

ABOUT THE COASTAL CONSERVANCY

The Coastal Conservancy is a state agency working to preserve, improve, and restore public access and natural resources along the coast and on San Francisco Bay. It builds trails and walkways, purchases threatened coastal land from willing sellers, enhances and restores wetlands and watersheds, protects open space and farmland, supports commercial fishing, helps cities develop and improve waterfronts, and crafts innovative solutions to land use conflicts. The Conservancy undertakes projects in partnership with nonprofit organizations, landowners, local governments, and other public agencies. It is funded primarily by bonds authorized by California voters.

To subscribe to CALIFORNIA COAST & OCEAN for one year (four issues), send a check (payable to "Coastal Conservancy") for \$18 to:

CALIFORNIA COAST & OCEAN
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Visit our Internet Website at:
www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov



ALAIN MCLAUGHLIN

Cover artist:

Phil Frank and his faithful (stuffed) corvine companion bear a striking resemblance to characters in the *San Francisco Chronicle's* beloved daily comic strip, *Farley*. Although Phil insists he and Farley are not the same, they've both been having lots of fun taking gentle pokes at Da Mayor, Willie Brown. Phil Frank used to be a nationally syndicated cartoonist, but opted to come back home to the *Chronicle* as a staffer with overnight deadlines. "The more immediate the humor, the funnier it is," he says.



Coastal Conservancy

BOARD MEMBERS:

Robert C. Kirkwood, Chair
Douglas P. Wheeler
Craig L. Brown
Rusty Areias
Margaret Azevedo
John J. Lorman
Marcus E. Powers

ALTERNATES:

Jim Burns
Craig Denisoff
Fred Klass

EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

Michael L. Fischer

CALIFORNIA COAST & OCEAN

California Coast & Ocean is published by the Coastal Conservancy in association with the California Academy of Sciences.

Rasa Gustaitis, Editor
Dewey Schwartzenburg, Managing Editor
Hal Hughes, Associate Editor
Anne Canright, Copy Editor
Meg Clark, Circulation Consultant

Design and page composition: Seventeenth Street Studios
Prepress and Printing: University of California
Printing Services

CALIFORNIA COAST & OCEAN (ISSN 1052-5823) is published quarterly at \$18 for four issues. Copyright © 1997 Coastal Conservancy, all rights reserved. No part of this issue may be reproduced by any mechanical, photographic, or electronic process or otherwise copied for public or private use without written permission of the publisher. All opinions expressed are the responsibility of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the positions, official or otherwise, of the Coastal Conservancy or of the California Academy of Sciences. Direct all correspondence, including editorial submissions and subscription requests, to:

CALIFORNIA COAST & OCEAN
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 286-0934, e-mail: calcoast@igc.org

Articles appearing in *California Coast & Ocean* are indexed in *Environmental Periodicals Bibliography*, *Biology Digest*, and *Environment Abstracts*.

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

CALIFORNIA
COAST & OCEAN
VOLUME 13, NUMBER 2

SUMMER 1997



FRANK S. BALTHIS

NATURE TOURISM COMES HOME

- 2 Catering to Wild Desires**
Rasa Gustaitis
The nature tourism boom
- 6 The Promise of Ecotourism**
John Poimiroo
Promoting sustainable travel
- 9 An Inside View of Elkhorn Slough**
A California safari
- 12 The Dangerously Attractive Elephant Seals**
Managing the viewers
- 15 Pecho Coast Trail**
Linda Locklin
New pathway on a long-lost coast
- 16 Point Cabrillo Outlook**
Julia McIver
The delicate balance
- 18 The Last Lagoon of the Pacific Gray Whale**
Joel R. Reynolds
Salt manufacturing threat at Laguna San Ignacio
- 20 A Historic Cove Comes Back to Life**
Rasa Gustaitis
A Los Angeles shoreline is renewed
- 25 Waterfall Trail on Big Sur**
Anne Canright
A hidden treasure in Big Sur
- 28 Tea Time for Tujunga?**
Sean Woods
Planned golf course could still be washed out
- 31 New Marsh, New Promise at Tijuana Estuary**
Jim King
Wetland restoration on the border
- 40 The Power of One: Ballona Lagoon and Iylene Weiss**

DEPARTMENTS

- 34 EBB AND FLOW**
- *Michael Fischer Has Resigned*
 - *A Scenic Salinas Valley Farm Will Be Protected*
 - *The Gray Whale Ranch Deal*
 - *Hermosa Beach Pier Repair*
 - *Progress in Bolsa Chica Wetlands*
 - *A Footpath for Gualala*
 - *San Dieguito Lagoon to Benefit from Utility Mitigation Dollars*
 - *Fastest Cranes in the West*
 - *Foot and Bike Bridges to be Built over Carmel River*
 - *Remembering Fred Farr*
 - *Coastal Cleanup Day Coming Up*

38 BOOKS



SAN PEDRO BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



As nature tourism grows, some communities are discovering economic benefits in protecting wilderness and wildlife.

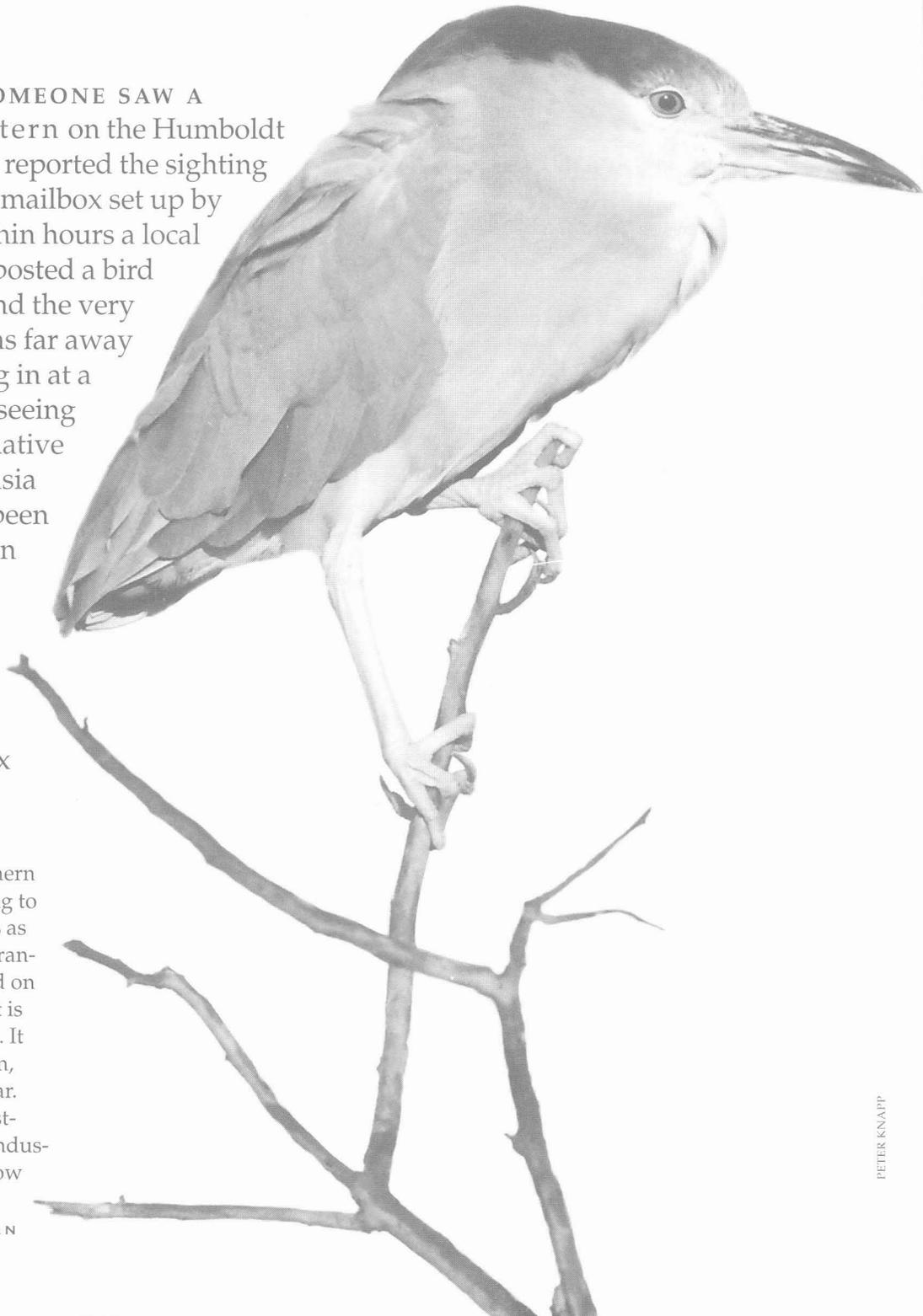
Catering to Wild Desires

RASA GUSTAITIS

LAST SUMMER SOMEONE SAW A white-winged tern on the Humboldt County coast and reported the sighting to the Birdbox, a voice mailbox set up by the City of Arcata. Within hours a local wildlife biologist had posted a bird alert on the Internet, and the very next day people from as far away as Idaho were checking in at a local hotel in hopes of seeing this seabird, which is native to Japan and Central Asia and had never before been observed in the western United States south of Alaska. This was just the sort of chain reaction the City had hoped for when it established the Birdbox as part of its economic development strategy.

Like other cities in far northern California, Arcata is struggling to develop new revenue sources as the region makes its painful transition from an economy based on timber and fishing to one that is more diverse and sustainable. It has focused on nature tourism, and birdwatching in particular.

Nature tourism is the fastest-growing sector of the travel industry, and wildlife viewing is now



PETER KNAPP

one of the most popular outdoor activities, recent surveys show. More and more people long to get away from the din and hurry of urban life and to immerse themselves in wild, unspoiled scenery and natural quiet—though not necessarily beyond the comforts of good hotels and restaurants. The north coast has a lot to offer people with such desires. It has ancient redwood forests protected within national and state parks, wild rivers, rugged shores, and long solitary beaches. It has Humboldt Bay, with lots of recreation opportunities both on and off the water.

Arcata has all that within reach, but most especially it has birds. You don't even have to go beyond the city limits: more than 200 species have been sighted on Arcata Marsh alone. As a result, in 1995 the local Economic Development Council "decided to develop the microniche of avian ecotourism to attract visitors," said Rob Hewitt, a member of the Council's ecotourism subcommittee. "The decision was economic," explains Peter Kenyon, professor of business at Humboldt State University and also a member of that subcommittee.

Hewitt is a birder—"I'm an addict," he says cheerfully—and he knew birders to be a relatively affluent crowd of well-educated professionals who spend money where they land. They fly in, rent a car, stay in a local hotel, eat in local restaurants, buy books and other substantial souvenirs, then fly out again. They don't carouse much at night. Their idea of a good time is to get up before dawn and go stand in the mudflats waiting for the birds to wake up. They are also environmentally harmless.

Passionate birders are, in some respects, similar to passionate surfers: they organize their lives around their sport and will drop everything to pursue it when the moment is right. A judge may leave the bench, a professor his classroom to catch the waves or fly a thousand miles to see a rare bird. The bird may be gone by the time the birder arrives, but that's okay. Serendipity and the chase are part of the fun.

Hewitt saw that Arcata has the three essentials for attracting birdwatchers: birds, people who know birds and can identify them, and an efficient communications system. Following his recommendations, the City set up the Birdbox, bought ads in two national birding magazines, published a *Guide to Birding in and around Arcata*, and



REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK

launched the annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Festival, celebrating the departure of Humboldt Bay godwits for their breeding grounds in Alaska. All this was done for one purpose: to increase revenues for the City and the community.

The festival, which features birding trips, workshops, and other activities, is held in the third week of April, at the end of the slow season for tourist-dependent business. This year, its second, it broke even with 100 people registered. "Now the challenge is to market it so as to get it to a significant

Opposite: Black-crowned night heron
Above: The California redwoods
have attracted nature tourists for more than a century.



REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK

scale," above 500 registrants, says Kenyon. The beauty of a bird festival, he added, is that people keep coming after it's over. It helps to spread the word that Arcata is a great birding site.

But isn't Arcata a special case? It has a "green" reputation. It is home to Humboldt State University, with its strong environmental studies program, and last year became the first California city ever to elect a city council with a Green Party majority. More than two decades ago, it made a name for itself as a pioneer in wetland restoration when it declined to hook into Eureka's new wastewater treatment system, which discharges through an outfall pipe into the ocean, and instead built an innovative system of its own using treated wastewater to create a marsh. Constructed and expanded with the help of the Coastal Conservancy, that marsh is now a popular wildlife reserve, an outdoor classroom for local schools, a favorite place to walk and watch the sunset. People come from other states and other countries just to see it.

Yes, Arcata is unique, but it is not alone in seeing the potential in nature tourism, and particularly in birding. In Texas in 1993, the report that a blue-footed booby had landed on a boat dock on Lake L.B. Johnson brought 5,414 people from 47 states and three other countries, according to John Herron of the Nongame and Urban Wildlife Program of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. That same year,

at the direction of Governor Ann Richards, Texas became the first state to develop a comprehensive policy and program to promote nature tourism.

Richards appointed a task force, representing a broad range of interests, to look into economic opportunities in this growing sector of vacation travel. In its report, the task force declared that "the potential for nature tourism is immeasurable," thanks to the state's great natural diversity and abundant wildlife. It found that tourism—not manufacturing, oil, gas, or agriculture—was likely to be the state's largest industry by the year 2000 and that the most significant growth in the nature tourism market has been not in hunting and fishing but in "non-consumptive" activities, including bird-watching, nature study and photography, backpacking, hiking, boating, camping, rafting, biking, climbing, and a variety of similar pursuits. Wildlife viewing topped the list in popularity.

Texas quickly moved to tap this growing market. It now has the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, a 500-mile highway trail with signed and numbered birding sites nominated by coastal communities. (Alabama and Georgia are following its example with similar trails.) Texas has published a guide to starting a nature tourism business, *Making Nature Your Business*, and it promotes local nature festivals, of which there are now seven. In 1995, 6,000 people gathered in Rockford to welcome the arrival of ruby-throated hummingbirds. "We had never marketed to people who like to do these things," said Madge Lindsay, outreach coordinator for the Nongame and Urban Wildlife Program.

The high-level attention given to nature tourism in Texas is the envy of California resource managers, who see the same potential in this state. Although California has no similar program, it is active in the National Watchable Wildlife Program, launched in 1988 to support nonconsumptive enjoyment of wildlife and give voice to this sector of outdoor recreation, which has grown as hunting and fishing have declined. The program grew from a Defenders of Wildlife project to publish an Oregon wildlife viewing guide in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Tourism, the U.S. Forest Service, and other agencies and organizations. More than 30 such statewide guides have since been pub-

Least terns



PETER KNAPP

lished, most in cooperation with Falcon Press. Each describes sites where wildlife can be easily viewed, but with minimal impact. Each site is marked by a sign along the highway featuring the Watchable Wildlife binoculars icon.

In November 1996, the fifth national Watchable Wildlife Conference brought some 400 people to Huntington Beach. It was the largest conference so far, with participants from public agencies, nonprofit groups, and business.

The latest figures show that in 1996, more than \$104 billion was spent in the U.S. on hunting, fishing, birdwatching, and other wildlife-related recreation—about 60 percent more than in 1991, according to preliminary data from the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Related Recreation, conducted for the Fish and Wildlife Service by the U.S. Census Bureau. The most recent National Survey on Recreation and Environment, sponsored by multiple agencies and the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association, showed that in 1994–95, 54 million people took part in birdwatching—a 157 percent increase over the 21 million counted in 1982–83.

It used to be that people thought of nature travel, or ecotravel, as something you only do abroad, usually in developing countries. But the concept has come home, and now invites a new way of thinking. The latest studies challenge the convention that economic development requires the sacrifice of natural values. Unspoiled nature, with wildlife, is coming to be appreciated as an economic asset. It constitutes capital that communities can use in building a sustainable economy and supporting their local way of life.

There are, of course, obstacles and competing claims. On California's central coast, a growing colony of elephant seals is a great attraction, but plans for a resort development may pose a problem. (See p. 12.) On the north coast some people blame spotted owls for the loss of jobs in the timber industry and would rather not see any more birdwatchers, while other people object to visitors who come in cars, for whatever purpose. Michael Sweeney, director of the Institute for Ecotourism at Humboldt State University, finds himself trying to explain "the difference between an ecoterrorist and a tourist." The cultivation of understanding takes time.

State and national parks have been in the nature tourism business from their beginnings, of course, but now they are short of funds. Redwood National Park Superintendent Andrew T. Ringgold points out that this important park lacks a visitor center designed for in-depth interpretation, such as other parks have, and that summer seminars have been canceled for lack of staff.

In Arcata, meanwhile, the white-winged tern did not stay for the weekend, so its draw was modest. But a rare rustic bunting, native to Siberia, took up residence for three months, and hundreds of out-of-town birders came flocking. The Birdbox gets a steady stream of calls from distant birders. New reports come in daily, as local observers check in from points throughout California's northwest.

