

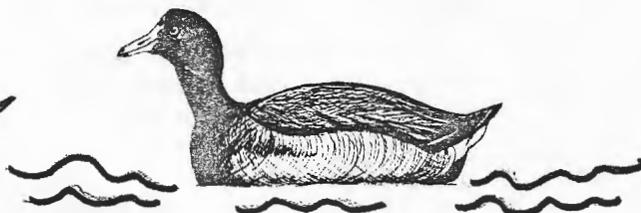


TORREYANA

Published for members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society, #70, Jan., 1982

NEXT DOCENT MEETING: Saturday, Jan. 16. 9:00 A.M.

Meet at the Visitor Center to enjoy a talk, followed by a lagoon walk stressing field identification of marsh and shore birds. The identity of our speaker is as yet unknown. Come with your binoculars and be surprised!



Judy's Gentle Conglomerations of Thought

HAPPY NEW YEAR! And a great new year it will be indeed. We are continually adding new members (welcome to Valerie James and George Young)... funding is available for our visitor center project... Hank's book, Notes from the Naturalist is now available for sale... and interesting plans have been made for the coming year.

Please remember that your dues are due (sounds redundant, duesn't it!) by our Jan. meeting date. We are currently updating our mailing list and early payment will insure that your name is kept on the list. Regular membership is \$3.00 (one of the few things that inflation hasn't changed)... Supporting membership is \$10.00

A board meeting is planned for after our trip to the marsh.

Judy

Secretary's Notes by Julie Marine

CHRISTMAS AT THE VISITOR CENTER December 19, 1981

With a bright warm fire burning, and the Visitor Center all decorated for Christmas, the candles aglow, pots of poinsettias about, and the scent of Torrey Pines Reserve surrounding us, 50 Docents, Rangers, Park staff, family and special guests came to enjoy a delightful morning together in the holiday spirit, for a grand party full of activity. The Christmas table- foods and special treats of all kinds from holiday tea breads to quiche and hot spiced cider and eggnog- a feast fit for a king, I'd say!

President Judy Schulman played Santa by donning a Santa hat and presenting the following special award certificates: Rowdy James- Best looking in T.P. T-shirt, Mary Miller- Longest membership (Spring 1975), Elizabeth Nicoloff- Most interesting pockets for trail walks, Mike Wainwright- Docent who has made the most progress, Bob Hopper- Research on restoration of the Fleming house.

The big award- Docent of the Year, was presented to Bill Brothers for the outstanding work he has done all year as Vice President- the fine training program, his talks at our meetings when the special guest speaker couldn't be there, and now helping to make an outline for the Visitor Center renovation. Congratulations and sincere thanks to you, Bill!

There was a special prize of a potted Torrey pine seedling (raised from seed and donated by Hank Nicol). That lucky docent was Betty Andrews. A selection from Loren Easley's The Immense Journey was read by Elizabeth Nicoloff. After the brunch we all gathered on the front porch to hear Ruth Hand read Christmas stories. What perfect gifts! Thank you, Elizabeth and Ruth.

Special guests were: Bill Fait, State Park Regional manager, Margaret Allen- daughter of Guy Fleming who once lived in the park with her parents and brother, Joyce Evans- once an active member, now retired to supporting membership.

A very special thanks to Ranger John Magee and Mrs. Magee for their help in decorating and cleaning, and also to Yvette from the staff for assisting me in setting the table.

Happy New Year, Docents!

With a bright, cozy fire
And our Docents around us,
The blessings of Christmas
Surely surround us.

