

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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State Action Delayed On Stevenson Park

Members of the State Park Commission, meeting in Calistoga, gave full state park status to Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, located on the main valley highway between Calistoga and St. Helena, but delayed similar action on another park project in this vicinity, Robert Louis Stevenson Memorial State Park on Mt. St. Helena.

Action on the Stevenson Park was held over pending further discussion as to its exact intended use. It is possible, the Commission indicated, that the Stevenson Park might better be designated as a state recreation area. According to the discussion held, a state park is an area acquired for its natural scenic beauty, while a recreation area primarily provides such activities as boating, fishing, camping, picnicking, etc., with some hunting in specific areas.

Just what the commission feels should be done with the Stevenson Park was not expressed. Much of the discussion centered around Angel Island State Park and Clear Lake State Park. Like the Stevenson area, they were not classified immediately.

It was indicated at the meeting that the state may purchase some of the extensive federally and privately owned land on Mt. St. Helena to add to the acreage of the Stevenson Park.

State park staff members previously had recommended that the Stevenson Park be given full state park status. This recommendation had called attention to the wildlife and its potentials for riding and hiking. The acreage involved is 395.75. Bothe-Napa Valley Park, on the other hand, has 1,002.15 acres. No addition is planned for the Bothe Park.

Development of the Bothe-Napa Valley State Park - slow so far, for lack of funds - is expected to move ahead now, as the money to make the contemplated major improvements is in the 1963-64 budget, which is now being reviewed by the Department of Finance. Improvements at the park are expected to total \$293,855, according to figures presented to the park commission by Robert Hatch, supervisor of development.

Among the improvements planned are some 50 camping units, 50 picnic units, parking space for 100

cars, administrative and shop buildings, and sanitary, electric, and water systems.

Mentioned at the meeting as a possible purchase for a future state park was the Petrified Forest 5 miles west of Calistoga.