



Bert Schievink As A Young Man

Horsemen Group Will Hold Clinic

The ETI (Equestrian Trails Inc) Corral 60 are planning to hold a clinic at their arena in Santa Ynez, just off hiway 246, on Saturday, October 5 from 10 to 4.

Subject of the clinic will be conditioning the athletic horse for trail, endurance and competitive riding.

Demonstrations and lectures will be held concerning the general anatomy, nutrition, conditioning of the horse (and rider), importance of pulse and respiration and recovery of the horse, trail manners, rules of the trail, proper tack, shoeing, problems and vices of horses.

active as an endurance race competitor and has competed in the famous Tevis Cup Race several times.

Horses will be demonstrated to show conditioned vs. unconditioned animals; equipment will be displayed to show the importance of riding proper fitting gear.

Everyone interested in riding, whether it be for competition or pleasure will find this clinic an informative and helpful day. Lunch will be served on the grounds.

Hospital

Goodbye To

By DORIS OLSEN
South San Luis Obispo
County Editor

When he first hiked into the Oceano sand dunes in 1940, Bert Schievink was 36 years old, a tall robust appearing emigrant from the Frisian Islands who sought solitude.

The last time Bert's feet trod the sand he was en route to a hospital, aged 70 and dying of cancer. He'd lived happily in the sand dunes for 34 years and left in sadness.

On Saturday, Sept. 21, friends returned with Bert's ashes to mingle them with the sand. He became a part of the place he'd loved. In his words, Bert's soul is "with the Great Spirit in the sky."

The self-styled "hermit of the dunes" died on Aug. 21. His passing marks the end of an era. Bert arrived in Oceano while a colony of "free spirits" inhabited the sandy terrain in joyous abandon and died long after they were gone. The sands and wind have erased evidence of their presence.

"Dunites" were squatters who choose to live free near the ocean in preference to a more competitive life elsewhere. They migrated to the beach during depression times, existing in shelters built of driftwood, salvaged lumber or whatever flotsam came to hand. They thrived on food from the sea or nearby farmlands, living on a catch-as-catch-can basis. An odd assortment of characters who either squabbled or lived in a degree of harmony, they set their own rules of conduct and ignored jibes of "outsiders."

Kingsbury Is Best Speaker

Three major events are featured on the Allan Hancock College Arts and Lectures bill for the 1974-75 season.

Bert arrived as the day of the dune squatter waned. He was among (but not of) remnants of a loosely-knit cult of mystics, poets, artists, the down-on-their-luck or outcasts who tarried there. Dunites came from varied places for varied reasons, arriving without fanfare and departing the same way. Often a squatter drifted mysteriously away without explanation or farewell.

In previous walks of life some dune dwellers were men of education, prestige and wealth. Others were simple derelicts. A few achieved a measure of fame or fortune after they left the Oceano fringe area but most faded into oblivion.

There were approximately 20 shanties or tent dwellings stuck in covers and thickets in the sand near the Pacific ocean when Bert arrived. He walked the dunes before selecting a site to build a shack. The spot he selected was in a pocket of duneland on the inland side of the huge mounds, near a creek and surrounded by willows which grew thick to shelter him from the curious. A two-room cabin was erected, constructed of odds and ends, lighted by kerosene and heated with oil or wood. It was snug, tidy and sufficient for his needs.

Bert was self-educated, a complex man, who was a student of philosophy, an admirer of the classics and an astrologer who charted his life by the stars and responded to "vibrations" from people or places. He was a warm-mannered, outgoing, witty individual, not at all the usual concept

Bob Reyn Slated Fo

The San Luis Obispo Art Association will sponsor two distinctive one-man shows at the Art Center beginning October 6 and continuing through November 10.

489-3738 Home
925-2691

'Hermit Of The Dunes'

of a hermit. He quoted astrologist-writer Dane Rudyar, saying "the most holy vibrations on earth are found 18 miles south of San Luis Obispo." This may be why Bert migrated to that one particular area.

