



TORREYANA

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

No. 194

January 1992

Next Docent Society Meeting

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 9:00 A.M. AT THE VISITOR CENTER AND THEN TO OLD TOWN

The business meeting of the Docent Society will take place as usual at 9:00 A.M. Saturday, January 18, in the Lodge. Then members will car pool to the Old Town Visitor Center on Taylor Street for a 10:30 A.M. historical tour given by Marie Pleasant, vice president and events coordinator. The tour will be followed by lunch at "Hamburguesa" at 12:30 P.M. for those who are interested. If you have not yet made your reservation for the tour and/or lunch (\$8.00), please call Del Roberts (755-6276) and send her a check. (Note: The Executive Board will conduct its business at a separate table at lunch time.)

DOCENT OF THE YEAR: MARC GITTELSON (see picture, p.5)

In the five years since Marc Gittelsohn became a docent, the Society's library has developed into a rich resource of field guides and hand manuals, available to enrich the skills of docents as guides and informants for Reserve visitors. The collection, which has increased about tenfold over these years, is neatly catalogued to facilitate its use, and Marc keeps a sharp eye on due dates so that books can circulate to the greatest number of users. This year he has also started a series of subject lists which have been printed in the newsletter to help docents find the information they may need on a specific topic.

In addition to serving the Society as librarian, Marc held the office of secretary for two years. He also enrolled in Barbara Moore's nature class in order to add to his knowledge of the chaparral and coastal sage scrub communities which predominate in the Reserve. At times he has followed up his interest in nature with membership in other organizations.

Marc came to the Society after his retirement as a librarian at UCSD, but he has not quite divorced himself from the working world. For a time he worked at the Earth Song bookstore in Del Mar and as a part-time librarian for the San Diego Public Library, serving in both Mission Hills and La Jolla. Currently he is part-time librarian at the San Elijo campus of Mira Costa College.



Docent Doings

TEN-YEAR DOCENT: ISABEL BUECHLER (see picture, p.5)

Long before there was a Docent Society, Isabel Buechler frequented Torrey Pines park. She moved to the San Diego area from Detroit in 1953, and she and her husband discovered this pristine and uncrowded place where they could have picnic suppers on hot days. Later, when she went to work at General Atomics, she and her fellow-workers came to the nearby park to walk at noon and eat their lunches.

Then her lifelong friend, Millie Horger, moved here in 1976, and Isabel introduced her and her husband to what had become the Reserve. (Millie and Isabel had been childhood friends in Detroit, and then when they married had remained close friends, keeping up the contact during the years they were apart.) In 1981, Millie gave a membership in the relatively young Docent Society to Isabel, and in 1984 she became editor of the *Torreyana*, a post she held for four years.

Isabel brought expertise from her job as a technical editor at General Atomics to the *Torreyana*, and it became a model organization newsletter, devoted to matters of interest to the members, presented in a professional format. During her tenure, the circulation doubled, largely because Torrey Pines Association asked for inclusion of its affairs in the paper and distribution to its members. During her ten years of membership, Isabel also received other special awards, recognized by certificates, for her active assistance in the affairs of the Society.

DONATION TO DOCENTS

At the December docent gathering, Judy Morrow emphasized the spirit of the season by giving a generous donation of \$200 to the Society. The money represented the income from sales of her unique hand-carved wooden animal pins. (Judy also presented a similar donation to TPDS last year.)

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM AN OLD FRIEND

Former Reserve naturalist Hank Nicol sent season's greetings to all his old friends in the Docent Society via a card to the editor of the newsletter. Hank says he is still writing, now living in Eureka, California. His lively nature articles were formerly a regular part of the *Torreyana*.

SPECIAL GIFT FOR A SPECIAL VOLUNTEER

A special gift of a pair of "lifetime" working gloves was purchased by the Docent Society for David Economou, a volunteer who has pulled literally thousands of pounds of Hottentot and sea fig from our grounds during recent years. David had not only worked hard on this project himself but has written pleas for help from other volunteers in this massive project of removal of the undesirable alien.

THANKS TO TPDS FROM SDNHM

A thank-you letter from the San Diego Natural History Museum to the Docent Society for its gift of \$1,000 this year was received recently. The letter noted that more than \$60,000 had been donated, helping in the following ways: restoration of two positions, restoration of funds for scientific journals, resumption of exchange of scientific publications, and in other necessary activities. Some needs have not been met, and the Museum hopes additional donations will cover these this year.

