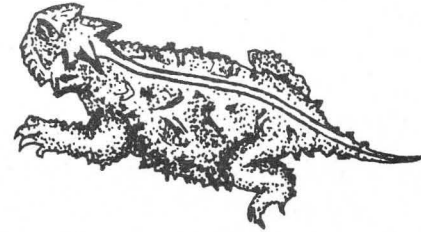


KANSAS
HERPETOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER



Number 16

December 1976

KHS JANUARY MEETING IN EMPORIA

The first 1977 meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society will be held on 22 January (Saturday) in Room 72 of the Science Hall at Emporia Kansas State College in Emporia, Kansas. The program will be:

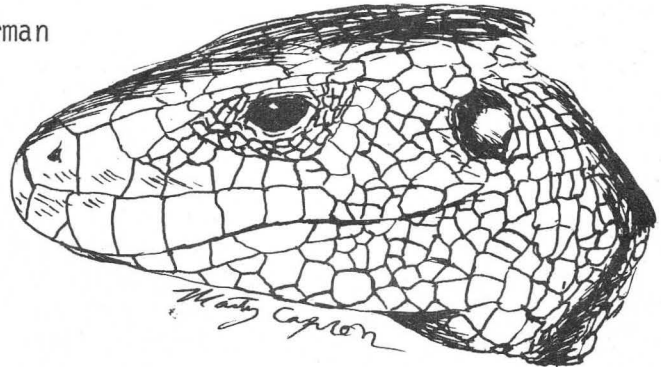
Dr. R. F. Clarke, KHS President and Professor of Biology
Topic: Islands of the Sea of Cortez 1:45PM

Kelly Irwin, KU Student
Topic: Aquatic herp collecting along Arkansas Rivers 3:00PM

The meeting will start promptly at 1:30PM. All KHS members are urged to attend and bring interested friends and colleagues. KHS Secretary-Treasurer Marjorie Perry will be happy to accept 1977 KHS dues from those not yet paid up.

The KHS Executive Council will meet President Clarke in Room 72 of the Science Hall at noon for a luncheon executive meeting to be held wherever Clarke decides to lead them.

---MARY E. DAWSON, KHS Program Chairman



KHS THIRD ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN LAWRENCE

The third annual meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society was held at the Museum of Natural History on the University of Kansas campus, Lawrence on November 13. Forty members attended to hear Terry Schwaner speak on The herpetofauna of American Samoa followed by The herpetofauna of Australia presented by Harvey Lillywhite. Both talks were immensely interesting and provided the members present with valuable knowledge about herps from other parts of the world that we as Kansans don't often come in contact with.

A business meeting was held after the two presentations. The proposed constitutional amendment was affirmatively voted in. Larry Miller was elected as the President-elect with Marjorie Perry assuming the position of Secretary-Treasurer for the upcoming year. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00PM and appears to have been a great success.

KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS FOR 1977

At the third annual meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society held in Lawrence on November 13, the following two individuals were elected to KHS office for the 1977 year:

President-elect: Larry Miller

Secretary-Treasurer: Marjorie Perry

The KHS nominating committee, executive council, and all KHS members wish to express their most sincere thanks to retiring officers Delfi Messinger, George Pisani, and Terry Schwaner for the excellent job they have done as Treasurer, Past-president, and Secretary, respectively. Jan Caldwell, 1976 KHS President, has directed KHS very admirably through its third year and deserves many thanks also. Jan automatically becomes KHS Past-president for 1977 and will continue to serve on the KHS executive council.

