

THE CAPITAL

"Preserving Santa Barbara's historic sites of enduring community value"

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MARCH MEETINGS OF INTEREST

PEARL CHASE SOCIETY

Next Board of Directors meeting at the Santa Barbara Carriage and Western Art Museum, 129 Castillo Street, March 5 at 3:30 p.m.

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

City meetings are broadcast live on City TV channel 18 and streamed live [HERE](#), where they are also archived and viewable on demand.

City Council

Tuesdays at 2 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall. [HERE](#). March 3, 10, 17

Planning Commission

First, second and third Thursdays of the month at 1 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall. [HERE](#). March 5, 12, 19

Historic Landmarks Commission

Every other Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. [HERE](#). March 11, 25

Architectural Board of Review

Alternate Mondays at 3 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. [HERE](#). March 2, 16, 30

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

County Board of Supervisor Meetings and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on CSBTv20. They are also streamed live [HERE](#) where they are also archived and viewable on demand.

County Board of Supervisors

Three Tuesdays of the month at 9 a.m. The first and third meetings are held in Santa Barbara in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, 105 East Anapamu Street, 4th Floor. The second meeting is (typically) held in Santa Maria at 511 East Lakeside Parkway. March 3 (SB), 17 (SM), 24 (SB)

County Planning Commission

Three Wednesdays of the month at 9 a.m. The first and third meetings are held in Santa Barbara at 123 East Anapamu Street, Room 17, and the second meeting is (typically) held in Santa Maria at 511 East Lakeside Parkway. March 4 (SB), 11 (SM), 25 (SB)

County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission

Second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. at 123 East Anapamu Street, Room 17 (unless specified otherwise). March meeting is cancelled.

News and Notes

By Cheri Rae

In our January issue of *The Capital*, we provided an update about concerns for the conditions of the historic properties owned by UCSB, including the Campbell House and Barn designed by significant architect Mary McLaughlin Craig.

Since then, the issue has gained greater attention, with an opinion piece about architecture at UCSB in *Noozhawk* by Pearl Chase Society member Dennis Whelan. The site also ran a historical account about two influential woman at Campbell Ranch—Nancy Leiter and Mary McLaughlin Craig—written by Tom Modugno.

Dennis Whelan: [HERE](#)

Tom Modugno: [HERE](#)

For an even more thorough walk through history at this storied spot—dating back to the days of the Chumash—read Modugno's comprehensive narrative at his Goleta History site. Complete with a fascinating collection of historic photos, it is the definitive account on this special place. [HERE](#)

And for an interesting account written for The Art, Design and Architecture Museum at UCSB, "comprehensively and uniquely documenting the history of the built environment of Southern California." [HERE](#)

After reading these informative pieces about, you feel so moved to express concerns about the importance of these historic sites, you may want to contact the new UCSB Chancellor, Dr. Dennis Assanis. As a native of Greece, he may be sensitive to the importance of preserving and protecting cherished architectural structures that tell the stories of those who came long before us. His email is: chancellor@ucsb.edu.



Historic structures deteriorating under UCSB's ownership. Photo credits: Top and middle, Dennis Whelan; bottom, Tom Modugno.



photoModugno

**Want to get involved, or have submissions for
The Capital? Email us at PCS@pearlchasesociety.org.**

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NewsletterCheri Rae, *editor*Lisa DeSpain, *graphics*

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A Timely Reminder: Pearl Chase and the Conservationist Movement

Always foresighted, Pearl sounded the alarm about conservation long before the terms "ecology" or "environmentalist" were popularized.

By Cheri Rae

Fellow Berkeley alumni, Horace Albright and Newton Drury, rank very high in the pantheon of America's greatest conservationists. Both men served as director of the National Park Service; Drury also founded the Save The Redwoods League and led the California State Parks. These stewards of America's treasured natural resources were also Pearl's closest friends, from their undergraduate days and for the rest of her life. The three friends inspired others to share their enthusiasm for the natural world. They skillfully disseminated information, courted wealthy donors and developed strong networks of support. She served on their boards, they served on hers and no doubt they influenced her decision to start a conservation organization of her own, the California Conservation Council.

While on a pleasure trip in 1932 to Northern California along the Redwood Highway near Humboldt State Redwood Park, Pearl was seated in the back seat. The chauffeur driving the Packard sedan began to doze off. He failed to negotiate a turn and ran into a redwood stump just off the road. The glass separating the passenger compartment shattered when Pearl was thrown against it. She sustained multiple injuries that required a long recuperation time. She was hospitalized for a week in Scotia Hospital and was homebound in Santa Barbara for several months.

