



# TORREYANA

Published for members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society, #68, Nov., 1981

## NOVEMBER MEETING

Welcome to November and the beginning of the Grey Whale migration down the coast of California. To celebrate this event our November 21 meeting will be held in the Natural History Museum Auditorium in Balboa Park. Tom Demeré, assistant curator of paleontology and geology from the museum, will speak about marine mammals and the grey whale to our docent group. Displays will also be incorporated into the meeting. This is a great opportunity to enhance our knowledge of whales and to gather ideas about our visitor center from their displays.

Tom Demeré will begin at 10:00 a.m. Sharp in the Natural History Museum Auditorium (use west entrance, near redwood section). Docents can meet at Torrey Pines at 9:00 a.m. and CARPOOL it to Balboa Park or meet at the Natural History Museum. Hope to see you there.

## WHALE WATCHING JOURNEY

We are planning a whale watching tour around the Coronado Islands in January. Friends are invited. Please call Bill Brothers, 286-7085 for further information and reservations before November 14.

← WERE YOU THERE?

Whale Watching Trip, 1977

A covey of docents flaps its wings at Docent Steve Mullensky, photographer.



# Judy's Gentle Conglomerations of Thought

First of all, I would like to thank Docent Mary Miller for volunteering to be treasurer for the rest of the year. Since Mary has been treasurer in the past, we know that she is someone we can count on (pun intended).

As docents we have plenty of interesting things to look forward to. Whale watching season is coming and it would be nice to go on a group field trip. Has everyone decided on a project to work on for our museum renovation? Remember to keep in mind "the Easy Trail Majority" concept.

Do you think if the main goal of our group was to find water underground that we would be called "dowsents"?

Judy

## WINTER SCHEDULE

Docent duties for the winter will be scheduled as follows:

11 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.- Visitors Center  
1:30 P.M.- Walk  
1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.- Visitors Center

This will be effective every Saturday and Sunday. Come on holidays whenever you can. Be sure to sign up at the desk, or call Duty Coordinator, Ruth Hand, at 459-9020. We need YOU!

Have you checked out Hank's new slide show? Very good!  
Thank-you, Hank!



Often called the "Fairy Godmother of La Jolla," Miss Ellen Browning Scripps lived from 1836 to 1932.

## Thanksgiving Message

Some good reasons to be thankful:

The story of Torrey Pines is not just about trees. It's a story about people, too. It's about Dr. John Torrey who inspired a whole generation of botanists. It's about Dr. C. C. Parry who discovered the tree, gave it its name, and took the first steps in its preservation. It's about Miss Ellen Scripps who used her personal fortune to buy the land where the Torrey Pine trees grow. It's about Guy and Peggy Fleming who dedicated their lives

to preserving the trees. It's about a lot of people. Some are famous. Most are unknown. It's also about you and me. It's up to us now.

Quote from: Notes from the Naturalist, by Hank Nicol, Nov.10, '81

# Secretary's Notes by Julie Marine

The October meeting began with a panel discussion entitled, "Easy Trail Majority". Our guest speakers were Dorothy Denniston-Jones, who is a Rehabilitation consultant and new docent. Also featured on the panel was Marty Kania, an Administrative Supervisor of State Park and Recreation for San Diego Coast Area. The Docents learned that there are many ways that the Handicapped can enjoy a visit at T.P.S.R. if there are some improvements both at the Visitors Center and on the trails:

- 1- The curbs need to be cut both in the parking area and at the Visitors Center, and ramps installed to provide easier access for those who use wheel chairs.
- 2- Improved pathways to viewing areas.
- 3- Provide a restroom or improve on the present restrooms for wheel chair access.
- 4- Regrade paths where needed. Example: in front of the Center.
- 5- Additional benches are needed, for there are many persons who can walk short distances but need to sit and rest frequently.
- 6- Perhaps a new trail especially designed to meet the needs of many people who cannot hike on steep trails.
- 7- Steps should be improved at the beach area.
- 8- Exhibits should be placed for easier viewing. Even the slide show room could be rearranged and improved.

These are just some of the items that were discussed. Pres. Judy Schulman mentioned that a special training program is needed to help Docents provide handicapped persons a special interpretive program.

Jim Whitehead stated that we should carefully consider the needs and improvements on the Visitors Center, but not to change things in such a way as to harm the building.

Ranger Bob Wohl further added that the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) have raised about \$3,000 from state-wide donations to be used for the Torrey Pines Reserve. He further added that we should think about what is necessary to begin the work of adding help aid features. We may look at the whole park and decide on what are the priorities. There are 16 state parks that currently have special helps for the handicapped, both in programs and in easier access to and from Nature trails and Visitor Centers.

