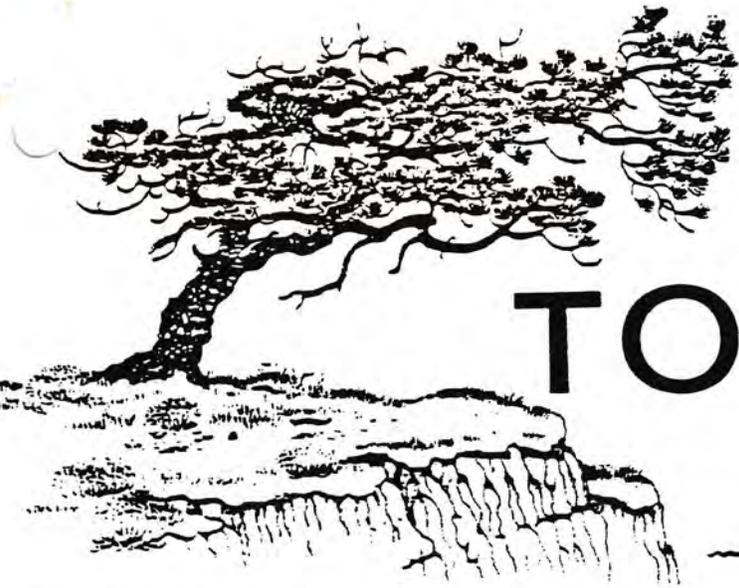


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TORREYANA

Published for Members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society, #98, July, 1983

NEXT DOCENT MEETING: Saturday, July 16, 10 A.M., North Beach Parking Lot
The July meeting will be a beach party and potluck lunch. Meet at the north beach parking lot at 10 A.M. Please bring some food to share with others, and bring your own plate, utensils, and beverage. A barbecue will be available for those who wish to cook hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. Families and friends are welcome. (There will be no business meeting.)

HELP HELP

IT'S YOUR DUTY: Docents (both full and associate members) are needed to sign up for July Lodge duty. There are many openings. Please sign up at the Lodge or call Glen Dunham at 455-6414 evenings between 5 and 9 P.M.



Report from the Ranger by RANDY HAWLEY



Believe it or not, the Museum project is moving along!
Over the next few weeks, the docents will be working with the park staff trying to recreate the Torrey Pines Lodge of 1923. The northwest corner will contain a two-person table setting in as historically accurate a setting as possible.

Judy Schulman has been a wonderful source of research material, and the recollections of Margaret Fleming Allen and Mrs. Birkholder (the wife of the former lodge manager) will be of great help. Carolyn Anderson has volunteered to weave a lampshade and wall plate of Torrey pine needles. John Floyd Interiors of La Jolla will be donating all the drapery fabric and hardware.

But things still need to be done. We need someone to refinish one of the tables, and we need to locate two chairs (ask for details). If you have table setting items or silverware from that period, please let us know at the next meeting. We have set the Docent Society meeting in August as the target date for completion. Please see Judy or myself for details. Hope you can help--and thanks!

RH

Secretary's Notes

by Isabel Buechler
(substituting for Julie Marine)

Twenty five docents and park staff attended the regular monthly meeting of the Docent Society on June 18, 1983, at the Lodge. The meeting was opened by President Judy Schulman, who awarded prizes to two attendees who found hidden "footprints." Ruth Cheney and Isabel Buechler were the winners.

Ranger Randy Hawley reported on the progress of the museum exhibits. One exhibit that is to be completed within a short time and at low expenditure entails refurbishing one end of the Lodge as it appears in the 1923 photograph of the interior. Randy asked for help from the docents in acquiring certain items such as a table, chairs, curtains, chair covers, a table setting for two (plates, silverware, etc.), a woven lampshade, an authentic 1923 Coca Cola calendar, and a copy of the 1923 San Diego Union article on the opening of the restaurant. Many of the items could be obtained through denations, and others would have to be purchased. Judy Schulman and Margaret Allen will have further discussions with staff members.*

Hank Nicol displayed samples of his photographs taken in the Reserve and to be hung on the walls of the Lodge. Most of the photos have been enlarged and framed, and Hank requested volunteers to help hang them. Frames are still needed for a number of odd-sized enlargements. Sharon Ramos and Nobie Hopper volunteered to help hang those already framed.

