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851-0730



Great egret takes off from waters of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Ken Gardiner.

A dream fulfilled...

See pages 2, 3 & 44

Bay national wildlife refuge

offer guided walks, informal talks, slide shows and other interpretive programs. The phone of the center is 792-0222.

The one-mile loop trail gives a feeling for the strange world inhabited by the wild creatures that thrive on the edge of the Bay. Starting high up at the headquarters building, one can view the complex patterns of land and water with intricately interlocked sloughs, marshes and salt ponds stretching toward the distant bay. This is the part of the bay which is generally inaccessible and unfamiliar to most people because it is blocked by development, private property, as well as mud and water.

Walking down along the side of Newark Slough, one gets a sense of total isolation except for companions on the trail. The slough meanders through marshy banks covered with salt grasses, and when the tide is out, birds pick at its muddy edges. The only sign of human impact are an old duck hunter's cabin, some delapidated saltmaking equipment and the pylons and cranes of the new Dumbarton Bridge rising in the distance.

This trail will be extended to two miles next year with the addition of some bridges over the levees.

The other major facility in the refuge is the environmental education center in Alviso at the end of Grand Blvd. This will open to schools and educational groups on Oct. 2. The public is invited to preview the center on the weekends of Aug. 25-26 and Sept. 1-3 between noon and 5 p.m. The center will provide a site for educational exploration of the Bay shoreline. Teachers and group leaders who wish to use the center must reserve space for field trips by calling (408) 262-5513. Schools and environmental groups may also reserve the facility for teacher workshops, conferences, and similar activities.

Longer range development plans call for more educational and recreational facilities over the next few years. These will include a visitor contact center at Alviso, two fishing piers and approximately 30 miles of hiking and

bicycling trails. Trails near Coyote Hills Regional Park and starting from the Alviso Marina will open to hikers later this fall.

San Mateo plans

Of particular interest to residents of San Mateo County may be plans to convert the old Dumbarton Bridge to a fishing pier when the new bridge is completed. According to Mr. Bitsko, there will be parking just before the old bridge and a three and a half mile loop trail around Ravenswood Point. This area could also be developed in conjunction with the city of Menlo Park's proposed Marsh Road Bayfront Park to be developed after the Marsh Road dump is closed next year.

Another visitor area is planned for the tip of Redwood Peninsula to connect with the proposed Redwood Shores bicycle trail, according to the refuge master plan.

Future acquisitions.

Kent Dedrick, formerly of Menlo Park, may be the outstanding expert on San Francisco Bay and its historic tides and uses. Now a scientific consultant to the State Lands Commission, which is the state agency responsible for protecting the public's rights in waterways, he outlined the process which will be followed in completing the refuge.

Basically two things have to happen before new areas go into the refuge, Dr. Dedrick said. First the commission must settle one way or another with the private property claimants, and then it can lease the state's interest to the federal government.

Leslie's interest in the Bay has already been settled, but Ideal Basic Industries, which used to dredge oyster shells to make cement, still claims several thousand acres of tidal mudflats in Alameda County. These are mostly the tidal areas outside the Leslie Salt levees, Dr. Dedrick said.

There are complex technical negotiations going on between Ideal and the state to clarify the public and private rights in the areas, and Dr. Dedrick hopes for a friendly settlement in due time.

"The people are the owners of navigable water," Dr. Dedrick explained, and the public trust is their rights for fisheries, commerce and navigation.

Dr. Dedrick described the areas at the Bay fringe of Redwood City where he has sailed and rowed almost every inch.

Bird Island is a natural marsh island off the tip of Redwood Peninsula which has never been diked or developed—with the possible exception of an old oyster house dating back to pre-pollution times when the Bay was a rich source of oysters.

The outer edge of Bair Island, where the Army Corps of Engineers used to dump dredge material from the Port of Redwood City, is now a valuable rookery for egrets and herons. It is adjacent to 800 acres owned by the state which were acquired in some complicated negotiations giving rights to fill areas closer to Bayshore for a proposed shopping center.

Greco Island had been partially diked in times past, but the dikes have all broken. Now most of the island is under water at very high tide, Dr. Dedrick said.

Many of these areas are involved in the Westbay lawsuit with no end in sight.

However, the rest of the areas are proceeding smoothly, according to Mr. Crab. With the exception of the areas under litigation, he expects the acquisition of the entire refuge to be complete within a couple of years.

