



Torreyana

A quarterly newsletter for
Torrey Pines State Reserve

Vol. 1 Issue No. 4

September 1999

Message from the President — Ken Baer

— **Preserving the Past for the Future** —
My first visit to Torrey Pines State Reserve was 26 years ago. I was only eleven years old, but the impression made was lasting. I've never tired of the beauty, vistas and the freedom offered here. We celebrate 100 years of preserving this precious resource, and our main goal is to provide everyone with a cherished memory that will bring you back again and again.

The 100-year anniversary of Torrey Pines State Reserve will be celebrated as a free all-day event on Saturday, October 9. Shuttle service from both beach parking lots to the Lodge will be provided. The California Department of Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with the Torrey Pines Docent Society, the Torrey Pines Association and Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation, will stage this event, and focus on exploring the trails, beach and lagoon.

When we look at the landscape surrounding Torrey Pines, it is truly a wonder that most of the development we see has occurred in the last quarter of the century. It is imperative that we preserve wildlife corridors and watercourses into Torrey Pines State Reserve to ensure that a 200-year anniversary is celebrated in 2099.
(continued on page 4)

"Man can help nature, but can never improve her works." — Guy Fleming

Torreyana Centennial Tribute — Del Roberts

This Centennial Torreyana is a tribute to the dedicated conservationist who have worked so hard to preserve the *Pinus torreyana* ever since its discovery in 1850 by botanist Dr. C.C. Parry. Without their efforts, there may never have been a 100th Year Anniversary.

Inside, you'll find brief profiles of just a few of our past heroes: Drs. Parry and Torrey, Ellen Browning Scripps, and writings by Guy Fleming and daughter Margaret Fleming Allen. Thanks to the TPSR and TPA collections, historian Judy Schulman, archivist Maryruth Cox, and former TPSR naturalist Hank Nicol, we have a fine documented history of TPSR.

But what about *today's* heroes? An Historic Portrait Library of videos, produced by Diana Wenman and Del Roberts, will be shown at the Centennial Celebration. Melba Kooyman talks about the rescue of TP Extension; Hank Nicol recalls his days as a TPSR naturalist; Ellen Revelle Eckis remembers her great-aunt, Miss Ellen; and Jessie La Grange displays a 20-year record of photographs that helped save the Lagoon.

Next Docent Society Meeting
Saturday, September 18 at 9:00 a.m.
Mike Kelly, president of the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and member of the Directors of California Exotic Pest Plant Council will show slides and maps on watershed impacts on the Peñasquitos Lagoon.

Report from Ranger Bob Wohl

Torrey Pines Park has been in existence for 100 years. Amazing! I remember, when I started as a ranger at Big Basin Redwood State Park, how proud we should be that we worked at Big Basin, the first permanent California state park, created in 1902. In fact, Big Basin's original name was the California Redwood State Park! There were no other California state parks. Yet there was already a unique little park called Torrey Pines.

Torrey Pines exceeds Big Basin in age by three years, a little known or readily acknowledged historical fact. Of course it didn't join the State Park System until 1959. Thus many people in the Parks' Movement don't realize or recognize how much we all owe to the citizens of San Diego, Ellen Scripps, and Guy Fleming. Torrey Pines Park was not just a place unto itself. It preceded Balboa Park and the great electoral debate in San Diego that became summarized in the phrase "Smokestacks verses Geraniums". We almost take for granted that San Diego naturally has the vistas and parks and landscape that we see today. And that everybody could appreciate the natural scenery and beauty around them here in San Diego. How could they not preserve it for all time?

Well, the real story is that it's not that simple; it never is, neither back then, nor right now. Go to Carmel Mountain Mesa for a taste of those tempestuous disagreements, the results of which, for good or for ill, we live with today. Torrey Pines State Reserve was the wellhead of many great parks in California. Ellen Scripps combined her special groves with the city's original dedicated lands to create what may have been America's first experiment in setting aside a natural preserve inside an urban landscape. What foresight, what prescience, for her to take the necessary actions with such strong resolve and confidence in her beliefs. Ellen Scripps hired Guy Fleming and funded his custodial home at Torrey Pines Preserve. Ellen Scripps and George Marston knew what they were doing when they empowered Guy Fleming, chose him to represent Torrey Pines officially, and through him, powered up the engine for natural preservation in Southern California.

One year after Fleming built his family a home high on the hill at Torrey Pines in 1927, the California State Park System was officially formed. Fleming was asked to analyze the needs of the newly formed System and compile a design for the South. By 1931, three districts had been formed and Guy Fleming was selected to be one of the first State Park District Superintendents. He set up his Southern District Office conveniently in the noncontiguous upper floor of his home at Torrey Pines. Torrey Pines became the energizing crucible for the new State Park System in Southern California. Fleming's district went from Morro Bay to the Mexican border, from the Pacific Ocean to the Colorado River. Fleming became the driving force for some of California's great parks: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Palomar Mountain State Park, Doheny State Beach, Morro Bay State Beach, Silverstrand State Beach, and ultimately (ex officio) Torrey Pines State Reserve.

Why should we celebrate Torrey Pines State Reserve's 100th anniversary? George Marston was the spiritual, economic, and political driver for Torrey Pines' preservation in the 1890's. We may be amazed that, during America's legendary gilded age, people of substance cared deeply for the environment and not just for wealth.

