

The Explorer

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and
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The changing face of Cabrillo

I came to Cabrillo National Monument in January 1993, and have seen quite a few changes in just the short period of time I have worked here. But the most dramatic change has just recently taken place with the opening of our new military history exhibit. The impetus to research and interpret the military history of Point Loma took root in the 1980s with the interest of Ranger Brett Jones. He was the first to conduct research about the soldiers of the 19th Coast Artillery, and the different types of gun emplacements constructed here during World Wars I and II.

Following in Jones's footsteps, Ranger and Historian Barry Joyce continued the research and wrote *A Harbor Worth Defending* in 1995, a concise history and pictorial chronicling the coastal defense of San Diego, published by Cabrillo National Monument Foundation.

Joyce has since moved on to San Diego State University as an instructor in history, leaving an open door for other rangers to continue with the development of an interpretive program about Point Loma's military history. In 1993, both Ranger George Herring and I began our tenure at Cabrillo NM; with our historical backgrounds, we continued to "carry the torch" for military history.

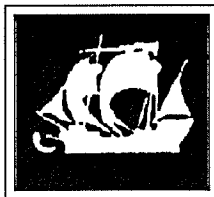
In 1995, on the heels of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, Cabrillo NM made the decision to construct a small museum exhibit commemorating the soldiers once stationed at Fort Rosecrans. The site chosen for this exhibit was the three-room army radio station

that had been constructed near the lighthouse in 1914. George and I were again enlisted for the historical research and design of the exhibit, and after a long wait, we are proud to announce that the eagerly anticipated exhibit is now officially open.

This exhibit marks one of many changes that have taken place at Cabrillo NM in the last few years. In this issue of *The Explorer* we take a look at some other changes. Ranger Emily Troxell brings us up to date with the new living history program which approaches interpretation from a few different directions—volunteers dressed on special occasions in the lighthouse keeper uniform, and historic costumes used for the second-grade education program.

Changes are also taking place in other Cabrillo ranger divisions, such as Resource Management. Chief Ranger Carol Knipper describes how many of the physical changes within the park are achieved through the efforts of youth volunteers—a very important asset to management of the park's resources.

As we head into a new millennium, Cabrillo National Monument is going at a good clip in striving for park improvements. The staff and volunteers at Cabrillo wish you all a safe and happy holiday time and look forward to serving you into the next century.



Debbie Stetz, Editor

Superintendent's report

The changing face of Cabrillo National Monument *by Terry DiMattio*

Cabrillo National Monument is changing. If you have visited the park lately, you have seen the new tan-colored concrete walks with red brick edging extending from the entrance sign to Ocean View Scenic Overlook and through the myoporum grove. You have probably visited the new exhibits in the historic Radio Station on the coastal defense system that existed at Fort Rosecrans during World War II. On the ocean side of the monument, in the area west of Gatchell Road, we recently finished a Recreation Fee Demonstration project that repaired two severely eroded areas.

I would like to tell you about some other projects that will change the face of the monument. These projects are in our approved General Management Plan (GMP). I may have mentioned them before, but I would like to bring you up to date on their status. The first project is the new museum storage facility we would like to build in the lower maintenance compound. We recently reviewed the 50% drawings that Denver Service Center Architect Dale Hammond prepared. This much-needed facility contains a receiving room where we would inspect and initially clean objects to be added to our collection, an office for accessioning and cataloging artifacts, a work room where we would treat and repair artifacts, and an 830-square-foot, environmentally controlled storage area where objects not on display would be properly stored. By comparison, we are currently storing our museum collection in a 300-square-foot room. It is too small to hold all of our museum objects and archival material, and we cannot control the temperature and humidity. The new facility will meet National Park Service standards for caring for these irreplaceable pieces of history and the archival records associated with the history of this monument.

The second project is the relocation of the entrance station. The new location is north of the intersection of

Cabrillo Memorial Drive/State Highway 209 and Cabrillo Road—the road that leads to the rocky intertidal area on the west side of the monument. We are relocating the entrance station to provide an extra measure of protection to the fragile tidepools that are visited by almost 100,000 people each fall, winter, and spring. We believe that by moving it, our visitors will realize that the rocky intertidal area is within the monument and deserves their care and protection. Moving the entrance station will also enable us to contact all the visitors who enter the park and share with them pertinent resource protection and safety messages. And a third reason for relocating the entrance station is that it will introduce equity into the fee collection program. Ever since we began collecting entrance fees in 1987, visitors who entered the west side of the monument have not had to pay the entrance fee. Relocating the entrance station will extend the entrance fee to all our visitors.

The Denver Service Center just finished the construction drawings and specifications for the entrance station project. We have asked our Washington office for permission to use the entrance fees we collect under the

Recreation Fee Demonstration Program to do the site work and build the new entrance station. Once we receive permission, our support office in San Francisco can issue the contract for construction. If all goes well, construction could begin next spring, but it is more likely that it will begin in the fall.

