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CALIFORNIA THE ORNIAN

Magazine of the California History Center Foundation/De Anza College
A Foundation Supporting the Study and Preservation of State and Regional History



Feature:
Where to See
Wildlife in California

Reaching Out

Developing an appreciation of our past, here in the Santa Clara Valley and throughout California, is one of the many aims of the history center. Foundation members, of course, know that our exhibits travel to other locations. For example, **California Woman Suffrage** recently was displayed at the state capitol and received a marvelous review in **The Public Historian**, a national history journal. They also know our publications, such as **Japanese Legacy** and **Passing Farms – Enduring Values**, have been reviewed in many important history journals and magazines and are in libraries statewide. And they know that our classes and heritage tours continue to visit historic sites throughout California.

Perhaps unknown to many foundation members, the history center has been active in promoting California's heritage in other ways. Since 1985, for example, we have had a special relationship with the **California Committee for the Promotion of History** (CCPH), which is headquartered at the history center.

CCPH

Founded in 1976 as a state committee of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History, CCPH is a statewide membership organization of historians and persons interested in history. Today it represents almost every area of historical activity in California: local historians and historical societies, museums, government agencies, cultural resource management programs, consultants, teachers and college history departments. CCPH is a statewide advocacy group for history in California.

The purpose of CCPH is to foster and facilitate efforts which enhance appreciation of our historical heritage and the application of history skills in public and private preservation, interpretation and management efforts. Its quarterly newsletter, **California History Action** serves as a clearinghouse about activities that advance history and the historical profession and alerts readers to needs for action by historians and interested citizens. It also regularly reports on activities at the California History Center.

Each fall CCPH holds an annual conference at a different location in the state. There, Californians who are interested in history discuss issues confronting historians in California, ranging from museum practices and oral history to historic preservation and education. Past meetings have been in San Luis Obispo, Santa Rosa, San Diego and Sacramento, and a lively social atmosphere surrounds the event, for it is a chance to soak in the history of the host community.

From October 23 to 24 this year, CCPH will meet at the Murphys Hotel, in the heart of the Gold Country. The

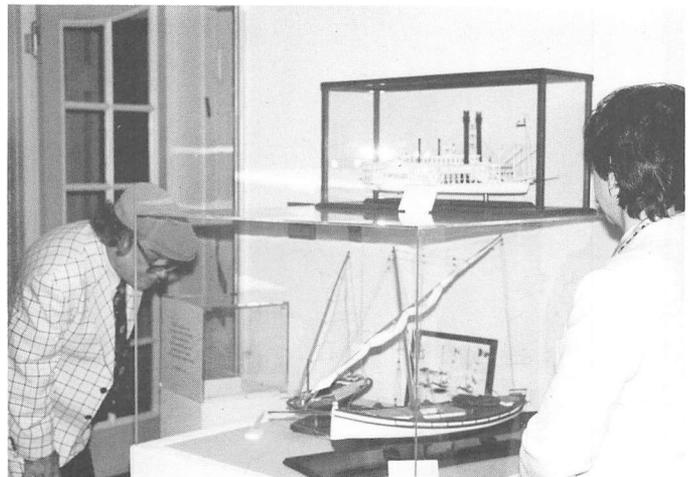
conference will focus on education and history in California, featuring prominent speakers from the Oakland Museum, the California Historical Society, the State Office of Education, secondary schools and colleges and many other institutions. A special stage reading of a play based on California's past will be presented by A.C.T. actors from San Francisco. Sunday will feature a goldpanning and traditional skills workshop and a Gold Country barbecue will be held at the 19th century Pioneer Hotel in historic Sheep Ranch. History center members are invited and will be receiving a program and registration form in the mail.

Maintaining a special relationship with CCPH is just one more way in which the California History Center is reaching out to foster an appreciation of our rich and diverse heritage. From grassroots involvement in our community, to voicing our concern across the state in concert with other supporters of history — this is another part of the California History Center.

Jim Williams
CHC Director

Cover Photo:

Brown pelican in winter plumage. Feeding mainly on anchovies, these birds are threatened by overfishing by humans. Photo by Tom Taber.



Shipwrights and Sailors, a display of over 60 model ships, was a very successful exhibit this spring. Many school children and community residents visited the exhibit. Photo by Jim Cochran.

CALENDAR

9/1 History center opens.

9/8 Evening registration.

5 to 7 p.m. CHC members may register at the history center for De Anza College history center classes. NOTE: You must make reservations by 9/4 for evening registration on 9/8.

9/22 De Anza College classes begin.

9/26 Exhibit reception.

5 to 7 p.m. at the CHC Trianon Building. Join us for the opening of **Don't Call Me Honey – Photographs of Women and Their Work**, a display of the photographs of Ann Meredith. There will be refreshments and a special dramatic reading by Judith Espinola. R.S.V.P. by 9/18.

10/9, 10, 11 Yosemite in the Fall

Lee Van Fossen leads a weekend tour of the natural and cultural history of Yosemite. Departure from De Anza is at 4:30 p.m. Friday; return 9 p.m. Sunday. Cost per person is \$145 members, \$160 non-members and includes transportation, two nights double-occupancy lodging, two meals, park entrance fees, and honorarium. **Reservation and payment due 9/4.**

10/17 Architecture of the Monterey Peninsula

8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. A tour of the architecture of the Monterey-Carmel area will be conducted by restorationist Kent Seavey; included are visits to several adobe and Victorian buildings, and a stop at Asilomar. Cost to members \$35 and non-members \$45 includes transportation, lunch at the Mediterranean Market in Carmel, and honorarium. Reservation and payment due 10/7.

