



# TORREYANA

*A monthly newsletter for  
Torrey Pines State Reserve*

No. 234

November 1995

## **NEXT DOCENT SOCIETY MEETING**

**Saturday, November 18, at 9 A.M.**

News accounts regularly describe fossil finds in San Diego County, and fossil plants and animals are frequently found in the Reserve's cliffs and beaches. Come to the November meeting to hear a member of the San Diego Natural History Museum tell how fossils are formed and describe recent, exciting fossil discoveries and current research here in San Diego.

**NOTE:** There will be an important vote on a proposed new by-law (see page 3), so all voting members (full docents) are urged to attend.

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### **A Letter from the President**

Dear fellow docents,

It gives me pain and pleasure to announce that I am retiring from active duty as President. I would like to thank you all for the great support team you have been during my years as President. I could not have enjoyed myself so much without such a caring, entertaining and educated group of people! Don Grine will now be Acting President until the official transfer of office after the February 1996 elections. Those of you who have attended Don's geology lectures and walks know that Don is not only a knowledgeable leader but also has a great sense of humor! I am delighted to hand the gavel to Don. I look forward to seeing everyone in my less active capacity. Thanks again for being such an endearing group of naturalists!

*Diana*

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### **A Holiday Gift Reminder**

Bill Evarts's book *TORREY PINES: Landscape and Legacy* makes a very nice gift for friends nearby or far away. As the holiday season approaches, be advised that the hard cover version is more than 80% sold out (fewer than 282 copies left - "and counting," as they say at Cape Canaveral). There are about 2,000 of the soft cover version on hand. Both versions are available at the Lodge.

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*HAPPY THANKSGIVING*



## Docent Doings

**Docent of the Month** - Anyone on the lower part of the Beach Trail last winter probably encountered docent Wes Farmer placing sandbags on eroded parts of the trail to reduce the effects of the winter rains. This is just one of the many contributions Wes has made to the Reserve and Society, for which he received recognition as the October Docent of the Month. Wes joined the Society in 1991 and has been active ever since. In addition to his specialty of leading beach walks to investigate tide pools and look for fossils in the cliff walls, he also takes fine color photographs of the Reserve plants and animals, some prints of which are frequently on display in the Lodge, and is currently responsible for monitoring and upgrading the Lodge displays. Congratulations on a well deserved award, Wes.

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**Welcome, New Docents** - Training Officer Jim Cassell presented name badges to the following members of the 1995 trainee group: Myrna Burton, John Burton, Ann Campbell, Claudia Clay, Jennifer Stone, and Cindy Wollaeger. The Society congratulates you and welcomes you to a great group of volunteers. There are several other trainees who have completed all the requirements but haven't been at the last two meetings to receive their badges. Don't be reticent - attend the next meeting and become full members.

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**New Chairs !!** After years of sitting on those hard metal chairs at the meetings, members have relief on the way. Docent Elaine Sacks visited office and furniture stores to evaluate chairs now available and recommended a folding padded chair very similar to those in the slide room. The Executive Board approved the purchase of 75 of these chairs, which should be ready for use at the November meeting. Thanks go to Elaine for her time and effort in locating a comfortable chair at an affordable cost.

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**New Form** - Ranger Greg Hackett showed docents a new form that is to be used beginning November 1 for recording all volunteer hours. Greg pointed out that the State Park System is second behind the school systems in environmental education, and documenting this time at TPSR is very important, especially now that the value of parks is questioned by "budget cutters." The purpose of the new form is to provide an easy way of identifying the types of volunteer work and transferring the information into the DPR format. Volunteer hours not concerned with visitor contact, such as exotic plant removal, are to be recorded in a separate column. The new form, designed by docent Melanie Martinod, will be in a bright blue folder on the docent desk.

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**Children's Program** - The number of school groups visiting the Reserve is increasing, so Joan Nimick asks all docents interested in participating to sign up on the schedule in the docent room.

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**Docent at Powwow** - Judy Schulman recently received an honor rarely given to non-Native Americans: being in a powwow. She was asked by Kumeyaay elder Jane Dumas to participate in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual California American Indian Days Celebration held on September 23-24 in Balboa Park. She shared a booth with Dumas's daughter, Daleane Adams, and demonstrated - what else - making baskets with Torrey pine needles. Judy may be the first non-Native American to demonstrate a craft at this powwow.