"June 30: Bar-tailed godwit still at Point St. George. At about 10:30 had him alone, right on the beach. . . . July 4: This morning on Humboldt Bay out from Manila as the tide was coming up I saw two black turnstones among the shorebirds, thousands of least terns, slowly increasing numbers of willets and godwits, good numbers of curlews, and occasional whimbrels. . . . Went to Del Norte County and was able to see bar-tailed godwit at Point St. George. . . . July 5, 8 p.m.: Bar-tailed godwit still at Point St. George. If you want directions, call me at. . . ."

Call (707) 822-LOON (no, it's not a free call) and you find yourself daydreaming, even if you barely know a cormorant from a heron, much less a bar-tailed godwit from a black-tailed godwit. You start thinking about finding some binoculars, about heading north. ■

White pelican



PETER KNAPP



ROBERT HOLMES/CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF TOURISM



NATURE TOURISM

The Promise of ECOTOURISM

JOHN POIMIROO

ECOTOURISM IS ON THE RISE, but what exactly is ecotourism? One of the problems in discussing this subject is that the word means different things to different people.

To demographic researchers, ecotourists are affluent travelers who want to enjoy maximum privacy in remote places of extraordinary beauty and are willing to pay for high standards of service. They tend to be professionals with an interest in conservation who select destinations with attention

to quality and the type of experience offered. They appreciate ecolodges, such as Robert Redford's opulent Sundance Resort in Utah.

To the Ecotourism Society, the term means "responsible travel to natural areas which conserves the environment and improves the welfare of local people." To the Canadian Environmental Advisory Council, ecotourism is "an enlightening, nature-oriented travel experience that contributes to conservation of the ecosystem while respecting the integrity of host communities." There are

subtle differences between these definitions. A 1992 U.S. Travel Data Center survey predicted that 43 million U.S. travelers would take an ecotourism trip by 1995, including 7 million who would spend from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for a nature-based tour. Included in this report were traditional sightseers who visit national parks; adventure travelers—experiential consumers—who travel for the exhilaration of nature thrills such as white-water rafting, hiking, rock climbing, snorkeling, mountain biking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and hot air ballooning; traditional sportsmen and -women who hunt and fish; and campers ranging from backpackers to RVers.

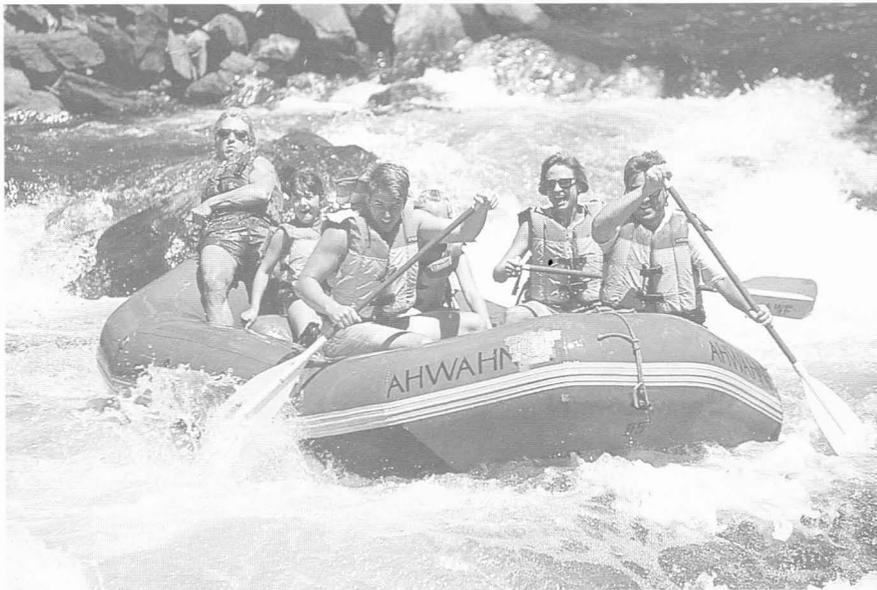
Clearly, many people are interested in travel to natural places, which they enjoy in many different ways. Only some of them are ecotourists. Because the term “ecotourism” has been used and misused to the point of being a marketing gimmick, let me offer a few definitions that may help to sort out the confusion.

Traditional travel or tourism occurs by car, boat, plane, train, or bus for purposes of recreation, relaxation, education, sightseeing, business, reunion, escape, enrichment, amusement, and so forth.

People who travel with an interest in scenery or wildlife are taking part in nature-based tourism. This includes everything from a bus trip that provides an eyeful of Yosemite Valley at a five-minute stop at Tunnel View, to ocean kayaking, long-distance bicycling, or wildlife viewing. “Nature-based tourism,” in itself, does not convey environmental appropriateness or inappropriateness. It only describes travel in which nature is important to the traveler.

People who travel for the sake of an experience or challenging activity are adventure travelers. The experience they seek often occurs outdoors (mountain climbing, skiing, diving), but it is not necessarily presented or undertaken in a manner that is sensitive to the environment or to local culture. In my experience, most adventure-oriented tourism providers understand the importance of protecting the environment that secures their bread and butter, and most adventure travelers are responsible, but there are some who will toss trash into the river or harass wildlife.

Ecotourists are travelers who give paramount attention to having minimum impact on the places they visit. Ecotourism,



ROBERT HOLMES/CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF TOURISM



JOE SAMBERG



ROBERT HOLMES/CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF TOURISM

by definition, is sustainable travel, that is, it is managed so that nature and cultures are not harmed.

All tourism can be sustainable. Whether it depends on the attitudes and behavior of the traveler, travel company, and people who make decisions at the destination. The traveler makes an important choice when selecting a travel company. Generally, those that belong to travel associations can be counted on to have a stake in maintaining standards. By selecting responsibly, the traveler helps to weed out unscrupulous operators.

THE ECOTOURISM MARKET

BECAUSE ECOTOURISM INVOLVES small numbers of travelers going to places that are little visited, it is a very small market. In areas such as California's north coast, that are in transition from extractive industries to sustainable ones, ecotourism is not likely to provide the base of economic activity the community requires to survive at its previous size. Such areas need to consider ecotourism as part of a mix composed of varied activities, especially nature-based and adventure tourism.

The media have given much attention to ecolodges built in pristine environments—in the Caribbean, the tropical rainforests of Malaysia, or the American West. These resorts are designed to be in strict harmony with the natural environment. They conserve resources and have a low visual impact. They also tend to have far fewer rooms than other tourist facilities, so it is harder for them to succeed financially.

In developed areas such as the north and central coasts of California, I believe, ecolodges can be much larger and still be harmonious with the landscape, not degrade the environment, or intrude on local culture. If they are to be attractive year-round they need convenient and competitively priced air service. Meeting facilities are also helpful to year-round survival.

Ecotourism can supplement income gained from traditional tourism. Along the coast it should be part of a multi-faceted strategy to attract traditional and nontraditional tourism, including cruise ships, tour group visits to state and national parks, and tourism that provides maximum benefits to existing facilities and communities. Let's maximize the potential of resorts, hotels,

and other facilities that already exist before we start developing new ones.

Even though "ecotourism" means many things to many people, its popularity indicates a great interest in low-impact travel to natural places. In recognition of this interest, the California Division of Tourism promotes four vacation typologies: family, romance, recreation, and nature. These are threaded throughout California's tourism marketing program. We see a growing interest in specific nature-based activities—including cultural learning, wildlife viewing, and educational travel—throughout each of the four typologies. We also observe that environmental concerns are playing an increasingly important role in the selection of destinations.

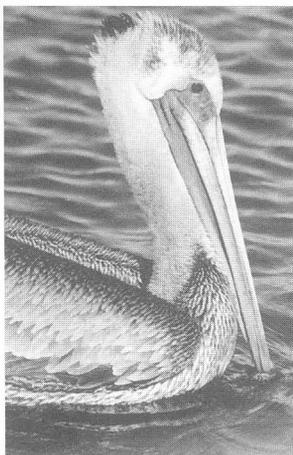
A study by Pamela A. Wright, reported in the spring and summer 1996 editions of the *Journal of Travel Research*, found that 33 percent of U.S. consumers (35 million adults) are interested in ecotourism, and that 7 percent (8 million) have partaken of ecotravel. Avid ecotourists have a very high educational level, much higher than average income, and are willing to spend more on an ecotourism trip than a typical traveler spends. Their interest in hiking, cycling, and wildlife viewing is greater than that of the general population, as is their interest in staying in cabins (66 percent) and camping (58 percent). In addition, they are more likely to live and work in California than in any other state.

California is a natural destination for this market. In the past, many remote and beautiful California regions benefited from families taking extended vacations. That market has dissipated with the rise in the number of two-income and divorced families that take shorter trips and also must juggle schedules.

When communities plan for and assertively market to nature-based tourists, they also promote sustainable tourism that conserves the environment and improves the welfare of local people. This growing sector of travel and tourism can bring substantial benefits to communities with high scenic and natural values. That's a promise that California should not ignore. ■

John Poimiroo is the director of tourism for the State of California and deputy secretary of the California Trade and Commerce Agency.

Below: Burrowing owl
Bottom: Brown pelican



PHOTOS: PETER KNAPP



PHOTOS COURTESY ELKHORN SLOUGH SAFARI

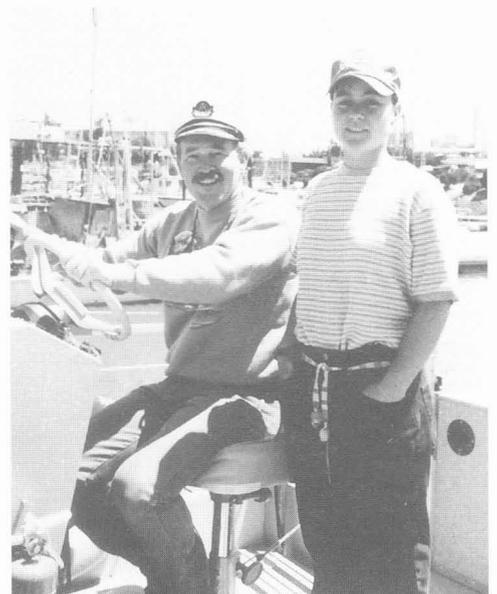
An Inside View of Elkhorn Slough

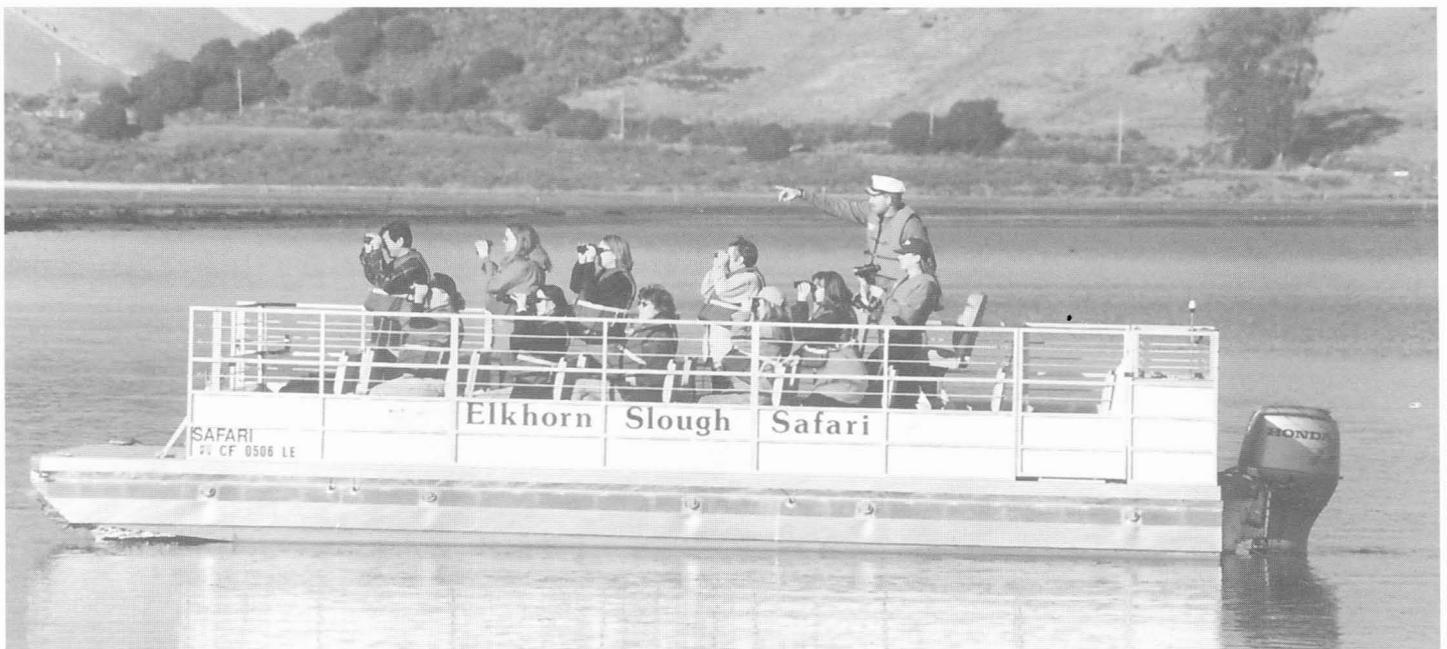
SQUID FISHERMEN WERE UNLOADING their catch in Moss Landing Harbor one recent morning as ten landlubbers with binoculars hanging from their necks boarded Captain Yohn Gideon's pontoon boat for an Elkhorn Slough Safari. Eight were from nearby cities, two were guests from St. Louis. None were avid birdwatchers or naturalists, but they had heard this trip was fun.

The day was warm and clear, the water was calm. Captain Gideon steered his 27-foot boat past the fishermen, past brown

pelicans and cormorants sunning on a jetty, and into the slough's quiet waters. During the next two hours his passengers were cheered, amused, relaxed, and uplifted.

Elkhorn Slough winds almost seven miles inland at Moss Landing, midway between Santa Cruz and Monterey, at the head of the Monterey submarine canyon. It is a 2,500-acre expanse of salt





COURTESY ELKHORN SLOUGH SAFARI

For information about the Elkhorn Slough Safari, call (408) 633-5555 or refer to www.monterey-bay.net/elkhornslough. Trips are offered daily at midtide; reservations are required.

marshes, mudflats, and tidal channels and one of the least disturbed wetlands on the California coast. Although it's just off Highway 1, few coastal travelers know of its existence. Those who find their way to the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve visitor center, then walk a shoreline trail, come to appreciate it as a wildlife sanctuary. But only on the water can you fully see the slough's natural riches, especially if you go with a guide who knows the place intimately.

Yohn Gideon is 35 and a native of Nebraska. He was a Navy officer stationed at Moffett Field about seven years ago when he took a trip to this piece of the coast and fell in love with it. He settled here to do what he had always wanted to do: "work outdoors, be with people, and be in business for myself." On today's trip he's assisted by Tania Gale, from New Jersey, a graduate student at the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. "When I first saw this place I almost cried," she says. "I had seen maybe two seals in my whole life." Throughout the trip they work as a team, offering bits of natural and human history, deftly interwoven with long moments of quiet.

As we were pulling out of the harbor, Gideon had pointed out trollers, other commercial fishing boats, and a research ship. The harbor supports 400 commercial fishing boats, 200 pleasure craft, and 20 research vessels, he said. The Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute is in Moss Landing, and launches its deep-sea diving trips into the 10,000-foot-deep submarine canyon from the harbor.

We had not gone far before we saw our first sea otter, lying on its back, paws folded on its chest, feet sticking up into the air. It was so straight and still, at first we thought it was a log. Moments later there was another otter to starboard, then another directly ahead, holding something in both paws, taking it to its mouth. Then we saw several more, swimming together. "This is amazing," a man who had lived in Big Sur in the 1950s said under his breath. "They were never this far north. Really amazing." He had been dubious about the trip, but now there was awe in his voice.

"Look," said Gideon, pointing. "There's a tern at two o'clock. Watch its flight. It's like a fighter jet. A gull, compared, is more like a cargo plane. . . . See there, straight ahead on the water, some grebes—best dancers in the slough and also great parents. They build the nest in the reeds so it floats, and they carry chicks on their backs." During their mating dance, grebes pass a piece of nesting material beak to beak and flit over the water surface as if on tiptoe, without moving their wings.

Each passenger had been given a wildlife counting assignment, and as the boat moved slowly forward we were all busy tallying, with the assistance of our sharp-eyed captain. A small crowd of harbor seal adults and two pups lounged onshore, a lone curlew pecked in a mudflat. Willets, brown pelicans, another curlew, great egrets, more otters.

The harbor seals looked up at us as we passed. Otters played in the water. In the eroding sandbanks we spotted shorecrabs

in their burrows. "Crab condos," said Gideon. "At one time there were plans for a human condominium development here."