10/31 Exploring the Spanish Heritage of the Coast

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visits to Sweeney Ridge Preserve and the Sanchez Adobe are included in Betty Hirsch's exploration of San Mateo County's Spanish heritage. Enjoy a no-host lunch at Nick's Rockaway. Cost to members \$30 and non-members \$35 includes transportation, honorarium, and entrance fees. Reservation and payment due 10/16.

11/11 CHC closed for Veteran's Day; no classes.

11/14 One Man's Battle – John Muir National Historic Site and Muir Woods

8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tour of Muir mansion (c. 1882) and discussion led by author John Duryea, followed by a walk through a virgin stand of redwoods in Muir Woods. Cost to members \$30 and \$35 includes transportation, park entry fees, and honorarium. Reservation and payment due 10/30.

11/14 Women and Their Work – Practical Applications
10 a.m. - noon. Panel discussion with five women involved in non-traditional labor. Ann Meredith will facilitate the discussion. No charge. Bring bag lunch. R.S.V.P.

11/20 Bonnets and Bustles – A Vintage Fashion Show
7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Join us at the Trianon for a special evening viewing authentic fashions worn during the 19th and early 20th centuries, presented by the Assistance League of Santa Clara County and Vintage Reflections of San Jose Historical Museum. Refreshments provided by La Patisserie. Cost: \$5.50. Reservations and payment due 11/10.

11/15 Last day to view exhibit.

11/26, 27, 28, 29 CHC closed for Thanksgiving holiday; no classes.

12/17 Last day of De Anza classes.

The history center will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays from September 26th through November 25th.

Of Interest to Members

John Muir: His World, exhibition on the life of celebrated naturalist John Muir, Vacaville Museum, through October 25. (707) 447-4513.

Pathfinders and Pedal Pushers: The History of Hiking and Cycling in Sonoma County, exhibit Healdsburg Museum, Healdsburg, through November 14. (707) 431-3325.

As the Wheel Turns: Episodes in the History of Engine Transportation, exhibit Sonoma County Museum, Sonoma, through November 22. (707) 579-1500.

Stages and Railroads in Sonoma County's History, exhibit Isaac E. Shaw Museum, Cloverdale, through December 30. (707) 894-2067.

Petaluma River Transportation, exhibit Petaluma Museum, Petaluma, through December 30. (707) 778-4398.

Iron Roads to the Redwoods: The History of Sonoma County Railroads, exhibit Sonoma Depot Museum, Sonoma, through December 30. (707) 938-9765.

**Members interested in viewing the exhibits listed above should contact each individual museum for location, admission fees, if any, and operating hours.

State and Regional History

The following classes are being offered by the history center during fall quarter, 1987. For complete details and registration information please see the De Anza College Schedule of Classes.

Grass Valley/Nevada City: *Bill Palmer*

Grass Valley/Nevada City and the Northern Mines explores gold mining in California through the colorful history of the Northern mines area, which centered around communities such as Grass Valley, Nevada City, Downeyville and Sierra City. North of Auburn on Highway 49, these towns, by the turn of the century, had grown to be among the State's major gold producers. More important, they had become world leaders in development of mining technology; so great were their reputations, that the region was known as the "Mecca of the Mining World." Since that time, the years and depletion of the mines have taken their toll, but today, there remains a rich cultural heritage and many reminders of this historic past. Weekend field trip included.

The California Coast: *Lee Van Fossen*

The California Coast from San Francisco to Monterey is designed to explore the natural history and historical areas along our central coast. The study begins in San Francisco with an examination and discussion of the effects of earthquakes and subsidence on the bay region. We will work our way down the coast to see, discuss and examine tidepool life, estuaries, sand dunes, forests, marine birds and mammals, geological phenomena and lighthouses. Three Saturday field trips included.

Parks and Trails of the Santa Cruz Mtns.: *Tom Taber*

Parks and Trails of the Santa Cruz Mtns. provides an opportunity for the first-hand study of California's natural history. Taught by the author of "The Santa Cruz Mtns. Trail Book" and "Where to See Wildlife in California," the class will focus on the general topography, climate, plants and animals of the Santa Cruz Mtns. area. Three Saturday field trips to Skyline Ridge, Butano State Park and Sam McDonald County Park.

The East Bay – Yesterday and Today: *Betty Hirsch*

The East Bay – Yesterday and Today focuses on the forces that shaped the East Bay from its beginnings to the present day. Special emphasis will be placed on the contributions of various ethnic groups and the significant individuals who helped shape the government, industry and arts, including the Peralta Family (founding family), Nefarious Horace Carpentier and Dr. Samuel Merritt (early town builders), Dr. Samuel Willey (founder of UC), architects Bernard Maybeck, Julia Morgan and John Galen Howard, and writer Gertrude Stein. Two Saturday field trips included.

Saratoga, Monte Sereno and Montalvo: *Chatham Forbes*

Saratoga, Monte Sereno and Montalvo studies the development of the residential, agricultural and business sectors of Saratoga and Monte Sereno, and of the cultural center and estate known as Montalvo. Social, political and economic changes will be related to political and cultural eras, economic situations, technology, national movements and international events. Lectures on site and in the classroom include audio visual presentations, artifacts and other historical materials.

