

torreyana

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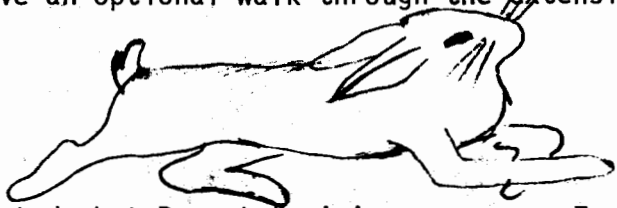
Sunny Rankin, Editor

NEXT DOCENT MEETING - Saturday morning, April 19th, 9:00 A.M.
Buffet Breakfast!! Optional Walk

Our meeting on April 19th will be on the informal side. It will be a chance to get acquainted, present ideas, maybe get some committees started, etc. Hostess, Elsa Evans will serve a gourmet buffet breakfast (donations accepted). At 11:00 A.M. we will have an optional walk through the extension area or wherever! Please come!!

NOTES AND NEWS

Notes from President Gene Barber



Our training class is now completed, but Docent training goes on. For many, the main stimulus for staying in the Docent Society is the prospect for continued learning and sharing. Continued learning can occur in many ways. A partial list includes:

- Attendance at monthly Docent meetings
- Taking guided tours at TPSR, Florida Canyon, Silverwood, etc.
- Formal courses and seminars
- Self-study through library and purchased books.

Sincere thanks to those who were our course instructors: Don Hunsacker, Richard Phillips, Helen Chamlee, Suzanne Bond, and Jean Hawthorne. Thanks also to our good neighbors who supplied us with door prizes; Torrey Pines Inn, Oasis Records of Del Mar and Nurseryland of Flower Hill.

Two years ago, the first "Docent" class was in session; we were trying to find out what the word meant. In fact, we still are trying to define "docent." It seems to involve such concepts as interpretation, communication, teaching, enthusiasm, and dependable service.

How are we doing? In general, quite well. Our membership is at an all-time high of around 80 members. Our incorporation papers are being signed and will be submitted soon. The museum has just been painted and our new sales counter is due any day. We even hope to have a budget soon, with money yet.

Perhaps it's time that we establish some measurement criteria to see how we're really doing. Let's start with an easily measured one, called the Dependability Percentage (DP). We have ten time slots to fill per weekend; that is 40-50 per month. How many of these slots are we currently filling? In February, our DP was 75 percent. In March it was 57 percent. Can't we improve this figure to at least 95 percent? Bob Hopper is doing a great job of scheduling, but we have far too many "NO SHOWS". Each "No Show" reduces the DP by 2 to 2½ percent.

We would like to get some committees in operation. Marc Cimolino is getting a group going on movie making and film review. Other committees could well be used in these areas: Nature walk ideas; book sales, selection, inventory, etc.; museum displays; clean-up (lounge, museum and projection room); library; program ideas.

We need a vacuum cleaner about once a month. Who has one to lend, donate or push?

Interpreter's books are on order and may arrive by the April meeting. We may also have some field books by then. You may want to bring a few bucks with you for items you wish to purchase.

When you arrive at the lodge for Docent duty, please do these things:

1. Check for mail in the mailbox.
2. Place a check mark after your name on the schedule for the day.
3. Check the bulletin board for any special instructions.
4. Wear your badge.
5. Smile.

MISCELLANEOUS FROM THE EDITOR

Film Committee

Marc Cimolino would like to announce a meeting following our Saturday, April 19th regular meeting to form a committee to select films for showing in the museum and to study the possibility of making a film or films about Torrey Pines. All members interested please stay!

Thanks to Jane Falvey for typing our mailing labels this month.

Jou Jou Sumner please get well soon--we miss you. Bill Spencer says Jou Jou is making progress after her bout with meningitis. Hurry back, Jou Jou!

Flemming Kin In

Mrs. Margaret Allen was on hand for a recent training session. Guy Flemming's daughter admitted to being impressed with TPDS work and educational programs. She would like to see T.P. Docents and T.P. Association members join for a social in the future.

Knauss Paper - New Docents please be sure to read the copy of Docent, Loise Knauss' recent article on T.P. park history pinned on the bulletin board. It contains much you may want to know about this subject!

