

Biography

Dick was born on Oct. 28, 1947. After delivery at the Upland, San Antonio Hospital he was brought to his N. Vermont Ave. home in Glendora. Dick went through the Glendora Unified School District system and graduated from Glendora High School in 1965. He worked at the City of Glendora Summer Day Camp in Big Dalton Canyon intermittently from 1960 to 1976 as a counselor and assistant director. Dick attended Citrus Junior College from fall 1965 to spring 1967, from which he received an AS Degree. More details regarding Citrus College appear below.

He attended California State University at Humboldt from fall 1967 to spring 1968, during his junior year, majoring in biology. Here, he was a varsity letterman on the cross-country team. He represented CSU at Humboldt at the 1968 Santa Rosa Pre Olympic Marathon competition. He transferred to California State University at Long Beach in the fall of 1968 and graduated with a BS in Biology in June of 1970, after spending much of 1969-1970 picking up a minor in geology along with his biology major. He worked in the Entomology Museum at CSULB mounting insects from Dr. Sleeper's collection of Baja California Insects.

Dick was drafted into the US Army in June of 1970 and served basic training at Fort Ord, CA. He was transferred to Heidelberg, Germany where he remained until 1971, serving as a clerk typist. He was honorably discharged in Jan. of 1971, being a part of the 6 month early-out program to make room for the initiation of the all-volunteer army.

Dick was accepted into the biology department graduate program at California State Polytechnic University at Pomona in September of 1971. He completed one year of graduate studies. During this time he became Youth Director at the United Methodist Church in Glendora. He continued in this position until 1975. Dick enrolled in the Teacher Education Department at California State Polytechnic University at Pomona in September of 1975. He received his secondary single-subject credential in June of 1976.

Dick developed a summer nature camp program in Big Dalton Canyon Wilderness Park, for the City of Glendora. He directed the camp from 1976 to 1993.

Dick married Jacquelyn Merritt on August 20, 1976, at the Glendora Nazarene Church in Glendora. Jacquelyn had 4 children, ages 12 to 17 from her first marriage.

Dick substituted in secondary schools in local school districts from 1976 to 1978. He taught life science for two semesters at Citrus Junior College from 1976 to 1978. He began his 28 years of service at Ramona Middle School in La Verne with the Bonita Unified School District. Here, Dick taught seventh and eighth grade science until his retirement in June of 2006. He supervised the Catalina Island Marine Institute Field Trips for Ramona eighth graders for eighteen years. These were three-day trips with one hundred students.

Dick was awarded a state grant from the City of Glendora. The specific function was to develop a use plan for Big Dalton Canyon Park owned by the City of Glendora. He submitted his completed state grant to the Glendora City Council in November of

1977. The council adopted this and many of its specific recommendations were implemented during the following years. During his retirement years, Dick concentrated on producing e-mail publications on natural history topics on his website: glendoranaturalhistory.com

Community Volunteer Service

1959-2012: He developed an insect collection of Glendora specimens of nearly thirty thousand insects. He uses these for his presentations listed below.

1966-2011: Contribution of twenty five thousand collected vouchered plant specimens to forty-eight university and botanic garden herbaria collections, including the following: University of California at Riverside, California State University at San Diego, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (California Botanic Garden), Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and the San Diego Natural History Museum. These are pressed plant specimens with fruits or flowers present, with appropriate data labels. The first plants sent to herbaria were those collected for the plant collection for Marshall Stevens for the General Botany Class in 1966/67 at Citrus Junior College. Most of these plants were collected from the San Gabriel Mountains in preparation for my publication on *Plants of the Glendora Foothills*, 1994 and the e-publication - *Plants of the San Gabriel Mountains*, 2012, plus many more available on my website at glendoranaturalhistory.com. The data for each of these plants can be found on line on the *Consortium of California Herbaria 2* - Jepson Herbarium- University of California at Berkeley.

1974-1975: Chairman – Board of Directors - Camp Sturtevant, Big Santa Anita Canyon, and San Gabriel Mountains.

1975: Developed self-guided brochure for the nature trail at Camp Sturtevant.

1976-1997: Design, construction/supervision of 19 trails within the Glendora City Limits:

- Big Dalton Canyon Wilderness Park (Glendora Wilderness Park)
- Seven trails
- South Hills Wilderness Area
- 12 trails

1978-2012: Nature walk leader in Big Dalton Canyon Wilderness Park and South Hills Wilderness Area, sponsored by the City of Glendora Community Services Department.

