

# New Members of the Academy

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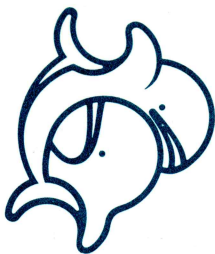
## Contributing Members

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur W. Werry

## Sustaining Members

Dr. & Mrs. Lee W. Simon

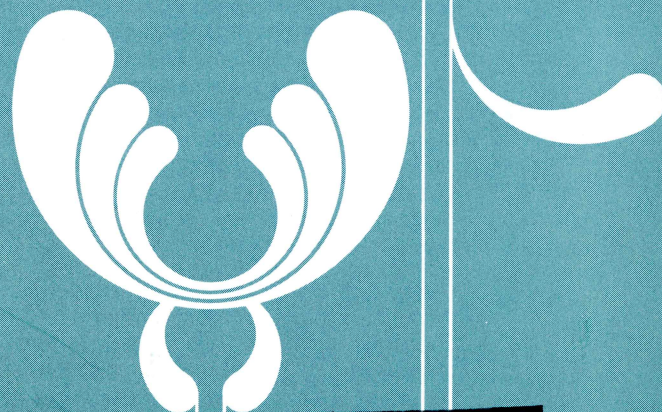
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## California Academy of Sciences Newsletter March, 1977



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## March Meetings

### Dates & Times:

Matinee, 2:30, Wednesday, March 9

Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, March 9 and 10

### Place:

May Treat Morrison Auditorium

### Speaker:

Dr. Edward S. Ross

### Subject:

"The Beauty and Fate of Central American Forests"

There are in the world little known, intriguing insects known as embids. They comprise an order of 2000 species of small, supple creatures whose edge for survival is an ability to spin silken galleries or coverways, with their front feet, which protect them from would-be predators. The one and only authority on embids is the Academy's veteran Curator of Entomology, Dr. Edward S. Ross, whose research has led him all over the tropical world. Last fall he traveled over 13,000 miles in Central America collecting and photographing the typical and rarely seen inhabitants of the forests from southern Mexico to Panama.

Dr. Ross describes his program for our March meetings as "... random encounters with the little living things whose existence depends on the survival of the forests". He will share his experiences and feelings for these steadily vanishing ecosystems with close-up photographs of such subjects as flowers, rare butterflies and insects, and will describe the impact of humanity, past and present.

As usual, your membership card admits you through the Cowell Hall entrance. At the matinee presentation you may be asked to present your card once again at the auditorium door.

## Special Exhibits

"Ancient Hawaii" is the title of the display of the largest collection of Hawaiiana to be found on the west coast. Domestic articles, as well as ceremonial and religious pieces, are included in this fascinating story of life in the Islands prior to Capt. James Cook's discovery of the chain in 1778. In Hohfeld Gallery II.

### Underwater Photography by Edwin

Janss, Jr. opens this month in Hohfeld Gallery I, outside the Morrison Auditorium. A long time friend of the CAS, Janss' brilliant color photographs illustrate the fragile nature and mysteries of marine life with emphasis on Palau, the controversial Micronesian site for the proposed new superport.

### The Land Collection of Pre-Columbian

Art continues in the Atholl McBean Gallery near the Wattis Hall entrance. This superb display of pottery and ceramic sculptures provides clues about the lifeways of the people of ancient Mexico.

## Living Arts

Sunday afternoons have come to mean unusual entertainment in the Wattis Hall of Man. Programs scheduled for the month of March include:

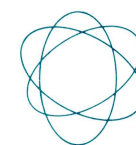
**March 6, 2 to 4 p.m.** — The Dorcas Quilters demonstrate the various arts of quilting.

**March 13, 2 to 3:30 p.m.** — Bob Harris spins and weaves in the tradition of the Navajo.

**March 20, 2 to 3 p.m.** — Irish music by Chief O'Neil's Favorite.

**March 27, 2 to 3 p.m.** — The Kopachka Dancers will perform folk dances from many lands.

  
Morrison  
Planetarium



Laserium

"Weather or Not", a fascinating voyage of discovery continues in the Theatre of the Stars daily at 2:00 with extra week-end matinees at 12:30 and 3:30. Evening programs are presented on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8:00. Admission to the planetarium shows are \$1.50 for adults and 50¢ for those 17 and under. Beginning March 25 is "A Universe of Color", a look at the world through a different pair of eyes.

