

BABY BUGGY BUMPS

August 17, 2004

We received word that our friends, the Dangermonds, were going to Hawaii. We redesigned our route and headed to the Sacramento area. Our first stop was at the San Benito Thousand Trails Preserve for three nights. It is about 12 miles South of Hollister, CA, the home of the earthquakes! We felt a jolt on our first day there.

We then went straight to Newcastle, close to Auburn, CA and stayed on the Dangermond property at their "RV Park". They have a beautiful home amongst the Oak trees and beside a small stream. We saw three deer that live and feed on their home site.

They have constructed a small office over this stream, and this is the view from the window.

Certain of their oak trees had what I thought was a fruit or a nut that appeared to be hanging from the branches. I had observed these before.

Pete, (Dangermond), who knows about these kind of things, explained to me the following.



A certain kind of bug bites the stem or a small branch of the tree. It injects a substance that makes the branch swell to the size of a walnut. It also lays its eggs so they are inside this growth and the tree feeds this parasite as well as the larvae. The mature bug leaves the growth and the cycle starts again.

Only certain types of oaks are affected, what I assumed to be acorns were this type of parasite growth. We had a nice visit and left to drive out of the heat to Klamath, CA where we will stay a few days with our neighbors Mom.

Dave & Bonnie