Northern California Counties: *Brian Smith*

Northern California Counties investigates the history of the counties of Lake, Mendocino, Shasta, Trinity, Siskiyou and Humboldt, noting their unique development in the areas of economic, political and social structures. As the Yankee continued to populate California, more and more governmental divisions were necessary to handle basic human needs. In 1850 the landscape was carved into counties, thus allowing for more local control. Each was set apart from the other by geographical or political reasons. Four Saturday field trips included.

California Labor, 1880-1980: *Phil Grasser*

California Labor 1880-1980 discusses the growth and development of the labor movement in California during the past 100 years. The origins of labor's problems will be traced and followed in both northern and southern California. The major movements in labor history, important personalities and organizations, the reasons why the labor movement began and how and why labor has been more dominant in the northern half of the state will be explored.

The Livermore Valley: *Betty Hirsch*

The Livermore Valley: Vineyards to Modern Technology focuses on the history of the towns in Livermore Valley, and the individuals who contributed to their growth and development. Named after Robert Livermore, an English sailor who jumped ship at Monterey in 1822 and settled on Rancho Las Positas, the valley has been cow country, mining country, orchard country, wine country and home of modern technology. Saturday field trip included.

The California History Center Experience: *Jim Williams*

The California History Center Experience shares the story of the center, its programs, its home at the Trianon building and the volunteer experience. The history center, founded in 1969, provided a rich opportunity for community residents, as well as Foothill-De Anza students, to become involved in local, regional and California history. An afternoon field trip will enable students to experience a behind the scenes tour of another local historical organization.

Politics in the Golden State: *George Gastil*

Politics in the Golden State from Progressivism to Moonbeams takes a look at California's politics, which, ever since the Gold Rush, have baffled the rest of the country. Personalities such as Hiram Johnson, Upton Sinclair, Earl Warren and Jerry Brown have served as important symbols of reform, utopianism and passions. Controversial issues, notably taxes, agriculture, education and the environment, have emerged again and again. And underlying California's politics is a rather peculiar political landscape featuring public referendums, weak political parties, and a constantly changing people. Join Mr. Gastil and guest speakers to search out this checkered, fascinating story. A one-day field trip to the state capitol included.



Thanks to Henrietta Marcotte we were able to identify the people in the photograph we ran in the last issue of the Californian. Since this idea to run unidentified CHC photos was so successful the first time out, we decided to try again. Is there anyone out there who can tell us the names or family of these three young men? If so, please call the center.

Where To See Wildlife In The Bay Area

by Tom Taber

Imagine taking a time machine back to the Bay Area in 1769, the year the Portola expedition first saw San Francisco Bay. Great herds of elk and pronghorn antelope grazed across the grassy and wooded hills and plains, hunted by mountain lions, wolves, and grizzly bears. It must have been reminiscent of what Africa's Serengeti plain looks like today.

The bay was much larger than it is now, with vast inter-tidal wetlands of pickleweed and cordgrass obscuring the boundaries between water and land. In the bay lived sea otters, seals and sea lions, with whales making frequent visits. Especially during fall and winter the bay was a great feeding ground for waterfowl. Conveniently located on the Pacific Flyway, the sky must have been filled with ducks and geese in numbers unequaled anywhere in the modern world.

Though the local Indians, the Ohlone, hunted elk, deer, and waterfowl, the Ohlone were too few in number to have a significant effect on wildlife populations. They did, however, modify their environment to some extent by intentionally burning brushland in order to facilitate travel and hunting.

The supreme power in this coastal wilderness was the grizzly bear, a large and powerful omnivore that was once more common in California than anywhere else. Because of our mild winters these large bruins could feed all year, avoiding the winter hibernation necessary in colder climates. They were commonly seen feasting on berries and acorns, digging for roots, and gathering along streams to fish during the annual runs of salmon and steelhead.