Discover the fabulous sights and sounds of **Laserium** in the Theatre of the Stars at the Morrison Planetarium this week-end. Shows on Fridays at 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30; Saturdays at 4:45, 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30; Sundays at 4:45, 7:30 and 9:00. Tickets are available through all Bay Area Seating Service (BASS) outlets and remaining tickets go on sale at the planetarium box-office one-half hour before show time. Dial T-E-L-E-T-I-X for advance tickets and information. Members are remind that this is **not** a planetarium show **nor** are your membership tickets or passes usable for this attraction.



**Be A Docent . . .** A special invitation is extended to all Academy members by the Docent Council which is now seeking applicants for its fall training class. Docents lead guided tours for school groups in various Academy halls and participate in a wide variety of Academy and school-related activities.

The Basic Course, which prepares trainees for touring North American and Simson African Halls, will begin in mid-October and continue through April with holiday breaks. This college level course in vertebrate biology is taught by Dr. Robert T. Orr, Senior Scientist at the California Academy of Sciences, with assistance from scientists on the Academy's staff and faculty members from San Francisco State University. This rewarding opportunity is open to Academy members willing to serve three mornings a month for two years after completion of the training period. Gentlemen are especially welcome and needed! Tuition is \$45. Four units of upper division credit through the Extension Division of San Francisco State University are available for an additional fee.

The Docent Council will be accepting applications and conducting interviews during March and April. There will also be an opportunity for applicants to observe docents at work in the exhibit halls and to visit San Francisco classrooms with the **Supervan**, a new outreach innovation in the Docent Program.

Join the nearly 100 enthusiastic volunteers now serving the Academy in this worth-while project. For further information and an application, call the Docent Office at 221-4214, Ext. 254.

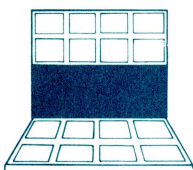
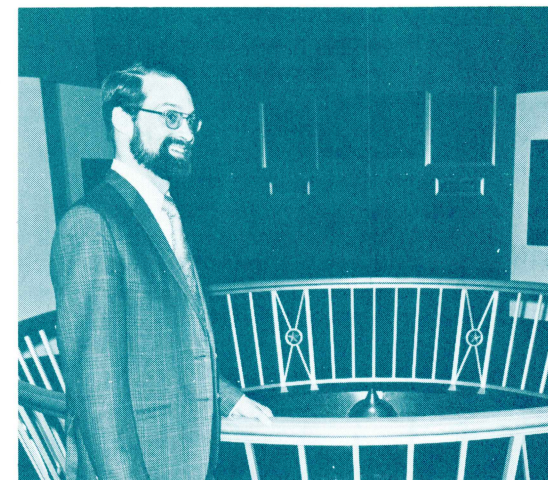
**San Diego photographer, Ron Shunk,** has solved the usual problems of photographing birds in the wild . . . proper lighting, complimentary backgrounds and a calmly posed specimen. After careful study of migration patterns and the natural habitat of a particular bird, Ron collects not only the bird but surrounding natural foliage to create a perfect "set" for his normally nervous model. He then photographs the subject and releases it back to the wild. The result? A beautifully composed photograph of outstanding quality and accuracy in detail. Of the 70 photographs on display in Lower Cowell Hall Gallery, most are passerine songbirds found in California at various times of the year.

**It's Science Fair Time . . .** For the 24th consecutive year, the Annual Bay Area Science Fair can be seen in Simson African and North American Halls beginning March 26 and running through March 30. Budding young scientists from all over the Bay Area have been selected at a local level to represent their school or group with some very interesting science projects covering subjects from air pollution to the most durable kinds of car wax. The fair is open during regular museum hours, from 10 until 5.

## Meet the Staff

Lee Simon, new Supervisor of the Morrison Planetarium is a dynamic young man with stars in his eyes. An astronomer and former Program Supervisor for the Adler Planetarium of Chicago, Lee joined the Academy staff early this year and has great plans, not only for the sky shows, but for exhibits about astronomy. His greatest interest is in teaching and "turning people on" to astronomy and the wonders of the universe.