The following five persons are the KHS officers for 1977, and comprise the KHS executive council:

PRESIDENT: Robert F. Clarke (316-343-1200)
Department of Biology
Emporia Kansas State College
Emporia 66801

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Larry Miller (316-845-2414)
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Caldwell 67022

PAST-PRESIDENT: Jan Caldwell (913-864-4493)
State Biological Survey
2045 Avenue -A-
Campus West
Lawrence 66045

SECRETARY-TREASURER: Marjorie Perry (913-843-8270)
812 Murrow Court
Lawrence 66044

EDITOR: Janice Perry
Museum of Natural History
University of Kansas
Lawrence 66045



KHS CONSTITUTION AMENDED

At the KHS meeting on 13 November in Lawrence, the assembled members voted to combine the elected offices of Secretary and Treasurer into the elected office of Secretary-Treasurer by the following amendments:

Article II, Section 4c and 4d shall be combined to read: The Secretary-Treasurer shall maintain the records of the Society and its officers, shall notify the membership of pertinent business, shall be responsible for all general correspondence of the Society, shall keep records and accounts of the Society including all monies received and disbursed, shall collect the annual dues and maintain the membership roster, and shall be responsible for all financial reports required by the business of the Society. The Secretary-Treasurer shall make a financial report to the membership at the general meeting. An outside audit shall be conducted immediately prior to the elected Secretary-treasurer's acceptance of the Society's financial records by a three member committee appointed by the KHS President.

Article III, Section 1 shall read: The Executive Council of the Society shall consist of the President, President-elect, Secretary-Treasurer, immediate Past-president, and Editor of the Society Newsletter.

Article IV, Section 6 shall read: The Secretary-Treasurer shall inform the elected candidates of their election. Newly elected persons will take office at the beginning of the next calendar year following the date of the general meeting election.

Article II, Article III, Article VII, and Article IX (except for the above sections) should be altered as follows: the word Secretary should be changed to Secretary-Treasurer, and the word treasurer eliminated.

ISABELLE CONANT, 1901-1976

Isabelle dePeyster Hunt Conant died on November 3, 1976, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, after a long illness. She was born on May 17, 1901, in Staten Island, New York, and in 1936 became business manager and publicity director for the Staten Island Zoo. In 1942 she became staff photographer of the Philadelphia Zoo, a position she held until 1953.

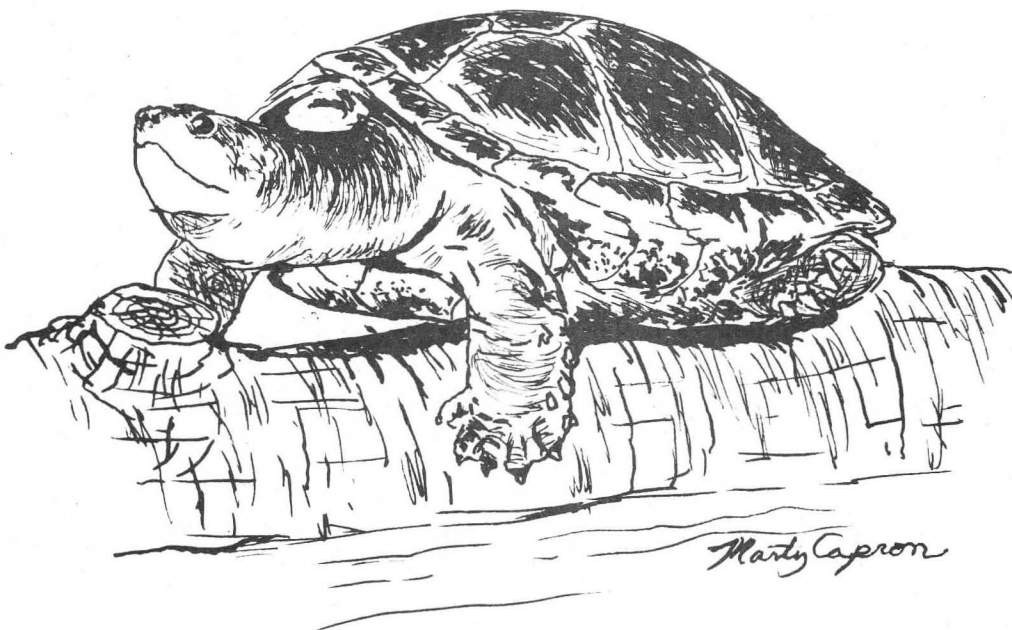
Her greatest herpetological contribution was the art work for her husband's Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America, the second edition of which contained more than 1000 illustrations.