## Proposed New By-Law

The Society has traditionally avoided any involvement in political lobbying, choosing to focus just on interpretive programs and other projects that support the Reserve. But as recent events show, such as funding cuts for DPR, planned road widening that may intrude into the Lagoon, and all the new development just east of I-5, it may be very desirable for the Society to engage in limited lobbying in order to help preserve Torrey Pines State Reserve as we know it today. As the article on page 9 of the Sept. 95 *Torreyana* discussed, nonprofit organizations such as the Society may engage in a small amount of lobbying. Because of the potential negative impact some issues may have on TPSR, the Executive Board decided to put a proposed new by-law for Society lobbying before the members for a vote at the November meeting. Of necessity any lobbying would have to be kept to a small amount because of Internal Revenue Service rules for the nonprofit classification that the Society has. But even lobby actions a few times a year could be helpful in protecting the interests of the Reserve.

The last by-law, Article VI, of the Society's current by-laws covers amending by-laws. It appears logical to keep this as the last by-law. So the new by-law, if approved, would be designated as Article VI and the current VI would be changed to VII. The proposed new by-law follows:

### Article VI (Lobbying)

Section 1. Purpose - Consistent with Internal Revenue Service and California Nonprofit Corporation regulations, the Society may engage in occasional, nonsubstantial political lobbying on issues relevant to Torrey Pines State Reserve or the Society.

Section 2. General Procedure - Any voting member may submit a potential lobbying issue to the President or Vice President for Executive Board review to determine if the issue has substantial relevance to Torrey Pines State Reserve or the Society. If the issue is deemed relevant, the members at the next Society meeting will vote on lobbying action on this issue. If the majority vote is affirmative, the Board member presiding at the meeting shall designate a Society member or members to carry out the authorized lobbying activity.

Section 3. Emergency Procedure - In the event that the Society learns of a political issue that would be subject to a governmental body vote or action before the Society's next meeting, the President or Vice President may discuss possible lobbying action with Executive Board members either in a meeting or by telephone if a meeting is not feasible. If a majority of the Board members approves lobbying activity, then the President or Vice President may designate a Society member or members to carry out the activity. Society members shall be notified at the next general meeting.

There will be time before the vote for discussion and questions. If members have specific questions on the lobby guidelines, they may call John Carson, who has a copy of the relevant IRS publication and other related material.

The League of California State Park Non-Profit Organizations (LCSPNPO) held its annual meeting at Walnut Creek on October 13-15. This year's theme was "Team Building with Volunteers, The Big Picture." The keynote speaker, Denzil Verardo, is the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Deputy Director for Administration. (Our Bob Wohl had ranger training at Big Basin State Park under Denzil.) Other speakers included Bud Getty, DPR Superintendent, Silverado District, and Lynn Sadler, Natural Resources Director for the Planning and Conservation League. A session by Bob Orser ("The Nonprofit Doctor") and Jim Seely, Senior Attorney, Association Legal Services, included legal and fiduciary responsibilities, planning ahead in changing times, and fund raising. Also present was Michael Brassington, Executive Director of California State Parks Foundation. The fellowship of several California State Park rangers further enriched the well-attended conference.

Good news from DPR! DPR desires a cooperative relationship with docent societies, recognizing their vital roles in interpretation and park support. The model contract has been revised with League input. DPR hopes it will meet most societies' needs. DPR acknowledges that individual associations may need further contract tailoring (by revision or addenda); DPR is ready to negotiate on a case by case basis. TPDS now needs to negotiate, approve, sign, and send in our contract with DPR so we can devote ourselves fully to our primary mission.

It is vital that parks have permanent on-going funding. For the past five years we have depended upon emergency funds - bits and pieces taken from here and there. Funding should no longer be a shared resource : parks must have their own guaranteed funding. An effective way to work toward this goal was suggested by Bob Dillinger, Executive Director of LCSPNPO: encourage people - as private citizens - to write a half-page letter (handwritten, typed, fax, or E-mail) to their state legislators and officials telling why they value our parks and insisting that permanent funding be found to preserve our parks. Such letters have more impact than petitions or form letters from advocacy groups and could be written by docents, park visitors (of all ages), etc. For convenience, sheets of legislators' addresses are available at the Lodge.

