

TORREYANA

Published for members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society, #52, June, 1980

NEXT DOCENT MEETING - Saturday morning, June 21, 7:15 A.M. Lodge

Janice Victoria, Ph.D., will meet with us for early morning bird watching. Dr. Victoria is the Director of Educational Activities at the Natural History Museum. She is a specialist in ornithology and completed her graduate training at U.C.L.A. Her courses on birds through the Museum are very popular and have been enjoyed by several docents. This will be a fine opportunity to identify some of our feathered inhabitants, so often heard but seldom seen during our trail walks. Bring your binoculars, bird guides and appetites, and don't forget to set alarm clocks the night before! Following our bird watch, we will return to the Lodge around 9:00 A.M. for breakfast and a brief business meeting.

Conn Quest by Martha Conn

Our summer schedule becomes effective June 15. This means that the Visitors' Center will need two docents a day, five days a week and the regular four on weekends. Be sure to sign up in the Rangers' Office and, if possible, also in the Docent Lounge. Some volunteers have been keeping those two sheets from becoming confusing. Many thanks.

The Natural History Museum is offering a Geology class on Wed. evenings in June. A geology walk on the Bayside Trail in Pt. Loma is scheduled for July 12 and 13. And Misti Washington will be giving her pine-needle basketry classes there the last three Saturdays in July. Perhaps we can complete those projects we started a while back.

Gene Barber has some fantastic door prizes for our next meeting. See you there! Notice the change in time! Join the EARLY BIRDS at 7:15 A.M. !!!

Secretary's Notes by Mary Christenson

Our meeting of May 17 was a combination of business and training. The treasury has a balance of \$768.90. Two suggestions for the use of some of the funds were: repair slide projector and obtain a few more fireside chairs.

Some tip sheets from Old Town seminar were handed out.

Judy Schulman will take orders for T.P.D.S. tee shirts.

Barbara Campbell suggested roping the area around the dwarf live-forever (*Dudleya blochmanae*) in order to preserve this rare plant. She will discuss this with the rangers.

A revision of the geological history of San Diego is being prepared by Dr. Phillips.

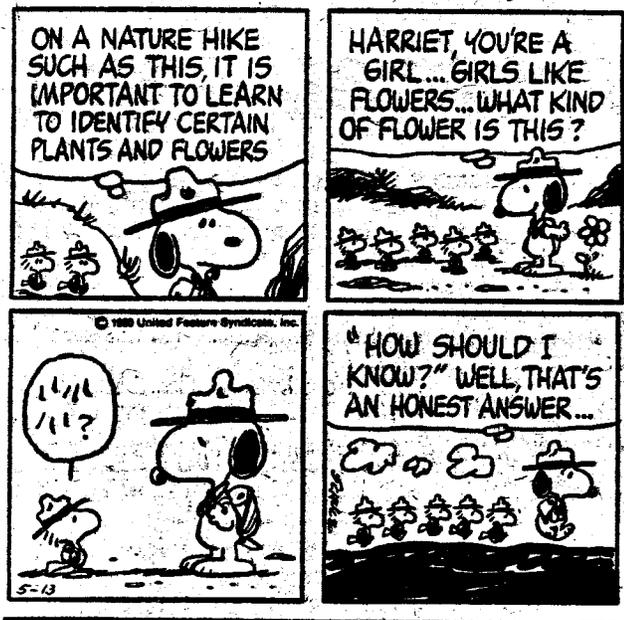
Mr. Jim Whitehead, V.P. of the State Parks and Recreation Commission, expressed appreciation of our society for the work it is doing. He called the Reserve a "little jewel... within a growing megalopolis."

Our speaker for the morning was Dr. Hunsaker, biologist from S.D.S.U. who spoke of the relationship of plants and animals and the energy "flow" through the reserve, and led us on a walk.

4 Part I—Tues., May 13, 1968 Los Angeles Times 4

Peanuts

By Schulz



Docent Doings

Our best wishes to Jane Paivey (former Docent) and Ralph E. Vogel, who were married on May 12th in San Diego.

