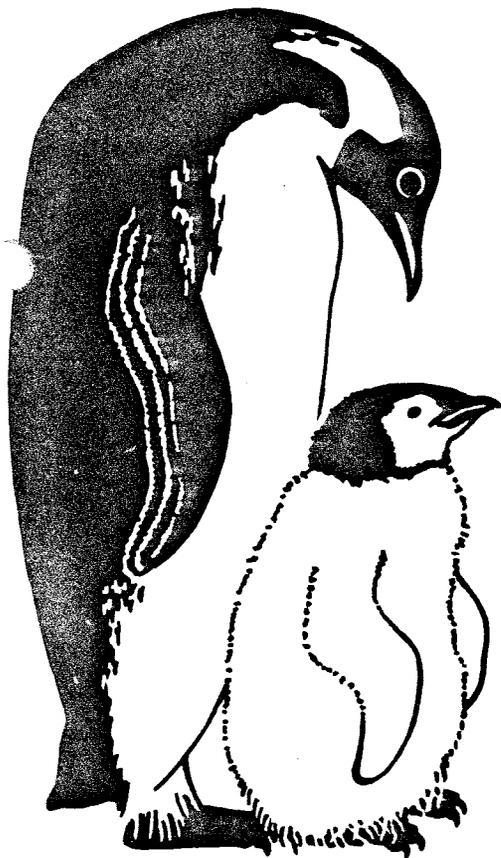




# TORREYANA

Published for Members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society, #92, Jan., 1983

## SEA WORLD GUIDED TOUR



The next Docent Meeting, Saturday, Jan. 15, will be a field-trip to Sea World. We will have a two hour, behind-the-scenes tour covering penguins, sharks, animal care, Shamu training, etc.

Cost will be \$5.70 per person for just the tour, or \$10.35 per person for the tour plus free admission to the park.

The tour starts at 9:30 A.M. SHARP at the Group Entrance (right side of Main Entrance).

Phone Bill Brothers at 286-7085 to make your reservations, no later than Jan. 7th, please. Family members are welcome.

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Don't forget to pay your dues, due in Jan. Send your check to Mary Miller, 667 N. Granados, Solana Beach, 92075, or to Rowdy James, P.O. Box 509, Del Mar, 92014, if you wish to remain on our mailing list.

Regular dues: \$3.00  
Supporting Membership: \$10

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## Quiz

1. Penguins protect themselves from icy water by secreting a thick layer of grease. True or false?
2. Penguins have been known to eat until their stomachs are distended and they sometimes vomit and begin eating all over again. True or false?
3. After swimming underwater, a penguin will rocket 7 or 8 feet into the air to get a breath. True or false?

# Report from the Ranger

## AFTER THE RAIN

Silvery glint of raindrops  
Cling precariously to pine needles  
Ear greets the soft plunk  
Ground meets falling water  
Steel gray clouds melt into ocean horizon  
Calm water brushed by light wind  
Wet sage smell tickles nostrils  
Red berries of toyon pleasing eye  
Dead spider frozen on glistening web  
Squatting to peer at the magic  
Toes chilly in slippery forest duff  
Footsteps cautiously retreat  
Gnarled bare branches like an octopus sculpture  
Frame the sea surface glare  
Finding my own shadow behind  
I turn to follow

By Rick Parmer

(Rick was our "loan ranger" from the campgrounds for a few weeks in December. The inspiration for his heartfelt poem came from a wander on the Guy Fleming Trail after the rain on December 9.)

## Quiz (continued)

4. The California gray, blue and bowhead whales are all protected species. True or false?
5. Will a mother gray whale fight to defend her young?
6. What is baleen?
7. A shark must swim in order to breathe. True or false?
8. The sea turtle has a hinged lower shell (a plastron) which allows for greater chest expansion and longer dives. True or F.?
9. Sharks and rays (e.g., manta or sting) are related. True or F.?
10. Pelicans are often friendly to man, sometimes developing close relationships. True or false?
11. A shark's skeleton is almost unbreakable. True or false?
12. All seals and sea lions are crustaceans. True or false?
13. What do star fish (more properly sea stars), sea urchins, and sand dollars have in common?
14. The streamlined shark has smooth, almost silken skin. True?

