

Pacific Grove, California.  
January 1, 1956.

To:  
The Right Honorable Mayor of Pacific Grove,  
The Board of Councilmen of Pacific Grove, and  
The Planning Commission of Pacific Grove.

Gentlemen:-

As Secretary of the Grand Council of West Coast Monarch Butterflies, I have been instructed to communicate to you some of the matters discussed at a recent meeting of our Monarch and her Chief Assistants, constituting our governing body. This meeting was held in a large pine tree near the Eastern edge of the group of trees known to you as Butterfly Park and adjacent to your Golf Course.

We have noted with a great deal of concern the lack of re-seeding of pines in this area and the scarcity of new trees coming on to replace those that are dead or dying, not only within this grove but throughout the area between the Ocean and Washington Park and the extensive clearing of Pine and other trees within this area.

As you know we make an annual pilgrimage to this area for several reasons but principally for the protection of members and that this protection is gradually disappearing is a matter of grave concern to us. We have tried out several adjacent areas by having colonies of our members Winter at Santa Barbara, Palo Duro Canyon, Big Sur, Santa Cruz, Inverness, Washington Park, Milar's Motel and others but none of these have proven entirely satisfactory. Inverness presently appears the most promising as the people there are largely Summer residents and are not so much inclined to cut the trees upon which we so much depend for protection.

Our greatest enemy in the re-seeding of the area is the thoughtless man with saw or axe and the squirrels that destroy about 90% of the pine cones before maturity, thereby destroying the possibility of enough seed that will germinate reaching the ground to replenish the trees that die or are otherwise destroyed. We have no particular quarrel with the squirrels as they are only following nature's plan for survival but with the passing of the Indians who relished them as food and your failure to prevent the destruction of pine trees in the area have left scarcely enough cones to re-seed the area.

As the long time residents of your fair city will tell you, when most of the area West of Asilomar Boulevard was covered with stunted cypress, cedar and pines rising gradually near the Boulevard to full grown trees, this vegetation formed a natural shed to raise the prevailing winds above the trees in the basin like area between Asilomar Boulevard and the top of the ridge at Washington Park providing protection that, so far as we know, is unique in this hemisphere. This has materially changed since the destruction of the trees in the Lighthouse grounds and adjacent areas, including the cemetery.

During our last years encampment, the cutting and burning of trees along the East side of the cemetery forced us to leave our established camp and move to Washington Park. We are most susceptible to any pollution of the air and even the smoke from locomotives that pass each weekday is most obnoxious. We understand that the days of the railroad in this area is numbered and we are looking forward to the abatement of this nuisance if we are not forced to leave the area earlier.

The deer too are a hazard to our continued use of this area as they destroy much of the blossom upon which we depend for food but so long as they, as well as squirrels, are protected, nature does not have a chance to establish a balance that it will always provide if unmolested.



(Page 2.)

Some of you may remember when we came here in much larger numbers than we have for the past several years. This is due in part to the things mentioned herein and in part to the destruction of forests to supply human needs, or by forest fires in our near and distant breeding areas and the removal of a good part of our protection here. Instead of countless millions that formerly attended, we seldom have more than five million members arrive at our Winter camp grounds so you can readily see the importance of these matters to us who are charged with the responsibility of the survival of our specie.

We feel that your city and its people have a mutual interest in this matter as we confer upon your city the honor of our presence for from five to seven months of each year and provide you a grand stand seat for one of nature's greatest Phenomina. Before our extinction, we hope to be able to communicate to you the means by which the third to fifth generation of us who leave here in the Spring unerringly return each Fall to the particular tree or trees upon which our ancestors spent previous Winters. Our knowledge of wind currents and weather as well as our directional equipment permits us to glide to and from the Wintering area with the least possible damage to our fragile wings and by the easiest possible routes.

Your even Winter climate along your coast together with our presence during that season should make Pacific Grove the Winter Mecca of the world if properly made known to the many people interested in such things among all nations of the earth. You know that we are not adverse to having people visit us in our retreat, provided we are furnished reasonable protection from the thoughtless, as hereinafter set out, because we, like you, have a bit of the "Ham" in each of us. Accordingly, may we suggest that the following action be taken at your earliest convenience and plans worked out for putting them into effect at an early date, thereafter giving due publicity to such action and plans. This information will be relayed to us by our existing contact.

Time is of the essence as our rulers must make other plans if you are not if you are not interested in protecting us here.

The things that you could do immediately follow:

- (1) Stop any unnecessary destruction of trees between Washington Park and the Ocean, particularly young pines.
- (2) Start a re-seeding and tree planting project to cover the entire area mentioned above with particular emphasis placed on the Lighthouse property, the cemetery, Washington Park and the denuded areas between the Park and the Ocean. This you might be able to do by making it a project for your school children and/or other youth organizations under the guidance of your Park Superintendent. While we would prefer the planting of pines, eucalyptus or other quick growth trees will answer our purpose if planted sufficiently thick. We are sure that property owners in the area will co-operate if the need is properly presented to them.
- (3) Remove surplus deer and squirrels to some fairly distant area where nature will provide necessary food and water.
- (4) Arrange now for the acquisition of the railroad right-of-way for the City when it is abandoned and the immediate privilege of planting a row of tall growing Eucalyptus trees near both edges from Pico Avenue to the Golf Course. When the tracks are eventually removed, plant pines close together over the entire right-of-way thereby providing an all time windbreak under your protection and control. It would save your golfers considerable time and no little expense and our colony no little annoyance if you would plant practically a solid row of Eucalyptus trees between the golf course and the land known as Butterfly Park.

(Page 3)

(5) Enforce the Ordinance heretofore passed for our protection. Hardly a day goes by that we are not molested by people who wish to see ~~or~~ photograph us in flight. This is not a serious matter in nice weather but on cold wet days, when our wings are too heavy with moisture to lift us we must drop to the ground and may there perish.

(6) Stop any unnecessary burning of trash and brush West of Washington Park while we are sojourning in your midst.

(7) Induce the owners of Butterfly Park to plant many additional pines there so that ample trees may be coming along there to provide a resting place for many future generations of Monarchs.

(8) The Money: Unfortunately we are unable to contribute anything other than our hopes to the carrying out of ~~monarchs~~ the projects mentioned, but you can earn the undying gratitude of present and future generations of our specie if it be done promptly. We would surmise that you might use what is known as your advertising funds to get the project started and the developement together with the reasons therefor might make news that would get Pacific Grove more publicity than you are now getting for the money so used.

Present indications are that Winter will be over before the end of February, in which case we will be holding the last meeting of our General Council early in that month and would appreciate your making public announcement as to what you propose to do upon our behalf before such meeting if possible.

May the spirit of God guide you in your consideration of these matters and his richest blessings be upon you now and forevermore.

THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY COUNCIL.

By Madam Butterfly.  
Secretary.