Pearl seized the moment and did some soul-searching about the direction she would take after the accident, noting, "I'm at a fork in the road, and I'm not going to worry, to hurry or even think about the future very much." She came to the realization, "One of the satisfactions of working with conservationists is that they're on the whole a pretty good bunch of people," calling to mind her many friends in the highest levels of conservation administration, including Albright, Drury and Harlean James, who was involved with multiple organizations including planning, state parks and the creation of the Appalachian Trail. She added, "It's been an enriching experience to talk to, be with, and learn from these kinds of persons."

She decided she, too, could join them, adding her own lifelong interest in nature and the great outdoors along with her organizational talents and ability to communicate effectively for the next stage of her professional and civic life. Within a year, Pearl formulated a plan for a new organization focused on conservation of natural resources in her beloved adopted state of California.



(Above) Early conservationists and friends of Pearl, Newton Drury, Harlean James and Horace Albright.
Photos: Top and bottom: National Park Service;
Middle, Wikimedia Commons.

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Pearl founded the California Conservation Council in 1933 and established the annual California Conservation Week, March 7-14 to address what she saw as the "Tragicness and waste of natural resources in this

country." She picked the date to coincide with the March 7 birthday of the botanist/horticulturalist Luther Burbank who was also a Massachusetts native; he settled and performed his work in Santa Rosa, California. Arbor Day in California is celebrated on March 7 in his honor.

The lessons she learned in nature were some of her earliest and most treasured childhood memories were of idyllic hours spent outdoors with her father when he was well. As they two of them hiked along the shores of the Charles River, he taught her about the variety of birds in the sky, the fish in the water, and the plants in the marshes. They often collected water lilies and took them home.

When he wrote her letters, he shared his thoughts about the wonders of nature from afar, sharing how he often slept outside on the roof, under the sheltering sky, the bright stars, and always the shining moon. In his fatherly way he reassured her, "We see how God takes care of the bird and flowers and makes them grow, and by that we may be sure he will take care of us."

She carried those warm memories and life lessons with her. Utilizing her organizational skills, her extensive network of accomplished contacts, her ability to write and to persuade others to join her, Pearl determinedly set about gathering and distributing information through the California Conservation Council to help Californians to become good citizens in the outdoors. First off was developing the founding concept of "Outdoor Good Manners" Among its principles:

1. **Leave a clean roadside:** No scenery can be beautiful if it is littered with trash. Carry a paper sack with you for disposable waste.
2. **Leave a clean camp:** Do not mutilate trees or shrubbery. Clean up your cans and papers, bury, burn or bring them home.
3. **Respect the fish and game laws:** There's more honor and fun in giving the game a square deal than in getting the legal bag limit. Don't kill for the fun of it, and don't shoot songsters or other protected birds or animals.
4. **Be careful with firearms:** Treat every firearm as though it were loaded, at home or in the field. It is sometimes an "empty" firearm which brings tragedy.
5. **Help prevent fires:** If you heed this warning appeal, your conscience will not be bothered later that you perhaps were the unconscious cause of some

holocaust which destroyed valuable property, and perhaps human life as well.

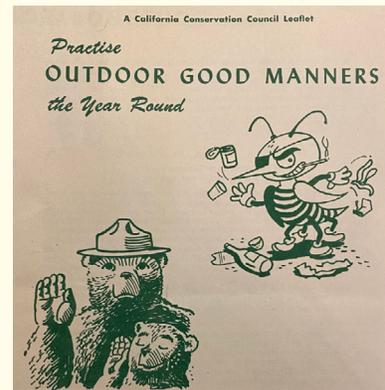
6. **Spare the wildflowers:** Stop and think that the flowers which you pick will be just a mass of wilted blossoms by the time you get them home, their bright colors faded and their perfume gone. Realize that outdoor good manners demand that you enjoy them as Nature intended.
7. **Drive carefully:** You must be eternally alert to the movement of four vehicles: the one in front, the one behind; your own and the one you do not see. Don't speed; drive your road.
8. **Heed the man with the badge:** He is your friend and is paid by you and millions of other Americans to make outdoor recreation safer and more enjoyable. Always there will be some people who will violate some or all of the rules for good manners in the outdoors. You as an outdoor lover will not.

Next, Pearl focused her attention to developing an array of informational brochures addressing various parts of the natural world, explaining how to implement "Outdoor Good Manners." Topics included birds, wildflowers, state emblems, field trip techniques for teachers, and perhaps the most obscure subject, soil conservation.

1937, her longtime friend, Commissioner for the Bureau of Indian Affairs John Collier, sent his congratulations on the significance of the work she had initiated and carried out through her new conservation organization. From his vantage point in Washington, D.C., he noted, "California is setting a style that might well be adopted by every state in the Union—an observance that I hope eventually will not be confined to one week a year, but one of an all-year-round observance."

With the platform of the CCC, Pearl became an in-demand expert about stewardship in natural places; in 1938 she addressed The National Conference on State Parks in Norris, Tennessee, speaking on the subject of "New Attitudes in Conservation Education."

