

CACHUMA FLYER

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THIS OLD HOUSE

A Don Wimpress Interview

On May 23rd, the Nature Center was visited by Pete Carpenter, who had lived in our old house during the early Park days. He was the stepson of the first Park Superintendent, Bill Lanford. Pete moved into the house as a boy in about 1956 and lived here with other brothers until about 1964; the time when his stepfather was Park Superintendent.

At that time the house was divided into two units; the Lanfords were in the western half, and Allen and Betty Turk lived in the eastern half. Betty was the first owner of the snack bar at the marina. The house was divided at the doorway between the Dam Room and the Grizzly Bear Hall. The old kitchen (now the gift shop) was in the Lanford half. The two small bedrooms at the southwest corner were not there when he moved in, but were added later (about 1958) for use by Pete and his brother. Until those rooms were built, Pete and his brother lived in the room at the east end of the garage, which includes a bathroom. Later, Bill Lanford's mother occupied that unit. A couple of other Lanford boys occupied what is now the Bird Room. The Docent's Room was the master bedroom with a bathroom where the Docent kitchen is now, plus the present Docent's Bathroom. Their main entrance was the current entrance to the Center next to the Gift Shop. The service porch, now the aquarium room, existed then.

The Turks had their main entrance where the Naturalist's Office entrance has been. (Currently, the Director's Office.) The big door to the patio was their back door. The East Room with the bathroom and closet were their bedroom quarters - these were added to the building before the Bureau of Reclamation took over. (cont. p.3)

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OUR DOCENT ORGANIZATION PRESIDENT, HELEN OSENGA

Helen was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada and immigrated to Santa Barbara when she was 4 years old. She graduated from Santa Barbara High School and Santa Barbara Jr. College (now Santa Barbara City College).

From 1957 to 1960 Helen lived on the Alaskan Highway in British Columbia where her husband was a wellsite geologist for a Canadian oil company. Her previous experiences as a Girl Scout were very helpful there, since the living conditions were quite primitive.

She returned to Santa Barbara for the next decade where she was busy raising her son and daughter. Currently, her son lives in Corvallis, Oregon where he is a fireman for the city. Her daughter lives in Santa Maria and works as a nurse in the emergency room at Marian hospital. She has four grandsons and one granddaughter.

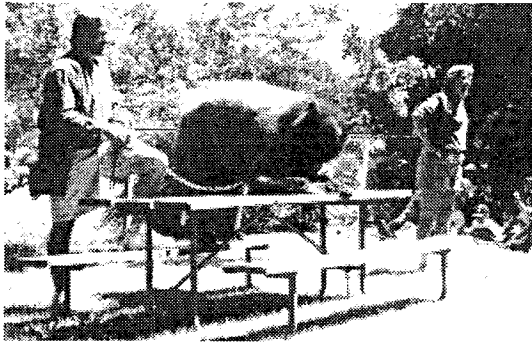
From 1970 to 1986 she lived in the Antelope Valley in the small community of Quartz Hill. It was this period of time when she became interested in the desert flora and fauna.

Helen is a Docent at the S.B Museum of Natural History where her principal interest is in their School Planetarium Programs. She maintains this interest as a member of the local astronomy club where she brings telescope-viewing programs to local schools, campgrounds, and, of course, the Nature Center. She also edits themuseum's Docent newsletter. (cont. p.3)



ZOO-TO-YOU PROGRAM

On May 5th, for the second year, Hall Hurley Deutsch (hhd), our friendly architects from Santa Maria sponsored two presentations of David and Anita Jackson's Zoo-To-You program. It was an even greater success than last year. There were an estimated 600 visitors, 360 of whom registered at the Nature Center. Of these, over 200 indicated that this was their first visit to the Center. Much of this success can be attributed to the efforts of Ray Deutsch, who printed a marvelous poster advertising the event and Docent Becky Deutsch, who ensured they were well distributed.



The surprise guest was a tiger cub toddler who charmed the audience. He had to be taken from his young owner, since it is illegal to buy or sell wild animals of this kind. Next, were six or seven orphaned tiny opossums that emerged from various pockets. Although the opossum may give birth to 20 or more, only 13 that can find a nipple in their mother's pouch will have any chance of surviving.

An immature bald eagle was displayed next. One wing had been badly damaged, making it impossible to fly. Recently removed from the endangered list, David told us how fortunate we were to have 6 immature bald eagles counted at Cachuma last January and one adult nesting pair living nearby.

As in last year's performance, a porcupine gave the Jackson's an opportunity to dispel the myth of "throwing quills." However, the real star of the show was Sierra, a huge cinnamon-colored black bear with a beautiful coat. After eating his grapes and showing us how easily he could stand on his hind feet, he ambled back into the van before the smells of campground cooking became too enticing.

Cachuma Lake Nature Center Flyer

HYDROLOGY OF THE UPPER SANTA YNEZ RIVER

Because of our Mediterranean climate, characterized by long, dry summers and warm, wet winters, the local streams and the Santa Ynez River are essentially dry, or very small, most of the year. However, when the rains come, they can often produce astounding flows.