Piper Lindsay, permanent intermittent ranger at D. C. Bliss State Park in Tahoma, Ca., is starting a docent program for the state parks in that area. Good work, Piper. Watch for Piper's quail article in the Torreyana soon.

Congratulations to Peter Elias, who has received his B. S. degree in Child Development and Psychology from San Diego State. Peter will continue his studies in the graduate program next year.

You will find Rowdy James working at the Gems and Minerals Exhibit every day during the Southern California expo.

Ed note: Please send in items for this column.

SUPPORT YOUR DOCENT SOCIETY

SIGN UP FOR YOUR DUTY!!

On April 19th, Ruth Hand and I attended the afternoon sessions of the volunteer workshop at Old Town Historical State Park. Julie Marine attended the morning session. One of the seminars I attended was, "Hows and Whys of Tours." I thought others might like to know what was discussed.

Interpretation was defined as a educational activity that reveals the relationship among things. The important qualities of an interpreter are friendliness, enthusiasm, tactfulness, good communications with people, sensitivity, optimism and involvement. Rules of interpretation include selecting a central theme, developing it logically, and bringing it to a conclusion. The main activities of the tour are 1) providing interpretation while 2) moving from one spot to another. The key ingredients of the tour are that it is personalized, in an environment that sets up the background for your theme, and is dynamic.

The book, "Interpreting our Heritage" by Freeman Tilden was recommended. Although I did enjoy the seminar, I have one criticism. After listening to the guest speaker, it would have been helpful for the volunteers to have formed small discussion groups to exchange ideas on how to apply the suggested techniques. I will have copies available of the handouts that were given to us.

Getting to Know You

RUTH HAND - Our Librarian

Ruth Hand has lived in San Diego for four years; all her previous life was spent in New York State- city, suburbs and mountains. Her two grown kids recall how she pressured them to play OUTDOORS, whatever the weather, and how often she managed to join them outside.

She was a psych major in college, then a social work student, but at the age of 53 went back to graduate school to become a professional librarian.

She says she can't help comparing every new plant she learns to recognize at Torrey Pines with something she once knew "back east". Poetry, drama, music, theater, needlework, gradening, and helping people have been some of her life-time hobbies. She admits to being imaginative, unconventional, non-conformist and friendly. In addition to T.P. docentry, she is coordinator of volunteers at the Athenaeum Music and Arts Library in LaJolla, but claims "non- expert" status in all these fields.

We are indeed fortunate that Ruth has chosen to give such a large portion of her time and energies and love to our Docent Society!

RAPTORS by Ranger Tom Bernardo

6-80



We are all aware of the hawks, falcons and owls that are observed as we hike throughout the reserve. But how many of us have interesting and educational facts pertaining to these beautiful birds to enlighten our visitors?

Just what do we mean when we call a bird a raptor? A biologist will tell you that raptors occupy a high niche in "the balance of nature" as a control against the overpopulation of many species, especially rodents. All the species of birds living today are placed in 29 orders. Raptors own two of these orders: 1) Falconiforms: vultures, hawks, eagles and falcons; and 2) Strigiformes: owls of all species. In the west, and especially in California, we are endowed with a diversity and abundance of raptors. Of the 422 species of raptors in the world, California has 34.

Birds of these two orders have three similar anatomical features: 1) strong grasping feet equipped with talons for catching and holding prey, 2) hooked upper beaks for killing and tearing prey, and 3) greatly overlapping binocular vision or eyes that are located on the head such that they are capable of focusing on and determining distances to objects directly ahead.



BARN



GREAT HORNED



Red-tailed Hawk

Owls differ from hawks and eagles in a variety of anatomical features. In owls the head is larger in proportion to body size, the facial feathers form a disc, the outer toe is reversible, and the wing and body feathers are soft to allow silent flight. The facial features of owls are movable and assist in reflecting some light toward the eyes, but even more importantly, these feathers funnel sound to the ears. Another adaptation of the ears is their placement in the skull. The right ear is higher than the left, allowing the owl to pinpoint the source of a sound! A dog cocking his head to hear better is applying the same principle.

