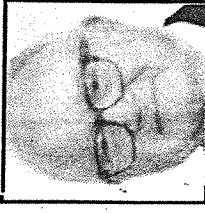


METES & BOUNDS

If you seek a monument ...

by Bill Haigwood



Some men are remembered with stately monuments fittingly designed to commemorate their contributions to the society that reveres them. Some become monuments in the memories of their peers and succeeding generations, remembered with affection and gratitude for the gift they have made of themselves.

Sir Christopher Wren is buried in Saint Paul's Cathedral in London, a church he designed. The inscription on his tomb reads: "If you seek a monument to this man, look about you."

In Sebastopol, we are fortunate to have both a living legend deserving of a monument and a monument fitting to the man who deserves it. The site of the monument is the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and the monument will be a grove of oak trees dedicated to the man who largely is responsible for giving life and impetus to the effort commemorated last Sunday — the ongoing, determined, dedicated community-based effort to restore and preserve the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

His wife, Dorothy, calls him "the Laguna's grandfather"; but to the host of people who have joined in his continuing efforts to preserve and restore the Laguna de Santa Rosa, Robert W. Sharp is regarded as an inspiring leader, tireless advocate and dedicated environmentalist.

Bob brought to Sebastopol a 55-year professional background in the field of natural resource management with the U.S.

Forest Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and as a private consultant in Minnesota, Wisconsin and California. He was a member of the original Laguna Study Committee appointed 12 years ago by the Sebastopol City Council and was a charter director and currently is president emeritus of The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, subsequently incorporated to pursue programs designed to restore and enhance the Laguna as a wetlands habitat and wild game refuge.

Bob moved to Sebastopol in 1977, and has continued to work as a consultant on fish and wildlife issues both for government and private industry. Under his leadership and with the assistance of Kim Cordell, former CEO and currently technical advisor for the foundation, the Laguna de Santa Rosa Found-

ation has become one of the leaders in pursuing ecological and environmental programs for restoring the Laguna.

In July of 1990, Bob testified before the House Fisheries and Wildlife Subcommittee in Washington, D.C., on House Resolution 2548, The Laguna de Santa Rosa National Wildlife Refuge Act, sponsored by Congressman Doug Bosco. He served as chairman of two major studies, one by the city of Sebastopol and the other by Congressman Bosco's Technical Advisory Committee.

In Sebastopol, we are fortunate to have both a living legend and a monument fitting to the man who deserves it.

It is our hope and our dream, inspired by the personal contributions of Bob Sharp, that the proposed oak grove will prove to be but the centerpiece of an even larger monument to his vision — an expanded Laguna de Santa Rosa that will provide a haven for wildlife and a spiritual refuge for future generations.

Thank you, Bob, for being the architect of our vision and our dream that our children's children will enter the Robert W. Sharp Grove in future years and recall Wren's epitaph: "If you seek a monument to this man, look about you." And that monument will be the Laguna de Santa Rosa!

(Bill Haigwood is a Sonoma West Times & News columnist)

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