Available in our library is an LCSPNPO brochure and its by-laws, the Attorney General's "Guide for Charities," published by the California Department of Justice, and "How to Get Involved in a Ballot Measure Campaign Without Risking Your Tax-Exempt Status," from the Planning and Conservation League.

Our host for the conference was the Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association. A report about their innovative program, "A Trek Through Time," will be in a future *Torreyana*.



### HAPPY #50, BOB!

At 6 P.M. on Wednesday, Oct. 18, well over 50 docents, staff, and friends surprised Bob Wohl on his return to the Lodge with a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party for him. He received a variety of gifts; a few may even be useful!

Ranger Bob - *Robertus loquatii* - A very rare sub-species, naturalized to this area. Thought to be a relic from a more temperate era. ... Please help us preserve this natural resource, won't you? (Bob's "species description")

## THE KUMEYAAY - True Land Conservationists

Members at the October meeting were treated to an engrossing account of the local Native Americans by guest speaker Florence Shipek, an anthropologist who has spent the past 40 years learning about their traditional ways of living. In 1954 a Federal law was enacted that put the Native Americans under jurisdiction of the states for many government services. The speaker became involved with efforts to help the local Native Americans receive needed social services and soon became their advocate.

In her work to help the Native Americans, she quickly realized that the written accounts of their culture were really inadequate, so she devoted many years to learning about their way of living. She spent considerable time with a group of 15 Native Americans, all over 80 years old, including one who was the granddaughter of the last local tribal chief and had received tribal leadership training. From this period came her book on Delfina Cuero, along with an understanding of the Kumeyaay culture rarely achieved by an outsider.

Dr. Shipek related a few examples to illustrate the problems encountered in learning about this little understood culture. The Kumeyaay language does not have the equivalent of pronouns, so she had to be very careful in evaluating the answers to her questions. She also learned to be very explicit in her questions. One time she asked an Indian if he ate pine nuts. To his response of no, she said she thought this was a common food. To which he replied that just because many Indians ate pine nuts didn't mean he had to (apparently he didn't care for them). The speaker also learned that asking about plant uses could yield misunderstood answers. If the plant wasn't used at the time of year the question was asked, the answer would be no, although the plant might well be used at another time of year.

From her work with the Kumeyaay and from studying the early records of the Spanish and first settlers, Dr. Shipek has concluded that the Kumeyaay practiced an effective land management that provided them with food and preserved the land for future use. According to her research, a few hundreds of years ago there were Torrey pines from Del Mar to the Scripps pier area and inland to about where the railroad is now. The Kumeyaay kept the ground under the trees free of chaparral and planted native grasses (for grain) in these areas, which they burned annually. This prevented buildup of dense ground cover and stimulated growth of the next year's grasses, but there was never sufficient ground cover to fuel fires that would damage the trees. On the hills there were cactus, agave, and small clumps of chaparral. On steep slopes they placed rows of rocks to control erosion. They immediately burned plants that had diseases. Even at the time she worked with the Kumeyaay, they still had practical knowledge of all the local plants, so it is clear that the earlier Kumeyaay must have had an extraordinary practical understanding of the area plants. They also practiced effective water management. All the streams had rock dams at the narrow places in order to form pools and ponds. So even in what many people today consider to be almost a desert area, the Kumeyaay had the necessities for life and maintained the area for their future generations.

After her discussion about how the Torrey pines area was at one time, Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl commented that he still recalls the time he received a phone call from a woman very concerned about the land management of the Reserve, who said, "You are killing the park by protecting it." The caller turned out to be the speaker, for reasons well understood after hearing her discussion of the Kumeyaay management of the Torrey area.

After the meeting, Dr. Shipek gave the Society a copy of *Before the Wilderness - Environmental Management by Native Californians*, compiled and edited by Blackburn and Anderson, which has a chapter by the speaker titled "Kumeyaay Plant Husbandry."

Docents know that the Lodge was originally a restaurant, but there appears to be no readily available information on this part of the Lodge history other than the table display in the northwest corner of the Lodge main room. So when Bob Wohl showed me some material of the last operator of the restaurant, which the Reserve staff received earlier this year, I became intrigued with learning more about this period. How was the Lodge arranged for restaurant use, what were the meals, who were the people who ran the restaurant, and when did the restaurant close? This article summarizes what I've been able to learn so far. I hope it will stimulate memories of long-time readers and lead to additional information on the "restaurant days of the Lodge."