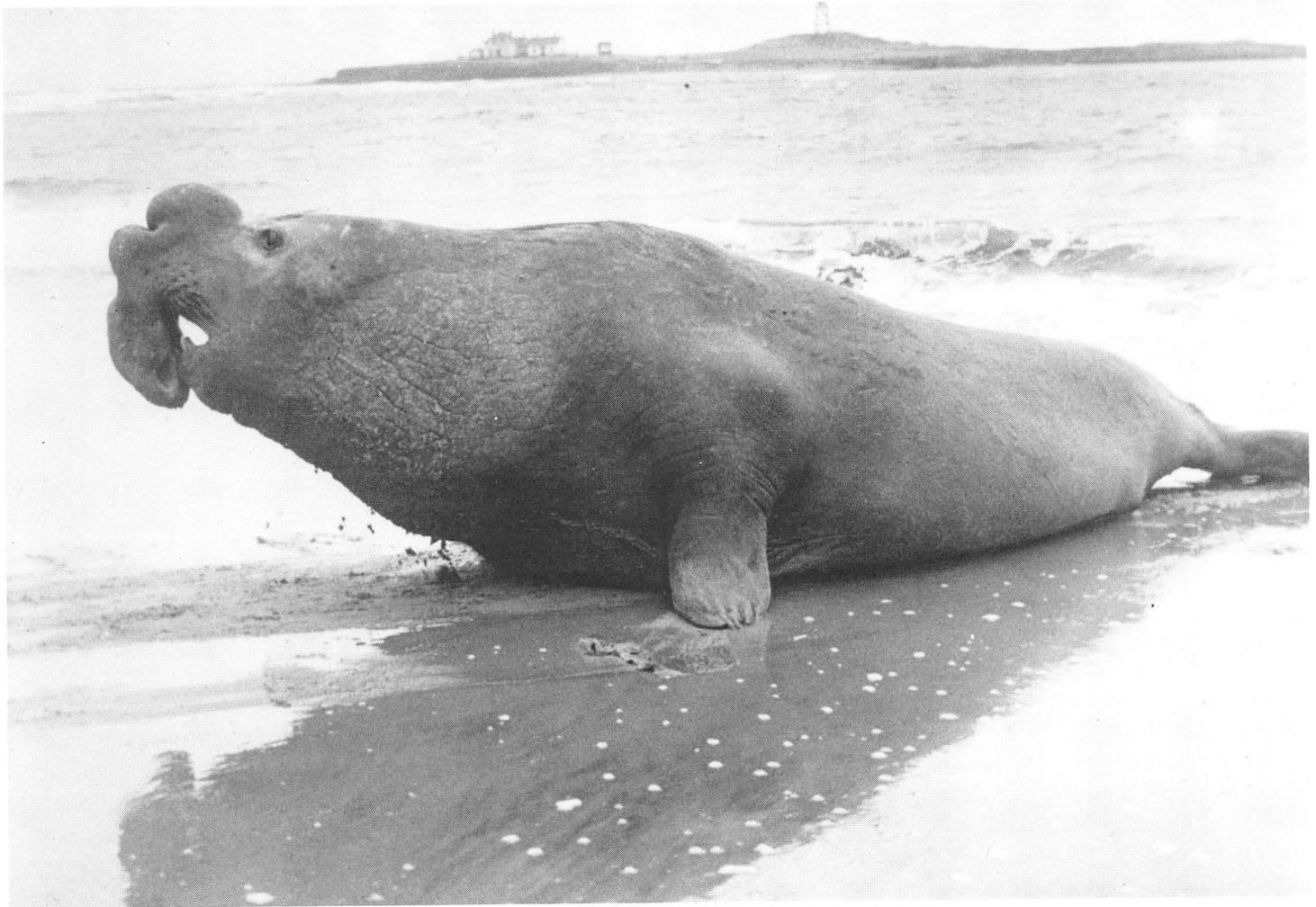
Their diet was nearly identical to that of the Ohlone Indians, who feared and revered the great bears. When a dead whale washed ashore Indians and grizzlies competed for the honor of finishing off the carcass.

The Indians left no written record, but early Spanish explorers and settlers documented the abundance and diversity of Bay Area wildlife. Father Pedro Font, an early missionary, wrote of the grizzly bear that "He was horrible, fierce, large, and fat." Captain Frederick Beechey noted that "animals seem to have lost their fear and become familiar with man." Otto von Kotzebue, a hunter, wrote that "geese, ducks, and snipes, were so tame that we might have killed great numbers with our sticks." He brought in a crew of Aleutian Eskimos to hunt sea otters. The French sea captain La Perouse commented that "There is not any country in the world which more abounds in fish and game of every description."

With the introduction of firearms in the late eighteenth century the relationship between humans and other animals changed forever. Man replaced the grizzly as the undisputed ruler and wild animals learned to regard us as enemies. Even common animals such as coyotes, which would frequently enter Ohlone villages to steal scraps of food, became wary of man; and other animals, once commonly seen during the day, became much more nocturnal.

By about 1910 the future for wildlife all over California looked grim. Gray whales, sea otters, brown pelicans, tule elk, peregrine falcons, elephant seals, bighorn sheep, bald eagles, grizzly bears, California condor and fur seals were so close to extinction, or heading rapidly in that direction, that only last-minute conservation measures could save them. All of these species except grizzly bears survived and are now growing in numbers. Condors still linger perilously close to extinction.

International hunting treaties saved the humpback whales, gray whales, sea otters, elephant seals, and fur seals. Habitat protection saved the tule elk, and bighorn sheep. The banning of the pesticide DDT, coupled with habitat protection, saved the peregrine falcon, brown pelicans, and bald eagles. The fate of our native condor is now in the hands of a captive breeding program.



Elephant seal bulls have enormous proboscises for proclaiming their territorial and mating claims. Año Nuevo Island is in the background. Photo courtesy California State Department of Fish and Game.

Here are a few of my favorite places to see wildlife:

Año Nuevo State Preserve

TO GET THERE . . . take New Years Creek Road off Highway 1 about 19 miles north of Santa Cruz.

This is truly one of America's great marine wildlife sanctuaries. Harbor seals are common features on the rocks and waters, and sea lions are made evident by their everlasting chorus of barks from the island — and even sea otters are beginning to be seen here. The birdlife is also impressive, and sea caves, sand dunes, and tidepools also help make this a place worth exploring.

The reserve is most popular from December through March when a colony of elephant seals visits the island and peninsula for mating and bearing young. To protect these enormous mammals, and the people who come to see them, the reserve is open only through naturalist guided tours at this time of year.

The popularity of these seals is a genuine phenomenon, sometimes making it necessary to get tickets months in advance for tours. Whether it is because of their size, their strange appearance, or perhaps the ease with which they are approached,

they are among the most popular attractions on the central California coast. Park rangers and students from the University of California at Santa Cruz conduct tours of the reserve when elephant seals are here in their greatest numbers.

This fascinating peninsula is worth exploring all year; and in fact, may be most enjoyable when most of the elephant seals and their hordes of admirers are gone, and walking may be done without ranger escort. Sea lions, harbor seals, and a few elephant seals, hang around all year.