Refreshments (a luscious assortment of cakes and cookies donated by June Warburton, Betty Andrews, Glen Dunham, and Melanie Fields) were served following the meeting. Our thanks to those donors.

Hank led a nature walk on the DAR trail in the Reserve Extension. As noted in the June Torreyana, some of the plants in the Extension are not found in the Reserve proper. Such plants observed on the walk included the showy Delphinium cardinale, a tall grass called stipa pulchra, golden aster, Eastwood manzanita, and croton. Hank pointed out areas where there had been controlled burns, after which plants appeared that had long been dormant. No scarring of the trees had occurred. Hank also pointed out two non-native plants that threaten to spread out of control: pampas grass and Sydney wattle.

It was noted that Torrey pines donated by the DAR and planted close together had not attained the tremendous size of the trees that had plenty of space. Protected by ridges, most of the trees in the Extension are tall and straight.

*See Randy Hawley's REPORT FROM THE RANGER.

Isabel

Quiz

QUESTION: Dinoflagellates are: A. members of an obscure religious sect; B. dinosaur remains; C. plankton; D. the bony plates in fish gills.

News & Notes



A HERO IN OUR MIDST

Park Aide Clyde Walker, better known to us as Sarge, was instrumental in saving an individual who was trying to commit suicide by jumping in front of a train. The incident occurred one May evening when Sarge, on patrol at north beach around 5:30 P.M., was flagged down by a woman who said she and her sister had witnessed another woman trying to climb onto the railroad tracks. A young couple had been trying to restrain her. When Sarge approached the woman, a northbound train was speeding toward the point where she was trying to get up on the tracks. Sarge related that he "threw a flying tackle on her and held her down" about ten feet from the tracks until after the train had passed.

Sarge received a letter of commendation from Bill Fait, Area Manager of the San Diego Coast Area, as well as congratulations and words of praise from his coworkers. We're all proud of you, Sarge!

OUR TV STAR

Most of us know that Ranger Bob Wohl was a contestant on a TV quiz show earlier this year (and won several thousand dollars!). Now he's involved in a whole series, to be shown on cable TV.

State Park personnel recently completed three days of filming at Southwestern Cable TV, with our own Ranger Bob serving as moderator. In all, nine shows were made presenting various aspects of state parks, including historical parks, reserves, and San Simeon (Hearst Castle). Executive Director of the shows was Gary Quinliven, Information Specialist from Sacramento. Several of the participants are known to Torrey Pines docents: Kathy Watton (now at Gaviota), who discussed central valley reservoirs; Randy Hawley, talking on (what else?) Torrey Pines Reserve; Dick Edwards, Regional Interpretive Specialist, who spoke recently at a docent meeting; Leonard Ortiz, giving his views as Life Guard Supervisor; and Jim Whitehead, speaking on volunteers and community involvement.

Although dates for the shows are not yet known, it is expected that they will appear this fall on cable TV stations throughout the state. Let's hope we all have a chance to see them--and that after this exciting experience Bob doesn't decide to take up a new career!

OTHER NEWS

Park Aide Martha Black will be working as an Interpretive Specialist for Resource Ecologist Dave Van Cleve. She will be working out of the Region 4 office near Old Town. Part of her responsibilities will involve the development of Crystal Cove State Park north of Laguna in Orange County.

Margaret Fleming Allen and Judy Schulman gave members of the La Jolla Historical Society a walk through Torrey Pines State Reserve on May 29. The emphasis was on history and botany. Margaret had the walkers green with envy as she told them about her years growing up in the park.