She is survived by her husband, Roger Conant, adjunct professor of the University of New Mexico. Gifts may be sent to the American Cancer Society.

A RECORD SIZE BULLFROG

At the Sedgwick County Zoo we get a large number of calls from people who want to donate local animals they have caught or somehow acquired. The bullfrog is a popular animal for donation. Understandably, the herpetarium staff was a little aggravated when the staff zoologist informed us someone was heading for the herpetarium with a bullfrog and we were to accept it. Another bullfrog? What for? Actually, our thoughts were a bit more graphic. However, when we saw the animal we had to reconsider. One glance into the container revealed several frogs. Quickly noticing all those frogs had only one pair of eyes we realized that this was not your regular frog. Mr. Richard Khowe, Jr. who brought the animal from Salina to the zoo measured it earlier and informed us it measured a little over 16 inches from nose to toe. We quickly verified this. The specimen is a female Rana catesbeiana with a snout-vent length of 17.6 centimeters. The record for the species is 20.3 cm as acknowledged by Roger Conant and the state record was 16 cm reported by Joseph T. Collins. It was collected at pond #1 on Salina Rod and Gun Club's land.

---DAVID GROW



Salamander wins love, protection

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP) — "Santa Cruz Sally" is shy, a heavy eater, a little slow afoot and has long toes — but this coastal county loves her.

Sally, as environmentalists have come to call her, is the endangered Santa Cruz long-toed salamander. The Board of Supervisors is seeking to protect her by creating an "SP" — salamander protection — district around the only two spots on earth she calls home.

They are a few miles apart in Santa Cruz County, at Endicott Pond near Watsonville and Valencia Lagoon, south of here off Highway 1.

The supervisors voted to adopt the "SP" district on Aug. 10, and they are to meet Tuesday to give it final approval.

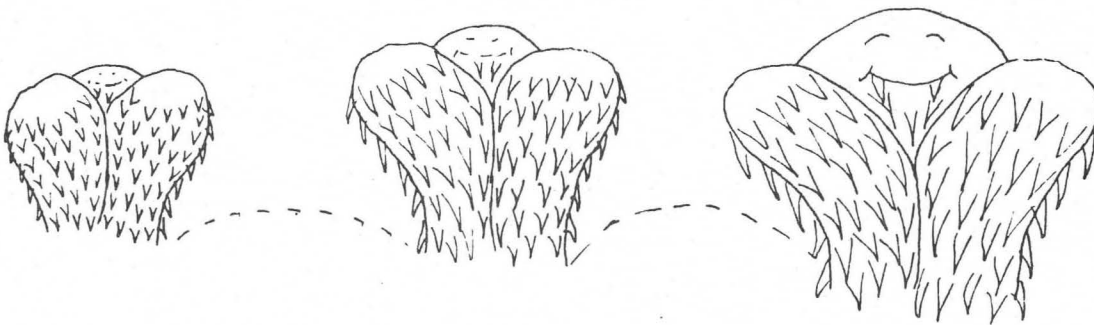
The zoning law change aimed at saving the last 10,000 of the lizard-like creatures hardly endeared "Sally" to contractors.

In the salamander protection districts, all new curbs and gutters must be rounded, building sites must be passable for wriggling amphibians, grading of Sally's marshy home must be minimized, and continuous retaining walls longer than 100 feet must have gently sloped salamander ramps.