A walk in the park to point out possible areas that could be improved for the "Easy Trail Majority" followed our panel discussion. A special note: We must comply with the legal requirements by providing access for all park visitors. A special experience for all people.

When I was young I was exposed to two years of high school Latin. I was told that, even though I never became a classical scholar, I would be able to use what I learned for pronouncing scientific names. Later I found out that a bunch of English gentlemen sat around a table and decided how Latin should be pronounced. That was at the Royal Society sometime before 1800, and the result had no relationship to the way Cicero, Caesar, or Suetonius talked.

Also, way back in my callow youthhood, I was told that I should always learn the Latin name for plants, because common names were often changed. Scientific names wern't. I immediately learned that the Giant Forest was composed of Sequoia gigantea. While I wasn't looking somebody changed them to Sequoiadendron giganteum. I didn't know that they had already been through Sequoia washingtonia and, before that, Wellingtonia giganteum. Now we couldn't admit that California's state tree was discovered and named for the Iron Duke by an Englishman could we? Well, maybe we could.

The courtesy of science is that the first guy (or bloke) who sticks a name on something has priority. That's why our sea fig, if you learned it recently, is Carpobrotus acquilaterus. I'm told that this name came from Australia where it was first described. But it has also been Carpobratus chilensis, obviously from Chile, and Mesembryanthemum chilense, and Mesembryanthemum dimidiatum. Falls trippingly off the tongue, don't it? While they were about it, somebody or other switched it from the purslane family to the carpetweeds. Scientific courtesy can be carried to ridiculous lengths. One story I've heard, I hope it's true, it should be, was that in 1822 a botanist was studying and classifying plants from all around the world. They were spread out on a large table. He found one in the Chinese pile which was totally new to science. He named it Buxus chinensis. A few years later another botanist described it as Simmondsia californica. That makes a lot more sense since it can be found in California as well as Arizona and Sonora. It turned out to be not a buxus (box), so Simmondsia was O.K. Not so the second name that went with it. Now it's Simmondsia chinensis, better known as "goatnut" to anybody who can't pronounce jojoba.

The changing names can get even professionals into trouble. One day while I was doing four-plus years in Purgatory State Park, better known as headquarters, I got into a conversation with some young Landscape Architects. The subject was Calocedrus decurrens. An older L.A. looked puzzled. It turned out that it had been Libocedrus when he was in school. The same tree has also been Thuja craigana and Heyderia decurrens. We could have saved ourselves a lot of trouble. Everyone knew incense cedar.

Linnaeus' language can be just as fickle as English. Anyway, 99.9 percent of the citizenry greet Latin names with a primal shrug. 87.3 percent, by precise scientific guess, won't even remember a common name fro more than thirty seconds.

The moral? Don't get too carried away with the Botanese.

Hank

# Docent Doings

## A LETTER FROM MARY CHRISTENSON

Greetings,

I'm back from the otherside of the mountain but am spending time in Long Beach. Don't cross me off your list entirely, I want, at least, to stand my monthly duty.

While in Idaho for the summer our family had the privilege of spending weekends in the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone. The most exciting event for me, was to take the scenic raft ride down the Snake River. We saw beaver at work, bald eagle, osprey, moose, weasel, families of Canada Geese and the ever changing mountains. It was the guide that had made all the difference. He changed it from an ordinary river trip to an exhilarating experience.

My words to you -- "Keep up the good work." Our trail walks, so familiar to us, can be a bright new experience for visitors. You are the host and you let them see the park with new eyes. Docents make the difference!

