



The CSPRA **Wave**

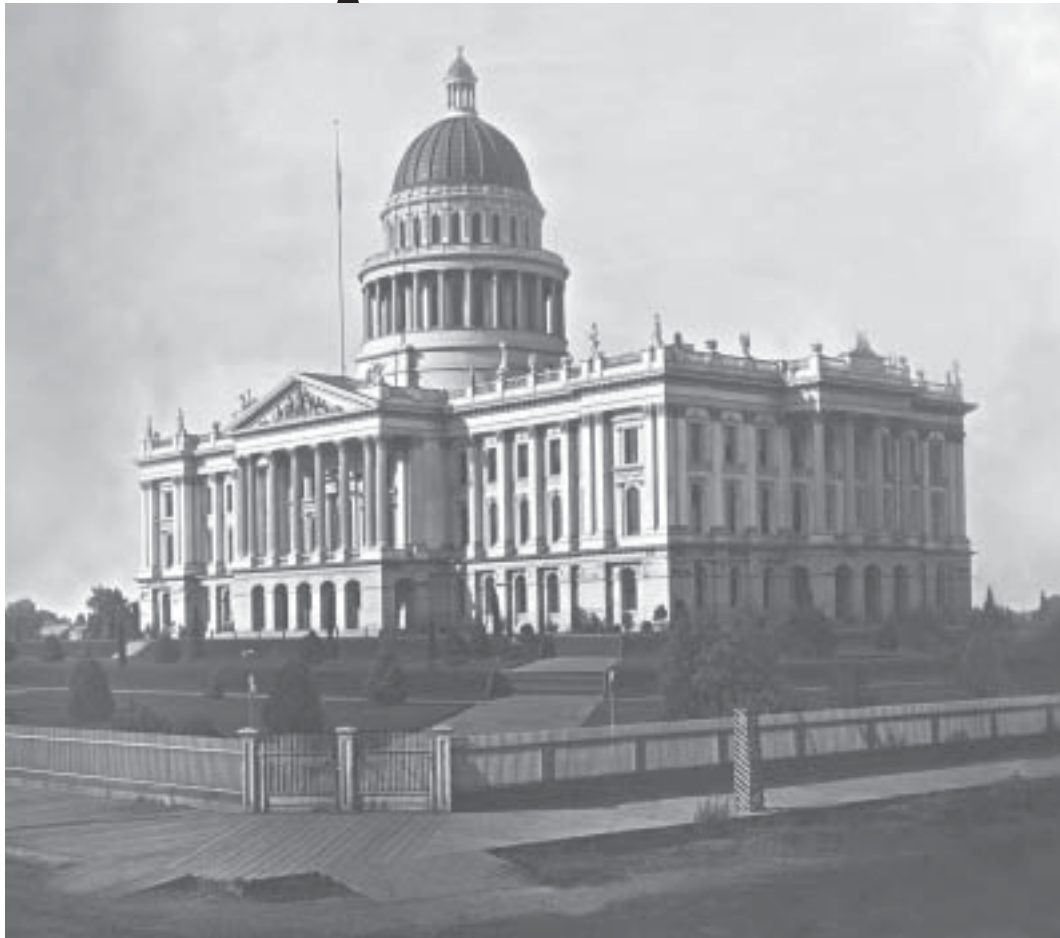
Newsletter

Volume 3, number 6

California State Park Rangers Association

nov - dec 2003

A Capital District



**Governor's Mansion SHP
Sutter's Fort SHP
California State Railroad Museum
Railtown 1897 SHP
State Capitol Museum**

**Leland Stanford Mansion SHP
State Indian Museum
Old Sacramento SHP
Woodland Opera House SHP
Heilbron Mansion SHP**

See pages 3-13



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COVER PHOTO: the Capitol in 1874

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



DANA JONES
CSPRA President

Politics and parks, some would say they go together like oil and water. This issue of the WAVE is devoted to our parks that deal with politics on a daily basis. You have probably heard the phrase location is everything. In the case of proximity to the State Capitol, this phrase rings very true. This means many things for the employees and visitors of the parks. It may appear that those parks in the limelight whether by their proximity to the capitol or for other equally political reasons (i.e. Hearst Castle), often get more than their share of the funding, equipment and staffing. Although in my experience this does have some measure of truth, the very large down side is that those parks are also always on stage. When the Department needs to show off an example of our premier park system they will generally look close to home. When a visiting dignitary wants to see an example of our department, they are generally directed to one of those parks in the Sacramento Area. As the Superintendent of Twin Cities District, I have learned that when the OHV Division looks to build a new OHV park the goal is to model it after our own Prairie

City as a prime example of an urban OHV experience (within shouting distance of Sacramento).

No matter where you sit in the system politics plays a major role in the future of your park unit and ultimately your job future. This is most recently evidenced by the surplus letters that many of us have received over the last few months. As we wait to see where this new administration will direct us, it is good to read newly elected Governor Schwarzenegger's Action Plan for California's Environment (from his website):

Protect and Restore California's Parks and Open Spaces

Many California families vacation within driving distance, often camping at state parks and beaches. State parks, beaches and trails also generate significant economic activity and tax revenue as a result of fees and other spending in adjacent areas. There is general agreement that park maintenance has been allowed to deteriorate. Improve Our Parks, With Special Emphasis on Access for Seniors and the Disabled.

I will order the Resources Agency to develop a comprehensive facility assessment and improvement plan for state parks, beaches, and coastal access, with emphasis placed on investments that enhance local economies and access for California's seniors and the disabled.