At 10:40 a.m. our captain turned off the engine and Gale announced: "Now put away your binoculars and put on your imagination. We are going back 10,000 years." We were near the head of the slough, looking out at grassy slopes, a few trees, a barn or two. Some of the hillsides were planted with strawberries. With Gale's prompting we envisioned a brackish marsh bordered by tule reeds, an Ohlone village on a hillside, people digging for shellfish. A cloud of birds rose from the gleaming water. We heard tule elk crashing through the reeds and bugling.

"The strawberry farmers would not appreciate those elk crashing through their fields," said Gale, bringing us back to the present. That world was gone. But this place is still wild by present standards. It is not a marina lined with expensive houses; it is a reserve, thanks to the local citizens, scientists, and others who fought successfully to protect it. Gideon restarted the engine.

We disembarked in high spirits, having counted 53 sea otters, 113 harbor seals, and 32 bird species, including great blue herons, great egrets, and snowy egrets. The Elkhorn Slough Safari had lived up to its billing—"You don't have to travel halfway round the world to take a safari into untamed lands rich with wildlife."

"You see different things each season, and with every kind of weather," Gideon said. In autumn the long-distance travelers fly in from the Arctic on their way south, in midwinter they start the return to their nesting areas in full breeding plumage. Because many birds also overwinter here, midwinter is a great time to come if you want to see thousands of birds. Foggy days are good because the birds are calm and often on the ground, and the otters tend to raft up. Big storms sometimes blow in seabirds you don't otherwise see here, so the day after a storm is a good time to come. The otters do different things at different times of day and with different tides.

Some of us had already decided to return with friends or family. What a great way to celebrate a birthday, or to show the real California coast to a guest from New York. Before bidding goodbye, Captain Gideon recommended some nearby restaurants where we could sample the local catch.

Yohn Gideon makes a living by these tours and provides part-time work for graduate students and various experts (wildlife photographers, birders) whom he brings along. This may not provide a luxurious living, but the job satisfaction is off the charts. Not only does he get to spend his mornings out on the water, observing the ever-changing scene, but he has the pleasure of passing on his knowledge of the slough and seeing his passengers' delight. It's impossible to be gloomy on this trip, or to lament the destruction of nature—not while you're watching nature so alive, not while every moment can bring a new discovery. ■

More Naturalists at Large

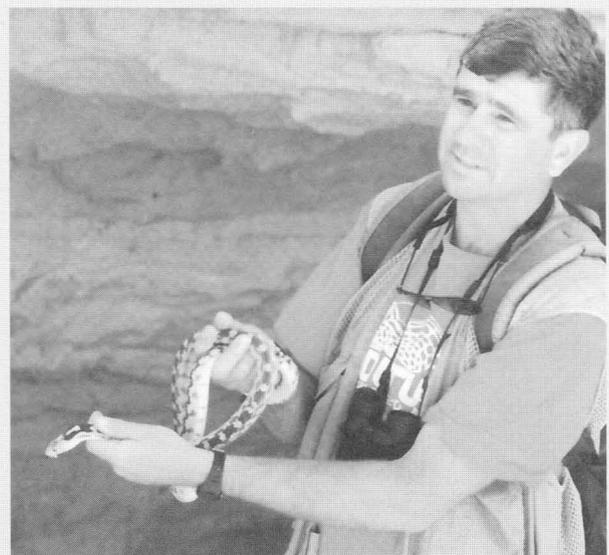
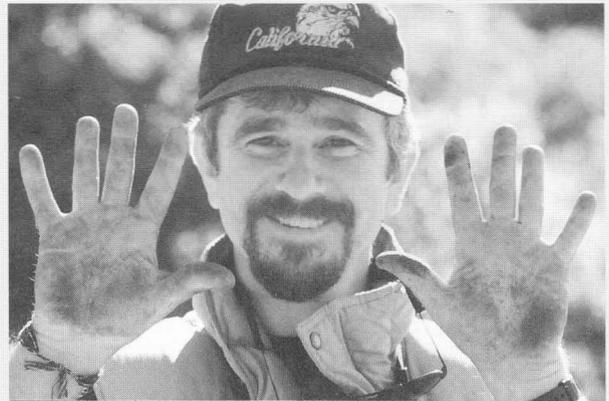
MICHAEL ELLIS RANGES FROM TIDEPOLS TO MOUNTAINS in the San Francisco Bay area, leading Footloose Forays, (707) 829-1844.

Chris Stevenson offers Southern California Odysseys and Urban Treks in the Santa Monica Mountains and Los Angeles natural areas, (310) 390-8345.

For ranger-guided kayak tours of the Klamath River estuary, call Redwood National and State Parks, (707) 464-6101, ext. 5265.

The California Division of Tourism website (gocalif.ca.gov) lists more tour providers in its guidebook pages.

Michael Ellis is another self-employed naturalist tour guide, shown here with hands covered with coastal puffball spores (above right) and holding a gopher snake.



PHOTOS COURTESY MICHAEL ELLIS



FRANK S. BALTHIS

The Dangerously Attractive ELEPHANT SEALS



NATURE TOURISM

BACK IN 1921, ELEPHANT SEALS were believed to be extinct. But then a fisherman spotted a colony of 20 to 30 on Guadalupe Island in Baja California, and the New York Museum of Natural History rushed some scientists out to look. They shot nine of them to bring back as specimens and to stuff for exhibits. The Mexican government responded by setting up a

garrison to protect the rest of the colony.

Scientists' attitudes toward species on the brink of extinction have taken a 180-degree turn since then, and so have the prospects of the northern elephant seals. They number 60,000 or more now, and are reclaiming more and more of their ancestral range, from Baja California to British Columbia. The best-known rookery is at the 4,000-acre

Año Nuevo State Reserve in San Mateo County, where up to 4,500 seals—and 210,000 human seal-viewers—appear each year. To accommodate both species and make sure neither harms the other is a formidable challenge, one that the preserve has been meeting with great success.

During the breeding season, December through March, the seals may be approached only under the watchful eyes of docent naturalists, who have trained for two months to volunteer at the reserve. Every 15 minutes these docents take groups of up to 20 (400 people a day) into the dunes to watch the huge creatures lolling about in the sand. Bulls sometimes fight, and it would be a big mistake to get in the way. Each season 46,000 visitors, including 15,000 school-children, take the tours, and up to 35,000 are turned away.

"We could easily add more visitors," says Supervising Ranger Gary Strachan, "but these animals have the highest degree of protection. Our mandate is to protect the resource and to educate the people of California. The elephant seals draw the crowds," he says, "and we use them as a vehicle to get the State Parks message across. The tour takes two and a half hours, and by the time people head home they have learned what a reserve does, what coastal protection is about, and much more." (Only two tours a day are reserved for commercial tours,



FRANK S. BALTHIS

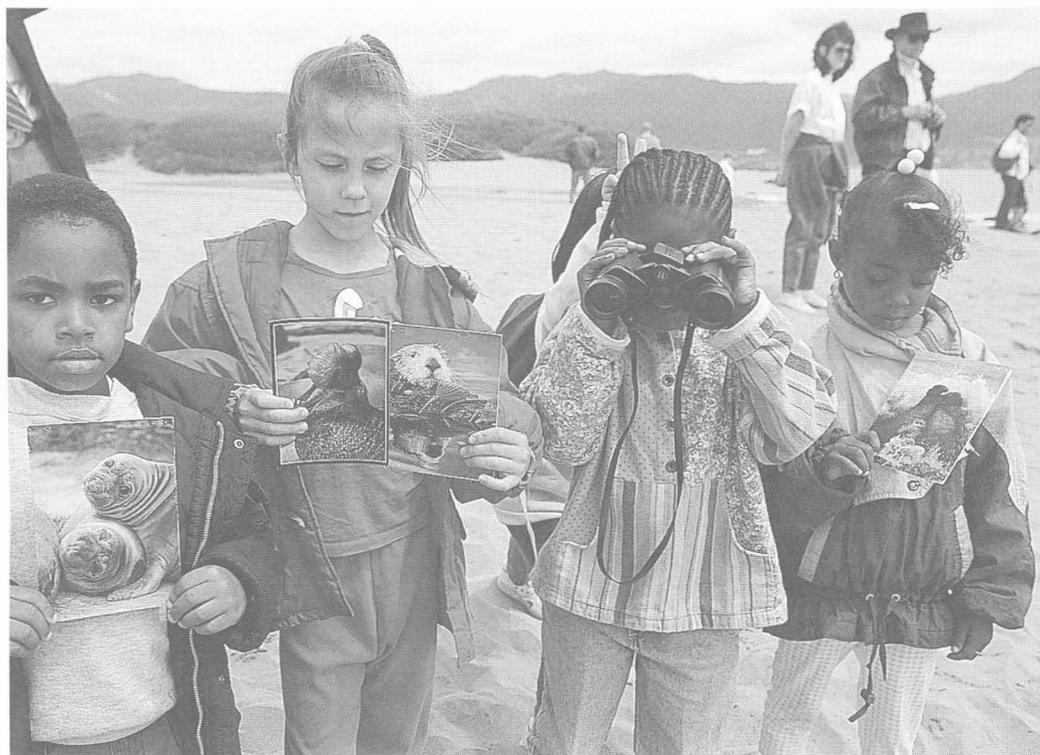
because the reserve is dedicated first of all to educating California's population—the main stewards of their natural resources.)

Volunteerism is a major component of Año Nuevo's success. The reserve would not be able to afford this kind of service to the public if it had to pay for the work done by docents. "It would cost us \$350,000 a year," says Strachan. "We do it all on a shoestring budget. The few rangers we have are wrapped up in administration and training."

Since it was preserved in 1958, the Año Nuevo State Reserve has become such an asset to this stretch of the coast, and to people of the San Francisco Bay area and their visitors, that it is hard to imagine what was

Above: Close-ups are wheelchair accessible.

Below: Each year, 15,000 school-children come to the reserve.



FRANK S. BALTHIS

Elephant seal pups on Highway 1 near Piedras Blancas

planned for this area a few decades ago: a marina and a hotel. That seems as absurd now as does shooting an endangered species for the sake of science.

But hindsight is, of course, clearer than foresight. Down-coast in San Luis Obispo County, a large colony of elephant seals, numbering up to 5,000, has become established. In 1990 they began to pup on a cove beach near the Piedras Blancas lighthouse, one of the few secluded beaches in that coastal region, and have since spread toward Twin Creeks Beach, beside Highway 1. No docent-led program exists here. People pull off the highway and sometimes get too close, or behave in a foolish manner, courting injury. Some even try to pet the seals. "It's a regular zoo, and it's been a safety problem for some years," says Norman J. Scott Jr., biologist at the Piedras Blancas field station of the National Biological Survey, U.S. Geologic Survey. Elephant seals have wandered onto the coastal highway, and at least one has been hit by a car.

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors recently voted to revise the Local Coastal Plan for the northern part of the county so as to permit considerably more development, including a major, highly controversial project by the Hearst Corporation. There is no mention of plans for the elephant seal colony in the revised plan, which is scheduled to be considered by the Coastal Commission at its August 12 meeting in Los Angeles.

The seals are likely to continue expanding in a southerly direction, toward the pro-

posed Hearst Corporation resort. Who will get the beaches—people or elephant seals? Although they are officially protected under the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act, only in the cove by the lighthouse are they free from disturbance by people and dogs, says Scott. The task of protecting them is assigned to the National Marine Fisheries Service, but its hands are full with far more urgent duties. Caltrans, which is straightening the highway in this area (in another controversial project), is preparing an interim management plan which includes two vista points, fencing for one of them, parking spaces, and interpretive signs.

Elephant seals can be a problem or an asset, depending on the response to their growing presence. "There's an incredible opportunity [at Piedras Blancas] to educate the population of southern California the same way we do it here," says Strachan at the Año Nuevo preserve, "by using elephant seals to protect the magnificent resources of the coast. We have taken that opportunity. They can too." ■



GALEN B. RATHBUN, USGS



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

ELEPHANT SEALS ARE AT AÑO NUEVO YEAR-ROUND. Guided walks are offered daily during breeding season, December 15–April 30 (\$4). Reservations are accepted 8 weeks in advance. Call (800) 444-7275. May 1–November 30 admission is free, and self-guided walks are available with a permit from the Reserve office. Auto parking is \$5. The Reserve is closed December 1–14.

For more information call (415) 879-0227 to hear a recording, or (415) 879-2025 to talk with someone; visit the website at www.anonuevo.org; e-mail to anonuevo@southcoast.net; or write Año Nuevo State Reserve, New Years Creek Road, Pescadero, CA 94060.



NATURE TOURISM

PECHO COAST TRAIL



J. CARROLL

A LONG MOST OF THE CALIFORNIA coast, Highway 1 winds along the edge of the Pacific, offering endless vistas of shore and ocean. In a few places, however, it veers inland, skirting an expanse of rugged coast. That happens in northern Mendocino County, leaving the hard-to-reach "Lost Coast" isolated and wild, and also in San Luis Obispo County, between Morro Bay and Avila Beach, where a 13-mile stretch of coastline remained closed to the public for 140 years. Part of that area can now be visited.

The Pacific Gas & Electric Company controls this coastal reach and, until four years ago, kept it entirely off-limits to the public as a security measure for the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, which stands on a coastal terrace. Until the 1960s, the land was owned by large-scale ranchers and farmers. The coastal highway was routed inland of their property.

In 1993, PG&E opened the 3.7-mile Pecho Coast Trail (a 7-mile hike round trip), allowing the public to see a coast that had been shut off since the Spanish mission days. The trail is open for docent-led walks, by reservation only. It starts at Port San Luis, climbs to views of the Nipomo Dunes, passes by the Point San Luis Lighthouse (soon to be restored), and continues along the coastal terrace to Rattlesnake Canyon, with sweeping views upcoast.

The creation of the Pecho Coast Trail took ten years, beginning in 1983, when PG&E applied for a Coastal Commission permit to

expand its facility. The Commission granted the permit on condition that the company offer a strip of coastal land for a future trail and pay a fee for construction and several years of maintenance. PG&E hired experts to study the characteristics of the area. Remarkable information was discovered: sea otters were pupping in coves along the coastal terrace; a range of plant and animal life was thriving in the tidepools; there were Chumash Indian sites.

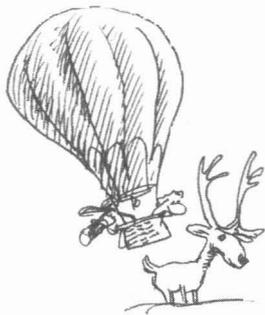
A unique partnership was formed among the California Coastal Commission, PG&E, the Nature Conservancy, and the Port San Luis Harbor District. The Nature Conservancy directed the trail's construction, developed a docent program, and led tours for the first three years. PG&E has managed the trail. Multiple goals have been achieved: the natural and archeological resources are protected, power plant security is maintained, and the public is allowed to view this beautiful area. Monitoring has shown no impacts on wildlife.

The tours are given twice weekly, for up to 20 people per tour. Docents help people learn about natural features, wildlife, and cultural history, and also keep visitors from straying into sensitive areas. Beaches are reserved for the sea otter families, for instance, so they are off-limits to humans. What the human visitors get, however, is a unique and exhilarating coastal experience. ■

Linda Locklin is access program manager for the Coastal Commission.

Hikers on the trail looking toward Harford's Pier in San Luis Bay. The Pecho Coast trail is a good place to watch migrating gray whales.

Want to walk this trail?
Call (805) 541-TREK to
make a reservation.



NATURE TOURISM

POINT CABRILLO OUTLOOK



KATHERINE DAVIS

WANT TO SEE A 90-YEAR-OLD lighthouse, with a Fresnel lens that shines a light 15 miles out to sea? Or watch a mama marsh hawk teach her fledglings to hunt? Maybe you get a thrill from watching gray whales spouting and breaching on their migratory journey just offshore; or perhaps you just want to sit on a wind-swept headland, listening to the natural quiet. You can do all this, and more, at the Point Cabrillo Preserve, just north of the Town of Mendocino.

Created by the Coastal Conservancy in 1992, the 300-acre preserve is still little known by people outside the immediate area. It's just off Highway 1, the main north coast tourist artery, but foliage and topography screen it from motorists' view. Visitors hike the half-mile road (closed to vehicles) from the gate to the historic Point Cabrillo Light Station, then walk along blufftop trails. The local chapter of the Audubon Society leads birders out from time to time, and on summer Sundays there is a tour led by volunteer docents knowledgeable in the natural and cultural history of the place. Otherwise the windswept headland and rocky shore belong mostly to wildlife.

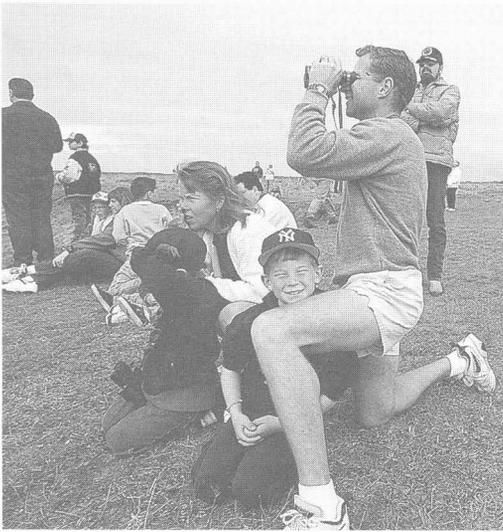
Each year, however, more people find their way here, and having found it, many return. On Memorial Day weekend almost 400 showed up on Sunday—twice the usual crowd. Was this a harbinger of things to come? How many visitors can the preserve accommodate without serious disturbance to the natural environment?