The last project is the one to restore the area around the Old Point Loma Lighthouse to look more like it did in the 1880s. The proposal is to remove the old asphalt parking area and build tan-colored concrete walks with a red brick edge just inside the outer rock wall. On the west side

of the lighthouse we would leave a 12-foot-wide road so our staff, emergency vehicles, and the Navy would have access to the area and handicapped visitors would be able



The projects I have mentioned typify the dichotomy that faces the National Park Service in its stewardship of national treasures such as Cabrillo NM: How do we preserve resources unimpaired while providing for visitor use and enjoyment?

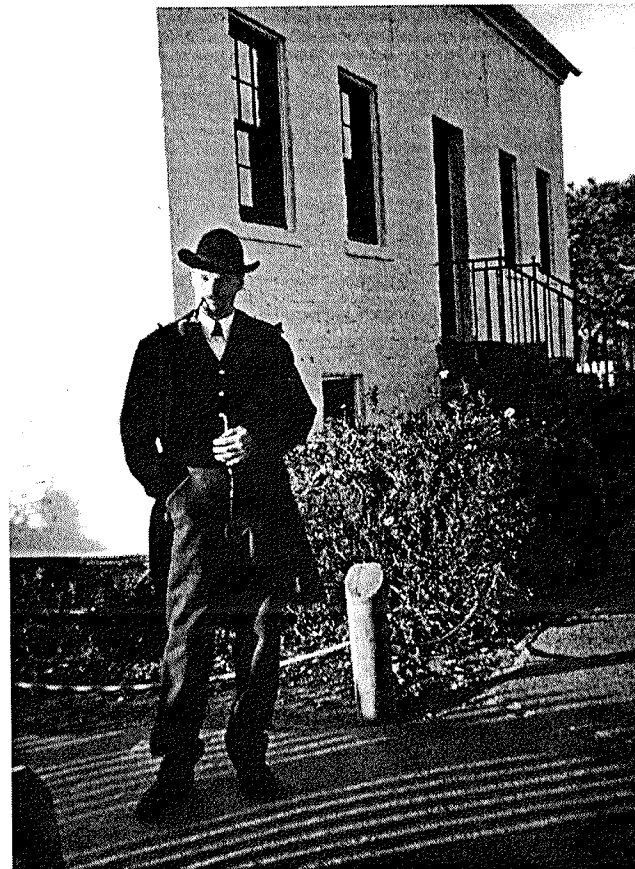
to drive to the lighthouse and park nearby. We would also like to re-establish the historic ground contours, outline the location of the former barn and oil shed with sandstone blocks, reinstall the picket fence, flagpole, and concrete catch basin in front of the lighthouse, and construct walks of decomposed granite or similar surface suitable for wheelchairs to and from the lighthouse. On the site of the assistant keepers' quarters, we would like to build an interpretive shelter for exhibits that would tell the story of the lighthouse and its keepers, and provide a space for our ranger-guided school programs. On the back of the interpretive shelter we would build a handicap-accessible, unisex comfort station.

As with the other projects, the National Park Service's Denver Service Center is preparing the design. In October we reviewed the preliminary design and sent Gary Hurrell, the planning-team captain, our comments. We have also prepared a value analysis to identify ways to reduce the cost while meeting our goals for this project. The next step for the lighthouse project will be to present this proposal to the park service's Development Advisory Board in March. The DAB reviews all projects with estimated costs of half a million dollars or more. The preliminary estimate for this project is slightly over \$500,000. If the DAB approves this project, we hope to finish the construction drawings and specifications by summer and award the building contract shortly afterward. With luck, construction could begin in the fall.

As you can see, the face of Cabrillo NM could change substantially in the next few years. If you think about it, this may seem contrary to what national park areas are all about. After all, national parks are not supposed to change much. The mission of the National Park Service is "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and provide for the enjoyment" of these resources "in such manner...as will leave them unimpaired [emphasis added] for the enjoyment of future generations." The projects I have mentioned typify the dichotomy that faces the national park service in its stewardship of national treasures such as Cabrillo NM: How do we preserve resources unimpaired while providing for visitor use and enjoyment? Two of these projects will help us preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources that have been entrusted to our care, while the third will provide for the enjoyment and education of the 1.2 million people who visit us each year. As we care for Cabrillo NM and its resources and values, changes will inevitably follow. The challenge that faces us is to find that delicate balance between preservation and development that ensures the long-term preservation of this special place.

The Lighthouse lights up with living history

by Emily Troxell



The man stands looking out over the Pacific. Dressed in a long black coat and a bowler hat, he holds his pipe tightly in his hand. Occasionally he calls, "Old Black! Come here, Old Black!" And then he waits and watches. A lady with a child walks along the road toward him. The man tips his hat and says, "Could I enlist your services? I have lost Old Black. I rode him out today so that I could talk to Mrs. Israel. I tied him up at the barn, but he chewed his rope and ran off." The woman looks puzzled, but soon realizes that this person is from another place and time.

Thus begins a visitor's encounter with Luke Burke, a park volunteer portraying a correspondent for *The San Diego Union* in the year 1887. Visitor contacts such as these are meant to expand the visitor's understanding of the lifestyle of people from another era. Contacts such as these, commonly called "living history,"

have become an important part of the interpretive program at Cabrillo National Monument.