Raptors often eat prey whole or in large pieces. Undigested fur, feathers and bones are regurgitated in castings, which are an aid to biologists in determining the food habits of both hawks and owls. An owl casting is on display in the visitor center.

Raptors have gotten a lot of bad press about exterminating prey species but they, in fact, take only the surplus of those animals vulnerable. Prey species, because of their reproductive potential, are forced by pressure of numbers to find food and shelter outside their natural habitat. As this happens, their vulnerability to predatory animals such as raptors increases. Hawks and owls not only help to reduce this surplus population, but they also take the unhealthy and otherwise abnormal individual.

Making our visitors aware of our resident raptors' value as a natural resource is important. Raptors are of benefit in the delicate balance of nature. They are a welcome addition to our outdoor experience, and we must learn to protect them wisely and enjoy them more fully.

Tom

Poetry Corner



Both Rough-legged Hawk (left) and Marsh Hawk (right) show some white at the base of the tail when viewed from above. So does Harris' Hawk.



THE EAGLE

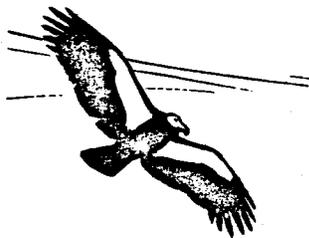
He clasps the crag with crooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ringed with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

Alfred Tennyson

News & Notes

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM'S special exhibit, running through June 15, features the California Condor and other vultures. The unique display is in the Gallery on the main floor. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Admission for those over 16 is \$1; children are free. Call 232-3821 □



