

torreyana

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Sunny Rankin, Editor

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

NEXT DOCENT MEETING - Saturday - December 18th - 9:00 A.M.
Program: "Tidepools" Slides and Field Trip - Bring a Bag Lunch

We are fortunate indeed to have as our next guest lecturer, Mr. Steve Swartz who will present a program entirely on "Tidepools." Not only will he show informative slides but afterwards will accompany docents to Bird Rock in La Jolla where the group will gather to eat lunch and observe tidepool life. The program is geared to the 1:30 P.M. low tide.

Mr. Swartz is assistant coordinator of education at Seaworld. Following undergraduate studies at U.C. Santa Barbara and graduate work at University of the Pacific, Mr. Swartz taught biology at Seaworld for three years. He is presently involved with gray whale research with the S.D. Natural History Museum.

Bring Bag Lunch!

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Gene Barber

New Board of Directors

We plan to elect a new board of directors at our December meeting. They will take office when our incorporation papers have been approved. Six directors are to be elected.

We would like to prepare a list of nominees in advance of our December meeting. Additional names may be added at the meeting. Suitable nominees are to be full members who indicate their willingness to serve (barring unforeseen circumstances) for at least a one-year period.

Please volunteer yourself and/or nominate others with their consent. Send or telephone advance nominations to our secretary, Mary Miller by December 15. Your enthusiastic support is needed.

Send or phone Mary Miller, 667 N. Granados, Solana Beach, CA 92075, 755-2780.

New Docents

Since our October listing in Torreyana, we have had four more additions to our membership. Our welcome to these associate members: Piper Lindsay, Susan Lindsey, Natalie Kreizinger and Sue Karcher.

Bill Brothers

Bill has the distinction of being the first associate to complete his check-off list and to become a voting member. Bill has agreed to act as a coach and advisor to our other associates-in-training. Congratulations and thank you.

Docent Dues Due

Your dues of \$3 for 1977 are now payable. Your cooperation will give us a few quick bucks to get off to a good start as a corporation. Please bring dues to December meeting or send check to us via P.O. Box 38, Carlsbad, California 92008.

Whales

A part of our interpretive program for the next couple of months will involve whale watching and a whale movie. There may be as many as 100 people wanting a trail tour. Multiple tours and multiple movie showings may be needed.

National Geographic magazine for December, 1976, has two recommended articles on whales. See also the map supplement.

MINUTES OF THE TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY MEETING, November 20, 1976 - Mary Miller, Secretary

The business meeting was called to order by President Gene Barber at 9:15 A.M. He announced that notices have appeared in local newspapers as well as publications of other groups concerning the activities at Torrey Pines. Later this month special news items about the whale migration will be sent out.

Since this is our busiest time, we need all members to be available for weekend assignments. It is entirely possible that we may need more than the four positions currently assigned on weekends. Therefore, be sure to call Bob Hopper, 453-2422, and offer your services for the next couple of months, with the exceptions of Christmas and New Year's Day when the museum will be closed. We need the help of associate members also. They are needed as museum sitters and may lead walks whenever they feel comfortable doing so.

Ranger Irwin is due to report to the Marin area January 1. Before leaving he will complete the new plant list for TPSR that he has been compiling these last few years. This will be published by the department and will be more complete than the existing one.

Ranger Hartwell sent a reminder that docents are to stay in line at the entrance gate. Don't cross the double line to enter ahead of the public. Stop at the gate and introduce yourself as a docent, especially to the new staff.

Any docents who are unsure of the operation of the movie projector should check it out with a ranger or another docent before the scheduled film time. The ranger staff is going to be busy and short personnel during the next year. We cannot depend on them to be available for help.

The old display cabinets have been removed. We will now be able to set up simple, informative displays, as well as have room for a desk and some shelving for book sales, etc. Funds for refurbishing the museum have come from the DAR money they had remaining in the extension fund. This amounts to approximately \$1,400.

Dues for 1977 are payable any time. They remain \$3 and should be paid to the Treasurer, Mary Miller, 667 North Granados Avenue, Solana Beach, CA 92075. If you pay by check, please make it out to Torrey Pines Docent Society.

Ranger Irwin, Gene Barber, Mary Jane Barney and Julie Marine shared some of the information brought by Bill Dillinger of the State Park Service concerning incorporation. To sum it up, incorporation means that all profits from book sales would stay with the TPDS and could then be turned back into extending the interpretive program. The cost for legal work will be \$25. The probable make up of the board of directors was explained. Gene Barber will have additional information on this in Torreyana. Steve Calder moved that the Torrey Pines Docent Society become incorporated. It was seconded by Julie Marine and unanimously passed.

Ron Stark, a representative of the American Cetacean Society, presented an informative and timely program on whales. His illustrated lectured emphasized the gray whales and their annual migration.

SOME PLAIN OLD CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

From whence cometh the Christmas Tree? It was thought to originate in Germany in the 8th century where Boniface, an English missionary, replaced the pagan sacrifices to the sacred oak tree with a fir tree decorated in honor of the newborn child of God. Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, who was German, introduced the custom to England in the 19th century. German immigrants brought their Christmas trees to the United States in that same century.

How so--that mistletoe? Mistletoe which grew from an oak tree was considered sacred by the Druids. If one were to cut it with a gold instrument, on the sixth day of the Moon, and catch it in a white cloth before it touched the ground, it would have great powers curing illnesses, helping women to conceive children, and even stimulating the growth of cattle herds. Ancient Italian tribes and certain sects in Japan also believed in the powers of this parasite. Because mistletoe bloomed even when its host tree had lost its leaves in winter, primitive people used to think the mistletoe was the seat of life of that tree.

Keep the Yule Going! In Germany until the 19th Century, the yule log made of heavy oak was fitted into the hearth floor once a year and rarely

burned up completely. When the new log replaced it, it was ground to powder and scattered over the fields during the Twelve Nights to insure good crops.

Aldo Leopold Says it Best -

"It is in midwinter that I sometimes glean from my pines news of the wind and weather. This is especially likely to happen on some gloomy evening when the snow has buried all irrelevant detail, and the hush of elemental sadness lies heavy upon every living thing. Nevertheless, my pines, each with his burden of snow, are standing ramrod-straight, rank upon rank, and in the dusk beyond I sense the presence of hundreds more. At such times I feel a curious transfusion of courage."

Merry Christmas to All,


Lenny
S. R.

No January Torreyana! Sorry! S. R. is going to be the mother of the bride!!!