The preparation for this type of presentation entails a variety of challenges. The first challenge is to place a demonstrator such as Luke into a specific time period. Dress must be appropriate and props accurate for the activities being demonstrated and in common use during the chosen historic period. The second challenge is to provide the demonstrator with enough information to be able to speak with authority about the era represented. Still more choices must be made: A demonstrator may pretend, like Luke, to be an actual person living in another time. It takes a great amount of time to prepare a credible personality based on accurate information. "First-person interpretation" is the common term for this process. Third-person interpretation is another common method of delivery. In this situation, demonstrators retain their own personality, but interpret the selected time and location to the visitor.

Third-person interpretation is used in another presentation at the Old Point Loma Lighthouse. Women demonstrators dressed in period clothing describe domestic life during the years that Capt. and Mrs. Robert Israel lived in this building. These women demonstrate crafts common in the 1880s, building a bridge of communication between the visitor and the historic time. Discussing the role of the woman in her particular environment becomes a creative way to convey how life was conducted. Soon it becomes apparent to the visitor that the 1880s woman had more leisure time than did the women of 30 years earlier. During this period, the lives of women were comparatively easy since they no longer were required to produce many of the necessities of life themselves. Articles such as clothing and canned food could be purchased locally or through catalogues. What these women did with their leisure time is easy to imagine by counting the large number of arts and craft items found inside the dwelling.

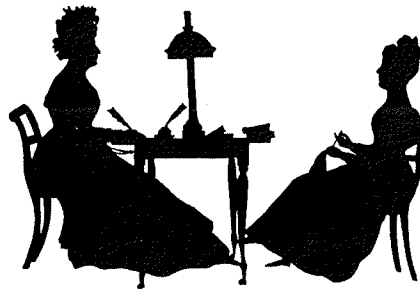
Ulla Kordel and Linda Masys are two lighthouse demonstrators that have made the kitchen their work station. These women enjoy their work and often relay how delighted visitors are to find a "real person" in the building. Maybell Buell also spends time in the lighthouse on Sunday afternoons and shares facts about the time period. Maybell has become so popular with the visitors

she even receives fan mail! The presence of these ladies in the lighthouse provides a valuable sense of reality to the building.

From the success of the "Lighthouse Ladies," a new living history program is emerging at Cabrillo National Monument. It focuses on the activities of people involved in Cabrillo's 1542 expedition.

This program actually began several years ago as part of the annual Cabrillo Festival. But this year the living history experience was expanded further with costumed volunteers demonstrating the use of 16th century arms and armor. Volunteer Mike Love dressed authentically as a Spanish sailor, even down to his rope shoes and chain mail; he shared information with the visitors about the life of sailors on board Cabrillo's ships. Mike has enjoyed his role as a Spanish sailor so much that he often presents his program on weekends at the Visitor Center.

Living history can be very effective and interesting and is being used more and more throughout the National Park System as a form of interpretation. The challenge is to find interpreter/demonstrators willing and able to bring a particular bit of history to life.



From the success of the "Lighthouse Ladies," a new living history program is emerging at Cabrillo National Monument.

If on some Sunday afternoon you are in the park, and should happen to meet Luke Burke, correspondent for *The San Diego Union*, be ready to ask him about his life. As a first-person demonstrator, he will speak to you as a man of the 1880s, and make it nearly impossible for you to "break" his character. Just for fun, ask him if he drove to the lighthouse that day, and he may answer

"Old Black was all I had. All the surreys had been rented this morning. When I got here, I tied that old black nag up at the stable over yonder (he points to the southeast). He got loose and we have been calling him all afternoon. I even have apples for him, but he's not returned. Guess I will have to spend the night here if someone doesn't come along who can give me a buggy ride back into town."

And he might end the conversation with a query: *"If you see Mrs. Israel, please call me and I'll come running. I've been trying to get an interview with the lovely lady for days. You know, she had a rather influential mother, and we want to follow up on her life."*

The historical significance of the Old Point Loma Lighthouse

By Raymond Starr, Professor Emeritus of History, San Diego State University

For well over a century, the lighthouse on Point Loma has been a beloved and much-used structure. Even before the automobile, people came out from town to picnic at the site. For several generations, visitors to Cabrillo National Monument have delighted in visiting the house, seeing the view from the top, learning how the lighthouse keeper did his job, and how his spouse kept their house. Does the lighthouse have any importance beyond being a beloved landmark?

It most certainly does: The establishment of the San Diego lighthouse was a very important step in the Americanization of San Diego after the United States took possession of the area. As such, the lighthouse is an important symbol of the change of San Diego from a Spanish-Mexican culture to a United States one.

The change was a dramatic and drastic one, as Mario T. García has described in his excellent article, "Merchants and Dons: San Diego's Attempt at Modernization, 1850–1860" (*Journal of San Diego History* 21 [Winter 1975], 52–80.) He explains the process thusly: "The conquest of the Southwest by the United States...represented more than just a transfer of territory. It stands as the replacement of a colonial—almost feudal—society by an aggressive capitalistic one." (p. 53)

The Spanish system established in California after settlement in 1769 had been a very traditional one, which harkened back rather than forward. It was built on land, agriculture, and very strictly controlled trade restricted only to the Spanish. The social structure was very traditional and patriarchal; the legal system reflected the hierarchical social structure. Although Mexico loosened the

trade restrictions after winning independence from Spain, the basic agricultural nature of California and the more-or-less feudal social and political system remained, probably because of the dominance in the economy of the large ranchos producing the province's only cash crops: cattle hides, horns, and tallow.