What it tells us is that we are on the right path, that there are certain tangible, enduring values that are consistent from generation to generation. These values will prevail despite the material intensity and accumulation of our present-day gilded era. There is continuity in the efforts of ourselves and the people who came before us. Torrey Pines and the cause of natural preservation is worth the fight. By commemorating our predecessors' long ago efforts and ideals, we reinforce our own. And by venerating their achievements, we give hope to our own. Happy Birthday, Torrey Pines State Reserve! California's Birthday Tree and the place that nurtured its survival would not be the same without so many caring individuals.

**There is pleasure in the pathless woods,
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,
There is society where none intrudes,
I love not man the less, but Nature more.**
Lord Byron

Notes from the Archives: One Hundred Years Ago by Maryruth Cox

One hundred years ago many prominent citizens of San Diego were worried about the fate of the Torrey pines. These unique trees, that grew natively at the northern end of San Diego, were being vandalized by campers, firewood-collectors, and grazing cattle. Something had to be done to save them.

Daniel Cleveland and George Marston, leaders in the San Diego Natural History Society, circulated a petition asking the city to take action to save the trees. The San Diego Union mentioned their efforts in an article on Torrey Pines, July 9, 1899: "and there is not a member of the council so disloyal to the city as to vote against the adoption of the ordinance."

Two days later the Union featured another story about Torrey Pines: the Mayor, Edwin Capps, had visited the site where he had "found the trees widely scattered and poorly protected, with intervening stretches of grass that might at any time be set on fire, resulting in a destruction of the rare trees."

Finally, on July 24, 1899, the Common Council of the City of San Diego passed ordinance no. 648, which set aside portions of pueblo lots 1332, 1333, 1336, and 1337 as a public park, "containing and consisting of about 369 acres of land ----hereby set aside, donated, given, granted, and dedicated for the use of the citizens of the said City of San Diego, now and forever, as a public park, and that the same shall be hereafter used for no other purpose" (ordinance no. 648, City of San Diego). On August 8th, Mayor Capps embellished the new ordinance with his fine and flourishing signature, and it became law.

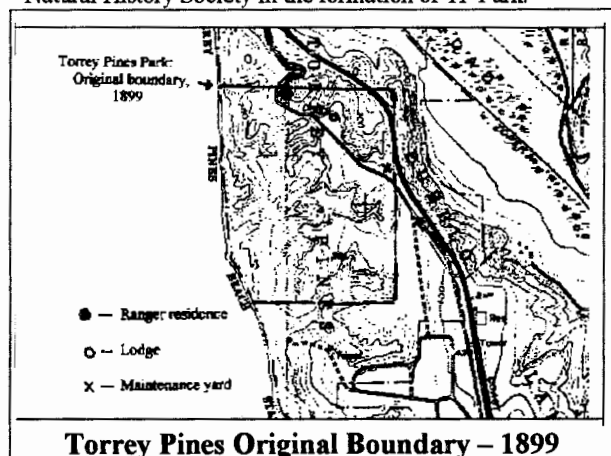
Pueblo lots 1332, 1333, 1336, and 1337 fit together in a block which extends from Animal Canyon on the north to just south of the Broken Hills trails, and from the east side of North Torrey Pines Road to the beach. Included are the south loop of the Guy Fleming trail, the ranger's residence, High Point, the Lodge, the Beach trail, and the Broken Hills trails.

Why was the city of San Diego able to designate this land as a park? It was possible because the city owned the land as part of its pueblo heritage. In 1833, when San Diego was a military settlement, the citizens became restless under the restrictions. They petitioned Governor Figuerado to make San Diego a town, or pueblo, with representative government; "one has to submit himself, his fate, his fortune and perhaps existence to the caprice of a military judge" (from the petition as quoted in *The Silver Dons* by Pourade.)

The pueblo became a reality on January 1, 1835. The governor granted the new town 11 square leagues that stretched from Soledad Valley on the north to Chollas Creek on the south, and from the Mission on the east to the ocean. Probably Soledad Valley was included because the residents of early San Diego farmed its well-watered bottom lands during the growing season. And since the Torrey Pines hills lay between Soledad and the sea, they too became part of the pueblo lands.

San Diego hung onto its title to the pueblo lands through many changes in government: from the Spanish rule to Mexican to U.S. In the mid-1800s there was an attempt to whittle down the city's holdings to only four square leagues, but the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, in 1872, sustained the city's right to the original 11 square leagues. Thus the city of San Diego, in 1899, was able to designate the Torrey Pines area as a public park.

Many thanks to Katherine E. Hunt, Deputy City Clerk of San Diego, who made a copy of ordinance 648 available and to Laura Alexander of the San Diego Natural History Museum, who found information about the role of the SD Natural History Society in the formation of TP Park.



Discovery of the *Pinus Torreyana*

By Hank Nicol

Former TPSR Naturalist

People lived among the pines near the sea for many centuries, but, in our Eurocentric view, the pines were unknown until scientifically described as *Pinus torreyana*. The men to whom we give the credit for this discovery are botanists C.C. Parry and John Torrey, with an assist from entomologist John Le Conte.