Tourism is growing on the north coast, compensating somewhat for the revenue losses sustained because of the precipitous decline of the timber and fishing industries. This tourism is substantially based on the region's natural attraction—the wildness of this magnificent coast. Is it possible to maintain such wildness while welcoming more visitors?

The nonprofit North Coast Interpretive Association (NCIA), which manages the



KATHERINE DAVIS

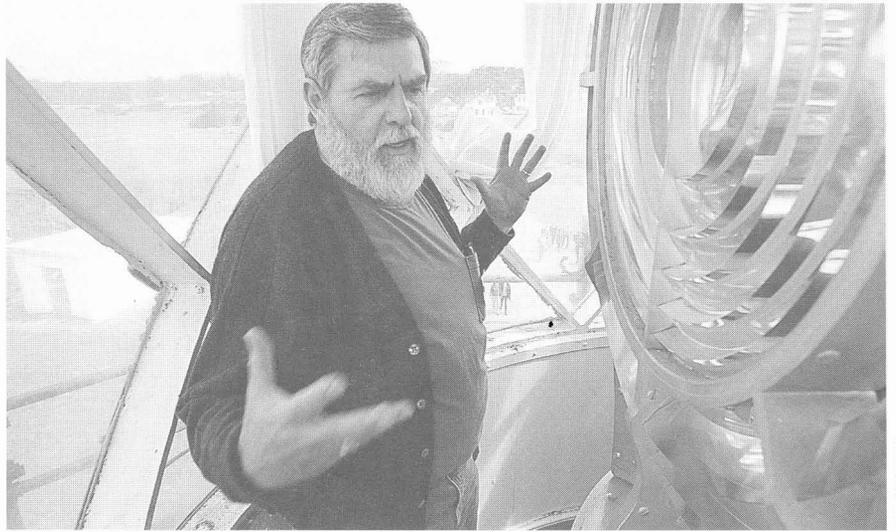


Point Cabrillo Preserve in partnership with the Coastal Conservancy, believes that education and personal involvement are the keys to finding the answer. They appreciate and encourage a growing sense of community stewardship. Local people give of their knowledge, time, and energy on the preserve's behalf, and some of them are becoming experts on its natural and cultural history. A small group of devoted volunteers appears weekly to remove invasive alien plants, guided by experts from the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society. A class in birding by ear (identifying birds by song and call), offered by the NCIA in partnership with the Audubon Society, is helping other volunteers develop the skills needed to help in the biennial land bird survey.

Community involvement is a two-way street. The NCIA works to make sure that projects at the preserve (currently, these include a visitor center and small parking lot, and restoration of light station buildings) are thoroughly discussed at public meetings and in local media.

To encourage nature-friendly tourism, NCIA collaborates with the Fort Bragg/Mendocino Coast Chamber of Commerce on the Whale Festivals that occur every March—at the end of the slow season—on the north coast. Point Cabrillo puts on its own part of the festival, and each year more people come to watch the giants pass by.

Most of the NCIA's attention, however, is devoted to monitoring and nurturing the preserve's natural resources, protecting and restoring its historic buildings, and encouraging people to use this unique place for learning. The NCIA has hired a consultant to develop curricula for grades 2–5. Each program explores an aspect of natural and

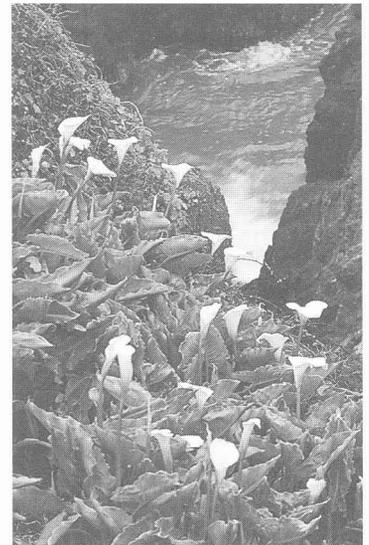
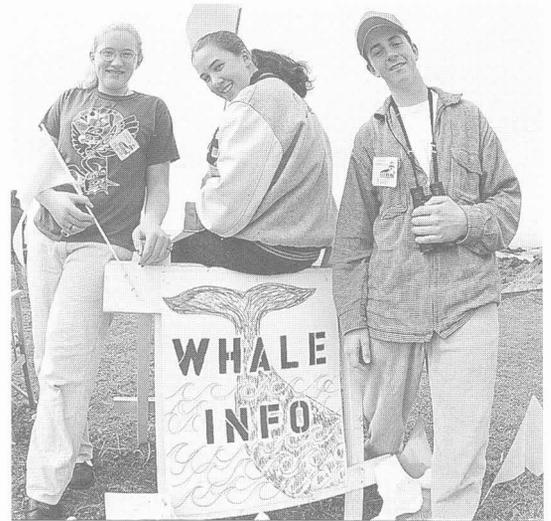


cultural history. "The children are attentive and fascinated at how much there is to learn, and, judging by their letters, they really enjoy their time here," says the preserve's resident manger, Lisa Weg.

Efforts are now under way to create internship and independent study opportunities for students at high schools in the area and at the College of the Redwoods, and to incorporate marine science into the preserve's education program.

How many visitors can the preserve sustain? The answer will depend in large part on what is learned from the vegetation surveys and bird counts conducted by local volunteers. The number of locals with expert knowledge of the preserve's resources is growing, as is the number of people who are developing a personal stake in conservation after putting in a lot of sweat equity by pulling thistle, counting wildlife, serving as docents, and contributing in other ways. Those who came here as children on school trips have learned something of the preserve's value. So has everyone who hiked that half mile from the gate to the lighthouse and stood watching the wild ocean. Eventually, visitors from elsewhere may outnumber the locals, but it's clear who will be looking out for Point Cabrillo's future. ■

Julia McIver, a Coastal Conservancy project manager, helped to create the Point Cabrillo Preserve and is now on the North Coast Interpretive Association's board of directors.



You can observe whales, birds, local high school students, or people with binoculars at the whale festivals. Top right: Hal Hauck explains the Fresnel lens.



Is the Last Lagoon of the Pacific Gray Whale Worth Its Salt?



PHOTOS BY RICHARD SOBOL/IFAW

People in boat include Glenn Close, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Pierce Brosnan, and Jean Michael Cousteau.

JOEL R. REYNOLDS

EACH WINTER FOR THOUSANDS of years, gray whales have migrated from the Arctic to the coastal lagoons of western Baja California Sur. There, in the warm salty waters, remote and secluded, they breed, calve, and prepare their young for the journey back to the Bering and Chukchi Seas. This population of the Pacific gray whale, the last of the magnificent gray whale species that once also inhabited the western Pacific and the northern Atlantic, recently completed one of the most remarkable recoveries on record. In 1994, more than 40 years after Mexico and the United States agreed to ban commercial whaling, the Pacific gray whale was removed from the federal endangered species list; returning from the brink of extinction, it now numbers over 22,000.

As the whale has recovered, however, its historic Baja calving habitat has been placed increasingly at risk. At Guerrero Negro and Laguna Ojo de Liebre (Scam-

mon's Lagoon), urban sprawl and a massive salt manufacturing facility are long established; at Bahía Magdalena, phosphate mining continues, and massive resort development, with a major airport, is planned. Today only one Baja lagoon—Laguna San Ignacio, 500 miles south of San Diego—remains in a virtually pristine condition. The gray whale and 150 different waterfowl species coexist here among the mangroves with fishing cooperatives and with a growing but strictly regulated ecotourism industry whose viability is inextricably intertwined with the whales' survival and recovery.

Since the late 1970s, Laguna San Ignacio has become known as the home of the "friendly gray whale," a gentle and playful descendant of the "devil fish" that turned on the harpoon boats of whalers and smashed them with their massive flukes. (Adults weigh over 40 tons and are up to 45 feet long; their tongues can weigh 3,000

pounds.) Now, in the lagoon's protected confines, the whales' fear of the harpoon has been replaced by curiosity, by countless playful interactions with tourists, and by mutual trust and affection.

The need to protect Laguna San Ignacio has long been recognized. In 1954, Mexico designated it a gray whale sanctuary and banned whaling. In 1979, the federal government declared the lagoon to be a "refuge for pregnant whales and calves, as well as a marine tourism reserve." In 1988, Mexico's President Carlos Salinas included Laguna San Ignacio in establishing El Vizcaíno Desert Biosphere Reserve, the largest protected area in Latin America, equal in size to the state of New Hampshire. That same year, UNESCO designated the lagoon a World Heritage Site.

But this special place is also the site proposed in 1994 by Mitsubishi Corporation, together with Mexico, for construction of the world's largest salt manufacturing plant. Through a jointly owned subsidiary, Exportadora de Sal, S.A. ("ESSA"), Mitsubishi wants to build an evaporation facility that would produce an estimated 7.1 million tons per year of salt for use in the manufacture of chemicals, primarily in Japan. Noisy diesel pumps would be installed on the lagoon to extract 462 million metric tons of water a year (6,600 gallons per second), possibly reducing the lagoon's salinity and affecting the buoyancy and insulation it provides to the whales.

If the plan goes through, an estimated 116 square miles of evaporation ponds will be diked and bulldozed into the landscape, disturbing wetlands, fisheries crucial to the local human communities, and the habitats of rare or endangered terrestrial species. A mile-long concrete pier will be constructed to receive tankers carrying diesel fuel and oil and tankers exporting the salt. The surrounding fishing communities would be swallowed up by the urban sprawl that inevitably accompanies industrial development—as has already occurred at ESSA's Guerrero Negro salt works. The local culture sustained by fishing will be a thing of the past.

In June 1994, ESSA submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment that dismissed the potential impacts to the gray whale in 23 lines and summarily discounted the potential adverse effects on the lagoon ecology. Six months later, after a fierce opposition campaign headed by Mexico's leading envi-

ronmental group, El Grupo de los Cien (The Group of 100), ESSA's application for project approval was rejected by Mexico's National Ecology Institute (INE), part of the newly created Ministry of Fisheries, Natural Resources, and Environment (SEMARNAP). INE found that a new Environmental Impact Assessment is required. In February 1996, the environmental review process began again, this time with the assistance of an international panel of scientists appointed by SEMARNAP.

Mexico's commitment to protecting this unique natural area is indicated by the designation of the lagoon as a sanctuary and a biological reserve, as well as by the rejection of ESSA's original environmental impact assessment. SEMARNAP Director Julia Carabias Lillo is well regarded by conservationists inside and outside Mexico. Yet the country is in the throes of economic and political turmoil, and the pressures to approve the project are powerful. As the environmental review process moves forward, project opponents fear the government's commitment to the sanctuary may be undermined.

To Mitsubishi, the lagoon's uniqueness has not proved a compelling reason to look elsewhere for salt. The company contends that the whales will not be jeopardized. The Natural Resources Defense Council has met repeatedly with Mitsubishi executives to urge that they find another site, but they have refused to do so. Project opponents are now considering economic and political incentives to persuade Mitsubishi to change its mind. There are a lot of places in the world to make salt—Mitsubishi concedes that—but there is only one undisturbed place remaining where the gray whale can breed. The fate of Laguna San Ignacio—and the fate of the Pacific gray whale—will depend on what we can do, individually and collectively, to defend them. ■

Joel R. Reynolds, a senior attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council in Los Angeles, heads NRDC's Southern California Coastal Ecosystem Project. For more information on this controversy, see www.nrdc.org



BACK IN TIME



BEACH VIEW

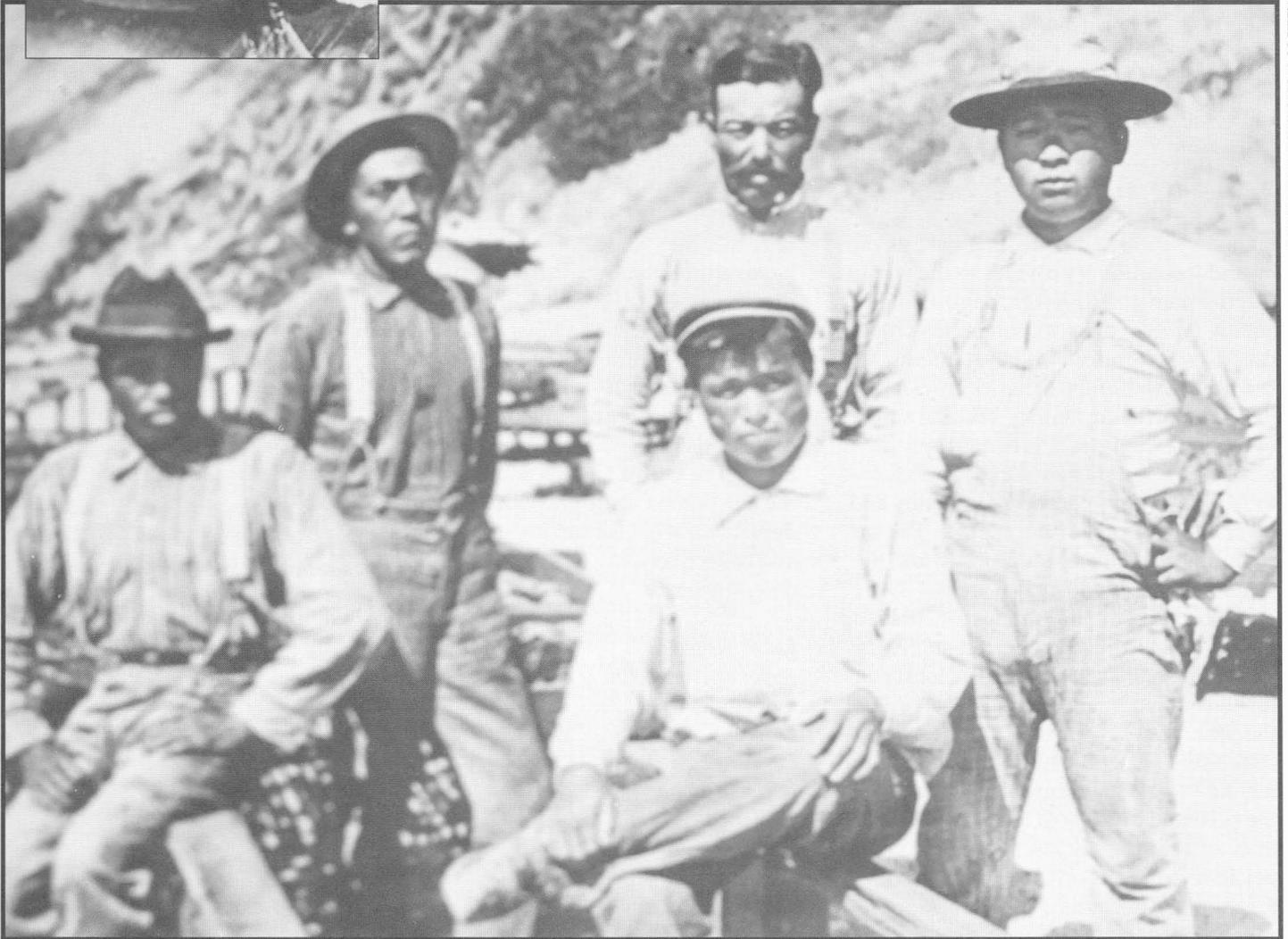
White Point/Royal Palms—

A Historic Cove Comes Back to Life

RASA GUSTAITIS



SAN PEDRO BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SAN PEDRO BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LOS ANGELES COUNTY HAS a new oceanfront park in the San Pedro area, and it's much more than just another place to play along the shore, dive, surf, or sit by the ocean. It's a unique spot with a multi-layered history that few people know—a story that sheds light on some neglected corners of California's past.

You might miss this story if you visit the White Point/Royal Palms Shoreline Complex only casually. You might drive in from Paseo del Mar, walk to the edge of the 100-foot bluff, and be transfixed by the glittering ocean, Santa Catalina Island in the distance, sailboats and surfers below. Should you look down you would see, directly beneath you, a shelf of shore curving west from a rocky point, a reef, and some large trees to the west, at the foot of the bluff.

Perhaps you would get no further. The blufftop offers palm-shaded picnic tables, a bright new children's play area, and a restroom housed in what may be the most elegant restroom building constructed since the days of the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s. But should your eyes land on the bronze plaques installed on the grounds, or should you glimpse the old photographs mounted in a glass case, you would almost certainly want to take the road down to the shore. Then you would discover, to your left, the site of the White



FROM THE COLLECTION OF LEON CALLAWAY

Point Hot Spring Hotel, a spa that was highly popular in the 1920s and '30s, especially with the local Japanese-American community. To your right you would come upon a grand terrazzo dance floor, huge stone fireplaces, and beautifully crafted stone benches shaded by palms and old pepper trees, all carefully restored. These are remnants of the Royal Palms Recreation Center, developed by Ramón Sepúlveda.