When the United States arrived, it—in a very short period of time—replaced the Spanish-Mexican world with the entrepreneurial, individualistic, capitalistic one of its culture. Although in some parts of California the Mexican culture and people continued to play a large role for many years, in San Diego the "norteamericano" takeover was very fast, and quite thorough.

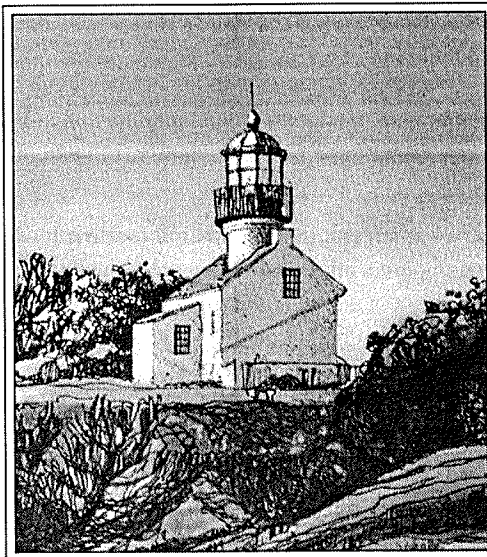
Thus the personal-oriented political system was replaced with American law, elected officials, and a courthouse to symbolize that change. Economically, the Americans brought land speculation, new business enterprises—stores of many varieties, hotels, stagecoaches and stables—and a desire to increase commerce substantially. This would come through the development of roads back east and northward to the Mormon settlement, the construction

of a railroad to Yuma, and through maritime enterprise. Mostly because of geographical hurdles presented by the mountains east of town, the roads did not exactly materialize, and the railroad did not come for a very long time. Maritime communication did—and that is where the lighthouse is important.

If San Diego were to become the capitalistic commercial center its new citizens expected (after all, it had what was considered one of the best bays on the Pacific coast, so surely it could become a great port!), a number of things had to happen. Many vessels

needed to come and go into San Diego Bay. There needed to be ships bringing people and information, capturing whales and otter skins, bringing in imported goods, and taking out local products (both those produced in the region and those to be brought in from the interior of the continent).

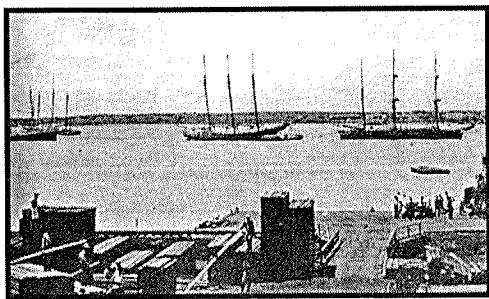
To have that commerce, ships had to come into the mouth of San Diego Bay, just south of the tip of the Point Loma peninsula. The problem is that the opening is small and that there are treacherous shoals, especially off the Point. To help mariners find that port and to avoid those rocks and shallows, the United States government estab-



lished a lighthouse.

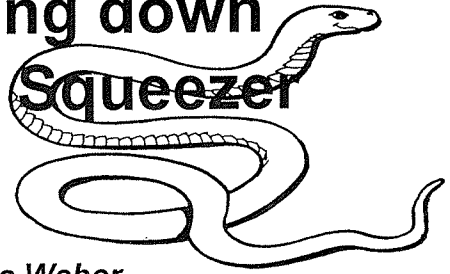
The need was considerable: Ross Holland (*The Old Point Loma Lighthouse* [Cabrillo Historical Association, 1968], p. 2) reports that in the Mexican period, officials would hang a lantern on a stake at Ballast Point in order to guide a ship into the harbor. The United States government, however, had been involved in lighthouses and navigational aids since the founding of the republic, and by the 1850s had worked out an effective system of operating them. Thus when the new American settlers in California began to demand navigation aids, the government was in a position to comply, and beginning in 1848 Congress enabled the establishment of several lighthouses on the West Coast, including one at San Diego. In 1851, government surveyors measured the site and recommended the current location (despite considerable experience with Point Loma fog!). The government began construction, and on 15 November 1855 it was lighted for the first time. From that day until it was replaced in 1891, the lighthouse was the new entrepreneurial community's chief navigation aid.

Thus, if we think of historical structures as devices we can use to remind us of our past and how we got to where we are today, the old lighthouse at Cabrillo National Monument (along with the re-creation of the first courthouse in Old Town State Historic Park) can trigger our memories and help us understand how San Diego began its journey toward becoming the modern commercial center it is today. As a symbol of that change, the lighthouse has significance far beyond that of a favored picnic place!



