



TORREYANA

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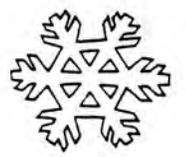
DOCENT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Don't miss the docent Christmas party Saturday, December 15 (our regular meeting date) at 9 a.m. at the Lodge. The pot luck brunch and decorations will follow a "Native California" theme, and there will be lots of good music by Judy and Tom Carlstrom, our professional folk singers, plus a surprise or two.

Everyone will be contacted and asked to bring a dish that fits in loosely with the theme. Don't worry, you won't have to dig up cattails or pluck prickly pears, unless you really want to, of course.

Family members and good friends are also invited. This is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow docents better and to share the seasonal spirit of good will. We hope you'll join us.

A very merry Christmas to you all!





ANIMAL TALK

My maiden name was...Sullivan.....(that's Irish you know). I like being Irish, but I am always saddened when I read about the tragic things that have been going on in Ireland. I am afraid that people will think that all of the Irish are violent and redical, but that isn't the case at all. Most of the people are very warm and gracious and have such a close relationship with Nature, that they can actually see, hear, and talk to....."the wee folk". That's right, I'm talking about elves, leprechauns and gnomes.....in fact,...some of the Irish can even talk to the animals in the forest. It's true....I know that it's true, cause I'm Irish, and I can talk to them too! Well, for instance,...just last week I was on duty at Torrey Pines when I had the grandest conversation with a mouse, a nice little lady mouse she was. It was one of those cold, overcast days, and there were no visitors to speak of, so Miss Mouse and I sat down in front of a nice warm fire, and we talked.....and talked... and talked. Well, we got on the subject of Christmas, and I said to her, "Miss Mouse,...what was Christmas like when you were young"? Of course in her case, that was just last year. She said, "Would you really like to know"? I said, "Yes, I really would". So she told me this story, and she said it was true, and just as she told it to me, I would like to tell it to you.

"A TORREY PINES CHRISTMAS" by Miss Mouse

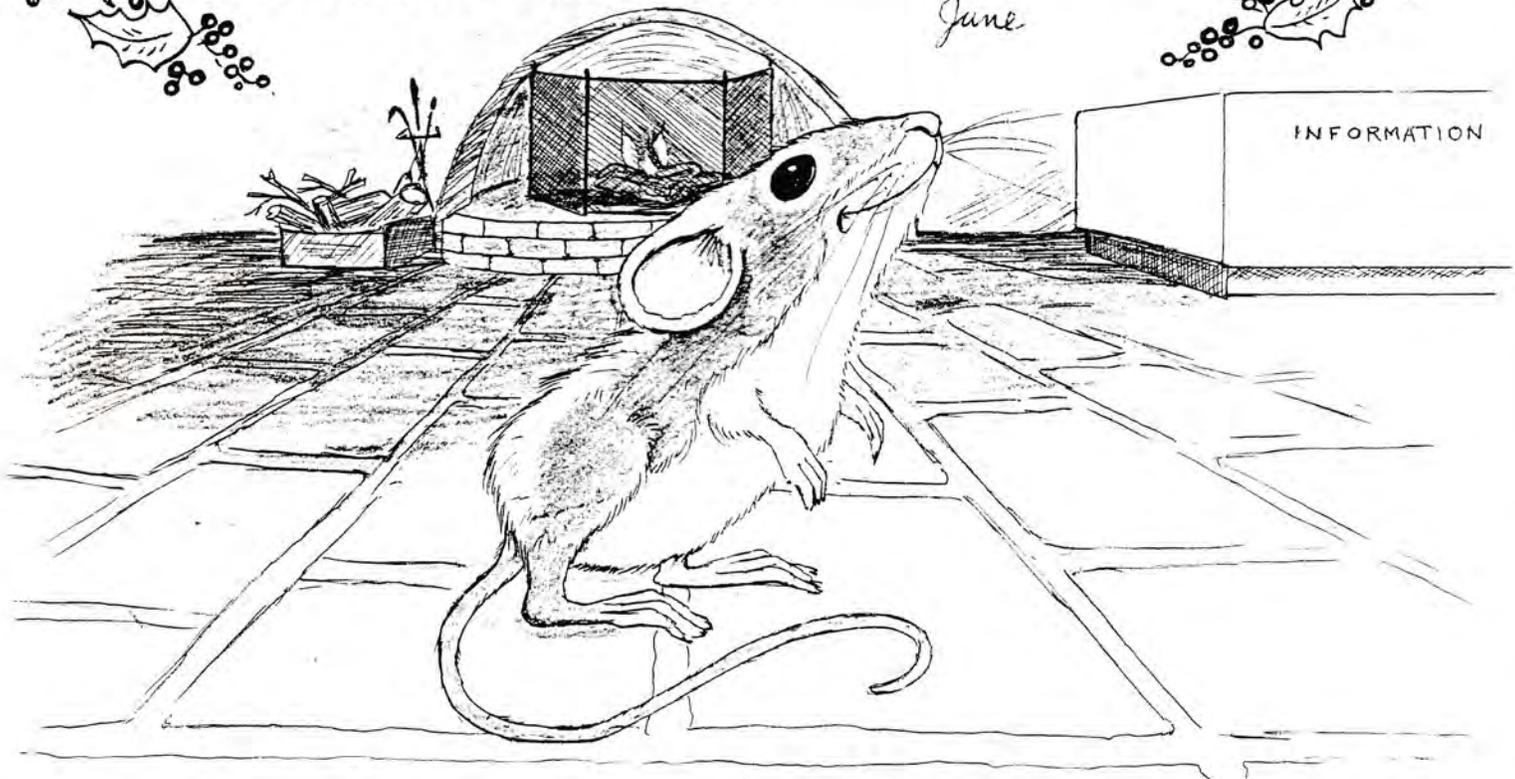
'Twas a week before Christmas,...I just couldn't wait,
The Docents arrived, and not one showed up late.
Their arms were just laden with "goodies" galore,
and my tummy just rumbled, thinking what was in store.
Casseroles, salads and cheeses and dips,
cookies and pastries and pretzels and chips,
sweet fruity punches and hot chocolate too,
oh when will they start.....what's a poor mouse to do??
I got under a table, where I wouldn't be seen,
and thought of how I would soon eat like a Queen.
I tried to stay hidden, but just had to spy,
Oh.....look at that Cheesecake.....and is that Cherry pie?
At last.....someone shouted...."Hey..who wants to eat"?
I almost was trampled by stampeding feet!!
They all walked right by me as they served themselves food,
they looked happy.....and hungry...in a Christmasy mood.
Now....the first thing to fall, was a candy so sweet,
imagine my luck, it fell right at my feet.
I ate it real fast, for I knew there'd be more,
and just as I finished,.....a grape hit the floor.
Then, two kids stood before me,.....I knew they were trying,
to reach for the cookies,...Oh good,...one just went flying.
It rolled to a corner, and under a chair,
and in one second flat.....I was right there!