On June 5, 1997, a select crowd came together on the blufftop to dedicate the new park complex. Taking turns at the podium were dignitaries from the four levels of government and several agencies that

Kay Tagami, early 1930s

Opposite, top: Kobei Tatsumi
Bottom: Early abalone fishermen



FROM THE COLLECTION OF LEON CALLAWAY

- 1) Hotel
- 2) Hot spring baths
- 3) Pump for hot water from spring to baths
- 4) Fountain between hotel and restaurant
- 5) Current site of fountain, on bluff
- 6) Guest cabins, formerly abalone fishermen's cabins
- 7) Walled saltwater swimming pool
- 8) Path to blufftop
- 9) Royal Palms
- 10) Hedleys' house
- 11) In 1980, divers from the Southern California Diving Association placed a plaque: "Issei Cove," together with a historical photo under glass, underwater at the end of the row of vertical railroad rails that once supported a fishing pier.
- 12) Reef

Ely Hedley with his family in front of the house he built at Royal Palms after World War II. Sumi Seo Seki, who lived up on the bluff, used to babysit for the Hedleys (at 10¢ a day), and remembers windows of different shapes and colors.



FROM THE COLLECTION OF LEON CALLAWAY

worked to make this new park possible, and staff from the Department of Beaches and Harbors, which built it with \$2 million in bond funds. They said their words with rightful pride.

Sitting in folding chairs among the invited guests was a cluster of Japanese-Americans who had known the place intimately more than 50 years ago or had heard tales about it from elders. To them a special welcome was extended by County Supervisor Don Knabe. They included descendants of the Tagami family, who built and operated the spa in partnership with the landowner, Ramón Sepúlveda.

Many Japanese-Americans clustered around the display of old photographs, some from their own family albums. George Ishibashi, 83, who was born nearby and still farms in Gardena, pointed to the sulfur-spring pool he used to bathe in on his way home from school. "I grew up just west of here," he told a reporter. "That's where my dad farmed. We used to stop at the springs on the way home from school. There was a restaurant. The [saltwater] swimming pool was built later, and then we swam before walking home."

Hiro Odaka recalled that his family used to come here from Fresno in the 1920s, and that he drank the "rotten-egg water" of the sulfur spring. His folks later started Frank's Chop Suey, across from the city hall in San Pedro. Another man noticed the sepia portrait of an abalone fisherman and recog-

nized him as Kobei Tatsumi, father of Yukio Tatsumi, who was present.

"We came in 1910," said Jim Tagami. "My grandfather Tojuro Tagami and his brother Tamiji developed the place. They blasted roads, dug out the sulfur hot spring. It was a favorite place for Japanese-Americans to come for picnics. When you mention White Point to older Japanese-Americans, they know it."

The Tagamis were not the first Japanese immigrants to discover the bounties and delights of White Point. Around 1898, twelve young fishermen arrived from the small town of Los Angeles and discovered the abundance of lobster and abalone to be had on the reef. Sepúlveda built housing for them on the shore, and they soon were harvesting two tons of abalone a day. In 1906, with stocks being rapidly depleted, the state legislature restricted the take and the operation folded. Contributing to its demise was fear of the "Yellow Peril," fueled by Randolph Hearst in the *Los Angeles Examiner*.

The Tagamis, who farmed at West Adams Street in Los Angeles, were attracted to White Point by the healing qualities of the spring. Tamiji suffered so severely from arthritis that he had to be carried down the bluff, said Kay (Tagami) Sato, his daughter. After several weeks of immersion in the hot water from the ocean, he recovered and was again able to work. So they built a bathhouse, and went on to build a saltwater

swimming pool, cabins, a restaurant, and a hotel. The next generation of Tagamis continued to operate the spa. "There was a pier, and they used to take people out in speedboats to a fishing barge," said Jim Tagami. Spanish mackerel, bass, and jack smelt were plentiful. The Tagamis also trapped lobsters and, for their own table, dove for abalone.

Many Japanese-Americans farmed in the area and came to White Point. The restaurant served Japanese food upstairs (mostly seafood, said Kay Sato), bacon and eggs, hamburgers and fries, and other short-order items downstairs. There was also a dance hall upstairs. Every summer, Issei (immigrants) from different prefectures in Japan and their Nisei (American-born) children came together for picnics. "Hiroshima had the largest," said Kay Sato. They ate in the lath house, which had a stage where children studying Japanese dance had a chance to show what they had learned to an appreciative audience. Many famous performers also visited White Point.

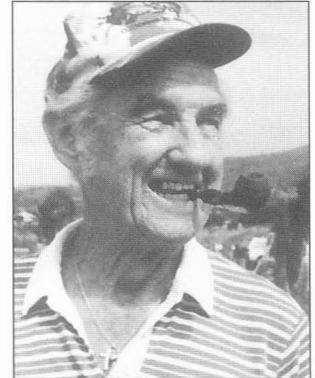
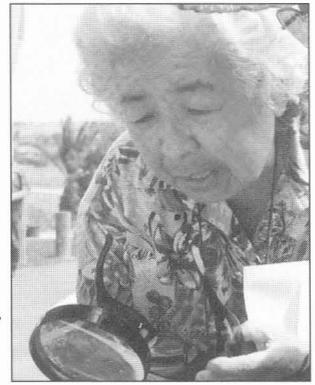
Then the bad times began. In 1928 a huge storm hit the shore. Giant waves broke up the pool and came up to the restaurant. In 1933 the Long Beach earthquake closed the vent from which the hot sulfur water was pumped to the baths. The Depression dealt

yet another blow, and people stopped dancing. The ballroom was converted to hotel rooms. Then came World War II. "The FBI came right away to search our rooms for contraband," Kay Sato remembers. One week after Pearl Harbor, "we were given 24 hours to get out," said Jim Tagami. "Everyone took what they could carry, and that was it. We were sent to different relocation camps. . . . The Japanese have a saying: *Shi-gata ga nai*—It can't be helped."

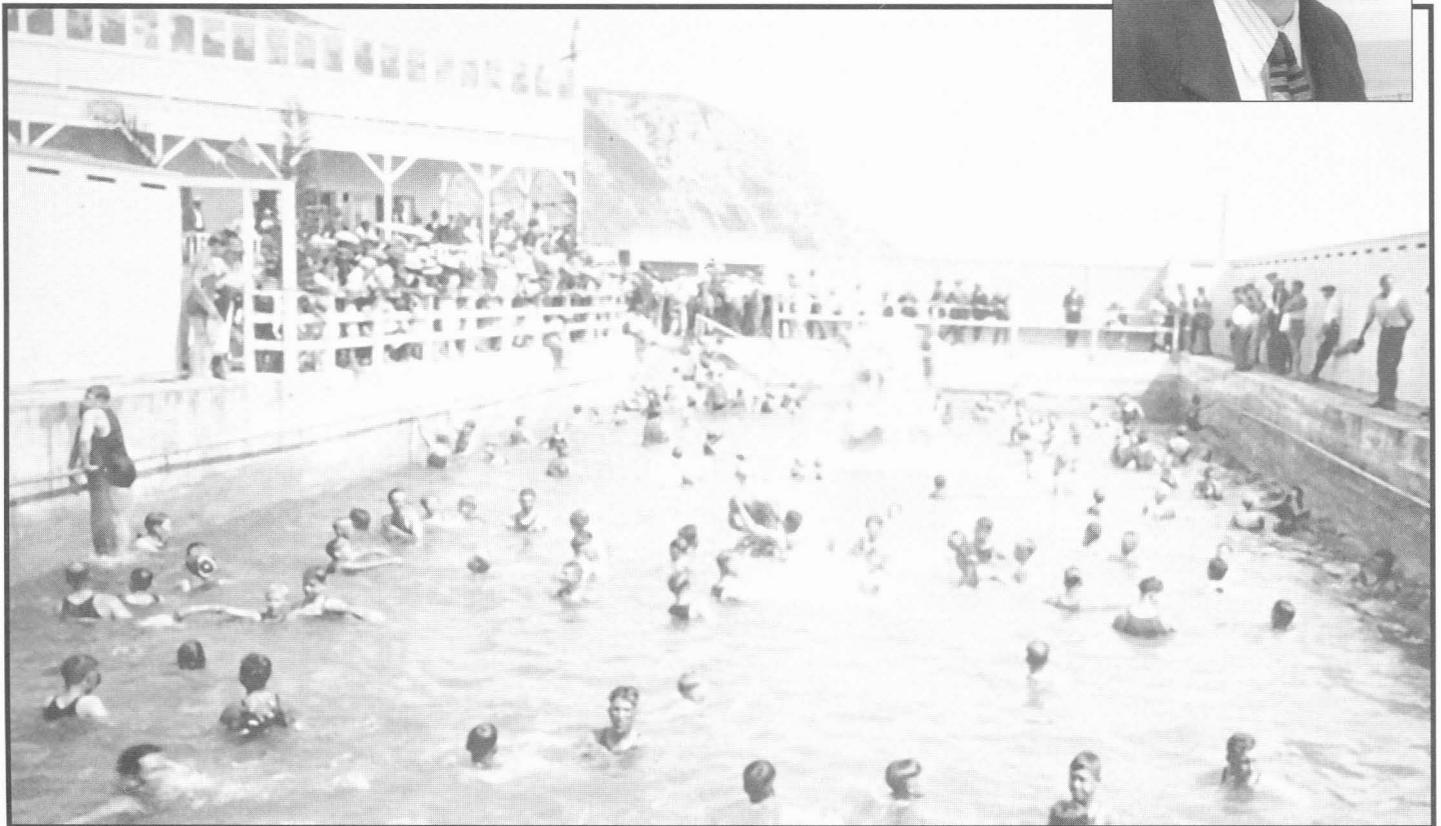
Arthur Almeida was in junior high school then, and some of his classmates and neighbors were Japanese-Americans. The day the internment order came, he says, "teachers let the kids out early so they could say goodbye. Everyone cried." That experience made a deep impression on him, and when he saw World War II propaganda films, he could not reconcile the demonized cartoon images of enemy Japanese with the people he had known. Later he explored the local Japanese-American community's history and published some articles in a newsletter of the San Pedro Bay Historical Society. He also per-

From top: Kay Tagami Sato, C. Eugene "Bud" Church, Jim Tagami

Below: Saltwater swimming pool at White Point Hot Spring Hotel



PORTRAITS: RASA GUSTAITIS



FROM THE COLLECTION OF LEON CALLAWAY

sueded the county to save the white fountain that had graced the spa but then, for years, lay broken onshore, battered by waves. It was brought up the bluff, restored, and now is the centerpiece at the park entrance.

George Ishibashi was sent to an internment camp in Arizona; from there he joined the U.S. Army's Battalion 442, made up of Japanese-Americans from the U.S. mainland and Hawaii, which distinguished itself for extraordinary bravery. George was injured in basic training and did not make it overseas. He visited his family behind barbed wire.

Meanwhile, the Army took over the resort and the spa was demolished. The shoreline, and the hillside above, were fortified. Today the housing of a cannon still stands on the hillside inland of Paseo del Mar. "Every time they fired it, it cost them a fortune to replace the windows that broke," said C. Eugene "Bud" Church, who lives in a mobile home in Palos Verdes. "That cliff was all fortified with machine guns waiting for the attack. After World War II, Nike missiles came in." Eventually, the Army relinquished 38 acres of land to the County of Los Angeles

and the park complex was built.

The Tagami family did not own the land at White Point. Even if Ramón Sepúlveda had been willing to sell to the first-generation Tagamis, California's Alien Land Law of 1913 prohibited ownership by aliens who did not qualify for citizenship. In 1952, the California Supreme Court ruled that the Alien Land Law was unconstitutional.

George Ishibashi took a shuttle van down to the shore. He walked across the palm-shaded dance floor of what had been Sepúlveda's Royal Palms Recreation Center, checked out the restoration of the stone fireplaces and benches, looked out at the ocean. He looked pleased. Royal Palms used to be a place of grand parties, and it will be again. It is a perfect site for weddings and other romantic gatherings. The Department of Beaches and Harbors has already had inquiries about the possibility of reserving it for a 50th anniversary party.

Later, Kay Sato and Jim Tagami, the only surviving second-generation members of the Tagamis who had lived at White Point, approached Gregory Woodell, planning specialist at Beaches and Harbors: "Where do I get my senior citizen pass?" she asked. Woodell told her, and added that arrangements could be made for evening

events. "I think in July or August, when we have a family picnic, we'll have it right here," Jim Tagami said.

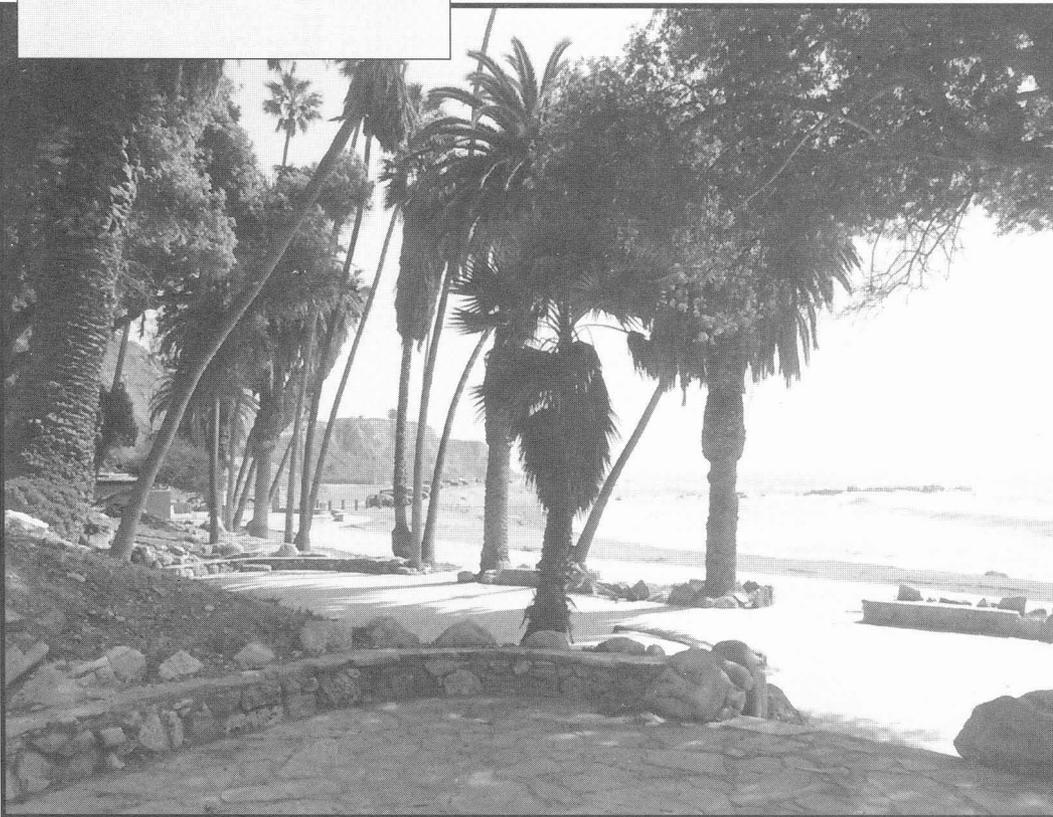
Woodell had worked long and hard to accomplish this project, and also this event, and to do it right. "I'm hoping this place will act as a garden," he said later. "Maybe we planted some seeds today." ■

The White Point/Royal Palms Shoreline Complex is open sunrise to sunset. There's a \$2 charge to park on the bluff. To park below costs \$6 between Memorial Day weekend and September 18, \$5 during the rest of the year. Senior citizens park at no charge weekdays. To inquire about permits for special events, call Lynn Atkinson, (310) 305-9565, at the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors.

Ba Hedley is delighted at the restored outdoor dance floor. Her sister Marilyn remembers that their father used to serve them champagne in *copa de oro* blossoms he picked on the cliff.



RASA GUSTATIS



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF BEACHES AND HARBORS



Waterfall Trail on Big Sur

ANNE CANRIGHT



IDON'T NORMALLY THINK OF myself as oblivious when I go for walks in nature, but I must admit, the first time I walked the Waterfall Trail in Big Sur, I was oblivious. I didn't notice the palm trees, for one thing.

The half-mile Waterfall Trail begins near the parking lot at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, 37 miles south of Carmel. You follow a dirt path westward, toward the ocean, walk through a short tunnel under Highway 1,

then turn right and follow a trail etched into the cliffside, overlooking a small cove. Soon you arrive at the sign: Overlook.