by Marion Softky

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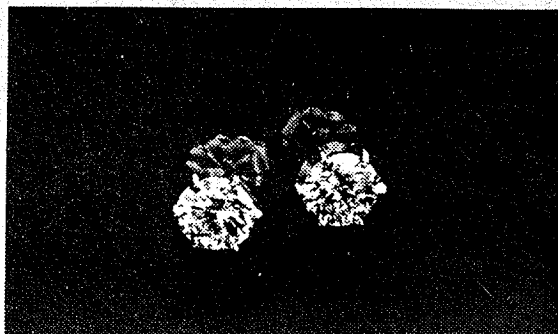
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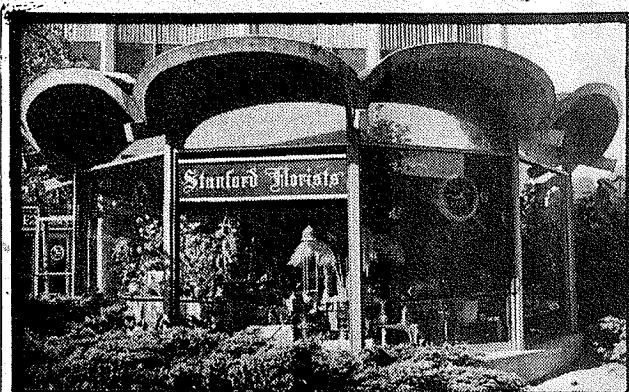


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The VILLAGE SQUARE

Portola Valley



THREE DAY EVENT
August 24-25-26
10:30 A.M. - Sundown
Music Under the Trees
from 12:00 until 6:00 P.M.

Art Show

Included will be works by
Earl Thollendar, Ken Daddario,
and Carolyn Patterson

Art Glass by Mike Cline

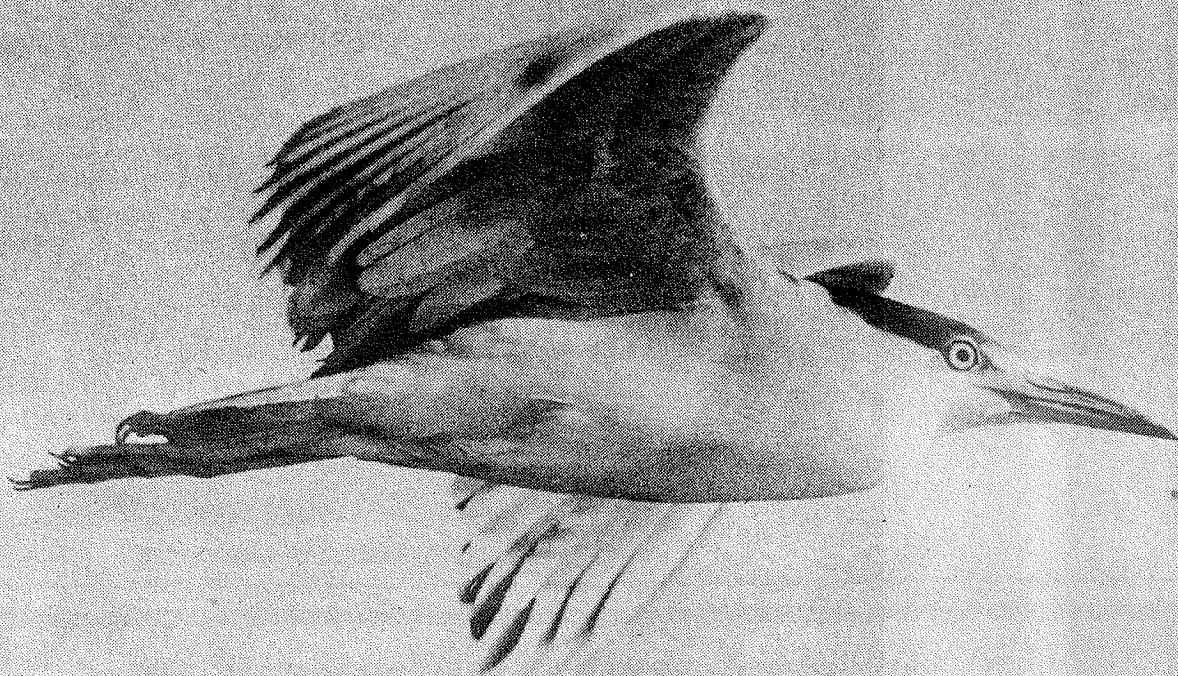
Japanese Brush Painting Demonstration
by Jacqueline Blake
11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.
Saturday 25th

Horseshoe Tournament
Fresh Flowers, fruits & vegetables
Entertainment - Drawing
Good Food - Good Shops
Good Time

(Sign up now at Village Square)

