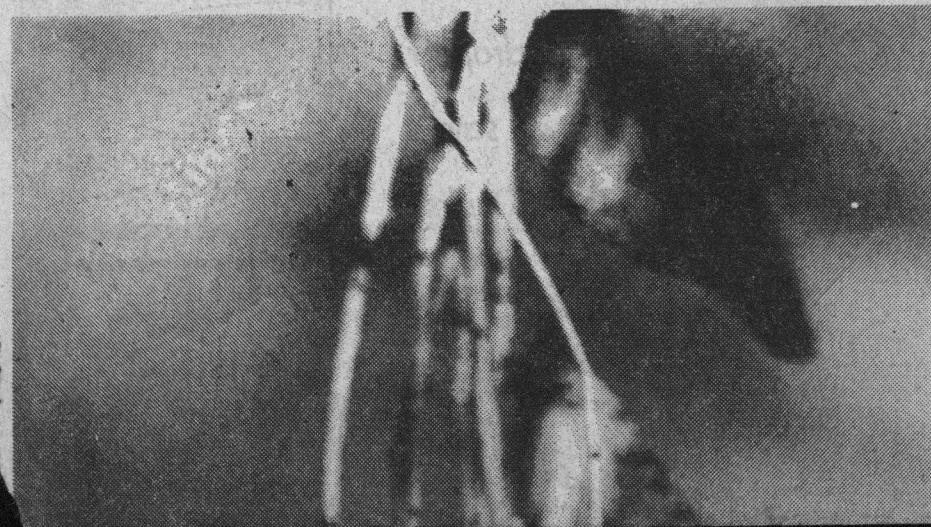




Butterfly Brigade...

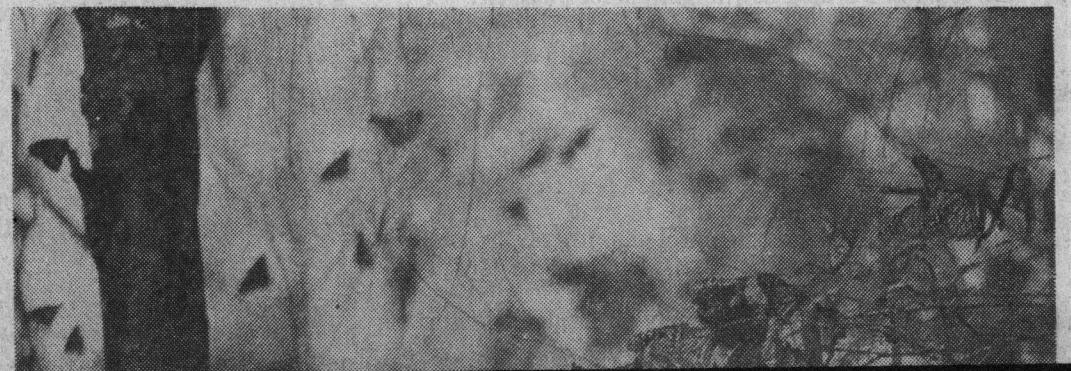


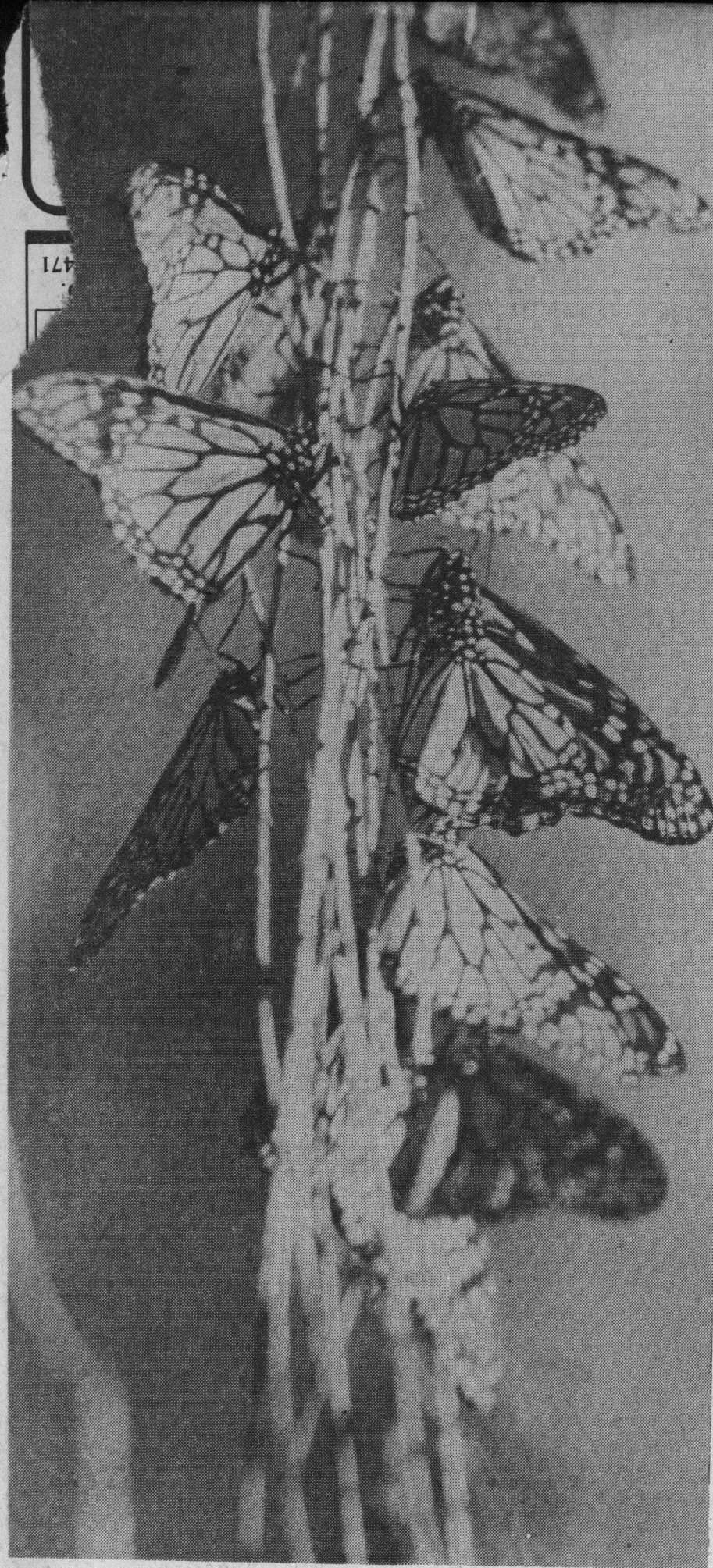
The butterflies are back...
Those monarchs of the world of wings, the orange and black tourists who flutter into Santa Cruz after the human tourists have gone.

