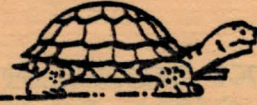


# TORTOISE T-R-A-C-K-S



THE DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER +++ WINTER, 1979-80  
P.O.Box 453, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 + Vol. 1, #2 + Gloria Nowak, Editor

STATE OF THE NATURAL AREA REPORT: According to the latest word from BLM, the construction of the interpretive display center is now completed. It is an open kiosk, with L-shaped display panels and a slanting roof; furnished with a couple of benches. Although it is visible from the Randsburg-Mojave Road, it is not overly conspicuous; for it blends with the surroundings. It is made of natural slumpstone and the roof matches the soft green hue of the creosote bushes. The restrooms will soon be completed, protected by thick walls of concrete. In fact, the construction of both the main building and the restrooms is said to be as vandal-resistant as possible, and that it would virtually require dynamite to damage them in any way. The completion of the parking area will follow that of the buildings, and at least the main nature trail from which the others will branch out will be ready by the time you read this. This trail is designed to accommodate a wheelchair throughout its total length of 300 yards. As this is written, still to come is the actual display material, consisting of maps and pictures. In addition, the brochures, which will be on hand in covered containers, will soon be back from the printing office.

COME TO OUR ANNUAL BANQUET! As you read in the fall issue if you received it, our yearly banquet-meeting will be on Saturday, January 19th at the Antelope Valley Inn, 44055 N. Sierra Hwy., Lancaster, CA; with the meeting at 2 PM in Concourse Room A and the dinner at 6 PM in the room called Sierra East. It will be \$9.00 per person, which includes tax and gratuity. The deadline for reservations is January 11th, so cut off the blank shown below, fill it out and mail it, along with your check, payable to the Committee; to Betty Forgey, c/o the Committee Post Office box shown above. We hope to see all of you there. This is a splendid opportunity to get the latest update on our progress and to exchange views with those who are as interested in the preservation of the tortoise and other wildlife as you are. And as a special treat, at the Committee's request Dr. Kristin Berry, our founder, will give the evening's program and will tell the results of several new research projects undertaken on the Preserve in 1978 and 1979; including studies by several students and researchers, as well as her own findings.

## RESERVATION FOR ANNUAL BANQUET

Send to Betty Forgey, Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.,  
P. O. Box 453, Ridgecrest, CA 93555; before January 11, 1980.

Please make a reservation for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) in my name for the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee annual banquet-meeting at the Antelope Valley Inn, Lancaster, CA, Sat., Jan. 19, 1980. I understand that the dinner will be \$9.00 per person, including tax and gratuity. I am enclosing my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_, payable to the Committee.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION IF ANY \_\_\_\_\_

PRODUCT DEPARTMENT REPORT: Remember our T-shirts, tortoise or bird wind chimes, pendants and bolo ties, for unusual anytime gifts; also our new needlepoint and crewel embroidery kits. We now offer a choice of 8 color photos on our postcards, featuring the tortoise and other denizens of the Natural Area. You can remind people to protect the tortoise, with an eye-catching decal on your bumper. And we will soon have colorful fold-over note cards with a tortoise or a burrowing owl, by artist Terry Taylor of Sparks, Nevada. Write to the Committee for information about prices, colors, etc. Remember that when you buy our products, you are buying a gift of life for the tortoise.

DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM: Save the dates of March 22, 23 and 24, 1980 for this! It will be close to home this year - in Riverside or San Bernardino - with many interesting speakers (names to follow later), a delicious banquet on Saturday night and a field trip on Monday. Let's have a good representation from California for this worthwhile, informative meeting. Watch for more information on exact location, price, etc. Evelyn St. Amant, Desert Tortoise Council, 5319 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805; (213) 590-5113.)

GUIDED GROUP TOURS: These are on weekends only, late March through May; 15-50 persons, including well-supervised children, and NO PETS. Two months' notice is required, so write to Laura Stockton NOW, c/o the Committee, for reservations or further information.

JOIN THE COMMITTEE! The more dedicated, working members we have, the easier our task becomes; so if you feel strongly enough about the tortoise to be reading this, we need YOUR help. Don't let the scientific background of some of our members discourage you. It's desirable, of course, but not necessary. Love and compassion for the animals and a willingness to work are just as important, and in any case you'll be amazed at how quickly you can absorb a great deal of information just by working with the Committee. The only "degree" you really need is a high degree of enthusiasm for the project!

We hope to see you all at the banquet. Meanwhile, best of luck to you and the tortoises in the new year ahead!

DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMM., INC.  
P. O. BOX 453, RIDGECREST, CA 93555



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