San Diego Historical Society Photo

Tracking down Julius Squeezer



by Samantha Weber

Just another day at the office. I am talking on the phone, and Jeff Allen, Natural Resource Science Intern, is working on our shorebird database when Marty Lane walks into the office. Being in mid-conversation and needing to stay focused, I ignore both Marty and Jeff. I do notice they seem to be talking somewhat animatedly, apparently in reference to the polaroid print which Marty has brought in. Finally, tired of waiting for me to finish talking, Marty hands me the photograph. Excusing myself to the person on the line, I ask Marty, "When was that taken?" "Just now," he said, smiling quietly in anticipation of my reaction. "I'm going to have to call you back!" pops out of my mouth and I hang up.

It was a picture of two snakes in a tussle—two different species, so it was presumably not a romantic encounter. It looked more like a kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getulus*) trying to have a rosy boa (*Lichanura trivirgata*) for lunch. The reason I was guessing kingsnake, despite its pattern which made it look more like a striped racer (*Masticophis lateralis*), is that king snakes are very fond of eating other snakes—one of the chief sources of stress in a rattlesnake's life. Kingsnakes eat rattlesnakes: "Venom, shmenom," they say. "Yum."

Anyhow, the polaroid was particularly exciting for several reasons I'll explain later, but suffice it to say my adrenalin cranked up several notches. This looked like a job for "ACTION FIGURE BIOLOGIST!"

Jeff and Marty, with a camera full of slide film, headed toward the site so we would at least get some good photos of the event. Meanwhile, still at the office, I unceremoniously tossed out the contents of two big cardboard boxes and popped on my radio. Grabbing my hat, I speed-walked down the hallway to the storage room, snagged the snake hook, then tossed the whole lot and myself into my car, and headed toward the Bayside Trail, scrupulously obeying the speed limit, of course. Now was NOT the time to get into a fender bender.

When I arrived, to my great relief and eternal gratitude, the snakes were still there, Jeff squatting nearby taking close up battle shots while Marty stood guard. The "ball o' snakes" was right in the middle of the wide spot of the paved road just where the Bayside Trail becomes a gravel

path. The two snakes were very tightly entwined (see photo and notice quarter in background for perspective).

One of the reasons this finding was extra exciting was the kingsnake: it was not the typical banded kingsnake one usually sees, with bands of black or brown alternating with bands of white or cream. The coloration of this particular individual, with brown and cream bands running along the length of the body, was the first one of that type that has been seen here so far. The herpetologist, Robert Fisher, didn't think we had any of that variety until that day. The rosy boa was a reasonably common combination of very smooth scales washed in bluish grey and rosy pink.

Upon closer inspection of the tussling twosome, we could see that the rosy had successfully tucked its head in about four coils of its own body, like a thumb inside a tight fist. Its head, the most vulnerable part of its body, was well shielded from the kingsnake's hungry jaws. However, the king was very much wrapped around the rosy's hind end (about 3 or 4 coils worth) and was wrestling hard to try and get more leverage, flipping the "snake ball" over several times. Snakes are nothing if not muscle-bound and, as we found out later, this kingsnake was HUNGRY.

"So what do you want to do with 'em?" asked Marty as we stared at the writhing mass at our feet. "Get them apart, put them in the boxes, and take them to the herp lab. They haven't caught a rosy boa yet." The park is currently involved in a multi-year herpetology survey with the herpetology lab at San Diego State University, with Dr. Fisher as the principal investigator. In three years of sampling at Point Loma, we've never caught a rosy boa. Robert has not found historical data indicating the presence of rosy boas in Point Loma, but lately we have been gathering some anecdotal data suggesting they have been here.

For one, Superintendent Terry DiMattio remembers seeing them out here in the 1970s. When I told this to a friend of mine, he said that when he was a kid (about 1975) he lived in Point Loma, and a construction worker from a site down the block gave him a rosy boa they had found while they were working. Just this last year, a volunteer found one in Ocean View parking lot, but there are no pictures of it; it did not get to the SDSU herp lab, and Robert never got to see it. So right now we don't know if these two boas are the same or different

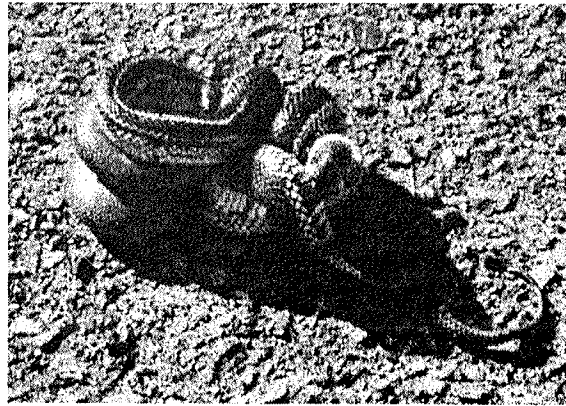
individuals, or whether they are released pets or honest-to-goodness natives of Point Loma.

This in mind, I was going to make certain that Robert saw this rosy, preferably alive. That made separation of the two reptiles fairly important. "You want to take them apart?" queried Marty. "Well, two live snakes are better than one live and one dead one," I explained (or just one really fat one). So Marty, in his usual tentative fashion, grabbed the snake hook and got right to the business of gently rendering these grappling individuals apart. Not an easy task, particularly if you are not super excited about being pecked at by a kingsnake. They aren't venomous to us, but being bitten by anything is unnerving, particularly a good-sized and justifiably cranky king.

