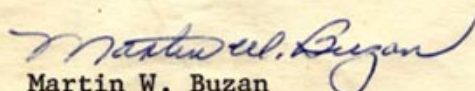
Thank you for your letter dated June 12, 1963 concerning the proposed Squaw Peak Park to be developed by the City of Phoenix.

As you are probably aware, approximately 290 acres of public lands are involved in the proposed Park, and these have been classified under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act as being suited for use for recreation purposes. The City does not have application filed for the lands, however their interest was the basis for our classification to set aside and protect them. Numerous conflicts for the lands exist which must be resolved prior to any final action being taken by this office. For example, the many mining claims located on the lands must be investigated and a determination made as to their validity. In addition, the State has made Indemnity Lieu Selection on a portion of the lands, and also have a State Exchange embracing part of them. A flood control structure has been proposed for a portion of the lands and this part is under withdrawal to the Bureau of Reclamation.

All of these conflicting requests for the lands must, by law, be considered on their individual merits so that the greatest public benefits will be derived from the development and use of the lands, and to insure that all valid rights are properly protected.

We certainly appreciate your interest in this property, and I wish to assure you that we are well aware of the City's interest and are adjusting the conflicts as expeditiously as possible, and with care to determine that the disposition of the land is to the public's interest.

Sincerely yours,

  
Martin W. Buzan  
Acting State Director

cc: District Manager -  
Phoenix Office





# ARIZONA STATE HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

7000 EAST BERNEIL DR.  
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

## NEED FOR A LARGER SQUAW PEAK PARK

A Presentation by the Arizona State Horsemen's Association before the Phoenix Parks Board, Dec. 5, 1963

The Arizona State Horsemen's Association has been trying continuously since February, 1961, to have Squaw Peak Park greatly enlarged to make it comparable to South Mountain Park. Despite these efforts, not one acre has been added to the Park during that time.

### Size

The present Park consists of 546 acres and includes chiefly the slopes of Squaw Peak, itself. It does not, however, include the lower slopes to the southwest over which passes the heavily traveled trail to the top. There are approximately 3,000 acres of undeveloped land in the area. This does not compare in size with 14,000-acre South Mountain Park, but if left in its natural state would be comparable in the type of outdoor recreation it would afford.

Our efforts have been devoted 1) to seeing that additional Federal land in the area (some 599 acres) is added; 2) to seeking acquisition of private lands in the area. Ideally, the park should consist of 3,000 acres. It should contain a minimum of 1500 acres and trail rights should be acquired in the remaining area.

### Importance

Tourists. Three to four million tourists visit Maricopa County annually, adding \$150,000,000 to its economy. Squaw Peak is adjacent to the resort center of the Valley where millions of dollars have been invested in order to bring more millions into the area.

Phoenix spends a great deal of money on western publicity but fails to give proper attention to retaining the unique western attractions which are advertised. Our tourists can play golf at home, see a stage show, visit a museum, shop in a fancy store. But they cannot hike or ride into the desert, climb aboard a hay wagon, enjoy a chuck wagon spread while the sun sets behind a big saguaro.

Last year, the Arizona Biltmore Hotel sent out 2400 riders into the Squaw Peak area. Camelback Inn sent riders on three-hour circle tours of the region. Bob's Arizona Manor Stables sent out 5,200 riders. Cactus Rock Lodge sent out 10,800. Riders from Paradise Inn, Jokake, and Royal Palms are now finding it almost impossible to ride around Camelback Mountain. Will it soon be the same story with Squaw Peak?

Residents. Squaw Peak is an ideal park site situated as it is between the populous area of North Phoenix and burgeoning Paradise Valley which anticipates some 300,000 inhabitants. Phoenix is growing

too rapidly and too solidly for its own ultimate good. The Queen City of the wide open spaces is becoming just a hodge podge of houses, apartments, shopping centers and gas stations. It is losing the qualities which attracted people to it in the first place. Left in its natural state, the Squaw Peak area could be a place for the next generation of Scouts and Campfire Girls, hikers, riders, picnickers and campers to seek their recreation. This generation owes this park to the next generation.