John Torrey's renown as a botanist remains in the names of a few species, *Torreya*s—from Florida, California, China and Japan—and our own *Pinus torreyana*. Torrey, trained as a physician, was primarily a taxonomist rather than a field botanist. He was born in New York City on 15 August 1796. After graduating from the College of Physicians and Surgeons (P & S) in New York, he taught at West Point, then at his old school, P & S—now Columbia University. In 1830 he began teaching summer classes at Princeton where he became a full-time professor in 1841.

Charles Christopher Parry was born in Gloucester, England in 1823 but grew up in northern New York State. He also attended P & S, and, in 1846, he set up practice in Davenport, Iowa. Like many other doctors of the time, his real love was botany. Many medicines were concocted locally from herbs, bark and roots, and most botanists developed their interest while training to be physicians. In 1847, Parry accompanied an army survey to central Iowa and sent plant specimens to Torrey, who was impressed by their quality. After the war with Mexico, Torrey used his influence to have Parry appointed official botanist to the Boundary Commission. He joined the section which covered the stretch between Yuma and San Diego.

In 1850, the expedition's mission complete, Parry explored Southern California. Alerted by entomologist John Le Conte, he went to the mouth of the Soledad Valley where he discovered "a new species of pine growing in sheltered places about the bluff. Its characters are so unique I am in hopes it

may be non-descript... I wish it...to bear the name *Pinus torreyana*."

While with the Boundary Commission, Parry discovered many other plants new to science, including the four-needled Parry piñon, *Pinus quadrifolia*. He explored the Yellowstone country with an army expedition in 1873, and, in 1878 headed his own botanical expedition to Mexico.

Torrey traveled to California via the Isthmus after the Civil War. In 1872 he came out again, meeting John Muir in Yosemite, but did not visit San Diego. On the way home he wanted to climb Torrey's Peak in Colorado but, at age 72, thought it better not to try. He died the next year.

In 1883 Parry returned to San Diego where he saw that the trees he had discovered were in danger of destruction. He asked that the remaining groves be dedicated "to the cause of scientific instruction and recreation..." C.C. Parry became the first of many people to have worked toward the preservation of Torrey Pines. He died in 1890.

Message from the President (cont. pg. 1)

Children's activities are scheduled from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., and docent-led hikes will be conducted throughout the day. Food will be available to purchase, but eating will only be allowed in the Reserve within a special cordoned-off area. The Camelot Strings will set the mood for our celebration 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Encinitas Environmental Painters will exhibit and sell their art scenes of TPSR. A Torrey Pines Postal Station will sell a commemorative stamp for this event.



100th Anniversary

1899 ~ 1999

October 9, 1999

La Jolla, California 92037

Commemorative stamp design by Jim Cassell
Production supervised by Liz and Les Stiel.

San Diego—One Hundred Years Ago By Judy Schulman—TPSR Historian

Torrey Pines Park was founded in 1899, thanks to the efforts of environmentalists who convinced the city fathers to save the remaining Torrey pines. As Torrey Pines Park grew, so did San Diego.

Andrew Carnegie donated \$60,000 to build the San Diego Public Library, which opened in 1902 at Eighth and E Streets. State Normal School, a two-year teaching training college, opened in Normal Heights. It would later become San Diego State College, then SDSU. The Army established Fort Rosecrans. It remained an Army base until it was transferred to the Navy in 1959 for the purpose of building a submarine base on Ballast Point. The California Supreme Court rejected an Indian claim to San Diego land, based on the right of occupancy.

Even before that, after the end of the Spanish American War, San Diego, along with the rest of the United States entered into what was referred to as "The Age of Confidence." Production and employment were high. Wages were growing and prices were stable. San Diego definitely had reason to be confident: a new telephone company in 1882; the first electric street lights installed in 1885; and cable cars in 1889.

In 1888, however, the real estate boom in San Diego ended, and the population decreased from 40,000 to 16,000. But by 1899, the population of the City slowly grew to 17,700, and the county's population was 35,090. Until 1907, what we now call Imperial County, was part of SD County, until it seceded.

Among the political issues concerning San Diegans 100 years ago were tourism, irrigation and railroads. Edwin M. Capps served as mayor. During 1899, there were two different governors: James H. Budd, Democrat (1895-1899) and Henry T. Gage, Republican and the incoming governor. The President of the United States was William McKinley, Republican.

What would a dollar get you in 1899? For \$3,300 you could buy four cottages in downtown San Diego. Shoes could be had on sale for between \$1.00 and \$3.85. Fancy

skirts cost upwards of \$4.50. A blouse might cost \$1.75. A man's suit could cost up to \$12.00. The best grade coffee was 40¢ a pound, and a room at the 11-year old Hotel Del Coronado was about \$3.00 a day.

The end of the century brought another important development to San Diego: the awareness of nature as an asset to the city. Whereas other city planners were developing the area without regard to environment, John Nolen developed a plan to incorporate parks and open spaces throughout the city, including Torrey Pines Park. And so we celebrate our Centennial in gratitude to those environmentalists who helped preserve the Torrey pine.

