

Murray, Dillan

From: Suzanne Harvey <gray.harvey@att.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2026 7:55 PM
To: Murray, Dillan
Subject: Cultural Resources Board Meeting, Agenda Item #5a

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RE: Shane and Monica Evangelista Family Trust Permit Application

1388 Orange Road, Ojai, CA 93023

To: Ventura Cultural Resources Board Members

I am writing to ask that your Board, as a requirement to granting the permit application noted above, require that a professionally prepared history of the school that was located on the property in the 1950's through the early 1970's, the Live Oak School, be prepared and submitted to various historical museums here in the County.

Live Oak was founded by Frank and Bennie Noyes, then owners of the property, and Alan and Helen Hooker. It was founded as a result of discussions with Jiddu Krishnamurti and his Ojai friends and followers, regarding their desire to establish an elementary school and a high school in Ojai. Historical documents surrounding Krishnamurti the man and his "organization", include references to the school and the Noyes.

Frank founded Frank Noyes Pies Inc. in Ohio in the early 20th century, and Alan was manager of the Company. They became interested in Theosophy, ultimately learned about Krishnamurti, closed the business, moved to Ojai, and the Noyes bought the Ranch and founded Live Oak School in around 1954 or so.

The Hooker's opened what came to be a very well known restaurant located in Meiners Oaks called The Ranch House, which only just closed this past Spring.

The dream was realized with the founding of Live Oak as an elementary school, and Happy Valley School as a middle and high school. Live Oak ran for twenty years or so, closed, and Oak Grove School (located in Meiners Oaks) was born. Around the time of Live Oak's closing, Happy Valley changed its name to Besant Hill School and moved from Meiners Oaks to Upper Ojai. Both Oak Grove School and Besant Hill School continue to operate.

The Stetson Ranch buildings, in the 1950's just a barn, a ranch house, and a small ranch foreman's house, served as classrooms as well as home to the Noyes. The teaching philosophy was progressive and yet disciplined, and based on the teachings of Krishnamurti.

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The active leaders were the Noyes. Alan and Helen Hooker played a more behind-the-scenes role. In addition to ranching and running the school, Frank worked closely and over several years with very well known Ojai ceramicist Beatrice Wood, helping her to develop the luster glazes for which she became so famous. Ms. Wood was also a member of the local "Krishnamurti community".

Please consider off-setting the loss of historical significance this permit application represents by requiring that a proper historical study of the school be prepared. There are human resources to draw on including former students, although as they say, the clock's ticking when it comes to former students.

Thank you for your consideration,

Suzanne Harvey, Ojai