Much of the initial investment for these improvements can come from already approved bond measures, but plans will also be developed to find additional ways to support this important initiative through careful public and private investment.

Politics and parks: we can work together as members of CSPRA to make this a productive partnership. CSPRA continues to work with Governmental Advocates as our lobby group to remain current

Portraying the Past in the Present

by *Steve Hill*
District
Superintendent

For many people, the units of the Capital District are primarily about the preservation of historic structures, equipment and collections. To most of us in the district, however, our daily lives include a lot more.

In the typically quiet atmosphere of the **State Indian Museum**, it is easy to get lost in appreciation of the artistry contained in the baskets, clothing, tools and other implements of our earliest people. Visitors also see that Indian Elders are still honored, that Indian people are still alive and are often active in cultural activities. While blending into modern society, their cultural traditions are maintained.

Adjacent **Sutter's Fort** hosted a series of early events that propelled California into the modern age, and where our State developed its "you can strike-it-rich here" personality. Stepping through the gate, visitors walk into 1846, and typically will find staff, docents, and often, young students utilizing the implements and skills required for daily living in 1846.

At the **Old Governor's Mansion**, guides and docents tell you less about politics, and more about life in the comfortable old house. Many of the stories about the governors' wives and children are endearing. Personal favorites include stories about Kathleen Brown, daughter of Governor Edmund G. and sister to Jerry, who later became State Controller in her own right. Kathleen is the little girl who put red nail polish on the toenails of the claw-footed bathtub, and rained water balloons down from the cupola on unsuspecting passers-by on the sidewalks of 16th and H Streets.



Superintendent Steve Hill and Supervising Ranger Aaron Ward with Captain Sutter.

Old Sacramento was the embarcadero for thousands of miners and early settlers. The 1849 Scene is re-creating the canvas and wood structures that provided nearly everything required by new arrivals: a room, a bath, supplies, a card game. Whatever it was you needed, if you could pay the price, it was all waiting for you here in 1849!

Old Sacramento was the terminus for many other things. The **B.F. Hastings** building was the Western terminus of the Pony Express and later the transcontinental telegraph. The recreated 1876 **Central Pacific Passenger Station** is located at the terminus of the first transcontinental railroad. And didn't that open up California to the world!



The **California State Railroad Museum** explains the history and development of the western

railroads. Its collections contain more than 225 locomotives and rail cars, and more than one hundred thousand other artifacts from swizzle sticks to buttons, badges to locomotive bells. Railroad Museum collections also include more than a million photographs and negatives, and several million individual documents, from a railroad ticket to corporate financial ledgers. Considered the finest interpretive railroad museum in the world, it operates a railroad, the Sacramento Southern, serving approximately 50,000 visitors with excursion runs along the Sacramento River, on engines and equipment from the historic Sierra Railroad at **Railtown 1897**, in Jamestown, Tuolumne County. It takes an incredibly dedicated and talented group of staff and docents to maintain

the equipment and tracks and to run the trains, all according to the standards of the Federal Railway Administration.

The Capital District includes two more mansions: the 1881 Heilbron Mansion, home of a prominent Sacramento businessman; and the 1858 Stanford Mansion, once the home of Governor Leland Stanford.

The **Heilbron Mansion** was acquired by DPR in August 2002,

See *CAPITAL*, page 4

CAPITAL DISTRICT

CAPITAL, from page 3

and in its past life has been a restaurant, two banks, and an art and culture center known as La Raza Galeria Posada. With the Heilbron configured for offices, the building is currently being prepared to house the newly expanded administrative staff, which now serves both Gold Fields and Capital Districts.

The **Stanford Mansion** is currently undergoing rehabilitation to its 1872 appearance, when it was Leland Stanford's home, and served as Office of the Executive Branch of the state government. When completed, the Stanford Mansion will be open to the public and will also host protocol and diplomatic functions for the Governor and leaders of the State legislature.

The Capital District delves deep into political history with its presence at the **State Capitol**, maintaining some rooms in historic traditions, preparing displays to interpret historic or current events, maintaining its own collections, and, of course, with its guide staff providing high quality tours to nearly 500,000 people per year. The



Capitol is a historic place; it is also a dynamic place. Almost anything can happen, at almost any time, and flexibility and poise under fire are essential. Recently, a guide was on tour when the Senate leader entered the Assembly Chamber to publicly berate an Assemblyman who played a part in killing a bill he had been nurturing. This was a truly extraordinary event, shockingly against protocol. When it all ended, the Guide heard a little boy on the tour say, "Mommy, he used the 'F' word!" Yep, poise is rewarded.

The Capital District also includes the **Woodland Opera House**, constructed in 1885, restored to its 1896 appearance, and now operated for DPR by

the City of Woodland for live theatre and musical reviews. The Woodland Opera House, like all of the other historic units of the Capital District, is about historic preservation, but it is also about life. Every building, every photograph, every historic artifact and object in our collections has its story: past, present and future. An understanding of the heritage of our country is important, helping us to appreciate the work of those who came before us, and who helped build what we now enjoy. It is important to understand the obstacles that they faced and to recognize their mistakes, so that we are not destined to repeat them.

In our daily work as employees, volunteers and docents we continue historic traditions and become a part of the history of each place we serve. The Capital District is about preservation of historic structures and objects. Perhaps more importantly, the Capital District and its people are all part of a continuous record of life in these historic places: portraying the past, in the present, for future generations.

Something Old, Something New

by *Mary Stokes*

District Interpretive Specialist

In the few weeks that I've been getting acquainted with the museums and historic parks of my new District, I have marveled at the energy and innovation that interpretive staff (both paid and volunteer) bring to the telling of their stories. While some projects (see the stories that follow) do depend on special funding from the legislature and our allied non-profit partners, many of their ideas could be adapted to parks with more modest means.

