



TORREYANA

Published for Members of the
Torrey Pines Docent Society
and the Torrey Pines Association

No. 129

March 1986

Next Docent Society Meeting

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 9:00 A.M. AT THE LODGE

Following a business meeting and refreshments, we will carpool to the Extension for the walk which we missed in February due to rain. Ranger Bob Wohl will lead us on a walk to explore trails many of us seldom see. Most of us are looking forward to this as we do not often get to the Extension.

A meeting of the Executive Board will be held at the Lodge at 8:00 A.M., Saturday, March 15, preceding the regular meeting of the Torrey Pines Docent Society.



TRAINING SESSIONS

The 1986 Docent Training Sessions will soon begin. If you know of anyone interested in participating in our organization, please submit his/her name to any of the officers. The sessions begin Saturday, April 5 and continue weekly through May 10.

The April 19 session will coincide with the regular monthly meeting and give you all a chance to meet the new docents. Next month's TORREYANA will carry a schedule of programs for the docent training.

TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1985

Bank balance, January 1, 1985 \$ 2,524.23

Receipts, 1985

Sales \$ 4,167.91
 Sales tax collected 250.10
 Dues 500.00
 Donations 642.25
 Annual passes sold 7,970.00
 Interest 235.29
 Miscellaneous 447.52
 Overage 448.25

Total receipts \$ 14,894.61

Expenditures, 1985

Torreyana 1,063.39
 Sale items 4,776.81
 Sales tax forwarded 159.30
 Docent supplies 314.87
 State % of annual passes 5,977.50
 Museum exhibits 127.81
 Miscellaneous 208.90

Total expenditures 12,528.58

Excess of receipts over expenditures 2,366.03

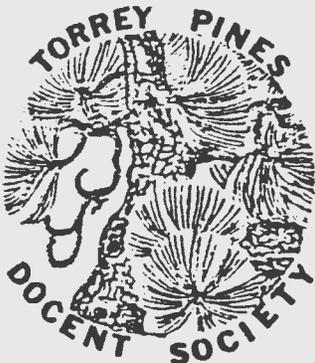
Total available funds 4,890.26

Cash on hand 246.49

Bank balance, December 31, 1985 4,643.77

Total assets, December 31, 1985:

Time deposit account \$ 2,500.00
 Checking account 4,643.77
 Cash 246.49
 7,390.26



Elizabeth H. Nicoloff
 Elizabeth H. Nicoloff, Treasurer
 January 20, 1986

Secretary's Notes by Betty Andrews

A meeting of the Torrey Pines Docent Society was held on February 15, 1986, with 23 members in attendance.

The nominating committee, composed of Millicent Horger, Isabel Buechler, and Bill Brothers, was called upon to present the slate of officers for the coming year. Those nominated were:

President, Janet Humphreys
Vice President, Grace Martin
Secretary, Marc Gittelsohn
Treasurer, Elizabeth Nicoloff

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate presented was elected unanimously.

Bill Anderson will be the new duty coordinator. Julie Marine and Pete Bardwick will be in charge of the bulletin board, and Marion Dixon will help Isabel Buechler with the Torreyana. Bill Brothers has offered to help Grace Martin with docent training, and Jim Nortman will help with program planning.

Judy Schulman spoke to the group about the League of California State Park Non-Profit Organizations. We are all members. About 76 organizations in the state belong. Judy is editor of the newsletter and she passed out copies of the latest edition.

Marion Dixon asked if there is money available for the purchase of books for the library. There is. Rowdy James said he can get a discount for us on any new purchases.

Bob Amann asked if the regular meetings might be scheduled for a later time. After some discussion it was decided that the new president will be responsible for this decision.

Refreshments were provided by Julie Marine, Jeanne Dunham, and Bill Anderson. Following this break, Bob Wohl led those interested on a nature walk in the immediate area. The scheduled walk to the Extension was postponed because of rainy weather and will be held next month.

Docent Doings

LETTER FROM PETER ELIAS

For those who've been wondering about Peter Elias, here's a letter, dated January 26, received by the Torreyana editor.

"Fellow Docents,

I am happy to report to you I am alive and well. This year I began a full time contract position in Child Development at Mesa College. I missed our December holiday party (my favorite meeting) only because of the flu.

