

torreyana

Published for Members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society, No. 15, March, 1977

Sunny Rankin, Editor

NEXT DOCENT MEETING - Saturday morning, March 19th, 9:00 A.M.
Program: Ornithology: Suzanne Bond, San Diego Natural History Museum.

A short business meeting will precede the continuation of Docent Training on Saturday, March 19. Regular programming will be represented by the ongoing training. Suzanne Bond will speak to the group and show slides which will be followed by a brief goodie break (hopefully, Elsa Evans' homebaked yum-yums) commencing again with a bird walk led by Ms. Bond. All Docent members, old and new are welcome.

NOTES AND NEWS

From President Gene Barber's Desk

Our congratulations to Elsa Evans and Sue Miller who have completed their training as associates and are now full members of the society. Elsa has agreed to serve as our hostess and greeter. She will be responsible for our coffee mess and she will insure a warm welcome to newcomers. Hopefully, all will assist her in providing this warm welcome. Unfriendly Docent is a contradiction of terms.

A sincere greeting to those of you who have joined our Society since January 1. Collectively, we call you the Class of '77. We are genuinely impressed by the many and varied qualifications and interests as indicated in your application forms. You should find the Docent Society an effective vehicle in helping you pursue your stated objectives.

The Class of '77 effectively doubles our size, from 40 to 80 members. Your services will definitely be needed in the months ahead and you will be encouraged to complete your checklists by early summer. Even more important than your physical assistance are your ideas and enthusiasm. Please start sharing those with us immediately. Send your ideas to any of our seven directors or to the "suggestion committee" via the mail box on the bulletin board in the Docent lounge. If you would like to work in a particular area or a special project, let us know.

As you old-timers know, we are in the process of becoming incorporated as a non-profit organization. Accordingly, we are now allowed to receive the profits realized from museum book sales. An unexpected benefit is that we can sell most of these items to our members at a discount. That policy is now in effect and the discount is generally 20 percent. Refer to specific instructions and exemptions in the cash box.

Who would like to extend their interpretative skills to aid our blind or deaf visitors? What foreign language can we cover in the same way?

We still need someone to make a map of the native plants in the front yard of the lodge. This map is for Docent training, not for the public. See the appendices of Torrey Trail Topics for ideas.

NOTES FROM RANGER PAUL ANDERSON

The 1977 Training Program got off to a good start on February 26. Attendance was excellent for the first of five sessions with standing room only in the lodge (approximately 60 people). A special thank-you to State Park District Interpretive Specialist, Dominic Gotelli for participating in the orientation and welcome of new members and also to Dr. Hunsacker, SDSU for his outstanding presentation on vertebrate biology. The remaining sessions are expected to be equally rewarding and interesting.

Docents wishing to purchase a personal copy of The Interpreter's Handbook by Russell K. Grater should use the sign-up sheet on the lounge bulletin board or notify Ranger Paul Anderson soon so that we can submit an order. The price should be approximately \$3.00 payable when the books arrive.

The following article was written by M.H. (Bud) Getty. Mr. Getty is the Area Manager of Anza-Borrego Desert SP.

"Involvement Must Be A Final Product of Interpretation"

And involvement is a key ingredient of good interpretation. Without involvement or participation by the public in an activity, it fades to just another talk or lecture. For young people who are exposed to lectures almost daily in school, there must be participation for the activity to be relevant to them.

Participation can vary from the handling of a historic object to a deeper involvement in an action program such as a Junior Ranger program. Smelling the camphor odor of an old sea chest means more to a visitor to Old Town San Diego than reading a label telling from what kind of wood the chest is made. Feeling the leaves of a desert plant and then guessing that its name is Sandpaper Plant is more important than being told its name.

There must be involvement on the part of the interpreter, too. Interpretation is an art and there isn't a real need for technicians who merely relate factual information. The interpreter must give of himself, his feelings, to make the experience meaningful.

The participation by interpreter and visitor must then be translated and expanded into an involvement in the entire park concept, into a land ethic and a reverence of all life.

The involvement can be taking a child to see a flower or to write a book on nature. It can be buying a memorial redwood grove . . . or a cup of Beth Coppedge's coffee.

Involvement must be a final product of interpretation.

"Interpretation begins with entertainment and ends with wisdom."

Josh Barkin

"A successful interpreter must be willing to take risks." Flip Hagood, NPS

MINUTES - February 19, Meeting - by Bill Brothers, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 by Gene Barber, President. He introduced the Docent Society and its activities to the fifteen prospective members in attendance who hopefully will join our organization. Check-off forms and dues were collected during the break.