California Indian Seal >>>
- artist **Robert Freeman**

The next time you are in Sacramento, be sure to look down at the bronze Great Seal set in the west steps of the Capitol, that familiar montage of American period images of the California dream. Flanking it today are beautiful matching bronze seals honoring the sovereignty of the Indian nations and the Spanish-Mexican cultural legacy of our state.



*Spanish-Mexican seal - artists **Donna Billick** and **Susan Shelton***

Even the stolid old medium of bronze plaques can shine again, in pursuit of Tilden's ideals of relevance, and interpreting the whole, not just a part, of a great and continuing story!

CAPITAL DISTRICT - VOLUNTEERS

DIVERSITY

By **Katrina Hoover**
Historic Sites Sector
Volunteer Coordinator

“The variety of activities that volunteers assist with and engage in is as diverse as the backgrounds and interests of the volunteers themselves.” VIP Guidelines

When Jan Carle asked me to write about our sector’s two hundred volunteers the word diversity came to mind; diversity in both who they are and what they do for us. And then panic set in as I realized that who they are and what they do would never fit into my allotted space! So, here’s the *Readers Digest* version:

Historic Sites Sector is the State Indian Museum, Sutter’s Fort SHP, the Governor’s Mansion SHP, and the Stanford Mansion SHP. With the exception of the Stanford Mansion (due to rehabilitation efforts), all units have active volunteers. Curator Mike Tucker’s Museum Services also uses volunteers.

Historic Sites volunteers :
..... come in all shapes and sizes,



from little 1 month old **Rachel Westrup** to 87 years young **Norma Orrick**;

..... have an array of personalities... quiet, generous, amusing, opinionated, organized, outspoken, courteous,

modest, understanding, soft-spoken, easy-going, possessive, busy bodies, caring, determined, impatient, eager to learn, ambitious.

...are moms, dads, church members, coaches, world travelers, musicians, Sr. Gleaners, collectors, grandparents, bilingual, joggers, mentors, photographers, students. They live as close as a few blocks from the park they serve to as far away as 150 miles.

Lastly, I looked at the diversity of what they do for us (last year they logged 17,723 hours). Come along on a quick “walk in the park:”

At the Indian Museum, look over their shoulder as they guide a youngster in the use of the pumpdrill, spend the morning planting, weeding and raking in the native plant garden, don your rubber boots to cut tule for the



Volunteer Brenda Chain gathering tules

museum’s village hut, join them in preparing and serving over a hundred meals to the Indian community’s Honored Elders.

At Sutter’s Fort, sweat with the cooks over the open fire, sit a spell with the trapper, pump the bellows for the blacksmith, eavesdrop as the candlelit faces of the ‘pioneers’ recreate a night at the fort, and travel north each October to set up camp and watch as 4,000 children visit an 1840s trapper’s encampment.

At the Governor’s Mansion, follow along on a tour of this special house, delight in ‘Rosie The Riveter’ and ‘Minnie

Johnson’, enjoy the first ladies history and fashions at a Mansion Memories presentation, and listen to the choirs, smell roast turkey and sit on Santa’s lap during Christmas Open House.



Volunteer LaVerne Mahoney portrays Minnie Johnson

At Museum Services, hear the silence of research, watch the repetitious job of cleaning, recording, photographing and packdown of hundreds of artifacts, feel the excitement of the final stages of a new, long-planned exhibit!

How can all these very different people come together for the common good of our parks? As you all know, despite their differences, there are common threads weaving through and connecting them all. They all LIKE people, LOVE cultural history, ENJOY learning and sharing and are DEDICATED to our parks.

Volunteers..... they stand alongside us and are a big part of our success in fulfilling the department’s mission. They deserve direction, meaningful work and recognition. Recognition, not only for a job well done, but recognition and respect for being the individuals they are.

“Volunteers don’t necessarily have the time, they just have the heart”.



Docent Joe Waltz, as a trapper, fascinates children on the October “river trip.”

Holding Down the Fort

by Ranger **Karen Meltzer**
Special Thanks to Ranger **Henry Berry** and PIS **Steve Beck** for their assistance.

It's 4:15 P.M. on a Wednesday afternoon in September. There's not a soul in the Fort except park and Association staff. The lone European White Oak is casting a long shadow over the East Yard. The freshly painted cannon carriage is gleaming in the lowering sun of the West Yard. A slight delta breeze is kicking up the dust of yesteryear, carrying with it images of days gone by from a frequently forgotten era in California history. Who would have guessed that this site would still be the destination of immigrants from other lands over 150 years later?

The first recorded European immigrant to claim the land that we now call Sutter's Fort State Historic Park was Johann Augustus Sutter in 1839. The Mexican government awarded Sutter a land grant of eleven square leagues. (Can you do the conversion to acres?) Of course, stipulations were put in place to secure the grant: Sutter had to become a Mexican citizen, convert to Catholicism, become a captain in the Mexican army, and act as the civil official of the Mexican government. He was to build a permanent settlement somewhere within the 48,400 acres. The settlement site was a high knoll between the Sacramento and American Rivers, above the expansive flood zone. Sutter's Fort soon became a hub of activity. Immigrants from the United States and Europe flooded to this promised land in the 1840's in search of wealth in the form of fertile land and prosperity. The foundation of what is now the capital of California had been laid out. And, the rest, as they say, is HISTORY!