Editor's Corner

This Centennial Torreyana completes my term as editor. August editor, Theo Tanalski, proved that the Torreyana can continue as an excellent newsletter for the TPDS and the TPA. As this issue represents, we are fortunate to have such a diverse group of talented columnists and contributors. President Ken Baer and Ranger Bob Wohl set the tone for "Preserving the Past for the Future." Archivist Maryruth Cox researched the beginnings of the Park, and poetically expresses her feelings for Torrey pines. Our former Naturalist, Hank Nicol, reintroduces us to Drs. Torrey and Parry. Historian Judy Schulman takes us back in time, and Diana Gordon, the new TPA columnist, interviews John Shelton, an active counselor since 1975. Kathy Estey's book review of EBS adds to our knowledge of Ellen Browning Scripps, and Geophysicist Emeritus Don Grine explains the age calculations of "Old Earth." Past Editor John Carson is moving to Santa Barbara and will be missed, but is represented here in a reprint of his well-researched article "Restaurant Days." Marty Bressler, always looking for educational material for his docent trainees, shares a discovery in "Old Road." Kay Harry brings us columns by Guy Fleming from *California Garden* published by the Floral Assoc., and Judy Schulman writes about her meeting Margaret Fleming Allen. The unsung behind-the scene heroes include Marion Dixon, proof reader par excellence; Joann & Jack Cannon and Twinx Hauer, circulation; Jeannie Smith computer consultant; and Duty Coordinators Ann Campbell and Elaine Sacks, who provide the calendar. In deep appreciation, I thank you all.

Del Roberts

Tidings from the TPA—John Shelton By Diana Gordon

John Shelton has been an active TPA counselor since 1975. However, his connection to Torrey Pines extends over the past 75 years. John's father, Henry, was actively involved in the League to Save Torrey Pines Park in 1929. He later became one of the original TPA counselors when the TPA was incorporated with Guy Fleming as the first president.



Henry Shelton and family had moved from a suburb of Philadelphia to La Jolla in 1925, where they were joined by Henry's first cousin, Margaret Eddy. Henry introduced Margaret to Guy Fleming, and, in 1927, she became Mrs. Margaret (Peg) Fleming.

John still remembers their visits to the Fleming house in Torrey Pines Park for picnics and swimming. The children ran free through the pines and to the beach, as there were no paths to confine them. John also recalls going down Fat Man's Misery—the name was appropriate—being narrow with a lot of loose sand to slip and slide on. In fact, John Fleming told him that the name came from a fat man who once did get stuck there.

After spending much of his youth in close contact with Torrey Pines and the Fleming family, John attended Pomona College. After WW II he received his Ph.D. in Physical Geology from Yale in 1947. He worked for several years for the US Geological Survey, traveling throughout the Western United States. While raising a family in Clairemont, he taught for 18 years at Pomona College. His book, *Geology Illustrated*, was published in 1966. Most of the photographs in the book are aerial shots taken by John himself—he has over 5800 flying hours accumulated during 52 years.

He later worked for Encyclopedia Britannica producing educational films, which led to an American Geological Institute award "for outstanding contribution to public understanding of geology," and his "singular accomplishments in capturing geological processes on film."

John moved back to La Jolla in 1972. Several major TPA projects were undertaken on John's watch as treasurer: from 1980-1981 renovation of the Guy Fleming residence; new display cases for the visitors' center installed in 1982. And TPA financed the publication of the 3rd edition of *Torrey Pines State Reserve*. For John, another important contribution to the TPA's progress was the development and production of their brochure, published in color in 1990. This has enabled membership to grow and increased support for TPSR.

One of the principal projects in which John played a significant role was the publication of Bill Evarts *Torrey Pines Landscape and Legacy* in 1994. John, in addition to his position as treasurer, took on the task of overseeing the production, storage and sales of the book. John writes in the Afterward: "Never before has so much of the essence of Torrey Pines been captured between the covers of a single volume. We come away realizing that, by force of circumstances, we are custodians of one of the rarest remnants of natural open space in the world."

John Shelton's dedication to Torrey Pines State Reserve and the TPA has been consistent and true. It's a logical place for me to be," he says. "As a child I played there, now I work there."



John and his beloved Beech Bonanza – 1991
Photograph by Mary Ann Shelton

**Book Corner— Ellen Browning
Scripps by Albert Britt
— Kathy Estey**

Ellen Browning Scripps – Journalist and Idealist by Albert Britt was published by Scripps College in 1960, the Women's College that EBS founded as part of Pomona College. In Britt's book, the author quotes Miss Scripps' beliefs in college education: "The paramount obligation to its students is to train them to develop the ability to think clearly and independently, which ability will enable them to live confidently, courageously, and hopefully."

Miss Scripps, as she was known throughout her life, was born on Oct 18, 1836, in London and died on August 3, 1932 in La Jolla. Her father was an unsuccessful bookbinder in London, widowed twice with six children, including Ellen. In 1844, they sailed to the United States. The family then moved to Rushville, Illinois. On the way there, Ellen's father met his third wife, married and produced five more children. Ellen was especially close to the youngest, Edward Wyllis Scripps, later known as E.W., one of the founder's of the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain.

In 1857 Ellen Browning Scripps entered the Female Collegiate Department of Knox College at Galesburg, Illinois, one of the few colleges in the United States to admit women. In those days, women were not equal on the campus. They had separate classes, separate commencement, and received certificates, not degrees.