# Secretary's Notes by Julie Marine

The December Docent Christmas program was indeed another grand success. There were about 50 docents and guests, including rangers and park staff. It turned out to be the party of the year, with special festive touches like fresh poinsettia flowers, music, and tables filled with favorite Christmas foods. A Christmas tree with a small village was provided by Koziko, Ranger John Magee's wife, who also brought their darling little girl dressed in Japanese costume.

Docent-of-the-Year Award was presented to Ruth Hand by last year's winner, Vice-President Bill Brothers. Ruth has served as our librarian for several years and as Duty Coordinator for two years. This job is one of the most difficult duties to take on, so we are very happy and pleased that Ruth received this honor. Our congratulations and sincere thanks to you, Ruth.

Ruth Hand gave us another special gift. She read some Christmas stories, one by Ogden Nash and also a coyote story.

After the Christmas brunch we all gathered on the front porch in the warm sunshine to enjoy the special music provided by Judy and Tom Carlstrom. Judy played an instrument called the dulcimer and her husband accompanied her on the guitar. This was indeed a unique gift from this generous couple.

A reminder about dues- If you wish, you may bring your dues to the Lodge when you serve your duty in January. Just be sure to leave a note with your name when you pay in cash and leave it in the cash drawer. You will receive a membership card for 1983.

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## ANSWERS TO OCEAN QUIZ:

1. False. Penguins are protected from icy waters by a dense layer of very small feathers.
2. True. This is a trick they may have learned from the ancient Romans or a certain college fraternity.
3. True.
4. True, although in the case of the blue whale, it may be too late.
5. Yes, a mother gray whale will fight to the death to defend her young.
6. "Baleen is the great adaptation that has enabled many species of whales to attain their great size, because it gathers efficiently in great quantities the small organisms that have greater TOTAL weight and volume than large animals, and are easy to find and 'catch'. All this small food is strained in bulk by baleen plates, which hang on each side of the mouth from the upper jaw in two rows like venetian blinds, blades crosswise, and the fringe of fibers on the inner edge of each plate compacted into a porous wall that allows water to pass out. The baleen of the gray whale is short, white, and with coarse fibers, and not adapted to food finer than small shrimp of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch."

-Raymond M. Gilmore

# ANIMAL TALK

The chaparral is full of animal life, yet, how many do you see? Shy and secretive, many animals are nocturnal, and would seem to be non-existent if it were not for one thing.....TRACKS.

The elfin forest, for those of us who have learned to love it, is so full of "wonder"...with its wide variety of plants, flowers, scents and sounds, that we rarely stop to focus on the intriguing world of bird and animal tracks. If we take the time to observe, tracks tell us many things. They announce the miracle of new life in the elfin forest, they also tell us of the necessary tragedy of sudden death so that others can survive... ..(Tracks that abruptly end.....a small clump of fur...or feathers.. ...A MOTHER HAWK HAS FED HER YOUNG.)

Tracking is an ancient science. It takes, above all, keen observation, but also, years of practice to be a MASTER TRACKER. But, for us WEEK-END naturalists, there is a fun way to learn to identify animal tracks. It's called TRACK CASTING. You literally take tracks home with you, then with the help of a good track book, you can identify what you've found. If you would like to try it, here is what you will need.

A small box of Plaster of Paris; about 6 sturdy paper cups; 3 cups of water; 6 popsickle sticks (for mixing); a trowel or old knife for digging; 6 sandwich size baggies; and a strong trash bag, (so you don't leave a mess behind.) It is a messy project so wear old clothes and expect to come home with dirty hands. I've found tracks are the best on the first sunny day after a long rainy spell. If you see a nice track in dry sandy soil,...forget it!! It's too unstable and the results will be disappointing if not a total failure. Naturally, you wouldn't make casts at Torrey Pines or any other protected area! We have plenty of nice canyons around San Diego, and if they have a dirt road or dirt hiking path, they will have animal tracks.

