

**Collection Title:** Carquinez Scenic Drive Committee

**Dates:** 1969-1986

**Collection Number:** PCMAP.018.Carquinez Scenic Drive Committee

**Creator:** Carquinez Scenic Drive Committee

**Extent:** 5 folders, approximately 0.5 linear feet.

**Repository:** Port Costa Museum Archive Project

**Abstract:** This is a collection of materials about the Carquinez Scenic Drive Committee. Initially called the Seven-Mile Scenic Drive Committee, the group was established by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors in 1969 to study the feasibility of establishing a seven-mile scenic drive on the stretch of Pomona Street (road no. 2191) between Martinez and Crockett. The committee, under the leadership of Winona Miller, was active until 1986. They organized fundraisers to pay for and helped organize road clearings, regrading, trash cleaning, signage, and other activities that established the Carquinez Scenic Drive. This collection includes nearly all of the committee meeting minutes from 1969 through 1986.

**Physical Location:** Port Costa Museum and Archive Project, Archive Room, File Cabinet 1B

**Language of Material:** English

**Access Use and Restrictions:** The collection is open for research use.

**Publication Rights:** Contact the Port Costa Museum for questions or requests regarding use of these materials.

**Preferred Citation:** [Identification of item] Port Costa Town Council (PCMAP.018.Carquinez Scenic Drive Committee). Folder [x], Port Costa Museum Archive Project.

**Biography:** The Carquinez Scenic Drive Committee started as a committee formed on September 2nd, 1969 by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors to study the feasibility of establishing a seven-mile scenic drive on the stretch of Pomona Street (road no. 2191) between Martinez and Crockett. These seven miles were sometimes referred to as Snake Road or Mae West Road because of the notable curves. The road had the potential for stunning views of the Carquinez Strait, but was overgrown and not well-maintained. It was also the site of much illegal dumping. The board-appointed representatives to what was then called the Seven Mile Scenic Drive committee were Winona Miller and John Sparacino from Martinez, Margaret Boyer and Adine Angelo from Crockett, and Hazel Tobin from Port Costa. Winona Miller was appointed chair (a position she held until the committee disbanded in 1986) and John Sparacino was vice chair.

The group met for the first time on September 23rd, 1969 and formed the rest of the committee, including Eva Pembroke from Port Costa who organized a chicken and dumpling dinner fundraiser for the committee in November of 1969. Eva Pembroke remained on the committee until it disbanded in 1986, serving as secretary for much of that time.

The initial plan, laid out in an October 14, 1969 memo was to begin with clearing brush and dead wood from vistas and planting wildflowers. Road maintenance and regrading were also early priorities as was cleaning up trash and cracking down on illegal dumping.

At their January 3, 1972 meeting, the committee considered changing the name from Seven Mile Drive as it had been unofficially called since the committee formed to something more specific. Carquinez Scenic Drive was chosen. The committee continued to refer to itself as Seven Mile Scenic Drive Committee in their meeting minutes until the May, 1972 meeting. At the March meeting, they discussed the fact that the board of supervisors was considering a name change and at the April meeting a resolution to change the name was put before the committee. On April 11th, 1972 the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors officially changed the name of the seven-mile stretch of road to Carquinez Scenic Drive and commended the work of the Seven Mile Scenic Drive Committee in establishing feasibility and beautifying the scenic road.

On January 21, 1986 the committee met for dinner and a meeting at the Warehouse. Winona Miller offered her resignation because she was moving to Illinois and the committee decided it was time to disband as they had achieved their goals.

**System of Organization:**

This collection is organized by type of material and chronologically within each folder when dates are available.

**Scope and Content of Collection:**

This is a collection of materials about the Carquinez Scenic Drive Committee. Initially called the Seven-Mile Scenic Drive Committee, the group was established by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors in 1969 to study the feasibility of establishing a seven-mile scenic drive on the stretch of Pomona Street (road no. 2191) between Martinez and Crockett. The committee, under the leadership of Winona Miller, was active until 1986. They organized fundraisers, helped organize road clearings, regrading, trash cleaning, signage, and other activities that established the Carquinez Scenic Drive. This collection includes nearly all of the committee meeting minutes from 1969 through 1986.