Clouds of Monarchs arrive in October to float through local gardens during the fine days of Indian summer.

When the temperature drops to 40 or below, they gather in grape-like clusters on certain favorite tree branches, temporarily paralyzed by the cold.

They do not come here to breed or lay eggs, but to sip flower nectar and survive



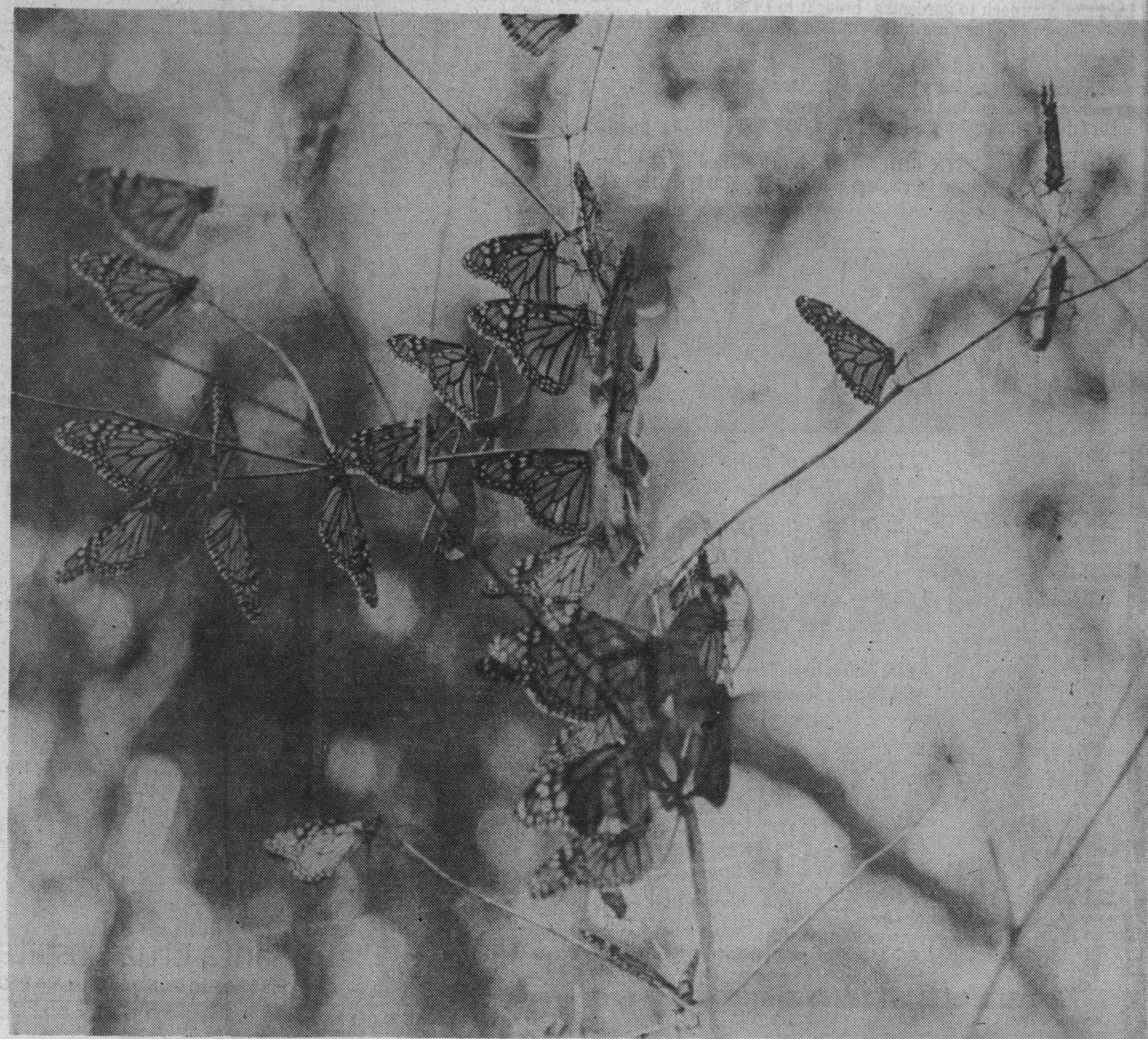


the winter. And strangely, the Monarchs who come to Santa Cruz have never been here before.

How do they know where to come, year after year, generation after generation? Their annual migration is a thing of mystery as well as beauty.

By March they are leaving for milkweed country where they lay their eggs. The Monarch larvae must be nourished on milkweed.

If you would like to see the exotic insects at close range, call Natural Bridges State Park on West Cliff Drive at 423-4609, for information. Then walk the park's Butterfly Trail. They are there. —M.K.



Photos By Pete Amos