(Adapted from a poem by Emily Tiptons)

Julie



Torrey Pines State Reserve

TOPSTAR

by Ruth Hand

Commendations, 1981 (In addition to those who received awards at the Christmas party):

Busiest Docent- Julie Marine
Most faithful- Milli Horger
Best Docent couple- Judy and Charles Morrow
Best mother and daughter team- Betty and Judy Andrews
Best lemonade provider- Isabel Buechler
Most likely to show up when special refreshments are served-
Peter Elias

Dolphin award- Martha Conn
White Rabbit award- Judy Schulman
Red Rabbit award- Ruth Hand
Blue Rabbit award- Karen Schlom
Yellow Rabbit award- Karen Schlom's brother
Most expert in cutting red tape- Jim Whitehead
Most welcome returnee- Shelley Rogers
Best artist- John Thunen
Best display arranger- Martha Black
Best mountain climber- Tam Cherin
Most at sea- Tom Switajewski
Most faithful Docent despite being on the State Park payroll-
Bob Wohl

VERY CLEVER



Most likely to show up unexpectedly- Stan Geller
Most loquacious- Allan Carson
Least known by general membership- Melba Kooyman and Tony Vitto
Best authority on Idaho- Mary Christenson
Most missed while she's abroad- Frances Parks
Fleetest of foot- Elsa Evans
Busiest writer- Grace Claire
Quick est- Ellen Quick
Closest relative to California _____ whale- Marjo Gray
Best hunter- Jewell Hunter
Best Marksman- Rick Marx
Most regular summer "museum sitter"- Renée Cathcart
Demosthenes award for improvement in public speaking- Larry Banks
Best Saturday soccer coach- Bill Malone
Most likely to be seen together- Peggy Crunican and Dave Hardy
Fatherhood award- John Ferrer
Lives closest to his job- John Magee
Most likely to be next Docent to earn doctor's degree- Marc Cimolino
Most determined- Marti Kaye
Best story teller- Hank Nicol
Most regular "first Saturday walker"- Marcie Thorner
Best bird tamer- Piper Lindsay

Ruth Hand

Ed. Note: And how about: The Nocent Docent Bestest Gang of All-
Everyone of us!

We all know by now that the Torrey pine is not the rarest pine in the world. I've been trying to learn something about the Torrey pine's competitors in rarity. So far I haven't found much. I can't find much on the DaLat pine, Pinus dalatensis, of Vietnam, or the Martinez piñon, Pinus maximartinezii, of Mexico. I've found exactly nothing about Pinus rzedowskii, also of Mexico.

I've been looking in encyclopedias, and I've been asking every Vietnamese I've come across, "Ever been to DaLat?" It turns out that the French developed the place as a hill station during the 19th century. Hot season? Send madame, and the enfants up to the mountains. DaLat is cool all year, but it doesn't get any frost. It's a lot like Chengmai in Thailand or Baguio in the Phillipines. The rainy season is from July to October. That's a month shorter on each end than I experienced in Thailand. About 70 inches fall each year, and DaLat is famous for its waterfalls. The place was still used as a resort until the end of the Vietnam war, but its 1970 population of around 86,000 was swollen by refugees. DaLat is probably still a favorite spot. Politics and armies don't change climates. The cool climate is good for growing coffee, tea, and vegetables. It's also good for growing pine trees. Everyone who's been there agrees that DaLat is surrounded by pine forest. This made me wonder, "If there are so many pines, how can the DaLat pine be rare?" I did what little detective work my scrawny resources allowed. Apparently most of the pine forest is Pinus insularis which has the uncommon common name of "Khasi pine". The Khasi pine is found in the higher, cooler areas of Eastern India, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Southern China, and in northern Luzon. The DaLat pine is found only on two mountains and may be suffering from competition with the Khasi pine. The two must be quite different in appearance. The Khasi pine has ten inch needles in bundles of three. The cone is about four inches long, and the trees grow to around 100 feet high. I couldn't find a description of the DaLat pine, but it is closely related to Pinus griffithii, blue pine, and Pinus peuce, Balkan pine. The closest blue pine is over 100 miles from DaLat. The closest Balkan pine is way off in Bulgaria. The only thing I can tell for sure is that the DaLat pine has five needled bundles like these white pine relatives.