Finally Marty unwound them, we gently lowered each into its respective box, loaded them back into my car, then Jeff and I hit the highway, headed toward SDSU's Herp Central (Robert Fisher's lab). Once we were walking down the hallowed halls of academia, I mused about how fun it was to hold a box of snake and wonder how passersby might react if they knew what we were carrying. We rounded the corner into the "Fisher Lab" and were greeted by Chris Brown and Carleton Rochester, both of whom have been working for Robert for years.

Carleton has begun a new study as part of the larger herp project. His focus is rosy boas. Rosy boas are native to San Diego and very popular pets. They are rosy pink and grey with glossy skin, perfectly docile and sweet, do not get very large (max out at 44 inches according to the Peterson's Field Guide) and live well in captivity. This is part of the problem. Rosy boas have been poached in the wild for years by herp enthusiasts and profit seekers. Combine that with the usual progressive loss of habitat, and these beautiful animals are now much less a part of our landscape than they had been in the past. Carleton suggested that our rosy may qualify to be a part of this study, depending upon how big it was relative to the radio transmitters they hoped to implant.

Radio tracking a snake? In order to learn more about rosy boa basic natural history (home range, territory, distribution) and possibly track their "loss" due to poaching or through other causes, Carleton is tracking them using a technique called radio telemetry. If the snake caught is large enough to carry the AAA battery-shaped transmitter (there is a formula they use to ensure that it is a tiny fraction of the individual's body weight), Carleton



implants the transmitter and a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag. Then Carleton can release the snake back where it was caught, and return several times a week with a radio receiver and “beep, beep, BEEP” the intensity of the sound lets him know when he is right above the snake. Regardless of whether or not he can actually SEE the snake, he knows it is there. Snakes often rest under leaf litter or underground, so without this technique, Carleton has pretty poor odds of finding the snake from day to day.

The PIT tag is a tiny microchip with a coil, all encased in a glass capsule which is about as big as a grain of rice. This serves to identify the individual, like name tags for pets. This means that if a rosy is traced to someone’s house or just seems unusually far from its last roaming site, Carleton can simply scan the PIT tag and learn exactly which individual he has. There are projects in south African National Parks where similar tags are placed inside rhino horns or rare and protected plants. This way, if a poacher is caught with goods stolen from the park and swears the stuff he has is from outside the park, all the rangers have to do is scan it to prove him wrong.

Just as soon as Jeff and I put the snake boxes down, Carleton reached into one of the boxes, and brought out the kingsnake. “Wow, he’s hungry,” he remarked. “How can you tell?” I asked. “Here. Just feel it.” Suddenly I’m holding the kingsnake—yes, the rattlesnake-eating kingsnake—which is possibly cranky and hungry. But this guy was just as mellow as could be, moving from arm to arm, headed in the general direction of the counter. Not having held many kingsnakes, I had to take Carleton’s word that it was hungry, but maybe its skin did look a little saggy. Meanwhile, Carleton was holding the rosy boa, admiring it. He assured me that both snakes would eat well that night—Carleton had a supply of mice at his house. I’m sure both reptiles were more than ready for dinner and a rest.

So it turns out that our little rosy boa was large enough to be included in Carleton’s study, so now it gets tracked about three times a week. Lately it is heading southeast near the Bayside Trail after having rested in place for ten days. Each time Carleton comes out to find the snake using the radio telemetry receiver, he marks the spot where he found it (or the spot of ground above it). That way they (and I) can make a map which follows the snake’s movement over time.

For those uninitiated in wildlife studies, let me emphasize that “movement data” is among the most precious and expensive information on animals. Most people never get it. Presence or absence of species, relative abundance, species richness (number of species) and composition (which species) are as far as most studies get

because of expense, time, logistics, etc. Through this study, we will be able to map each place where Carleton has seen the boa (via a Global Positioning System) and follow his movement on a map (created with our Geographic Information System, or GIS).

One of my near term goals for this aspect of the project is to get a map made and up onto the park web site (<http://www.nps.gov/cabr>) as soon as possible. Then everyone who has access to the Internet can follow our rosy around. This way people can learn about the rosy boa, check in every week or so, and will have the opportunity to learn about our herpetology study, reptile and amphibian conservation, Cabrillo National Monument, and the National Park Service along the way. I’ve given him the name of Julius Squeezer, as suggested by our beloved former editor Jim Nauman, in honor of the rosy’s scientific name which is in Latin. I was thinking about giving him a Kumeyaay name, but didn’t know any that were appropriate. Jim was stumped, too. If any of you have alternative name suggestions, feel free to submit them to me (Samantha_Weber@nps.gov). In the meantime, please stay alert to our web page in the next few months for a map of Julius Squeezer’s travels. Although kingsnakes still abound here, he need not fear, for the ides of March has long passed, and we are rooting for him. All hail Julius Squeezer!

CALL FOR HELP!! If any of you readers used to live in Point Loma, you know a rosy boa from the other snakes found here, and remember seeing them, please let me know by relaying your story to me. Include specific dates and locations wherever possible, and your complete contact information. Thank you!