Contributions for Torreyana - Am happy as a cottontail this month with Docent contributions--please keep it up! Share your experiences as a Docent or any interesting experience off the reserve which may prove helpful or of interest to other Docents. Send to P.O. Box 864, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067.



MINUTES OF MARCH BUSINESS MEETING - Secretary, Bill Brothers

The business meeting in March was short with Gene Barber introducing the officers and mentioning the check-off sheets to our new associate members. Paul Anderson, interpretive ranger, spoke about museum improvements for the coming month. These included a new interior paint job, movie projector stand with wheels, bulletin boards with changeable letters and our long-awaited display case and table. Paul also suggested forming committees on Docent initiated projects and asked for suggestions to reduce the current museum exhibits. Marc Cimolino announced a committee to explore the possibilities of producing a film about Torrey Pines.

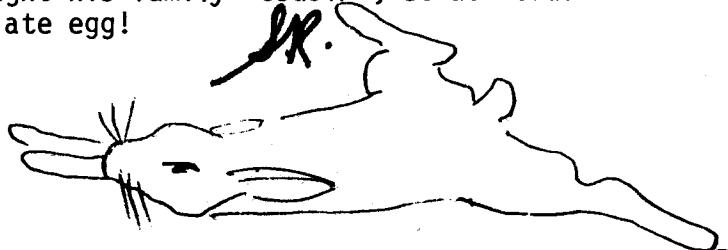
Associate members expressed their views of having inadequate knowledge for nature walks. Encouragement was given by old members who pointed out their own lack of knowledge in some fields, but that this knowledge surpassed the general public's. Members also stressed that learning was a continuing process of all Docents.

Steve Calder introduced Suzanne Bond, our guest speaker from the natural history museum, who spoke about birds. She traced the evolution of homeothermic feathered vertebrates (birds) from reptiles about 120 million years ago. She then described the anatomical structures differentiating bird families. These included differences in wing, feather, beak, and feet. Afterwards, she led a bird walk on the Guy Flemming Trail.

Will the Real Easter Bunny Please Stand Up!

It occurred to me the other day to wonder which of our (meaning those we in coastal Southern California sort of possess) rabbits and hares, would actually deliver my Easter basket, *Sylvilagus auduboni*, *Sylvilagus bachmani*, or *Lepus californicus*. I had already deduced that *bachmani* (brush rabbit) was just too darn small to carry the chocolate egg I had in mind and awfully shy to even venture onto either front or back porch. So, this left me with either Jack or Cotton.

Now, in my mind's eye Jack is really the man the E.B. ought to be. He can cover whole neighborhoods in eight or nine bounds--I have even seen him high in the air above herbage and bush, looking over his shoulder to make sure all is well. He's able to "take tall buildings in a single bound--a super hare if ever there was one. I can see him now making his Easter A.M. rounds in red vest and ranger's stetson--but alas too showy. You can't fool Mother Nature, I'm afraid Cotton is more likely to have landed this duty! Yes, Mom Nature would choose a careful, less obtrusive critter, one who can do his job unobserved or at least think so--able to follow the same well-worn paths in his small neighborhood whether it be brier or bramble, pine forest, ill-kempt farm or plantation or coppices and grassy spots of cultivated neighborhoods. He would have to be dependable--same time, same place, sort of fellow. There would have to be no scarcity of him--a real "Bread of the Woods" type. Yep, that's him. And now, happy Easter to you, I have to let Ms. Bean (my poodle) out. She's been jumping, without let up, at the door since 5 P.M. She thinks "You know who" is in the junipers by our front door--fact is she's accurate! Hope he brought his family--cousins, et al--cause he'll need help in carrying my chocolate egg!



MURRAY NELLIGAN RETIRED PENNSYLVANIA RANGER SEES MORE THAN THE AVERAGE
NEW DOCENT

Anyone for Rattlesnakes? So far, rattlers have escaped being cast in terror movie roles like those already bestowed on birds, sharks, and more recently, dogs. Still, coming upon one, usually unexpectedly, is guaranteed to give anyone, however experienced, something of a thrill.

Torrey Pines boasts two varieties: the Red Diamond and the Southern Pacific. Both live on the hill slopes and uplands; but being nocturnal hunters of rodents mainly, they are seldom seen in daylight.

