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CHOLLA CHATTER

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The Listening Sea Shell

BY VERLENE BARBER

July has been a busy month ... and a fun one. The day after school was out I picked up my three grandchildren and went to Cholla and what fun they had! We spent ten days just shell hunting and fishing and and so on. But all good things must come to an end and we had to return home. Then my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Beckles came on from California to spend some

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time catching up on all the latest news. After they left we had a call from some California friends who were in town, and spent long hours comparing happenings with them.

While spending a week at Cholla with the Fraziers we launched the "Dondos IV". Had three deckhands - Bub Allison, Dave Conners and Jack Ebert. No fish to be caught though.

It was nice to see the shutters off the Dan Green's place. They had their grandchildren down with them and guest Tyrone Lauden of Aurora, Illinois

The Conlisks were down with their daughter Andrea and Sonja Thorn and children as houseguests. Spent some time reminiscing about the old days in Cholla.

The Bingo club asked me to announce that bingo is open to anyone at the Bay. Just ask anyone about when and where and what time ... and come along for some fun.

Mark Giebelhaus caught his first dolphin and sure is proud of his catch. The Annis' were down and the Boyls also enjoyed some sun and just plain relaxing. Debby Jarvis is home after gall bladder surgery - we wish you a speedy recovery. Maya will go to Germany for a month to visit her mother.

Back issues of the Cholla Chatter may be obtained from the Phoenix Membership Chairman ... at no charge. If you missed one, just call and ask for it.

See you all at the Bay.

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Vivo Viente to Puerto Refugio

BY NONIE MCKIBBIN

Skipper Oscar Newman and three crew members felt sure that the Easter cold and winds had to let up. They were wrong! It took seven days to sail from Cholla Bay to Puerto Refugio, via Laguna Salada, Bahia San Jorge and Puerto Lobos. For two weeks the weather signs were the governing facts of life. But we had fun.

What was so much fun? Companionship, sailing, challenge, beauties of nature, exploration.

Coming out of Laguna Salada we saw row after row of breakers rolling in over the shallow water approach. Some of the breakers burst into the air like a fountain with the early sun making them brilliant. There were many bat rays and cormorants in this tidal basin.

In Bahia San Jorge the fish plant was in operation, around the clock. The cook initiated us into his shack for coffee. The stove, made of a 50-gal. drum, poured smoke into the little room. He told us that the plant operates from February through May.

There were a dozen or more shrimp boats dragging nets for "trash" fish in the bay. They do this when shrimping isn't good. The men work from 6 a.m. to midnight, 6 days a week and are allowed to split the 275 pesos per ton among themselves. One boat can seine 6 tons in a day. Trucks carry the fish meal along the outside beach to a railroad connection near Desemboque and bring back barrels of diesel fuel with which the plant is operated. While we were there, the LST barge which carries the fish from the boats to the plant was swamped by a big wave and sank out of sight in shallow waters. Some eight days later when we returned, the LST was in operation again!

We left Bahia San Jorge making headway to Lobos for 3 hours. However, the wind became too strong and we returned to San Jorge to spend another day.

Once in Lobos we obtained gas and ice from the fish cook headquartered in the ice house. We had a lunch of blue crabs and a swim. The skipper had the privilege of a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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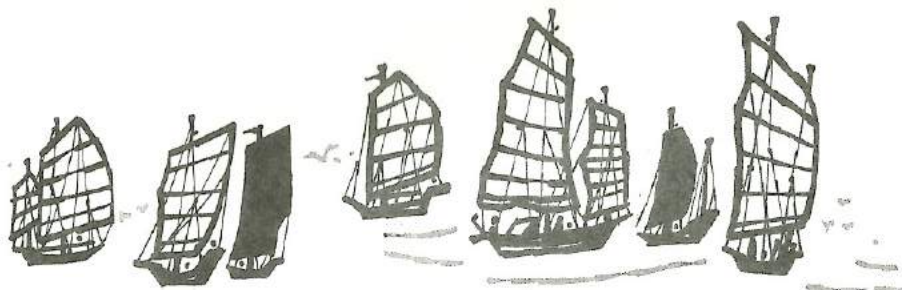
and his friendly seventeen-year-old face, usually at the launch area and sometimes on one or another of our boats where he was a fine guide...

