



TORREYANA

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

No. 143

June 1987

Next Docent Society Meeting

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 9:00 A.M. AT THE VISITOR CENTER

The June meeting will feature a discussion on "Pressures That Impact the Reserve." The topic will be covered by Ranger Bob Wohl as well as docent Elberta Fleming, who has long been a member of the Association of Interpreters and the Western Interpretive Association. In addition, we will be privileged to have Joan Jackson, Chair of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Conservancy, who will answer questions the docents may have regarding this topic.

RARE VISITORS AT LODGE

When Pete Bardwick was doing museum duty recently, he spotted an unusual park visitor about 11:30 a.m. In the triangular garden area in front of the Lodge was a very large (Pete says much larger than the specimen in our museum) bobcat! Pete watched as the animal walked to the path, went toward the parking lot, and then headed east through the trees. Both Pete and Hank Nicol observed the bobcat and, as luck would have it, neither had a camera. As they were checking the vicinity ten or fifteen minutes later, they spotted a young one on the east side of the Lodge. Rare Lodge visitors indeed!



Bobcat

The bobcat, one of North America's smallest native cats, got its curious name from its unusually stubby, "bobbed" tail. Looking a bit like a house cat but bigger and much stronger, bobcats weigh about 20 pounds, stand 15 inches tall and measure 25 inches long. These clever animals are successful hunters, catching mice, squirrels, rabbits, and occasionally a deer, in the forests of most of the lower 48 states. Bobcat kittens are born in hollow logs, small caves, even deserted shacks, in the spring or early summer. The female parent teaches her offspring how to hunt and, by fall, the young go off to begin life on their own.

Secretary's Notes by Joan Jollett

The Torrey Pines Docent Society monthly meeting was held at 9:00 a.m. at the Lodge on Saturday, May 16, 1987, with 35 members and guests attending.

President Grace Martin handed out new membership lists, which are for docent and park staff use only. Duty coordinator Maurie Brown reminded docents that when school is out in June, weekday docent duty is important. Grace requested an interested volunteer to help with organizing a better system for keeping track of our library books. The new green jackets to be worn on trail patrol and nature walks were displayed; some are available in the docent room, or full docents may purchase their own (see President's Notes, page).

Our speaker was Ranger Bob Wohl, who gave overall guidelines for persons doing trail patrol. Ranger Greg Hackett reinforced Bob's remarks with examples of the need to be as helpful as possible. (Highlights of the presentation are given on page .)

Following a break for refreshments, supplied by Ruth Cheney, Millicent Horger, Rowdy James, Chuck and Judy Morrow, and Judy Schulman, Greg led a tour of out-lying areas of the Reserve. Destinations were the newly acquired 200 acres in Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, the Flintkote Road area east of the highway, and Lovers' Lane, which overlooks the lagoon and the east side of the Reserve. Our thanks go to Greg for this informative tour.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES by Grace Martin

We certainly appreciate Milli Horger's efforts as Membership Chairman in preparing the new membership roster. For those who did not attend the May meeting, copies will be available at the June meeting.

Trail patrols are starting. Anyone interested in this phase of our work should see Ranger Bob Wohl before signing up for that duty. There will be a separate calendar for duty hours for trail patrol, the plant removal project, and maintenance work.

The requirement of doing a nature walk and trail patrol in jackets has gone into effect, so please remember to put on a jacket before leading any walk.* The jackets are available in the closet in the docent room. Should you wish to purchase one, they will be available at meetings, or call me at 452-1176. The cost is \$13.62, plus a possible \$1.00 charge for the patch if you do not have one to affix to the jacket.

We have some very enthusiastic associate docents from the recent training session, and we look forward to their becoming full docents very soon. Please help them in any way you can.

(*Ed. note: It was mentioned that jacket may be replaced by cooler green T-shirt in warm weather.)

BIRD-OF-THE-MONTH FLEW THE COOP

Our birder friend Jim Bittner recently sent greetings from British Columbia where he has been vacationing, birdwatching, and otherwise enjoying the beauties of the Pacific Northwest. He promises to summarize his adventures in next month's Torreyana article.