Occasionally, a snake will ignore the rulebook, however. Like the one Gene Barber encountered last year along one of the trails. Full grown, the rattlesnake was coiled up at the foot of a post to one side of the footpath. He looked at Gene and his party; they looked at him. Then after a decent interval, he moved off, after the manner of his kind. Gene failed to say which specie he was.

Which reminds us. No snake should be disturbed, let alone picked up. Its a big reserve with plenty of room for us to go our separate ways!

True Wildlife Adventures of Our Docents. Crises involving wildlife can also arise at home, as witness the adventure one night of one of our Docents. Seems she heard a commotion one night out in her lower garden, and when she turned on the floodlights found that a skunk had fallen into a water-filled bathtub our Docent had planted in the ground for a lilypool. Evidently, the skunk had overreached while fishing for goldfish in the tub, and was now unable to clamber up and over the slippery sides.

What to do? How does one go about rescuing a drowning skunk?

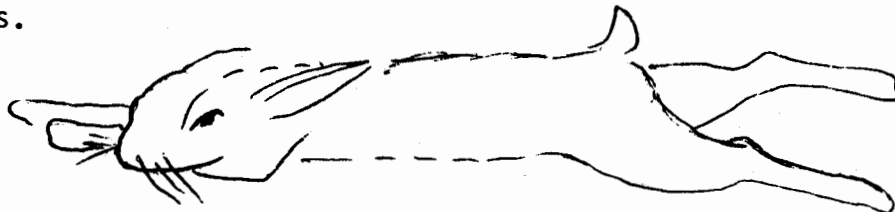
Nearest thing at hand was a long clothes pole, which our Docent gingerly proffered the weakly struggling animal--from a safe distance. Desperate, the frantic animal grasped the end of the pole and hung on while his rescuer eased him carefully up and out. Pooped, he lay in the leaves for a few moments, then gathered enough strength to get up on his legs, shake a little, and slowly move off into the dark.

N.B. Our colleague filled the tub with earth to preclude any such accidents in the future.

Understanding our Environment - Prospective Docent MURRAY NELLIGAN says three principles apply to all environmental matters: All energy comes from the sun; --matter can neither be created nor destroyed; --and, water flows down-hill.

Murray attributes the above to a former boss, Lon Garrison, one of the first National Park Service officials to become concerned about the dawning environmental crisis.

THE BEST WAY TO LEARN A SUBJECT IS TO TEACH IT. Attributed, loosely, to Mr. Chips.



Flotsam (Jetsam?). On view in the lodge is a piece of fossil whale bone picked up by a docent on the 2nd Annual Walk Along the Beach last month.

Prof. Wolf Berger, of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, who led the tour beneath the cliffs along Solana Beach, opined that the specimen was probably a vertebrae from the Eocene Period, some 40 to 50 million years old.

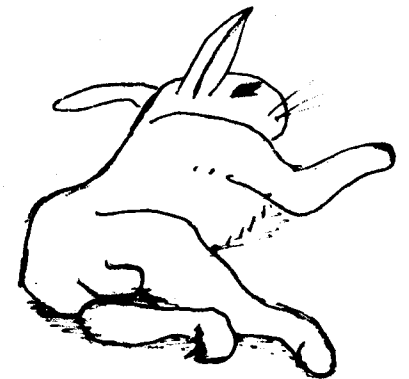
Whale-watchers should be aware that E.P. whales resembled the Loch Ness monster more than they do our present-day good grey whale. According to Dr. Berger, the ancient whales were long and thin; and horse-faced with a mouth full of long rows of very sharp teeth. Also, its blowholes were way up front on the snout, rather than on top of the head.

Reputed to be long extinct, if such a monster should be sighted, the alert docent will report it to the park ranger on duty without delay!