Today, over 150,000 visitors a year step back in time to experience the pre-gold rush era as they enter through the imposing gates of Sutter's Fort. Approximately 75% of these visitors are 4th and 5th grade students from throughout California and Nevada. Approximately 2,100 students per year get to experience life as a pioneer, first hand. The Fort sponsors over 50 Environmental Living Programs (ELP) each year. The children arrive at the Fort by wagon, wearing their period attire. Historical figures such as James Marshall, Captain John Fremont, Nancy Kelsey and John Sutter himself can be found traveling with the wagon train. The pioneers learn the necessary skills of survival on the frontier: candle-making, rope making, open

hearth cooking, spinning & weaving and baking in an outdoor oven. Friends and family share the evening supper before the pioneers bed down for the night. After sleeping amongst the stars in the courtyard or upstairs in the original building from Sutter's time, they awake in the morning to tasty cinnamon rolls that were cooked in the outdoor oven the previous day. Then they exit out the gates and return to the present year with an everlasting lesson in history.

The ELP is just one of many special programs offered at Sutter's Fort. Visitors have over 20 opportunities to engage in historical interpretation with LIVE (most of them) docents dressed in period clothing. In addition, the visitor can interact with up to six seasonal interpreters and



Working for Captain Sutter is a good way to work up an appetite in the Environmental Living Program at Sutter's Fort.

SUTTER'S FORT SHIP

witness cannon firings daily from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day. For two weeks each October, Sutter's Fort docents hit the road and camp along the banks of the Sacramento River. This mobile living history program, referred to as "**The River Trip**," reaches over 4,000 students each year. The children spend two hours at an 1843 fur trapper encampment learning how traders, trappers, hunters and camp keepers all worked together to survive and hopefully make a little money for Captain Sutter.

As a ranger at Sutter's Fort, you have the opportunity to be a true generalist. Interpretation comes to you in the form of coordinating the above activities with visitor services, museum services and maintenance. Once in awhile, you may actually get to interpret to school children while wearing period clothing when camping on "The River Trip." Then there are the administrative duties associated with kiosk operations. And once you leave the safety of the Fort walls, the role of enforcement ranger takes over.

Located in downtown Sacramento,



River campkeepers are docents **Rene Schwartz, Geri Royer, and Annette Webster**

we offer an attractive environment for the homeless population to relax during the day, with manicured lawns, large shade trees and two ponds with ducks and spraying fountains. The homeless population does not always treat the area with the care and respect it deserves. Toward the end of the month, there is no shortage of opportunities to interact with this colorful sect of society.

It is now 5:00 P.M. The front

gates have been secured for the day. All that remains inside the Fort walls is Willy, the cat. (She keeps the rodent population in balance). The dust and the memories settle with the setting sun. Tomorrow morning the gates will once again open at 10:00 A.M. The Fort will be filled with school children and other visitors, each one seeking a bit of California history to take home with them. Sutter's Fort is truly a special place to work.

Museum Services, Exhibits, and Volunteers

by **Michael S. Tucker, Curator II**

For almost twenty years Capital District's Historic Sites has operated a program of collections management relying primarily upon volunteers and interns. Through the use of "free" labor we have been able to completely rehabilitate the exhibits in the California State Indian Museum, The Old Governor's Mansion, and Sutter's Fort. In addition, we have rehoused almost ninety percent of the collections for each museum and completed a photo inventory of all three-dimensional artifacts on exhibit and in storage.

Forty-four exhibits in the California State Indian Museum were created through the efforts of the interpretive association and Native American advisors. Fourth grade school teachers



Volunteer craftsman **Steve Prey** uses historic tools and methods to create the "houseframe" skeleton for the woodshop interior at Sutter's Fort.

helped construct a large diorama and even the superintendent could be found painting exhibit cases. Staff and volunteers crafted all the

artifact mountings while the electrical, heating and air conditioning, insulation, and carpeting were installed by professionals funded through headquarters.

Fund raising efforts by staff and volunteers at the Old Governor's Mansion enabled interns from the University of California, Sacramento to clean, photograph, catalog, and install artifacts in twenty-one house museum exhibits. Fourth grade students from Sacramento's Country Day School, who adopted the mansion as a community project, initiated this rehabilitation. The students raised four hundred dollars on their own. Their parents augmented this with an additional fourteen hundred dollars, and the Historic Sites Association r

See **EXHIBITS**, page 13

Autumn at the Indian Museum

by Ranger Joann Helmich



Most Rangers love autumn. Autumn is the best time of year, especially here at the State Indian Museum. The light reflecting off the white paint of the 63-year-old building is subdued and not as harsh as it is in the 102-degree summers. The native plant gardens do not have the showy spring flower display, but the cactus garden looks neat and trim. The chaparral plants have their sparse second bloom as the evening temperatures drop. The white oak that has stood for two hundred years, affectionately called Grandmother Oak, is beginning to drop acorns on the roof of the building. We won't gather the acorns until after the first rain, which is the proper time.

As I sit down at my desk, I answer the phone calls concerning the upcoming Acorn Day event. We will hold it outside in the demonstration

yard. On that day our Native American demonstrator will cook acorn mush and give on-going interpretation on how to do it. The staff and docents will have hands-on items and crafts for our visitors. It is always pleasant in the yard because of the huge trees—Torrey Pine, Nutmeg and of course—Grandmother Oak. It stays cool even in the summer when we have our weeklong day camp, the Summer Fun Program. It even stays fairly dry under the trees when the “female rains” of the spring arrive and we have special programs for Girls Scouts.