After college, Ellen taught school, and remained with her father to care for him the last years of his life. Then in 1873, Ellen moved to Detroit to work on her brother's Detroit News as a proof reader, copy editor. As one of the first columnists, she collected short statements, often misstatements, clipped from other newspapers under the heading "Matters and Things," including comments from Miss Ellen. Here from a 1875 selection: "A New York paper touchingly says: 'When we hear every now and then, that a whole population is starving, we are moved to pity and inclined to express

hope that relief for the sufferers will soon be forthcoming.' There's practical philanthropy for you."

In 1881, Miss Ellen went to Europe for two years with her brother E.W. She wrote weekly columns about conditions in Europe, for the Detroit News, making her one of the first women foreign correspondents.

In 1889, Miss Ellen moved to San Diego, population 16,157. She and several family members purchased 400 acres east of the city, and called it Miramar. In 1897, Ellen built her own home in La Jolla. She lived there the rest of her life, in a very simple manner, usually surrounded by her vast family members. Her home was fairly simple, but the gardens were extensive, and open to the public. She lived there with one maid, and ten gardeners.

It was after the move to La Jolla, that EBS began an extensive giving program: Torrey Pines State Reserve, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, Scripps Memorial Hospital and Clinic, the La Jolla Woman's Club, the Bishops School and the San Diego Zoo. She commissioned a series of watercolors of the Wild Flowers of California, and contributed to the publication of the *Birds of California* by W. Leon Dawson, dedicated to Ellen Browning Scripps.

According to her lawyer Mr. J. C. Harper, who knew her in the California years, "There was no limit to the range of Miss Scripps unquenchable thirst for knowledge—anthropology, art, archaeology, literature, philosophy, science, and current movements, national and international—all had fascination for her."



Ellen Browning Scripps at age 18

The Restaurant Days of the Lodge By John Carson

The Burkholders—The first operators of the restaurant in the Lodge were John Burkholder and his wife Frances, who started with a one-year agreement from the opening in 1923. John Burkholder was a San Diego native, graduated from San Diego Normal School—predecessor of San Diego State University—with a degree in physical education, and worked at what is now the La Jolla Recreation Center. During World War I he trained as a pilot and flew the Jenny aircraft while stationed at Panama Canal. Neither Burkholder had any prior restaurant experience, so it is unclear what prompted them to take on this challenge. Their operation must have been successful, for the Park Commissioners received requests from other people wanting to lease the restaurant. For a month period in early 1924, gross receipts were over \$1500, on which the Burkholders paid a 7% rent of \$109 plus \$41 for electricity [1].

The main room of the Lodge was the dining room, furnished with old mission-style tables and rawhide chairs [2], and there were additional tables outside. The kitchen was in what is now the Reserve staff office area. The Burkholders lived in the Lodge, using the present slide show room as a living room and the docent room as the bedroom. The west room, currently an office for Mike Wells, was used as a bedroom for those waitresses who stayed overnight. The outside oven, although built in the style of a baking oven, was used for burning trash. The meals were reputed to be quite good, with chicken being a favorite. Mr. Burkholder learned to cook and in the later years did much of the kitchen work. According to an account by Margaret Fleming Allen [3], on a busy day the restaurant served as many as 100 guests. She also noted that Mrs. Burkholder's specialties were pastries and desserts. The Lodge also sold souvenirs, such as Indian curios, Torrey pine needle baskets, and photographs.

Sometime in the early 30s the Burkholders stopped operating the restaurant, possibly because of loss of business from the Depression and the construction of what is now North Torrey Pines Road, which bypassed the Lodge. Several people attempted to run the restaurant,

including Harriet Iles in 1934 [5] and Fred, Thomas, and Carl Strombeck in 1936 [4].

The Johnsons—Axel and Peggy Johnson are believed to have been the last operators of the restaurant. Axel was born in Norway and came to the U.S. as a young child with his family, who settled near Bellingham, Washington. After high school, he eventually worked as a cook for gold mining companies in Alaska. When a brother was killed in a mining accident there, he decided to leave Alaska. Somehow he learned that the restaurant was available, so he came here with his wife, Peggy (a Canadian), and her mother. The year he took over is not clear. His sister thought it was about 1930, as indicated by dates transferred to some of his photographs, but other information—believed more reliable—suggests it was about 1937-38. His specialty was buttermilk pancakes. From a letter [6] written by an obviously satisfied customer to Axel in 1941: "No doubt, business is booming with you since the camp—Camp Callan is so close and once the boys at the camp know how good these pancakes are, they will, undoubtedly, be looking you up frequently."

Axel was an accordionist and may well have entertained guests at the restaurant. In 1941 he copyrighted a song, *Memories of Torrey Pines*, with lyrics that may have described his feelings caused by his wife's leaving him. Sometime shortly after World War II began, Axel got a war-related job driving a truck at a San Diego construction company, and the restaurant stopped serving meals. He continued living for a time at the Lodge, and his mother-in-law (who remained at the Lodge) occasionally would serve tea at the Lodge for La Jolla residents. Sometime before the end of the war, Axel moved to San Diego. After the war Axel continued working for construction companies and died in San Diego in 1963.

References:

1. Letter from J. Burkholder to Park Commission dated Feb. 11, 1924.
2. San Diego Union, Jan. 1, 1924.
3. Typed notes of Margaret Fleming Allen, Dec. 82, La Jolla Historical Society.
4. Park Commission Record, 1934.
5. La Jolla Light, May 7, 1936.
6. Letter from F. Wurlitzer, North Tonawanda, NY, Axel Johnson, dated May 12, 1941.