In 1939, she was a featured speaker at the third annual National Park Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her topic was, "Preservation of Natural Beauties and



(Above left) Pearl enjoying the redwoods in Yosemite; (above) and the rugged mountains of British Columbia—one of very few photos of her wearing trousers. Photos: Pearl Chase Society collection.



Recreational Values in National Parks.”

In November of 1940, as founder and president of the California Conservation Council, she hosted a symposium in San Rafael to discuss recreational opportunities in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Billed as the

“noted worker for civic betterment,” she assisted with the effort to crackdown on illegal billboards in Marin County. She joined with a representative of the Audubon Society, lecturing on the subject of “Protecting Our Heritage.”

Speaking on the theme of “Conservation is the Foundation of Defense,” she stressed, “Proper utilization and protection of water, soil, forests, grazing ranges, recreation areas and the many other vital natural heritages present an enormous public problem at this time.”

An environmentalist by nature, and a strong believer in the power of educational outreach, her statewide conservation work to address the problem involved a large awareness campaign through schools, conservation agencies, private organizations and regular public appearances. As she noted, “With the help of an enlightened public, renewable resources can be protected and used wisely for the greatest good of the greatest number of people for all time.”

Working closely with the California Department of Education in Sacramento, Pearl firmly believed in educating the next generation of conservationists—as well as their parents and educators. She and her secretary, Patricia Mountfort, dedicated themselves to creating and distributing their long list of brochures through California’s public schools.

The noted environmentalist Bob Easton, called her “Aunt Pearl” out of respect for her long friendship with his parents who were early conservationists. He described her as “a great environmentalist and almost a movement by herself for the two generations before the 1960s.”

Bob recalled how he invited her to speak at a hearing to establish the San Rafael Wilderness in the Santa Barbara backcountry. “She was the last to testify. I didn’t quite know what she was going to say. Pearl seldom gave herself away beforehand, and she never took sides politically in public.” He informed her that the Forest Service wanted to set aside 20,000 acres, while the citizens were pushing for twice that much. She told him, “Well, grab as much as you can get!”

At the hearing, she spoke in favor of the larger area, as he put it, “against the Forest Service—and this was kind of hard for her because she worked very closely with the Forest Service for a number of years and continued to do so.” He gave great credit to her influence in the doubling of the wilderness area by the time it was signed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1968, the first wilderness area designated in the nation.

Pearl’s very personal conservation leadership for the protection of natural resources was lauded by numerous conservation organizations: She was named an honorary California state parks ranger; she was recognized for her conservation work by the National Audubon Society; and the Isaak Walton League that presented her with an award “In appreciation of long and continued service to the cause of soil, woods, water and wildlife.”

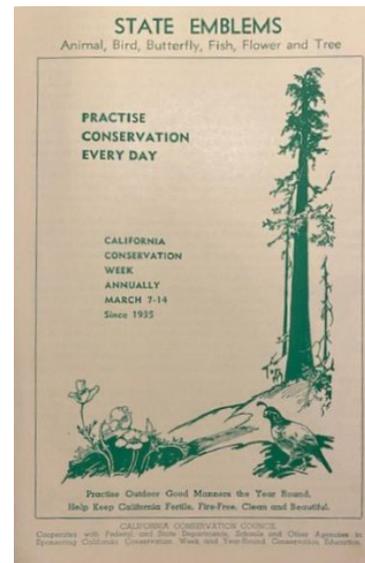
When Pearl was inducted into the California Conservation Hall of Fame in 1974, she was recognized as the “founder and president of the oldest statewide conservation organization in California, the California Conservation Council.” She worried about the future of the organization she started, and the difficulties keeping it going. “I am deeply concerned to see the California Conservation Council properly supported,” she wrote. “I have been able to keep it running and out of debt without any paid staff and without Foundation, corporation or organization support.”

Unfortunately, the conservation organization so important to her, could not continue without the financial support she recognized was essential. support that concerned her. Although the need to provide a systematic approach to conservation education has continued, without strong leadership carrying out her vision, the organization could not.

Years after the nonprofit was dissolved in the early 1970s, one of the board members wrote Pearl a note expressing regret, recognizing that the officers and directors may have outlived their usefulness, but that the organization had not.

As she stated, “CCC is needed more now than ever to compile and disseminate conservation information for the “upstarts”, schools, old-time conservationists, business and industry as well as to coordinate the conservation education activities. Or am I too radical in my views?”

It’s a question we might just as well ask today. As Pearl noted, “Many conservation problems affect the prosperity, health and happiness of people all over the nation.” A message that rings true and more urgently now than ever.



(Above left) Pearl’s love for flowers began at an early age. (Above) She was also an avid equestrienne in her younger days, here at the McCloud River in Northern California. Photos: Pearl Chase Society collection.