



OPERATION CLEANUP—Sierra Club members form a line and pass bits of B-16 wreckage to Army Chinook helicopter on shore of Birch Lake. Times photo by John Malin

Sierra Club Cleanup Effort Stirs Controversy

By LEE HARRIS
Times Staff Writer

For 33 years, the wreckage of the vintage plane lay scattered over a 300-yard area at the 10,000-foot elevation in the High Sierra southwest of Big Pine.

The B-16 bomber had crashed beside Birch Lake in 1940, killing its six-man crew. Just why the plane crashed and how many bodies were recovered is uncertain today. Tracing World War II is much like looking for a needle in a haystack.

To most of those who came to know about it, the wreckage was of little concern. Being in a remote area, much of it submerged, it was out of sight—hence out of mind.

FAMILY PONDERS FUTURE OF HOME OVER OIL WELL

NEWPORT BEACH—Crude oil gushing from an abandoned well beneath a duplex apartment eased Sunday, giving the owner time to ponder plugging of the well and rebuilding the home at 215 River Ave.

The oil erupted Saturday morning, buckling the walls and floors and spewing the thick oil through the house and into the yard.

"My plan is to tear down the front of the house and redill and cement (the well)," Roy Noel, the owner, said Sunday. Rebuilding of the old well is estimated to cost \$7,000 to \$10,000, he said, and the rebuilding of the home about \$40,000.

Judy and William Cooper, Noel's daughter and son-in-law, fled the home with their son Glen, 5, and most of their possessions.

Geologists said the eruption of the 1700-foot-deep well, one of four in the neighborhood, was caused by underground seawater pressure forcing the oil around a corroded well casing.

But to others—members of the Sierra Club among them—it was unsightly a piece of litter as a beer can on a curbside lawn.

And that is how cleaning up the remains of the old plane became part of a controversial Sierra Club project to remove the abandoned wreckage of more than 600 planes downed in undeveloped areas throughout the state.

The Birch Lake cleanup effort was made possible by the Army's donation—at taxpayer expense—of a huge Chinook helicopter and flight crew. During last weekend's operation, the aircraft, which costs about \$2,000 an hour to fly, was aloft more than three hours.

Approximately 60 persons, most of them Sierra Club members, were flown into the nearly inaccessible area in the helicopter.

They swiftly filled the copter with the twisted and bent metal that had been chopped up into smaller pieces two weeks earlier. While the copter was being loaded in this fashion and flown out three times, four scuba divers were beneath the surface of the nearly freezing water, examining the submerged fuselage.

The mammoth helicopter returned to hover noisily over the lake while the divers attached it to chains that held the fuselage.

Then the Chinook began its upward pull. In a matter of seconds, the empty fuselage was clear of the water.

Was it worth the effort? Was it worth the total cost of the operation that may run as high as \$15,000—most of it paid by the Sierra Club? Just how important is it to remove plane wreckage from remote areas of the state?

To one of the divers, Phil Cook, there was still doubt.

"It's still unclear to me. I questioned it even today before diving. We leave ship wreckage in the sea."

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LIFTING DEBRIS—Copter lifts wing of crashed bomber from waters of lake after a cable was attached to it by scuba divers.

Confusion Was Goal in Drive on Prostitution

Hollywood Sweep Sophisticated— and Controversial

By ROBERT KISTLER
Times Staff Writer

The Los Angeles Police Department went to war against prostitution in Hollywood this summer.

Even by modern police standards, it was a highly organized, imaginatively conceived attack on the world's oldest profession.

The goal, simply, was to establish a firm police beachhead in what has become in the past decade a teeming no-man's-land of motorized sex-for-hire in the one-time movie capital.

The key element of the attack, or Operation Sweep, as the department called it, was the capacity to confuse as well as capture.

"To put it bluntly," said Lt. Robert R. Loomis, the 40-year-old vice officer who mapped out the plan, "we wanted the hookers and the tricks (customers) so confused they couldn't tell the players without a program."