Steve Calder, Vice President in charge of activities, announced the new five-week training session starting February 26 with Dr. Hunsacker on vertebrates. This is the first training program in one and a half years and attendance is encouraged by prospective and active Docents.

Gene Barber introduced and praised the retiring officers for their time and energy in organizing the society and wished good fortune to the new officers. He also introduced Elsa Evans as our hostess who is curing our habit of donuts at meetings by tempting us with delicious coffee cake. Do I hear any volunteers to cure us of this new addiction? Gene stressed the need of communication within The Docent Society and mentioned The Torreyana, Trail Topics (a notebook located in the library), the mail box and the use of letters to the editor as vehicles to achieve this. He communicated that 13 plants have begun to bloom in the reserve, including sea dahlia, wartystem ceanothus and deerweed. I have observed manzanita blooming in the extension and toothwort across the road from Fleming Trail.

The field program to Los Penasquitos Lagoon to observe birds was quickly organized by Sunny and led by four Docents. Equipped with binoculars, books and a gathering of interested people, we observed the graceful movement of the great blue heron in flight, the diving royal terns and a cormorant drying its wings in the hazy sun. Hope to see everyone March 19.

THE ANCIENT CONE

3-77

The earliest and most successful of seed plants to have survived to the present is the conifer--the pine and spruce family. This plant is named after the pine cone, through which it reproduces. A cone is made up of a number of spore-bearing scales concentrated into a tight bunch. On each scale one or two large spores are formed, which, when fertilized, produce seed. When the cone ripens, the scales separate. The wind carries the male spore, or pollen, through the air in thick clouds. The pollen must then reach the female spore or egg produced by the large spore of other cones, where the process begins over again.

**MARCH 20
SUNDAY**

**Spring Equinox
12:43 P.M., E.S.T.
First Day of Spring**

LIVEN YOUR LOQUACITY WITH THE LAUDABLE LICHEN 3-77

It is highly likely that you will encounter a lichen or two on your trail tours so why not incorporate some lore about this primitive plant!

Usually the first growth to appear on barren ground or rock, the lichen is actually two plants coexisting as one; a fungus whose acids break down rock into soil, and an algae which supplies food for the fungus in exchange for a home. The result of this symbiotic relationship is an almost indestructible plant which will grow in the most desolate environments. Able to thrive in freezing arctic winds, lichens can also tolerate heat twice that of boiling water. About 20 years ago explorers found lichens growing beneath the snow in the Himalayas, more than 18,000 feet above sea level. Lichens are the predominant plants in the Antarctic.

Scientists have estimated some lichen colonies to be older than the oldest redwood trees! Theoretically, many species are immortal. Much of this longevity is due to the ability of lichens to absorb large amounts of water and survive drought years.

In the first century a Greek physician, Diocorides thought the plant resembled the skin of a leper--hence, the common name "lichen" from the Greek for "leprous." Several centuries later, Swedish botanist Linnaeus called the lichen "the first foundation of vegetation, though hitherto we have considered theirs a trifling place among plants; nevertheless, they are of great importance at the first stage in the economy of Nature."