**Access points/Indexing Terms:**

**Subjects**

- Community organizing
- Contra Costa County
- Carquinez Strait

## **Personal and Corporate Names**

- Winona Miller
- The Carquinez Scenic Drive Committee
- Seven Mile Scenic Drive Committee
- Eva Pembroke
- Hazel Tobin

**Acquisition:** The bulk of this material was collected by the Port Costa Museum.

**Level of Description:** Folder level description

**Processed by:** Jenny Fosket

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## **Container List:**

### **Folder 1: Meeting Minutes 1969-1986**

This is a pretty comprehensive set of Carquinez Scenic Drive Committee (previously called the Seven Mile Scenic Drive Committee) meeting minutes from the first meeting on September 23rd, 1969 through the final meeting on January 16, 1986 during which the Carquinez Scenic Drive committee was officially dissolved having met all of their goals.

### **Folder 2: Documents and Notes, 1969-1975**

This folder contains a variety of different documents, formal and informal, related to the Carquinez Scenic Drive Committee (previously called the Seven Mile Scenic Drive Committee).

-Two copies of the September 2, 1969 Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors' motion establishing the committee to study the feasibility of establishing Road No. 2191 between Martinez and Crockett as a seven-mile scenic drive and appointing members to the committee.

-October 14, 1969 memo entitled, "Formula for the Re-Development of the Waterfront Roadway Connecting Martinez, Port Costa and Crockett. Transforming it into a Scenic Road or Scenic Parkway," which lists officers and establishes a preliminary plan for the committee.

-A handwritten note from November 13, 1969 that appears to be notes for a newspaper report. In short sentences it lays out the sequence leading to the establishment of the committee, the officers, and steps taken so far.

-A history of the 7-Mile Scenic Drive prepared by committee member Henry Lang and dated March 16, 1970.

-A handwritten note from March 5 1972 which lists reported traffic accidents in 1971.

-Copy of the April 11, 1972 Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors' motion commending the Seven Mile Scenic Drive Committee and announcing the changed name of Road No. 2191 to Carquinez Scenic Drive.

-A handwritten note by Charles Wind from December 4th, 1972 reporting on a drive along the Carquinez Scenic Drive he took with Mr. Nakagawa in November and the points for improvement they noted along the way.

-Notes from February 1973 about traffic and an attached traffic report.

-May 2, 1972 Report on ticket sales for fundraising dinner.

-Jun 2, 1975 notice of a chicken-dumpling dinner fundraiser.

-May 2, 1975 handwritten announcement of the 5th annual chicken-n-dumpling dinner fundraiser.

-An undated (circa 1970s) report on the work of the committee.

-An undated list of addresses of members.

-Two undated write-ups of the work that the committee is doing.

-Undated notes on the early history of the committee.

-Carquinez Scenic Drive Committee letterhead.

### **Folder 3: Correspondence, 1969-1986**

This folder consists of letters and cards to or from the Carquinez Scenic Drive committee or its members or about the committee.

-October 15, 1969 letter to the "Scenic Drive Team" from Winona Miller reporting on the actions taken thus far to create the committee.

-A letter dated March 25, 1970 to Winona Miller attaching a memorandum from the County Recreation and Natural Resources Commission about considering the feasibility of establishing a hiking trail to parallel the proposed scenic roadway.

-Two copies of a letter dated March 21, 1973 from the Carquinez Scenic Drive committee to R.B. Litton, chair of the department of Landscape Architecture. The letter follows up on a conversation they had with him and solicits his and his students' help in developing an environmental master plan.

-Two copies of an October 29, 1973 letter from the committee to the board of supervisors offering a progress report.

-January 9, 1974 letter to Dan Anderson thanking him on behalf of the Carquinez Scenic Drive Committee for making signs for the drive.

-February 8, 1974 letter to the Carquinez Scenic Drive Committee from Landscape Architecture students reporting on their findings and recommendations from an inventory they took of the scenic drive as part of their coursework.

-April 21, 1974 letter from the Carquinez Scenic Drive committee inviting Port Costa Products Company to a fundraising dinner.

-July 16, 1974 letter to A.J. De la Fontaine inquiring about the owners of a property situated along the scenic drive.

-February 5, 1975 letter to Alfred Diaz, Contra Costa County Supervisor informing him that the committee approved to have him negotiate the purchase of two tenths of an acre from Burmah Oil and Gas Company for a rest area.

-April 15, 1975 letter to Edward McNear from the Contra Costa county Sheriff, cc-ed to the Carquinez Scenic Drive Committee informing him that there are several large dumps on McNear property, which the county and the committee plan to clean and they will need permission to enter his property.