ELMA LEASON

and her willingness to pitch in and help with all the little jobs of work at the annual fishing Derby and other Club projects...

ART SCHWARZ

...a most active member who had been president, vice president, Derby chairman, Tucson reporter and always did more than his share of any task.



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TUCSON SCUTTLEBUTT



By Winnie Sims

We extend our sympathy to Mrs. Jessie Schwarz. We'll all miss Art. Also, our sympathy goes out to the Calvin Lord family on the loss of Calvin's brother.

To all who are under the weather, a speedy recovery and hope you'll be up and around real soon.

July 4th at the Bay was one of the quietest I have ever experienced. Sandy Beach was all but deserted. The weather behaved remarkably well, nice warm days and not too much wind, nice cool nights, just right for relaxing, fishing, and getting good nights' sleep.

Did you notice how smooth the road into Cholla was when you were going home? The grader was working during the weekend and it really was a great improvement. Thank you Sr. Carbajal, the club members really appreciate your cooperation.

Also a police officer was much in evidence doing his duty - stopping noisy and speeding sand buggies and cars.. Many thanks to Sr. Soltelo.

Are you ready for your safety tip? Be sure you get to where you are going; have a Coast Guard grid map and boat compass aboard. Boats need water underneath them; if you don't have a depth finder on your boat, a "lead line" will

measure the depth. For night operating you can make a hole through the darkness with a flashlight, so be sure you have one aboard. Simple suggestions? but well worth knowing... We'll have more safety tips next month.

Heard that the building inspectors were busy one weekend. Don't forget, Mexican law says that tourists are not allowed to work in Mexico, no matter what. A permit must be obtained from the Building Inspector's office in Rocky Point. Also a Mexican workman must be hired to do the job - you may supervise, but that's the extent of your activity. This is important, and the law is being enforced.

Mary Brown caught the sailfish she needed, weighed in at 69 pounds. Great, Mary.

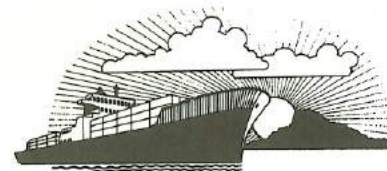
At the present time the radio shack will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday as we do not have a relief operator yet.

At our next meeting in August we will have our 5 contestants for the Black & White Ball. Balloting will be at the Sept. meeting.

Navigation and Compass Reading will be the program at the August meeting... ran out of time in July.

It was good to see all members and welcome back aboard Gary Cubbon, Bill and Stacy Frenier, Lester and Marie Babcock. It's great to have you back again.

Back issues of the Cholla Chatter may be obtained from the Tucson Membership Chairman... at no charge. If you missed one, just call and ask for it.



Cholla Bay Chatter Box

By Mary Fran Taylor

Every summer is different. Guess it would get boring if they all stayed the same. All the planned projects for spare time are still planned. Not one single thing has been accomplished. Too much to do — crabbing, bingo-ing, fishing, reading, and the necessary laundry, meals, and housework. Let anyone say "Let's go" and all is dropped and we are off...

The Fourth is past. A fair crowd. 61 boats out on the Saturday after — good boating weather, but not such good fishing. Then after the weekenders left we had a blow. The water was very roiled up and messy.

We have seen whales go by, turtles, the usual porpoise, and seals. Still a very few birds are seen. Where have they gone? The schools of bait fish and mackerel are very visible from the porch. It is fun to see all the boats congregate around the baitman's boat early in the morning.