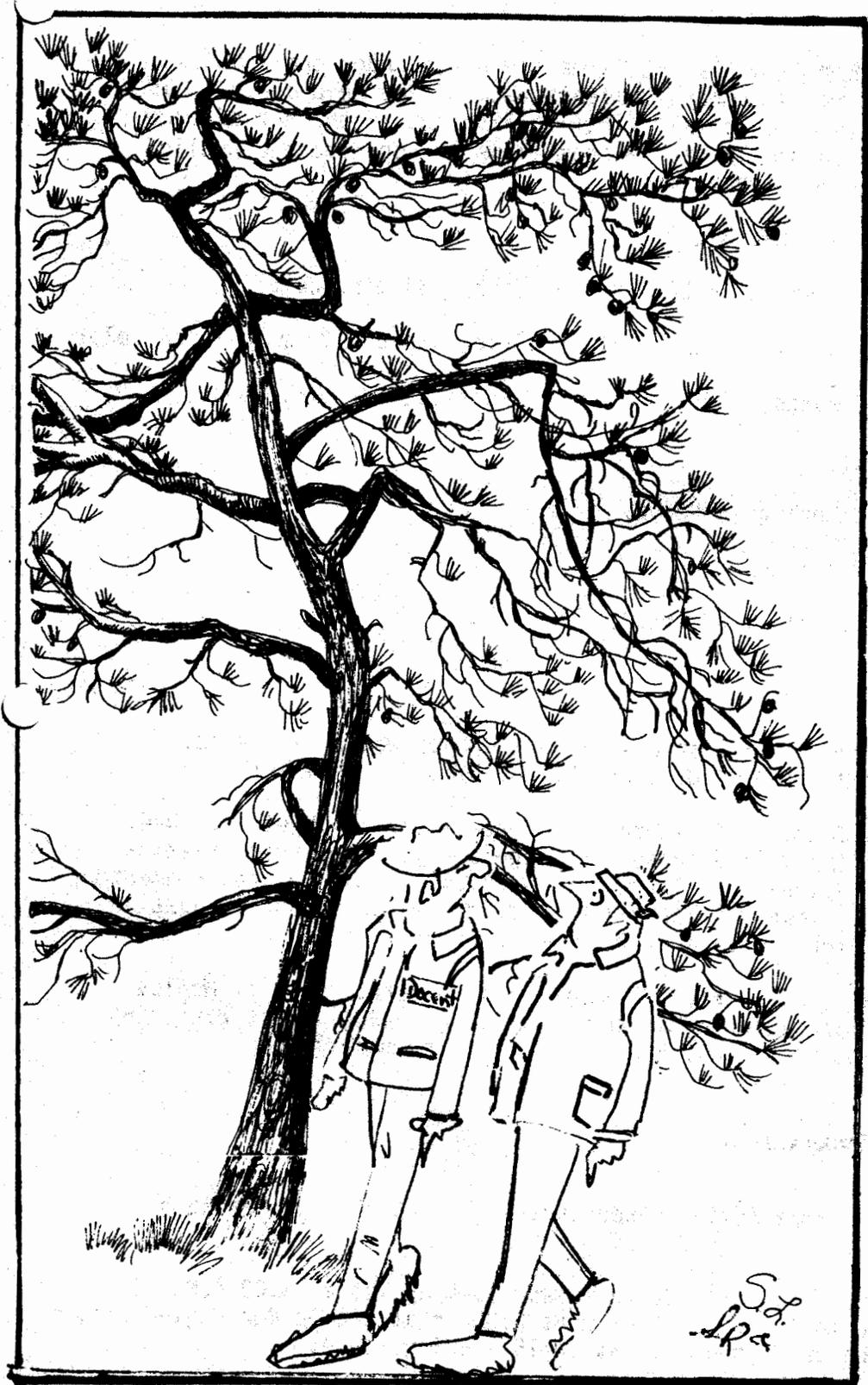
Most naturalists believe the lichen must have been among the first plants to make their way from sea to land even though lichens do not fossilize and, therefore, geological records are few. Today lichens are generally classified into three types: crustose (flaky or crusty), foliose (papery or leafy), and fruticose (stalked or branching).

Crustose lichen, most likely the earliest forms, absorb more water than any other forms. Their water content can vary from about 10 percent on dry, hot days to over 300 percent on rainy days. When wet, crusty types of lichens expand against rocks causing them to fragment. As the rock continues to flake, the resultant debris provides a habitat for mosses and eventually higher plants.

In the early 15th century, Europeans began collecting lichens from rocks and processing their luminous colors into dyes. Apparently woolens dyed from lichens have proven unusually durable and moth resistant. The beautiful Harris Tweeds of Scotland are a fine example. Up until very recently these gorgeous fabrics were made only with lichen dyes.

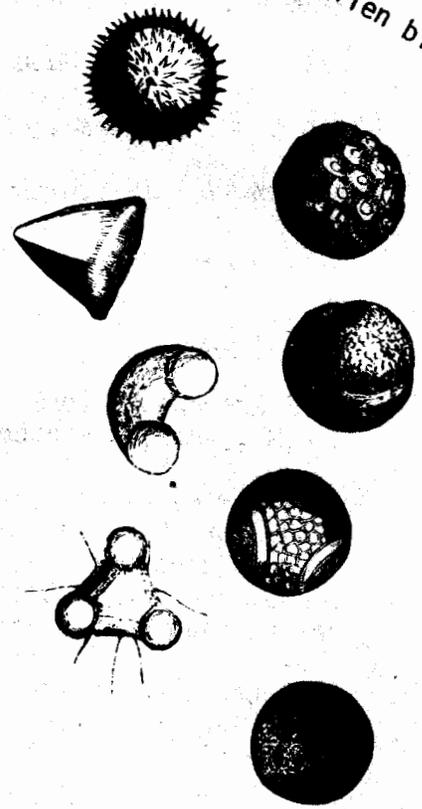
The Egyptians used other lichen species for packing mummies. At the same time, they used to make a nutritious gelatin by boiling lichens. These, as other lichens, were not tasty--with the exception of Iwatake, considered a delicacy by the Japanese.

