

A Volunteer



By Bill Young

ERIKA ZETTL, TEACHER TURNED RESCUER
She saved five from the oil

First Aid for Birds

All-Out Effort On Marin Beach

By Ruth Miller

"I just couldn't go to school. I was really worried about it," said 14-year-old Vicky Kling at the College of Marin's Bolinas Marine Station, which was devoted exclusively to first aid for oil-covered birds yesterday.

Vicky's feelings typified those of persons from all parts of Marin and San Francisco who had converged on the tiny seacoast town in what may have been a vain effort to rescue wildlife.

"If we can save 25 to 30 per cent of the birds brought in, we'll be lucky," said veterinarian Morton Lindner at the marine lab. Other professionals estimated that 90 per cent of those brought in will die, and many of the birds being shuttled in cardboard boxes were already dead.

Anne McConds of Lagunitas shuffled forlornly down the beach at Bolinas in almost as deep a shock as the sick birds. The box she carried held oil-soaked bodies. "Three," she said in a dull voice, "three birds, all dead."

"There was a huge group of birds down here early this morning," said Nick Dunlop, who had permission to leave his classes at Terra Linda High School. "Now there are so many people here that the birds are scared to come in. Of course, everybody wants to help."

Fred Lund of Strecker Reproductions and Supply Co. of San Francisco got the day off so he could help in the rescue efforts. He wandered along Bolinas Beach, trying to dodge the huge patches of black tar-like oil that clung to the shoes and sneakers of all the rescuers.

Mothers holding babies in their arms were watching the rescue attempts, which took two forms: One group waited until the birds got to shore (the plan advised on mimeographed instructions posted on poles throughout Bolinas), while the other waded out into the water in an effort to herd the oil-soaked birds to shore.

Back at the marine lab, volunteers were carefully bandaging the heads of the birds ("that keeps their eyes shut and they're not supposed to panic as much"), cleaning oil from their bills ("to keep it out of their digestive systems") with cotton swabs and wrapping the birds with rags.

"The main thing is to keep them warm — they're in shock," said Craig Hansen, head of the lab, who was directing that end of the rescue operations.

From that first aid station, birds were taken to the Louise Boyd Science Mu-

Oil Damage Claim Service

The Standard Oil Co. of California announced yesterday that seven persons have been assigned to take calls from citizens who wish to enter claims for property damage arising from Monday's oil spill.

The number is (415) 894-3027.

seum in San Rafael or to the Audubon Society's sanctuary on Richardson Bay.

"No more birds to go to the Boyd Museum," some one called out. "All they have is borax and they're saturated with birds. Send them to the sanctuary from now on."

One of the problems seemed to be that none of the treatment centers could agree on the proper measures to take, but still the birds kept coming in to confront the harassed volunteers. "And the polycomplex A-11 (used for cleaning the birds) won't be available any where until tomorrow."

Although the smaller children had been kept in Marin schools, Erika Zettl who teaches seventh and eighth grades in the Bolinas School, had been on the beach since 9 a.m. with her students.

"We're an ecology-minded school," she said, "and when we heard about it, we wanted to help." The school superintendent gave permission for a group of teachers to go to the aid of the birds.

"I rescued five birds," said Mrs. Zettl, oil dripping from her hands and clothes. "And one of the boys saved 14."

Youths with their long hair held back by headbands were mingling with middle-aged women in levi's, sweatshirts and tennis shoes, any former antagonisms at least temporarily forgotten in their mutual concern to save the birds.

New Acquittal In Bribe Case

San Diego

Former state assemblyman Tom Horn, 42, was acquitted last night of bribery-conspiracy charges in connection with a fare increase granted Yellow Cab Co. in 1967.

Horn, a City Council member when the increase was voted, was indicted last October by a county grand jury along with other public officials.

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