

# The Avocet

Volume XII Number 5

May 1965

## COOPERATION IN CONSERVATION

Panel Discussion and Joint Meeting

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Sierra Club

Committee for Green Foothills

Save San Francisco Bay Association

Santa Clara County Citizens for Parks and Open Spaces

Citizens Committee for Regional Recreation and Parks

Palo Alto Yacht Club

League of Women Voters

Monday, May 17, 8:00 P.M., Room R, Palo Alto Community Center

This program is the last in this year's series entitled "Recognizing and Obtaining the Proper Balance between Urbanization and Preservation in the Santa Clara Valley and San Francisco Bay Region." The need for communication and cooperation among groups with conservation interests has been emphasized by speaker after speaker in one series. Our members with strong conservation interests are urged to attend this meeting since, hopefully, a working committee from the various groups will evolve from it. Please invite other organizations that you know of which have even fringe conservation interests to attend this meeting. Dr. Tom Harvey will be our panelist.

--Herb Grench, Program Chairman  
321-7994

### May Calendar

#### Board Meetings

Monday, May 3, 7:30 P.M. at 2828 South Court, Palo Alto.

Monday, May 31, 7:30 P.M. at 1868 Bret Harte, Palo Alto.

#### General Meeting

Monday, May 17, 8:00 P.M. NOTE DATE. Palo Alto Community Center. See above.

### Coming Events At A Glance

Mon.	May	3	7:30 P.M.	2828 South Court, Palo Alto (Board)
Sat.	May	8	6:30 A.M.	Princeton-Farallon Islands
Sun.	May	9	9:00 A.M.	Wool Ranch
Wed.	May	12	9:00 A.M.	Los Gatos
Sun.	May	16	9:00 A.M.	Calaveras Reservoir
Mon.	May	17	8:00 P.M.	Palo Alto (General Meeting)
Wed.	May	19	9:00 A.M.	Foothill Park
Mon.	May	31	7:30 P.M.	1868 Bret Harte, Palo Alto (Board)
Mon.	June	9	6:30 P.M.	Alum Rock Park (Annual Meeting)



### Field Trips

Saturday, May 8. The Sequoia Audubon Society has cordially invited our members on its Farallon Island boat trip. Meet at Princeton Pier (North of Miramar and a short distance south of Hazel's Pier) at 6:30 A.M. The "Miss Princeton" will leave at 7:00 A.M. Return mid-afternoon. No landing on the islands, but the boat will circle as close as possible. Bait will be used to attract birds. Oceanic birds rarely if ever seen from shore should be observed: Puffins, Auklets, Guillemots, Murres, Shearwaters, Albatrosses, Fulmars, Jaegers. Bring lunch, wear very warm clothing, and make reservations in advance. \$6.00 a person. (Limited capacity). A. E. Montgomery, 2270 Summit Drive, Hillsborough, 344-4349.

Sunday, May 9. La Honda. Meet at General Store in La Honda at 9:00 A.M. Bring lunch. Information: Wolcotts (948-6821). Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Al Wool (747-0317).

Wednesday, May 12, to Echo Mountain Ranch (Summer Camp) on Bear Creek Road in Los Gatos. Bring lunch as there are picnic tables. Meet at 9:00 A.M. at the rear of the new Town Plaza, corner of Santa Cruz Avenue and Main Street in Los Gatos. Leader: Edna Wininger (AL 2-3796).

Sunday, May 16, to Calaveras Reservoir and Sunol Regional Park. Meet at Post Office in Milpitas (on Calaveras Road) at 9:00 A.M. It will be necessary to pool cars as the road is long, narrow and winding. Should see Golden Eagles, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Rock Wrens and others. Leader: Joseph Greenberg (325-8939).

Wednesday, May 19, to Foothill Park. Meet at the corner of Page Mill Road and Hanover. Wait on Hanover near the Chevron Station. Leader: Harriet Mundy (325-1192).

### Field Trip in June

Monday, June 14. Leavitt McQuesten's Albatross Expedition--the annual offshore trip from Santa Cruz on a Stagnaro Sport Fishing boat. Leave the Municipal Wharf at 7:30 A.M. Return at noon. Trip is limited to 50 observers. Make reservations (\$1.50) with Viola Anderson, 227 Linden Street, Santa Cruz, or phone Leavitt McQuesten (423-2989).

### Dr. Wittgenstein

We are greatly saddened by the tragic death on April 20 of our Vice-president and Director, Dr. Herbert Wittgenstein. The Society has profited lastingly from his kind and thoughtful work. We offer our love and heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Wittgenstein.

### Save the Bay

If San Francisco Bay is worth 5¢ to you, write, as individuals to: Senator George Miller, Jr., State Capitol, Sacramento, California. Senator Miller is Chairman of the Finance Committee which is next to consider S.B. 309 (McAteer Commission Bill). He schedules the placing of bills on the agenda as well as presides at the hearings. Give reasons for your feelings about the bill and mention it by number.

If the bay is worth 85¢ to you--send a 15-word Western Union public opinion wire.

### SONG OF THE CRICKET

There was an indescribable little trill and tremble in it at its loudest...

--Charles Dickens, On the Hearth

It was a beautiful day. Mr. William Penn Mott (our speaker in April) and his good friend were walking leisurely up a busy metropolitan street.--Did you hear a cricket? --No, and you couldn't possibly hear one here!--a quick glance around, a board in the gutter turned over, there was a cricket! --How could you hear a cricket above all this din?

"Will you drop a quarter on the street," asked Mr. Mott of his friend. The instant it dropped, several passers-by turned quickly or checked to see if it might have been they who had lost a coin.

This little true story was used to illustrate that we see and hear those things with which we are familiar, those ideas and ideals that are part of our living patterns. To a city child, rain only keeps him from playing in the street for an hour or so; to the country child, rain means the fragrance of wet earth, growing plants, or a sparkling stream in which to wade.