Whatever his reasons, Schievink soon was alone in the dunes. He lined his shanty with books and contented himself in isolation. At all hours, in all kinds of weather, Bert walked the dunes, savoring the vastness, enjoying the wildflowers, shrubs and other plant life and becoming acquainted with creatures who live there.

To earn a living, Schievink became caretaker for summer cottage owners, and established ties that lasted his lifetime. A relative of his first employer, Angus D. Dikes II of Bakersfield, is executor of Bert's estate and led the trek to scatter his ashes.

Harold Guiton of Oceano was a youth when he met Bert. They became good friends and Harold was entrusted with errands. He accompanied Bert to the hospital and guards his cabin still.

Hikers stumbled upon Schievink's hidden clearing and were hospitably received. Kathleen Jackson Jones became a friend and led others to the cabin. Children sought him out to learn of a primitive mode of life and others came for varied reasons.

Bert dug two shallow wells near his cabin and cultivated a vegetable garden, partially to feed rabbits and raccoons who accepted him as a

friend. Birds fluttered fearlessly around the clearing and one became so tame it ate from Bert's hands or lips. He called that one "Hugo" in honor of an ex-dunite.

Still, Bert was often lonely and during his weekly trips to town for supplies and mail, he chatted with nearly anyone he met.

His homeland, those bleak islands in the North Sea off the Netherlands, faded from his thoughts along with memories of a period when he roamed the world. He'd arrived at New York's Ellis Island in 1925 but it was not until 1953 that he became a United States citizen, changing his first name from Bouke to Bert.

The parcel where Bert's shack is situated came into state ownership in recent years and he was uneasy about eviction until park rangers became his fast friends.

Among 19 mourners at Bert's cabin for the silent ceremony were Guiton, Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Jones and Rangers Roger Kellogg and Robert Basura.

Birds still twitter in the dune thickets and sunlight gleams on white sand, but Bert's cabin is still and forlorn. It may be moved from the clearing.

Chumash Indians lived on the site ages before Bert came, and in times to come others will know it well. Vehicleists, campers and hikers now share the white wind-sculptured wilderness with conservationists and new plans are being formulated for dune use. As a philosopher, Bert would probably say "this too will pass."



Schievink In Later Years

'Two Bit Talks' Set On Natural History

Comprehensive, basic information everyone has always wanted to know concerning the local unique spot on Earth, will be the topic of a series of weekly, evening talks presented by staff and friends of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

The talks will be on plant and animal life, prehistory and geology of the region in and around Santa Barbara County.

Opening the series on Wednesday, Oct. 2, will be a brief introduction to and history of the Museum of Natural History followed by a lecture on the biology of birds of the Santa Barbara area entitled "Big Brown Birds, Little Brown Birds, and Owls." This lecture is to be given by Dr. Dennis Power, director of the Museum, and will be

Equal Rights

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Without debate or fanfare, the House Judiciary Committee Wednesday approved a bill that would allow girls to play Little

illustrated with slides and a film.

Talks are to be organized by topic, the second and third lectures dealing with mammals. On Wednesday, October 9, "Mammals: Land Lubbers" will be the talk by David Cosby, Curator of Education. The following week, on Thursday, October 17, "Mammals: Sea Farers" will be given by Dr. C. Douglas Woodhouse, Jr., Research Associate. On Thursday, October 24, informal sessions in the mammal and bird exhibit halls will be headed by Waldo Abbott and Janet Hamber, curator and assistant curator, respectively, of vertebrate zoology.

All programs take place from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Museum's Fleischmann Auditorium. Admission is free to members and a 25 cents donation per lecture is requested for non-members. Additional information and printed schedules may be obtained from the Museum office.

olds, Shelby Stover S L.O. Gallery

His colored photographs of nature, with its misty meadows, sunlight ablaze, and shimmering shadows are used by greeting card and Commemorative Medallion which was minted in Mexico City and released in silver and bronze editions. During that period the Pacific