Walking outside I glance around the yard at my many projects to do for Acorn Day. The acorn granary will need a new coat of cedar bows. The Roundhouse will have to be emptied of the tables and chairs that we use for events and programs. The leaching pit needs new sand. The fire pit needs to be cleaned out. The sweat lodge is almost finished but is not quite as it waits for another Eagle Scout to come along. As according to tradition, we had to tear down the old tule hut but will replace it in the spring which is the proper time to cut willow and gather tule.



Ranger Helmich assists Summer Fun group lashing a house frame

Inside the museum is quiet, awaiting its visitors. Even though the building is old there are some new things inside. The lighting is only three years old, and we have a fairly new roof. Parts of it were repaired after Grandmother Oak dropped a branch the size of a tree on my office. The Historic Sites Association purchased a new gift counter, redid the Honored Elders exhibit and the hands-on table. Last year we had some arrows that belonged to Ishi, the last of the Yahi, added to the Ishi exhibit. This past summer we started a Junior Ranger Program and found it to be successful. We also have a new DVD player and a new alarm system.

What will happen to the museum in the future is to be determined. A new Indian museum is being developed. The current one is too little and has been so since about 1960. School groups are limited to one half-hour visit and the museum can only accommodate 50 students at a time. The museum cannot interpret the culture of all of the indigenous peoples of California. There is just not enough room.

The new **California Indian Heritage Center** will be state of the art and grand. Preliminary plans include exhibit galleries and a theater, outdoor village constructions, native plant gardens and ceremonial areas. The estimated 60,000 sq. foot structure will also include curation facilities, a research center and meeting rooms. The grounds will include areas for special events and traditional gatherings. Many hope that it will be located in Sacramento.

In the meantime, I sit in my office beneath Grandmother Oak listening to the acorns drop on the roof as I write this article, as is proper for this time of year.

Your State Capitol - Just a Click Away

By *Miriam Meidam, Interpreter II*

With just the click of the mouse at www.statecapitolmuseum.com, an innovative website, "California State Capitol – Your Connection," helps citizens learn about their responsibility and opportunity to shape California's future by actively participating in the political process. Rusty Arias, past DPR Director, challenged the State Capitol Museum to create an interactive educational website showcasing California technology, while informing students, citizens and visitors about California government and the history of this great state.

Tour guides **Brandon Jackson, Ann Fry, Erin Renfree, Berndt Stolfi** and **Dody Wheaton**, and team leader Interpreter **Miriam Meidam**, worked closely with the contractor, Design Media, to insure that the mission of the Department and the Museum would be met.

The website enables visitors to learn more about California's government and take a "virtual tour" of the Capitol with 360-degree views of the building and park. An on-line Citizen's Guide explains how bills become laws, how to contact elected officials, and how to become more involved. An interactive map of the legislative districts allows users to click on their district and connect with their representatives. Visitors to the website may choose either English or Spanish. The site also meets the Department's commitment to provide accessibility to the widest possible audience through the use of technology. We are pleased that the site received the 2003 Award for Leadership in Accessible Technology at this year's Government Technology Conference in Sacramento

California State Parks has also developed a web tablet (a hand-held



Guide Brandon Jackson with a school group in the rotunda

version of the website). Web tablets are offered to Capitol visitors who wish to take a self-guided tour in English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese or Japanese. Just as the on-line site does, web tablets allow visitors 360-degree views of several locations and offer rich descriptions of significant areas.

A teacher's guide with lesson plans and activities is designed to prepare students for a visit to the Capitol, supporting California State Academic Standards in history and government. This special section is located at; <http://www.statecapitolmuseum.com/english/teachers/index.html>

The website and web tablet were developed in collaboration with California State Parks, California State Capitol Museum, Assembly Rules Committee, Design Media, and Red Hill Studios. The program won endorsements from the California School Board Association, the Board of Directors of the California Teachers Association, and the California State PTA. "California State Capitol- Your Connection" has received the International Web Page Award's Creative Achievement Award. The International Web Page Awards are considered to be "The Most Prestigious and Respected Award on the Internet."



Visit the website "California State Capitol Your Connection" at www.statecapitolmuseum.com and become inspired to help shape the future of California. Copies of the CD-ROM may be requested by calling the State Capitol Museum at (916)324-2088.

Workin' on the Railroad...Museum

by *Catherine Taylor*, Museum Director, CSRM; *Dick Denison*, Museum Volunteer, CSRM; and *Paul Hammond*, Director of Marketing, CSRM Foundation

The Railroad Museum got its start in 1937 when a group of railway enthusiasts began preserving locomotives and rail cars. This collection eventually grew to 33 pieces donated to the State of California as part of the Railroad Museum project. The collection of locomotives and cars has now grown to over 225. The Museum itself is not a “classified” park unit, and therefore, does not appear on the official State Parks map. In spite of this, the Railroad Museum is a very popular place, with over 500,000 visitors annually and a collection which represents nearly a quarter of the entire holdings of the Department.

The Museum is a complex of buildings and programs envisioned in a 1973 Master Plan. In 1976, the Museum opened with the **Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station**, quickly followed by the **Big Four Building** and **Dingley Spice Mill Building**. The **Museum Library and Archives** is the largest railroad research library in the country, and contains a collection of over a million photographs, negatives, drawings, maps, and other railroad ephemera, and thousands of small artifacts. On the drawing board for the Dingley Building is a new interpretive and business operation of Nathaniel Dingley’s Steam Coffee and Spice Mill.

The flagship 100,000 square foot Railroad History Museum opened in 1981 with the first of three Railfairs (the other two were in 1991 and 1999). These events have drawn an international audience of nearly 200,000 each over a ten-day period—



arguably some of the largest events held in State Parks over the years. In the mid-1980s, the Museum kicked off its popular weekend excursion trains—the Sacramento Southern Railroad—along a former branchline of the Southern Pacific Railroad. This popular program is run entirely by volunteers, and has carried over 1 million passengers since its inception in 1984.

