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Judy Schulman, Editor

Our next meeting will be January 19 at 9 a.m. in the Lodge. We will have a regular business meeting followed by a "walk along the ocean" with W. H. Berger, Ph.D.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On behalf of all members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society board of directors, I would like to wish all of you a **HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!!**

THE SECRETARY'S NOTES by Millicent Horger

Judy Schulman presented to the Docent Society a framed photograph of the Lodge as it appeared in 1923 when used as a restaurant.

New Rangers Tom Bernardo and John Lunday were introduced.

Congratulations to Rowdy James who was presented with the Docent of the Year Award!

Election of officers will take place in February. The Nominating Committee, with Ruth Hand, Chairman; Sunny Rankin and Gene Barber, will present a slate. Nominations from the floor will be accepted.

A Docent Training Program, with formal sessions and field trips, is scheduled for April. The new and retiring vice presidents will work together to plan the activities and arrange for speakers.

The Board approved purchase of two resource books requested by Ranger Price for a Park Resource Interpretive Library to be organized soon. Other resource books, as well as one copy of each book on sale at the Docent Desk, will be included in the new library, for the use of both Rangers and Docents.

A delicious Huevos Rancheros Christmas brunch was served by Hostesses Elsa Evans and Mary Miller, and a fine time was had by all.

N O M I N A T I O N S

At the regular monthly meeting, on Saturday February 16th, election of officers for the 1980 season will occur. The nominating committee (consisting of three persons appointed by the Board - Ruth N. Hand, chairman; Gene Barber, and Sunny Rankin) will present a slate of nominees. Please help us in selecting another good group of officers by letting the committee know your recommendations, or your own willingness to serve. Nominations may be made from the floor at this annual meeting, provided the nominee has given his/her consent in writing, or is present to accept such nomination.

Ruth may be reached by phone at 459-9020; Sunny at 756-3378; and Gene (during the day) at 455-1330).

The following list of our current (as of December, 1979) full members may help to jog your memory. Keep in mind that only full members are qualified to vote and to hold office.

Please help us to keep our Docent Society alive and kicking: share the work as well as the pleasure!

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Barber, Gene | 20. Lawton, Primrose |
| 2. Barney, Mary Jane | 21. Lutz, Anne |
| 3. Brothers, Bill | 22. Marine, Julie |
| 4. Camp, Herb | 23. Miller, Mary |
| 5. Cherin, Tam | 24. Mills, Sue |
| 6. Christenson, Mary | 25. Morrow, Charles |
| 7. Cimilino, Marc | 26. Morrow, Judy |
| 8. Claire, Grace | 27. Nelligan, Murray |
| 9. Elias, Peter | 28. Neumann, Joan |
| 10. Evans, Elsa | 29. Parks, Frances |
| 11. Evans, Joyce | 30. Rankin, Sunny |
| 12. Falvey, Jane | 31. Rogers, Shelley |
| 13. Hand, Ruth N. | 32. Ross, Leroy |
| 14. Hopper, Bob | 33. Schulman, Judy P. |
| 15. Horger, Millicent | 34. See, Debra |
| 16. James, Ralph (Rowdy) | 35. Spencer, Bill |
| 17. Kelley, Mary | 36. Sumner, JouJou |
| 18. Kooyman, Melba | 37. Thorner, Marcie |
| 19. Kruger, Alberta | 38. Whitehead, Jim |

You may be interested in recalling the names of those presently serving on the Board:

President: Bob Hopper

Vice-president: Sunny Rankin

Secretary: Millie Horger

Treasurer: Murray Nelligan

In addition to these elected officers, the Chief Ranger serves as Executive Secretary; Jeff Price handles this job now that Leroy Ross has been transferred to a different location. Other board members include Judy Schulman as editor of TORREYANA, Julie Marine as duty coordinator, and Grace Claire as librarian. Appointed as co-chairmen for hospitality are Elsa Evans and Joan Neumann, and Rowdy James is sales coordinator.