We mourn the passing of new docent Mr. Rex Green, who had joined our organization during the 1983 training session.



by Judy Schulman

My research into the history of the Torrey Pines State Reserve area has resulted in my having learned about many interesting facets of local history. Camp Callan was one such facet. Another facet yet exists that may interest the racing enthusiasts among you. Although most of the buildings of Camp Callan were razed when the camp was declared surplus in 1946, portions of the roadways were kept intact. Between 1950 and 1955, the San Diego Junior Chamber of Commerce and the California Sports Car Club took advantage of this in order to sponsor the Torrey Pines Road Race. Spectator crowds ranged between 20,000 and 35,000 people. The 2.7-mile course was located on what would later become the Torrey Pines Golf Course. The photo below shows a section of the course with Broken Hills behind it.



The race course was thought to be one of the best of its time. Previous races had been held on abandoned air strips. Features benefitting the spectator and challenging the driver made the course a superior one. The course was laid out to offer a good view for spectators of all corners and straightaways from most of the spectator areas. The road itself had all types of turns, straightaways, inclines, hills, and bumps.

Over the years a variety of different races were featured. Such events included special races for women, pre-WWII veteran cars, and a 6-hour endurance race. There were 90-mile races for production cars under 1500 cc and 100-mile races for production cars over 1500 cc. The area was also the site of California's first night race. Cars that were raced included MG, Mercedes Benz, Jaguar, Porsche, Austin-Healy, and Mazeratti. Speeds of 123-130 miles were recorded. These were considered top speeds of the day.

Two major factors led to the closing of the Torrey Pines Road Race. First, the land was slated for development into a golf course. Second, several fatal accidents led to questions about the safety of the course. I am interested in finding out more about the race. If any member has information that they would like to share, please contact me at 452-7683. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

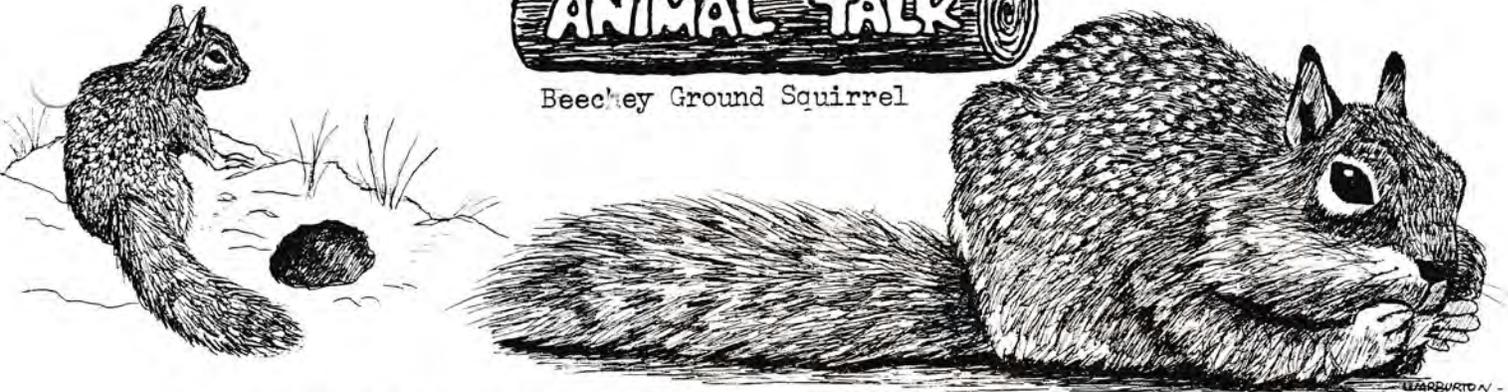
Judy

ANSWER TO QUIZ: C. Dinoflagellates are the species of plankton most usually responsible for red tides.



