

Bridg
Schwan Lake
3-17-68

BOOKS—HOBBIES—ART



Duck Feeders Ruth Mueller, left, music teacher at Branciforte Junior High school, and Pearl Watson, sixth grade teacher at Laurel Elementary, started feeding ducks over two years ago. It became a daily habit. It also became a daily habit for the birds to expect them. They feed at Schwan lake on East Cliff drive, and 10th street each evening.

Casting Bread Upon the Water

Two Santa Cruz school teachers have been the faithful providers of food for thousands of water birds over the past two and one-half years.

It started as a casual good deed when the teachers noticed that some ducks in Schwan Lake off East Cliff Drive were not getting enough food.

They bought bread and cast it on the water and found instant appreciation.

Since then, they have hardly missed an evening.

The two teachers are Miss Pearl Watson, 1811 Alice Street, a sixth grade teacher at Laurel Elementary, and Miss Ruth Mueller, 1740 Alice Street, music teacher for Branciforte Junior High School and elementary schools.

They do their feeding mostly at the Schwan Lake feeding ramp, but sometimes at Twin Lakes and others around the area.

It is not an uncostly venture.

Each week they use a 100-pound sack of Egyptian corn, which runs about \$4 and about 600 loaves of week-old bread and this runs about \$6.

Some of the birds, they believe, remain in this area for longer periods because of the available food.

Their dinner guests around 5 to 6 p.m. each day include mallards, mud hens, seagulls, and geese.

They also have served as protectors for the birds.

One time they chased a man who picked up a duck and headed away in a car.

They tracked him to his home. He said he wanted to show it to his children, but the ladies strongly suspected

a cooking pot in the bird's future, and informed the man of the law.

He gladly gave them the bird, which they returned to its pond.

The ladies have missed only a few days during their habitual trip to the lakes.

As to the cost, well, they figure it runs about the same as that spent by two persons for smoking and drinking.

And they don't smoke or drink.

—Wally Trabling

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