In appreciation to John Carson for this reprint from the 75th Anniversary issue.

Our Road—A Brief History
By Martin Bressler
Summarized from a Report by Historian
Alexander D. Bevil

It's only two miles long and closed at its southern end but rises more than 300 feet in the first mile southward, twisting as it rises and providing views in just about all directions, an old concrete road that played an important part in the development of this region, and is in the National Register of Historic Places.

Its official name is Torrey Pines Park Road, but it existed only as a dirt path when the city park was established a century ago. In 1899, there were no paved roads or graded dirt roads coming to or from the park. There were good rail connections between San Diego and Los Angeles, with a station at Del Mar. But the main road between these cities was the dirt stagecoach road, the Camino Real a few miles inland. The alternate coastal route from Oceanside south, crossed marshes and estuaries and was often completely washed out in rainy seasons but potentially could greatly reduce travel distance. Newspaper articles and the San Diego Chamber of Commerce urged that this route be graded and improved.

The grading of the road from Del Mar to La Jolla and the building of a trestle bridge across the mouth of the Peñasquitos was initiated by individuals—Ed Fletcher, E.W. and E.B. Scripps—and taken over and completed by the County of San Diego. In 1910, a completed Torrey Pines Park Road, a graded dirt road, ran from Del Mar and through what is now the Reserve, to La Jolla.

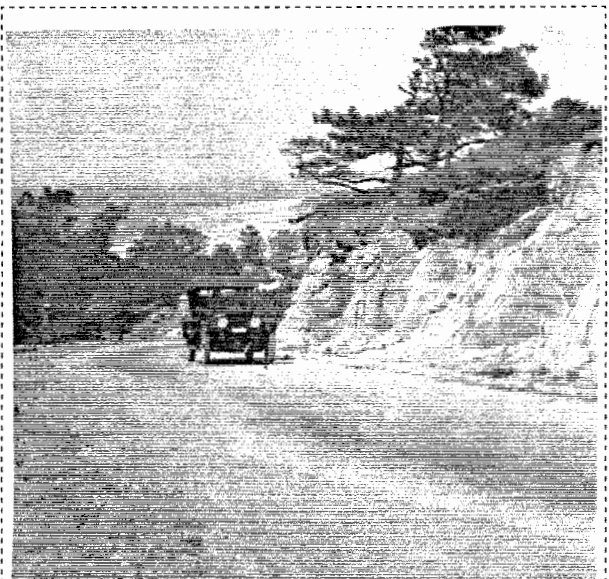
In 1909, the first California state highway bond act made money available for highway improvement, and in 1913 another act was passed requiring registration of all motor vehicles with the fees used to maintain highways. A good portion of the funds went into paving Torrey Pines Road from Biological Grade Road—now known as La Jolla Shores Road—to Del Mar.

The paving of Torrey Pines Road in 1915 with Portland cement concrete represented the best highway building of the time, and the road through the Reserve is still in good condition. Although the northern portion

was covered with black top about twenty years ago, some of the concrete drainage collection boxes and curbs are still visible. The cobbles used in the drainage boxes, and the dark gravel exposed in the concrete surfaces can evoke memories of highway travel in the thirties.

Torrey Pines Park Road remained a part of the Coast Highway but as automobile traffic increased and cars got faster, the two-lane road became increasingly dangerous. Serious debate developed on how to straighten the route. Some wanted to cut straight through the cliff face and others wanted to completely bypass the park by re-routing the road eastward past the lagoon to Sorrento Valley. A compromise proposed that the new road be built slightly inland. The new four-lane North Torrey Pines Road, completed in 1933, bypassed Torrey Pines Park Road which became a secondary road.

In 1959 when the City of San Diego transferred the title of the park to the State, the road was disconnected from North Torrey Pines Road at its southern end. It has been used since only for visitors and park personnel. With rapid development continuing all around it, this short section of narrow old road, which was built without shoulders, is still one of the most beautiful anywhere, and has become an intimate part of the great scenes through which it passes.



The Old Road to Torrey Pines Lodge now in the National Register of Historic places

Nature Note — Old Earth

By Don Grine, Geophysicist Emeritus

Two hundred years ago William Smith in England and Cuvier in France observed that each layer of sediment had a set of fossils that were not present in layers above or below. Later geologists extended these observations to sedimentary rocks all over the world and established the geological time scale to give relative ages of any rock with plentiful fossils.

One hundred years ago, geologists knew Earth was old but not how old. From studies of sediment thickness and rates of accumulation, they got ages ranging from 40 to 15,000 million years (*my*). The large range shows how hard it is to get accurate measurement of sediment thickness and accumulation rates.

Physicists calculated Earth's age by how fast measured heat flow would cool Earth. Answers on age ranged from 10 to 1000 *my*. Lord Kelvin's heat flow calculations—the best known—gave 20 to 40 *my* in 1897. He needed original temperature, thermal conductivity, and modern heat flow theory for his calculation. Despite his good mathematics, he knew none of the needed inputs well and his result was not reliable.

Natural radioactivity was discovered in 1896 by Becquerel. The natural source of heat from radioactivity in the Earth made the old heat flow calculations obsolete.