(continued next page)

ANIMAL TALK

The cookie was loaded with walnuts and chips,
(who cares about calories,...the heck with my hips).
The food was just scrumptious, and not one thing was stale,
HEY WATCH IT THERE SARGE.....YA' JUS' STEPPED ON MY TAIL!!
Then while munching on something, "exquisitely" fried,
I thought of my friends, who were hungry.....outside.
The scrub jays, the towhees, an' the cottontails too,
they wanted some food,....but what could I do??
Meanwhile.....down went an olive, a radish,...a pickle,
Hey I know who will feed them,...their best friend..."Saint" NICOL.
So, when no one was looking,...I gave him the eye,
and subliminal messages started to fly.
Then with no explanation...and as quick as a bug,
he filled a big bag full of..nourishing grub.
There were apples and raisins and walnuts and seeds,
even lettuce for bunnies, he filled everyone's needs.
As the party proceeded, there was music and song,
but "Saint" NICOL sneaked out from the jovial throng,
for out in the garden,..(in the usual place),
my friends were all watching...they looked for his face.
It was such a grand party.....both inside...(and out),
we ALL...overate....there isn't a doubt,
But all good things must end, It was soon time to go,
but there's something that I.....would sure like to know.
As they got in their cars....and they put them in gear,
did they hear a "wee" voice,..calling out..from right here,
"Hey Hank.....and you Docents.....Bob, and your crew,
Merry ChristmasMerry Christmas.....Merry Christmas
.....to you!

June



Notes from the Naturalist by Hank Nicol

A story on the genetics of the Torrey pine has caught some attention. It was written by Dr. Tom Ledig of the U.S. Forest Service for the October 1984 Fremontia, the journal of the California Native Plant Society. I was standing right there when Dr. Ledig was doing some of his collecting. When he got back to Berkeley he tested the enzymes produced by 59 genes. He wanted to know how many would be different. None were. The result was what you would expect from a greenhouse of poinsettias which had been cloned from a single parent. This can happen when a species is reduced to only a few individuals. At one time there were less than 50 elephant seals. Now there are over 60,000, but their genetic differences are zero. Other plants and animals have almost no genetic variation, i.e., the red pine of the Northeast, the Western red cedar, and the cheetah. The lack of genetic variability can also happen where a single parent establishes a species in a new and isolated area, for instance the Torrey pine on Santa Rosa Island.

