Every Home Should Have One

"Living in the Chaparral of Southern California"

Messenger, October 24, 1985

A brand new book about living safely in the Santa Monica Mountains. . .

By Colin Penno

Right on the heels of last week's Malibu brushfires which at presstime left over 11,000 acres blackened and the population of nearby Topanga mighty nervous comes the release of "Living in the Chaparral of Southern California."

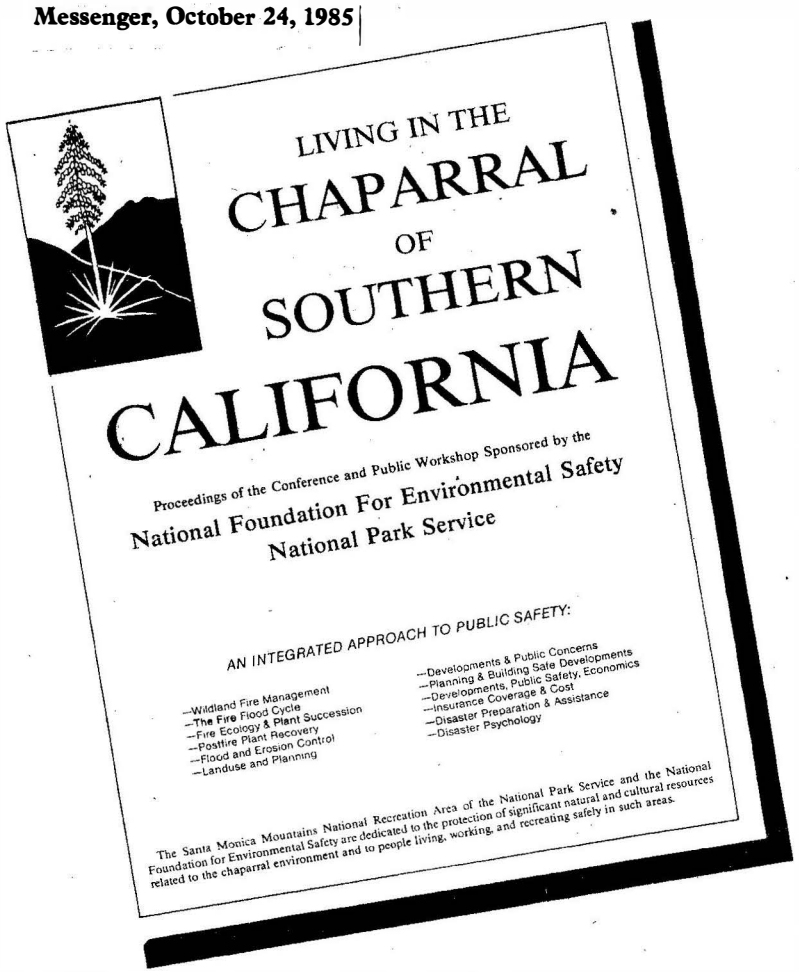
The 70-page book is the third publication to be put out by the National Foundation for Public Safety (NFES) a Santa-Monica-based public interest group dedicated to the education of those who live in the Santa Monica Mountains and other chaparral areas.

With sixteen chapters replete with charts, diagrams and photographs "Living in the Chaparral of Southern California" is a veritable goldmine of facts and information for homeowners who face year-round threats to their lives and property from floods, brushfires, and other geophysical phenomena in these far from tranquil hills.

Some of the areas covered by the now-published lectures delivered by 16 leading professionals in their fields at an October 20 symposium co-sponsored by the NFES and the National Park Service at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History include: Wildland Fire Management; The Fire/Flood Cycle; Fire Ecology and Plant Succession; Flood and Erosion Control; Development, Public Safety, and Economics; Insurance Coverage and Cost; and more.

This valuable guide was edited by Dr. Klaus Radtke, Executive Director of NFES, who wrote the landmark article "Fires in the Mountains," which appeared in the September 12 *Messenger*.

The aim of the book, says Radtke, is "to assist the public in better understanding the environmental characteristics and unique problems associated with living in the disaster-prone Southern California chaparral habitats."



As development and population continue to grow in and around the Santa Monica Mountains, Radtke elaborated, "it is critical that those who live there know what to expect, and understand what they will inevitably have to face, sooner or later."

And people such as you and I do insist on living here.

Interviewed on the nightly news last week as he stood by the smoldering ruins of his former home, a Malibu resident was asked why.

"Look around you," he said, smiling. "It's beautiful."

"Are you going to move now?" asked the reporter.

"Nope," came the reply.

"Living in the Chaparral of Southern California," which, we are proud to announce, was designed, typeset and produced by the *Messenger* in Topanga, is available for $10.95 from the NFES, 2210 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 184, Santa Monica, CA 90403. Telephone (213) 456-2652.

Also available at the Topanga/Las Virgenes Resource Conservation District office in Topanga.

Halloween Steak Night

Jumpin' At the Legion!

Harry Yardley of Topanga's Legion Post 796 dropped by the *Messenger* last week to announce **The Return of the Return of Steak Night!**

The Legion's Return of Steak Night back in August at the Shemrun Restaurant, says Harry, was such a smashing success that another one is planned for this Saturday, October 26.

"A splendid time was had by all," Yardley reported, when old Legion hands got together over the outdoor barbeque, cooking steaks, and remembering the days when the Legion's steak night was an every week affair.

"We'd particularly like to thank all the Topanga merchants who so kindly donated door prizes for our last cook-out," Harry added.

The Legion's Halloween Steak Night, this Saturday October 26 at the Shemrun Restaurant at 1105 North Topanga Canyon Boulevard will cost you $4 at the door, or $7 per couple.

Starts at 3 pm with bar drinks at a dollar and call drinks at $1.50. Music by the esteemed Nigel Pickering and his band.

Oh yeah—don't forget to bring your own steaks— salad and potatoes will be there for the helping.

Counseling Service

The Topanga Community Counseling Service (Dieter Bruehl, PhD., Mary Miller, MFCC, Hillevi Storer, MFCC) announce the affiliation of Dr. Bob Jacobs, psychiatrist, and Patricia Murray, diet and way-of-life counselor, of the Macrobiotic Learning Center.

Hillevi Storer, who has headed the woman's support group for two years, says they have space for new members, and she's happy to report that she's been granted the Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling License.

The group is $20 a month, and meets Tuesday evenings.

The Service offers low-cost counseling arrangements; an initial free interview is available by phone—call the message number, 455-2201 or 455-1432.