Año Nuevo is one of the few places on the San Mateo County coast where it is possible to do some real hiking west from Highway 1. Follow the trail west from the parking area, passing a small marshy pond, sand dunes, and on to the tip of the peninsula, just over one mile from the parking lot. Half a mile off the peninsula is 12-acre Año Nuevo Island, breeding ground for elephant seals, California and Steller sea lions, and harbor seals; and a nesting place for western gulls, pigeon guillemots, and black oystercatchers. Because of its importance to wildlife, public access to the island is prohibited.



A hungry sea otter relaxes with lunch. Photo courtesy California State Department of Fish and Game.



The largest elk in California, Roosevelt elk, live in the foggy, rainy north coast region. Photo courtesy California State Department of Parks and Recreation.

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

TO GET THERE . . . refuge headquarters and visitors center are near the east end of the Dumbarton Bridge (Highway 84) in Newark.

San Francisco Bay is the largest estuary in California, and most of the shorebirds and waterfowl on the Pacific Flyway stop here at one time or another. The refuge's marshlands and salt evaporation ponds are the year-around home for 36 species of birds, and an important feeding and resting stopover for many more.

Scientists estimate that at least 100,000 dowitchers feed here yearly, along with 1,500 avocets, and as many as 25,000 western sandpipers have been counted in these baylands in one day. More than a million shorebirds of all species are estimated to feed here in one winter season.

The refuge provides needed protection for migratory bird habitat, a small but growing harbor seal population, the rare salt marsh harvest mouse, and four rare species of birds: California clapper rails, least terns, brown pelicans, and peregrine falcons.

Palo Alto Baylands

TO GET THERE . . . from Highway 101, take Embarcadero Boulevard east to near the yacht harbor in Palo Alto.

Here you can walk an 850-foot long boardwalk through breezy fields of salt grass, pickleweed, and cordgrass to the edge of San Francisco Bay, where you will see egrets, herons, and other shore and marsh birds. You can also walk the longer intersecting PG&E boardwalk beneath humming power lines and enjoy spacious and unusual views of the bay. The Baylands Nature Interpretive Center stands on stilts in the marsh at the beginning of the boardwalk.

Audubon Canyon Ranch

TO GET THERE . . . the ranch is three miles north of Stinson Beach on Highway 1 in Marin County.

Hérons and egrets are among California's most majestic birds; and the best place to see them nest and mate is in the steep forested canyons east of Bolinas Lagoon. Here you can see about 50 pair of great blue herons and about 85 pair of common egrets nest atop second-growth redwoods at the 1,300-acre Audubon Canyon Ranch.

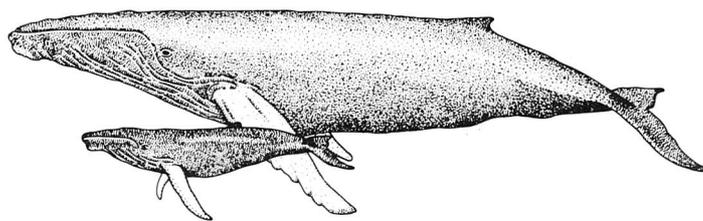
The best time to visit the ranch is in the spring and summer when the birds can be seen courting, building nests, and rearing their young. Because they arrive at different times through the early spring, all of these activities can sometimes be seen at one time from the ridgetop trails above Audubon Canyon. Henderson Overlook, just half a mile from the parking lot on the Alice Kent Trail, has mounted telescopes providing excellent views of the birds in the Schwartz Grove.

The ranch has no admission charge, though donations are appreciated. It is open between March 1 and July 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

California Marine Mammal Center

TO GET THERE . . . from San Francisco take Highway 101 across the Golden Gate Bridge to the first turnoff past the vista point. Turn left through the tunnel and on to Rodeo Lagoon.

This is a place to see both marine mammals and some of their most devoted human friends. On an abandoned missile site, the center is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and return to the wild of injured and sick seals and sea lions found along the Northern California coast from Monterey County to the Oregon border.



Point Reyes National Seashore

TO GET THERE . . . it's in Marin County, about 35 miles north of San Francisco. Take Highway 101 to the Sausalito turnoff on Highway 1, which goes west and north of the park; or take Highway 101 to San Rafael and head west on Sir Francis Drake Highway.

This 65,303-acre national seashore is a peninsula that is being torn away from the continent by the San Andreas Fault. It is a wild land of bays, estuaries, sandy beaches, and rocky headlands, forests, and grasslands; and it is a great place to see marine and terrestrial wildlife.

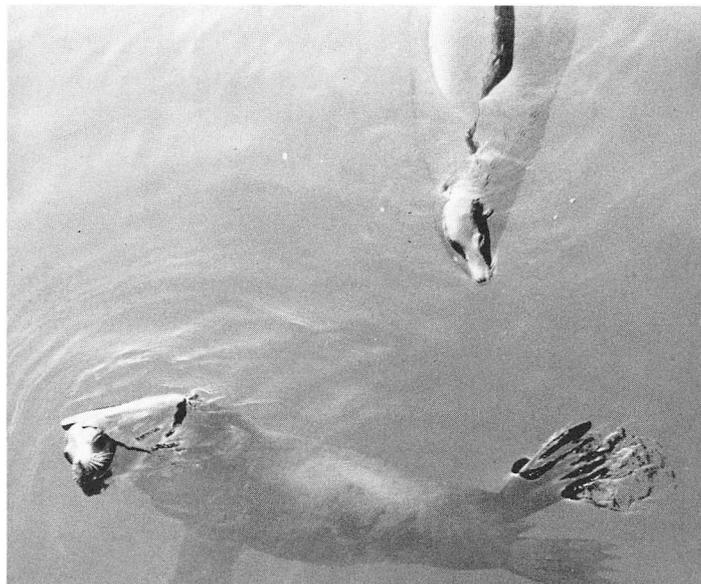
The area around the Point Reyes Lighthouse is one of the best, and most popular whale-watching places in the state. The lofty Point Reyes headlands provide an excellent view of the deep Pacific waters, just a few hundred yards offshore, where whales are often seen spouting. Whale-watching has become so popular between December and March that free weekend shuttle bus services is provided between Drakes Beach and the lighthouse.