HOLIDAY CHEER AT TORREY PINES by Del Roberts

In the tradition of docent holiday parties past, the new docents, chaired by Jim Cassell, created the spirit of the season by decorating the Lodge for the annual party December 21. This year decoration was done a week early so that visitors to the Lodge could enjoy not only a roaring fire but the smell of pine (not Torrey). Pine boughs lined the walls, interspersed with recycled imitation poinsettias, rescued from a trash barrel by Susan Ferguson. After Nurseryland turned down Jim for a free tree (recession), he discovered a \$4 bargain at Target and contributed a re-usable plastic wreath highlighted by pine cones (not Torrey) with a non-native stuffed bird peeking out. Laurilyn Burson created some ceramic hand-painted ducks and loons for the tree, and a string of sea shells completed a picture from nature. Red ribbon contributed by Mayo Steigler added a festive touch, with even the mountain lion sporting a bow. Old-time docents Jane and Bob Talbert supplied cookies and coffee for the helpers and also agreed to buy dishwasher-proof plastic goods from the PX for the coming feast. Others who contributed or helped decorate were docents Jan Taylor, Joan Nimick, Marion Dixon, Hilda Moran, Dee Osisek, Kathy Watson, and Park Aide Sue Pelley.

Docents are not only creative, inventive, and frugal, but the best cooks in the West. At the feast, the groaning board offered such delectables as sweet potato pie (must have the recipe, mystery chef), delicious salads, bread stuffing, baked beans, meatballs, chicken, and an outstanding spiced cider by Mary Lou Wasden. As for the desserts, Julia Childs, hang your head: acorn cookies, Hilda's flan, Jeanne's fabulous cheesecake, and enough chocolate to sate the most dedicated chocoholic.

President Diana Snodgrass and organizer Walter Desmond presented door prizes, which were drawn by Shayna Wohl. The winners, who received nature books, were Jan Taylor, Mary Lou Wasden, Jeanne Dunham, and Glenn Dunham--who graciously donated his to the next lucky winner, Susan Ferguson, saying, "One in the family is enough."

Appreciation awards were presented to indefatigable librarian, Marc Gittelsohn, as the "Docent of the Year, and to loyal Isabel Buechler, a ten-year recognition for excellent service. Appropriately humorous certificates were also

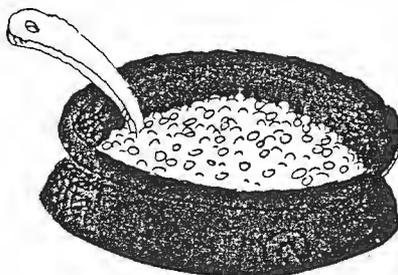


received by Jim Cassell, the first docent this year to complete training; membership chair Carol Lewis, for keeping tabs on us; hostess Kathy Watson, for catering to our tastes; treasurer Glenn Dunham, for keeping us solvent; editor Marion Dixon, for bringing us the news; and Ranger Bob Wohl, for "the fastest tongue in the West." (In his acceptance speech, Bob noted that this would inspire him to even greater verbal skills!)

Diana Snodgrass and Kathy Watson appreciate the humor in the docent award certificates.



Shayna draws lucky tickets



News and Notes

VISITORS TO TPSR FROM FAR AND WIDE---SOME VERY HELPFUL

During November and December, the Reserve was host to visitors from all over the United States, as well as from the following countries: Switzerland, Hawaii, England, Canada (Montreal, Vancouver, Toronto, and Edmonton), China, New Zealand, Sweden, Mexico, and Germany. . . .Among the visitors were some environmentally-conscious young adult activists from the state of Washington, who came to the Lodge and requested plastic bags from Docent Jim Cassell so they could clean up the litter on our beach. They were horrified by the amount of trash people left there--and so are we all, but not everybody does something about it. Maybe docents should organize monthly clean-up days for various areas of the park, including the roadside, which is often littered with papers and cans.

PLANT-WATCHING FOR THE NEW YEAR

Keep your eye on the South Beach entrance: native seeds were "hydra-planted" into the areas set aside for landscaping early in December. With the welcome rains, green sprouts of ceanothus, bush sunflower, and bushrue, among others, should soon be pushing through. The seeds were covered with a mulch of straw, also delivered by the modern blower method.

Report from the Ranger

INDIAN EXHIBIT REPAIRED

Park Aide Sue Pelley, who has contributed so many educational and artistic poster board exhibits at the Lodge, has also recently repaired our Indian village exhibit, which had been looking the worse for wear. Sue added a map behind the village showing the location of the Luiseno, Ipai, and Tipai groups, plus a little history.

MORE ANIMAL LIFE IN THE RESERVE

Following the deer sightings last month, bobcats were reported in the area around the maintenance shop, according to Ann Merritt, maintenance supervisor. Also, a jogger in the East Grove reported seeing a mountain lion on the path about 5:00 P.M. on December 12. The animal was described as greyish rather than tan.