The pines of Santa Rosa also show zero percent variation. They don't look at all like our mainland trees, but, genetically speaking, they are just barely different. Two of the 59 genes are not the same. That makes a total of 3.4 percent for the two populations. Most pine species would vary from 10 to 35 percent.

Dr. Ledig speculates that during a long dry spell, from three to eight thousand years ago, the habitat suitable for Torrey pines shrank to almost nothing--two almost nothings, because the two populations already had been separated. I'm not sure that this population "bottleneck" didn't last even longer or come again later. No one seems to have a very good idea of how many Torrey pines there were in 1850 when C. C. Parry discovered them.

There might not have been many. The Coast Pilot for 1889 mentions a "hillock of 346 feet elevation sparsely covered with pines....this is the only pine covered hillock for miles...." Sounds like High Point, although it could be the Guy Fleming hill. Note that it said "sparsely." Very old and unconfirmed descriptions say that there were from 2000 to 3000 trees when Parry came back in 1883. He said that Torrey pines were "confined to a series of broken cliffs and deeply indented ravines...." That doesn't even sound like two or three thousand. Now we think there are more like 12 or 13 thousand trees. Are there more trees today, or are we just counting differently?

There are obvious dangers to a species with little or no variability.
(continued on next page)



Notes from the Naturalist (continued)

Some new virus, bacteria, fungus, or whatever could hit. All of the individuals would be equally susceptible. There would be no odds, or evens, with a possible resistance that could help the species to survive.

What should we do? Which way should we go? Dr. Ledig points out a direction. "...the strategy for conservation seems clear: the native population should be managed to maintain the maximum number possible to minimize the chance of catastrophic loss.

"Preservation by seed storage or in arboreta....preserves zoo specimens, not viable species. Administrative policies change and refrigerators fail...."

Extinction could be the result.

Hank



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT by Glenn Dunham

One important item that was decided at the last board meeting was that dues will have to be increased. For several years now, dues have not begun to cover the costs of printing and mailing the Torreyana. Starting in January 1985, dues for regular members will be \$7.00 per year, and for supporting members \$15.00. Honorary members, who do not pay dues, will have to be voted on by the board. The board felt that the increase was long overdue and certainly a small price to pay for the advantages of membership in the Docent Society.

Getting to Know You by Pamela Van Atta



From the time I could walk, I was hiking and backpacking with my parents. I am a native Southern Californian, and have spent most of my life in San Diego; naturally, I have been a Torrey Pines aficionado from a very early age. Tours down Fat Man's Misery and picnics under the pines have a very special place in my memory.

I received a B.A. from U.C. Berkeley (Scandinavian Studies; Physical Geography) and a Paralegal Certificate from U.S.D. During the summer of 1982 I worked as a Park Aide at the Reserve; after that and ever since, as a docent. I now work as a legal assistant for a small downtown law firm, volunteer at the Legal Clinic for Battered Women, tutor students in Norwegian, and sing in the La Jolla Civic Chorus.

My official TPDS title is Membership Coordinator, but to you, my fellow docents, I am your friend.

Pam

Secretary's Notes by Betty Andrews

A regular meeting of the Torrey Pines Docent Society was held on November 10, 1984, with President Glenn Dunham presiding.

Glenn displayed a copy of Indians of the Oaks by Melicent Lee, which he has purchased and is placing in the docent library. It is both factually and biologically correct and contains much interesting information on local Indians.



Janet Humphreys was introduced as our new Duty Coordinator. She passed the calendar around for signups and asked that she be called if there are changes in duties.

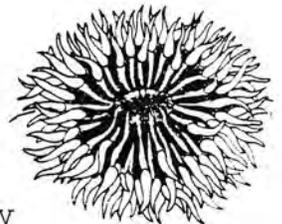
A list of upcoming events at Wilderness Gardens was passed out to those interested in participating.

It was announced that new docents will be in charge of the Christmas party on December 15, and that Karen Dusek has offered to be the chairman. The theme will be "Native California."

Judy Carlstrom introduced our speaker, Barbara Moore, from Scripps Aquarium (and a supporting member of TPDS), who spoke to the group on the fascinating life of the tide pools. She had many specimens to display, and her talk was followed by an interesting and informative slide show.