Thousands of tule elk roamed the Point Reyes peninsula for eons until the last were slaughtered in the 1860's. Two bulls and eight cows were brought here in 1977 from the Owens Valley, and three more bulls were added in 1981, to roam the 2,600 acres of Tomales Point, at the north end of the National Seashore. They now number at least 60, and show every indication of thriving.

The Point Reyes Bird Observatory is a good place to get to know some of the 338 species of birds at Point Reyes. It is three miles north of Bolinas on Mesa Road. You will be able to see birds captured in nets, banded, and then released. Owls, hawks, finches, swallows, sparrows, warblers, and flycatchers are some of the species caught, usually between dawn and noon, as part of a variety of educational activities. The observatory is part of a non-profit organization for the conservation and observation of wild birds. It is open to the public free of charge from dawn to dusk.

Farallon Islands National Wildlife Preserve

TO GET THERE . . . the rocky islands begin 23 miles west of San Francisco. Excursions to view island wildlife are conducted by the Oceanic Society (415) 441-1106, The Point Reyes Bird Observatory (415) 868-1221, and The Golden Gate Chapter of the Audubon Society (415) 843-2222. Other companies offering boat trips are listed in Bay Area yellow pages under "fishing parties."



Intelligent and gregarious, California sea lions are natural comedians. Photo by Tom Taber.

The rough, nutrient-rich waters off the Farallon Islands are witnessing the amazing homecoming of the humpback whales. These 50-foot mammals, characterized by long, white flippers, are not really humpbacked at all, but get their name from the habit of exposing large parts of their backs when they dive.

Deep nutrient-rich waters are drawn to the surface in the Farallon Basin to produce an area teeming with life. Humpbacks feed on the abundant schools of small fish and crustaceans, which also support large numbers of seals, sea lions, birds, and dolphins.

Though the combined area of the eight granite islands is only about 211 acres, these rugged outposts of land are important rookeries for five species of seals and sea lions, including elephant seals. They also host the largest marine bird colony south of Alaska. Hundreds of thousands of birds summer here, including auklets, oystercatchers, puffins, cormorants, and murre. In 1972 the federal government included the Farallons in the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

*Taber has taught classes for the history center since 1984. He is the author of **Where to See Wildlife in California** and the **Santa Cruz Mtns. Trail Book**.*

CULTURAL PRESERVATION

“Don’t Call Me Honey” Exhibit Set to Open

Opening at the history center on Saturday, September 26 and running through Wednesday, November 25 will be the photo exhibit **Don’t Call Me Honey — Photographs of Women and Their Work**. For the past eight years Oakland photographer Ann Meredith has been photographing and interviewing women who work in non-traditional jobs. Plumbing contractors, auto mechanics, journeymen, electricians, welders, cabinetmakers, truck drivers, airline pilots, heavy equipment operators, housepainters, boatyard workers and sugar cane harvesters are just a few of the areas where women have become permanent fixtures.

A woman working in a non-traditional job has a tough struggle. She is perpetually a newcomer no matter how long she has been there. Immersed in the “old boy” network, she must face physical and emotional obstacles unique to her career. **Don’t Call Me Honey** is meant to depict the strength and courage these modern day pioneers must have in order to survive.

These women must also balance their personal lives: many work a full day on the job site and then come home to work as a mother, wife and house maintenance person with their individual goals. Many are single parents, adding another weight of responsibility and care.

Women in non-traditional jobs are a rare breed. Whether it be as an independent self-employed tradeswoman, professional or union worker, she carries with her the burden of a role model to the world. **Don’t Call Me Honey** reflects the tenacity and the spirit . . . the endurance and the commitment of these courageous women.