Getting to Know You

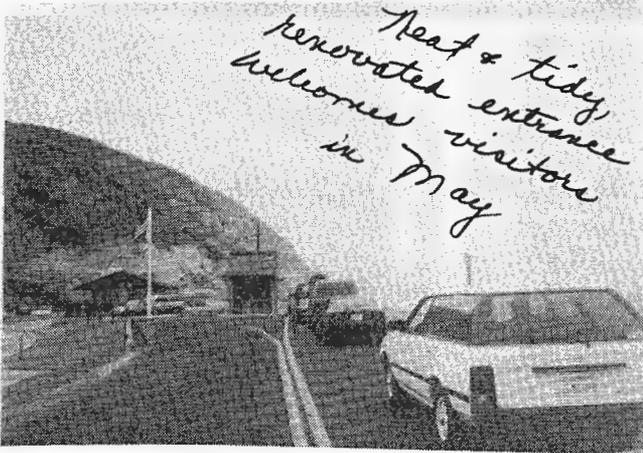
Betty J. Stephan

I grew up in Northern Wisconsin and developed a love of nature early in my life. After finishing high school, I moved to Chicago and joined the Naval Hospital Corps. I completed my degree in biology and went into science teaching in California schools. Later I became a medical technologist and then an industrial hygienist. I then went to graduate school in library science and am presently working in the library at the National Marine Fisheries Service in La Jolla. [Betty has agreed to help index past issues of the *Torreyana* in the near future.]

For years I was a rockhound and enjoyed camping in the western states. Frequently I took field courses in natural history in various locations on California. For several years now I have been focusing on birding, and it was on a walk that one of the docents suggested I might be interested in training here in the program. I decided I would enjoy serving at the Reserve, doing so many things I like with people who are willing to share their interests and abilities to help visitors learn about and enjoy this lovely place.



*South entrance
looks abandoned
during reconstruction*



*Neat & tidy
renovated entrance
welcomes visitors
in May*



*Above: Walter Desmond
Chris Platis, John Green
& Bob Wohl are among 100
happy guests at "Docent
Appreciation Party"
hosted by staff in June*



*Right: Pat McGillis
teaches two successful
basket-making classes
behind Lodge*



*Stars of the year: Marc Gittelsohn earns
"Docent of the Year" title; Isabel Buechler
gets 10-year docent award.*

AND ALSO:

- Diana Snodgrass elected Pres. of TPDS*
- 41st annual meeting of TPA elects
Counsellors Sidoney Barth, Victoria
Bradshaw, Robert Coates, Barbara Moore,
John Shelton, & Sally Spiess to 1994;
Eve Ewing to 1993.*
- TPDS Pres. Michael Fox weds docent Cindy
Mills at TPSR overlook in February*
- 35 trainees turn out for 1991 docent class*
- 3rd edition of "green book" published to
acclaim; editor, Freda Reid*
- Battle of beetles, which killed about
7,000 pines in TPSR, considered over in
September with aid of funnel traps*
- Bob Amann adds to specimen garden in
front of Lodge*

THE LIBRARY'S ROCKS (Library Subject List #10) by Marc Gittelsohn

(Here are the geology books in the docent library. Future lists will deal with our library's holdings on tidepools, fossils, oceanography, interpretation of natural history, and other subjects.)

- Abbott, Patrick L., ed., *Geologic hazards in San Diego: earthquakes, landslides and floods* (San Diego Society of Natural History, 1977).
- Adams, George F., *Landforms* (Golden Press, Golden Guides, 1971).
- Berger, Wolf H., *Walk along the ocean; a guide for beach walkers* (Beach Walk, 1979).
- Brown, Vinson, *Rocks and minerals of California*. 3rd ed. (Naturegraph, 1987).
- Glenn, William, *Continental drift and plate tectonics* (Merrill, 1975).
- Kuhn, Gerald G., *Sea cliffs, beaches and coastal valleys of San Diego: some amazing histories and some horrifying implications* (Univ. of Ca. Press, 1984).
- Rhodes, Frank H., *Geology* (Golden Press, Golden Guides, 1972).
- Sorrell, Charles A., *A field guide and introduction to the geology and chemistry of minerals* (Golden Press, 1973).
- United States Department of Agriculture, *Soil: the yearbook of agriculture for 1957*.

Poetry Corner

THE WINDHOVER*



I caught this morning's minion, king-
 dom of daylight's dauphin, dapple-drawn-Falcon, in his riding
 Of the rolling level underneath him steady air, and striding
 High there, how he rung upon the rein of a wimpling wing
 In his ecstasy! then off, off forth on swing,
 As a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow-bend: the hurl and gliding
 Rebuffed the big wind. My heart in hiding
 Stirred for a bird,--the achieve of, the mastery of the thing!

