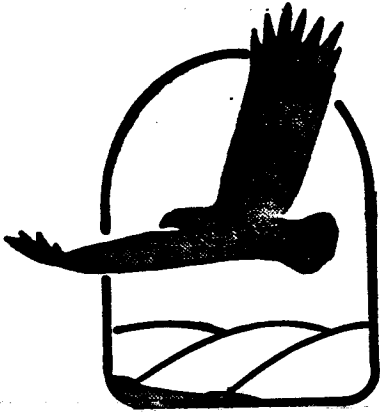


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CACHUMA FLYER

CACHUMA LAKE NATURE CENTER NEWSLETTER
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L.A. COUNTY ACCOUNTS FOR MOST VISITORS

Where do the people come from who visit our Nature Center? Based upon the signatures in the guest book, the following figures reveal distribution of home addresses of these guests; however, an accurate, quantitative summary this is not, as many visitors never sign the book at all. Since the doors opened for the first time, Labor Day Weekend, 1988, 848 individuals have signed.

Visitors' home addresses by percentages are as follows: Santa Barbara County 24%; Greater Los Angeles Basin 54%; Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties 11%; other California areas 6%; out of state and foreign countries 5%. Eleven states are represented, including Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Texas, New York, Indiana, New Jersey, Kansas, Wisconsin, Maine. Foreign countries represented are Japan, England, Denmark, Mexico, India, and Switzerland.

Not included in the figures above are groups--primarily children's organizations--which are frequent visitors. Among those groups represented are school classes, both public and private, Brownie troops, YMCA Indian Guides, the Braille Institute, Girl Scouts, "I Have A Dream" group, and Boy Scouts.

Currently the Nature Center is open on Saturdays and Sundays, during hours that Neal Taylor can man it. When a group accumulates in the room, Neal asks the visitors (adults and children alike) to sit down around a low central table on which are collected a variety of objects from fossils to mortar and pestle. He asks visitors to share their knowledge of these objects and fleshes out their sometimes scant information. "People like to be able to handle things--to grind the corn, to touch the tarantula, and to smell the sage leaves they crush themselves," says Neal.

DOCENTS REDECORATE AND EXPAND EXHIBIT ROOMS OF NATURE CENTER

Much progress has been made on the Nature Center during the past three months, with docent efforts and assistance from work-furlough individuals assigned to the Park. The following rooms or areas have been painted: the entry-dam exhibit room, the meeting room and its adjoining storage area, the pantry-storage area, the mid-"bedroom", and exterior walls around the rear patio. The patio fence has been removed, the adjoining area graded for drainage, and a bed around the brick area cultivated for a garden.

A doorway has been cut and framed between the existing kitchen and docent work rooms. Colored glass windows in the passage way between exhibit areas and several cracked windows have been replaced with clear glass.

The feasibility of replacing the glass bricks with clear glass to improve lighting in the docent work area and the installation of a door between the kitchen and present entry hall are under discussion.

The next areas to be developed for exhibits are the entry room off the back patio which will hold exhibits concerning the dam construction and aquaria, at least temporarily. The mid-room on the west side of the building will house birds and mammals, since additional Indian artifacts will require much space in the present exhibit room.

NATIVE GARDEN PLANTED

Ralph Klages is responsible for the first plantings in a garden of native flora outside the Nature Center. A variety of shrubs, trees and wildflowers were set out around the periphery of the back patio area. A drainage "creekbed" lined with streambed rocks is planned, as well as additional plants.

With the assistance of George Smith, George Hughes, and Don Wimpres, the following specimens were planted on the Docent workday, October 20: toyon, California fuschia, bay, ceanothus, creek dogwood, Islay, yarrow, lemonade berry, sugar berry, mountain mahogany, purple sage, golden currant, and sticky monkey flower.

ALASKAN CULTURE EXHIBIT

For those folks who are interested in ancient cultures, "Crossroads of Continents," an exhibit of Siberian and Alaskan cultures, is now open at the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum in Los Angeles. The significant factor about this show is that it offers artifacts from the Soviet Union, Canada, and the U.S., organized by the Smithsonian.

Concentrating on the native people of Siberia and Alaska, the show is \$7.50, including entrance to the general museum collection. (\$6.00 for seniors) Hours are 10:00 until 5:00 daily, except Monday. Although this is the only showing of this collection in California, the doors will be open until February 24.