**How It Began** - As historian Alex Bevil noted in his talk to the docents at the November 94 Society meeting, a restaurant in Torrey Pines Park was suggested years before one was constructed. As early as 1914 a Thos. McAllen petitioned the Board of Park Commissioners for permission to construct and operate a restaurant and other facilities in the Park for public use [1]. But the City became completely involved in the Panama California Exposition in Balboa Park (1915-16), so construction of a restaurant did not begin until 1922. The initial funds for the building were \$10,000, the estimated cost, with half provided by the Park Commissioners and the rest by Ellen Browning Scripps. But unexpected expenses and the costs of a parking area, landscaping, etc., increased the total cost to over \$30,000, for which Scripps provided \$25,000 [2]. Docents who have been bothered at times by smoke from the fireplace will be interested in this comment [3] from Scripps's lawyer to the Park Commissioners: "The big chimney smoked. Some interior alterations have been made ... and it is hoped that the difficulty will be overcome." The formal presentation of the Lodge to the City and the acceptance by the Park Board took place on April 7, 1923. Surprisingly, Ellen B. Scripps declined the invitation to attend [4].

**The Burkholders** - The first operators of the restaurant were John Burkholder and his wife Frances, who started with a one-year agreement. (There was a third person, name unknown, whose interest the Burkholders soon bought out.) John Burkholder was a San Diego native, graduated from San Diego Normal School (predecessor of San Diego State University) with a degree in physical education, and worked at what is now the La Jolla Recreation Center. During World War I he trained as a pilot and flew the Jenny aircraft while stationed at Panama Canal. Neither Burkholder had any prior restaurant experience, so it is unclear what prompted them to take on this challenge. Their operation must have been successful, for the Park Commissioners received requests from other people wanting to lease the restaurant. For a month period in early 1924, gross receipts were over \$1500, on which the Burkholders paid a 7% rent of \$109 plus \$41 for electricity [5].

The main room of the Lodge was the dining room, furnished with old mission-style tables and rawhide chairs [6], and there were additional tables outside. The kitchen was in what is now the Reserve staff office area. The Burkholders lived in the Lodge, using the present slide show room as a living room and the docent room as the bedroom. The west room, currently an office for Mike Wells, was used as a bedroom for those waitresses who stayed overnight. The outside oven, although built in the style of a baking oven, was used for burning trash. The meals were reputed to be quite good, with chicken being a favorite. Mr. Burkholder learned to cook and in the later years did much of the kitchen work. According to an account by Margaret Fleming Allen [7], on a busy day the restaurant served as many as 100 guests. She also noted that Mrs. Burkholder's specialties were pastries and desserts. The Lodge also sold souvenirs, such as Indian curios, Torrey pine needle baskets, and photographs [8].

Sometime in the early 30s the Burkholders stopped operating the restaurant, possibly because of loss of business from the Depression and the construction of what is now North Torrey Pines Road, which bypassed the Lodge. Several people attempted to run the restaurant, including Hariett Iles in 1934 [9] and Fred, Thomas, and Carl Strombeck in 1936 [10].

(continued on next page)

## **The Restaurant (continued from p. 6)**

**The Johnsons** - Axel and Peggy Johnson are believed to have been the last operators of the restaurant. Axel was born in Norway and came to the U.S. as a young child with his family, who settled near Bellingham, Washington. After high school, he eventually worked as a cook for gold mining companies in Alaska. When a brother was killed in a mining accident there, he decided to leave Alaska. Somehow he learned that the restaurant was available, so he came here with his wife, Peggy (a Canadian), and her mother. The year he took over is not clear. His sister thought it was about 1930, as indicated by dates transferred to some of his photographs, but other information (believed more reliable) suggests it was about 1937-38. His specialty was buttermilk pancakes. From a letter [11] written by an obviously satisfied customer to Axel in 1941: "No doubt, business is booming with you since the camp [Camp Callan] is so close and once the boys at the camp know how good these pancakes are, they will, undoubtedly, be looking you up frequently."