To accomplish this, women officers were recruited to pose as prostitutes. Their targets were the swarms of males who nightly drive Hollywood streets looking for sex at the going market price.

Traditionally, males soliciting prostitutes have generally been left alone by police, who concentrated instead on arresting prostitutes.

But, by arresting the customers of prostitutes, and then publicizing that fact, Loomis hoped to make the next customer more wary when making his illicit advance.

If the customers became more cagey in the language they used in approaching the prostitutes, the prostitutes, in turn, would have to become more blatant in the language they used, Loomis figured. And that would make arresting the females easier for his male officers.

So, after several nights of working his decoys, Loomis announced the operation to the media, then pulled his decoys off the streets and dispatched all the undercover officers he could by his hands on to approach prostitutes in the normal fashion.

After a time, he countered with his female decoys again. For 2½ months, from mid-June through August, the veteran vice officer used that pattern of attack.

The scheme worked. By summer's end, no one knew for sure who was a cop and who was not, and busy vice officers went about their tasks as gleefully as kids on a successful Easter egg hunt.

The program worked so well it even snared one of LAPD's own, Lt. Terrence Hanmon, a downtown headquarters officer who, while off duty and riding in his personal car one night, was arrested on suspicion of propositioning one of Loomis' female decoys. He subsequently pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of trespassing and was fined \$10 and placed on one year's probation.

During the sweep, 444 males were arrested for solicitation of prostitution, 404 females were arrested on the same misdemeanor charge and 160 other men and women were arrested for various related offenses, including lewd conduct, indecent exposure, probation violations and interfering with officers.

But the program from the beginning spawned protests, arguments that are still being debated—both on Hollywood sidewalks and in the city's courts.

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Los Angeles
Times

CC R PART II
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1973

COUNTY, CITY WATCH

Newport Dunes Group Makes Bid to Keep Park Alive

By THOMAS FORTUNE
Times Staff Writer

NEWPORT BEACH—Reopening of a former coffee shop as a modest family restaurant is planned this week as an attempt to keep alive the money-making potential of the Newport Dunes Aquatic Park.

Lessees of the 78-acre county-owned tideland property hope to open the Sportsman's Family Restaurant, a small eatery on Back Bay Drive. Their lease with the county, with 35 years yet to run, requires a restaurant.

In the lease's first 15 years, the beach park around a seawater lagoon on Upper Newport Bay near Coast Highway has been a consistent money loser.

The original lessee, Dallas oilman Col. D. H. Byrd, is said to have sunk \$5 million into it.

The new lease holders—a syndicate of five individuals, later reduced to three—already are out \$75,000 they spent on plans to make it a major amusement park.

County officials found the plans to be inappropriate, with Newport Beach city officials warning the sidelines to get in their leeks against the proposal.

Not only has Newport Dunes failed to attract beachgoers in numbers that pay off, but a restaurant by the bay has been a failure. That restaurant, which resembles a flying saucer on stilts, was open from 1960 to 1964 as The Sea Byrd and again from 1970 to 1971 as The Ocean Tied.

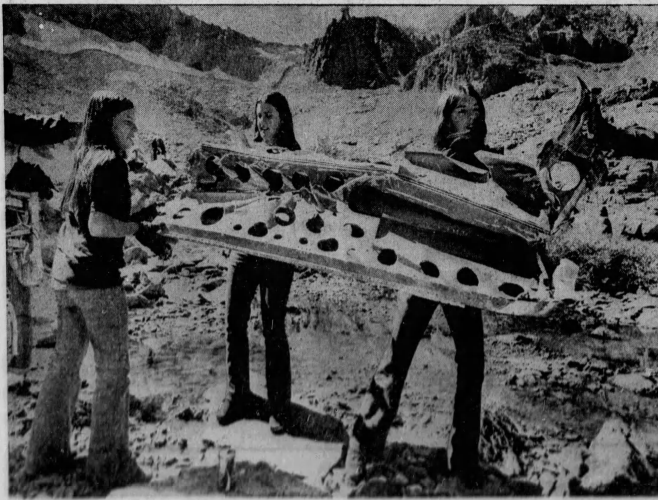
County supervisors have been pressuring for a year and half to get the restaurant reopened by threatening to find the lessee in default. It is during the interim that Col. Byrd sold out the major part of his interest and the new principals came forward with the amusement park plans—a \$50 million attraction to be known as Water World.