PAT FOXEN--A DOCENT WITH GEOLOGY ON HIS MIND

With an avid interest in geology, Pat Foxen is one of the first class of Docents. Pat has retired from thirty years with Chevron Oil and now lives in Solvang with his wife, Millie.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, he graduated from USC with a major in petroleum engineering and now spends much leisure time rock hounding and fossil collecting. His favorite "hunting" spot is the Mojave Desert. Pat says he is interested in the Docent Organization because "Cachuma is a beautiful place to work in an outdoor rustic setting." The Docent job is interesting to him because it is educational and afford him an opportunity to share his knowledge with the general public. He finds in his work an opportunity to meet interesting people and to keep active doing "something worthwhile."

Helping narrate the boat tours is his favorite job, but he would like also to conduct trail hikes and to develop new trails in the Park. Pat's current project is to design and construct a geological cross-section of the Santa Ynez Valley in the area of the lake, showing various strata and fault lines to be displayed in the dam construction-entry room of the Nature Center.

Pat and Millie have two children and four grandchildren.

LOCAL NATIVE TOBACCO IN BLOOM

Along roadsides near the Lake Indian tobacco is blooming. This small tree with grey-green leaves and yellow trumpet-shaped flowers, *Nicotiana glauca*, is a member of the nightshade family and contains toxic alkaloid nicotine.

Leaves were dried by native Americans, broken into small bits or ground, and smoked in pipes, usually as a part of tribal ritual. By steeping leaves to make a "tea," an effective pesticide for aphids can be made. The local tobacco could also be used as a poultice for sore throats and rheumatism.

Other species of *Nicotiana* are found in both desert areas and in Northern California, and were smoked by tribes in those areas, adhering to various tribal customs.



Indian Tobacco

FROM THE DOCENT PRESIDENT, GEORGE HUGHES.....

"All Docents are urged to recruit new members for the organization. Many projects are underway or in the planning stages; more manpower is needed."

HELP NEEDED TO OBTAIN WILDLIFE PICTURES

Much of the information conveyed in the Nature Center at this point centers around pictorial displays. Since many of the plants, animals, and birds of our area are not flashy species, they are not often portrayed in publications. Readers are asked to save all nature-oriented calendars as this year comes to an end and to donate them to the Nature Center to be combed for useful pictures.

Also magazines such as the National Geographic are needed as resource material. Names of books which have large, colored photographs that could possibly be copied, would also be useful. Below is a list of certain pictures currently needed.

green winged teal
cinnamon teal
common loon
cormorant
bonaparte's gull
ruddy duck
ring-necked duck
common goldeneye
canvasback
northern shoveler
spotted sandpiper
eared grebe
common merganser
scaup
turkey vulture

coyote
coastal deer
mountain lion
bobcat
raccoon
possum

all native trees, shrubs,
and wildflowers

Docents would be grateful for any contributions.

THE MOST PLENTIFUL MAMMAL OF THE LAKE: GROUND SQUIRRELS

Undermining your tent site or picnic table are the holes of the California Ground Squirrel, *Spermophilus beechiyi*. Hundreds of these "gray digger" squirrels thrive on acorns and green vegetation in the Park. They are easily seen perched atop a fence post or rock.

Their extensive tunnels are a problem to farmers, but native Chumash are said to have raided the animals' stores of acorns to simplify their own gathering tasks. Females have one very large litter per year, which may number as many as fifteen offspring. Over 260 species of squirrels occur worldwide. They share with other rodents the characteristic of large, evergrowing incisors.

DOCENTS' EFFORTS COVER MANY PROJECTS AND INTEREST AREAS

Many projects are underway by individual docents. George Smith is sorting through negatives to develop a display that will illustrate the building of the dam.

Maggie Klages is cataloguing and photographing new exhibit pieces and designing free-standing dividers which will be built under her direction.

Pat Foxen is designing a cutaway or cross section illustrating the geological make up of the dam and Lake vicinity.

Linda Taylor, in addition to the newsletter, attempts to keep fresh plant specimens in the museum and is researching sources for relief maps and the cost effectiveness of classes offered by the Santa Cruz Mountains Natural History Association.

Don Wimpres is planning and outlining a booklet to be sold at the Nature Center which will tell about the Lake area.

Ralph Klages is planning the native plant garden.

George Hughes has assisted in planting and established the necessary grade for drainage in the garden with John Hughes' assistance.

Connie Howerton continues as the liason with the Board of Directors and is currently assisting with distribution of publicity articles and advertisements.

No evening meeting will be held in December. On December 16, a work party will be held from 9:00 until 1:00 with a pot-luck luncheon-Christmas party afterward.

A footnote: In the past six weeks (approximately), visitors have deposited \$119.00 in the contributions box at the Nature Center.