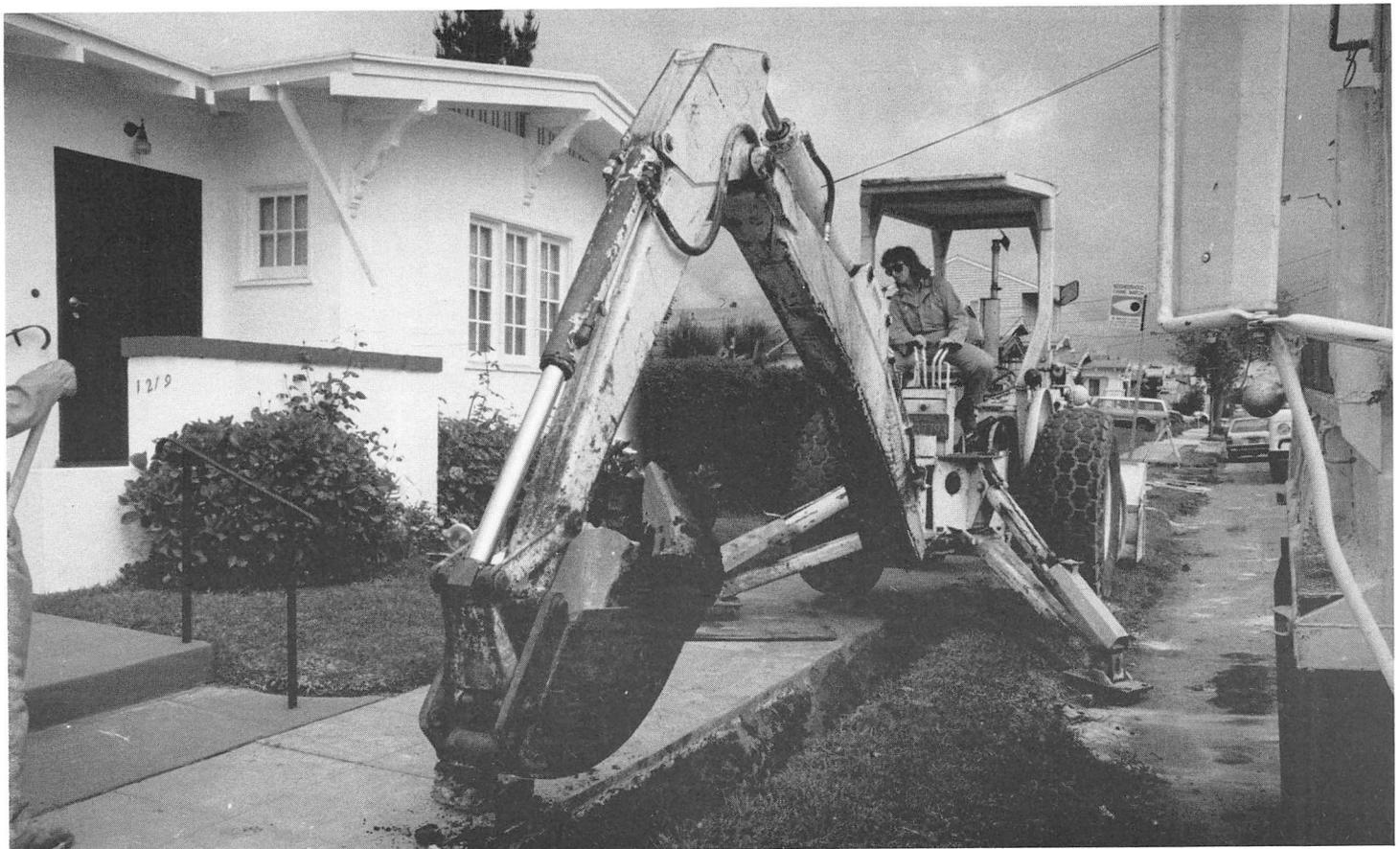
Approximately 60 photographs will be included in the exhibit, with each photo accompanied by text from a personal interview. Shown here are just three of the photographs to be included in this wonderful exhibit by Ann Meredith. The exhibit is being funded by Seven Springs Foundation, Cupertino, CA.



Cabinetmaker Sandra Marilyn is an industrial cabinetmaker and the only woman in a union of 900 men. © 1986 Ann Meredith



Boatyard worker Camilla Bratenahl Biller is supervisor of a boatyard and an avid sailor who has sailed the West Coast numerous times as well as to Hawaii and the Galapagos Islands. © 1985 Ann Meredith



Construction equipment operator Joyce Shon has been a heavy equipment operator for public works for the past 12 years. © 1986 Ann Meredith

A Matter of Justice

*One local woman who was certainly a pioneer in a non-traditional job for women is Judge LaDoris Hazzard Cordell. In 1982 Cordell, 37, became the first Black woman judge in northern California. She presently serves as a Santa Clara County Municipal Court Judge. The following photograph and excerpt is reprinted, with permission, from the book **Women & Work – Photographs and Personal Writings**, c. 1986, NewSage Press.*



Photo by Douglas Burrows, © 1986.

There is a certain arrogance inherent to the notion that anyone should have the right to make decisions about the lives of other human beings. As I drove to court on the very first day of my judicial assignment, I kept thinking, “Who said that I could do this job anyway?” Now, I feel at home in the judiciary. The tasks involved, challenge all of my faculties. It allows me to be creative. What I do and how I do it can dramatically alter the course of a person’s life. And, I think, the fact that I am Black and female gives me an even greater impact in my role as a judge.

So often defendants appear before me presenting themselves as victims of society. Sometimes, indeed, they are. Often they are not. They all expect to be met by an older, white male on the bench, and when they see me sitting there, it is as if the entire system has opened up before them. If I can be a judge, then maybe they can make a go of it. I become the incarnation of hope.

My decision to enter the judiciary was the result of my search for new challenges. I had practiced law for six years, establishing myself as the first and only lawyer in my community. During that six year period, I returned to my alma mater Stanford to work as the Assistant Dean, and in 1982 I became a judge. I wish my grandparents could see me now. They were incredibly proud people, filled with dignity and high aspirations. But I do not think that in their wildest dreams they imagined that their granddaughter would one day be a judge. When I get discouraged about the magnitude of social injustice or mourn the petty pace of societal change, I think about them.

I want to make a difference. I have had some wonderful life experiences. They have permitted me to do the things that I deem important; to have an impact, no matter how small, on the people with whom I share this planet.

LaDoris Hazzard Cordell

The publication from which this photo and excerpt was taken is a beautiful, 180-page book featuring photos and personal writings of 85 women. The book will be available for sale at the history center during fall quarter.