It has been noticed that lichens are disappearing in many populated areas. They are very sensitive to gaseous pollutants, especially sulfur compounds. Wherever there is sulfur dioxide pollution, lichens tend to vanish. If something as hardy and ancient as the lichen can disappear, what then?



Lookie here my good man--these aren't coddled ornamentals--you know--why Pinus Torreyana is like Ethiopia's Primitive Man--short, sturdy, and highly drought resistant!

"Oh my head--oh my nose--
Oh my God--how the pollen blows."



pollen greatly magnified

CALENDAR - Marcie Thorner

For new Docents: While nature walks and films are given under the auspices of various societies for their members, Docents usually are welcomed to join. As a courtesy, however, you should call first to find out if the anticipated number in the group will be too large. Museum films are open to the public and are included in the admission price.

FILMS GIVEN BY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

- 3/12 & 13. The Dinosaur Hunters in Badlands of Utah. 33 min. color.
3/19 & 20. Ecologies of the Arctic, Desert, Prairie, Swamp. 31 min. total color.
3/26 & 27. Ecologies of Ponds, Plateaus, Ocean, Forests. 31 min. color.
4/2 & 3. Crab Nubula.
4/9 & 10. Portrait of a Spring in Kenya.
4/16 & 17. In Search of a Mate.
4/23 & 24. Baobab. Portrait of a Tree.

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SIERRA CLUB

3/13 Greenpeace local chapter will show film on humpback whale and seals. 7 P.M., Social Sciences Rm. 100. S.D. State U. 286-6175 for more info.

3/16 Torrey Pines Coastal Group of Sierra Club General Monthly Meeting. Wed. 7:30. Dr. Richard Phillips will discuss San Diego's physical characteristics back to dinosaur days. Slides to illustrate. Meet at Del Mar Heights Elementary School on Boquita Drive. Take Del Mar Heights Rd. to Recuerdo South. Just before dead end go east for two blocks, turn south on Boquita to end.

3/20 Canyoneer Earth Day Tours. Florida Canyon Balboa Park. West of Morley Field Tennis Courts. Emphasis on water conservation by using insect resistant native plants. Call Natural History Museum 232-3821 for more info.

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Natural History Museum
~~SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE~~

3/23. Baja California course begins. Wednesdays at 7:00 through May 18th. \$3.00 per session.

3/31 Day in the Wildwood. Carpools leave museum parking lot at 9:00 A.M. Or meet at Montgomery Ward in Grossmont Center at 9:30 or at the Golden Eagle Farm, 9-½ miles east of Ramona on Highway 78, at 10:15. Bring lunch.

4/2 Baja California Seminar Field Trips begin. Available only to those taking course.

4/2 Dos Picos Park Walk. Mid-day. Helen Chamlee gives second in series on walks in San Diego Parks. See Ceanothus, manzanita, toyon, oaks, ferns, etc. Must reserve. Limit 25, bring lunch, \$2 for members; \$3 for others.

4/16 Nature Walk for Blind. Third Saturday each month in natural areas around county.

4/12 to 5/17 - Series 6 lectures on Tuesday evenings and two field trips Sat., May 1 all day and May 21-22 overnight campout. Fee includes both. Own transportation, Snakes & other reptiles. Dr. Ben Banta.

5/25 Land Bird Class starts each Wednesday, plus field trips. This is a repeat course. Approximate cost \$14. Must get tickets. Call 232-3821.

AUDUBON SOCIETY

3/10 Film on Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary. 7:30 P.M. Glendale Fed. Community. Room 898 East Vista Way, Vista.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Chapter meetings are held at the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park on the 4th Wednesday of each month except August at 7:30 P.M. One field trip a month. More in Spring. Call 222-0185 or 474-7219.

OCEANIC SOCIETY

First Thursday of each month. 7:00 P.M. Mission Bay Aquatic Center, 1001 Santa Clara Street, Mission Beach.

SAN DIEGUITO ADULT SCHOOL

Nature Studies. Senior Citizens free; others \$5 for term. Nine weeks from April 11 to June 6. First meeting in Sea Cliff Park at the south end of Encinitas below K Street. Nearby is a pleasant park operated by the Self-Realization Fellowship, open to public. Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 A.M.