When you have found your tracks, mix up a batch of plaster and water till you have a thin batter, (but not runny.) Plaster hardens fast if it is stirred too much so better practice at home first till you get the hang of it. If it's too thick, it won't fill all the crevices in the track and your cast will have some important "toes" missing. Pour the mixture into the track and then leave it alone for 15-20 minutes. DON'T RUSH IT! It may feel hard on the outside but remember that the earth is damp so it dries more slowly on the inside of the track. When it has hardened, dig a shallow ditch around the perimeter of the cast. Then, dig under the cast and lift it up, dirt clod and all. Flake off the loosest dirt and put your new treasure in a baggie for safe keeping. At home you can clean it up with water and an old toothbrush.

You can't imagine the thrill of your first animal cast. I carried my "first" around in my purse for a whole month till' I systematically bored every one of my non-nature-loving friends at work.

A TRACK is a negative image.....A CAST is a positive image. When you run your fingers over your CAST, you are feeling the actual contours of the animal that made the track. RACCOON TRACKS ARE WONDERFUL!!! (But of course I'm prejudiced.) Now, I don't expect all of you to rush right out to try this, but I hope a few of you will. You'll like it.....HONEST!

There are few things that I can think of that are more fun than.....

.....KEEPING TRACK.

(pun intended) - June

# Getting to Know You

Judy Carlstrom

To help you understand what attracted me to the training session at Torrey Pines last spring I must begin at the beginning. My first burning desire in life, at age 9, was to be a geologist, then an archeologist and finally a paleontologist. Not a book in the library was left unturned on the subject. A letter addressed to "An archeologist, Museum of Natural History, Chicago" brought me a response and a list of the best fossil-hunting grounds in Illinois, where my dad and I spent happy days collecting. But somehow, in early adolescence, my flair for the dramatic overshadowed the scientist within me and launched me on a modest career as a professional actress. With sidesteps into forensics, acting remained my predominant interest until mid-college when my quest for something more academically toothsome led me into foreign language. After time in Italy and a BA in Italian I decided that I wanted to teach. While pursuing a Masters in Foreign Language Education at Albany in New York I met my husband and was soon whisked off to Seattle, Washington as a new bride. After teaching Italian part-time at a language institute I pursued my MA in Italian Literature on an assistantship so that I could teach my very own college class. I also became acquainted with Hammer Dulcimer and soon began performing in a string band.

The move from Seattle to San Diego, 6½ years later, cut me loose from both Italian and hammer dulcimer (although my husband and I still perform monthly at "Drowsy Maggie's"). It was time to create new beginnings, revive some old passions! When I spotted the ad for docents in the Pennysaver I said, "Ah-ha- there it is! A chance to combine my love of the natural world and my flair for the dramatic." (And boy, am I grateful for that flair after my most recent walk with 18 cub scouts!) Needless to say I'm very happy that I followed my whim last spring and came to be part of your group. I hope that you will welcome my zany presence for I plan to be with you a long, long time.

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## ANSWERS TO QUIZ (continued)

7. True. The shark has no swim bladder like that of other fish and therefore cannot store oxygen. If a shark stops swimming for more than a few minutes, it dies.
8. True. The greater chest expansion means that the turtle can take in more air and dive longer.
9. True. Sharks and rays are related along with skates, saw fish, guitar fish, and a few others.
10. True, although most man-pelican marriages end in divorce.
11. False. A shark has no bones. The skeleton of a shark is cartilage and is easily broken. (The shark is one of a group of cartilaginous fishes.)
12. False. Seals and sea lions belong to a family called pinnipeds.
13. They are all members of the same family, Echinodermata.
14. False. Shark's skin is as rough as coarse sandpaper. The skin of a shark is made up of small, diamond-shaped bumps called denticles.

# Judy's Gentle Conglomerations of Thought

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!!! We certainly started things off in a festive way at the 1982 Docent Holiday Party. I would again like to thank the following people for making the party such a success: Millicent Horger for the Docentree, Mrs. John Magee (Koziko) and Julie Marine for the decorations, Ruth Hand for her readings, Bill Brothers for my door prize, and Tom and Judy Carlstrom for their musical entertainment, and of course, last but not least, all of you who came and joined the merriment.

Just as the New Year is a source of inspiration so too is the Torrey pine tree. Although we are familiar with art work associated with our pine, I'm not so sure that everyone knows that the pine has also been a source of celebration for the written word. I'd like to share with you a poem I found in a 1949 pamphlet of the Torrey Pines Association.