The final phase of the California State Railroad Museum, the **Railroad Technology Museum (RTM)**, will be located within the former Southern Pacific Railroad Sacramento Shops and Railyard, using buildings donated by the Union Pacific Railroad (now the owner of the former South-



Gold Rush Days volunteers in Old Sacramento

ern Pacific property). State Parks, in partnership with the National Park Service, funded two summers of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) to completely document the Central Shops Complex of seven structures, a great accomplishment for the preservation and future adaptive re-use of the site.

In the new facility, children of all ages will explore fundamental physics and engineering principles through hands-on exhibits. Sectioned locomotives, scale models, interactive displays, and oral histories will educate the public about steam and diesel technology, track structure, and design and wheel interface, the importance of the Shops in the development of Sacramento and the West, and the relevance of railroads in meeting the transportation challenges of the future.

Previously, ongoing restoration work has been conducted off-site, in an area not accessible to the public. The ability to watch artisans working “real time” on steam and diesel locomotives and wooden and steel railroad cars, has significant educational value.

For twenty-five years, the Museum was the beneficiary, for only \$1 per year, of space and support from the Southern Pacific Railroad (SP). By the early 1990s plans were underway to redevelop the entire 240 acre railyard site, which included a substantial toxic remediation effort. The Unit Shop, which had been home to the Museum’s restoration efforts for those twenty-five years, fell to the wrecker’s ball in March 2000, closing a chapter in the Museum’s history, but marking the beginning of an exciting future. The Unit Shop gave birth to one of the largest railroad equipment restoration projects in America. Twenty-three locomotives and cars were restored in time for the opening of the Railroad History Museum in

See CSRM, page 11

CSRSM, from page 10

May of 1981.

In early 2000, the Museum completed moving its restoration and maintenance functions into the former Boiler Shop and Erecting Shop, part of a larger preserved “Central Shops Complex”. To occupy the Erecting Shop with full-sized locomotives and cars, however, reconstruction of the Transfer Table—a bridge-like structure that allows access to the many “work bays” within the shops building—was essential. The completed Transfer Table now allows access to the Erecting Shop for the Museum’s collection of historic locomotives and cars. Stored outside for years, these historic items are considered a top priority for conservation by the Museum. Many pieces will become exhibits within the new Railroad Technology Museum, showcasing a century of technological development and innovation in the railroad industry.

In December 2002, refurbishment of a 1920s vintage coach with a Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad heritage was completed for use on the Museum’s excursion railroad. The support systems for the railroad—track materials, specialized machinery and crossing signals—are built and maintained here as well. A railcar conservation project for Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park is also underway.

The Museum is actively engaged in new and changing exhibitions including a major exhibition about the Southern Pacific Railroad titled “Cathedrals of Labor.” Other recent exhibitions include “Walt Disney’s Backyard Railroad” featuring Walt’s personal railroad artifacts. Coming soon are exhibits on toy trains and a railroad labor and social history titled “We’ve Been Workin’ on the Railroad: the Human Face of Railroad.”

The California State Railroad Museum is one of the jewels of the State Park System, blessed with a committed workforce of over 500 volunteers, and a talented and commit-

ted staff. The Museum Foundation, the largest cooperating association in the Park system, helps us deliver quality programs to thousands of people each year. The Museum is like a stool supported by three very strong legs: 1) California State Parks, 2) Museum Volunteers and paid staff, and 3) the Museum Foundation. It is a successful partnership that allows us to consistently provide the best of California State Parks!

From Horses to Horsepower

by Guides **Laura Bercea, Theresa Gonsolis, Bob Russo** & Foundation Educ. Coordinator **Susannah Willison**

Tell me and I will forget. Show me and I will remember. Involve me and I will understand. - Aristotle

Our challenge at the California State Railroad Museum was to provide uniform quality interpretation to the maximum number of students. To achieve this goal, we created a new, hands-on, interpretive program we call “Building the Transcontinental Railroad: From Horses to Horsepower.”

Your Conductor guides you through the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad. Along the journey, you meet paid and volunteer staff in period clothing that step out of history and invite you to become a part of their story. You meet the Dreamer who felt he could link the continent with rails of iron, the Schemers who took his dream and made it real, and Laborers, who by sweat and brute force, completed the greatest engineering marvel of the mid-19th Century. You join in the nationwide celebration of the railroad’s completion, and you meet a Traveler who can



now safely traverse the continent in only 7 days and 7 nights, instead of 6 months. Also, you discover the real gold in California while loading railcars full of agricultural products to feed a growing nation.

The necessity to create an alternate program and move away from traditional school tours developed for several reasons: lack of staffing, increased numbers of school groups and increasing docent involvement in our student programs. This program has attracted a diverse group of volunteers who continue to show up week after week and actively recruit their peers to join them. It also allows a novice interpreter to take on a small piece of the “program pie” and feel comfortable and productive, without facing the challenge of portraying a living history character. This team concept makes interpretation fast and fun, and is easy to develop for both staff and volunteers. If you would like further information, please contact us at (916) 323-9274.



Stanford Mansion Revived

A Public-private Partnership

by *Janelle Miller*
 Park Superintendent
 Historic Sites Sector

As many of us have heard or been reminded of in the recent political television ad campaigns for Governor, California is the nation's most populous state and the world's fifth largest economy. However, the governor has no official residence and few places to go in Sacramento for major ceremonies. With the rehabilitation of the Stanford Mansion State Historic Park, that is going to change.