Well, I'd followed the path, admired the small (inaccessible) beach below, and paused to look at the waterfall—a lovely little thing that, at high tide, plunges 80 feet directly into the ocean. When I got to the overlook, though, my immediate thought was "What overlook?" You get a fairly decent ocean panorama from that spot, but

ANNE CANRIGHT



Above: Julia Pfeiffer Burns
Below: Palms and eucalypts have claimed dominion over the site of the Waterfall House.

you no longer see the waterfall, which is hidden by a thicket of cliff-hugging trees. I was so intent on the idea that the Waterfall Trail Overlook would look over the waterfall that I did not notice the other sights around me.

It was only the second time I walked this trail that I noticed the palm trees. Of course, then I was ready for them, because what I was really looking for was the remains of a house I had been told about: the Waterfall House. Sure enough, there at the overlook were several tiers of slab foundation and piled-rock walls, now overgrown. In the midst of all this, stretching upward and vanishing in the shrubbery, were narrow-gauge railway tracks (off-limits to visitors). On the other side of the cove, I discovered another foundation, in what today is an environmental group camping area.

Back at the parking lot, in a small building that stands on the edge of McWay Creek—the waterfall's source—signs provide a few historical facts. The building houses a Pelton Wheel (designed to convert water power into electricity in steep, low-volume streams). The canyon was homesteaded in the late 1870s by Christopher McWay. In the 1920s Lathrop Brown, a former Congressman from New York, and his wife, Helen Hooper Brown, purchased

The park is a natural wonder and provides a glimpse into the coast's colorful history.

McWay's Saddle Rock Ranch and built the first of two successive houses at what is today Waterfall Overlook. In 1961 Helen Hooper Brown donated the entire property of some 1,800 acres to the state for a park, stipulating that it be named for Julia Pfeiffer Burns, "a true pioneer."

With a little digging, I began to uncover more facts, some photographs, and lots of unsubstantiated but entertaining stories. I also began to acquire a true appreciation for Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park. Not only is it a natural wonder, with trails that take in the enchanting oceanside waterfall, another waterfall farther inland, redwood groves, high chaparral, oak-dotted meadows, and grassy ridges; it also provides a capsule version of the central coast's colorful history, from homesteading days right up to the present.

What brought the Browns to Big Sur is not entirely clear. One story has it that one of their two daughters had learned about this stretch of the California coast in school. The family came to look, and fell in love with the place. Add to that the story that they wanted to buy property in a place without roads, and you have a perfect reason to build a house in the middle of nowhere. (The Big Sur stretch of the Pacific Coast Highway was not completed until 1937.)

Julia Pfeiffer Burns leased pasture from the Browns. A daughter of the first permanent settlers in Big Sur, she was less than a year old when she arrived there with her parents, Michael and Barbara Pfeiffer, in 1869. She remained single, living with her parents until she was in her mid-forties, and eventually ran the ranch for her aging father: caring for the stock, milking the cows, plowing, planting, mowing, maintaining substantial flower and vegetable gardens, and



keeping the machinery in repair. In 1915 she married John Burns, another homesteader, and settled with him at Burns Creek, just over the ridge from McWay Creek.

The couple ran cattle on Saddle Rock Ranch. Later they also rented the Hot Springs (now Esalen Institute), where Julia provided meals and accommodations for visitors. In the book *Big Sur Women* (Big Sur Women's Press, 1985, Judith Goodman, ed.), her niece, Esther Pfeiffer Ewoldsen, characterized Julia as a hard worker who "loved people, picnics, dances, and whipped cream cakes," and who led children "on many joyous excursions to what now is Pfeiffer Beach."

Julia and Helen formed a close friendship during the last years of Julia's life (she died in 1928, just a few years after the Browns' arrival). The fact that Helen wanted the park to be named after Julia Pfeiffer Burns certainly bespeaks her admiration for this practical frontier woman.

The Browns' first house on the promontory was a rough redwood structure. In the mid-1930s they replaced it with a sumptuous two-story residence. Their granddaughter, Pam Grossman, recalls a black marble staircase, eight feet wide at the top and 16 feet wide at the bottom, and huge plate-glass windows with incredible views up and down the coast. Inlaid in the entryway were an ornamental brass fish, an octopus, and a compass rose. Terraced gardens climbed from the rear of the house toward a caretaker's cottage, which was linked to the house by a mining-car line affectionately dubbed the "Big Sur & Pacific." Like almost everything else on the ranch, the rail car was powered by the Pelton Wheel. Across the cove, behind the waterfall, stood a lath house, next to the vegetable garden. (That explained the other foundation I had seen.) Life in Big Sur required a high level of self-sufficiency then, as it does even today.

The Browns spent most of their time traveling, and visited the Waterfall House infrequently. When they did come, they stayed for a while. In 1944 they built another house, the ruins of which can be found on a hillside at the top of the park's Tan Bark Trail. Because it was wartime and building materials were hard to come by, the Tin House was made of the shells of two gas stations patched together. One story has it that Helen, who suffered from arthritis, wanted a second home above the summer-

time fog. On their first night in the house, though, the Browns encountered an unexpected annoyance: as the metal structure cooled after the hot day, a boisterous crinkling noise arose. One sleepless night was enough, and Helen decided to put up with the fog down below.

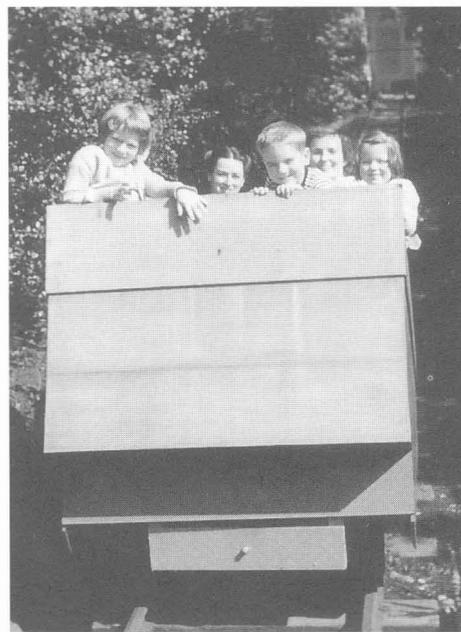
In deeding Saddle Rock Ranch to the state, Helen Hooper Brown specified that the land to the west of Highway 1 should be "unmarred by further construction or out-of-place man-made improvements" and that the Waterfall House should be made into a "museum for the custody and display of indigenous Indian relics, flora and fauna of the California coastal area, and historical objects pertaining to the Big Sur country." If the house was not made into a museum within five years, it was to be razed. In the end, various obstacles kept the state from acting—a shortage of funds, competing museums, lack of easy access to the site. Five years passed, and in 1965 the house was torn down.

Things can change quickly in Big Sur. In 1983 a huge fire and, two years later, landslides altered the topography of McWay Cove. A beach formed. Where once the waterfall plummeted directly into the sea at all times, today it meets the water only when the tide is in. Around the remnants of the Waterfall House, alien palms and eucalypts grew and spread, blocking the views of the waterfall and of the majestic Big Sur coast to the north and south. What had been the vegetable garden was shaded over by cypresses and pines.

Today, the overgrown foundations of the Waterfall House are interesting, especially when juxtaposed with colorful stories. The non-native trees, however, are a bit unfortunate. The situation is being studied, and it's possible that the trees will be removed before too long. I, for one, find pleasure in the idea of a wind-buffed promontory, with a sign: "Overlook"—and a sweeping vista of a rocky coast, free of palm trees and human dwellings, graced by a charming waterfall. ■

Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park is 41 miles south of Monterey and 37 miles south of the Carmel River Bridge on Highway 1. Turn east into the parking lot.

The family came to look, and fell in love with the place . . . (they had) a perfect reason to build a house in the middle of nowhere.



Neighbor children rode the 100-foot "Big Sur & Pacific" electric tramway to the Browns' house (1943).

COURTESY SYLVIA MCADAM

Planned golf course could still be washed out.

Tee Time for Tujunga?

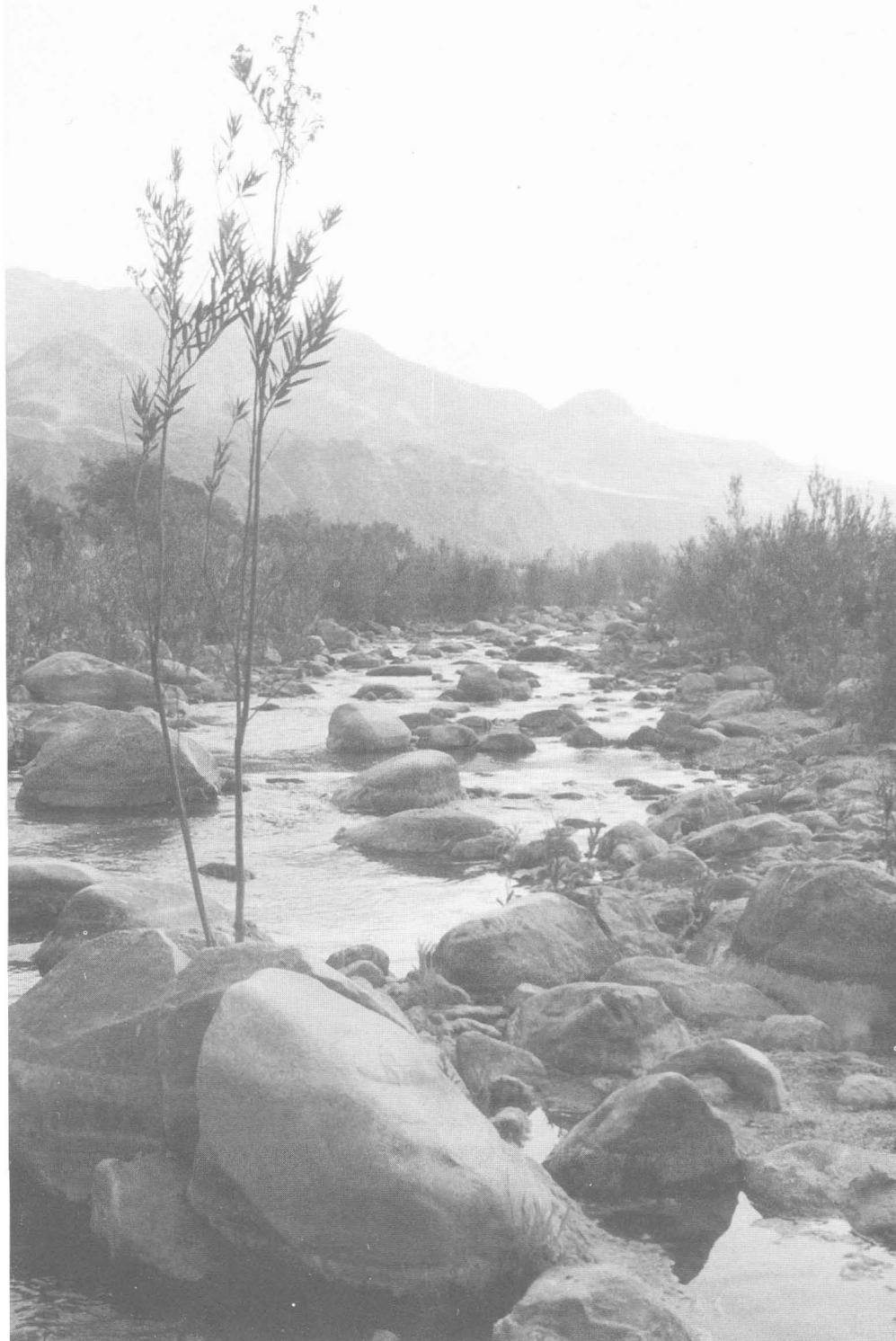
SEAN WOODS

BIG TUJUNGA WASH, a 650-acre swath of rare alluvial sage scrub habitat, is one of the last relatively undisturbed remnants of this endangered ecosystem in southern California. For more than a decade, groups that want to preserve it have been battling with the landowner, Cosmo World, which is attempting to build a golf course. Although the Los Angeles City Council denied the golf course permit on July 22 by a vote of 10-4, the owners intend to file suit, so the matter may remain in the courts for some time.

The wash is also a seasonal watercourse that flows from the steep walls of Big Tujunga Canyon and ultimately empties into the Los Angeles River, of which it is a major tributary. It is flanked by the residential community of Sunland to the southeast and the sparsely populated foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains to the north. Two stream channels run through it, but most of the flow has been diverted to one, which drains into Hansen Dam and eventually the Los Angeles River.

The Tujunga floodplain provides an important wildlife corridor between the Angeles National Forest to the northeast and wetland habitat below Hansen Dam. The wash itself is home to a wide variety of wildlife and some 250 species of plants, many of which depend on occasional flooding to germinate. The slender-horned spineflower, a federally listed endangered species, grows here.

Gravel used to be mined from the wash, but the City phased that activity out as



COURTESY OF SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION

permits expired. In 1980, the City placed a moratorium on mining until the year 2000 by amending the Sunland-Tujunga-Lakeview Terrace-Shadow Hills District Plan.

In 1987, Cosmo World proposed to construct a golf course and to protect it from flooding by building levees and lining the stream channels with concrete. Because such construction would have affected jurisdictional wetlands within the wash, that proposal required a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and set into motion the federal review process. Review continued until 1994, when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service denied approval on the grounds that the project would adversely impact habitat for the endangered spineflower.

Cosmo World and its engineering consultant, Kajima Corporation, revised the plan so that construction would remain outside Corps jurisdiction. The current design is for an 18-hole golf course, a 25,000-square-foot clubhouse, a 180-space parking lot, and a maintenance facility on a 352-acre site. Cosmo World is eager to move ahead, for it has yet to realize a financial return from its purchase of the wash.

On December 5, the City Planning Commission approved the new design, but 15

days later the California Department of Fish and Game, the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, Small Wilderness Area Preservation, and several other groups appealed to the Los Angeles City Council. Fish and Game condemned the new design, stating that it would directly impact approximately 160 acres of natural habitat, including alluvial sage scrub and riparian woodlands. William Eick, attorney for Small Wilderness Area Preservation and a leading advocate for preservation of the wash, argues that the project also greatly underestimates the extent of flooding within the wash and that the first major storm will cause extensive damage.

"Although we can't make the golf course bulletproof," says Blake Murillo, engineering consultant for Foothills Golf Corporation, "we have done everything within economic reason to design the course to withstand the natural flood processes. If the course does flood, then we will redesign, once again, around the boundary of jurisdictional waters."

Most of the time the wash is dry, sometimes it is a languid stream, but it can turn into a raging torrent without a moment's notice. The San Gabriel Mountains hold the record for the highest rainfall in a 24-hour

"Everyone knows that a golf course will greatly enhance real estate values and the downtown business district, which is something this area desperately needs."

Opposite and below: This stream flows most of the year with water released from Tujunga Dam as part of local water conservation programs, and supports riparian woodland habitat.



COURTESY OF SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION



SEAN WOODS

Top: Most of Tujunga Wash is dry alluvial fan sage scrub, but in full flood, as in 1969 and 1978, water rages from bank to bank. Flash floods have washed out houses, bridges, even a cemetery.
Bottom: Yucca in bloom among sage scrub



W. EICK

period anywhere in the United States (26.13 inches). In winter 1969, a churning stream laden with sediment exploded from the canyon, devastating an entire residential neighborhood and demolishing three highway bridges.

Memories of catastrophe fade quickly during dry spells, however, and Cosmo World has strong allies. The Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce is lobbying for the golf course. "Everyone knows that a golf course will greatly enhance real estate values and the downtown business district, which is something this area desperately needs," observed Barbara Hughes, treasurer for the Chamber. "I know beauty is in the eyes of the beholder, but I can see nothing beautiful about this property. It contains nothing but gravel, weeds, trash, homeless people, and the occasional dead body. It is not the type of place that you'd feel safe hiking in."

What if the golf course is approved and then washed out by a flood?

Richard J. Schubel of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, has stated in a letter to the City Planning Commission dated October 23, 1996, that a mild to moderate storm "will cause erosion of golf course features and realignment of the active channel within the wash." Under this condition the applicant would be required to apply for a permit from the Corps prior to performing any repair or reclamation work. Based on the Corps' original design concerns, such as impacts on the natural hydrologic regime and endangered species issues, it is unlikely that such a permit would be issued.

In the *Proposed Flood Control Strategy for the Los Angeles and San Gabriel River Systems*, developed by the Friends of the Los Angeles River, a nonprofit seeking to restore as much of that river as possible, the Tujunga region, including the wash, is important as a floodwater spreading ground. It allows percolation of surface runoff into the ground to recharge the water table. Channelization or removal of a permeable surface will lead to increased storm flows into the Los Angeles River, further burdening an already taxed flood control system.

Hughes contends that if the golf course isn't built, the wash could be used for detrimental development, such as housing or gravel mining. "If it floods with a golf course," she explains, "only grass and dirt wash away, as opposed to buildings and people."

Meanwhile, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has moved to have the property appraised, as a first step toward possible acquisition, according to Paul Edelman, staff ecologist for the Mountains Conservancy. Cosmo World is currently unwilling to sell, but preservation advocates are hopeful, pointing out that things have a way of changing quickly in the Los Angeles River watershed. ■

Sean Woods is a master's degree candidate in resource management and environmental planning at San Francisco State University and a graduate intern at the Coastal Conservancy.