Lee received his Ph.D. in Astronomy from Northwestern University in 1972, and was with the Adler Planetarium for 8 years. His responsibilities there included exhibit planning and construction, researching shows, writing scripts, selecting music and supervising the special effects and artistic work. With his experience and expertise, our own planetarium audiences can look forward to some very exciting programs. For instance, the next scheduled show, "**A Universe of Color**" beginning March 25, will let us look at the universe as if we had X-ray, infrared or ultra-violet powered eyesight. "There are many types of energy that our narrow range of vision will not allow us to detect. With the advent of radio telescopes, infrared and X-ray photography, we are now able to see just what things really look like. For







example, visually a comet appears to be a gracefully glowing tail of light, when in reality it is surrounded by a giant bulbous cloud of hydrogen gas."

Back on Earth, Lee's interests run toward the outdoors; hiking, sailing and camping are on the top of his activities list. He and his wife, Mary Jo, live in San Rafael with their three young sons, ages 3 through 10.

Readers of the "Newsletter" can look forward to special notices on "sky happenings" from Dr. Simon. He will alert us to such phenomena as meteor showers, comets, eclipses, planetary configurations and events in the space program from time to time. Watch for it!

**Reminder . . .** Tickets are now available on an individual basis for our special series of Thursday evening lectures on primate and human evolution. On March 3, Dr. Donald C. Johanson will speak on "Early Man in Ethiopia", followed on March 31 by Joseph Campbell and "The Archeology of Myth". Each lecture will be held at 8:00 in the Morrison Auditorium. Seats are sold at \$4.50 each and are available through the Education Office of the Academy. A special brochure describing the entire lecture series has been mailed to you.

Two adult education classes begin in March . . . **Travel Photography** has lectures on March 2, 9, 16 and 30, and April 6 and 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. The enrollment fee is \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. **Introductory Illustration** will meet on Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. from March 7 through April 25. Cost to members is \$60, non-members \$70. Enrollments, by mail only, through the Education Office.

#### **Golden Gate Park Plant Walk #2 Friday, March 25**

Elizabeth McClintock will lead the second in a series of four plant walks beginning at 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. No charge. Reservations should be made by mail through the Travel Office of the Academy.

Check your Activities Calendar for upcoming April events. Two separate trips to the Sierra foothills are scheduled; one to study the flora found there and the other focusing on the geology of the area.

#### **The Scottish Highlands and Islands: May 20-June 9**

This trip is highly recommended for those interested in the natural and human history of Scotland. John Lister Kaye will take Academy members to the Shetland Islands bird rookeries and 2000-year-old Pict stone ruins. In the Inner Hebrides participants will visit the rookeries of the gray seals and birds. The last third of the trip will be an exploration of the forests and glens of the Scottish Highlands. A short optional extension to Edinburgh will also be offered. Limited to 20, the cost is \$1150 for land arrangements, and \$730 for airfare. For further information contact Gulliver's Travel, 3597 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, California 94118( or telephone (415) 346-4400.

#### **Snake River Rafting Trip June 26-July 1**

This exciting 6-day rafting trip will take us through the deepest gorge on the North American continent — Hell's Canyon. The Snake is a big river with thrilling rapids and warm water which will carry us from just below the Hell's Canyon Dam to the confluence of the Grande Ronde River. Our journey takes us 85 miles through a wilderness populated by elk, mountain goats and big-horn sheep, with eagles spotted frequently overhead. The fishing is excellent. We will also see Nez Perce country where we can examine mysterious petroglyphs and prehistoric stone shelters. The professional boatmen will guide the rafts, or you may choose to try a small inflatable kayak and challenge the river yourself. The boatmen also do the cooking. \$315 per person includes all river expenses, meals from lunch on June 26 through lunch on July 1, pre-trip motel and shuttle cost. It does not include transportation to and from Lewiston, Idaho. Limited to 25, age 12 and up. Members only.

#### **Advance Notice of Monthly Meetings**

April 13 and 14 — Al Giddings on  
"Palau: The Sea of Eden"

May 11 and 12 — David Cavagnaro on  
"The Most Beautiful Things in the World"