

IRON PEAK LOOKOUT

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WHY THE LOOKOUT?

One of the prices we pay for living up here in the hills is a sense of isolation, which in turn leads to a feeling of being helpless and powerless against the destructive forces of the so-called civilization that starts down at the bottom of Spy Rock Road. The most important function of this newspaper will be to dispel that myth.

The media play a very important role in determining how a society sees itself, and if you were to form an impression of Mendocino County based solely on what you read in the local newspapers, you'd get the idea that the only things worth knowing about all take place within those dingy clusters of gas stations, shopping malls, and neon eyesores that pop up like warts every 20 miles or so along Highway 101. You'd never learn about the rich and diverse variety of people who have populated the remote mountain areas, and who form the economic as well as the cultural backbone of this county.

Let's face it, it's not Ukiah's bush-league imitation of Santa Rosa or Laytonville's instant rural slum ambience that make Mendocino County one of the world's special places. And while the Disney-esque kitsch of Mendocino City may look cute through the fog, do you really want an economy based on selling franchised junk to over-

stuffed tourists from LA?

Despite all the Chamber of Commerce blather about logging, tourism, and grapes, any ignoramus knows where the real financial base of this county is. In the unlikely event that marijuana were ever to be eliminated, at least half the businesses in Laytonville would go broke, and the same is probably true of Willits and Ukiah.

Two-bit demagogues like John Cimolino can fulminate all they want about those damn marijuana growers, but he can't deny that the inflated land values resulting from marijuana cultivation have greatly increased the tax base of this county. In fact, if it weren't for all the property taxes paid by pot growers, multi-tentacled corporations like Louisiana-Pacific, in whose pocket the old sourpuss has been for longer than most folks can remember, might actually have to pay their fair share of taxes.

Anyway, this paper intends, as its name implies, to look out for the interests of the mountain folk, particularly those in the Iron Peak-Spy Rock area. There's not always a lot of news up here, but there's seldom any shortage of opinions, and we won't hesitate to pass them along to you.

One more thing: as long as it's humanly possible, this newspaper will always be free. Let's hope the same continues to be true for all of us.

HARVEST REPORT

By the time this goes to press the 1984 harvest should be winding down. Reports from around the mountain are decidedly mixed. Based solely on weather conditions, this should have been a great year all around, since we had a warm, dry spring, and a long, hot summer. But people who didn't have a reliable water source didn't find the heat and dryness to be any particular blessing. Weather conditions also contributed to the proliferation of hordes of grasshoppers which proceeded to devastate legal and illegal crops with equal abandon.

Probably the biggest factor in reduced crop yields was the fact that some people reduced their planting or confined it to mostly shady areas out of fear of a return visit from the CAMP terrorists who descended upon us last year. Great progress is being made in developing plants that thrive in full shade, but barring some genetic breakthrough, shade growers will have to be satisfied with a lower per-plant yield. However, since their plants are almost invisible from the air, they can make up for it by putting in more plants.

On the military front, Attorney General Van de Kamp's fascist stormtroopers have been busy up in Humboldt County, breaking into people's houses without warrants, destroying or stealing anything they can get their vicious little hands on, and generally carrying on in a way we were all assured back in grammar school could never happen in the good old U. S. of A.

If there's any good to come out of all this, it's that prices gen-

erally should increase somewhat over last year. During the height of the CAMP panic last fall, some growers, anxious to unload their crop and get out, let pounds go for as low as \$1600, which they may have regretted, since prices soon moved back up to \$1800 or \$1900, and those who held out to spring were easily getting \$2100. Most growers right now seem to be asking, and getting \$1900 or \$2000.

It's hard to say, of course, how much effect the CAMP raids have on prices, since it is well known that a good portion of the crop stolen by the CAMP goons ends up being sold rather than destroyed, at prices unknown to those of us who aren't in the habit of doing business with crooked police officers. Well, no one ever said the life of a farmer was an easy one.

NEWS FLASH!!

On October 19, just in time for the end of the harvest season, U.S. District Judge Robert Aguilar finally got around to deciding what most of us had already known for the past year: that CAMP was guilty of massive and wholesale violation of both federal laws and the U.S. Constitution. He then issued a court order strictly limiting the use of helicopters and prohibiting searches of private property without warrants (although this would hardly seem necessary, since warrantless searches have already been prohibited for nearly 200 years by the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution).