OUR BLOOM'IN TRAILS
Parry Grove Mid-March

Jim Mills

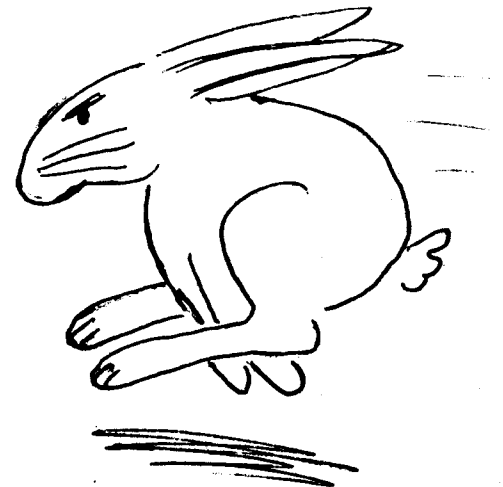
1. Bush Poppy - *Dendromecon rigida*
Poppy family (Papaveraceae)
2. Thicketleaf Yerba Santa - *Eriodictyon crassifolium*
Phacelia family (Hydrophyllaceae)
3. California Encelia - *Encelia californica*
Sunflower family (Compositae)
4. California Buckwheat (Flat-top Buckwheat)
Eriogonum fasciculatum
Buckwheat family (Polygonaceae)
5. Deerweed - *Lotus scoparius*
Pea family (Leguminosae)
6. Indian Paintbrush - *Castilleja foliolosa*, also *C. affinis*
Figwort Family Scrophulariaceae
7. Golden Yarrow - *Eriophyllum lanatum*
Sunflower family (Compositae)
8. Purple Nightshade - *Solanum* sp.
Nightshade family (Solanaceae) (Potatoe family)
9. Mariposa Lilly - *Calochortus weedii*
Lilly family (Liliaceae)
10. Blue Dicks (Wild Hyacinth) - *Brodiaea capitata*
Lilly family (Liliaceae)
11. Slender Stephanomaria - *Stephanomaria virgata*
Sunflower family (Compositae)
12. Black Sage - *Salvia mellifera*
Mint family (Labiatae)
13. Sea-fig - *Mesembryanthemum chilense*
Carpet-weed family (Aizoaceae)
14. Hottentot-fig - *Mesembryanthemum edule*
Aizoaceae



15. Spicebush - *Cneoridium dumosum*
Rue family (Rutaceae)
16. Mojave Yucca (Spanish Dagger) - *Yucca shidigera*
Lilly family (Liliaceae)
17. Sea-dahlia - *Coreopsis maritima*
Sunflower family (Compositae)
18. Wallflower - *Erysimum suffrutescens*
Mustard family (Cruciferae)
19. Wild cucumber (Big Root) - *Marah oreganus*
Gourd family (Cucurbitaceae)
20. Seaside Sand-Verbena - *Abronia umbellata*
Four-O'clock family (Nyctaginaceae)
21. Beach Morning-Glory - *Convolvulus cyclostegius*
Morning-Glory family (Convolvulaceae)
22. Four O'clock - *Mirabilis laevis*
Four O'clock family (Nyctoginaceae)
23. Ground Pink - *Linanthus dianthiflorus*
Phlox family (Polemoniaceae)
24. Wild Clematis - *Clematis* sp.
Buttercup family (Ranunculaceae)
25. White forget-me-not - *Cryptantha intermedia*
Borago family (Boraginaceae)
26. Bladderpod - *Isomeris arborea*
Caper family (Capparidaceae)
27. Prickley Pear - *Opuntia Occidentalis* var. *littoralis*
Cactus family (Cactaceae)
28. Warty-Stem Ceanothus (Coastal White Lilac)
Ceanothus verrucosus
Buckthorn family (Rhamnaceae)
29. Rockrose - *Helianthemum canadense*
Rockrose family (Cistaceae)
30. Biscuit Root - *Lomatium lucidum*
Carrot family (Umbelliferae)
31. Wild Snapdragon - *Antirrhinum nuttallianum*
Figwort Family (Scrophulariaceae)
32. Red Bush Monkey Flower - *Mimulus puniceus*
Figwort family (Scrophulariaceae)
33. Barberry (Mahonia) - *Berberis pinnata*
Barberry family (Berberidaceae)



When the cottontail rabbit runs, his hind feet land in front of his forefeet. Beware! You may find yourself tracking him backwards.



Notes: #1 and #2 were not actually on the trail (close to the road prior to the trail). #27 was an unseasonal bloom.

CUYAMACA HORSEBACK RIDE - Sue Mills

An eight-hour horseback ride is an excellent way to separate the adventuresome from the timid. The adventuresome gathered at the Pine Valley Stables at 8 a.m. on Sunday morning, March 26, for a test of endurance. The ride was led by Bob Crippen, a naturalist from Yosemite National Park. Mr. Crippen has had a lot of experience in nature excursions and knows a lot about the natural history of the area. While the stable personnel finished saddling up the horses, Mr. Crippen gave a talk before the ride started that was most interesting and informative.