New Marsh, New Promise at Tijuana Estuary

JIM KING



PHILIP ROULLARD

Oneonta Tidal Linkage, with border highlands in the background

WETLAND RESTORATION GOT under way in earnest this winter at Tijuana Estuary, just north of the Mexican border at the town of Imperial Beach. A new 1,000-foot-long tidal creek and intertidal marsh, the Oneonta Tidal Linkage, now connects two previously separated wetland areas in the northern part of the 2,500-acre Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve. It was built to improve tidal circulation in about 200 acres of the estuary's least disturbed and most productive wetland complex, known as Oneonta Slough.

The Oneonta Tidal Linkage is a small pilot project for a much larger estuarine and intertidal wetland restoration program planned for an area south of the Tijuana River mouth. Nearly 500 acres of former salt marsh will be brought back in a multiphase program first outlined in the early 1990s. Working under the auspices of the Reserve, the Coastal Conservancy is coordinating this undertaking with several partners, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Diego State University's Pacific Estuarine Research Lab-

oratory, and the local nonprofit Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association.

The pilot Oneonta Tidal Linkage is anything but ordinary. It was planned, funded, and built by a Conservancy-coordinated team of wetland scientists, land managers, and environmental educators. Unconventional construction methods were used, including a dredge afloat on a temporary artificial pond and a mile-long slurry pipeline that transferred silty sand from the project site to the ocean surf zone, to nourish the depleted barrier beach.

Hemmed in by a tangle of environmental regulations, including severe seasonal restrictions aimed at protecting nesting conditions for the endangered light-footed clapper rail, the project was so demanding that many wondered whether it could be built at all. It was finally completed in mid-winter, largely on schedule, within budget, and with only minor snafus.

An extensive horticultural dimension is part of this project, including a research site with experiments designed to answer a number of questions about the requirements

Check out the Oneonta Tidal Linkage just south of the Tijuana Estuary Visitors Center, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, (619) 575-3613. Come to the dedication on Saturday, October 11.

for re-creating a natural regime of marsh flora. Although the sun-drenched winter helped with the channel excavation, it presented challenges for project horticulturists. Such challenges were anticipated, however, and temporary irrigation proved invaluable.

Restoration efforts with strikingly different characteristics can be found up and down the California coast. There is considerable uncertainty as to the best approach; in fact, professionals have trouble even agreeing which questions are appropriate to ask in the interest of improving restoration performance! And debate continues as to whether it's possible to build wetlands that truly function like those that form naturally. To clarify the questions and discover the answers is part of the mission of the Tijuana River Reserve. We hope the Oneonta Tidal Linkage will help in this effort.

Among the questions to be tackled in the next several years of monitoring and research: What is required for an active horticultural approach, such as that used in this project, to succeed? When is an intensive horticultural approach needed? What are the conditions that allow a salt marsh to develop "naturally"? Are there ways to provide these conditions more simply than by using the horticultural approach? Might we simply provide a range of intertidal elevations, then let nature take its course? What other actions might help? These are very important questions indeed, and they have clear public policy implications. ■

Jim King begins his tenth year of work as the Coastal Conservancy's representative at Tijuana Estuary. He remains patient and optimistic.

Two Nations Meet on a Troubled Creek

THE COASTAL CONSERVANCY'S proposal for a binational project to address erosion and sedimentation in the 4.6-square-mile Goat Canyon/ Cañon de los Laureles watershed is a step closer to reality. As reported in last summer's *Coast & Ocean* (Vol. 12, No. 2), this small creek is the westernmost tributary to the Tijuana River, originating in the coastal hills above Tijuana's La Playa district, just south of the border. Destructive floods and soil loss in the watershed had become chronic, and conditions continue to worsen.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed providing the Conservancy with a \$55,000 "start-up" grant for a project that will look at erosion control and stormwater management solutions in this Tijuana River subwatershed, both in the United States and in Mexico. As this issue of *Coast & Ocean* goes to press, the Conservancy is set to consider at its July meeting whether to accept the funding and to authorize



staff to proceed with the work.

This project would be among the boldest initiatives yet undertaken by the Coastal Conservancy in the interest of Tijuana Estuary's beleaguered wetlands. It is likely that the Conservancy will work with a unique group of dedicated organizations, including several offices of the EPA, the California State Parks Department, the International Boundary and Water Commission, the Municipio de Tijuana, the Colegio de la Frontera Norte, the Border Environmental Education Project, and the San Diego Natural History Museum.

Goat Canyon Creek flows from Mexico directly into Tijuana Estuary's south arm. In big winter storms, great waves of sediment wash down into the wetlands, filling them in. Staff have long contemplated actions to control sediment flow, both from the U.S. and from Mexican sources, with a "hands-across-the-border" project. With the successful completion of the Oneonta Tidal Linkage, which has provided valuable experience in multipartner collaboration, the time may be ripe for such a binational project. Look to upcoming issues of *Coast & Ocean* for further news. —J.K.

What's So Important about This Estuary?

THE ESTUARY has a sullied reputation, based on a very real, very troubled history. Now, though, much of the pollution that once overwhelmed parts of the estuary is controlled, and the sad games of the Border Patrol and the illegal immigrants are played out mostly to the east, in the Otay wilderness and other inland areas. Except for the almost constant presence of thumping helicopters, the estuary is a very quiet and truly serene place (The helicopters are not associated with the border, but part of the age-old U.S. Navy helicopter training facility just next door, at the Imperial Beach Landing Field).

Tijuana Estuary is important to naturalists because it's been left alone. While much of the landscape does look scruffy, and big areas of prime salt marsh have been lost to silt and sand, large intact remnants of several different habitats once common to the southern California coast can still be found here. There's no Pacific

Coast Highway here, no railroad, no bridge across the estuary, no high-speed roads of any sort.

By some measures, the habitat here is more intact than anywhere else in coastal southern California. Intertidal wetlands join large tracts of willow-dominated riparian forest where the National Wildlife Refuge and Tijuana River Valley Regional Park meet. These, in turn, have not been cut off from the remnant coastal sage scrub communities on Spooners Mesa and the other highlands that border the valley to the south. And perhaps most surprising, native dune habitats—rare anywhere in southern California—still exist along the barrier beach, although the dunes

themselves have been reduced to a fraction of their historic size.

Wildlife thrives in Tijuana Estuary and its surrounding natural areas in a classic demonstration of the interdependence of all these ecological types. There are buffer areas and areas for

retreat during times of flood; there's food in times of drought. For a lot of species there's elbow room at the Estuary, unlike anywhere else on the urban southern California coast.

Imagine how fragile it all is. Seasonal closures are designed to protect sensitive habitats and can affect trail access. Check in at the visitors center for information and

a listing of interpretive programs.

—J.K.



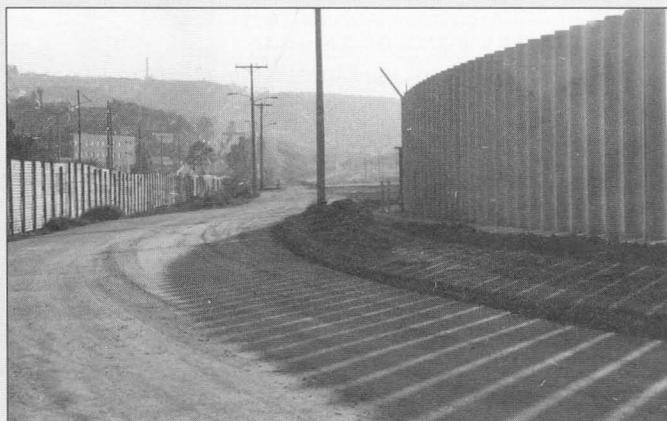
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Horned lizard, rare; the only other place it's seen in significant numbers is Los Angeles International Airport.

More Fortification along the Mexican Border

If "good fences make good neighbors," as some people believe, then relations between the U.S. and Mexico should be on the upswing: a second, stronger and higher fence is being built in coastal San Diego County. Ken Stitt, assistant chief of the U.S. Border Patrol, San Diego Sector, said the new 12-foot-high barrier is to run roughly parallel to the existing fence for 14 miles. Parts consist of staggered concrete posts, with

a sloping panel on top adding another three feet; parts are of solid material. Lee McEachern, planner for the Coastal Commission, said on July 11 that "there has been no environmental document, no written proposals that the Coastal Commission has seen." "It makes me feel like I'm in Eastern Europe," commented a San Diego biologist. A colleague corrected: the Berlin Wall came down long ago.



PHOTOS: REBECCA YOUNG

MICHAEL FISCHER HAS RESIGNED

MICHAEL FISCHER, EXECUTIVE officer of the California Coastal Conservancy since February 1994, has resigned as of August 15 to accept the position of environmental program officer at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The \$1.5 billion foundation, based in Menlo Park, focuses its charitable gifts on environment, education, population issues, conflict resolution, performing arts, family and community development, and U.S.-Latin American relations.

"The wide program range of this work, the geographic scope (the three-nation North American West, possibly expanding soon to the Pacific Rim), and the opportunity to be a member of a small team preparing this foundation to become significantly larger and more influential, make the opportunity irresistibly attractive," Fischer wrote in his letter of resignation to Conservancy chairman Robert C. Kirkwood.

"Michael danced gracefully through political minefields to create major conservation victories along the entire California coast," commented Warner Chabot, Pacific region director for the Center for Marine Conservation. "Lack of funding prevented [the Conservancy] from achieving even greater gains." The Conservancy is searching for a new executive officer.

A SCENIC SALINAS VALLEY FARM WILL BE PROTECTED

A 192-ACRE FARM IN THE SALINAS Valley, on the edge of the Monterey Dunes, will at last be permanently protected, thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farmland Protection Program. The Coastal Conservancy and the Monterey County Agricultural and Historic Land Conservancy have worked toward this goal for years. The West Armstrong Farm is prime agricultural acreage, currently in artichoke production, on both sides of Highway 1 just north of Marina.

In 1991 the Coastal Conservancy provided \$995,000 to the Land Conservancy to acquire a one-third interest in the farm, but \$2,030,200 more was needed to purchase the remaining property interests. The Land Conservancy bought a five-year option, hoping to find the money by 1996. The landowner extended the option through June 1998.

In the meantime Congress passed the Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, which includes a program to buy property interests to protect prime farmland from being converted to nonagricultural uses. The Coastal Conservancy seized the opportunity, submitted this project for consideration, and, after a highly competitive process and much support from the Land Conservancy, was awarded \$1.5 million. The Land Conservancy has committed to raising the remainder needed, \$530,200, either through grants

or by obtaining a loan on the property that will be paid off with agricultural lease revenues. The acquisition is expected to be completed by early autumn. The land will be leased to private farmers. Revenues generated from the leases will be used by the Land Conservancy to protect other valuable farmland in the Salinas Valley.

THE GRAY WHALE RANCH DEAL

THE GRAY WHALE RANCH, a spectacular 2,305-acre undeveloped property on the coastside slope of the Santa Cruz Mountains, is now state parkland. The Save the Redwoods League, which bought the ranch from the private landowner in December 1996, has transferred it to the State Parks Department. Public expenditures for the purchase are less than 8 percent of the League's total \$13.4 million acquisition cost. The Coastal Conser-

Fastest Cranes in the West

The Port of Oakland has two new gantry cranes, built in China, with the fastest lifting mechanisms on the West Coast. Speed matters with post-Panamax ships (ships too large for the Panama Canal), which can cost \$2,500 an hour to operate.



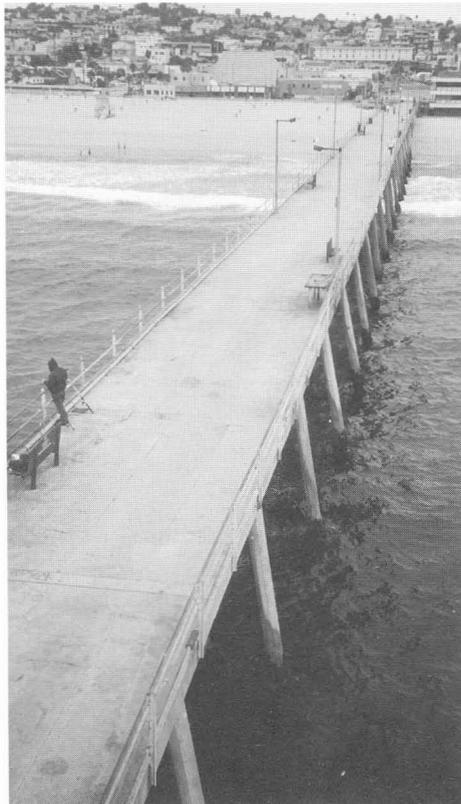
PORT OF OAKLAND

vancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board each contributed \$250,000 to help State Parks acquire this unique property for \$1,045,000.

Preserving the ranch, which adjoins the University of California, Santa Cruz, has long been a goal of several conservation organizations and natural resource agencies. Gray Whale Ranch slopes upward to the north and west from the northern border of Wilder Ranch State Park. The property will be added to the park, thus creating a 6,000-acre expanse of protected land extending 7.5 miles from the shore to the mountains and including beaches, coastal terrace, meadows, evergreen forests, oak woodlands, creeks, and riparian habitat.

HERMOSA BEACH PIER REPAIR

SINCE IT WAS BUILT IN 1965 the Hermosa Beach Pier has been hard hit by violent nature. Its support pilings were damaged by severe winter storms in 1986, and again by the



ERIC STANIS, CITY OF HERMOSA BEACH

Foot and Bike Bridges to Be Built over Carmel River

THE HEAVY WINTER STORMS OF 1995 washed away the Highway 1 bridge over the Carmel River. The Coastal Commission allowed Caltrans to build a new bridge without bicycle/pedestrian lanes on condition that Caltrans provide up to \$130,000 to fund a crossing closer to the ocean. The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District has put together a project that will not only accomplish that purpose but will also connect Carmel and areas to the

north with Carmel River State Beach and the Point Lobos State Park shoreline. To enable the Park District to complete the project, the Coastal Conservancy authorized an additional \$130,000 in June. The Park District is committing \$47,000.

The trail and two bridges will be built on public land and on existing levees along the edges of Carmel River Lagoon. They will be much safer than the old Highway 1 bridge was, and will provide opportunities for watching wildlife. This bridge crossing was recommended in the Carmel River Lagoon Enhancement Plan, which the Conservancy has approved.



K. RUST

View east to Carmel River Lagoon, as seen from Carmel River State Beach. Trail will connect to dirt roads on the bluff visible at mid-right. These roads, open to bicycles and pedestrians, lead to San Jose State Beach, adjacent to Point Lobos State Park.

Northridge earthquake in 1994. In addition, normal weathering, marine organisms, and heavy use have left their marks.

Hermosa Beach is a dense beachfront community 17 miles southwest of Los Angeles, sandwiched between Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach on the southern end of Santa Monica Bay. For seven years the City has been trying to find the funds necessary to repair the damage, for this 1,228-foot concrete pier is important both to the local economy and to the community's quality of life. Some three million visitors flock to the pier and adjacent beaches every year, and their presence is a major

source of the city's income.

Because the pier is an asset to the entire region, the Coastal Conservancy has worked with the City since 1991, providing technical assistance and support in efforts to rejuvenate the pier and the pier plaza. In June the Conservancy authorized \$200,000 to Hermosa Beach, as part of a total \$4,390,000 package the City has patched together from several public sources.

Hermosa Beach hosts major national beach events, including national beach volleyball tournaments and the annual Fiesta de Las Artes, a festival that draws over 50,000 people to the pier and the waterfront plaza.

PROGRESS IN BOLSA CHICA WETLANDS

ON FEBRUARY 14, THE STATE OF California acquired title to 880 acres of Bolsa Chica lowlands, and eight state and federal agencies have begun to shape plans to enhance this Orange County habitat, using \$78.75 million in trust funds provided by the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to mitigate damage to deepwater habitat that will be incurred by port expansion pro-

jects in San Pedro Harbor. The state and federal agencies held the first community meeting to discuss restoration, design, cleanup of contaminants, and scheduling. Actual restoration is to begin in late 2000.

On a related matter, the Superior Court in San Diego has invalidated Orange County's Local Coastal Program (LCP) for both the wetlands and the adjacent Bolsa Mesa. In a writ of mandate issued June 4, Judge Judith McConnell set aside the Coastal Com-

mission's 1996 certification of the LCP and remanded the matter to the Commission. The court acted in a suit brought by several citizens groups alleging that the Commission's approval of this LCP was inconsistent with the Coastal Act because housing was permitted in wetlands. The ruling may delay housing construction on the mesa, but does not appear to have a direct effect on restoration of the lowlands.