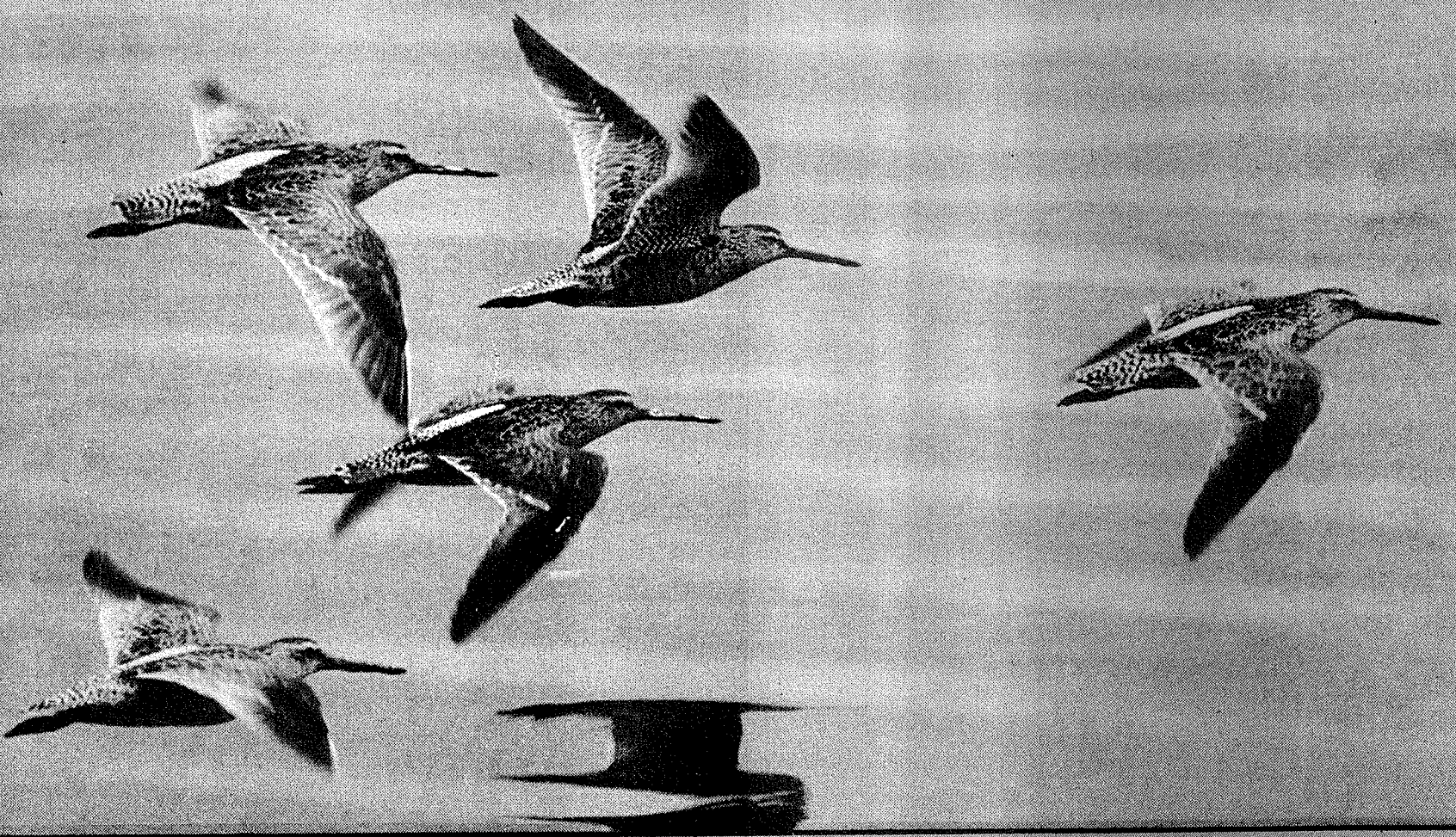
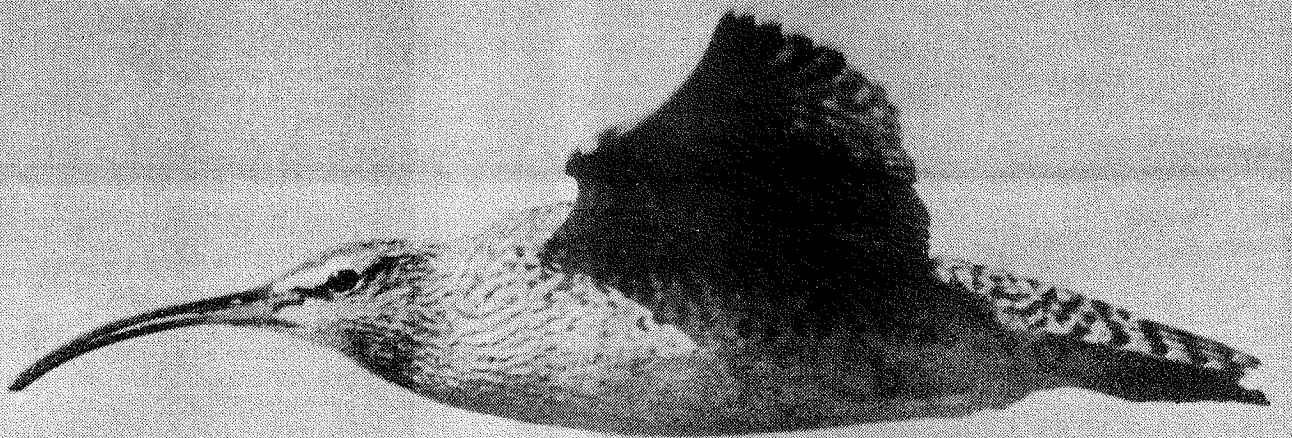
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THE VILLAGE SQUARE
884 Portola Road
Portola Valley



Black crowned night heron.

Whimbrel.



Dowitchers in flight. Photos by photographer Ken Gardiner.