FOUNDATION NOTES

Lesters Honored at Gala Dinner



Will and Hazel Lester enjoyed the company of family and friends at the CHC dinner held in their honor on May 2. Photo by Yolanda Wuth.

Will Lester stepped down from the CHCF Board of Trustees in July, 1986 after nine years, and a very special dinner was held on May 2 to honor Will and Hazel Lester for their many contributions to the center. One hundred and ten people attended the dinner held in De Anza's campus center.

Master of Ceremonies Walt Warren, founding director of the history center, talked about the center's early years, and De Anza's own "stand-up historian" Ken Bruce regaled the audience with tales of Will and Hazel's past.

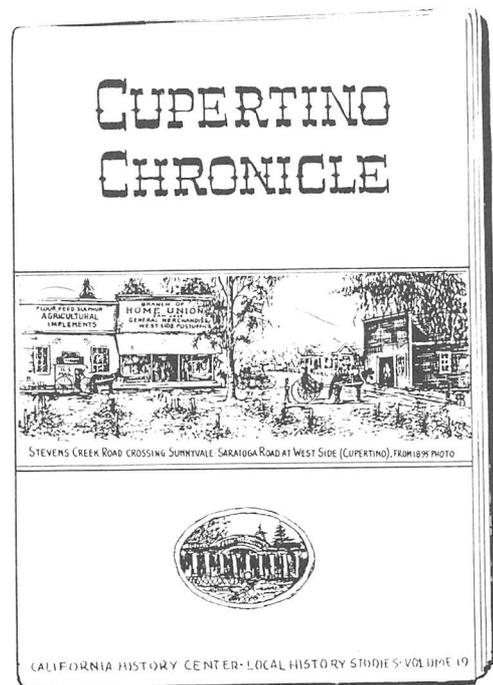
Family, friends and local legislators gathered to thank these two wonderful people, and the center extracted a promise from the Lesters that they will visit us often.

Cupertino Chronicle to be Reprinted

The history center has begun raising funds to update and reprint its 1976 publication **Cupertino Chronicle**. This wonderful history of Cupertino and its surrounding area has been a very popular book over the years but is currently out of print.

Proceeds from the May 2 dinner honoring Will and Hazel Lester will be used for the reprint. While close to \$1,000 was raised from this event, the center will need to do additional fund raising in order to complete the project.

A new cover for the book has been kindly donated by longtime history center supporter, valley native, author and historian Ralph Rambo. Members wishing to contribute to the project may send a check to the history center indicating that the money is to be used for the Cupertino Chronicle reprint.



New Books For Sale

Three new books have been order and will be available for purchase at the center beginning in the fall. One is Ralph Rambo's **E-Day 1906 – Witness to an Earthquake**. This is a wonderful booklet of the 93-year-old Santa Clara Valley native's remembrances of the "great quake" of 1906. Cost is \$2.68.

As mentioned in the Pioneer Profile article we will be carrying a beautiful book titled **Women & Work – Photographs and Writings**. Published by NewSage Press, the book profiles 85 women and will sell for \$21.35.

The third volume we will be getting is **Gold Mining in the American West** by John A. Burton. Burton, who has provided invaluable information to CHC instructor Bill Palmer, captures the sounds, scents, sights and glorious spectacle of early California's Mother Lode towns. The Gold Rush book will sell for \$9.58.

If you have the opportunity, stop by the center and take a look at these fine books. Any one of them would make a wonderful gift. Prices quoted above include sales tax but not shipping.

Projects Completed or In-Progress

The Sunnyvale Oral History Project, begun in the fall of 1985, was completed in late March. This 70-minute videotape focuses on the local canning industry and includes interviews with many people who worked in the industry. The project was co-sponsored with Sunnyvale Historical Society and Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce. A one-half hour edited version, on 1/2-inch VHS tape, will be available for members to view later this year.

Two books we were hoping to have completed by now are still in progress. **Scow Schooners of the San Francisco Bay** and **Pomo Song of Dawn** will be completed during the coming year. The center has also begun work on reprinting a book of children's stories first published in the 1860s. We hope to make this book available not only to CHC members but to local school children as well.

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De Anza Day A Huge Success

De Anza Day, held on June 7, was a resounding success for the history center this year as hundreds of people toured the **Shipwrights and Sailors** exhibit, learned how to make scrimshaw, participated in a sea chantey sing-a-long and browsed among the books for sale.

A special thank you to Marion Card for doing two scrimshaw demonstrations, Marriide Widman for playing her concertina and leading the songfest and to the many model ship builders who were on hand to answer questions and demonstrate their craft. A big thank you also to all of our CHC volunteers, and board members Tony Lopina and Ward Winslow, who gave time on De Anza Day.



CHC member Marion Card demonstrated the art of scrimshaw for these interested young men, who decided to try their own hand at the craft. Photo by Jim Cochran.

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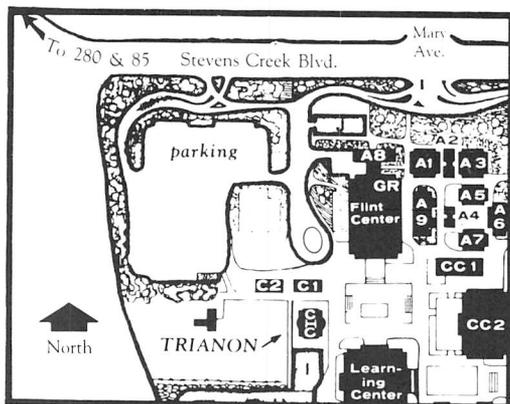
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