BIRDS

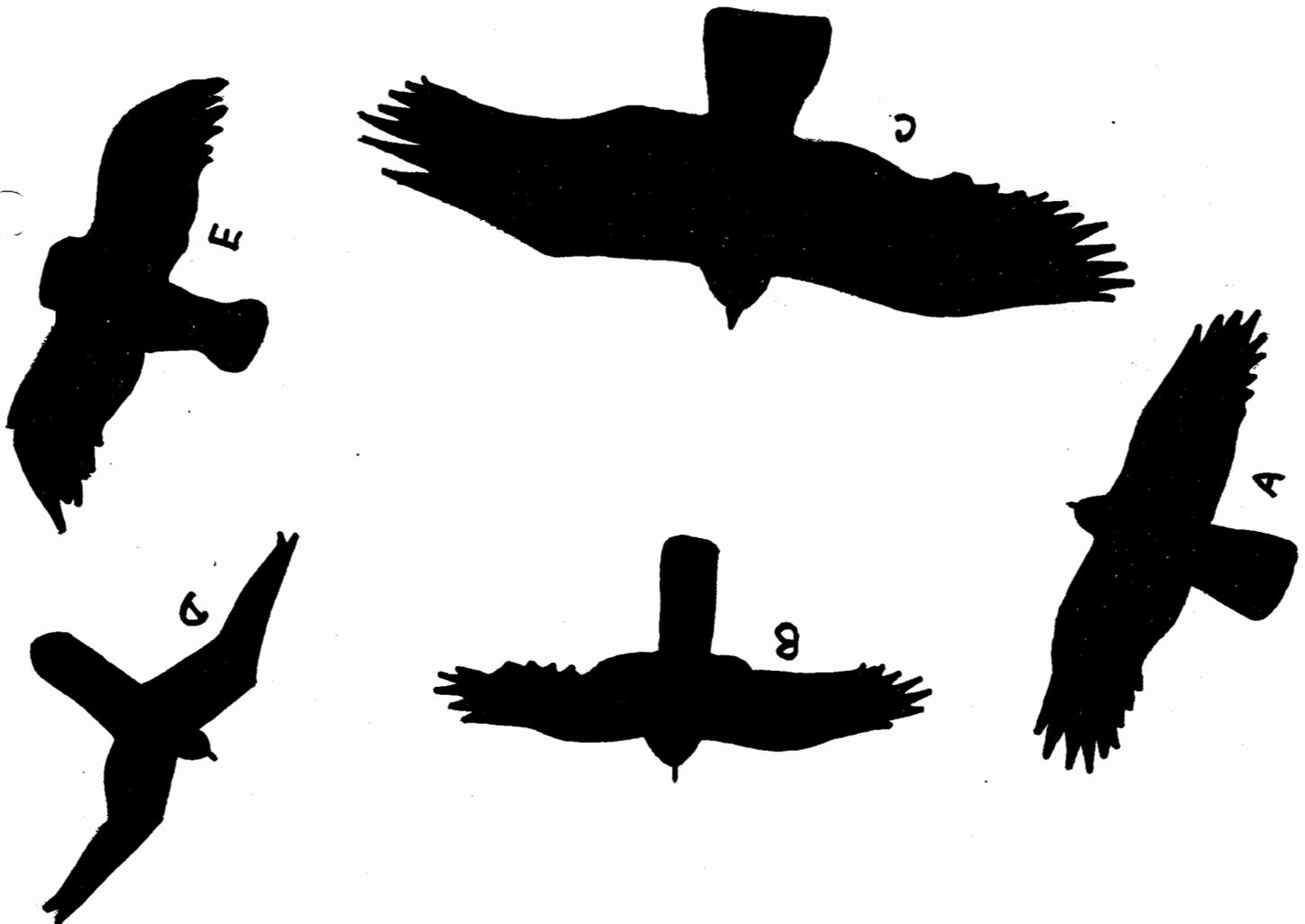
THE fierce musical cries of a couple of sparrow-hawks
hunting on the headland,
Hovering and darting, their heads northwestward,
Prick like silver arrows shot through a curtain the
noise of the ocean
Trampling its granite; their red backs gleam
Under my window around the stone corners; nothing
gracefuller, nothing
Nimble in the wind. Westward the wave-gleaners,
The old gray sea-going gulls are gathered together, the
northwest wind wakening
Their wings to the wild spirals of the wind-dance.
Fresh as the air, salt as the foam, play birds in the
bright wind, fly falcons
Forgetting the oak and the pine-woods, come gulls
From the Carmel sands and the sands at the river-
mouth, from Lobos and out of the limitless
Power of the mass of the sea; for a poem
Needs multitude, multitudes of thoughts, all fierce, all
flesh-eaters, musically clamorous
Bright hawks that hover and dart headlong, and un-
gainly
Gray hungers fledged with desire of transgression, salt-
slimed beaks, from the sharp
Rock-shores of the world and the secret waters.

Robinson Jeffers

WE NEED YOU!! ARE YOU DOING YOUR DOWNT DUTY?

- A. BUTEOS - Ferruginous Hawk, red-tailed hawk. Characteristics: large & broad winged, rounded tails; soars in continuous circles.
- B. HARRIERS - Marsh hawk. Characteristics: slim, with long tail & wings; often flies close to ground to hunt for food.
- C. EAGLES - Golden eagle. Characteristics: large (up to 14 lbs.), broad, rounded wings; solitary hunter, soars in high circles.
- D. FALCONS - Prairie falcon, kestrel. Characteristic: streamlined; long pointed wings, long tails, fast fliers; rarely soar.
- E. OWLS - Great-horned owl, barn owl, screech owl, long-eared owl, short-eared owl. Characteristics: nocturnal, large-headed predators with fluttery, moth-like flight.

HELP! HELP! FILL UP THOSE EMPTY TIME SLOTS ON THE DUTY SHEET!



Can you identify the raptors below? Look carefully at tail shape, wings, body size - bet you get 100 percent!