In 1902, Rutherford and Soddy showed that the decay of a radioactive element was exponential. That is, the amount that decays in a given time is proportional to the amount of element remaining. If decay rates are measured in the laboratory, and if only the original (parent) element is in a mineral as it solidifies, the ratio of radioactive element to decay (daughter) element provides a clock for igneous rocks that starts when a mineral solidifies from a melt.

For sedimentary rocks, such as all of the rocks in Torrey Pines State Reserve, we are more interested in when the rock was deposited and cemented than in when the

various grains solidified. The radioactive clock cannot be used to date deposition except in rare cases with radioactive elements in the crystals of the cement.

Absolute ages were assigned to the sets of fossils previously used as relative time markers by radioactive dating of adjacent igneous beds. For instance, if lava beds above and below a sediment are dated, the fossils in the sediment have a date in between. The same fossil set in other locations gives the same date. Thus we know that the Delmar formation is about 48 *my* old.

By 1905, Rutherford proposed using the decay of uranium to helium to determine the age of a mineral. He also stated that uranium/lead ratios might give even better results when decay rates were known because lead is less likely than helium to escape from minerals after it is formed.

The oldest rocks dated so far are 3,962 *my* old. Dates on meteorites give up to 4,600 *my*. Since current theories of Earth formation call for formation of all planets, including asteroids within a short (geological) time, Earth seems to be about 4,600 *my* old.

If you are really interested, the following book gives a good, short (474 pp.) summary of various attempts to date Earth: G. Brent Dalrymple, "The Age of the Earth," Stanford U. Press, 1991.

Hats off to Volunteers of the Centennial! Without these hard working volunteers, there would not be a celebration. Thanks to the Board: Ken Baer, Walt Desmond, Theo Tanalski, Barbara Wallach, John Green, Mary Weir, Marty Bressler, Ann Campbell, Elaine Sacks and Rangers Bob Wohl, Chris Platis, Allyn Kaye, along with docents Leo Baggerly, Muriel Beyer, Georgette Camporini, Jim Cassell, Marion Dixon, Fran Doolittle, Susan Ferguson, Diana Gordon, Don Grine, Irv Hansen, Kay Harry, Jim Randolph, Del Roberts, Judy Schulman, Jeannie Smith, Mayo Steigler, Liz and Leo Stiel, Diana Wenman and supporting members Joann and Jack Cannon.

Guy Fleming (1884 – 1960)
Torrey Pines Park's First Naturalist

Naturalist, conservationist and park administrator Guy Fleming will always be associated with TPSR. Even before Miss Scripps appointed him custodian, he alerted the city in 1916 of the damage being done in Torrey Pines Park by campers and picnickers using the pines for firewood and creating fire hazards with their rubbish. This started a movement to preserve the Torrey pines and environment from further threat.

He continued his botanical research throughout the world, and wrote about his findings in columns for the *California Garden* published by SD Floral Association.

Re-Discovering Torrey Pines—1880
By Guy Fleming

We are to hear of the rarest of pines, one whose past is as a sealed book. It has some of the characteristics of *Pinus pinea*, one being the tardy maturity and retention of seed. Another is its delight in living in exposed places. In fact it is doubtful if any other pine would survive such buffeting by the sea winds.

In other respects it stands alone among conifers, it bears the largest flowers, has the hardest nuts, and the strongest leaves. No other species is found within fifty miles of it. But there are only a few pines left. Probably not more than 200 in all. The young trees are less in number than the older trees, from which it might be inferred that the species is slowly giving way, and, if not protected, will soon become extinct; that is the original forest. Of course the species will not be lost for seed collectors have sent it to all parts of the globe, and hundreds have been planted in California. But away from their beloved windswept cliffs they become pyramidal and as stately as any other well ordered pine, and have no resemblance to the grotesque old warriors flaunting their green banner on the bluffs above the sea. It is rather strange that not until a hundred years after San Diego was founded was this peculiar maritime pine truly discovered as a species and given a name.

Preserving Torrey Pines
By Guy Fleming

It is certainly a great pleasure to tell of the interest I find in the preservation of the Torrey Pines. All who I have talked with on the subject have said, 'Yes, something really should be done to protect those trees,' and all have expressed a willingness to do their share.

In the city engineer's office, every courtesy was shown, and all the available maps and data were put at my disposal.

In the operating department I received permission from the Floral Association to label the pine trees on city lands, and to post warnings. From the maps I found that very few pines were the property of the city. In greater number, including the fine group on the cliff, are those on land belonging to Miss Ellen Scripps. From another source I learned that some years ago certain San Diegans prevailed upon Miss Scripps to purchase this main body of pines, that they might be preserved until such a time as the people seem ready to care for them. I am sure Miss Scripps will give permission to label the trees on her property.

The placing of name plates on the trees and posting of notices, warning visitors about fires and displaying a brief history of the pines, should help very much in educating the public to respect them."

In appreciation to *California Garden* published by SD Floral Assoc. and to docent Kay Harry for her research.



Naturalist Guy Fleming and *Pinus torreyana*

Margaret Fleming Allen

In June 1921, botanist Guy Fleming became custodian of Miss Scripps Torrey Pines land as well as the city-owned Torrey Pines Park. To be closer to his work, Guy and his family moved to the Park, first in a tent house, and then in the adobe house which he built. The Flemings' son John and daughter Margaret spent summers living there, and wintered in La Jolla, closer to school, in a house provided by the Biological Station (Scripps Institute). Margaret recorded her memories in an article "Growing up Among the Pines," included in the La Jolla Historical Society's book, *Inside La Jolla 1887-1897 Centennial Edition*.