ANIMAL TALK

Beechey Ground Squirrel



The Beechey Ground Squirrel is the most commonly seen land mammal at Torrey Pines State Reserve. Larger than many ground squirrels, they sometimes reach 20 inches in length, (including the tail), and weigh from 9 ounces to almost two pounds.

Because the Beechey Ground Squirrels cannot physically tolerate extremes in temperature, and intensely dislike rainy weather, they spend over half of their lives either sleeping or hibernating in their underground burrows that are from 5 feet to 200 feet in length. In October, with much food stored up and excess fat on their bodies, the squirrels curl up for their winter hibernation. Duration of hibernations and times of spring births vary according to location and severity of the winter of that particular year. Around March, they begin coming out of their burrows to search for food and mates. Males mate with many females, and engage in fights with other males, over the females, which result in injuries and sometimes death. After mating, the male and female go their separate ways. The female now prepares for the arrival of her babies which will be born in about 28 days. First, she gives her burrow a thorough cleaning. Next, she builds a nest at the far end of her burrow where her babies will be safe. The nest is built with a firm outer wall made of sturdy sticks and stalks. The inside is lined with soft leaves and grasses. The mother chooses only dried materials, as green grasses or leaves would soon decay. The nest is small in diameter, but is 6 inches tall to provide warmth and protection for the young. Litters of from 5-8 are born early in April, and for six weeks the mother stays in the nest with her young. By the time they are six weeks old, they are weaned and growing restless. Soon, they venture out of their burrow to go exploring and to begin eating grasses, seeds, nuts, insects, berries, fruit, flowers and leaves. At this time, a large percentage of baby squirrels lose their lives to hawks, coyotes, bobcats, foxes, weasels and snakes.

By July, the weather will be getting too hot for the adult squirrels, and they will now retreat to their cool burrows to estivate (sleeping out the hot months). The young squirrels are able to tolerate the heat better than the adults, and usually don't estivate until their second year.

When the hot summer months are over, the squirrels again come out of their burrows and begin a frantic search for food. Large quantities of food are consumed and stored for the winter months ahead. Because predators are many, ground squirrels live in loose colonies, with their burrows fairly close together. This affords a good sentry system, for when danger approaches, one loud chirp from one squirrel will send the whole colony scurrying for cover.

As winter approaches, the young squirrels have each dug or renovated a burrow of their own, and with their storeroom full of food, they curl up for the long, cold, rainy season. During their hibernation, they will awaken for short periods of time to eat, and then return to their slumber.

In March, with much of their food gone, they will leave their burrows to seek food and mates, and the cycle of the life of the Beechey Ground Squirrel begins all over again.

- June -

Everybody should live in Santa Barbara. Unfortunately for everybody, he can't. Fortunately for Santa Barbara, everybody doesn't. Most everybody moves to San Diego instead. Nice place. More room. I lived in Santa Barbara. I was a student at Brooks Institute of Photography. I hope it shows.

Santa Barbara was a beautiful place. It's tucked along a narrow plain between the "mountains and the blue Pacific." The hills were covered with chaparral. The beaches were sandy. The view toward the sea was interesting because you could see the channel islands on almost any reasonably clear day.

Years later I went back to visit the school and see the town. If anything, Santa Barbara was nicer than ever. The downtown area had been cleaned up. The old theater, where I had worked as a doorman, had been renovated. The shops looked too pricey for me...but beautiful. North of town I came across an historical site. It was the MacDonald's where Eggs MacMuffin were born. The waterfront was as nice as ever. Nicer. Just one thing I didn't care for. The oil companies had changed the view. They hadn't removed the islands, but they had planted a long string of oil rigs between the beach and the islands. And now it looks as though we are going to get Santa Barbara style improvements to our view.