Some of the gals are being very industrious. They are exercising every morning. There are quite a few sore muscles. There was some talk about setting up a

nursing home at my house. Harris Waren slipped on the rocks and cracked his tailbone, Cal got a pinched nerve in his back, Doug Cashion had a ruptured ear drum. By lumping all the ailing in one bunch, nursing, errand running, and cussing could have been cut down to a minimum.

Two of the regular dwellers have closed up and gone north for the rest of the summer — the Copes and the Bob Taylors. Jane Hunzinger toured to Tucson for a few days, but is back. Maya leaves the end of this month for a trip to Germany.

The Bill Backers of Tucson are here with assorted family, grandchildren and dogs. The Switzers are down with a teddy bear of a pup — a black Chow — to go with the red Chow, Oso.

Yvonne Gaston always makes the news in some unusual fashion. Remember she fell into a garbage dump? This time they went to Sandy Beach for swimming with all the relatives. Took along a beach umbrella. Somehow a gust of wind caught the umbrella and Yvonne made a grab for it and wound up with her arm stuck up into the spokes. She made like Mary Poppins up over the dune and down the road toward Puerto Penasco before she was rescued.

Susie and Bob Bos have not been much

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TOTUAVA: Endangered Species (PART 1)

BY LUPI SALDANA

Reprinted from the LOS ANGELES TIMES, Friday, March 21, 1975.

SAN FELIPE, Baja Calif. — "The totuava are gone," said the weatherworn old man with a sad ring in his voice as he looked out over the shimmering blue waters of the Gulf of California.

Fortuna Valencia, who has made a living fishing the gulf for most of his 70 years, was lamenting the sad saga of the totuava, a magnificent sport and table fish found only in the northern section of the gulf.

Scientists say today's totuava population is only 5% of what it was at the turn of the century, when it was estimated to be many millions.

The totoaba, as it is called in Spanish, is the world's largest species of croaker, a family that includes white sea bass, corvina, spotfin croaker, queenfish and yellowfin croaker. The silvery-bluish fish weigh up to 300 pounds and grow more than 6 feet long.

For decades, Southern California anglers so prized the fish they crossed hundreds of miles of desert to reach this totuava fishing village at the head of the gulf. But few come for totuava these days.

Man's greed and heedlessness threaten the species' survival. For many years totuava have been over-fished. Still, big commercial boats with sophisticated gear take all they can catch; they fish in closed spawning areas; they use dynamite to kill fish by the schools. And due to dams a drastic reduction in the flow of fresh water into the Colorado River estuary, some 50 miles to the north of here, has shrunk their spawning grounds.

"It will take a miracle to save the totuava," said Valencia, speaking in Spanish.

Dr. John R. Hendrickson, biology professor at the University of Arizona in Tucson, says he believes he knows how to do just that — for \$10,000.

Working with Mexican scientists, Hendrickson studied the possibility of captive rearing and artificial spawning, which if successful could possibly save the fishery. However, his World Wildlife Fund grant was exhausted before the study was completed.

"All attempts to find continuation money failed," says Hendrickson.

Mexico has tried to protect the totuava by closing the spawning area and prohibiting sport and commercial fishing from April 1 to May 15. There is no limit on commercial catches, but sportsmen are limited to one.


However, enforcement of the regulations is minimal because the warden staff is woefully undermanned and underfunded.

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a christmas trip

JUNKYARD OF THE PACIFIC: BAJA'S MALARRIMO BEACH..... by Wayne Pryor

It's probably a shameful thing to admit, but I've been a scavenger since I was about six years old. That's when I learned the mile and a half walk home from school was a lot more interesting if I went by way of the alleys instead of sidewalk to the edge of town.

And by careful skimming of trash cans in McCook, Nebraska, I would arrive home with all sorts of valuables – old Civil War medals, a clock that was in fine shape except for a broken face, and other treasure.