Last summer I spent 8 weeks in Europe, 4 weeks hiking the Greek Isles, especially Western Crete and the Samaritan Gorge and Santorini (Thira or, as some believe, the Lost Continent of Atlantis). I continued in France, the Dordogne, where I reflected on 16,000-year-old cave paintings left to remind us

of our Cro-Magnon/Neanderthal ancestors. Of course, wine country - Paris - Frankfurt; the ancient walled city of Rothenburg and the Rhine River Valley. In England I visited Cambridge, Stonehenge, and Avebury Rings.

I'm looking forward to this year and my duty at Torrey Pines. Oh, yes, Halley's Comet was wonderful viewing at Mt. Laguna Observatory January 10, 11, and 12. I'm looking forward to seeing its glory at 4:00 A.M. March 8, 9, and 10 and especially April 6 through 11. (P.S. The Mt. Laguna Observatory area mountain lioness has a cub!)

Sincerely,

(signed) Peter Elias"

FINAL DUES NOTICE FOR DOCENT SOCIETY MEMBERS!

March 15 is the deadline for paying 1986 dues (\$7 for regular and associate members, \$15 for supporting members. Your check, made out to the Torrey Pines Docent Society, can be mailed to the return address shown on the Torreyana, or you can bring it to the March 15 meeting. Please indicate on the check that it is for dues.

Getting to Know You by Bill Anderson



My membership in the Torrey Pines Docent Society came about through my association with the Canyoneers of the Museum of Natural History, whose membership includes a few Torrey Pines docents. I didn't become a docent until I had lived in San Diego for many years, not because I had been putting it off, but because I wasn't aware until recently that there were docent societies around. In fact, when I first learned about it, I had to go to the dictionary to find out exactly what a docent is!

I hail from northern Maine, from French-Scotch-Irish stock-- French on my mother's side. I was reared in a French-speaking community, and now I welcome every chance to converse with a French-speaking person, so that I won't forget my "mother-tongue."

Our family moved to San Diego from Florida in 1962, when I accepted a position as a civil engineer with local government. In 1978 I resigned to take on a more active role at home. Now our son and daughter are grown and making their own way, and Theresa and I have joined the "empty-nesters" of the world.

I've always been an outdoors person. My idea of excitement is to hike in the wilderness with my camera and binoculars, and my sleeping bag on my back. I admire and protect (almost) all species of wild life, and I'm always thrilled to observe them in their natural habitat. Wild creatures have a certain beauty and dignity about them, and give the impression that they have accepted, and seem to be comfortable with, their dual role as prey and predator in the food chain. In a word, they are NEAT. And they have a right to be here too; in fact, we should be very glad they are!

Notes from the Naturalist by Hank Nicol

A LETTER FROM LITTLE HARBOR (Part 1)



Avalon is charmingly crummy. Buildings from the 20s and 30s, some kept up, some not so No McDonalds, no Arby's, not a Kentucky Fried in sight. The only chain thing I could find was a cramped Safeway about the size of the first supermarket ever. Considering the apparent monopoly status, its prices were, amazingly, reasonable. Avalon has a monster pavilion. It has steep streets, palm trees, boats. I loved it.

Somebody told me that Santa Catalina is 19.7 miles from the mainland. I was disappointed. The Four Preps had been telling me about "26 miles across the sea" for years. Then I found out that it's 26 miles from Newport to Avalon. I guess that makes it all right. We, however, caught the ferry from Long Beach. "We" was a group from the Catalina Conservancy, some students, and me. I was there because this expedition was to plant some Torrey pines.

We dragged into the Bird Park Campground well after dark. Some people put up tents. Some just crashed. All the others were better off than I was. I'd thrown four boxes of Wheat Thins, six cans of tuna, and a dozen carrots into a borrowed pack. That, and a sleeping bag, was about it. Instead of preparing for the trip I'd spent most of the day putting in a new water heater. The old one had given up during the night. "Water, water everywhere....."

The next morning I looked around. The filled-in wishing well I'd seen in the dark turned out to be an old, elaborate bird cage. The place really had been a bird park. We went down to the landing to meet Dr. Bob Haller. We missed him, but we made connections a bit later. Dr. Haller is a botanist, a leading scholar, and a professor at U.C. Santa Barbara. His wife, Dr. Nancy Vivrette, came along. She is Chief Naturalist for the Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens. All of us were collected by a truck and a van from the Catalina Conservancy.

The Conservancy owns most of the island. The land was acquired from the Wrigleys of the chewing gum (and Chicago Cubs) fame. The Conservancy is trying to protect and restore the land. No one is allowed to drive a car or truck very far outside of Avalon without a permit. I was told that there are only about 200 cars on the island. There seem to be a lot of golf carts and motor scooters. These are classed as motorcycles and are not allowed in the back country, period.