Growing up Among the Pines By Margaret Fleming Allen

I was very fortunate to have spent my youth living in this unique, beautiful spot surrounded by hundreds of acres of trees, rugged canyons, sculptured cliff, the slough, beach and ocean as my backyard playground. Few people have had such an opportunity to learn about nature firsthand.

....My father supervised the construction (of the Lodge) and grandfather Fleming, being a carpenter, helped with the building. He also built all the heavy square wooden tables and chairs which were used for dining.

....My mother, Margaret Eddy Fleming, especially loved living among the pines. As an artist, she had a wonderful opportunity to pursue her hobby, painting and etching. Her talents were recognized as she was asked to exhibit in one-man show, not only in La Jolla and San Diego, but all over the country.

....I never lacked for outdoor entertainment....We had our favorite cave hideouts, canyons and acres of wildflowers to enjoy...We had our own sand slide—a quick way to the beach—down the cliff 100 feet. Slumber parties were numerous in the summer. We would line up our bedrolls on the outside deck upstairs and watch for shooting stars....Another favorite family pastime was to take our bedrolls on a moonlit night to the north grove of Torrey Pines, where the windswept trees formed separate 'bedrooms,' and sleep under the trees on the pine needles. We would listen to the many night sounds, such as: owls, mice or pack-rats scurrying about wondering why we were invading their territory. If a spoon or anything shiny was left out, by morning it

would be gone. They loved to carry things off to their nest. We also had a boat and would spend hours rowing around in the slough (Lagoon) observing the many birds that lived in the marsh. My favorite was the blue heron. The mullet fish were so prevalent at times they would almost leap into the boat.

My father was noted for his nature walks. One of the favorites he created was around the north grove, which was dedicated to him and named the *Guy Fleming Trail* after his death in 1960. He took thousands of people over this trail, telling stories of plants and trees though they were old friends. My mother usually brought up the rear so as to inform those who could not hear.

In 1938, my husband Elden and I were married in front of the large living room picture window framed by the beautiful Torrey Pines....I feel I was so lucky to have had the opportunity to grow up when and where I did.

In appreciation to the La Jolla Historical Society and to docent Judy Schulman for her research.

TPDS Historian Judy Schulman remembers meeting Margaret Fleming Allen in 1979, when she came to the Lodge to visit another docent, and politely asked if Julie Marine was there. I told her she was in the docent room. When I asked her name, she replied, "Margaret Fleming Allen." I literally jumped out of my chair and exclaimed, "You're Margaret Fleming Allen?—the Margaret Fleming Allen?" She looked at me quizzically and hurried to find Julie. Fortunately, Julie convinced Margaret that I was not a nut case, and she introduced me as president of the TPDS and someone who had a passionate desire to learn the history of the Reserve.

This was the beginning of our friendship—actually of me being her *groupie*. Whenever she visited the Reserve, or whenever we spoke on the phone, I would take notes. We took walks together and she shared with me some of her childhood memories of the park. Once, when she was to give a talk about her life at Scripps and at TPSR, she said, "Judy, I know you are always taking notes on everything I say. Would you mind coming with me to the meeting? If I forget anything you think is interesting, remind me by asking a question about it."

I shall always remember her as a very gracious person who always had time for my numerous questions about her early years in the park.

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**The *Torreyana* is issued by the
 Torrey Pines Docent Society, which
 gratefully acknowledges the
 assistance of the TPA in its
 production.**

Archivist Profile—Maryruth Cox

Each *Torreyana*, Maryruth Cox writes about the past, coming up with treasures from dusty files that match the current theme of the newsletter. For the past months, she and TPA past president Sally Spiess have been culling boxes of files found in the Guy Fleming house, rescuing photographs and documents for future historians.

But Maryruth is also a poet, often inspired by her surroundings in Torrey Pines Extension. Instead of providing the usual background for a profile, she wrote: "As I hiked up the trail among the incredible beautiful blooming black sage and bush poppy and monkey flower, I remembered that our family had always hiked in the countryside for recreation. During the summer we went camping in national parks and forests. Part of each summer we spent at my grandparents' farm in western Washington, in the lush rain forest of the west coast. From those beginnings I learned the fascination of natural history: climbing over rotten logs to hunt for the delicious little wild blackberries in the northwest, or sleeping under the star-filled desert skies of eastern Washington and California—all these experiences shaped my love for the out-of-doors and for nature.

And during adult life I have been really fortunate to live for 44 years in Del Mar Terrace, sandwiched between the Torrey pines hills to the north and south, with one of the most beautiful stretches of beach anywhere at our doorstep.

Now I take pleasure in writing about this special corner of the world: Torrey Pines, about the animals and plants and the history of human interactions with this unique setting."

It's a lazy morning in the sun:
 the wind caresses the sea—
 we're walking down the sandy trail:
 the towhee, the lizard,
 and me.

The sun wrestled
 with the morning clouds,
 poking with broomsticks of light
 to sweep the shadows into night.

There are those
 who disparage
 the crow and his carriage—

But—
 I feel we should admire
 his impeccable attire
 and his penchant
 for
 durable marriage.