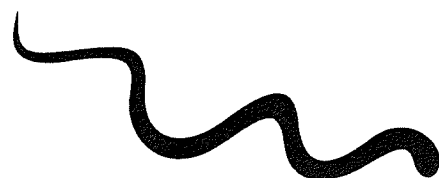
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A tradition continues

by Carol Knipper

There seems to be something very American about preserving our heritage and our environment and providing service to our communities through hard work. From my vantage point as a National Park Service employee I get to witness the effects of this type of resource protection activity all the time. I see the visitors' appreciation of those efforts and can appreciate the significance of these work projects to scientists and historians. The chores of preservation and restoration are often backbreaking and tedious—scraping old paint from buildings, cutting down non-native vegetation, or removing an unwanted trail. It is an endless affair of digging, cutting, scraping, hauling, and building. These jobs seem especially suitable for young adults who are eager to contribute to society, learn new job skills, build on their education, and earn much-needed money. Fortunately, youth corps programs fulfill this need.

The National Park Service Fee Demonstration Program has given parks the opportunity to improve their areas. This recent trial program allows participating national park sites to retain 80% of their entrance fees to use for improvements of park facilities and restore disturbed natural areas. Cabrillo NM has been a part of this program since it began in 1996; it has been a terrific asset for this park. Right now there are plenty of examples of entrance fees at work here: the radio station walkways, the tidepool emergency phone, culvert replacements; not to mention the pending projects that will begin next year. But some of you may be wondering "What about the other 20%? Where does that go?" Much of that money is divided up among the parks that do not collect entrance fees (yes, that's right, not *all* parks collect fees). Money is also provided to parks that are not yet participating in the fee demonstration program to help them complete their backlog maintenance projects. But a portion of this 20% money is set aside for the Public Lands Corps, a program designed to connect youth with jobs and national park projects.

The Public Lands Corps (PLC) program continues a federal government tradition of linking backlogged work projects with public employment and the environment.

Most memorable, of course, is the Civilian Conservation Corps of the Depression Era. In 1933, President Roosevelt signed into law an act creating the Emergency Conservation Work Program, better known as the Civilian Conservation Corps. This program became one of the most popular and successful of President Roosevelt's New Deal programs. Between 1933 and 1942, when the CCC programs ended, a total of two million enrollees had worked in 198 camps in 94 National Park Service areas, as well as in 697 camps in 881 state, county and municipal areas. Projects from this era that still remain today include roadways, buildings in many national park sites, and reforestation and flood control projects on public lands.



Other job programs developed during the 1970s include the Youth Adult Conservation Corps (YACC), a program now defunct, and the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). The YCC program was signed into law in 1971

by President Nixon to address the high unemployment of teenagers (15-18 years old) and degradation of public areas. The Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture now serve as leads for this program which focuses primarily on environmental enhancement projects and improvement of public use facilities. This program adds the required element of eight hours of environmental education each week, which has become a key element in the corps programs. The YCC program is still going strong at Cabrillo NM due to the tremendous financial support from the U.S. Navy for the removal of exotic vegetation within the federal reservation on Point Loma, although nationwide the YCC program is only a small fraction of what it once was.

The accomplishments of the YCC and YACC programs nationwide were not forgotten, even though budget cuts in the early 1980s killed the YACC and decimated the YCC program. (In its heyday the YCC program employed 32,000 young adults with a budget of \$60 million while the YACC had an annual budget of \$260 million.) Because of these early successes in the federal programs, state conservation corps programs began to emerge, one of the first being the California

Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC continues the pattern of environmental protection and community service while enrollees earn money, high school diplomas and college credits. Other programs soon followed in the 1980s, such as local, urban based conservation corps and service corps. Cabrillo NM has directly benefited from these programs as many of our projects have been completed by the staff and crew of the Urban Corps of San Diego. Nationwide, the spirit of community service and youth programs continues to be strong. According to the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps, an umbrella organization that provides assistance to and communication between the many youth corps, key components of successful programs are those that:

- fill unmet, but valuable community need
- are visible, tangible meaningful and achievable
- have an educational component
- provide introductory skill training
- provide long-term benefits to the community
- are environmentally sound and lend themselves to group effort and close supervision.

Records show that there are now 120 youth organizations in 38 states and in the District of Columbia, serving 26,000 young people annually. At the national level, the idea of national community service is once again growing in popularity. In 1990 President George Bush signed the National and Community Service Act of 1990. This legislation authorizes grants for national service programs to youth corps, nonprofits, and colleges and universities. In 1992 the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) was established to build on the tradition of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s by expanding youth service efforts in communities. Additionally, the youth corps movement received the first targeted federal funding in more than a decade. More than \$22.5 million in grants was awarded to state, local, and tribal youth corps under the National and Community Service Act.

The federal programs continued to expand, and in 1993 President Clinton signed the National and Community Service Trust Act, creating the Corporation for National Service. This provides opportunities for Americans of all ages to help communities meet critical challenges in the areas of education, public safety, human needs, and the environment. The Corporation oversees three national service initiatives: AmeriCorps (which now includes the NCCC program), Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps.