## THE TORREY PINES

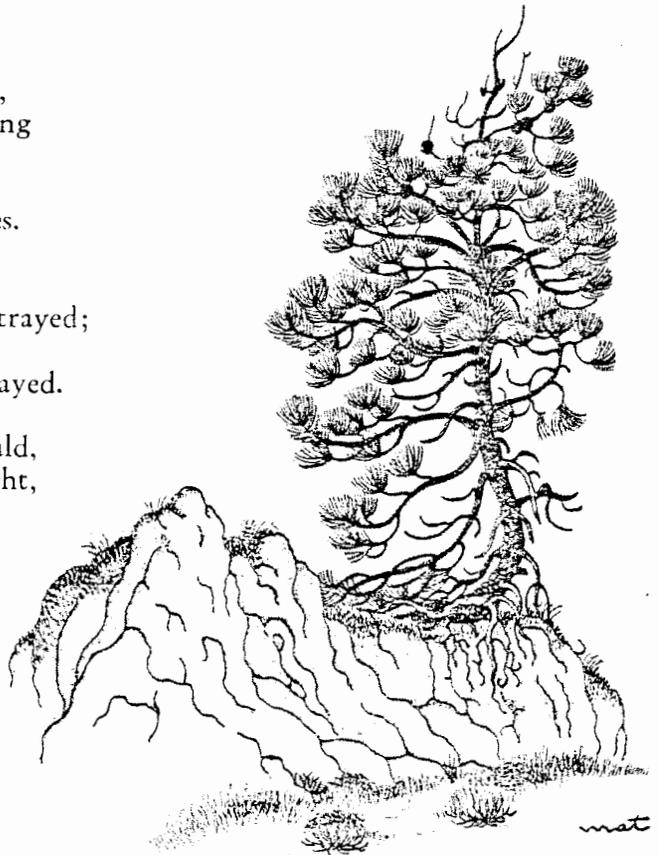
BY W. B. FRANCE

Out where the old Pacific roars,  
Its breakers voicing a wordless rhyme,  
Dashing forever on silent shores,  
Like waves of Life on the sands of Time,  
With far-flung branches and roots that cling  
To painted canyons and steep inclines,  
Proud of the story they lived to bring,  
They stand—the last of the Torrey Pines.

Eons ago, when man was young,  
From northern mountains their fathers strayed;  
Age after age they lived and clung  
To cliffs that torrents and winds have flayed.  
Fighting for life as years have wrought  
Their handicraft on the world they mould,  
Gaining strength from the fight they fought,  
Still they stood till their tale was told.

Faith is in them—a faith that sees  
The broader life of the singing spheres;  
Faith in the Infinite God of Trees,  
Who counts a day as a thousand years.  
Timeless ages they lived and grew,  
And carried on as their brothers fell;  
Seeing only a work to do,  
Knowing only to do it well.

Thus, as we each must come and go,  
We do our part as the ages climb—  
Human forces that ebb and flow  
Like waves of Life on the shores of Time!  
May we each, in the work we do,  
Whatever duties our fate assigns,  
Keep the courage to see it through—  
Hold the faith of the Torrey Pines.



mat

I started out looking for dwarf dudleya and finished up looking for great whales. I saw lots of dudleya but no whales. While I was wandering about, I came up to a view of one of my favorite places, Flat Rock. The tide was high. The surf was up. I saw a wave that would have broken my heart if I hadn't given up surfing because of old age and cowardice. The waves were hitting just high enough to sweep over Flat Rock without burying it in foam. The sun was shining past the cliff, putting a spot light on the rock. Of course my camera was in my locker three quarters of a mile up the hill.

I was standing in my New South Welsh backyard in Blacktown. A kookaburra landed on a bottlebrush plant just over a flower. The bird was having a fine time bouncing on the flimsy limb. It acted as though it knew what a fine picture it was making. My camera was in the house. If I ran for it the bird would be scared off. If I walked slowly and carefully, it would probably get tired of the game before I got back. The range was really too far for a good picture anyway. I opted to just watch and enjoy. Now that kookaburra and that red bottlebrush flower are a beautiful color picture in my memory. I don't need to set up a slide projector or open an album to see it.