It has been well over a century since this mansion stood as California's official residence. Built in 1857, the home was purchased by Leland Stanford in 1861 and was significantly expanded in 1872, increasing the size of the home to 19,000 square feet with over 44 rooms and hallways. The Mansion served as home and office for three governors, most notably Stanford, one of the founders of the Central Pacific Railroad and California's first Republican governor. It was also the birthplace of his only son, Leland Stanford Jr., in whose memory he later founded Stanford University after his son's death from typhoid fever shortly before his sixteenth birthday.

Following Stanford's death in 1893, his wife, Jane, donated the building in 1900 to the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento to be used as the Stanford-Lathrop Memorial Home for Friendless children. Purchased by the state in 1978 for 1.5 million dollars, it was leased back to the Catholic Church as an orphanage for ten years before the state took occupancy in 1987. It was declared a state historic park during the Deukmajian administration.

The Mansion was open on a limited



Stanford Mansion, during rehabilitation, in the Sacramento cityscape



A restored roof spire atop the Stanford Mansion with the Resources Building (home to DPR Headquarters) in the background

basis for pre-restoration tours while plans to restore the home began. Those plans were halted when the state experienced a recession in the early 1990's. It soon became evident that there would not be sufficient state funds available to accomplish this project, and that's when the idea of a public-private partnership was pursued. In 1991, the Leland Stanford Mansion Foundation was incorporated and fundraising efforts began. This public-private partnership has through determination, perseverance, and commitment, continued to strive toward the goal of reviving the mansion for public service for over twelve years, through two administrations and several changes in Department leadership.

The Mansion, when completed, will be open for public tours and will be used as a protocol center for the Governor and legislative leadership for bill signings, official ceremonies and to formally entertain dignitaries. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in June 2002, with plans for project completion set for fall 2004. Reyman Brothers Construction, from Reno, Nevada, was awarded the contract.

The project will cost approxi-

mately 17 million dollars and includes rehabilitation of the entire four stories, furnishings, complete re-development of the Victorian grounds and outside structures, including a reconstructed barn that will sit where the Historic Sites sector office is currently located. Once rehabilitated, the mansion will be one of only two former governor's homes in Sacramento open for public tours, the other one being the historic Governor's Mansion State Historic Park, also part of the Historic Sites sector in Capital District.

This project is truly cutting edge for the Department and reflects the power of private sector partners in helping to achieve our mission. It has not been without controversy, compromise and many challenges, but also has enhanced opportunities to achieve a vision for the future. Efforts have been made to maintain the historic integrity and as much of the historic fabric as possible in this magnificent National Historic landmark. It has been an incredible team effort through the collaboration of many people both inside and outside of the Department. The Stanford Mansion is a legacy in its own right, and is poised to be a center where future history will be made.

CAPITAL DISTRICT

EXHIBITS, from page 7

raised the bulk of the funds through events held at the mansion. Maintenance funds were used to contract for specialized artifact cleaning and carpet installation. Maintenance staff repaired plaster and repainted damaged surfaces.

Friends, spouses, students, docents, rangers, maintenance staff, teachers and even visitors have aided Museum Services curators and museum technicians with the rehabilitation of the house museum room exhibits at Sutter's Fort. Since it is an outdoor museum all the core pioneer artifacts were taken out of the open-air exhibits and replaced with carefully chosen historically accurate reproductions, modern equivalents, and hands-on antiques. Such rooms as the carpenter's workshop, kitchen, gunsmith's workshop, blanket factory, and Sutter's private office are used by the Living History, Demonstration Days, and summer "History Live" programs for one-on-one hands-on interpretation.

Two formal temporary exhibits have been created using the core pioneer collection to tell significant stories relating to the history of Sutter's Fort. The first exhibit – "Fremont's Battalion and the Taking of California" – was created as the thesis of a CSUS graduate student. The second exhibit celebrated the sesquicentennial of the California Gold Rush and was guided by the advice of fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students and their teachers. All the artifact selection and preparation was accomplished by volunteers.

Historic Sites Sector has established a long history of solving exhibit problems using a volunteer work force and creative financing. And yet, this is nothing new. Volunteers created the park system and their passion has never faltered. Museum Services has simply tapped into the energy of this community.

And so it continues. This year interns will again return to the Old

Governor's Mansion to perform in depth historical research, write a formal furnishing plan, and analyze the environment of the dining room. All objects will be cleaned sheers and shades will be replaced, and the silk curtains will probably be reproduced.

At Sutter's Fort plans for a new orientation exhibit, which will expand the existing two-room space into an eight-room area that will encompass the entire southeast wall, are underway. This exhibit will feature six water color murals by the noted historic illustrator David Rickman. The money for these murals has been provided by Volunteer Enhancement Funds with the participation of the volunteers in helping determine which scenes to depict and offering helpful criticism to the artist through the rough sketch and final sketch phases. As usual, the construction of the exhibits – hammering nails, painting walls, wiring lights – will be accomplished by volunteers.



Mysteries Unveiled (a few, anyway)

On the steps of one of the state's other capitol buildings, Benicia, probably in the late '50s or early '60s, our sources (some old rangers who don't entirely agree) identified (1 to r): 1. **Tony Triguero**; 2. **Bill Kaiser**; 3. **Gene Schaal** or **Dick Brock**; 4. ?; 5. **Maurice Morgan**; 6. **Clyde Newlin** (?); 7. one vote for **Tiny Philbrook** (but Doug Bryce says no); 8. **Charlie Fakler** or **Ed Earl**; 9. **Mel Badger**; 10. **Gorden Kishbaugh**.