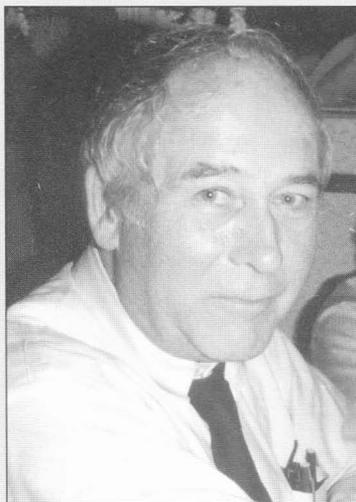
REMEMBERING FRED FARR

FRED FARR WALKED TALL AMONG A small group of peers in the pioneering years of environmental activism that culminated in enactment of landmark conservation laws of the '60s and '70s. He was the architect of the scenic highway program and state planning law, and a leader in the 1972 initiative campaign that created California's far-reaching coastal protection program. I first met Fred during that campaign. Our association continued when he was selected to serve as one of six founding public members on the California Coastal Commission.

Fred Farr was a unique human being of sweeping vision, great integrity, profound honor, dignity, courage, and compassion. His commitment to environmental stewardship was matched by few and admired by many.

Possessed of a quick and creative mind, he crafted innovative solutions to many complex problems facing the fledgling Coastal Commission. His experience and wise counsel helped guide the Commission through its turbulent and controversial formative years. He played a pivotal role in shaping the 1975 Coastal Plan, which became known as the "constitution for the coast," and on which the Coastal Act of 1976 was based.

Fred Farr's accomplishments, especially as they relate to coastal conservation, are legion. In the Legislature, as chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee in 1966, he quashed Caltrans plans to widen Highway 1 to four lanes down the Big Sur coast. His legislation added Asilomar to the state park system, repealed the state bounty on mountain lions, and required portable toilets for farm workers. In 1971 he led the campaign for state purchase of the Odelo farmlands just south of Carmel. Together with Ansel



CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Adams, he succeeded in preserving Robinson Jeffers's Tor House as a historic cultural site. Without Fred, the spectacular addition to Garrapata State Park of Soberanes Point, the "gateway" to Big Sur, and Soberanes Creek Canyon would not have occurred. Dozens of houses would today despoil the Big Sur coastline had it not been for Fred. His leadership was critical in blocking the development of an oil refinery at Moss Landing even before passage of the coastal initiative. He insisted on a scaled-down design for the Monterey Convention Center to preserve the historic character of its setting and was an ardent champion of public access to and along the coast.

In his public service on the Commission, Fred had great empathy for and understanding of the dilemma property owners face in the conflict between the needs of environmental protection and the realization of private expectations and dreams. Fred was usually the one to fashion a reasonable compromise to achieve both ends. He earned the respect of other commissioners and the staff for his keen understanding of the subtle complexities inherent in land use planning and regulation.

The environmental community lost a great champion with the passing of Fred Farr. He was among the last of a special breed to bring stature, civility, dignity, understanding, commitment, compassion, and an earthy dose of common sense to the debate over environmental quality protection. Because the wit and wisdom of Fred Farr lit the way for so many others who now carry forward lessons learned from him, and because his good works will remain manifest for generations to come, his spirit will long be among us.

—Peter Douglas

A FOOTPATH FOR GUALALA

A \$16,000 GRANT APPROVED by the Conservancy in June will enable the Redwood Coast Land Conservancy to build a footpath about 500 feet long on the blufftop above the Gualala River mouth in Mendocino County. Labor and some materials are being donated. The public path will run between Highway 1 and the bluff's edge. Interpretive signs about the river and ocean will be installed.



SAN DIEGUITO LAGOON COMMITTEE

SAN DIEGUITO LAGOON TO BENEFIT FROM UTILITY MITIGATION DOLLARS

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Edison Company has agreed to restore 150 acres of wetlands at San Dieguito, create 177 acres of reef in the vicinity of the San Onofre Nuclear Generation Station, fund a fish hatchery, and pay for technical oversight and monitoring of these projects. The company

announced May 9 that it would take these steps, which are required by the Coastal Commission as conditions of its operating permit for the San Onofre power plant. The company had sought to reduce these requirements, but on April 9 the Coastal Commission declined to do so, by a 12-0 vote, making only a few changes in keeping with new scientific information about the

impacts of the station's cooling-water discharges on kelp beds.

The Coastal Commission gave the utility the option of achieving compliance by depositing \$117 million into a trust fund, to be used by others to accomplish the required mitigation of damages to marine ecosystems. The company, however, has elected to do the work directly.

Coastal Cleanup Day Coming Up

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR: Saturday, September 20, is this year's California Coastal Cleanup Day, our part of an annual worldwide event. More than 600 sites between Oregon and the Mexico border have been selected for special attention. Beaches, rivers, parks, and inland waterways will get their annual spruce-up as thousands of Californians come out to collect what has washed up and been left behind on our shores.

The California Coastal Commission's Adopt-A-Beach Program and the California State Parks Foundation are sponsoring the event in this state. The Center for Marine Conservation is directing the International Coastal Cleanup. Last year, more than 41,000 volunteers were counted in California, collecting 567,376 pounds of trash and 97,584 pounds of recyclable material—188,000 pounds more altogether than in 1995. Last year, volunteers did similar duty in all 50 states and in 90 countries.

The diligence of last year's volunteers is evidenced by the fact that they collected 153,000 cigarette butts. To some people that may seem like nitpicking, but cigarette filters



SUSAN SHERIDAN

do not degrade and may be eaten by marine life. Plastic, also abundant in the collectors' bags, is a known hazard to wildlife as well.

To get a good open-air workout on September 20 and come away with a sense of community accomplishment, join in. For further information, call the California Coastal Commission at (800) COAST-4U or visit the California Coastal Commission's site on the World Wide Web at ceres.ca.gov/coastalcomm/ccddspr.html.

Parallel Utopias: The Sea Ranch, California/Seaside, Florida, by Richard Sexton, with contributing essays by Ray Oldenburg & William Turnbull, Jr., photography by Richard Sexton. Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 1995. 168 pp., \$50 (cloth).

VISION, GEOGRAPHY, TIME—these are the themes that this beautifully photographed book documents. The vision is the ideal community. The geography is pristine coastlines far away from the urban metropolis. The time (1960s and 1980s) reflects the differences between two generations of planning theory. By focusing on these themes, *Parallel Utopias* has captured the singular qualities of Sea Ranch and Seaside.

Sea Ranch, located on a rugged piece of the Mendocino coast facing the Pacific Ocean, embodies the idealism and concern for the environment of the 1960s. The landscape architect Lawrence Halprin proposed to retain the meadows as the commons and build small “vernacular” farmhouses clustered together along the existing cypress windbreaks, thus re-creating the ideal of agrarian villages scattered across the natural landscape. Unfortunately, only one clustered development was built, the famous courtyard condominiums, by the architectural firm of

Moore, Lyndon, Turnbull & Whitaker.

Seaside, located on the Florida Panhandle facing the Gulf of Mexico, embodies a yearning for a simpler lifestyle in contrast to the corporate culture of the 1980s. Planners Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk designed the town plan to emphasize the concept of the prototypical southern town, with small lots, small homes, front porches, short front yards, narrow sidewalks and streets, curbside trees, and a small commercial center within walking and biking distance of the town’s residents. The grid pattern of streets and lots, with strict design guidelines for each building type, forms the basis for a coherent town in which the automobile does not dominate the landscape.

While *Parallel Utopias* discusses the planning theory behind Sea Ranch and Seaside in relation to mainstream American city planning, it skirts the greater issue of how these visions relate to the future of American cities. Not everyone can or wants to live in such planned communities, however idyllic, nor can our society afford the economic costs of such a vision. We continue, at our peril, to ignore the future of our cities—a future that should be based on social justice, regional economics, and ecological sustainability. Despite this

shortcoming, this book, both with its pictures and with its words, provides us with positive images of some of the qualities that the great American city should aspire to contain.

Paul C. Okamoto is an architect, a San Francisco commissioner on the environment, and past president of Urban Ecology.



TSUNEO NAKAMURA

Dolphins, by Tsuneo Nakamura. Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 1997. 95 pp., \$12.95 (paper).

AT THE END OF THIS ENGAGING little book of his delightful dolphin photographs, Tsuneo Nakamura writes: “I’ve come to understand that many underwater photos are actually the result of dolphins changing their normal behavior to fit the way we do things, so that we human beings—with our poor swimming skills—can take their pictures. Consequently, our attempts to seek out the connection between dolphins and humans depends on the dolphins paying sufficient attention to us.”

Northern California’s Best Family Campgrounds—50 Fun, Affordable, Kid-Friendly Sites, by Roland De Wolk, photographs by John Swain. Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 1997. 131 pp., \$16.95 (paper).

THE GORGEOUS PHOTOS by John Swain will make you want to go to these places; the chatty text will convince you it’s okay to bring the kids



COURTESY CHRONICLE BOOKS

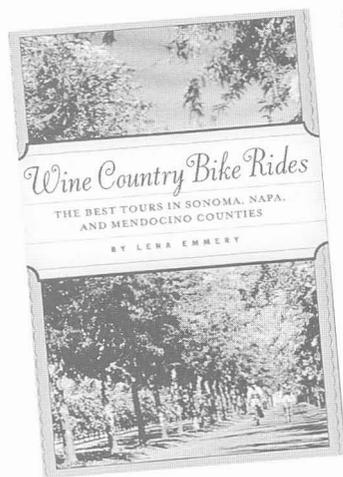
along; the maps and directions may leave you wondering if it was such a good idea. This is not really a guidebook: it's short on useful information. The maps are sketchy and of dubious accuracy, and the route descriptions don't always agree with them. Aside from a few hints on "What to Bring," plus basics on fees and reservations, there's not much "how to" here.

—Hal Hughes

Wine Country Bike Rides—The Best Tours in Sonoma, Napa, and Mendocino Counties, by Lena Emmerly. Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 1997. 111 pp., \$10.95 (paper).

THE HEART OF CALIFORNIA'S wine country spreads northward from the edge of San Pablo Bay like an outstretched hand. It is a beautiful landscape of fertile valleys bordered by oaks, redwoods, willows, maples, and eucalyptuses. Fingerlike ridges separate one growing region from the next, one microclimate from another. This topographic and ecological variation helps determine the distinct characteristics of the region's renowned wines, and it makes for a countryside that pleases the eye. With its similar yet distinct aspects, its history and wine-producing tradition, and its network of backcountry roads, this region is a natural destination for both wine lovers and bike enthusiasts.

Lena Emmerly, of San Francisco, has put together a simple guide, illustrated with sparse yet accurate maps—a truly useful book for those who like to combine their biking with a bit of imbibing. She takes the reader on 23 riding tours, ranging from several miles up to 30 miles, and to some 110 different wineries. There are no glossy pictures in this book, no scenes of perfectly set country tables or smartly dressed,



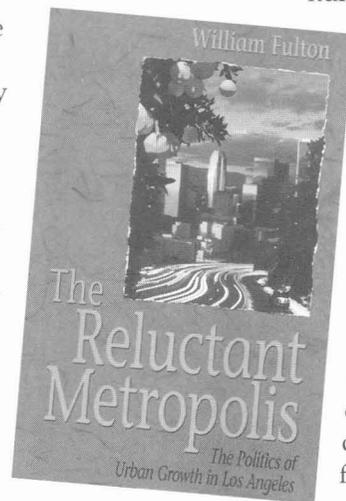
nicely tanned bikers. *Wine Country Bike Rides* is practical and dressed down, written by someone who has a good sense of humor and knows bikes and biking.

Jerry Emory, who wrote the *Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Shoreline Guide*, usually bikes in Marin County.

The Reluctant Metropolis: The Politics of Urban Growth in Los Angeles, by William Fulton. Solano Press Books, Point Arena, CA, 1977. 334 pp., \$28.95 (cloth).

FEW AMERICAN CITIES inspire more passionate feelings, be they love or hate, than Los Angeles. By virtue of its almost unbelievable size and demographic diversity, Los Angeles serves as both an icon for the limitless opportunity of unfettered free enterprise and a symbol for the dissipation and decay of a declining nation.

In his new book, *The Reluctant Metropolis*, William Fulton has captured in scope and depth the essence of the Los Angeles region. The book is organized into five parts with telegraphic titles such as "Power" and "Money," which are subdivided into a series of extremely detailed chapters—thorough treatments of various aspects of the phenomenon that is the Greater Los Angeles Area. Each chapter is organized around a topic or issue, and interweaves the threads of history, politics, land use, sociology, and economics. The book explores such varied topics as the saga of rent control in Santa Monica, the listing of the California gnatcatcher as an endangered species, and the



1992 riots following the Rodney King verdict. Each chapter could easily stand alone, possessing all the drama of a well-crafted novel. Upon finishing each chapter, I felt that I had not only come to understand the broader issues that defined a particular subject, but I had also gotten to know the human beings involved in larger events.

William Fulton presents each story first and foremost as a human drama, and reminds us that history, made up of the accumulation of individual actions, is strongly shaped by such human traits as greed, vanity, hubris, idealism, and generosity. With all his careful attention to detail, however, Fulton never loses sight of the larger picture. This combination of rich narrative style and incisive analysis makes *The Reluctant Metropolis* an extremely satisfying and entertaining read. It is certainly a must for anyone interested in the future of America's cities.

—Prentiss F. Williams

BOOK ORDER UPDATE

SOME READERS HAVE FOUND it difficult to obtain two of the books reviewed in our Spring 1997 issue. Here's mail order information:

Environmental Overdose, by Margaret Azevedo, is available from Wood Rat Press, 1333 North McDowell Blvd., Suite H, Petaluma, CA 94954; phone (415) 435-4279. Total cost is \$14.80, including postage, handling, and sales tax.

Gateway to the Inland Coast: The Story of the Carquinez Strait, by Andrew Neal Cohen, can be ordered by sending a check for \$25.00 payable to Carquinez Strait Preservation Trust, to Carolyn Thomas, Office of Supervisor Barbara Kondylis, 321 Tuolumne Street, Room 104, Vallejo, CA 94590; phone (707) 553-5363.

The Power of One

THE BALLONA LAGOON is a tidal stream about 100 feet wide, flowing roughly parallel to Venice Beach, past the Silver Strand subdivision, where houses sell for upwards of \$1 million. Not too long ago, it was to be converted to high-cost private real estate. The plan was to dredge and deepen it, get rid of mudflats and marsh plants, face it with concrete, and convert it into a private marina, with a slip for each house. That was not a radical plan; it's what had been done to almost all the vast Ballona wetlands.

In retrospect, it seems almost miraculous that this slim thread of wild habitat has survived, providing food and shelter to least terns, green-backed herons, grebes, egrets, fiddler crabs, and all the tiny creatures on

mentation of the lagoon enhancement plan, funded by the Coastal Conservancy and the City of Los Angeles, was complete except for the planting of native vegetation, which is to be done this fall.

All this could not have happened without Iylene Weiss and her small band of allies, who refused to accept what seemed inevitable and fought to save the lagoon. Weiss was known for her refusal to accept no for an answer. She was the wife of a physician, mother of five grown sons, and active in Democratic Party politics until she took an oceanography course and discovered a deeper interest. She once told a reporter that she had moved into the neighborhood "to have an estuary at my doorstep—to me that was heaven." When the Silver Strand Marina Association applied to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to "improve" the lagoon by building a 450-boat marina, Weiss and her allies put in a competing proposal: to restore the lagoon. That proposal never came into play, but it served notice that the fight was on.

It was a long and difficult fight. Neighbors did not like the smells of the marsh; they feared noise, disorder, and outsiders flocking into the neighborhood. But in the end, the combined weight of all the lagoon defenders' arguments led the Corps of Engineers to shelve its proposal. Weiss and her allies organized the nonprofit Ballona Lagoon Marine Preserve and received a grant from the Coastal Conservancy to enhance the lagoon. She won the battle without ever filing a lawsuit, thanks to her political savvy, her willingness always to take on whatever work had to be done, her talent for enlisting others to the cause, and her determination. "Tell me, 'No, it can't be done,' and that really gets me going," she said shortly before her death. She also knew when a fight was futile. "You can't argue with cancer," she said in early April. "You can't change cancer's mind." She died on Sunday, May 11, at age 71.

This fall, when the restored lagoon is dedicated, many will tell stories of Iylene Weiss and how she proved that one person *can* make a powerful difference. ■



RAYMOND KWAN

Iylene Weiss, February 13, 1997, at the groundbreaking for the Ballona Lagoon restoration

which the larger species depend. By July 1997, the lagoon had been enhanced and improved for the benefit of the wildlife and also the people who walk the trail alongside it. A small island had been built at the lagoon's north end for birds to rest and find refuge from marauders, and a new overlook had been completed at the south end, where schoolchildren gather with their guides to watch, listen, and learn. Imple-



JOE SAMBERG

Have you subscribed to *Coast & Ocean*?

Coastal Conservancy 1330 Broadway, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612 (510)-286-0934



Coastal Conservancy

CALIFORNIA COASTAL CONSERVANCY

1330 BROADWAY, 11TH FLOOR

OAKLAND, CA 94612

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 1
BERKELEY, CA