The reaction of CAMP officials was to say that the judge's ruling

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CAMP COURT RULING (Continued)

didn't mean anything, which is unfortunately probably true, since CAMP raids are now over for the year, and by next year the Reagan-dominated Supreme Court will have had time to overturn Judge Aguilar's ruling and once again the dogs of war upon our once peaceful hills. By the way, CAMP officials denied that they had done any of the things they were accused of in the lawsuit, which ranks in the credibility department right up there with their ludicrous claims to have destroyed (or stolen) 20% to 50% of this year's crop. Sounds like they might have been smoking some of that funny weed themselves. For the record, their score from the Iron Peak area was a big fat zero.

NAZI AMERIKA?

This fall's election may not only be one of the most important in the history of the United States; it could also be one of the last, for this country is in real danger of turning into a modern version of Nazi Germany.

The right-wing religious fanatics who provide the core of Ronald Reagan's support are not much different from the brownshirts and stormtroopers who terrorized and intimidated anyone who dared oppose Hitler's crusade to transform Germany into a bastion of Christian anti-communism. Racism, violence, and the lust for world domination lie at the heart of their philosophy, and those of us who dare to oppose their program do so at the risk of our freedom and our lives.

The smiling, jovial Ronald Reagan shown to us by the government-controlled media may seem thoroughly unlike the vicious

little man who led Germany into a frenzy of war and genocide that cost 55 million lives, but remember that friendly old Ronnie is the same psychopath who, already possessing at his fingertips the power to wipe out the entire human race, is prepared to bankrupt our country for generations to come so that he can purchase still more of these weapons that can only be described as ultimately genocidal. Is the man a criminal, or merely insane? Historians ask the same question about Hitler, but in the end, what's the difference?

The point of all this is that you the citizens of this country have the opportunity to vote this November on whether or not you want fascism in the USA. In 1980 Ronald Reagan was elected President by only 28% of the eligible voters. Adolf Hitler received a larger percentage than that when he was elected Chancellor of Germany. The people who really elected Reagan were the ones who didn't vote. I'm sorry to say that I was one of them, but I won't be this time. I'm no fan of Walter Mondale, but neither am I naive enough to say that there's no difference between him and Ronald Reagan. Even if Mondale is elected, we'll still need to make radical changes in the direction our country is headed, but at least we'll have a chance. Under Reagan we'll be lucky just to survive.

MEANWHILE DOWN IN UKIAH...

For one reason or another, a lot of mountain people don't take much of an interest in local politics. This may prove to have been a mistake because the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has fallen firmly into the grasp of

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LOCAL POLITICS (Continued)

Neanderthal right-wingers who are not particularly fond of our way of life up here in the hills.

The new Board takes office in January, and you can expect trouble to start brewing on one or more fronts shortly thereafter. Among their plans are more support for CAMP (even though a large majority of Mendocino County residents oppose CAMP) and an all-out crackdown on illegal houses (which means just about all of us up in the hills).

Their scheme for dealing with the housing issue is this: after they've done enough snooping around by means of aerial photography and tax assessor's reports to identify all non-permit houses in the county, they'll send you a letter giving you 60 days or so to register your house (and pay in the neighborhood of \$500 for county inspections, not to mention the cost of whatever alterations they might order you to make). If you don't sign up and cough up, heavy fines start accumulating every day on your house, until you owe them so much money that they can take your house and land as payment. Welcome to the free enterprise system of 1984.

One area that we can expect the Board of Stupes to not be particularly vigilant in is that of protecting the citizenry against being sprayed with poisonous chemicals. Since 1979 aerial herbicide spraying has been illegal, but that is no longer the case, thanks to the slimy machinations of State Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, who in unholly alliance with Republican agribusiness interests rammed through the State Legislature a bill stating that people no longer have a right to vote on whether or not they want

to be poisoned. To make matters worse, we now have not one, but two gangs of criminals just itching to get their planes and helicopters back in the air poisoning our environment in pursuit of their short-term and short-sighted aims.

In addition to the lumber barons who have always regarded Mendocino County as their own private agricultural preserve and toxic waste dump, we now have the federal drug police and their plan to chemically eradicate our county's principal agricultural crop, one which is not only far more profitable than timber, but which, even more importantly, is much less destructive to the environment.

The DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) has announced that they plan to begin spraying paraquat next spring, regardless of what state or local authorities say, and though it has largely been overlooked by the media, they are also considering using Agent Orange (2,4 D), which has long been the chemical of choice for the logging corporations.

Not very good news for all you organic farmers out there, is it? Nor for you real estate speculators, either; after your land gets defoliated, who do you think is going to want it? How about Louisiana Pacific at, say, \$200 an acre?

OUR OWN NEIGHBORHOOD POLLUTERS

Two problems have come to our attention; the first, more serious, is that of outhouses and septic tanks being erected too close to streams and water sources. The other is that of the slobs who persist in littering our roadsides with cans and bottles. Those of you who are guilty, be warned: next issue we start naming names.