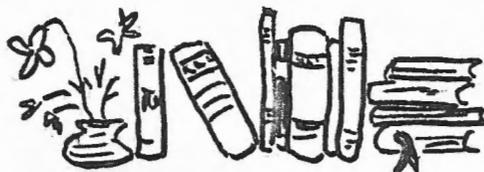
The Martinez piñon was discovered in the southern part of Zacatecas state in Mexico in 1963. It has unusually large cones; how unusually large I haven't found out. Its seeds are supposed to be the largest of any pine. Dr. Wilhelm Klaus, whom some of you may remember, made a visit to Zacatecas. He wrote me that even locals had no idea that the trees existed. After much stomping about he finally located them, but he didn't send me a description. He probably figured I have a better library and more brains than I do.

I'm still on the trail.

Hank

Book Report

by Stanley Geller



ELOQUENT ANIMALS by Flora Davis

Through her travels around the country, Flora Davis has come up with some interesting facts about animals and how they communicate with one another.

The chimpanzee, one of the animals written about in her book, displayed surprising intelligence. Washoe was brought to this country at 10 months of age. Two scientists taught her American Sign Language which is taught to deaf children. People who came in contact with Washoe would communicate with her in sign language only. After 10 months of training Washoe had learned to put together two signs. After just 2 years she was inventing her own sign combinations (similiar to sentences). The learning ability of Washoe during this time was comparable to that of a small child!

Bees and ants and the way they communicate was also researched in this book. Bees perform a dance of their own inside the bee hive to communicate to other bees the location of food. Amazingly, bees use the sun as a compass. If the food is located toward the sun's light the scout bee will dance up the vertical honeycomb in the direction of the sun's light.

Isn't God's creation incredible!

This informative book also covers facts about the way frogs, crickets, and dolphins communicate within their own kind. If you are interested in the animal kingdom and how animals relate with one another, this is the book for you.

GOOD NEWS

On the scheduled full-day whale watching trip you are the only one who thinks to bring sun screen. You feel fine, you're a hero to another six people, and two macho-tough guys who thought you were a sissy have 3 days more to go in the local sunburn ward. Advance 4 knots to "Thar she blows!"

MORE GOOD NEWS

Throwing that bowl of turtle soup in the waiter's face may not have won you this year's silver plate award. But among those who think endangered species should be spared the ax, you're a hero. You are awarded a moonlit swim with the sea turtle of your choice.

MORE GOOD NEWS

While it may not have accomplished much, the screaming, yelling, protesting, and letter writing you did regarding the slaughter of dolphins by fishermen did raise the level of concern by Americans. You win the Cetacean Civility Award.

Quiz

- 1- Sailors' legend says a red sky early in the day means fine sailing ahead. True or false?
 - 2- Since sharks have very poor eyesight and very little access to a good contact lens outlet, they rely almost exclusively on a keen sense of smell. True or false?
 - 3- Do flying fish "fly"?
 - 4- The killer whale's name was actually "whale killer" in Norwegian. True or false?
 - 5- When diving from the sky to catch a fish, the pelican becomes a streamline, graceful arrow. True or false?
 - 6- The manatee or sea cow, a markedly ugly creature which is responsible for a great many mermaid legends, rarely does anything other than eat or sleep. True or false?
 - 7- In spite of their streamlined shape, most seals are quite slow in the water. True or false?
 - 8- Can seals cry?
 - 9- Sharks, killer whales, bald eagles and vampire bats are all known to feed on seals. True or false?
 - 10- Large numbers of seals are occasionally found dead for no apparent reason. True or false?
 - 11- An elephant seal's blood clots very slowly and many bleed to death from minor wounds. True or false?
 - 12- Are dolphins and porpoises related to whales?
 - 13- The Pacific bottlenose dolphin (*Tercioops Gilli*) is thought to be about as intelligent as: A. a frog; B. a dog; C. a 10-year old human being; or D. Albert Einstein
 - 14- Does a mother whale ever have help in giving birth?
 - 15- Other than a large lung capacity, how is it that whales can stay underwater so long?
-

Poetry Corner

BLUE JAY JANUARY

The joyous, jaunty, jeering jays
Now entertain my kitchen days,
Scorning, mocking, laughing at
My next door neighbor's hopeful cat.
I, waging war as women must
Against the tyranny of dust;
They, screaming challenge at the old,
The deadly foe, the winter cold.
Allied are we against such weather,
The brave bright jays and I together,
And through the winter snows I feed them,
Faithfully, because I need them.