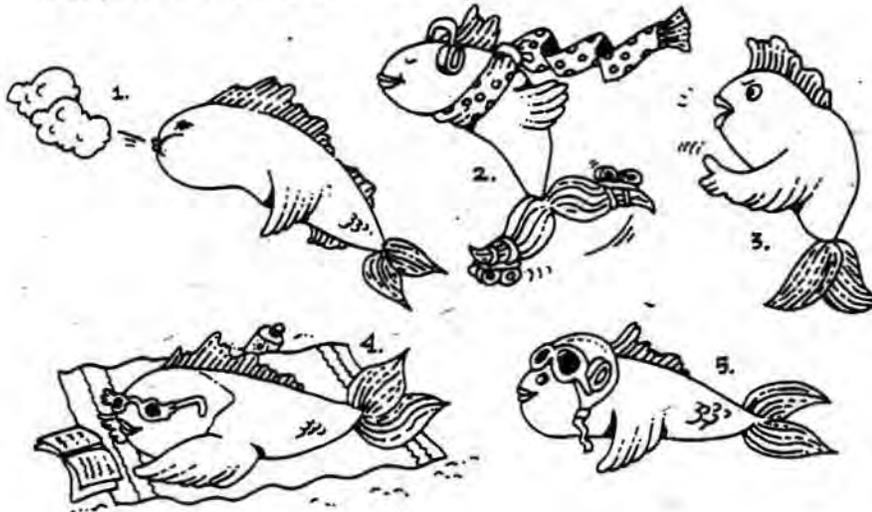
See you in the park,

*Mary Christenson*

## Quiz

### **Gone Fishin'**

Can you identify the varieties of fish here?



## Poetry Corner

### Thanksgiving Day, California Style

Over the freeways and through the fog  
To Grandfather's house we go!  
We step on the gas,  
Move out and pass,  
The cars up ahead are too slow.

Over the freeways and through the fog  
Oh, how the smog does blow!  
It stings our eyes,  
And baby cries,  
As over the miles we go.

Over the freeways and through the fog  
Go fast, my Chevrolet!  
Speed up and fly,  
Like a jet in the sky,  
For this is Thanksgiving Day!

Over the freeways and through the fog  
And straight to the patio.  
The kids pile out,  
They laugh and shout,  
As into the pool they go.

After the turkey and pumpkin pie,  
While Grandmother clears away,  
We turn on T.V.  
There is football to see,  
For this is Thanksgiving Day.

- Eva Houghton  
(Submitted by Julie Marine)

### Japanese Poem

Cry, cry, o crickets  
of the wooded hill;  
Full well I know  
Why you chirp so mournfully,  
You're sad to see autumn go.

-Fujiwarano Okikage  
(About 900 A.D.)

# Book Report

by Stanley Geller



DESERT JOURNAL by Raymond B. Cowles

The son of missionary parents, Raymond Cowles was born in South Africa in 1896. He spent his childhood years there, where he gained an appreciation of wildlife from his experiences in the African Bush.

At the age of 20 he came to California. The next forty years of his life were largely devoted to the study and translation of nature's wonders. The book, DESERT JOURNAL, is a summary of his journeys in the deserts of California west of the Colorado River.

He talks about the elements and how they affect the wild-life of the region. He writes about the swirling winds of the sandstorms and the confusion of the animals; the fragrance of a wet desert after a violent thunderstorm; sudden cloudbursts and its effect on plant and animal life.

Raymond B. Cowles was one of the foremost naturalists to see the relationship between an increase in human numbers and a decrease in the integrity and diversity of wild life. His love, appreciation for, and knowledge of nature is passed on to us in clear, concise, interesting reading.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Raymond B. Cowles, DESERT JOURNAL, 1977; University of California Press, Ltd.



Are all of you familiar with our Trail Topics notebook? Originated several years ago by Ex-President Gene Barber, this interesting notebook contains docent questions and answers as well as notes on unusual experiences on the trails. Why not look it over and add your own comments from time to time? Tell and share!

Trail Topics can be found on the Docent Bookshelf in the lounge.

Answers to "Gone Fishin'" Quiz:

1- blowfish, 2- skate, 3- carp, 4- sunfish, 5- pilot fish

**TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY**

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the 25th of each month.  
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GLEANINGS FROM A PBS PROGRAM ON  
THE CALIFORNIA SEA LION

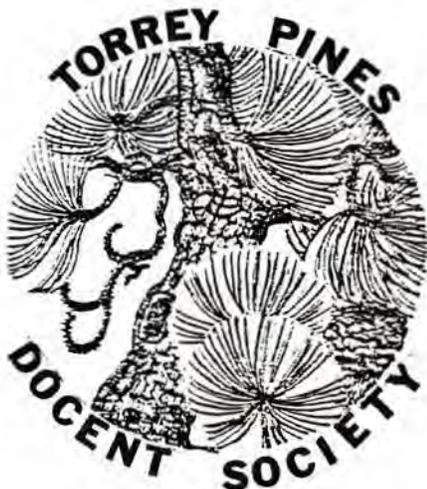
Did you know? ----

- 1- They carry stones in their stomachs, but scientists don't know whether it is to aid digestion or act as ballast.
- 2- Killer whales get nine out of ten pups before they can mature.
- 3- A sea lion can dive to depths of 750 feet.
- 4- They are used to recover missiles. The animal goes down and attaches a gadget (with a rope) that grips the missile, then men in a boat on the surface pull up the missile via the rope!

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Scrub Jay