Why can't somebody come up with a design for an oil rig that isn't the very definition of "UGLY"? A few miles down the coast from Santa Barbara one oil company has done things right. It built an artificial island just offshore. Several wells were drilled from the island, and the derricks were removed. The island was landscaped with palm trees. There it sits pumping oil and looking picturesque. The citizens of Santa Barbara are reputed to have in their number many of the richest and most influential people in the country. If they couldn't stop the march of the offshore oil rigs, what hope do we have? If we can't stop them, maybe we can scream, shout, and agitate long enough and loud enough that the oil companies will do something about design. An archipelago of small islands planted with Torrey pines might not look so bad.*

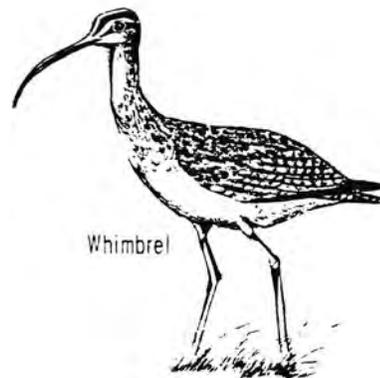
*Before you write or call, Hank knows perfectly well that Torrey pine trees won't grow well in pots 20 feet above the ocean spray.

Hank

Poetry Corner

There is pleasure in the
pathless woods,
There is rapture on the lonely
shore,
There is society, where none
intrudes,
By the deep sea, and music in
its roar:
I love not Man the less, but
Nature more.

George Noel Gordon
Lord Byron



LEARNING ABOUT LIZARDS by Judy Carlstrom

Even before I left on my trip to Zion National Park in Utah I knew that I would want to write something about it for the Torreyana. Torrey Pines is, after all, my home base and thus it offers me a reference point for all that I encounter elsewhere in the wilds. But would I experience anything in Utah that would be relevant to my fellow docents on a second-hand basis?

I have indeed found the visit very fulfilling in many ways that may or may not be relevant to anyone else. There are, however, several concrete factors that contributed significantly toward making our visit to Zion a five-star family vacation, and I would like to share some of these with you.

First, and most importantly, we met another couple with small children. It was good to have the company of others who shared our present lifestyle with all of its joys and miseries. We rented separate cabins (forget camping when you've got babies in diapers) with separate bedrooms for the children. Only after a good night's rest, a hot shower, and a good pancake and egg breakfast are you ready to hit the trails with four children under the age of four. Our days progressed in leisurely fashion. After our morning hike and picnic we would return for nap time, when the adults would take refuge on the cool lawn under the big willow tree to watch birds or study trail notes or make music. Nap time was followed by another pre- or post-dinner hike. Our trip was very much adapted to the needs of our children, but our friend Jeff made it a new and exciting experience for the adults as well, by bringing along his "lizard noose."

Jeff had taken a course in zoology at Berkeley some years ago from Robert C. Stebbens, author of the Peterson Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians. He was an instant convert to amateur herpetology. Stebbens has an entire chapter devoted to making captures, and Jeff himself had become quite adept at "noosing" lizards. The lizard noose consisted of a collapsible fishing pole with a slip knot at the end. The lizard is so intent upon watching his predator that he takes little notice of the pole and the invisible noose. With this simple technique we were able to identify the eastern fence lizard, desert spiny lizard, sagebrush lizard, side-blotched lizard, western whiptail, and a young western skink with the characteristic brilliant blue tail. Our children became very adept at gently holding lizards, toads, and frogs (only with adult supervision and only after the lizard had been declared to be of the "non-pinching" variety). They did not shriek and cringe with terror (as I did, much to my embarrassment) if a lizard happened to wriggle its way free and run up an arm.