Western Atmosphere. Eighty percent of the western publicity pictures taken by the Chamber of Commerce originate near Squaw Peak. This area is a backbone of our biggest civic celebration, our Rodeo. Last year, Cactus Stable alone furnished 65 horses, 14 flatbeds for floats, and teams to pull the Jaycee and Goldwater stage coaches. Each season it sends 25 or 30 hay wagons to the Biltmore to haul guests to the barbecue pits. It furnished a four-up for the opening of Saks Fifth Avenue. If Dreamy Draw is paved, if Old Shea Blvd. is cut off by mining claims, if riders are separated from their trails by Paradise Parkway, all this typical Western activity will cease. Already the hay rides which Arizona Manor Stables used to send out along the Arizona Canal have come to a halt by the closing of the canal road.

Just west of Squaw Peak is the Western Saddle Club, largest and most active in the Valley. This club, devoted to the recreation of riding, is not even permitted to stable horses on its grounds.

#### Efforts of the Horsemen's Association

Trails Committee Resolution. At its organizational meeting in February, 1961, the Trails Committee adopted the following resolution: It is recommended by this committee that the City of Phoenix acquire as much land as possible to extend Squaw Peak Park, also that the City provide a bridle trail along Glendale Avenue from the canal bank and 16th Street to Tatum Boulevard.

In March, 1961, a letter was addressed to Richard Burgess, Chairman of Parks and Playgrounds of the Phoenix Growth Committee asking for a system of trails and an enlarged Squaw Peak Park. Letters of support were presented by Judson School, Camelback Inn, the Arizona Biltmore Hotel; a resolution of support was passed by Madison Meadows PTA Board. A telegram was sent by the Federation of Garden Clubs. But the only result was the reply from Mr. Burgess that his committee was not in a position to consider any specific projects.

Presentations. Oral and written presentations have been made to Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. The County has responded by setting up a County-wide Hiking and Riding Trails Committee, but has taken no action on Squaw Peak because it is no longer within their jurisdiction.

Oral and written presentations have been made to a group of key City officials and to Phoenix City Council. The City has repaired and rebuilt the east-west trail through South Mountain Park, has reaffirmed its support of Central Avenue bridle path and cooperated in the planting of trees there. It has also granted us a spoke trail along the Maryland Avenue right-of-way from the Arizona Canal to Lincoln Drive, thus tying the Valley of the Sun Circle Trail to Squaw Peak Park. En-



trance into the park is now being hamstrung by a new subdivision, Indian Hills, building directly across our trail on the north side of Lincoln.

A presentation has also been made to the Arizona Conservation Council, which was recently very influential in defeating before the Phoenix Zoning Board an application for commercial zoning north of Lincoln directly in front of Squaw Peak Park.

Letters. Our desire for a larger Squaw Peak Park has been brought to the attention of many through letters: Mayor Mardian, Sheriff Cal Boies, Secretary of State Wasley Bolin, Governor Fannin, Senators Hayden and Goldwater, Congressman Rhodes, Congressman Udall and Congressman Senner, and many others. We have written Secretary of the Interior Udall and others on his staff repeatedly in an effort to speed transfer of Federal land to the City of Phoenix.

Land Trades. Some time before there was any discussion of trading public for private land on Camelback Mountain, we had explored this possibility for Squaw Peak with Fred Eldean of the John H. Page Land Co. He offered to help work out such trades, but this offer was in vain because the Department of the Interior decided Squaw Peak was a matter to be handled locally, the State Land Department believed enabling legislation was necessary, and such legislation has not yet been enacted.

Use Survey. Interviews with Bob's Arizona Manor Stables, the Arizona Biltmore Hotel, Cactus Rock Lodge, Camelback Inn, Walter Martin's Training Stables, and Cactus Stables revealed that last year, more than 22,000 people went on hay rides in the Squaw Peak area, while some 45,000 people rented horses. There is, of course, no way of determining how many private horse owners rode north from Phoenix and south from Paradise Valley.

Petitions. We have secured 1300 signatures on a petition asking that Squaw Peak Park be enlarged. These are mostly the signatures of horsemen, for no general circulation of the petition was attempted.

### Conclusion

Because of the importance of the Squaw Peak area to the tourist business, to the recreation of local residents, the western atmosphere of Phoenix, its biggest civic enterprise, the rodeo, and because all attempts at land trades have failed, we urge the Phoenix Parks Board to give serious consideration to the purchase of land in this area.