In April 1997, at the Summit on America's Future,

President Clinton made numerous commitments to the American people on behalf of Federal agencies. The National Park Service participated by using funds derived from the Recreation Fee Demonstration program to activate the Public Lands Corps (PLC), a program authorized in the 1993 National Community Service Act. In 1998 the National Park Service obligated \$2 million to this endeavor. The PLC program is designed to have three components: 1) partnership with a non-profit youth organization; 2) provide young Americans with an opportunity to work, learn, earn, and enjoy our national parks; and 3) help alleviate some of the backlogged maintenance, repair, and restoration projects in our national parks.

Through a grant process, parks and youth corps or other non-profit groups submit proposals for projects that will alleviate the backlog of maintenance, restoration or environmental enhancement projects that could not otherwise be completed. At Cabrillo NM we have been awarded two \$15,000 grants through this program. One

project was used for the Urban Corps of San Diego to help preserve nine historic coastal defense structures that were once part of Fort Rosecrans. The work consisted of removing encroaching soil and vegetation around the structures; removing debris from inside; cleaning walls and interiors of non-historic graffiti; and sanding, priming, and painting. The second grant was awarded to plant and collect native plant seeds, remove exotic plants, and cover exposed areas with erosion control mats in order to restore areas in the

park to aesthetic and environmentally healthy standards. The California Conservation Corps will carry out this work. This year we submitted another proposal for \$15,000; we can only hope that our past success will help us earn another grant to continue our work with these youth corps programs.

These youth corps programs benefit everyone, especially the young adults who receive a source of income, school credits, and career education. But the American people benefit as well. Financially, with the PLC projects the cost/benefit ratio is \$2.77 on every dollar spent for the program. At another level, we see young adults involved in their community and continuing a tradition of public service. Do the entrance fees at national parks make a difference? Yes, they make a difference to all of us, down to the last penny.



San Diego Bay Bird Festival

January 27–30, 2000

(and Cabrillo National Monument is on board)

by CNM Volunteer Claude G. Edwards

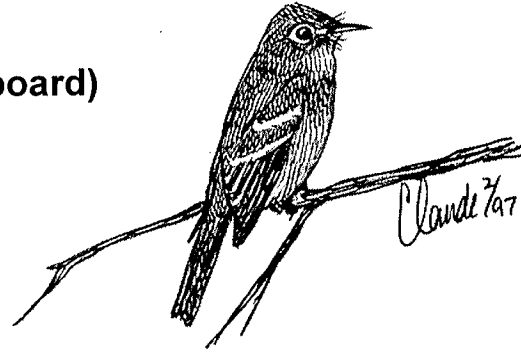
The San Diego Bay Bird Festival is an event that promotes bird watching and nature study, together with attractive field trips, classroom presentations, and a keynote speaker. One of its main goals is to make the point that the San Diego region is an exciting and worthy destination for nature enthusiasts.

Across the U.S. there are many places where the natural environment and wildlife take center stage and provide a focus for many thousands of visitors and observers. The phenomenon of regional bird or nature festivals has been growing for the past decade and anybody interested can find one during every month of the year. Generally these events are supported and marketed by Chambers of Commerce or business bureaus—organizations intent on generating revenues from a new customer base. Indeed, at some localities the population of the host community can more than double with the influx of festival participants.

The San Diego Bay Bird Festival is hosted by "Nature Festivals of San Diego County," a non-profit public benefiting corporation. For the first three years it was held in the City of Imperial Beach and included neighboring communities and natural resource areas. The event is held at the end of January, partly because there are many natural wonders that can be enjoyed and partly because our generally mild winter weather is a welcome respite for visitors from colder climates. This year, our fourth, we will convene at the Chula Vista Nature Center.

Other major participants in the Festival include the San Diego Audubon Society, San Diego Natural History Museum, Port of San Diego, Chula Vista Convention and Visitors Bureau, Chula Vista Nature Center, City of Imperial Beach and the County of San Diego. Additional support comes from Santee Lakes Regional Park & Campground, the Birdwatcher store in Julian, La Mesa Camera, and Swarovski Optics Company.

The idea of a bird festival began with a dream I had of organizing and leading nature and birding tours in and around San Diego. I have been in the public arena leading walks and giving talks for almost 30 years, many of those at Cabrillo National Monument! I couldn't find any evidence that our business or community leaders were



ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE AUTHOR

promoting San Diego as a destination to bird watchers and nature lovers. Why not? My friend Mike Klein and I developed the idea of the Bird Festival and the establishment of Nature Festivals of San Diego County. Since events such as these are non-profit, any revenues above our costs go in part to promote next year's festival as well as to a deserving group or educational program focusing on nature.

I am pleased to report that Cabrillo National Monument will be on board at this year's Bird Festival with an information table and displays promoting its main themes and purposes. This includes its awareness and protection of the intertidal region, coastal sage scrub vegetation, gray whales, and of course, birds.

For more information about the San Diego Bay Bird Festival, or for a Program, you may call (619) 282-8687 or check out the Bird Festival web site at: www.flight-tours.com/program.htm



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