So when I heard of Baja California's Malarrimo Beach, it rang bells all the way back to childhood. Malarrimo, better known as "Scavenger's Beach," is on the Vizcaino Peninsula, facing the Pacific, about halfway down the Baja Peninsula, and some 196 miles off the paved highway – after you travel the 500 miles or so on the paved road to south of Guerrero Negro.

This fabled beach is at the confluence of an assortment of currents that bring in items from as far away as the Black Sea and the Atlantic, not to mention the sweepings of the Pacific from all the way to Alaska. Cases of Scotch, wreckage of ships, bodies in life jackets, even a Navy practice torpedo, have been found washed up on Malarrimo Beach... or so the legends go, liberally illustrated with pictures.

So, with a dozen days off from Lockheed over the Christmas-New Year's holiday, it seemed an ideal time to go prowling this treasure trove. So, Carol and I installed bunks in the back of our 3/4 ton Ford truck and went adventuring.

The first flaw in this glittering jewel of an idea showed up at Maneadero, just south of Ensenada. This is the place the Auto Club booklet and others mentioned that you pick up your tourist permit. The line of campers and recreation vehicles stretched back a quarter of a mile. There were easily 100 people waiting in line for the essential piece of paper.

"Gonna be crowded at Malarrimo," I groused as we waited.

Events later proved this to be a typical Pryor misprediction, but after only a two hour

wait, we finally found ourselves underway again – just as darkness fell with a thud.

All the good advice and soothsayers agree that you should not drive at night in Mexico. But an Old Baja Hand we'd talked to in the line warned that if we didn't get beyond San Vicente and over the mountains, we'd lose several hours in the morning – weather was coming in. So we drove at night. We decided we could make San Quintin, 100 miles south.

The soothsayers tell you right. It is spooky in the dark. Reason: the highway is paved but narrow – only 7.5 meters wide which is barely two-thirds of the normal American highway lane. This puts you hubcap to hubcap with oncoming traffic. Few Mexican automobiles seem to have more than one light operative. Frequently it is only the high beam portion.

We made San Quintin – white knuckled and wet palmed. Then we met a young man whose command of English was not all that it might have been. When we asked him the distance to the turnoff for the Cielito Lindo Motel, he said "Thirteen kilometers." He meant three. We backtracked and found it finally about 9 p.m.

An English colony tried to settle at San Quintin around 1865. Graves of these hardy pioneers still show in a little cemetery on a windswept knoll overlooking the harbor. We even found some by bravely driving a few miles over a sandy dirt road.


"It won't be so bad driving to Malarrimo," I sagely observed to Carol. "Note how well the truck makes it in the dirt."

She agreed. Later we were to recall this conversation with laughter that bordered on hysteria.


For the next 250 miles or so there are a few pockets of poverty, loosely called villages, and miles and miles of howling desert that looks like Arizona, Nevada, or any other wilderness, except for some weird vegetation called "boojum" trees that grow in wildly looping swirls and spires.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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CHOLLA BAY CHATTER BOX

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

in evidence since they bought a cabin. That's the way it goes...

The Cashions had guests from Prescott over the Fourth. The Holmes clan is in residence, the Dinas, the Hemphills, Walt Sheets', Jaskowiaks, the Sandersons — Bill and Ray — all down buttoning up their places before taking off for salmon fishing in Oregon. The C. C. Greys, the Davidsons, the Wes Douglases — Nell had a crowd of us for ice cream and cake the night of the 4th. Knaaks, Tubbs, Cubittos and Ray Greys, the Warwicks and the Rossis Lew Frazier coming and going to see his family. The Eberts and the Vescettis. The Knights and the Ericksons — they finally have the boat back in running condition. Butch Hultz from Ajo bringing his family down and falling in love with Cholla. The Newmans and clan, Melchers, Hubbards — Bruck looks grand — and the Drakes from Tucson. Jonny Kraft and family.

Jack Gill not having the time to fish this year as he did last, but still coming in with the sailfish and dolphin flags flying. He comes to fish, guys, and is gone at the crack of dawn.