Axel was an accordionist and may well have entertained guests at the restaurant. In 1941 he copyrighted a song, "Memories of Torrey Pines," with lyrics that may have described his feelings caused by his wife's leaving him. Sometime shortly after World War II began, Axel got a war-related job driving a truck at a San Diego construction company, and the restaurant stopped serving meals. He continued living for a time at the Lodge, and his mother-in-law (who remained at the Lodge) occasionally would serve tea at the Lodge for La Jolla residents. Sometime before the end of the war, Axel moved to San Diego. After the war Axel continued working for construction companies and died in San Diego in 1963.

**The Lodge, World War II** - During the latter part of the war, nearby Camp Callan made use of the Lodge. According to long-time docent Rowdy James, who was stationed at the Camp, men from the Camp used the Lodge for special social and military events. Another person stationed at the Camp said that the Lodge was used for communications work and as a recreation area [12].

**The Lodge, Post-War Period** - It appears that the restaurant era ended with Axel Johnson's tenure as operator. After the war the Lodge main room was open and functioned as a curio shop until the State Park System took over, at which time the Lodge was closed to the public until the Lodge Sitter group arranged to be hosts in 1968.

**Acknowledgments** - My thanks to: Helen Bynam, sister of Axel Johnson, for information on the Johnson family; TPA member Jessie La Grange for comments on the Lodge in the 1950s and 60s; and docent Judy Schulman for generously sharing her extensive information and collection of material with me for preparing this article. I am especially indebted to TPA President John Fleming for telling me about the early history of the Lodge and the people associated with it. His personal knowledge and great memory of this period made much of this article possible.

### **References:**

1. Letter from T. McAllen to Board of Park Commissioners, 1914.
2. La Jolla Journal, April 23, 1923.
3. Letter from J. Harper to Park Commissioners, dated Feb. 8, 1923,
4. Letter from J. Harper to Park Commissioners, dated April 3, 1923.
5. Letter from J. Burkholder to Miss Brady (Park Commission?), dated Feb. 11, 1924.
6. San Diego Union (?), Jan. 1, 1924.
7. Typed notes of Margaret Fleming Allen, Dec. 82, La Jolla Historical Society.
8. see ref. 6.
9. Park Commission Record, 1934.
10. La Jolla Light, May 7, 1936.
11. Letter from F. Wurlitzer, North Tonawanda, NY, to Axel Johnson, dated May 12, 1941.
12. Judy Schulman, private communication.

(continued on next page)

The Restaurant (continued from p. 7)



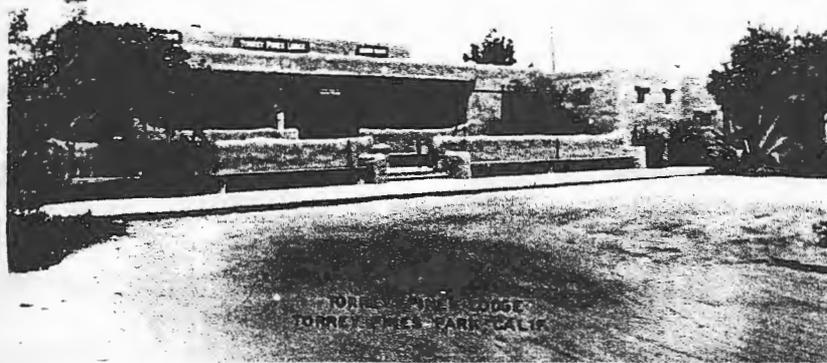
Axel and Peggy Johnson  
outside the Lodge, c. 1938.



From a postcard picture of the Lodge, sometime in the 1930s.  
Note the jukebox to the right of the fireplace.

(continued on next page)

**The Restaurant (continued from p.8)**



Above - The Lodge entrance. The driveway extended up to a sidewalk in front of the low walls. Just off the right side of the above picture there was a small traffic island containing shrubs.



Left - In this Johnson photo, the island can be seen. In the late 60s the present garden was planted, with topsoil brought in to get the plants started. The present Torrey pines in the garden are thus believed to be less than 30 years old, which shows what water and some good soil will do for a Torrey pine.



An early photo postcard. Note the lack of trees around the Lodge and the 1920s-era automobiles driving up the grade to the Lodge.