TRAIL PATROL: DO'S AND DON'TS

Some of the points made at the May meeting by Ranger Bob Wohl in his talk on trail patrol bear repeating, particularly for docents who plan to participate in the new program.

Bob stressed that emphasis should be placed primarily on helping the public through interpretation, information, and directional assistance, and secondarily on serving as "eyes and ears." Docents, of course, should know park rules and regulations, especially about eating, drinking, dogs, and staying on the trails.

There will be a separate signup list for docents doing trail patrol, and a specific itinerary will be stated on the sheet. The first couple of times a docent goes on trail patrol, he or she will be accompanied by a ranger.

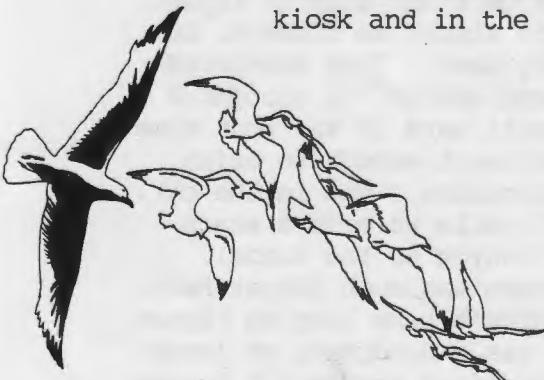
Listed below are suggestions for helping docents realize a successful trail patrol program.

1. Give verbal warnings in a tactful, interpretive, non-threatening manner.
2. Avoid "citizen's arrests."
3. Refer anything problematic to the ranger.
4. Do not threaten anyone with a ranger citation.
5. Use an interpretive reason when warning people, such as safety or protection of the environment.
6. Carry a notepad and pencil, and use binoculars if you have them.
7. Take a list of phone numbers: Lodge, 755-2063 or 452-8732; main kiosk, 755-1275; dispatcher, 729-8947.
8. Remember that radios are located at the main kiosk and North Beach kiosk and in the ranger vehicles.

Quiz

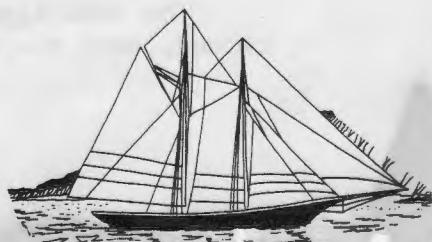
What did the Spanish explorers call the Torrey Pines area?

Answer on page 6 .



A SUNNY DAY FOR SEAFARERS

Torrey Pines docents who attended the May 18 Docent Council affair at the Maritime Museum were treated to tours of the Berkeley and Star of India, a 30-minute film about the Star of India, a delicious buffet luncheon on board the Monterey, and a sightseeing trip on the bay. There were plenty of opportunities to mingle with docents from other groups and to learn something about seafaring history, all the while enjoying a welcome day of sunshine. Representing TPDS were Ruth Cheney, Millicent Horger, Janet Humphreys, Dell and Bob Margulies, and Isabel Buechler.



Notes from the Naturalist by Hank Nicol

THE PINNACLES

PART III A COWARD'S TALE

The Grizzly Gulch Visitor Center sold flashlights. I wondered why. Over at Chaparral on the west side the ranger station had flashlights too. Here you could buy one for \$2.25 or rent one for a quarter. Why? The flashlights were for the tunnel. What tunnel? I had to know. I rented a flashlight.



The sky was clear. The temperature was perfect. The path was easy. I soon saw why this trail was called "The Balconies." The mountains above us rose in a series of cliffs..., balconies. Surat and I started into a canyon. The way became narrower and narrower. Remember Fat Man's Misery? Imagine Fat Man's with a floor of two- to four-foot boulders. Now, did you see Raiders of the Lost Ark? I thought so. Remember the giant ball of rock that chased Indiana Jones out of the cave? The boulder that made the roof of the tunnel entrance looked just like it, only three times bigger.

I poked my nose inside. The cave was very, very dark. I turned on the flashlight. I crawled inside. The "trail" went down a steep 20 feet and then reversed course. I discovered I had a new phobia. It seems I have an extreme, overwhelming, unreasoning fear of crawling through narrow, damp, dark places where I might slip, fall, or be turned into mush. I decided not to be a hero to my son. I suggested that we try the alternate route. I didn't hear any strong objections.