-July 23, 1975 letter to Bab Simontacchi from Supervisor, Alfred Dias arranging a meeting.

-A card read at the July 7, 1975 meeting to the committee from Ana Havlik thanking them for a baby gift.

-A July 30, 1975 letter to William Henderson from the Contra Costa county Sheriff, cc-ed to the Carquinez Scenic Drive Committee informing him that there are several large dumps on McNear property, property which has been discovered to be owned by him. The committee and the county plan to clean and they will need permission to enter his property.

-December 12, 1975 letter to Winona Miller from Mr. Nakagawa with extensive recommendations for plantings along the drive. He also submitted his resignation from the committee due to a lack of time.

-March 5, 1976 response from the committee to Mr. Nakagawa thanking him for his report and expressing sadness at his departure from the committee. The letter also reports on the last meeting and the unexpected death of one of their members.

-December 30 1975 thank you card from Fred and Maragret Stewart for housewarming gift given by committee when they met there for their December meeting and potluck.

-February 2, 1976 thank you card from Fred and Maragret Stewart for the many condolences sent on the recent passing of Fred's mother, Catherine Stewart.

-February 4, 1976 letter to Winona Miller from Gerald Littleton of the Crockett Improvement and Businessman's Association noting that weekend bicycle racers are confused about where to get to the scenic drive and wondering if the committee has any markers.

-February 11, 1976 card and note of donation sent to the committee in memory of Catherine Stewart.

-A card with poem from Joyce Kilmer received December 7, 1976.

-A thank you card from Winona and John Miller to the committee thanking them for their kind thoughts, received March 16, 1977.

-April 16, 1977 letter to Contra Costa Board of Supervisors announcing 5th annual chicken n dumpling dinner.

September 19, 1978 letter from Muriel Whitmore decrying the new telephone poles that have rendered the Carquinez drive no longer scenic in her opinion.

-A copy of a January 21, 1981 letter from the committee to President Reagan congratulating him on the Salute to the Hostages program.

-A handwritten draft of the letter.

-July 26, 1982 letter to Howard Ray, Martinez Public Works accounting department from the committee about their desire to plant a tree in memory of John Miller.

-A March 29, 1985 letter from Contra Costa County Public Works director, Michael Walford to Maurice Shiu, about slide damage along the Carquinez Scenic Drive.

-A January 21, 1986 letter and two handwritten drafts of a letter to the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors announcing Winona Miller's resignation from the committee (because of moving out of the area) and the committee's decision to officially dissolve as a committee. This letter also states that the first official meeting of the Carquinez Scenic Drive committee was January 3, 1972 (the committee met for several years prior as the Seven Mile Scenic Drive committee, but the letter doesn't mention this).

-A January 21, 1986 letter and a handwritten draft of a letter to the Warehouse Cafe from the committee asking if the big roundtable in the cafe might be dedicated to the members of the Carquinez Scenic Drive Committee.

-An August 11, 1986 letter from Contra Costa County Public Works director, Michael Walford to Contra Costa County supervisor Nancy Fahden providing a history of the March 1983 closure of Carquinez Scenic Drive due to major storm flooding and landslides.

#### **Folder 4: Media, 1969-1975**

This folder contains newspaper, newsletter, and other media mentions of the Carquinez Scenic Drive

-November 1969 article, "A Curvy Road Beside the Carquinez Strait" in *Motorland*

-November 1969 article, "7-Mile Scenic Road Route Being Beautified in County" in the *News Letter of the Contra Costa County Development Association*

-November 18, 1969 article, "Seven Mile Scenic Drive Group Maps Beauty Plans" in the *Independent*

-June 22, 1972 article, "Bike Trails OK'd by Supervisors" in the *Independent*

-November 12, 1972 article, "Crockett-Martinez Scenic Drive Ready" in the *Oakland Tribune*

-October 1973 Press release and letters to the editor about poppy planting on the scenic drive

-October 8, 1973 column about poppy planting on the drive in the *Independent*

-June 30, 1975 press releases announcing that the board of supervisors approved plans for slide repair on the Carquinez Scenic Highway

-August 25, 1985 op ed in the West County Times by Muriel Whitmore lamenting the state of the Carquinez Scenic Drive.

#### **Folder 5: Receipts, 1969-1976**

This folder contains receipts for various things from flowers to fundraising dinner expenses, to permits and litter drums.