

Skinner & Co.

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October 26, 1979

Mr. James A. Kern
President
American Hiking Society
18600 S.W. 157th Avenue
Miami, Florida 22187

Dear Jim:

Glad to hear from you and receive the projected budget for the departure celebration as well as the AHS letterhead stationary. You were right, I don't need the envelopes as I have had a small windfall of light tan envelopes (as per this sample) which will serve us nicely.

First off, I've been in contact with State Assemblyman Art Agnos' office here in San Francisco. There are, as expected, some problems with the Bay Bridge. Preliminary contact with the bridge directors and CALTRANS (State Transportation and Highway Authority) is not favorable. Even though precedent has been set in the past for such bridge closures, the current feeling now is that they cause unnecessary problems and at the lower levels (at which we have been working) the answer in both instances is no. Agnos (who is considered a major power in the Assembly) is now writing a strong letter to these authorities and it has also been suggested by his office that we bring in as many big guns in the Bay Area as possible to push. Consequently, I will be writing directly (on the AHS stationary, which is a bit more impressive than Skinner or blank letterhead) to all the State Senators and Assemblymen in the San Francisco/Berkeley-Oakland/Contra Costa-Alameda-Marin County areas asking their help since a vast majority of the participants will be from their districts (also finding out who is for and who is against the project). A letter will also go to Governor Brown's Executive Assistant Grey Davis asking for help on the State's highest level. I am also going to ask Dr. Seaborg to write a few letters of his own to these people lending his prestige to the project. Even though the initial response has been negative, I have no doubts that once the higher levels of CALTRANS have been scaled the problem of Bridge Day will have been solved.

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However, and I suggest this only to be prepared, a contingency plan involving a route through Marin and Solano counties should be at least looked into.

Our hike a couple of Sundays ago was quite successful. The Opening Day route to Fort Mason is feasible and has the assets of varied terrain, beautiful views of cliff, forest and beach, along with places to set up water and toilet stations to supplant those already there. Very little of the route is on city streets. Dr. Seaborg has covered this new route beautifully in his revised itinerary and it works nicely. His revisions of the rest of the California route (including weekly rests and scenic sections for weekend hikers) are also well thought out and should be considered final.

Other than our first meeting and the Sunday hike, I have scheduled no further meetings as most of the preliminary problems were isolated and discussed during both events. I expect to keep everybody here up to date by letter and to make contact with them by telephone. At the point when another meeting is indicated (definite problems to be discussed, adding additional members to our Task Force, meeting with the sponsor, etc.) I will call everyone together...but until then, I don't foresee another meeting for at least three or four weeks.

Regarding the San Francisco Visitor's Bureau scheduling our event: Nancy Henry will draw the entire 1980 calendar up at the beginning of next month, and she assures me that we will appear on the weekend of April 12/13.

Still need the list of those members in the immediate Bay Area who originally expressed interest in the HikaNation. We need to supplant our meager ranks with strong and sturdy volunteers.

Will keep you and everyone else advised as to what is and is not happening.

Best regards,

Mike McReynolds

MM/

cc: Bet Muth, Norman Gee, Bob Cottrill, Glen & Helen Seaborg, Bob Chapman, Jeannie Harmon, Joe and Betty Goldstein