Flow rates depend on the rainfall pattern. From year to year, the total annual rainfall in Santa Barbara may vary from less than 5 inches to more than 45 inches. Rainfall in the upper Santa Ynez is even greater. In some years of moderate rainfall there may be little runoff, because the rains are "gentle" and spaced so that the ground has little chance of absorbing the moisture. However, if a storm with a rate of 2 inches or more in a few hours occurs on saturated soils, the runoff can be astounding.

In February of 1969, the flow was so great that the Refugio Road Bridge was demolished and the Highway 101 bridge so badly damaged that the road was closed for a time. At that time 97,000 cubic feet per second (referred to a "sec-ft") poured over the spillways of Bradbury Dam. At this rate Lake Cachuma would have completely filled in 20 hours.

How much is 100,000 sec-ft? That is *flood stage* for the Colorado River! The average Colorado River flow is around 20,000 sec-ft; we have that flow rate nearly every year on the Santa Ynez River. Our flows are very "peaked," only lasting about an hour at that rate - but for awhile this wild flow of water can do much damage.

Bradbury Dam was built too catch these high flows and save the water for irrigation and municipal supply. Inflows to the lake can vary greatly from year to year, sometimes less than 2000 acre-feet. Other years can provide much more; in 1969 it was 535,000 acre-feet, or enough to fill the lake almost three times. Cachuma Lake can hold a 5-year supply at the present use rate. This was proved during the drought of the late 1980s.

This was our March educational minute given by Don Wimpress. A 20-page report on this subject, with 15 pages of charts, is available in the Nature Center Docent Library.

THIS OLD HOUSE (CONT)

They generally ate in what was the Naturalist's Office, with the Dam Room serving as a living room. The kitchen must have been in the alcove off the Naturalist's office because there was a 220-volt outlet there (for a stove?). Where the copy machine is was a drainboard and a sink. We removed them when we built the Docent's kitchenette. In fact, the Docent kitchen drainboard, and cupboards below, were removed from the before-mentioned location.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Please remember the Nature Center when you need to offer a memorial gift. Your tax-deductible check, made out to CLNC, Inc., will be put to use in entertaining thousands each year while educating them on the beauty, value, and history of the Cachuma Lake watershed. The recipient of each memorial gift will receive a personalized letter acknowledging their loss and the value of the gift to attaining the goals of the Nature Center.

HELEN OSENGA (CONT)

For many years Helen has volunteered in the Girl Scouts, as a troop leader, board member, etc. As a CLNC Docent, she regularly brings specimens from the S.B. Museum for visitors to the Nature Center to enjoy. She also is a mainstay of the "plant room" exhibits and recently held a workshop for our Docents on plant collecting and display.

CARE AND SHARE AT EL RANCHO

El Rancho Market (Hwy. 246, across from the Santa Ynez High School) has a "Care and Share" program that donates two percent of the buyer's gross amount of purchases to their favorite nonprofit organization. When you shop at El Rancho, tell the checkout person you wish to donate to the Cachuma Nature Center. The Center's number is 134, but if you forget, the checkout person will look it up for you. Keep their donations coming - they count!.

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER

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The Nature Center can be reached at 805-693-0691, or clnatctr@sbceo.org. Evelyn Putnam, editor of the Flyer, can be reached at 805-688-5829 or evputnam@silcom.com.

I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ BOX NO. _____

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Enclosed is my check for a donation of \$20 ☐ \$40 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other ☐

A donation of \$20 entitles you to all of the Nature Center mailings. A \$100 donation entitles you to all of the mailings, as well as a year-round pass to Cachuma Lake and Jalama Recreational Areas.

Whether or not you decide to make a donation, if you would like to become a Docent or Volunteer, check here ☐.

Mail to: Cachuma Lake Nature Center, Inc., Cachuma Lake, HC 58, Santa Barbara, CA 93105

The Cachuma Lake Nature Center, Inc. is a 501(C)3 non-profit corporation.



CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER
CACHUMA HC-58
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93105

PLANT OF THE MONTH

As you travel over San Marcos Pass at this time of year, one cannot help but notice the yellow-flowered shrubs along the road on both sides of the summit. Although some of the shrubs might be the native Bush Poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*), most of them are either the Spanish Broom (*Spartium junceum*) mostly on the south side of the summit; or the French Broom (*Genista monspessulanus*), mostly on the north side of the summit. Both of these species have been introduced from the Mediterranean region and have become an invasive weed in many areas.

The Spanish Broom has nearly leafless stems, the alternate leaves being well spaced along the stems. The almost 1-inch-long yellow flowers are also alternately spaced along the tops of the stems. The pods are 2 to 4 inches long with many seeds.

The French Broom is a much softer looking plant with the yellow flowers clustered at the tips of the branchlets. The alternate leaves on a 5 mm petiole have three obovate leaflets. The pea-like seed pods are about 1-inch long and shaggy haired.

These broom are all in the Pea Family and illustrate a phenomenon not unusual in the plant world; very similar plants have very different effects upon human beings. We eat a lot of varieties of peas and beans, but the seed, and probably most of the parts of these brooms, are poisonous, containing two alkaloid poisons; cytisine and sparteine. The safest approach is never to chew on plant parts unless you know them to be safe.



Spanish Broom



French Broom