Finally, last week, county supervisors voted to have County Counsel declare the contract in default.

(Deputy County Counsel John Powell says the county real property services department is going over the contract to see if there are other grounds for default beside lack of a restaurant and it may be a week or two before the default notice is served on the lessee.)

At the supervisors' meeting last Tuesday, the lessee's attorney, Stephen Royer, argued his client had attempted to reopen the restaurant but the firm which the restaurant

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MORE DEBRIS—Three Sierra Club members, at left, hand large piece of wreckage down the line. At right, divers prepare to enter lake to hook cable to fuselage of 1940 bomber as copter lifts off with the load.

SWEEP ON PROSTITUTION

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The sweep, critics said, contained the heavy odor of police entrapment.

—Said radio station KFWB in a July editorial: "The technique of staking out a nice-looking plainclothes policeman is apparently legal, within the letter of the law."

"But it still carries a strong smell of entrapment . . . staking out attractive bait, then waiting for a sucker to take it."

—City Atty. Burr Pines, who had promised in his recent election campaign to de-emphasize prosecution of victimless crimes—but who had excepted prostitution and gambling from that list—rebutted KFWB, denying that entrapment had been used and pledging to assist the LAPD in "cleaning up the streets of Los Angeles."

—Pines's response, in turn, triggered an angry attack from County Public

Defender Richard Buckley, who said the 34-year-old city attorney should not have spoken out publicly on the program because Pines's office was involved in prosecuting the cases developing out of the sweep.

"Not only has Mr. Pines interfered with the judicial process by stating a conclusion reserved for the judge or jury (the question of entrapment)," Buckley said, "but he has

also created the mistaken impression that defendants were not entrapped because of the fact they pleaded guilty."

In the meantime, others were getting into the act. The underground and sex-oriented press, which circulates heavily in Hollywood, was screaming that Loomis and the LAPD were using underhanded tactics and warned readers to be more careful when making advances to women on the street.

Liberal attorneys, many of whom had supported Pines in his candidacy,

were complaining privately that he had done an about-face by supporting the sweep. They said his campaign promise to de-emphasize prosecution of victimless crime meant nothing.

Throughout it all, Robert Loomis said nothing, kept his counsel and made as many arrests as he could. He knew he had come up with an effective plan, one that he hoped would deliver a crucial blow to prostitution in Hollywood.

If not that, maybe it would at least turn out to

be a significant "holding action . . ."

There was just no reason, Loomis confided to a reporter, "why the street whores should be permitted to take over this town . . ."

Street prostitutes had not always ruled Hollywood's sidewalks.

There had been a time—an age, they called it—when Hollywood was different. Then, only a decade ago, Hollywood was a city plentifully peopled by the rich.

It sported bustling,

plush restaurants, gala motion picture premieres and, if you wanted a prostitute, you made a gentlemanly telephone call and paid your \$100 or \$200 like a civilized man.

The great majority of the \$10, \$15 and \$20 girls tended to work the south-west and south-central sections of Los Angeles, some distance from Hollywood.

But as the movie industry changed and all but deserted the Hollywood environs, the city changed,

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Cyprus Kiwanians Install New Officers

CYPRESS—Charles A. Mealey has been installed as president of the Kiwanis Club of Cypress at the club's 23rd annual installation.

Also installed were Dick Koolhaas, first vice president; Keith Moriarty, second vice president; Floyd W. Osborn, secretary, and Sho Yamada, treasurer.