Thanks to Pam Van Atta, here is a list of critters seen on the field trip to the tide pools below Sea Cliff Park (Swami's):

sandcastle building worms	sea hare
goose barnacles (there's a story about these, which we'll tell later)	sanderlings and sandpipers (of course!)
buckshot barnacles	3- to 4-inch-long white egg clusters of unknown animal
oyster fossils (like those in the Del Mar formation by Flat Rock)	limpets
Spanish cape nudibranch (magenta with orange stinging tentacles)	shells of black and smooth brown turban snails
wavy top snail (and trap door)	tube snails
hermit crabs in olive snail shells	shore crab
carapace of cancer crab	many kinds of brown, red, and green algae, including:
chitons (some up to 4 inches long)	mermaid's hair
bat stars	sea lettuce
brittle stars in a hold-fast (rescued by Jeannie)	rockweed
harbor seal (close up)	bubble algae
	feather boa kelp
	two kinds of sponge:
	white
	orange
	sea anemones (solitary green; aggregate)



Can anyone think of anything she missed? Good work, Pam!

Report from the Ranger by Bob Wohl



I haven't been able to write for a while, since this year's work pace seemed greater than last. Mostly we have been understaffed by one Ranger (or one-third of the badged staff) and one Park Aide. To compound my time and energy dilemma, Robin, my wife, and I decided to accept the offer of the Guy Fleming Residence, after John Magee (and Kozuko and Andrea) moved to Big Sur. Moving is not my favority pastime, and though the Torrey Pines Association had spent nearly \$9000 renovating the Fleming Residence back in 1980-81, before the Magees moved in, I felt the interior was badly in need of paint. I spent nearly eight full days painting every room but the living room, whose dark red walls Robin decided to "flecto-verathane oil." It looks wonderful. We are definitely feeling at home.

However, while I'm settling in for a longer stay at Torrey Pines, my staff has been looking to expand their park-experience horizons--so off they go! Steve Woods left in March for Millerton Lake. Yvette DeView transferred with her husband, Ranger Mike Stavro, to Hungry Valley State Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation District (that's a mouthful) to combine their personal hobby (off-road motorcycling) with their careers. If you're traveling Interstate 5 up the "grapevine" past Gorman, stop by and say hello to Yvette and Mike.

Earl Jones arrived at Torrey Pines in August, but we knew he was seeking a Ranger position inland at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, even as he arrived from South Carlsbad State Beach. In fact, Earl has worked in our sister campgrounds since 1976 (and Torrey Pines much earlier), with two years absent at Point Magu near Los Angeles. It was time for a change.

As a matter of fact, all three Rangers had spent nearly their entire careers at San Diego Coast Area. They were due! We wish them our best.

Before you all start feeling sorry for Hank and me (yes, Hank will be staying), two Rangers will be taking the place of Yvette and Earl. More next issue on two very friendly and affable Rangers--the return of Greg Hackett, and the introduction of Brooks Collom--so "tune in" next time.

Bob



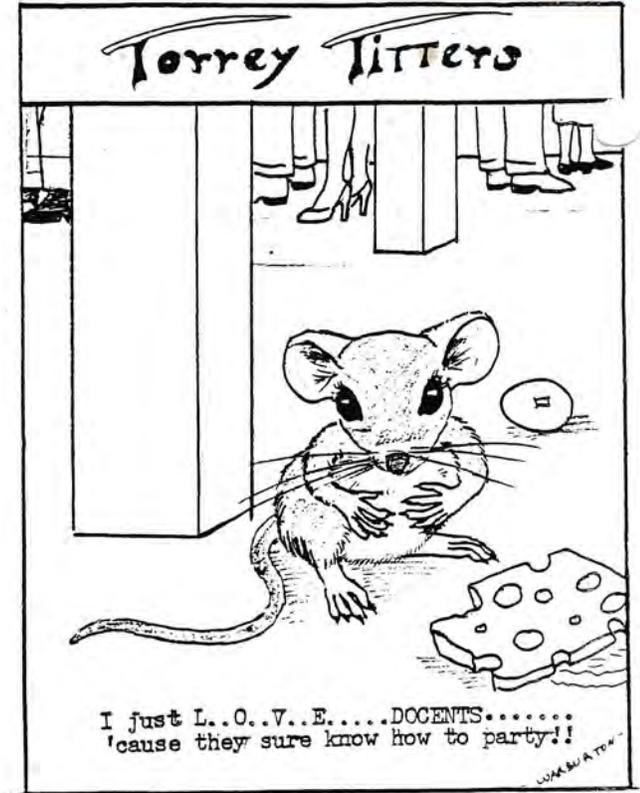
"Don't worry.
It's just his seasonal plumage."

← Does anyone recognize this person?

TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY

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A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON
TO DOCENTS, PARK STAFF,
FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS
OF TORREY PINES STATE
RESERVE



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