Scrub Jay

-Jean Harrison

(Submitted by Julie Marine)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Fellow Docents:

Let me reveal myself as the someone who used the docent roster for politicking. I did indeed give the list to the Balboa Park Defense Committee at the time of their last big push to get the Navy Hospital moved to Helix Heights. After talking to a few of you who wanted to know about the hospital situation, thus finding out how few of you even knew that the Committee existed, I sent in the list. I had supposed--wrongly, it now appears, and only for that am I sorry--that you would thank me for putting your names on their mailing list! I had further supposed, and certainly hoped, that many of you would respond to their appeal for letters to Washington, and that some of you might even send donations to help pay for the litigation. In fact, because I sent the list too late for it to be included in the bulk mailing, I sent a check to pay for the first-class postage it took to get that particular circular to you. Far from wanting to be sneaky, I would have liked to add a personal note to each, but that was not practical.

From there, your names have gone onto the mailing list of Citizens Coordinate for Century Three, since C-3 worked with the Balboa Park Committee to arouse public concern. I do not--I cannot--apologize for presuming that you would want to know about such organizations, even if you didn't want to become involved in their work to preserve and improve the quality of life in San Diego. My name gets onto mailing lists of tens of dozens of organizations. Some of the mail I open, much of it I don't, but I am always interested in seeing what causes are being pled, even causes that I detest. Keep your wastebasket handy, as I do mine, and you will have no problem.

Elizabeth Nicoloff

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

- 1- False. "Red sky at morning, sailor take warning. Red sky at night, sailors' delight."
- 2- False. While sharks do rely on their sense of smell, they don't do so exclusively. Besides, many species have superb eyesight and are limited only by the clarity of the water.
- 3- Not actually. They are terrific gliders, though, getting up to 300 yards or more in a single flight.
- 4- True. These creatures were so named because they are the only marine creatures known to actively hunt great whales.
- 5- False. The pelican sort of collapses and falls beak first into the water.
- 6- True, much like my brother-in-law, Fillmore.
- 7- False. In fact, Leopard Seals and California Seals have been clocked at speeds just under 20 miles per hour.
- 8- Yes. Seals have efficient tear ducts which wash excess salt from their eyes.
- 9- True. (More answers on next page)

TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY

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the 25th of each month.
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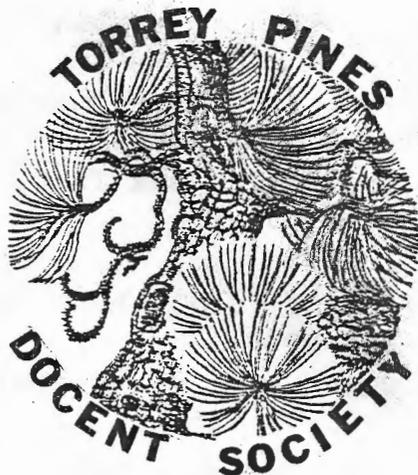
The free admission day to the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park will change from Tuesday to Thursday, effective Jan. 1. Everyone visiting the museum on Thursdays will be admitted with charge.

More answers to Quiz



- 10- True. The largest such find recorded to date was in 1948 when 21,600 Northern Fur Seals were discovered along a 214 mile stretch of the Alaskan coast. Reports that the Manson Family was responsible were unfounded.
- 11- False, false, false. The clotting time is about 5 seconds. This speedy clotting has probably saved the life of many a battling bull.
- 12- Yes, as a matter of fact they are whales. Whales, dolphins, and porpoises are all cetaceans. (None, as far as we can determine, are Rotarians, Kiwanians, or even belong to the Chamber of Commerce.)
- 13- C.
- 14- Yes, often another adult female will act as midwife and assist the newborn calf to the surface for its first vital breath.
- 15- During deep dives the heartbeat of the whale slows, oxygen absorption slows, and blood is directed away from the skin to internal organs.

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Scrub Jay