The Don Barbers are sporting a new boat — a Chris Craft. It is a beautiful thing. Lots of mahogany and teak. Happy polishing, you two, on the "Dondos IV."

Brownie and Mary were fishing in earnest — Mary had to go back to work for a couple of days — but left the family here.

Tragedy struck us in the Bay when David Gabriel Cubillo was killed in an accident. He was well liked as a launcher and guide. A very personable young man who is missed by those of us who knew him. Clyde Peed Jr. and Bill McBiles and a friend of Gabriel's were injured in the flip-over.

The weather is still not too hot — and light cover needed for sleeping. Won't you join us?!

See y'all ...



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A CHRISTMAS TRIP: MALARRIMO BEACH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Up on a fairly scenic pass, I stopped to take a picture of a forest of boojum trees — and found food. A ramshackle truck was parked across the road, loaded with junk consisting mainly of DC-3 wreckage. The moment we stopped, a villainous looking Mexican jumped out of the truck and hustled toward us, lugging his jeep can and a length of green garden hose.

I'd have reached for my old Navy knife because with his three day growth of beard and tattered garments he looked desperate, but a young boy was with him and he looked friendly.

"A problem, senor?" I asked hesitantly.

"Si, no gasolina. You got gasolina you can spare?"

"Sure do," I said, helpfully taking the lid off my gas tank.

He had his siphon hose in and running before I could lay the lid down. As he listened to the gurgle of my gasoline filling his jeep can, he began to look happier and he said something to the boy in Spanish. I caught only one word: "Langouste."

Lobster? Sure enough. The youngster ran off to the truck and returned with a freshly cooked lobster.

"You know this, senor? Is good to eat. You like? You take please?"

Damned betcha. I just hoped it was fresh, but it doesn't pay to sniff a gift lobster in front of the donor. It was a good pound and a half. Boyoboy do I like lobster! (And it turned out to be delicious.)

With his jeep can filled, the "fuyaquero" (junk truck driver) dumped it into his ancient GMC and said, "How much you want?"

At that time I did not know that gasoline was selling in Mexico for 90 cents per gallon — higher in the hustings — but I'd have given the same answer if I had. I have an archaic attitude that good deeds done to others on the road or elsewhere tend to be like bread cast upon the waters. And where we were going I could use a little luck.

"Por nada (for nothing) y felice navidad (merry Christmas)."

He grinned from ear to ear. The youngster was happy, too. Carol had given him a couple of candy canes. But then more trouble.

The fuyaquero had ground down his battery when he ran out of gas and we had to give him a jumper cable start. But eventually the ancient Jimmy fired up and we all departed with muchas gracias and friendly waves.

He was headed for Tijuana with that top-heavy load. I shuddered and pushed our elderly Ford southward. We made Guerro Negro (Black Warrior) well before dark. You can't miss Guerro Negro because there is a "Monumento Commemorativo" just outside of town. This is a huge modernistic Mexican eagle with wings stretched up vertically. They show up like a pair of fingers sticking out of the road a good 20 miles away.

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It's the same story with research. Mexican scientists, rated "very good" by American colleagues, are few and their funds extremely limited. Scientists have recommended an annual quota on totuava and a longer closed season, but no action has been taken by the government.

The decline of the totuava started in Guaymas, 300 miles south of here, where commercial fishermen in primitive dugout canoes caught the giant croaker not for its meat, but for its air bladder, also called "buche" and "sound."

Chinese in Guaymas created a fishing boom when they discovered that the totuava's "buche" was similar to that of fish in the Orient and merchants in China would buy all they could get at a fancy price. The "buche" is used to make a soup called seen kow.

Fishermen would bring in catches of the huge fish, carefully remove and dry the "buche" for shipping, and discard the rest.