THE KHS TRIPLE -H- AWARD FOR 1976

It has long been the habit of the fashion market to relish the use of various animals in their attempts to be unique and appealing (sometimes appalling!?) to an unsuspecting, gullible public. Many unfortunate animals (reptiles, as well as birds and mammals) become the victims of this urge to be chic. A prime example is the American alligator and its other close crocodylian relatives, which are destroyed for the only usable leather on their bodies--the belly hide; the rest of the reptile's hide is not used. Shoes, handbags, belts and other leather products are made from alligator hide. And if that isn't enough reptilian leather for the hungry consumer, large snakes are also available and frequently used. A modern singer/songwriter once wore a python-skin suit during a public concert tour. He is noted for his unusual taste in clothing. People will commonly kill rattlesnakes for the sake of adorning their hats with the "real thing"-- a "man-killing rattlesnake" (of course) to win friends and influence enemies. Another innocent animal commonly exploited by humans is the hawksbill turtle---in the form of jewelry. This turtle's shell is so beautiful that the reptile is put to death so women may adorn their hair with combs and men can indulge in an expensive taste for cuff links. Fortunately, since these turtles are endangered animals, it is illegal to bring them into the United States, thereby deadening the thirst for hawksbill tortoise jewelry in this county. Unfortunately, they're still killed overseas for their ornamental value.

With this information in mind, it is with great pride that the KHS editors thrustingly award the HOPPING HEMIPENIS OF HORROR for 1976 to all you funky people out there who receive exhilarating fulfillment from exhibiting on your bodies the skins of any of our scaley-skinned friends. Cheers to all you egotistical beings who's only concern is with appearances rather than the biotic world that encompasses you-- here's hoping the turtle of paradise flies slowly up your noses!!



CARTOONIST NEEDED

George Pisani has been appointed to the delightful task of preparing a satirical issue of HERP REVIEW for the upcoming SSAR (Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles) meetings in August. He has some good perverted ideas, but needs a cartoonist to execute them (Marty Capron take note). Anyone wishing to help in this exercise in perversion please write George Pisani at Biology Department, Snow Hall, University

of Kansas, Lawrence 66045. If you have any ideas you think would be acceptable, please tell George about these, too.

HERPERS MADNESS IN WEST TEXAS

We departed from the Fort Worth Zoological Park at noon on 14 October 1976 for what we hoped would be the last Great Weekend in the famous Trans-Pecos region of west Texas, sure to net us the elusive "Blair's kingsnake", a color phase of Lampropeltis mexicana alterna (formerly known as L. blairi and then as L. mexicana blairi). Cool, wet weather eliminated our chances for this prize catch of the area, but we did see a number of species about.

Working the highway between Del Rio and Langtry (and assorted sideroads) that evening, we saw first an AOR Crotalus atrox (Western Diamondback Rattlesnake) then, our only catch of the long night, a Trans-Pecos copperhead, Agkistrodon contortrix pictigaster which we needed at the zoo. All along the highway were Leopard frogs of the Rana pipiens complex, Bufo valliceps (Gulf coast toad), and Scaphiopus couchi (Couch's spadefoot toad). Encouraged by liberal quantities of liquid refreshment, we drove on and saw a DOR Pituophis melanoleucus sayi (Bullsnake), a DOR Masticophis sp. (Whip snake) being eaten by a opossum, and a DOR Crotalus atrox. We finally gave up for the night and pulled in at the famous Pecos River Overlook to pass the night amid the raucous revelry of numerous Terlingua Chili Cookoff Freaks.

Heading out the following morning, we found a DOR Baird's rat snake (Elaphe obsoleta bairdi). Drying our eyes, we moved on to Seminole Canyon where we found Coleonyx brevis (Texas banded gecko), Thamnophis proximus diabolicus (Arid land ribbon snake), Thamnophis c. cyrtopsis (Western blacknecked gartersnake), Holbrookia t. texana (Texas earless lizard), and Sceloporus poinsetti (Crevice spiny lizard), but no Crotalus l. lepidus (Mottled rock rattlesnake), which is what we had really wanted there in the first place.

Back at Langtry, we consumed onionburgers, saw the fabled Jersey Lilly Saloon, nome of Judge Roy Bean and the Law West of the Pecos, and replenished our dangerously low supply of liquid Herper's Helper. Thus prepared, we assaulted the area known to all fans of Kauffeld as Blair's Hill. Vigorous rock-flipping revealed only one Crotalus atrox and a small Phrynosoma modestum. All horned lizards are protected under Texas law, so this rarity was photographed and released. We also acquired several species of cactus for use as cage props in the Herpetarium.

