

CCIA Conservation Committee rescues desert vegetation

Sentinel 4 June 1986

Cave Creek Improvement Association Conservation Committee members conducted a rescue mission on May 27.

The Tonto National Forest plans to expand a boat ramp at Bartlett Lake, and the construction will destroy about 5 acres of desert vegetation.

Committee members, led by Andrew Romanyak, removed a number of desert plants from the area to be bulldozed. They included: 12 saguaros, ranging from 18 inches to more than 7 feet; five full-size ocotillo; two barrel cactus; one hedgehog; and miscellaneous succulents.

The salvaged plants will later be transplanted in the Cave Creek Road median at Scopa Trail and Bella Vista, at the eastern entrance to Cave Creek.

Committee members plan to use the median as a model for all

other median adopters. Several of the committee members serve as horticultural advisers to median parents.

Permits from both the Tonto National Forest and the State Agricultural Commission were obtained prior to moving the plants.

The group was able to save only a fraction of the vegetation on the site, and had to leave mature ironwood, mesquite and desert willow fed by a natural spring. The area also contains several giant, multi-armed saguaros and is home to a variety of desert wildlife, the committee members said.

Members Nan Byrne and Nancy Laizure were satisfied with the removal project, but expressed regret that more of the area could not be saved.