Soon the totuava became scarce and the fishermen had to look for new areas. A half-dozen former German seamen discovered that at the mouth of the Colorado totuava gathered by the millions to spawn in the brackish water. They set up a camp called San Felipe, fished from October through February, then returned to Guaymas with their canoes loaded with bales of "buche."

Valencia and three companions paddled a 25-foot canoe from Guaymas into the small bay here to join the piscatorial Gold Rush in October, 1924. The permanent population then consisted of three families — Jose Villa, Arturo Lopez and Ismael Felez — living in thatch-roofed huts.

Valencia said fishing was so good they would fill their canoes twice a day within one to two miles of shore. Their fish averaged 120 to 130 pounds. Now the average is seventy pounds.

It was also in 1924 that two Americans, who trucked melons, cotton and hay in the Imperial Valley, heard about the tremendous waste of meat at the camp and decided to cash in on it.

They loaded their trucks with barrels of water and gasoline and headed across the roadless desert, floundering through the mud plains of the Colorado, crossing salt flats, climbing hills and weaving through sand dunes before reaching the tiny village.

Valencia, who moved his family here in 1926, said the truckers first gave the fishermen gifts, clothing and food, for the totuava fish. Then they paid 10 cents per fish. In their first winter the truckers made a bundle, crossing the border with 170,000 pounds of "white sea bass."

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT MONTH

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Main Highway to Cholla Bay

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cleansing 66 degree sponge bath aboard.

On the 60 miles crossing to Puerto Refugio on the northern end of Isla Angel de la Guarda we saw sea lions, porpoises, fin back whales, petrels, tropical birds, gulls, and so on. The biggest moment of suspense was when we saw two large killer whales, side by side, approach the boat with speed. They surfaced like porpoises but rode high out of the water as if to better satisfy their curiosity. The big fellows rode just beneath the surface and dove under the dinghy. As they surfaced again we saw the dirty white oval patches on their sides.

Puerto Refugio was a heaven. We "lived off the water." Our anchorage inside Isla Mejia kept us beyond the reach of rollers and waves. The swirling tidal waters swung us nearer to shore on three sides, and how the gusts roared before reaching us!

Ashore we saw a black chuckmoll and many nestlings of different species. We were amazed by the presence of a shrimp boat out of San Felipe which was converted for sightseeing tourists. We were also amazed by the arrival of two rubber rafts from Bahia de Los Angeles. They came up the shore-following waters with the tide and with an outboard motor in one and three quarters hours. They stayed for about four hours and then went back with the returning tide. To these tourists we were curiosities.

On the 5th day in Refugio we sailed for home at 2 p.m. The huge rollers were cresting. We were overcome by the beauty of the bioluminescence in the crests and in the wake of the boat. Lifting our eyes upward we saw a heaven-ful of stars. We positioned the boat in relation to the North Star, and sailed for Lobos and Cholla...



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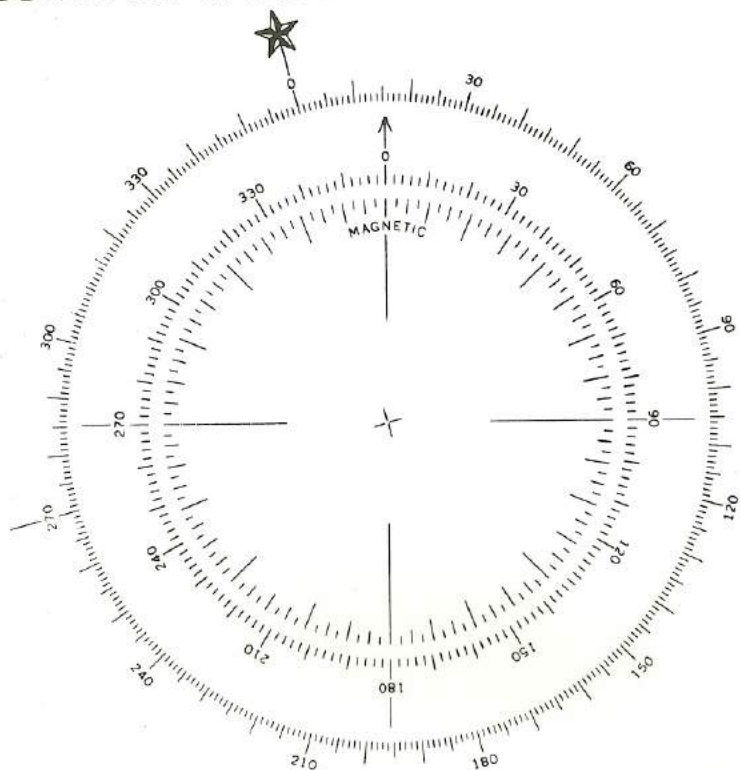
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COMPASS VARIATION OFF CHOLLA BAY



