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Dr. Tower Gets Nutrias From South America, Plans New Fur Development For This County

Two natives of Argentina arrived at The Tower's Chinchilla ranch, 2430 Glen Canyon road, several weeks ago and Dr. F. B. Tower believes that they might be the forerunners and the parents of a new fur industry in Santa Cruz county.

They are nutria—South American beavers—and their pelts are linked with the "service" angle of the fur trade, as contrasted to the "luxury" category of chinchilla, minx and fox pelts, Dr. Tower said.

Dr. Tower, who is blind, has had his chinchilla ranch for more than four years. He is virtually retired as a chiropractor, taking patients in the afternoon by appointment only. He was in Oakland 17 years and in Centerville two years before coming to this area.

These are the first nutria ever brought to this immediate area. Some have been raised around Oakland and Los Angeles, the doctor said, and there have been herds in Canada, Michigan and Louisiana. Being a water and tropical animal, nutria cannot stand cold-water areas.

Dr. Tower obtained his pair from the Southworth agency in Los Angeles, the only outlet in this country. Southworth receives his nutria from an Italian named Frazzi who has been pen-raising nutrias in Argentina for 30 years. Of an air shipment of some 250, more than 100 nutria died enroute to Los Angeles.

A pair of pen-bred nutria is valued at \$1600 and the pelts bring an average of \$40 as compared to around \$9 for pelts of wild nutria.

Dr. Tower, who expects the first litter from his pair in about four months, said line-breeding is stressed as contrasted to in-breeding.

The nutria has coarse, heavy guard-hair over its fur, which is best on the stomach. The female's

breast is next to the backbone so that its young can nurse more easily in the water.

The young are born with full-teeth and full-fur, Dr. Tower said. They generally are "chocolate" colored and efforts are being made in Argentina to breed golden and white animals. Their meat is edible.

Nutrias are placid, extremely clean and are vegetarians, eating corn, hay, greens, carrots, apples, etc. There is no odor around their pen, which is made of concrete blocks, 10 by 20 feet in size, with a water pool nine by four feet at one end. The water is changed daily. Their sleeping quarters are covered. Dr. Tower has room at his place for many more similar pens.

The animals are very prolific and have five litters in two years with an average of seven young in each litter.

Dr. Tower plans to pelt them after they have bred six litters and are around three years old.

The nutria weighs about 20 pounds and has front feet like those of a monkey and webbed rear feet. They have long rat-like tails which act as rudders. Their eyesight is very poor.

Dr. Tower says he will have a ready market for his nutria pelts. Of course, he said, he will know better in a year or so how his new project will turn out.

He also has some 350 chinchillas and has stressed his breeding stock. This winter he will pelt the best of these animals and will sell to a fur company in Oakland which makes pieces to order for a number of well known department stores of the bay area.

Dr. Tower said he "began fooling around" with chinchillas shortly after he came to this area and has been a "lone wolf" in the industry.

Nutrias Are Newcomers In Fur Industry Here



The first nutrias—South American beavers—ever settling in the Santa Cruz area arrived several weeks ago at The Tower's Chinchilla ranch, 2430 Glen Canyon road. Dr. F. B. Tower is shown in top picture holding one of the fur-bearing animals at the edge of the pen at his ranch. Dr. Tower, who is blind and virtually retired as a chiropractor, has had his Glen canyon ranch for more than four years. He is eagerly awaiting developments in his nutria program. Bottom photo shows the pair in the pool at the end of the pen. The first litter is expected in about four months.

Rio del Mar Area Property Owners Form Association

Property owners in the Rio Del Mar beach area of Santa Cruz county have recently completed the organization of a non-profit group to be called "Rio Del Mar Beach Owners Association, Inc."

Purpose of the organization is to make arrangements for the improvement and maintenance of Beach Boulevard and the sea wall at Rio Del Mar beach.

Officers elected at the organizational meeting include the following: Arthur L. Selland, Fresno, president; Dr. Charles B. Fowler of Rio Del Mar, vice-president; Robert Winegar of Rio Del Mar, secretary-treasurer.

Directors named in addition to the officers are: Erik Krag of Mill Valley; N. T. Bradford, Sr., of Saratoga; Frank J. Niesetich of Rio Del Mar and Ann M. Sambuck of Rio Del Mar.

In addition to looking after the

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS No. 13,527

In the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Santa Cruz.

In the Matter of the Estate of LILA H. ELLIS, also known as LILA ELLIS, Deceased.

Notice Is Hereby Given by the Undersigned, Irene Goodale and Ethel Bowman, Administratrices with the Will Annexed of the estate of Lila H. Ellis, also known as Lila Ellis, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against the said deceased, or said estate, to file them, with the necessary vouchers, in the office of the Clerk of the above named Court (which said office is situate in the Court House in the City of Santa Cruz in said County and State), within six months after the first publication of this notice made on the 10th day of September, 1953, or present and exhibit them, with the necessary vouchers, within said period, to the said Administratrices with the Will Annexed at the office of J. FRANK MURPHY and EUGENE J. ADAMS, Attorneys at Law, in the City of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, which said last named office, the undersigned selects as the place of business in all matters connected with said estate.

IRENE GOODALE and ETHEL BOWMAN, Administratrices with the Will Annexed of said Estate of said

Order Balanced State Budget, No Tax Boosts

Secretary (T)