The bypass was steeper than the lower trail. The Park Service designation of "moderate" just about covered it. It might be a hot walk in August. On a sunny day in January it was no sweat. There were almost no flowers, but the vegetation was greening up. We saw three browsing deer. They meandered



across the trail and disappeared uphill. I thought I saw one wearing spikes. I wasn't sure it was that time of year yet, and I hadn't been smart enough to bring either of the two pairs of binoculars I had in the car. After about three quarters of a mile we made a sharp right. We entered the narrow canyon to the tunnel, from the other end. The entrance was much larger here. Inside we saw two caves. It didn't take long to figure out that the one on the right was a dead end, at least for anyone bigger than a medium sized possum. I turned on the flashlight and stumbled over boulders into the cave on the left.

I turned the corner and looked around. Up a steep slope, and not too far away, I could see the faint, blue glow of daylight. Surat had wandered off. I called for him to come on in. He got up to where I could hand the flashlight back to him. I realized I was being rained on. My back was getting wet. I was getting cold feet too. As a favor to my son and heir, I decided to go back the long way. Any excuse in a storm.

The next time you hear somebody complain about Fat Man's Misery having been closed, send him to the Pinnacles for the ultimate, claustrophobic thrill.

Hank



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LOS PEÑASQUITOS LAGOON FOUNDATION REPORT by Jessie LaGrange

At the May 13, 1987, meeting, Ann Omstead, staff coordinator and secretary, reported that she had received a check for \$100,000 from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. This was the [sum of] fines imposed upon the City of San Diego following sewage spills into the lagoon. City representatives from the Water Utilities Department had met with Ladin Delaney of the State Board to discuss expenditure of the fine monies, agreed upon as follows: \$70,000 for lagoon mouth opening, \$30,000 for sewer and berm construction, as preventive maintenance against any possible future sewer spills.

The treasurer's report showed our balance to be \$3689.10 after withdrawals for payment of bills, which included Robert's Earth Moving (\$7000) and staff salary (\$500). The Coastal Conservancy was to be contacted immediately since \$12,000 from that agency did not arrive at the anticipated date.

At the request of City of San Diego representatives, a meeting was scheduled for May 18, to include Technical Advisory Committee members of the Lagoon Foundation and City Water Utilities Engineers, in order to submit a plan of action to the State Water Quality Control Board at the June 15 meeting of that agency.

Terry Thelan introduced himself as a member of the Commission for the Water Quality Control Board. He needs information to share with eight other members regarding the effects of sewage spills on the wetlands. He has requested copies of the enhancement plan as well as monitoring data for the past year. This will be provided as well as plans for the coming year as these plans are developed.

Steve Zimmer introduced Chuck Spinx of Leedshill-Herkenhoff, who will enter a contract to supply services needed to benefit the enhancement plan. A motion was passed to accept the Spinx proposal, which includes an offer by Pardee developers to pay all costs of services rendered. A prioritized list of projects will be provided to the State Water Board and Commission to implement restorative measures as soon as possible.

The By-Laws Committee report indicates that when the Lagoon Foundation separates from the Coastal Conservancy, one of the benefits will be the ability to keep our own financial accounts. The entire report will be complete by the next meeting.

Opal Trueblood of the Del Mar Terrace Conservancy described the approval of the Beau Soleil development by the City Planning Commission and the cooperation of the City of San Diego in furthering the developer's plan for condominiums adjacent to Torrey Pines State Reserve. The Conservancy is negotiating with the Trust for Public Land Agency in an attempt to hold the land for public acquisition.

Jordan Covin and Chris Nordby of the Biology Department of San Diego State University have been awarded the monitoring contract for the second year of the lagoon enhancement program. The cost estimate for the year is \$9640.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 10, 7:00 p.m., at the Great American Savings meeting room, Big Bear Shopping Center, Via de la Valle, Solana Beach.

Torrey Pines Docent Society

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Deadline for Torreya copy
is the 25th of each month.
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"I have a fear of flying."

ANSWER TO QUIZ:

Punta de los Arboles.



FOR

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