NAUTICAL charts are drawn with true geographic directions. North on the chart is based upon the geographic north pole which is at the approximate center of the Arctic Ocean. The compass which we use to find directions, however, points to the magnetic north pole, located in Baffin Island, Canada.

Furthermore the compass is attracted or repelled by the magnetism of the iron and steel in the boat. The first type of compass error is called variation and the second deviation. The summation of the two is called compass error. The compass reading must be corrected for this in order to find true north or steer a true course.

VARIATION: The difference in degrees between true (geographic) and magnetic north at a given place. This may be either east or west and usually fluctuates from year to year and place to place. Information concerning these annual changes is marked on charts in the center of the compass rose. The U.S. Navy Oceanographic chart number 620 shows the variation in the northern Gulf of California to have been 13 degrees 45' in 1963 with an annual decrease of 1'. Thus the actual variation in 1967 is 13 degrees 41' E. For most purposes, however, it's satisfactory to use 15 degrees E as variation off Cholla Bay.

DEVIATION: This is the angle a boat's compass needle makes with magnetic north. It is caused by magnetism in the boat's hull, equipment, etc. The amount of deviation can be corrected by means of adjusting magnets located on or near the compass housing. A deviation card or table should be prepared to indicate compensation for uncorrected deviation while steering a course.



The Boston Baked Bean has long been famous – and with good reason – but that little brown pea bean is indigenous to all of New England, and really reached a state of perfection when my mother baked a pot of them.

She used to soak the beans overnight, put them into a huge and heavy brown pottery beanpot with a thinly sliced onion, a large chunk of salt pork and seasonings. Then she would bake them all day at low heat in the rickety oven of her kerosene stove. Heavenly.

But there's an easier way to arrive at the same end result in this age of hurry – and hardly anyone can tell the difference.

No picnic or potluck supper should be without

CONNECTICUT BAKED BEANS

Start with a can of B & M Brick Oven Baked Beans (or other "Boston" style brand, but DO NOT use Campbell's). The next part is tricky, for never once have we ever measured the ingredients – and, anyway, there are so many sizes of cans... So, just guess at the quantities according to your own taste.

Into a casserole put the beans, some finely chopped raw onion, a dab of mustard, a slosh of bottled chili sauce, and molasses (probably about 1/3 to 1/2 cup).

Stir until seasonings are hidden among the beans, but avoid mashing either the beans or the salt pork – which is the best part of all and never enough of it. We like

to make a one-dish meal by adding several baby franks and baby smokey franks – but do roll them around til they're coated with the sauce.

Bake at 375 degrees for 1/2 to 3/4 of an hour, until franks or top of beans are browned.

Spoon out generously, top with a pat of butter, and serve with a salad. There's one salad dressing that seems to go better than any other:

CONNECTICUT SALAD DRESSING

On top of cut up lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, green pepper and onions pour 1/2 c. salad oil, 1/2 c. vinegar, 1 heaping tsp. sugar, salt and pepper to taste, and 2 or 3 heaping Tbsp. of Miracle Whip Salad Dressing. Stir all together. Serve. Enjoy.