Mr. Mott stressed the need of early training of children about natural sciences. Training must be made available where the people are--in the cities! Today, 80 percent of the United States is urbanized. He stated that the most popular public program in Oakland, by far, is the nature program at Lake Merritt conducted by Mr. Paul Covell, park naturalist, and his staff.

Park planners in the Bay Area are working toward having a "green belt" of interconnecting parkways and hiking trails completely around the Bay with side trails leading down from the hilltops to the baylands or to the ocean via a chain of parks following the creeks. Europe has had this green belt concept for generations. Many of its major scenic spots are the economic attraction of the area.

During the question period, Mr. Mott discussed some of the "what can be done" queries about bayland problems brought on by population pressure. How some of these are to be solved will depend on how well many of us hear the "SONG OF THE CRICKET." Let us allow this homey sound to encourage us in our conservation efforts to write to our legislators to let them know we are interested and that we care about the preservation of our natural areas.

Dr. Richard Mewaldt gave us an enthusiastic account of the new bird-banding station being set up in conjunction with the new National Park on Point Reyes. It will be the only one of its kind in the United States. He showed colored slides of the area and the station together with maps delineating the topography and types of vegetation. He reported on progress, invited us to visit the station, and, as almost all of the work is on a volunteer basis at this point, itemized some equipment needed: rugs, chairs, chests, refrigerator, station wagon, and any old million dollars that might just be lying around useless in an old sock.



Mr. Walter V. Hays of San Jose spoke for the Committee for Regional Parks and Recreation on the work being done on the chain of parks from skyline to the baylands along Stevens and Coyote creeks. Mr. Hays' maps illustrated his commentary. He stressed the need for long-range planning to save these streams from becoming back-door drainage ditches when they could and should be lovely open areas for neighborhood recreation and trails connecting the uplands to the lowlands.

Mrs. Philip La Riviere, editor of The Avocet, showed the drawings of architect, George R. Dueker, of a proposed nature interpretation center and observation platforms for the Palo Alto Baylands. We were delighted to have Mr. and Mrs. Dueker as our guests for the evening. Mrs. La Riviere invited all of the south county members to come Monday, April 26th to the City Hall in Palo Alto to support our proposal for this conservation project: a sanctuary to be used as a teaching laboratory for tidal salt marsh ecology. North county Audubon members in Palo Alto have been working hard for months on this.

If you can hear the "SONG OF THE CRICKET," you'll be there!

--Mrs. Luther E. Cisne  
President

#### Wilderness Conference of the Sierra Club

Wilderness is an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor.

On April 2,3, 4 at the Ninth Biennial Wilderness Conference of the Sierra Club, friends greeted friends from all over the country in the San Francisco Hilton. They came to discuss "Wilderness in a Changing World."

Dr. William E. Siri, president, gave the keynote address. He reported the rapid growth of the Sierra Club, and predicted more as people sought the peace and tranquility of the out-of-doors. He stated that by 2065 A.D., families would be smaller, the optimum family being one with two children. It became the established pattern for each speaker to state his familial status.

The papers given Friday discussed population pressures, planning for expanded use of natural resources, and the economic aspects of conservation. Albert E. Burke, political analyst, discussed the problem of communication and the hazard of authoritative dispensers of mis-information. He stressed that if we were to teach conservation to the average user of our natural areas, or the man on the street, we must first of all, communicate with him in terms he can understand. (This does not mean a snobbish talking "down to.") It was pointed out that many people are terrified of the woods, its animals, its insects, its quietness, and its unfamiliar sounds. What is there to save about them?

Sources for industrial and domestic energy requirements were reviewed. After the conventional fuel sources are exhausted, what then? The possibility of atomic energy from common minerals was cited as a plentiful source of power. The hydroelectric engineer would become extinct. Hoover Dam would become a curiosity. Wherever man sets his footprints, we have the ever present problem

of pollution (industrial as well as domestic and atomic) of the air, water and land--not only in our dooryards but in the wilderness, too.

The highlight of the banquet was the presentation of the John Muir Award to Francis Farquhar for his 27 years of outstanding contributions to conservation and to the Sierra Club.

The terms of the Wilderness Act were reviewed on Saturday, and the work yet to be done to assure their completion assessed. It was stressed that much of the work would have to be the responsibility of strong, well-informed local groups. They should be aware of the possibility of "park-barrelling." Mineral rights, prospecting and mining, methods of transportation within the wilderness, repair of erosion, and over grazing damage to meadows were reviewed.

On Sunday, over 300 delegates attended a memorial dedication in Muir Woods. A plaque was unveiled in honor of Dag Hammarskjold. It will be placed later in a grove of redwoods near Pepperwood, California which will then be named in his honor.

The wilderness means many things to many people. We are sure that most of the delegates returned home from the conference re-dedicated to conservation of our wilderness areas.

--Carol Dienger--Sierra Club

#### Canyon Ranch Barbecue

Mother's Day, May 9, the Marin Audubon Society sponsors its second Annual Chicken Barbecue. Hours are 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Golden brown chicken will be served starting at 12 noon and continuing until all are served. For reservations (\$3.00 adults; \$1.50 children under 13) write to: Marin Audubon Society, P. O. Box 441, Tiburon, California.

This is a benefit for Marin's Camp Scholarship Fund and Ranch Maintenance Fund. The Ranch is beautiful in May, and the rookery at its most active with eggs and young of both species of Herons in the nests. There will be wild flower and bird walks, hikes around the main trail, guided tours of the improvements in the Garden Club of America Canyon, telescopes both at the new overlook and in the ranchyard, and rides to the overlook for those unable to climb the trail.

#### The Avocet

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