

# Enthusiasm Grows For Santa Cruz Jr. Museum

Horned Owl .... And Friend



Carole Kemnitz, biological science student at San Jose

## Nature Study Encouraged for All Youngsters

By Wally Trabing

How many citizens in the Santa Cruz area would be interested in helping to establish a junior museum?

This question is on the minds of a small group of persons who recently caught the "fever." The desire became further inflamed following a visit to the San Jose-Santa Clara county Junior Museum association in Alum Rock park near San Jose.

Considering its flora and fauna, Santa Cruz county is a natural for such an institution specializing in natural science. But across the country, such museums specialize in various projects — some pure science, others art, and some arts and crafts.

The Alum Rock museum was started around 1954 in an available three-room lodge building. It operates on an annual \$15,000 budget derived from the cities of Santa Clara and San Jose, city and county schools, and memberships.

It is operated by three paid staff members who are assisted by many volunteers. The museum's policies are guided by a board of trustees taken from all walks of life.

This tiny building is crammed with live and stuffed animals, fossils, collections of sea birds, insects and books.

A youngster walking into the

## —BOOK— REVIEWS

PRIMER OF DRAWING

By Howard Simon

This, says the author is a new system of learning-to-draw, based on visual and emotional responses. This is a one-year course in which "you'll ignore old copy book rules, draw creatively with a new freedom. Once seen and understood, the principle of the linear edge, characteristic movement, and line tempo, can be used again and again as a reference and basis for learning all phases of drawing."

The book is amply filled with illustration and the author's examples. He teaches his lessons by "problem" sections. Simon is a former New York university art teacher and now has his own outdoor art school in Stanfordville, N.Y. The method he teaches is his own development. (Sterling Publishing Co., \$2.95) W.T.

## State Income Tax Help Available Beginning Friday

State income tax auditors will be stationed in room G, civic auditorium, according to an announcement by State Controller

state college, serves as an assistant at the San Jose-Santa Clara County Junior museum at Alum Rock park. A youngster can get this close to a great

horned owl — and even pet it if they dare. This owl has been loaned to hundreds of classrooms, one of the services of the museum. Such a museum is advocated for Santa Cruz.

The leaf of the acanthus, a weedy plant, was the inspiration of decorations in early Roman and Christian architecture, according to Encyclopedia Britannica.

Imperial Dam raises the level of the Colorado River 23 feet and gives birth to California's All

## A Sticky Friendship



H. D. Frankel, a salesman by occupation, an amateur zoolo-

gist after hours at his home, at 2600 Bean Creek road, gets ac-

quainted with a porcupine at the San Jose-Santa Clara county junior museum. Such a mu-

seum is advocated in the Santa Cruz area, provided enough public interest is shown.

place meets a great collection of semi-tame birds and animals literally face-to-face. A great horned owl, really a whopper, is perched near enough to be petted. There's a large red-tailed hawk handy too. A prickly porcupine and a youngster can rub noses (with a pane of glass in between), curious kids can squint at a colony of termites working underground behind a glass partition.

There's squirrels, rabbits, chipmunks, rattlesnakes, mice, a gopher and two de-scented skunks. In the first year of operation, Director Larry Miotzo said, 75,000 persons visited the place.

Open every day but Monday, the program is free to all. But this is only a part of the services.

Junior museums are tied very closely to the schools. Animals are being constantly loaned to teachers for classroom use for as long as they are needed. Ages, feeding instructions are supplied with the animals. The larger animals have shorter loan schedules.

Masses of natural science material have been acquired for use by individuals or schools in geology, science, or nature studies. Class visits to the mu-

given credit for establishing junior museums throughout the U.S. According to a 1954 Saturday Evening Post article and a 1947 Readers Digest story, he has a natural knack at raising money and whipping a community into wild enthusiasm about such a museum. He was behind the organization of the San Jose institution and went on to organize them in Sacramento, Fresno, and San Mateo. He also is a whiz at persuading curators of overstocked museums to transfer stuffed animals to a newly formed museum.

If enough persons show sufficient interest to form such a museum here, a number of aids could be counted on. The National Foundation for Junior Museums with headquarters in Sacramento will co-sponsor a local junior museum project with one or more local organizations.

It will assist in the formation of a steering committee, help find sponsors, and will contribute exhibits having an estimated value

of from \$3000 to \$5000. This aid usually lasts for some two years, time enough for the local group to get itself on a substantial foundation. The foundation advises that a board of trustees be formed of some 25 interested persons.

Those interested may contact Ralph Gray, GA 3-6032; Robert Hall, GA 3-3150, or the writer of this feature, GA 3-4242.

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seum are sometimes daily affairs.

Demonstrations by the museum staff members are constantly in demand at schools, scout meetings, etc., Miotozo said.

Every Saturday morning, weather permitting, a field trip is conducted for kids by the staff.

During the summer a special program for a limited number of youths is conducted free for botany courses. There is a group called the Big Trip club which meets every Saturday. Youths in third grade through junior high school receive lectures on a different subject every four weeks.

Students take a test at the end of the lecture period. Those who pass are taken on a field trip. The class is filled with 35 and Miotozo says there is a waiting list of 100. Eighteen trips are taken a year.

A livewire gent, who seemingly lives just about all over, and who is called John Forbes, is