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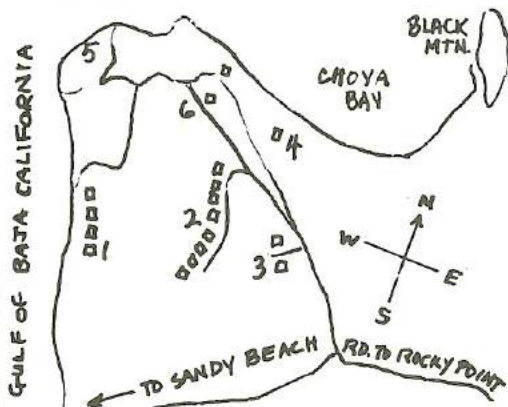
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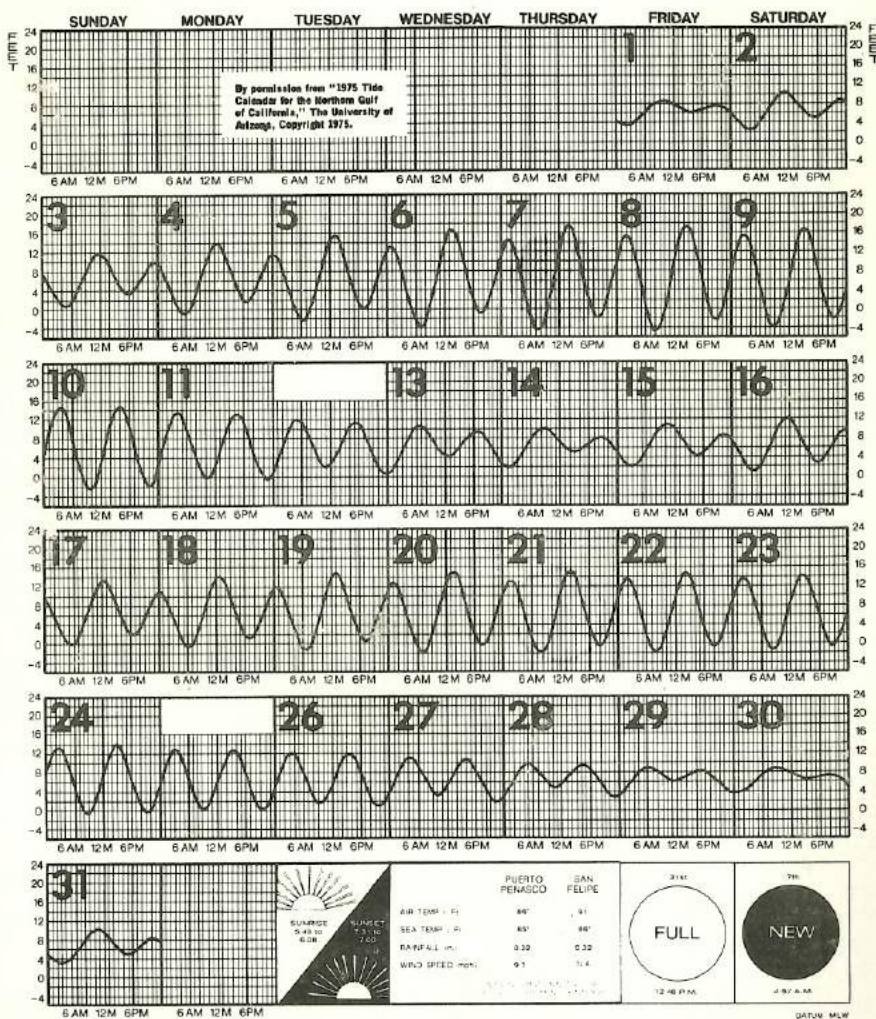
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SEA TEMP (F)	85°	86°
RAIN FALL (in)	0.00	0.00
WIND SPEED (mph)	9.1	10.4