Barking Up the Right Tree in the Library (Library Subject List #4, Revised) Marc Gittelsohn

Here is a list of books on trees found in the docent library. Volumes added to our collection since this list first appeared in the *Torreyana* in 1991 are preceded by an asterisk. Books on this subject are shelved in the TREES section of the library except as noted. Docents interested in botanic descriptions of trees will also want to consult such works as *The Jepson Manual; Higher Plants of California* and Beauchamp's *Flora of San Diego County, California*. A separate list of books specifically on *Pinus torreyana* will appear in a later issue of the *Torreyana*.

Bowers, Nathan A., *Conebearing Trees of the Pacific Coast*, Whittlesey House Field Guide Series, 1942.

Brockman, C. Frank, *Trees of North America; a Field Guide to the Major Native and Introduced Species North of Mexico*, Golden Press, Golden Field Guide Series, 1968.

Collingwood, G. H., *Knowing Your Trees*, revised ed., American Forestry Association, 1964.

Collins, Barbara J., *Key to Trees and Shrubs of the Deserts of Southern California*, California Lutheran College, 1976. (PLANTS section)

Hartesveldt, Richard, *Coniferous Trees*, Chevron, Western Outdoor Environmental Guides, 1971.

\*Jaques, H. E., *How to Know the Trees*, rev. ed., Brown, Pictured Key Nature Series, 1966.

Keeler, Harriet L., *Our Native Trees and How to Identify Them; a Popular Study of Their Habits and Their Peculiarities*, Scribners, 1920.

\*Lenz, Lee W., *California Native Trees and Shrubs for Garden and Environmental Use in Southern California and Adjacent Areas*, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1991. (GARDEN section)

McMinn, Howard E., *An Illustrated Manual of Pacific Coast Trees*, second ed., U. of Calif. Press, 1946.

\*Pavlik, Bruce, *Oaks of California*, Cachuma Press, 1991.

\*Peattie, Donald C., *A Natural History of Western Trees*, Houghton Mifflin, 1991.

\*Perry, Bob, *Trees and Shrubs for Dry California Landscapes; Plants for Water Conservation ...*, Land Design Publishing, 1989. (GARDEN section)

Peterson, P. Victor, *Native Trees of Southern California*, U. of Calif. Press, Calif. Natural History Guide #14, 1966.

Shigo, Alex I., *A New Tree Biology; Facts, Photos, and Philosophies on Trees and Their Problems and Proper Care*, Shigo and Trees Associates, 1980.

\*Sudworth, George B., *Forest Trees and the Pacific Slope*, U.S. Forest Service, 1908.

Sunset Magazine, *Garden Trees*, Lane Publishing, 1975. (GARDEN section)

\*Symonds, George, *The Tree Identification Book; a New Method for the Practical Identification and Recognition of Trees*, Quill, 1958.

## Report from the Ranger

**Water Line** - Members visiting the Lodge in mid October found major excavation underway in the area east of the main lot. An existing water line in that area had deteriorated to the point that most of the outlets were capped. So a new line was installed from near the south end of the lot to outside the east side of the Lodge. This line does not supply the Lodge but is for fire fighting use to protect the Lodge from any fires that might come up the canyon just east of the Lodge.

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**Talent Survey** - The Reserve's Operations Committee is compiling a list of the skills and interests of all the staff and volunteers. The objective is more effective use of the skills that are available but in the past have too often been unknown to those needing them. Completing the form is strictly voluntary. Forms are available in the Lodge and may be returned to Ranger Allyn Kaye.

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### Editor's Notes

**Meeting Announcements** - Occasionally other organizations have meetings that would be of interest to docents and it would seem helpful to have these announced in our newsletter. However, the Postal Service has regulations on this for nonprofit organizations. These announcements may only be carried if the other organizations have filed certain forms with the La Jolla Post Office, which is very unlikely. Therefore, to avoid any possible problems with this regulation, the *Torreyana* will not carry any announcements of meetings of other groups. There is no problem in reporting about other groups' meetings after they have occurred.

**Torreyana Editor** - The Society will need a new editor next year. If you are interested, please consider helping with the next few issues so you will have an idea of the time, effort, and procedures involved. Call John Carson for further information.

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### TPDS Board

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12 L Cooper W Tanalski L P Roberts W Ferguson	13 L R Miller L Stiegler	14 L Talberts L Amanns	15 L Bardwicks L Ganeless	16 L Clark L Oswalt	17 L Burtons L Dixon	18 Meeting L Robertson W Brav L Schulman W D Miller
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