On our way across the island we stopped at a place where we could see a small grove of Catalina ironwood and a few large Catalina cherry trees. I learned that the tree sold by nurseries as Catalina ironwood is really a subspecies from Santa Cruz Island. The area around Avalon is loaded with exotics. Some are escapees. Cenista linifolius is growing over most of the island. It's related to the brooms, but every plant I saw had leaves. Some exotics had been spread around on purpose. I saw Aleppo, chir, and Canary pines, deodar cedar, and a monster pittosporum among others. Monterey pine, incense cedar, black oak, and Coulter pine have been brought in from other parts of California. The exotics thin out, but don't disappear, along the west.

We visited the "Airport in the Sky" up in the hills. The spot was picked as being free of fog, but the flattening of two hills for the airstrip changed the weather pattern. The strip is not level. It has a hump in the middle. Coming in uphill is no problem. When the wind shifts, and a plane has to come in the other way, the hump can toss it right back into the air. Gives a little extra thrill. The airfield has an "early California" control tower; white walls, red tile roof. Right next to it the Conservancy is building an interpretive center. Eventually the floor will have a twenty-foot-long mosaic map of the island. An interpretive garden is already well along.

The airport is of great financial comfort to the Conservancy. Private pilots pay \$5.00 to land. Commercial flights are more expensive. The big money maker is mooring fees for boats. Somewhere around 25 hired hands run the show. Besides seven or eight on the airport gang, there's a ranch crew, two patrol rangers, one naturalist, and four administrators. The administrators spend some time beating the bushes for contributions, and everybody sometimes doubles as a limousine driver for the trip between the airfield and Avalon. The Conservancy controls 66 square miles of the 75-square-mile island. It has 54 miles of coast and three campgrounds. Even though the campgrounds are run by L. A. County rangers, it seems plain that the Conservancy doesn't have enough people or enough money to do everything it's trying to do. (Concluded next month.)

Along our Bloomin' Trails



OUR STONY ROOTS by Marion Dixon

Torrey Pines docents, like postmen, are undaunted by stormy weather. Perhaps that should read "semi-undaunted," since they did change their scheduled walk through Torrey Pines Extension following the annual meeting on a rainy February 15 to a closer-to-home, if not dryer, trek to old Indian campgrounds about 10 minutes southwest of the Lodge.

Led by Ranger Bob Wohl into uncharted territory where archaeologists have officially recognized some hundred- to thousand-year-old firesites, docents examined rocks charred and reddened by fire and differing in size and composition from native rocks in the area. (These areas are not open to the public, and docents need permission to enter them.)

Bob described some stones as possible "manos," that is, for use by hand (Sp. "mano" = "hand"). He also pointed out clear evidence of large middens along the side of the road leading to the golf course, with whole scallop and oyster shells as well as fragments clearly surfacing. The black, loam-like earth surrounding the shells owes its richness to organic material, unlike the mineral-based sandy soil nearby.

In addition to exploring their Indian roots, docents observed spring "busting out all over," with the yellow bush poppy, rock rose, and telegraph weed, pink lemonadeberry, orange Indian paintbrush and monkey flower, blue-blossomed black sage, purple nightshade and phacelia, white ceanothus and forget-me-not already in bloom. Miniature dudleya, nestling among the pebbles they resemble, were a new plant for many. A rufous-sided towhee and a covey of quail rounded out a satisfying nature walk.

(The trip through Torrey Pines Extension was rescheduled for the March meeting.)

More whales sighted this year

By **PAMELA WILSON**
Staff Writer for The Citizen

NORTH COAST — San Dieguito residents with an affection for the multiple-ton mammals that pass our shores each winter will be happy to know the California gray whale is on schedule in a big way.

According to figures provided by the Los Angeles and San Diego chapters of the American Cetacean Society, this year's whale watchers are seeing plenty of the leviathans on their way to spawning lagoons in Baja California.

"When you look at the numbers," said census coordinator Alisa Schulman, "we've definitely seen many more whales this year than last year."

Schulman said the Los Angeles chapter of the Cetacean Society is counting whales daily from two spots on the Pacific Palisades coast and

from a lookout on the west end of Santa Catalina Island.

In addition, the San Diego chapter is counting whales about four days a week from San Clemente Island, 60 miles off the San Dieguito shore.

Schulman said this week is the peak of the season for the southward migration past Los Angeles and San Diego. By the end of February some whales will be passing north on their return trip to Alaska.