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SOME NOTES ON THE DUSKY-FOOTED
WOODRAT-excerpts from "Animal of
The Month-Dusky-Footed Woodrat"
by Dan Story in the September
1979 issue of the Hi Sierran.

...A close cousin of the desert woodrat, and one of the most common animals inhabiting our local wilds, is the Dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes*). This large species of woodrat is 6 to 17 inches long including a 7 or 8 inch tail and weighs up to 10 ounces...Their color is grayish brown above and white on the throat, belly, and forefeet. The hind feet are sprinkled on top with "dusky" colored hairs-hence the origin of the name...



...they can be found from near sea level to 9,000 feet. In this range they prefer dense, mixed chaparral countryside interspersed with oak woodland. They are found most frequently in brushy creek bottoms and on north facing slopes where chaparral thickets grow the densest and offers the widest variety of plantlife....low growing, diversified chaparral vegetation provides the woodrat not only with a necessary variety of food choices, but also with protection from predators and an abundance of building materials for their houses...

Another name for the Dusky-footed and other species of woodrat is "Pack Rat". This roguish nickname stems from their amusing habit of collecting shiny objects such as tin foil, small toys, silverwear, jewelry, watches (perhaps not so amusing after all!) and leaving in trade an acorn or some other less desirable item. In reality, this curious exchange is purely by chance. Woodrats by nature are always carrying something in their mouths. No doubt when one comes upon a more appealing item, it simply drops the object it is carrying in favor of the other. But it does not consciously hoard or "pack objects" of monetary value...

... The Dusky-footed woodrat is the animal responsible for the large, domed piles of sticks so familiar to anyone who hikes the chaparral. Normally these houses are constructed on the ground, carefully interwoven for support about the base of a willow, chamise, poison oak, mountain mahogany, laurel sumac, or some other stiffly branched shrub. But in habitats where trees are abundant they are frequently constructed among the branches of trees... One house examined by researchers contained 180 branches and twigs from 2 inches to 12 inches long, 55 pieces of bark 2 to 8 inches long, 10 flat pieces of cow dung, 2 rocks, 1 fecal pellet, of a deer, a clump of matted roots and nearly 1 quart of leaves. Needless to say, the end result of these carefully constructed dwellings are imposing edifices up to 3 feet high and six feet across the base...



The living quarters within these stick houses are often divided into two separate levels and contain several enlarged chambers connected with passageways. These various rooms, which are likely to be lined with shredded bark or some other soft fiber, may include a living

room, nursery, food storage, room, and an underground nest or place of retreat... Extravagant as these houses may seem, they appear even more extravagant when one realizes that they are normally inhabited by only a single adult. Woodrats are territorial animals and refuse to share their houses with other adult woodrats... However, should a house become unoccupied it will quickly be appropriated by another woodrat. Hence many houses are successively reoccupied by dozens, perhaps even hundreds of generations of woodrats...

DOCENT OF THE YEAR-ROWDY JAMES by Judy Schulman

Rowdy James, the 1979 Docent of the Year, has been a member of our society for the last 3 years. He has been our business manager for the last 2½ years. His special duty includes buying books, keeping inventory, picking up the money weekly, sending a summary of accounts to the Treasurer, Murray Nelligan, and keeping a moving stock. With a background in Timber Management for the Forestry Service, Rowdy joined the docents because of his interest in trees and desire to be involved. Of special interest to him is going around and seeing the seasonal changes in the park and being allowed to look at the hidden places off the trails (with a ranger, of course!). Good luck and thank you Rowdy!

VISITORS FROM ALL OVER

Torrey Pines State Park has had visitors in the last 6 months (according to our guest registry) from the states of Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Florida, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Michigan, Missouri, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Idaho and Hawaii. We have also had visitors from the countries of England, Switzerland, Belgium, Canada, Scotland, Germany, France, Russia, Japan, Nepal, Nigeria, Holland, New Zealand, Viet Nam, and Finland.

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First Class