Vanity Fair coordinated sleepwear for a look that's soft and fresh as a daisy

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Matching short coat. Sizes 32 to 40, \$14

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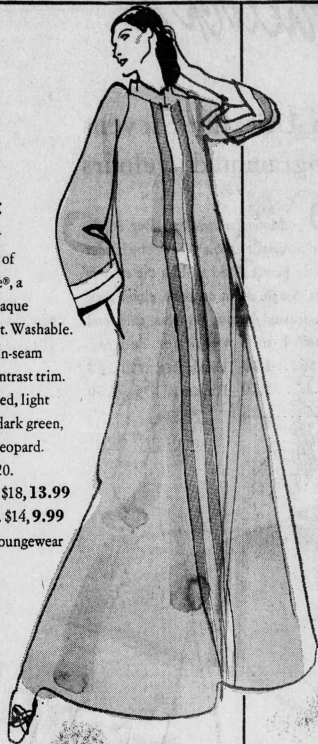
Matching dolman-sleeve coat with drawstring waist.

Sizes 32 to 40, \$16 Matching scuffs. S, M, L, \$5

Sleepwear

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SWEEP

Continued from Third Page
too. Hollywood became, in some sections, a hollow shell of its once financially robust self.

And into the void stepped the transients, the small-time hustlers, the dope pushers, the gays (who had already staked out a sizable portion of the town), the smut peddlers—and the prostitutes.

More and more, the middle class moved out and the street people moved in.

The ranks of Hollywood street prostitutes also experienced a noticeable surge, veteran vice officers noted, after the Watts riots of 1965.

"After that, many whites were apparently afraid to go to Watts to find a prostitute," Loomis said, "so they came here.

"And when the tricks moved their activity to Hollywood, the black prostitutes naturally followed."

In addition, the late 1960s and early 1970s produced another phenomenon. As the mores of the nation's youth changed, it became more and more evident that a good number of bright, middle and upper-middle class coeds were putting themselves, or their boyfriends, through college by selling themselves on the streets.

"It's not bad money," Loomis observed wryly, "and the hours are good."

By the spring of this year, the situation, according to Loomis, was "intolerable."

—Vice officers were receiving complaints from women who said they had been approached by men, both in cars and on foot, with brazen propositions.

Traffic at night along Hollywood's major thoroughfares actually was congested to the point of stoppage in the right-hand lane at some intersections while, according to Loomis, "five or six cars waited in line to make their deals with the whores on the corner."

Loomis' statistics confirm the briskness and growth of Hollywood's prostitution activity.

In 1970, Hollywood Division vice officers arrested 585 persons on prostitution charges. In 1971, using roughly the same manpower and devoting an equal amount of time, Hollywood officers arrested 953. In 1972, the prostitution arrest figure was 1,258.

And during the first three months of 1973, 212 arrests for prostitution were made, a 62% increase over the number in the same period a year before.

The conclusion, assuming the increases were not just the result of stepped-up police activity, was inescapable: There was a lot more prostitution going on in Hollywood.

In addition to the blatant increase, there was another thing that bothered Loomis. The more his men arrested prostitutes, the wiser—more "street schooled"—the basic pool of prostitutes became.

First offenders normally serve little, if any, time in jail and are often back on the street within a week—but with a difference.

"They have learned first-hand the elements necessary for a —good bust." The result is that they become more wary.

One "defense" increasingly employed by Hollywood prostitutes, Loomis said, was asking a potential customer to unzip his pants as soon as the prostitute got in his car.

"The whores were aware that a vice officer is forbidden from doing this," Loomis said. "I guess, from the girls' point of view, it's about the best insurance against arrest they had."

The practice of requesting indecent exposure created a corollary problem. Because many customers had once been asked to unzip by a prostitute, "some of them developed the habit of doing so as soon as they drove up to a woman they assumed was a prostitute," Loomis said.

Some of the women thus approached were not prostitutes but housewives or office workers in the area who were simply waiting for their bus.

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