1978-1980: Youth backpack director at Glendora Nazarene Church (Glendora Community Church)

1978-2012: Eagle Scout project supervisor – sixty-five trail-related projects within the city limits of Glendora.

1978-1980 & 1992-1994: Member of Church Board, Glendora Nazarene Church (Glendora Community Church)

1979-2011: Natural History and Glendora History lectures to local community organizations and institutions:

Sierra Club, elementary & secondary schools, Azusa Pacific University, Glendora Historical Society, Daughters of American Revolution, Rotary & Kiwanis Clubs, Scout Troops, and San Dimas Corral of Westerners

1982-1986: Foothills Vineyard Church (Glendora)
Church Planting Member, Board Member, Backpack Ministry Leader, Youth leader and Worship Leader

1989-1995: Publication of three self-guided nature trail pamphlets for existing 0.5 mile trails: The numbered pipes for these trails were provided through Eagle Scout Projects, designed and supervised by Dick Swinney

1989: Paul Keiser Self-Guided Nature Trail

1994: Big Dalton Canyon Self-Guided Nature Trail

1995: South Hills Self-Guided Nature Trail

1989-2024: Glendora Trails Committee (Council) member, chairman for 30 years

1990: Recipient of William “Buck” Dunham Award” for outstanding contribution to the youth of Glendora, by Glendora Community Services Department.

1990-2012: Instigator and supervisor of the biannual Glendora Trails Day Events, cosponsored by Glendora Rotary Club, ETI Corral 35 and Glendora Community Services Department

Big Dalton Canyon Wilderness Park/ first Saturday in November

South Hills Wilderness Area/first Saturday in April

1993-2001: Recipient of Spanish Trails Girl Scout Council Award for evening nature and hiking programs in the Big Dalton Canyon Wilderness Park during 1993-2001. Award Title: Nature At Night Girl Scout Camp Award

1993-2002: Development of “Trails Ministries Program” with Heather Petridis (APU Staff) for the Azusa Pacific University Campus Ministries Program:

Student teams under supervision of Dick Swinney, maintained the Garcia Trail in Azusa/Glendora and other Glendora Trails.

1994: Publication of *Glendora Foothills Plant Checklist – San Gabriel Mountains, Theodore Payne Foundation, c. 1994*

1998: Recipient of "Humanitarian Award" presented by Glendora Coordinating Council

2001-2007: Church Youth Camp Counselor (summer), representing Glendora Community Church

2002-2004: Supervisor of natural history/trails committee booth for Great Glendora Festival in October

2003: Recipient of Glendora Trails Committee Service Award, presented by Glendora City Council

2004-2005: Recipient of Ramona Middle School Teacher of the Year (LaVerne, Bonita Unified School District)

2004-2005: Recipient of Bonita Unified School District Teacher of the Year.

2004-2112: He was a member or director of eleven overseas work teams sponsored by the Nazarene Church.

2006-2012: Development personal website: glendoranaturalhistory.com
It currently contains forty-eight "e-publications", relating to Glendora Natural History and plants of the San Gabriel Mountains

2006-2012: Supervisor of natural history/trails committee booth for Glendora Earth Day

Jan. 2007: Natural history projects at Kajunda, Tanzania, Africa, sponsored by African Inland Mission and Glendora Church of the Open Door. Production of insect collection for the Kajunda Secondary School at Lake Victoria, Tanzania.

2007-2011: Supervisor of natural history/trails committee booth at Los County Fair, Pomona for Glendora Day at the Fair

2010-2012: Glendora City liaison for the Community Services Department with the Azusa Pacific University City Links Program – Supervision of trail maintenance projects.

Citrus College

1965-67: Student

1966: Cross Country Team, varsity letterman, Team Captain

1966-67: Member of student team that transferred the old Citrus College Library to the Citrus Natural History Museum, under the direction of Betty Bean,

Biology Department Chairman. Tasks included creation of dioramas for plant and animal specimens, preparation of live mounts or taxidermy bird specimens as well as preparation of study skins (museum mounts) for local rodents. Constructed animal display cages upstairs for the housing of his twenty rattlesnakes that he donated to the college. The rattlesnakes were there for at least two years before he released them into the wild.

1967: Track Team, varsity letterman

1968: Was commissioned by Dr. Vaniman (Citrus College President) to prepare a live mount specimen of a Barn Owl for him. He kept it in his freezer until he gave it to me. He supposedly kept the mounted owl on his office desk.

1977-1978: Adjunct Life Science Instructor/two semesters, until receiving a full-time teaching position at Ramona Middle School in La Verne.