

## 'Sea Lion' Has No Basis For Name



## Along The Trail

by  
ken legg

The naming of sea lions is confusing. Early Spanish explorers called them sea wolves, which accounts for so many Point Lobos' along the coast. Lobo is Spanish for wolf. Now, we call the animals sea lions though actually they are more closely related to the bear, and certainly have no relationship with a lion, the largest member of the cat family.

Sea lions are usually referred to by laymen as seals, but, as a previous article pointed out, seals are separate mammals, having certain differences in structure and habit. Zoologists prefer the name sea lion.

Those animals which in circus acts are referred to as trained seals, are female sea lions. So, to straighten the matter out in everyone's mind becomes quite a problem.

There are two species of sea lions in the West, the California and the stellar. The stellar is more abundant in California and is a larger animal. Bulls of this species are 10' feet long and weigh up to 2000 pounds. The photo is of a stellar bull and was taken by Karl Kenyon in Alaska. Cow sea lions are slimmer and weigh only half as much as the males.

Experts can distinguish the two species by the sounds they produce. Bull Californias have a yelping bark somewhat like the baying of hounds while the stellar's bawl, more like cattle.

In the early California period sea lions were relentlessly pursued. The California was killed for its oil and hides until few were left and the occupation was no longer profitable. Stellar's were not exploited to the extent of the Californias as hunters were more en-

grossed in obtaining more valuable species.

Sea lions appear to be migratory. For example, the bulls usually go north in winter. There are some places in California, however, where sea lions can be found throughout the year.

I have identified both species on the "seal rock" at the lighthouse in Santa Cruz. There have been times when none would be present here for considerable periods. But, they always return. Unless one would keep an annual record of their appearance and departure it would be difficult to say just what seasons they are present in Santa Cruz.

Sea lion rocks are known as rookeries. These are far from sanitary by human standards as excreta and dead sea lions are simply trodden underfoot. Since they get several good baths a day, and a high wave now and then cleans house perhaps this is not so much of a problem.

It is rather surprising to learn that the young of an animal which lives such an aquatic existence must be taught to swim. Young sea lions are more helpless in water (until taught to swim) than the young of many land animals. The greatest natural check on the population is the great mortality suffered among the young through accidents, by being washed off rocks in storms, or through drowning.

Even after a swimming lesson when the young crawl back on the rocks to rest and sun themselves, they may run into difficulty. When two old bulls are fighting and lunging at each other they take no notice of the young, and such small fry must be expert at removing themselves from the scene or get crushed.

Sea lions are clever, intelligent animals and in captivity have been trained to perform intricate tricks. In the wild they display a spirit of playfulness. They roll, twist, wrestle and make contact with one another. Often they shoot straight up out of the water in the manner of an inflated balloon. They ride the waves into the beaches and slide down slippery rocks merely for the fun of it. Many times I have seen them come up with sticks in their mouths and they have been seen throwing pieces of driftwood and fish, then retrieving them.

Aside from man who is permitted to shoot sea lions only

This majestic bull of the sea lion family, photographed by Karl Kenyon in Alaska, had no real foundation for the name which has been given him by men. Originally called "sea wolves" by the Spaniards who found them along the coast, the mammals are now identified as sea lions but actually are more closely related to bears.

### MAN PLEADS GUILTY

Gerald Howes, 39, Felton, pleaded guilty to drunk driving before Municipal Court Judge James J. Scopetone on Friday and was sentenced to serve 90 days in county jail. For Howes, arrested earlier in the day by city police after he left the scene of a minor accident on Pacific avenue, it was the third drunk driving conviction. His operator's license was automatically revoked for good.

when they are damaging fish nets, the killer whale is about their only enemy. To an observer on land, the killer is a beautiful and magnificent creature. Jet black, marked with pure white, it moves like a torpedo in the water. To a sea lion unfortunate enough to be in the same body of water, the killer is a terrible foe, one that can slash him to pieces and devour him in minutes. The killer whale is the most ferocious thing in the sea.

Sea lions eat almost any species of marine animal which they can catch and swallow.

All animals contribute something to the good of their environment in one way or another. Thousands of humans have found pleasure in watching these aquatic performers. Clumsy and awkward on land, they are the picture of unfiring grace in the water.

Few sounds symbolize the rock-strewn, fog-bound Pacific Coast like the baying and bawling of the sea lion. They are an integral part of the west coast scene, a part to be preserved; and the east coast has no such animal.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS No. 14,458

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

In the Matter of the Estate of THEODORE E. THORSEN, also known as THEODORE EMIL THORSEN, Deceased.

Notice Is Hereby Given by the Undersigned, DOROTHY JANE DEVORE, Administratrix of the estate of Theodore E. Thorsen, also known as Theodore Emil Thorsen, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against the said deceased, or said estate, to file them, with the necessary vouchers, within 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 20th day of November, 1955, or present and exhibit them, with the necessary vouchers, within said period, to the said Administratrix at the office of Messrs. J. Frank Murphy and Eugene J. Adams, Attorneys at Law, 1522 Pacific Avenue, in the City of Santa Cruz County, of Santa Cruz, State of California.

### NOTICE

Santa Cruz  
Social Security Club  
will have a  
TURKEY DINNER

for their members  
MONDAY, NOV. 21  
12:00 O'CLOCK  
at HACKLEY HALL

Members bring hot dish or pie  
Meetings & Entertainment