After treating ourselves to a nice dinner in Del Rio, and our first cup of coffee in 30 agonizing hours, we cruised the road to Pandale after dark, finding an AOR Crotalus atrox, a DOR Masticophis sp. with an equally DOR Rana pipiens it had been attempting to eat, and numerous Scaphiopus couchi. As the temperature dropped to the low 50's, we headed back to the Pecos River Overlook, and returned to the big city the next day.

--JOHN E. SIMMONS and BERN TRYON, Fort Worth Zoological Park

CURRENT LITERATURE

This current literature section has been compiled by Mary E. Dawson and Joseph T. Collins, and contains articles and books on amphibians and reptiles of possible interest to KHS members.

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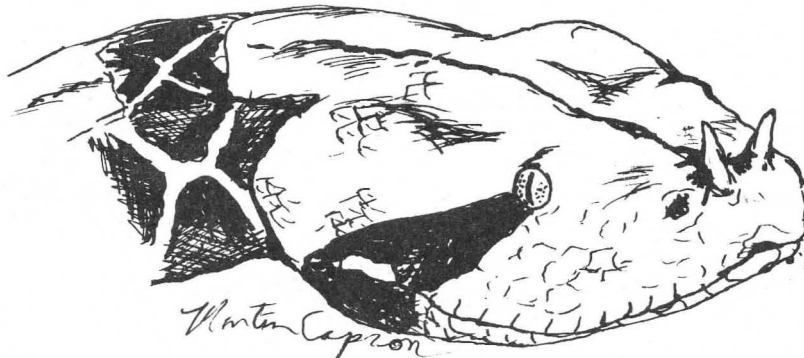
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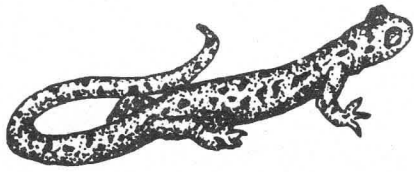
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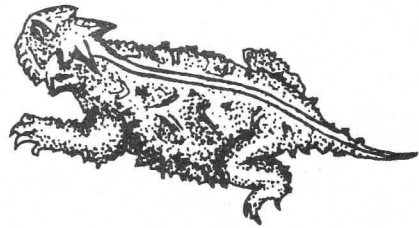
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**KANSAS
HERPETOLOGICAL
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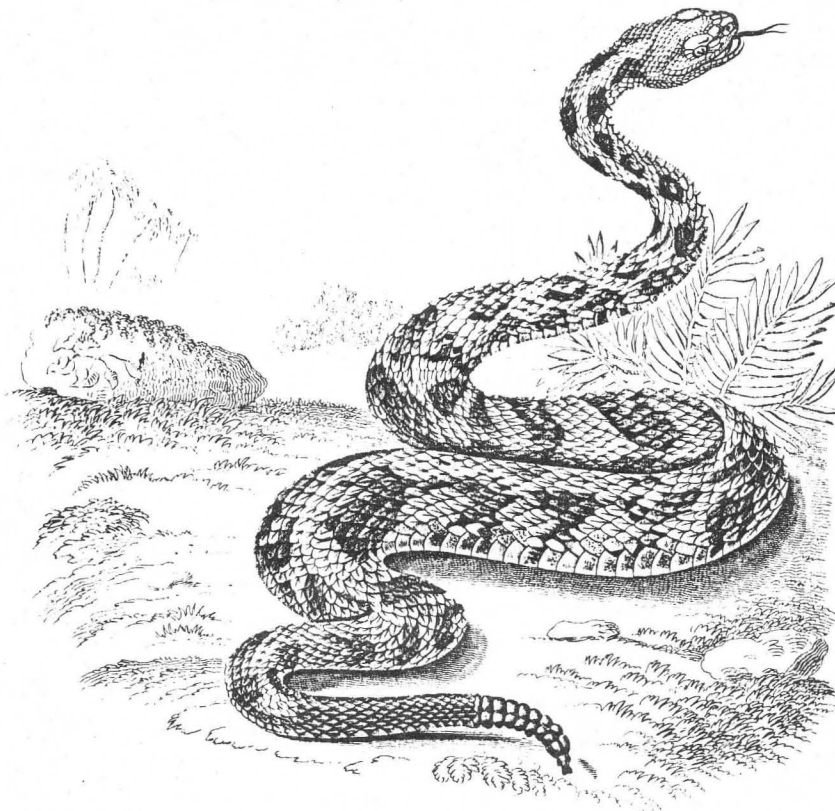
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KHS EDITORS WISH TO THANK

