



News Release

For Immediate Release
November 4, 2016

Contact:
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Santa Rosa CA 95409
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Historic Gordenker Quarry Hike Annadel State Park

SANTA ROSA, CA

Event Date: Friday, December 2, 2016
Time: 9 AM Hike Departure
Location: Richardson Parking Lot at the end of Channel Drive

Join our volunteer history collector for a hike to a historical quarry site. This hike is about 7-8 miles long and traverses approximately 900 feet elevation change. The volunteer will share historical information along the hike and at the site.

No advance reservations needed. Cost is \$7.00 park day use fee per car, payable at the park entrance stop sign. Be sure to bring: layered clothing appropriate for weather conditions, hat, sunscreen, water; trekking poles recommended. There are no restrooms or water along this route. No horses or bikes due to a hiker-only trail on this hike.

Directions: drive to the stop sign at 6201 Channel Drive, pay fee; drive 1 mile to main parking lot. Restrooms and water available at the parking lot.

Historical Information:

In the 1950's, Joe Coney, owner of Annadel Farms, which encompassed most of the present day state park, named Rhyolite Trail after he discovered volcanic rock similar to fine granite in Frey Canyon. In 1948, Coney leased land in Frey Canyon to Rodney Gordenker to quarry a branded rhyolite deposit. The layered rock was split by hand, broken transversely with hydraulic cutters and sold as flagstone for decorative paving and siding of buildings.

In the 1950's and 60's, Coney briefly quarried perlite which is associated with banded rhyolite in the area. Through a process of crushing raw perlite and then rapidly heating the rock to



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cause the material to expand similar to popcorn, Coney's plant produced what he touted as a miracle substance used as insulation and light weight aggregate in construction materials. Coney eventually had to shut down the operation after he failed to meet certain licensing requirements. After a series of other financial set-backs in the 1960's Coney lost Annadel Farms to Wayne Valley, a bay area developer and owner of the Oakland Raiders. Valley in turn ran into opposition to build a large exclusive golf community on the Annadel property and idea for Annadel State Park became a reality in 1971.

Pictured below is Coney's perlite plant in Frey Canyon, Annadel State Park.