Quiz

Along Our Bloomin' Trails by Hank Nicol

6-80

I've seen quite a bit of fleabane aster blooming along the Fleming Trail. It's also called leafy fleabane and Erigeron foliosus. Why? Aster is easy. The blue flowers look like its relatives, the asters. Fleabane means just what it says. The fleabanes were used as flea repellants in the "good" old days. Erigeron is more difficult to figure, because it means "early old man." There must be an early flowering one with a lot of white hair in Greece. Leafy and foliosus mean the same thing. This had me stumped for a long time. Munz describes a plant with more and larger leaves than any I've seen around here. Maybe they fit his description some place else, or, maybe, I've just got the name wrong. I've done it before. Anyway, it's pretty, and you should look for it.

We all go around admiring the pretty posies, but we tend to ignore the plants that don't have flowers. The "lower" plants are interesting, too. Some of them might even be of great value if we bothered to learn more about them. Kelco has built a fair sized industry on one, the giant kelp. We have some non flowering plants here at Torrey Pines. Except for an occasional spectacular mushroom or puffball or a large fern, we don't pay much attention. Some people consider one of these "unflowers" to be quite rare. It's Selaginella cinerascens, sorry, no common name. It's one of the little club mosses. Why "club" I don't have any idea. You've probably never heard of it or seen it, but walked right beside it or on it. Most of it seems to be around Broken Hill and Inspiration Point, but I've seen it at Razor Point and Parry Grove, too. Most of the year it's a dry, ashy carpet, but, when the rains begin, its spiraling leaves turn bright green. Without flowers a plant can't make seeds. Selaginella has sporangia instead. These are defined as cases which contain asexual spores. It took me a long time and a 20 power magnifier to get a look at them. I'm not even going to try to describe this plant or tell you where it is, but if you want to see it I'll point it out.

Starting about this time of year we get a lot of complaints about a skunk along the Beach Trail below Red Butte. That's a sure sign that the complainers have been walking off the trail. They've been stepping on a prickly annual that smells just like a skunk. It is called, as you might expect, prickly skunk flower. The Latinese is Navarretia hamata. It was named for F. Navarrete, a Spanish doctor. He should have sued his botanist for malpractice. One of my favorite campfire stunts is to wave two or three plants in a sandbag at the audience and watch the front row empty. Things settle down when I show them it's only a pretty, purple flower that doesn't have quite the range or strength they were afraid of.

TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY

President- Martha Conn
Deadline for Torreyana copy
the 1st of each month.
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From Jim Whitehead, "There is a kind of immortality in what we, as docents, are doing here- projecting into the future 'like old people planting trees under which they know they will never sit.' "

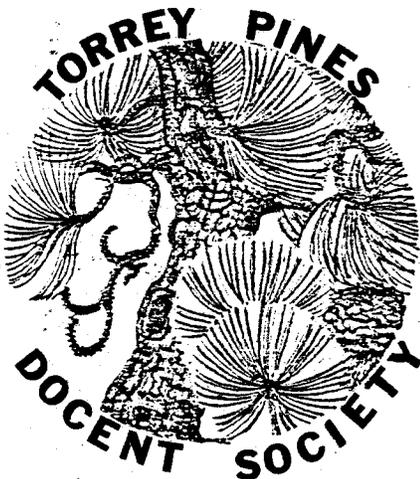
PARTING THOUGHT (We borrowed this parting thought to share with you.)

This typewriter works quite well except for one of the keys. It is true that there are 41 keys that function well enough, but just one key not working makes the difference. Sometimes it seems that our organization is somewhat like this typewriter-- not all the people are working properly. You may say to yourself, "Well, I am only one person. I won't make or break a program." But it does make a difference, because any program to be effective needs the active participation of every person. So the next time you think you are only one person and that your efforts are not needed, remember this typewriter and say to yourself, "I am a key person in our organization and I am needed very much."

THERE WERE EMPTY SPACES ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET LAST MONTH. WILL YOU BE HERE AT LEAST ONE TIME IN JUNE?



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