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I hereby authorize the State Controller to deduct from my salary and transmit as designated an amount for membership dues in the California State Park Rangers Association. This authorization will remain in effect until cancelled by myself or by the organization. I certify I am a member of the above organization and understand that termination of my membership will cancel all deductions made under this organization. Send to: CSPRA, P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93014-

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THE OFFICE MANAGER'S MAILBAG



Gar Salzgeber, Office Manager

Inez Cook phoned me suggesting that we request people mail us their old DPR related photos for our archives before they get lost or forgotten. Past President **Kim Baker** is currently our historian and keeping track of our archives. Unfortunately we have lots of photos with no captions and some of us don't recall what park units or personnel looked like 50 years ago. Could you send me any photos you have and try to put down as much information as you remember? Even if it's just a calculated guess... Next year I'll bring the photos to the Rendezvous and we can all put our brains together and see if we can fill in the voids.

Getting personnel notes from our retired members about what they're doing with their lives warms the cockles of my heart and sends chills of joy up my spine. I hope everybody else enjoys them as much.

Ray Jenkins writes: We won't be at the Rendezvous this year since we have a conflict of events – Donna's 50th school reunion is the same time. Keep us on the list for we do enjoy the Rendezvous, and will plan to attend next year. As to how we spend our time – we still travel in our RV with several other couples. We just returned from Branson, MO. Enjoyed the shows there, then stopped by at Conger, TX to see the outdoor production at Palo Dura Canyon. It's worth a stop if you're in the area.

Ken Wilbur writes: Since last
14 CSPRAWave, Nov-Dec, 2003

September when I retired I have been extremely busy with all those things that I like to do. They mostly involve hunting and fishing, but gardening, photography, traveling, and visiting friends and family are things we have done as well. Linda is still working at the Chico Unified School District and will do so for a couple of more years. She went to Italy for 18 days in June and we just returned from a week long trip to MN for a family reunion.

Last month I attended the Colt Armorers School and have been busy inspecting the new AR-15's the department has acquired. All the armorers have gone through the Colt training and I'm working on own DPR AR-15 inspection sheet and preparing for a Firearms Inspector class on the AR's. That keeps me pretty busy and I love it. Who would have ever thought that I'd get paid to work on guns???

Anyway, we are all fine and doing well. Kaesa received a teaching credential in Spanish from Chico State and a Masters in School Administration from Sonoma State. She is an Assistant Principal at a Jr. High in Santa Rosa, is married to a great guy, a home owner, but no children (Yet!). Will recently married a wonderful young lady from Chicago he met while

attending the Washington School of Medicine in St. Louis. They are both Physical Therapists in Paradise after working a couple of years in the Chicago area. Nice to have them nearby! Sorry that we will not be attending the Rendezvous, but I'll be headed for Idaho on the second of October. It's that time of year! Best regards to all.


Bob & Harriet Stephens write: I'm very sorry that we can't attend the Retirees Rendezvous at McConnell SRA with you and the rest of the rangers. We will be back at Marquette, MI where we have a cabin on the largest freshwater lake in the world: Lake Superior. We'll try to join you next year. Have a wonderful time (as usual).

Bud Heacox writes: Aloha Gar-- Consider this a "better late than never" from the Great Procrastinator – one of Barbara's pet nicknames for yours truly. Sorry we can't get to the Retirees Rendezvous in October as we have prior commitments at that time, but wish everyone a joyous and festive time at the gathering of the troops.

The turnout at John Michael's memorial funeral service on July 7 was impressive and included many
see LETTERS, p. 15

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LETTERS, from p. 14

old timers – some of whom we had not seen in twenty years or longer.

Having turned 79 on August 3, I decided to “retire” from my auxiliary volunteer job in surgery (surgical instrument workroom) at Sutter Memorial Hospital where I had been working for over 18 years. This was in addition to 18 years as a volunteer at the Sacramento Blood Center and 5+ years at McKinley Library.

For fun, we still make our annual Pilgrimage to Paradise on Maui every winter in January and February. Rough life! Most of our short trips are to the southwest desert areas. Although I can’t handle a surfboard any longer, I still can indulge in body surfing. I still enjoy painting and sand sculpturing and, of course, bird watching (and humpback whale, sea turtle and bikini watching too. That’s about it for now. Keep up the good work Gar and best wishes always. As we say on Maui: A HUI HOU KAKOU (until we meet again). Malama pono (take care). PS. Be good. If not, be careful.

Do you know someone who is retiring?

CSPRA provides a plaque for each member when they retire. Contact CSPRA at (800) 749-8749, or make a request at www.cspra.com, or write to CSPRA, P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93004-0247, or email: Officemanager@CSPRA.com

GET CONNECTED

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Catch up on CSPRA activities contact your District Reps, Board or Officers, get latest information. www.cspra.com

GRAYBEARS

Attention Retired Members!
Want to keep in touch after you leave DPR? Join the *GrayBears* list server. It is FREE and EASY to use. Just send your name and e-mail address to: graybears@cspra.com

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PRESIDENT, from p. 2

on the direction of the political winds and how we can best represent what is good for the future of parks. You can help by continuing to let us know how those political winds blow in

your area and by keeping the Board up to date on issues that we as an organization for all park professionals should address.

Want a CSPRA scholarship? Contact Fred Jee at (760) 767-3674



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Mission Statement



The California State Park Rangers Association is an organization of park professionals dedicated to advancement of the highest principles of public service, and established to support, protect, and defend the integrity of State Parks for present and future generations.



Founded 1964