The editors of the KHS Newsletter wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank: Joseph T. Collins, Mary E. Dawson, Kelly Irwin, George Pisani, Laura Palmer, Mary Palmer, Scott Palmer, and Marjorie Perry for their assistance in helping us put the KHS Newsletter together this year. In addition, we are most grateful to the Museum of Natural History at The University of Kansas for technical assistance, and to Dr. William E. Duellman for permission to use the facilities of the Division of Herpetology at that same institute. Special thanks also go to Martin B. Capron for providing many of the illustrations that appeared periodically in the KHS Newsletter throughout the year. Your help has been deeply appreciated.



---The KHS Newsletter is issued every other month by the Kansas Herpetological Society. All interested individuals are invited to become members. Membership dues per calendar year are \$3.00 payable to: Marjorie Perry, KHS Secretary-treasurer, 812 Murrow Court, Lawrence, Kansas 66044. All manuscripts and notes should be sent to the Editor. EDITOR: Janice Perry, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045, and ASSOCIATE EDITOR: David Grow, Sedgwick County Zoo, 5555 Zoo Boulevard, Wichita, Kansas 67212.

PRICE LIST AND ORDER FORM
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
PUBLICATIONS IN HERPETOLOGY

SERIES NUMBER	AUTHOR	DATE	ABBREVIATED TITLE	UNIT PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL PRICE
29-MS-1-2	SMITH.	1946.	The systematic status of <i>Eumeces pluvialis</i>25		
30-MS-1-3	SMITH.	1946.	The tadpoles of <i>Bufo cognatus</i> Say.	.25		
31-MS-1-4	SMITH.	1946.	Hybridization ... of garter snakes.	.25		
32-MS-1-5	BREUKELMAN & SMITH.	1946. Records ... from Kansas.	.25		
66-MS-1-15	TAYLOR.	1948.	A new hylid frog from eastern Mexico.	.25		
67-MS-1-16	GALBREATH.	1948.	A new ... turtle from the ... Pliocene of Oklahoma.	.25		
68-MS-1-17	GALBREATH.	1948.	Pliocene and Pleistocene ... turtles25		
263-MS-8-1	FITCH.	1954.	Life history and ecology of ... <i>Eumeces fasciatus</i> .	2.30		
325-MS-8-4	FITCH.	1956.	A field study of the Kansas ant-eating frog45		
340-MS-8-7	FITCH.	1956.	Temperature responses in ... amphibians and reptiles90		
488-MS-10-8	JOHNSTON & SCHAD.	1959.	Natural history of ... <i>Aneides hardii</i> .	.25		
524-MS-10-9	DUELLMAN.	1960.	A new subspecies of ... <i>Cnemidophorus sacki</i> , ... Mexico.	.25		
525-MS-10-10	DUELLMAN.	1960.	A taxonomic study of ... <i>Pituophis deppei</i> .	.25		
425-MS-11-1	DUELLMAN.	1958.	Systematic status of ... <i>Leptodeira discolor</i>25		
429-MS-11-2	FITCH.	1958.	Natural history of the six-lined race-runner75		
436-MS-11-3	FITCH.	1958.	Home ranges ... of vertebrates of the Nat. Hist. Reservation.	3.95		
444-MS-11-4	LEGLER.	1959.	A new ... <i>Geophis</i> from Chihuahua, Mexico.	.25		
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