You see a beautiful scene. You hear the birds singing. You feel the warmth of the sun on your back, the cool breeze on your face. It's the most beautiful thing you've ever seen. You raise your camera. You snap the shutter. You've captured it forever. When your print comes back, it's perfectly exposed. It's perfectly framed. You did everything right. But you can't hear the birds. You can't feel the sun. You can't feel the breeze. Sometimes you may be able to squeeze the three dimensional world onto a two dimensional print. You can't capture those extra dimensions of sound, and feel, and scent on film. You can't put your emotions on film any more than you can photograph the taste of a birthday cake. You CAN tuck all these things away, at least to some degree, in your memory.

A few years ago I saw a sunset at Asilmar. The sky was a fabulous blaze. It was framed by a crooked, picturesque Monterey cypress. The air was fresh and pleasant. I didn't have a camera, I didn't want a camera. No camera yet invented could have captured the scene. No photographer yet born could have done it justice. Some things are not meant to be photographed. Sometimes it's a blessing to not have a camera.

Hank

Correction:

In line 3 of Hank's Dec. article, change the word "impossible" to "possible". Blame the mistake on your editor's "impossible" hunt-and-peck system and the holiday heebie-jeebies.

**TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY**

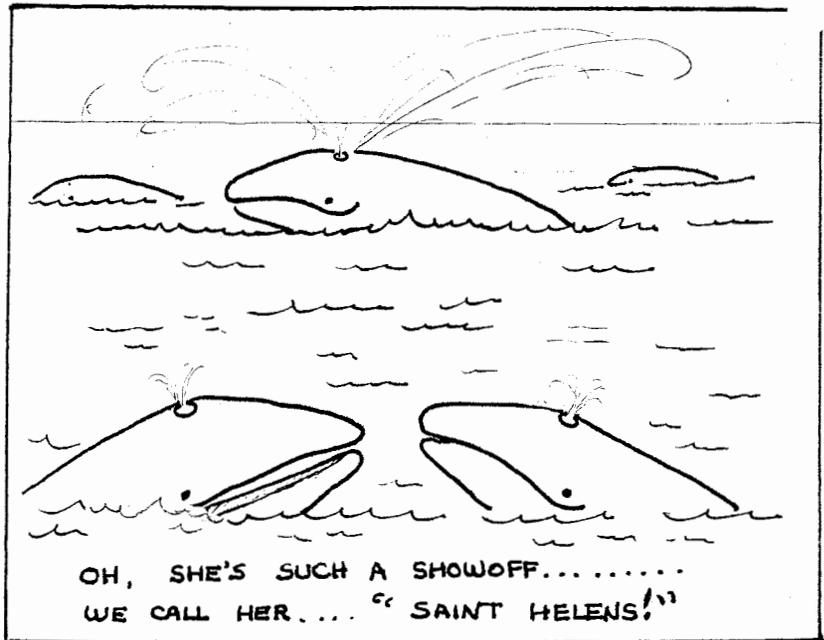
PRESIDENT- Judy Schulman  
Deadline for Torreyana copy  
the 25th of each month.  
Send contributions to:  
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13130 Carousel Lane  
Del Mar, Ca. 92014  
Phone: 481-9554

THE WHALES ARE COMING!

THE WHALES ARE COMING!!

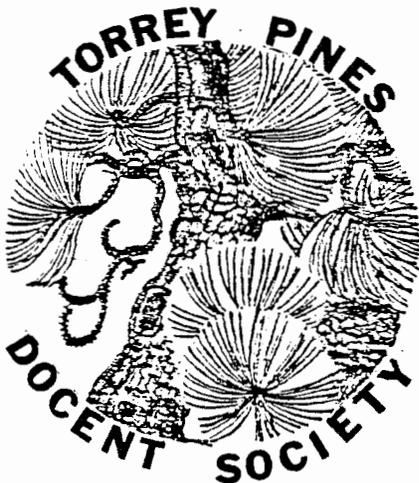
BAD NEWS

Usually if you grab a shark's tail, he will swim away, but not always-like now. But take heart. Wooden legs are still available in some seaports and the part of Captain Ahab may be available in a future remake of Moby Dick.



JUNE WARBURTON

Torrey Pines Docent Society  
C/o Torrey Pines State Reserve  
2680 Carlsbad Blvd.  
Carlsbad, Ca. 92008



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