

MORE MESA PRESERVATION COALITION



MMPC e-Update

June 2015

You Can Help ...

No Middens Please!

Let's not create any middens. What's a midden? A midden is a mound or deposit containing shells, animal bones, and other refuse that indicates the site of a human settlement: basically the remains of a garbage dump.

What does all this have to do with More Mesa?

Well ... June is the month of graduations, proms, weddings and anniversary celebrations. Many people choose to mark these special events with some sort of gathering on More Mesa. Most of the people who care enough about More Mesa to celebrate on this magic spot have sufficient awareness of their surroundings to clear away and clean up the remains of their parties. However, there are those who leave extensive mementos of their events: bottles, cans, cups, wrappers, chip bags, leftover food, and

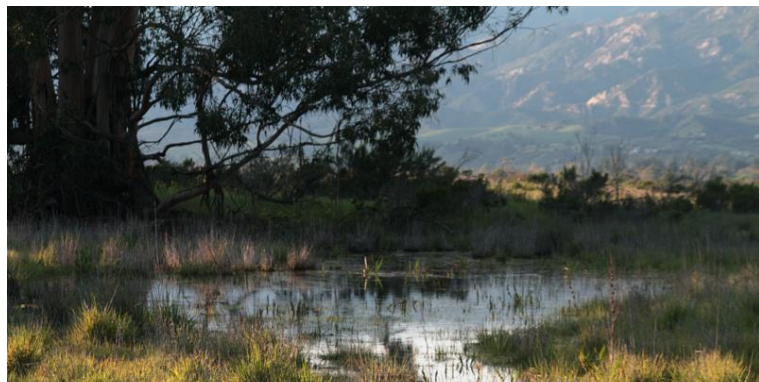
What's Happening About Potential Development On More Mesa?

We keep checking, but so far no plans have been filed with Santa Barbara County nor have we heard of any proposed development.

Ask The President

Q: Is there any chance that the recent rain filled the vernal pool?

A: We wish! In case you have been reading any of the arguments contending that the state is being alarmist in the restrictions it has imposed on the use of water ... think again. The average rainfall in a given Santa Barbara "water year" (starting on 1 October and ending on 30 September of the following year) is 19.41 inches. In 2010 we recorded 20.44 inches, a little above average. The last time the vernal pool was full was 2011, when we received 28.49 inches, or 147% of normal rainfall, with over 9 inches falling in February and March.



cigarette butts.

While we applaud the desire of these folks to create a representative midden for the year 2015 (and a chance for its discovery by future archeologists), these items really detract from the allure of More Mesa.



Please, especially during the months of June and July, carry a plastic bag, remove whatever midden material is around and restore More Mesa to the lovely place we all cherish.

Thanks so much

Valerie Olson
President, MMPC



Grasshopper Sparrow
(Photo by Mark Holmgren)

It is the mission of the More Mesa Preservation Coalition to preserve More Mesa, in its entirety, for all time. We've been at it since 2000.



More Mesa Vernal Pool in 2011
(Photo by Lynn Watson)

Then came the drought! The 2012 water year saw only 60% of the average rainfall; 2013 recorded 46%; and this year we are currently at 44% including precipitation from the rare June storm that occurred in the first week of the month. We will need a full month of storms to soak the soil enough to see the vernal pool come alive again.

To learn more about vernal pools visit the [Vernal Pool feature](#) on our web site.

[This Month on More Mesa ... Lots of Special Birds](#)

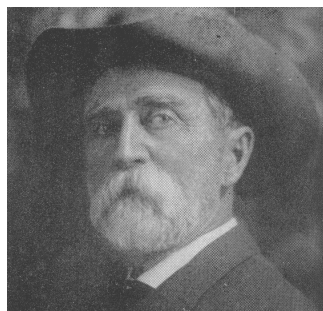
A wide area of More Mesa was surveyed at the end of May. We are so happy to report that 34 different bird species were identified during this one afternoon survey. Among them were two raptors: a Peregrine Falcon and a Coopers Hawk. Also of very special interest were eight singing Grasshopper Sparrows and five Blue Grosbeaks. Moreover, we are pleased to relate that fledglings of these two species were observed as well. We are indebted to Mark Holmgren for this extensive report, the details of which can be found on [ebird](#).

And, they are still hanging in with us ... a kite was reported hunting on the west side of More Mesa the very next day!

[The Past - More Mesa Gets a Monarch](#)

Soon after T. Wallace's scandalous murder, it became clear that his widow could not run the ranch by herself. Susanna Hill had several children, little education, and even less business experience. So, in this stressful time she turned to her brother-in-law, John Finley More, 38, the youngest of the More brothers. He assumed management of the ranch soon after his brother's death in the spring of 1877. Two years later in 1879, he purchased the ranch from the various heirs and became its new owner.

John Finley More had already become a legend by the time he arrived in the Goodland in 1876. Many of his neighbors disliked him because his disposition could not be characterized as "sweet" ... by any stretch of the imagination! In fact, a local wit of the time referred to John Finley as "King John, the Monarch of More Mesa."



In upcoming issues we will hear a lot more about this particular monarch, a man who used every stratagem available, legal and otherwise, to shape the history of the More Ranch. In the words of Walter Tompkins, author of *Goleta, the Good Land*, "He feared neither God, the Devil, nor the Board of Supervisors "

the Board of Supervisors.
From Goleta, The Good Land
The Monarch of More Mesa

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