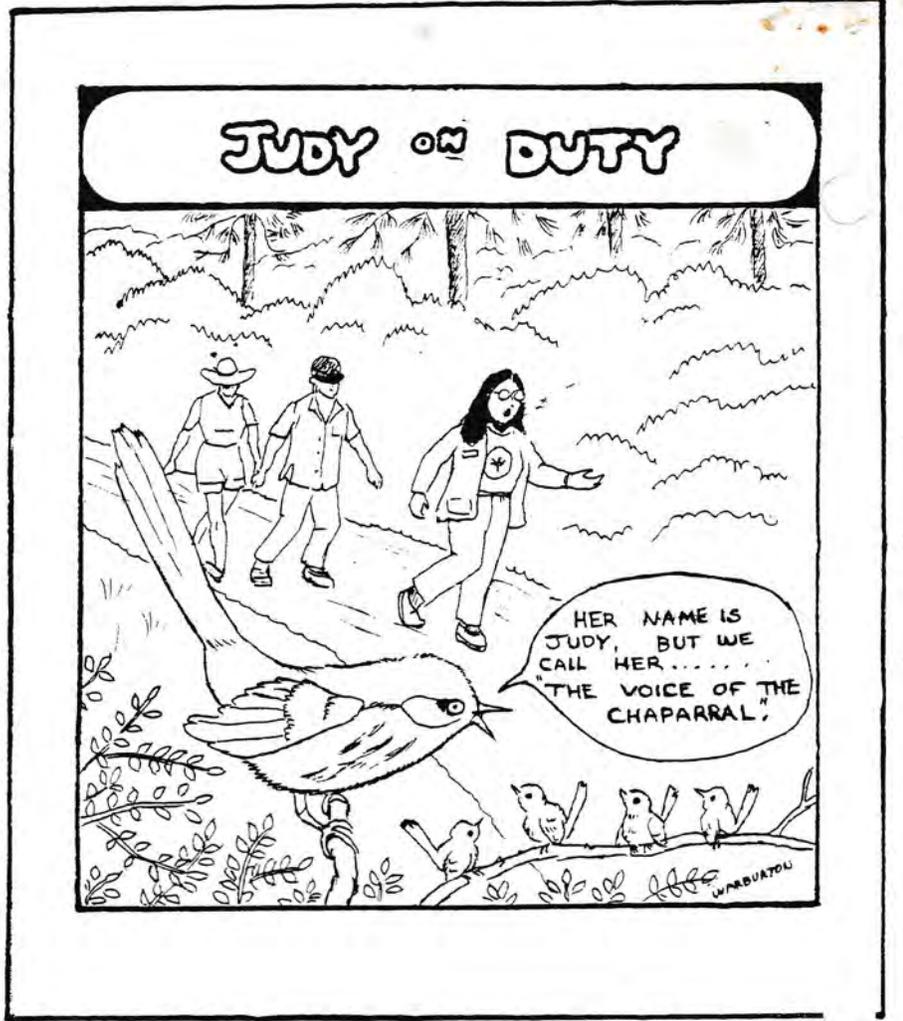
I have already had a rather thorny debate with our president on the advisability of noosing lizards and yet I cannot help but feel that the practice allowed me to develop an appreciation and affection for what, to many people, is an otherwise repugnant animal. Sharing this fascination with my children will, hopefully, teach them to respect and cherish such opportunities so that as adults they too can do their share to protect the habitat of such animals. I would like to employ a lizard noose on my walks and feel that, handled with discretion (i.e., one lizard per hike) and under supervision (i.e., "I am the only one allowed to do this"), its use can dispel the fear and disgust that the average visitor may feel toward reptiles.

(To be concluded in the August Torreyana)

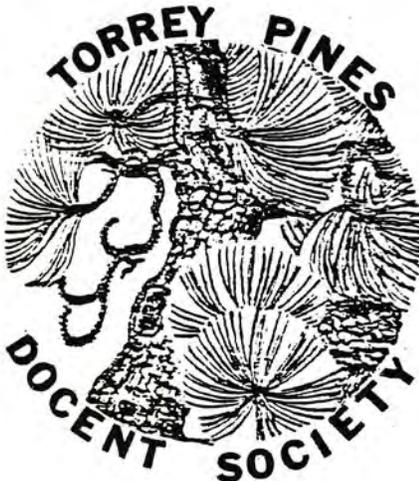
Judy Carlstrom

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HAPPY
FOURTH OF JULY



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