--Gerard Manley Hopkins, 1877

(*Windhover is the name for the kestrel, the smallest American falcon, frequently seen in the Reserve, especially in this season. This is the first stanza of Hopkins' famous poem.)

MOST CREATIVE RECYCLING SUGGESTION OF THE SEASON

A holiday greeting received by a docent from a friend in Japan contained no verse or signature but instead a separate typed note, which read: "As you see, this year we got very fancy Christmas cards...They are too good to use only one time. So we have decided not to write anything in the card. If you like you can use this card next year or you can preserve it." The implications of this are staggering--greeting cards circling around the world, year after year, unsigned, of course. Eventually, a card would probably return to its original owner, who might not even remember it. Hallmark and others would no doubt have some strong feelings on this matter.

PRIORITIES FOR THE PARK by Allyn Kaye

(Last month Allyn reported on the 125th Ranger Anniversary Conference in Sacramento, at which William Penn Mott, Jr., former director of California State Parks and the National Parks, stressed a need to set priorities for the survival of the parks. Allyn's suggestions for TPSR follow.)

How do we take all of Mott's lofty ideals to heart for our group at Torrey Pines? We might start with a mission statement for the Docent Society, post it in a prominent place, and set realistic goals for the Society as a group and for the members as individuals.

Other thoughts are to develop a wish list of needs* (with price tags) so prospective donors could earmark their donations for a specific project. This list might also include projects that need time, attention, and elbow grease—not just dollars. In these days of budget and staff cuts we will all be challenged to find innovative ways of letting visitors know the park motto, "The best of California forever."

(*Ed. note: Allyn's first wish list is at the docents' desk. On it are the following items: fireplace screen, firewood box or rack, Weather Monitor II, outdoor amphitheater, portable PA system, fax machine, copy machine, re-matting and re-framing Ellen B. Scripps portrait. Catalogs describing some of the above items accompany the list. Docents should feel free to choose a project to support --or to add their own wishes to the list.)

This we know. The earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. This we know. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected.

Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.

--Chief Seattle

The *Torreyana* is issued monthly except for August by the Torrey Pines Docent Society and Torrey Pines Association.

Deadline for contributions is the 24th of each month. Please send to the editor:

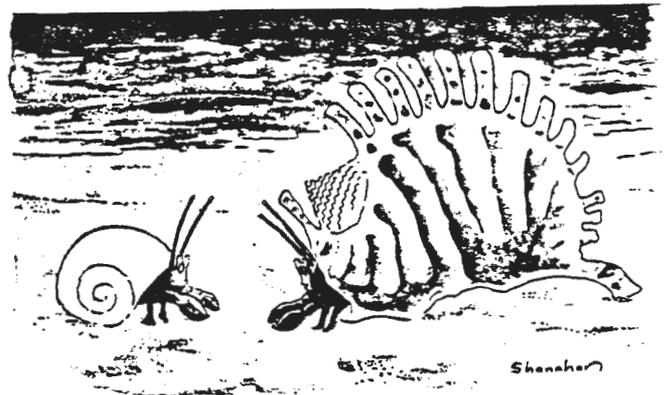
Marion Dixon
2355 Avenida de la Playa
La Jolla, CA 92037

Staff: Glenn Dunham, Pat and Parker Foster, Marion Antrim.

* * *

Address changes go to:

Carol Lewis, Mbrshp Chair
12908 Candela Pl.
San Diego, CA 92130



"I lets me be me."



JANUARY DUTY CALENDAR



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 L PARWELL W	2 SACHS	3 10-1 WATSON	4 CASSELL NIMICK
5	6 10-1 BUECHLER 1-4 COOPER	7 MARTIN	8 L BRNEWICK W	9 D. GREEN	10 10-1 WASDEN 1-4	11 SCHULMAN SCHULMAN
12 HELLER CASSELL OSISEK FERGUSON	13 10-1 BUECHLER 1-4 J. GREEN	14 TALBERTS	15 MORAN	16 MORAN	17 10-1 1-4	18 STIEGLER
19 C. LEWIS M. DIXON COOPER	20 10-1 PARNELL 1-4 HUBER	21 MARTIN	22 MARGULIES	23 D. GREEN	24 10-1 1-4	25 OSISEK
26 C. LEWIS HELLER FERGUSON	27 10-1 AMANN 1-4 J. GREEN	28 TALBERTS	29 WATSON	30 STIEGLER	31 10-1 WASDEN 1-4	

Torrey Pines Docent Society
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