At around 9 a.m. we rode off. The weather was warm considering it had been snowing on Thursday and Friday. Between climbing the hills to avoid the off-road vehicles and coaxing the horses away from the green grass and cool water, Mr. Crippen talked about the plants of the California chaparral. He pointed out how the vegetation changed as we went from the upper Sonoran Desert Life Zone to the Transition Life Zone. Surprisingly between the patches of snow some of the tiny wildflowers were beginning to bloom. We ate our lunch at Granite Springs under the whispering Ponderosa and Jeffery Pines, then started our ride back.

The trail was quite tricky on our decent down the mountain as the sun had melted some of the snow and caused puddles of ice and mud. The horses slipped and slid in the mire as dark, threatening clouds started rolling in, making everyone anxious to return to the stables. Luckily for us, the weather held and we made it back around 4:30, tired but exhilarated. The stable owner commented that if he put out a fifty-gallon barrell, we could have walked over it without touching either side--and I believe it!

Watch Out for Those Hazardous Buffaloes! - Mary Miller

While leading a group of Brownies on tour I kept hearing one little girl refer to the Buffaloes. I really didn't pay much attention until the children were ready to go home. She came up to me and asked why didn't we see the Buffaloes? Upon questioning I discovered she had misread the warning sign: Stay back! Hazardous Bufs (instead of bluffs). Of course in her mind "bufs" must be short for Buffaloes!

Out of the mouths and minds of babes

CALENDAR - Marcie Thorner

SIERRA CLUB

- 4/10 Noble Creek Day Hike for single people. Along flowing creek, wild flowers, trees. Bill Alley 224-7241; Denise Hermanson 223-7091.
- 4/11 Midweek Day Hike around Fiesta Island in Mission Bay Park. Bring Snack. George Anderson 281-0931.
- 4/17 Torrey Pines Nature Walk. Pete Yingling 282-9321.

- 5/7 Conejo Spring Day Hike. Leisurely 6 mile hike in Cuyamaca area. Non smoking singles only. Bill Walter 291-7090
- 5/13 Midweek day hike along Mission Beach. Bring snack. George Anderson 281-0391.
- 7/7 Midweek day hike. Combination park/beach hiking in Torrey Pines area. George Anderson 281-0391.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Quail Garden semi-annual plant sale. Encinitas Blvd. east of I-5. See the Botanic Garden at the same time. Many plants and trees are tagged. *May 1st 10-4130*
- 4/15 The Theodore Payne Foundation which teaches native California plants is sponsoring a lecture by Betty Southam at the South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. 8:00 p.m. Lecture free.
- 4/13 Opening of new museum in L.A. for fossils found in the La Brea Tar Pits. They include saber toothed cat, American lion, Giant sloth, imperial mammoth, birds, etc. many of which became extinct 10,000 years ago. In Hancock Park, Wilshire Blvd. between Curson Ave. and Ogden Drive, just east of Fairfax Ave. (213) 933-7451.
- 4/22 & 23 Two separate days in the Wildwood, a fund raising happening for the Natural History Museum. Tickets \$12.50 plus \$3.50 bus fare if you don't drive. Call the museum for more data (714) 232-3821. Or meet at the Golden Eagle Farm near Ramona, at junction of 78 & 67.
- 5/1 Annual plant sale at L.A. State & County Arboretum, called the Baldwin Bonanza. 9 to 4 rain or shine. 301 N. Baldwin Road, Arcadia. Edible plants & other unusual items included.
- 4/11 - 6/6 Nature walks, Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. First meeting in Sea Cliff Park, below K Street, Encinitas. Free to Senior citizens. \$5 to others or free to those enrolled in other courses. A good way to learn plants, birds, etc.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

- 4/12 - 5/17 Series of six lectures on Tuesday evening 6:30 to 8:30
SNAKES ALIVE & OTHER REPTILES. Dr. Ben Banta. You will learn the basic recognition characteristics of all the known species of S.D. County reptiles. Two field trips are included. Supply your own transportation. \$20 for members; \$25 for others.