

Murray, Dillan

From: Craig Walker <craigw9953@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 3:18 PM
To: Murray, Dillan
Subject: Cultural Resources Board Meeting, Agenda Item #5a

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Hello,

The old Stetson Ranch buildings served as the campus for an Ojai private school called Live Oak School. It was a popular school that served as a forerunner to later Krishnamurti schools serving younger children.

The leaders of the school were Frank Noyes, Alan Hooker, and their wives. Frank's wife, Bennie Noyes, was the school's director. There were several teachers there noted for their progressive educational ideas. Parents were also used as teachers.

The school was an experimental school based on the teachings of J. Krishnamurti. It was active from 1954 into the 1970s--15 to 20 years.

The Hookers ran a famous Ojai restaurant called The Ranch House. He and his wife, Helen, were well known and respected in the community. Alan was close to Krishnamurti and advised him when he started his own schools in Ojai, England, India, and elsewhere. Krishnamurti was not a partner in Live Oak School, but may have visited the school and held discussions with the leaders on topics such as education, relationship, right living, etc.

Frank Noyes became an Ojai citrus rancher, but he was also interested in education and the arts. His citrus ranch in Ojai's east end was an excellent environment for real life learning, though the school also emphasized academics.

It would be great if the owners of the Stetson Ranch could mitigate any loss of historical significance by hiring a historic consultant to write up a history of the school and the property that could be given to various museums and the other Krishnamurti schools.

There are people who attended the school who still live in the area that could contribute to that history.

Thank you,

Craig Walker

County of Ventura June 8, 2026 Cultural Heritage Board Meeting Item 5a Exhibit 4 – Public Comment, Craig Walker
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