

## THE BRODIE CLUB

DATE OF NEXT MEETING : Tuesday 15 September 1987.

PLACE OF NEXT MEETING : Faunal Lab, South Borden  
Building.

SPEAKER : Dr. Arthur Gryfe, Director of Laboratory  
Medicine, Queensway General Hospital.

SUBJECT : Northern Chile : Geography and Peoples  
Past and Present.

### MINUTES OF THE 832nd MEETING OF THE BRODIE CLUB

Held Tuesday 19 May 1987 in the Faunal Lab, South Borden Building.

Ankenman was Chairman. Savage acted as Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 8.10 p.m.. The roll was called and guests noted. Present were 7 members and 2 guests Ann and Kathryn Falls, guests of Bruce Falls. Aird, Bendell, Churcher, Reading and Ritchie sent regrets.

The minutes of the 831st meeting of the Brodie Club were read and declared adopted by the Chairman.

### Announcements

Carrick announced the screen release of "Harry and the Hendersons" at the Cineplex Theatre in Canada Square at Yonge and Eglinton, Toronto, as a movie version of the Susquatch, on 20 May '87. Several members availed themselves of the free tickets offered.

Falls reminded members of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists annual meeting at Port Dover on 29 - 31 May 1987.

Speakman extended his invitation to the Brodie Club to hold its field outing at his cottage at Cedarhurst Beach near Beaverton on Saturday 6 June '87, and distributed a map for directions.

### Speaker of the Evening

The Speaker of the Evening, Jim Lovesek, of the Toronto Nature Centre, was introduced by Carrick, as a graduate of the University of Calgary and an entrepreneurial naturalist, active in Nature education in schools and in setting up displays at the Ontario Science Centre and the Sportsmen's Show. Jim had chosen as his subject "Mermaids and Man-Eaters".

## Minutes of the 832nd Meeting of the Brodie Club (Cont'd)

During three years in the Amazon basin in the seventies, Jim had studied the freshwater Amazon manatees in the 1976 and 1977. Their underwater feeding, behaviour, growth rates and vocalization were studied. They eat about 60 lbs. daily in Florida. A calf weighing two to three kilograms is born every two to three years, and is protected by its parents whenever possible. Their numbers have been reduced by hunting for export of their meat to Europe, and by boat and ship propellers since they sleep on the surface of the water.

Several species of caymans of the Alligator family range through Brazil, Venezuela and Bolivia, weigh up to 60 kilograms and are hunted for their hides. Other species living the same areas include Morelet's crocodile, freshwater sting-rays, large catfishes, poison frogs, fer de lance, anacondas, side-necked turtles, giant river turtles, etc. were described and illustrated by photographs. The changing ecology of the Amazon basin due to timbering and mining were also described and pictured.

After a lengthy Question and Answer period, several members expressed their appreciation of the Speaker's presentation.

### Members' Notes and Observations

Speakman reported that the pileated woodpeckers had largely forsaken the vicinity of his cottage, the female not having been seen for two to three weeks. Wilson's phalaropes had been seen in the Beaverton sewage lagoon.

Bertin had seen large salmon from Lake Ontario in a poor state of health and covered with fungus growth.

Bodsworth had seen a white-winged scoter on 23 April '87 at Long Point, a blue-winged teal on 7 May '87 at Beaverton, as well as greater and lesser yellowlegs.

Ankenman had observed the substance used in the Rouge River to kill lamprey eels had also killed suckers.

Carrick reported one of his pairs of swans was not yet nesting, while the female of another pair had six eggs yesterday. This spring one of his swans had been ill, had been given calcium therapy and had recovered quickly and completely.

Meeting adjourned at 10.10 p.m.