Schulman said volunteer lookouts sighted 632 gray whales off the Pacific Palisades coast between Dec. 1 and Jan. 29, as compared to 525 sightings during the same period last year.

About 639 whales were sighted by lookouts on Catalina between Dec. 28 and Jan. 29, compared to 449 whales spotted last year.

Although the numbers of whales spotted are up since last year, Schulman said they appear roughly equivalent to the numbers counted in 1984.

Whale counts seem to fluctuate somewhat from one year to the next. Schulman said this can depend in part on whether the conditions for spotting the whales are good or not.

The Cetacean Society is the main group in California doing a census of the whale migration. Spokespersons at local offices of the state Department of Fish and Game, the National Marine Fisheries Service, Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the San Francisco office of the Oceanic Society said none of their researchers are doing a comprehensive whale count this year.

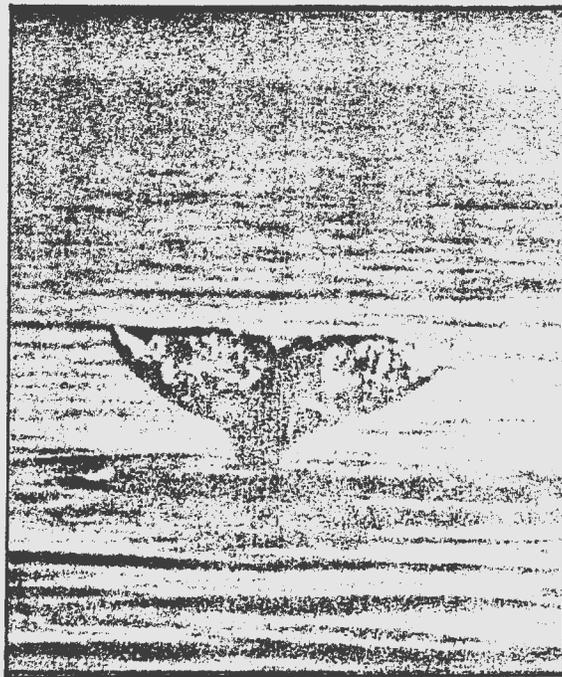


Photo by R P Keller

TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY

President: Glenn Dunham

Deadline for Torreyana copy is the 25th of each month.

Send contributions to:

Isabel Buechler, Editor
3702 Oleander Drive
San Diego, CA 92106

Phone: 222-7016

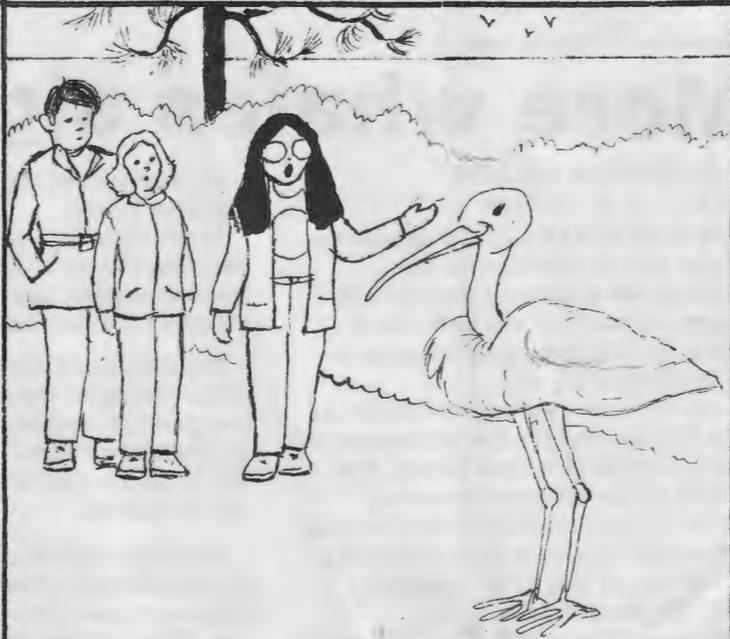
Poetry Corner

Leaves Compared with Flowers

A tree's leaves may be ever so good,
So may its bark, so may its wood;
But unless you put the right thing to its root
It never will show much flower or fruit.

Robert Frost

JUDY ON DUTY



No, Storks are not indigenous to Torrey Pines Reserve. But that one made a delivery here last summer and liked it so much he never left.

Torrey Pines Docent Society
c/o Torrey Pines State Reserve
2680 Carlsbad Boulevard
Carlsbad, CA 92008



FOR

Judy Schulman
4055-148 Porte La Paz
San Diego, CA 92122

