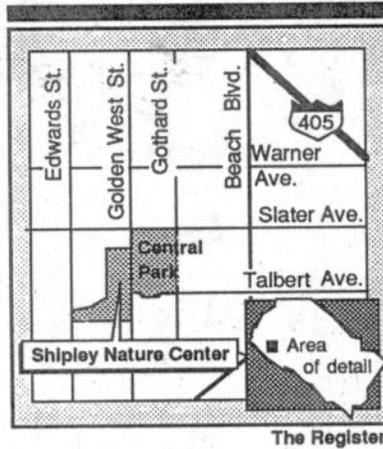


CENTRAL PARK
(REFERENCE
PAMPHLET FILE)

SECRET PLACE



Shibley is place for a nature walk

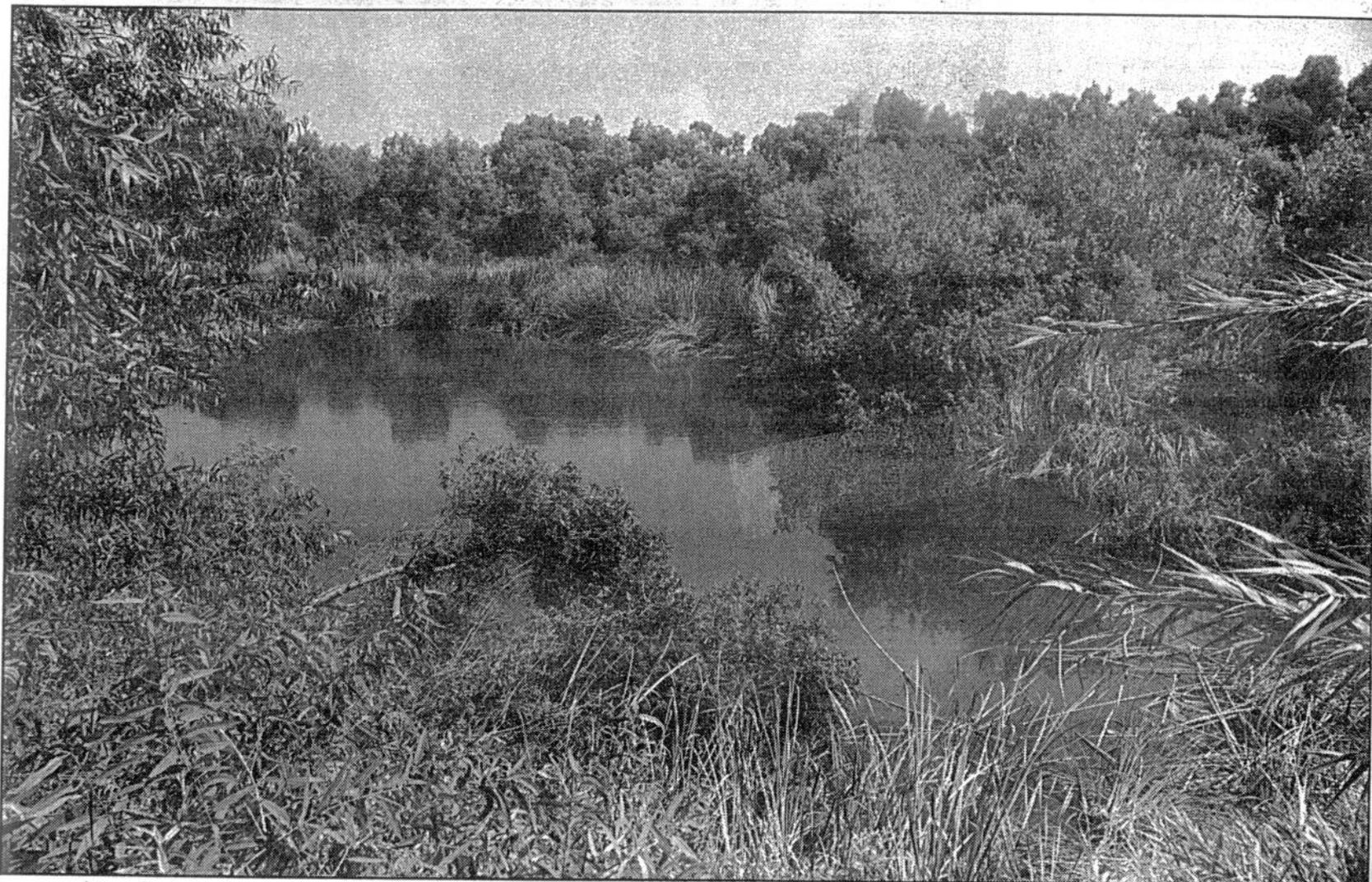
D.C. Register - 5-3-90

A ideal retreat for nature lovers and families alike, the Shibley Nature Center in the northwest corner of Central Park in Huntington Beach is highlighted by a half-mile of nature trails on 18 acres of land.

Black willow, pine and coastal redwood trees line the park's trails in a picture of what Orange County looked like 100 years ago.

Dedicated in 1974, the Shibley Nature Center is named after Donald D. Shibley, a former mayor and councilman. He was pivotal in the early 1970s in the creation of the park and center.

Sightings have been made of 249 species of birds and 38 varieties of mammals, amphibians, reptiles and fish, said David Winkler, park naturalist and caretaker of the center's grounds. He said the center's



Two hundred forty-nine species of birds and 38 other animals have been spotted at the Shipley Nature Center in Huntington Beach's Central Park. H. Lorren Au/The Orange County Register

greatest contribution to the city is nature education.

Spring is the busiest time of year at the center. Many school and Scout groups take tours of the scenic area. The center is most popular among 4- to 10-year-olds who visit the park to learn, look and touch.

Blackbird Pond, a vestige of earlier days in Huntington

Beach when much of the area was swampland, is home to crayfish, hawks, herons and red-eared pond sliders, commonly known as "dime-store turtles."

Attractions for both the earlier settlers in Huntington Beach and today's visitors are the edible plants that grow uncultivated among the ground cover of

the park's trails. Wild celery, fennel, wild radishes and blackberries all grow freely along the park's trails.

Animals that were indigenous to the area are on display in the nature center's building. Fifty varieties of stuffed birds and other animals and a separate exhibition of live snakes attract

young and old.

To get to the park, take Edwards Street to Central Park Drive and turn left into the

parking lot. Follow the sign in the parking lot to the ranger's station. For more information on tours, directions or hours, call 960-8847.

— Wes T. Wilde/The Register