

Conservation work growing in community

Our community is changing. When driving along through town, one can see something new almost daily — a new road being cut here, a new home there, a cleared area for more business.

With people tiring of the hectic city life, they are searching for a more relaxed and quiet lifestyle in which to live and raise their families. Many are choosing the foothills.

The Conservation Committee started when a group of area residents became concerned when Harris hawks were being illegally taken by falconers, many of whom were coming from California when they could no longer find the hawks in their state.

Residents formed a group, who along with the help of the Game and Fish Department, patrolled the area — many in four-wheel vehicles communicating by CB to help catch the culprits. And they were successful.

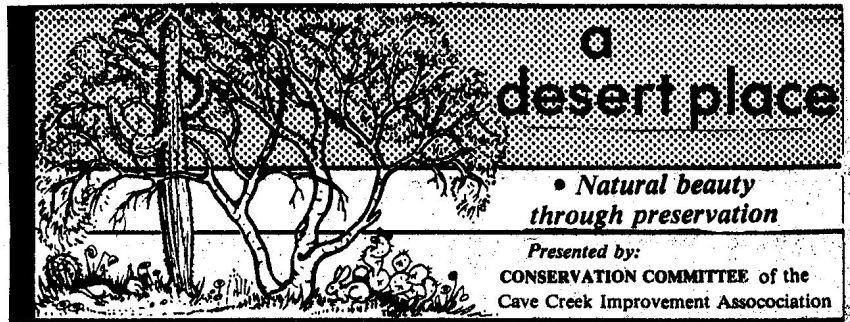
After the hawk situation was over, a small group of individuals remained together, calling themselves the Wildlife Committee. They felt other area wildlife was important too and warranted attention.

Trapping became an issue when traps were found too close to homes and in nearby washes — and when several cases of dogs becoming victims of traps.

The committee conducted a survey asking residents how they felt about wildlife and were encouraged to learn that the community did indeed care about the wildlife in the area and wanted to see it preserved.

The committee continued to grow in members and thought. They changed the name to Conservation Committee, which included concerns about not only wildlife but plant life, water conservation and litter — in fact, everything which affects the beautiful and unique Sonoran Desert. •

Among the accomplishments



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of the committee are:

The writing and publishing of "The Fragile Desert" booklet;

A weekly column in the *Black Mountain News*;

Making literature on birds and plants available to the community;

Trying to build an awareness of the desert through nature and wildflower hikes, classes at the community school, guest speakers and a booth at the local arts festival.

Recently, the committee sent out a letter and a copy of "The Fragile Desert" to area developers, realtors, excavators, landscapers and nurserymen, asking them to be concerned about how the desert is handled while it is being developed.

As the new year begins, the committee will again be making a survey of area residents — asking them their opinions on not only wildlife but plant life, conservation, development and lifestyle.

The committee feels the at-

titude of the community must be known so they can continue to work with and set goals in accordance to the wishes of the community,

They are a small, dedicated group doing a big job; and help and support is needed.

Anyone who shares a concern for the desert environment is invited to attend the meetings at 7:30 p.m., the third Tuesday of the month, in the Cave Creek School library.