

### EDITOR BEGINS PACIFIC TRAVELS

DON GREAME KELLEY, editor of *Pacific Discovery*, left October 31 to begin an extensive research tour of the Pacific area which will keep him away from the Academy until April 1958.

Kelley will attend the Ninth Pacific Science Congress in Bangkok where, with Dr. Miller, he will represent the Academy and will deliver a paper on museum publications. From there, Kelley will continue on a circuit of the Pacific by way of Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa, Tahiti and Hawaii. The results of this tour, Kelley hopes, will be an abundance of copy concerning science and the activities of scientists in the Pacific area.

During Kelley's absence, Johan Kooy is PD's art director and Gary Barrett is handling editorial chores.

### PLANETARIUM CELEBRATES FIFTH BIRTHDAY

MORRISON PLANETARIUM celebrated its fifth year November 6 by giving presents instead of receiving them. On this day, the fifth anniversary of the day the Planetarium was first opened to the public, the Planetarium staff gave continuous, free shows, featuring historical and explanatory material on the Planetarium as well as "Satellite" show material. Shows were given continuously from 1 to 5 P. M. and started again at 7 P. M.

Later in the week—on Friday, November 8—the Planetarium staff, still slightly hoarse, hosted a Planetarium birthday party in the Planetarium offices to which all Academy staff members were invited.

### ALLIGATORS YAWN AT THEORY

INSPIRED BY scientific papers stating that alligators will bellow if a French horn is played to them in the key of B flat two octaves below middle C, Steinhart Aquarium Curator Dr. Earl Herald decided to give it a try.

The theory indicated the horn should be played three seconds at a time separated by two-second intervals. Dr. Herald secured an ancient instrument and spent part of one recent hour trying to coax bellows out of the Aquarium's alligators. Instead of bellowing, they swam rapidly in the opposite direction.

Undismayed, Dr. Herald persuaded a French horn-playing member of the San Francisco Symphony to help out in the cause of inducing alligators to bellow. The French horn player tooted away as directed. It sounded good to passersby but the alligators just yawned, and ever so quietly.

### NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS who joined the Academy last month are:

#### REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Irving D. Allard  
Mr. Bernard C. Brennan  
Mr. Owen E. Campbell-Walker  
Mr. Stuart Compton  
Miss Charlotte Dorsey  
Mr. David J. Galen  
Mr. Ed Kiessling

Mr. John M. Linahan  
Mr. Wayne L. Leonard  
Dr. M. F. Pease  
Mr. Richard L. Phillips

#### FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Manuel J. Melin

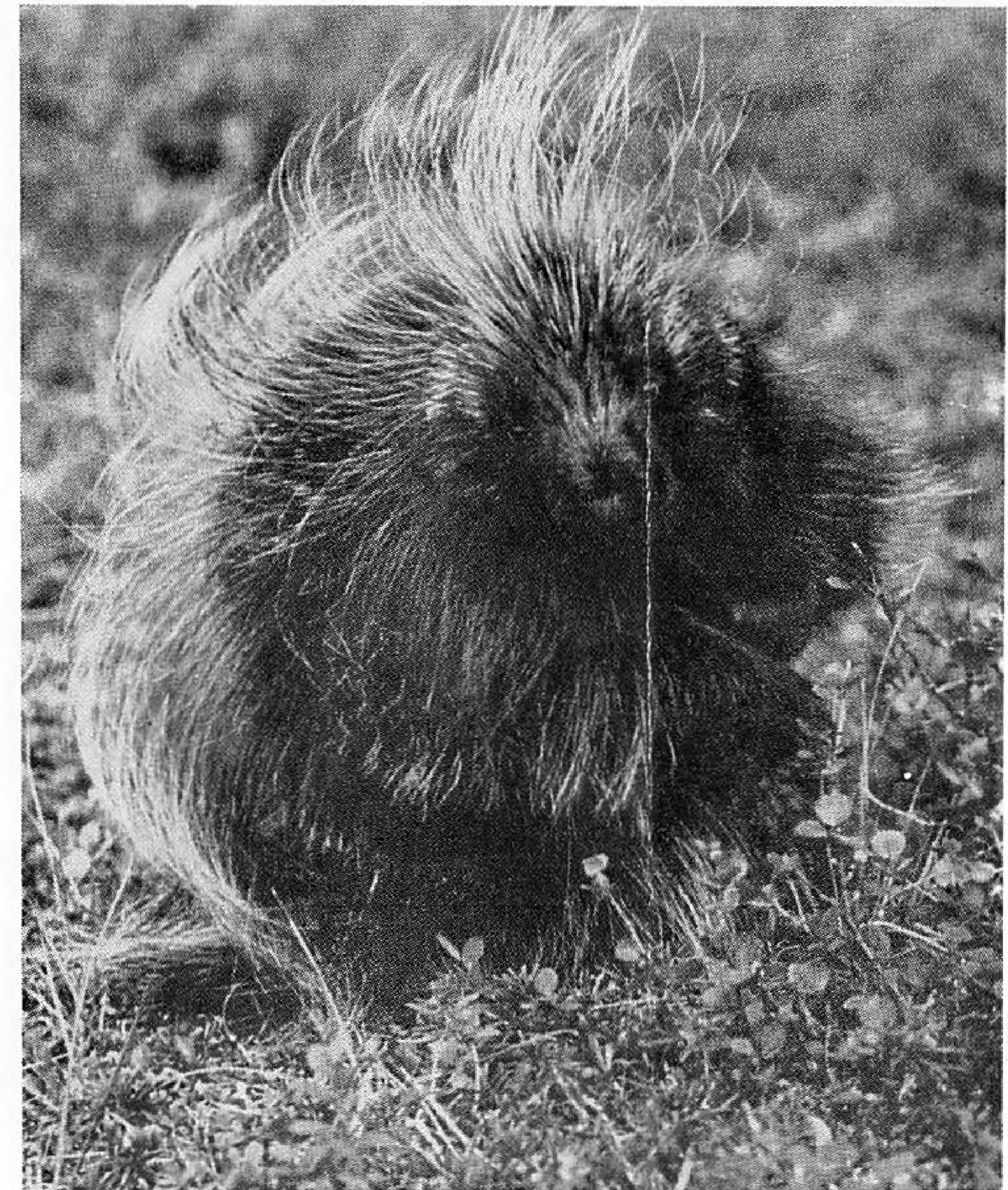
#### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Al Hohl

# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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(Photo courtesy National Audubon Society)

PRICKLY RESIDENT OF "CANOE COUNTRY"

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## November Announcement

THE REGULAR NOVEMBER MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held at 8:15 P. M., Wednesday, November 20, in the May Treat Morrison Auditorium. This month's Walter B. Scaife Foundation lecture will be given by Murl Deusing, Audubon Screen Tour lecturer, and a man who was born and reared in a photography studio.

In addition to Deusing's skill as a photographer and lecturer, he also directs an outstanding nature education program. His experience in the field of natural history and education, his expert craftsmanship with the camera and his gifts as a story-teller should combine to make a memorable event of the color motion picture:

### "CANOE COUNTRY"

The lure of canoe travel—through rapids and over portages—is portrayed in this film adventure into the forested lake country of mid-continent Canada.

In a wilderness little changed from the time when its only inhabitants were Indians and wildlife, porcupines feed in the aspens and deer browse while their fawns lie hidden in cedar thickets. Grouse drum out their courtship on fallen logs and wild strawberries ripen in the warm spring sun.

At dawn a moose may divert the early morning fisherman. Other unexpected adventures occur. The four Deusing children discover hidden nests of the red-start and parula warbler. They learn the story of the ichneumon fly that drills through several inches of solid wood to lay its eggs.

In "Canoe Country," a primeval spirit still pervades the wilderness, a spirit related through color motion pictures which Academy members and their friends are cordially invited to see.

### VORTEX II—FOR MONEY—DRAWS BIG RESPONSE

THE SECOND CONCERT using experimental sound techniques held on two consecutive nights in Morrison Planetarium late last month drew highly enthusiastic response, even more marked than that noted at the original Vortex demonstration.

Vortex II was a followup of the demonstration-concert given for Academy members and subscribers to FM Station KPFA last spring. Apparently interest generated at the first performance gathered a great deal of momentum, because—although admission was charged this time—at last month's concerts it was necessary to give two performances each night when the Planetarium quickly sold out for the scheduled 8 P. M. performances.

The program for Vortex II was completely new with the exception of the haunting "Trilogy 1957" by Berkeley composer David Talcott. Another two-night series of Vortex concerts will be given on Monday and Tuesday, January 6 and 7, 1958, in the Planetarium.

### DR. MILLER BANGKOK-BOUND

BANGKOK, THAILAND is the location of the Ninth Pacific Science Congress this month and Dr. Robert C. Miller, Academy director, left for that city November 10, where he will attend the congress in several capacities.

Dr. Miller, of course, will represent the Academy at the event. In addition, he is a delegate from the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Committee for International Wildlife Protection.

In his capacity as chairman of the standing committee on museums in Pacific research, Dr. Miller will officiate at various sessions of the congress. He expects to return to the Academy in mid-December.

### STING RAYS OVER ICE

IT WAS SUDDENLY WINTER for a truckload of fish recently brought to Steinhart Aquarium from La Jolla by Aquarium collector Walt Schneeбели.

With the aid of Carr Tuthill, collector from Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Schneeбели loaded his truck with round sting rays, thorn backs, Señoritas, guitar fish, kelp fish and spotted cabrillas and was en route back to San Francisco when the truck broke down at Seal Beach.

An eight-hour layover was necessary to repair the truck, a layover which could easily have done in the fish.

Schneeбели and his companion, Jerry Hawryluk, acting rapidly to preserve the specimens, lowered the metabolic rate of the fish by putting king-sized ice cubes in the truck tank.

After the truck had its crankshaft ground and bearing inserts replaced, the icy cargo and Schneeбели and his companion drove on to Steinhart Aquarium. Casualties: None. The fish are now on display at the Aquarium.

### ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING

CHARLES F. HAGAR, assistant Curator of Astronomy at the Academy, will conduct the November Astronomy Section Meeting, scheduled for 8:15 P. M., Thursday, November 21, in the Student Lecture Room.

This month's topic will be "The Birth and Death of the Sun." Hagar will illustrate his lecture with visual aids.

### "SATELLITE" TO STAY

IN AN UNPRECEDENTED mid-month switch, Morrison Planetarium substituted "Satellite" for the regular October Planetarium show, a substitution made, of course, because of the Russian launching of Sputnik I.

In another unusual practice for the Planetarium, "Satellite" will be continued—in response to public demand—throughout the month of November.

"Satellite" features narration and illustration of essential information on earth satellites including the Russian Sputniks now circling the earth and the artificial moon the United States expects to launch in the near future.

Viewers of the special show see a satellite traveling across the sky and they hear the radio signals given off by the Russian satellite. They also see the satellite come to a flaming end as it falls back into the earth's atmosphere and is consumed like a meteor.