



*The CSPRA*

# Wave

*Newsletter*

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 5

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

SEPT - OCT 2004

## OVER THE HILL... INTO THE FUTURE

CSPRA'S founding Board in 1964, standing, from left: Darrell Knoefler, Gordon Kishbaugh, Henry Saddler, John Michael, Kirk Wallace, Mel Whittaker; seated from left: Lewis Myer, Paul Griffith, Philip Geiger



Five recent CSPRA presidents: From left: Geary Hund, Kevin Buchanan, Nick Franco, Dana Jones, Jill Dampier

## CSPRA TURNS 40



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submissions become the property of CSPRA  
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**Thanks to Jeff Price for invaluable  
help with this issue.**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



**VALERIE BRADSHAW**  
*CSPRA President*

**Wow! 40 Years as a Professional Association.** Hard to imagine and makes me wonder if the CSPRA founders ever had an inkling of how the organization would grow and develop such respect and sustainability.

I was looking back through the list of past leaders of CSPRA and even here the sense of park family is evident. From *Al Salzgeber* serving as CSPRA President to his son serving as Office Manager. To *William Penn Mott, Jr* being one of

many Honorary State Park Rangers to his son, *John Mott*, serving a term as CSPRA President. Beyond the obvious family names, you also see the extended family of more than one classification. There are many brothers and sisters, moms and dads, from rangers, to interpreters, resource ecologists, communication operators, superintendents, and maintenance that have stepped up to the plate over the past 40 years to demonstrate incredible leadership as State Park Professionals.

It is because of this vast array of experience and dedication that CSPRA has developed into such as well known and respected organization. When we talk to legislators and say that we are with CSPRA, they immediately know that we are "RANGERS". We should all feel proud of this name recognition and thank those who had the foresight to establish the association 40 years ago. Let's continue to work together in these once again trying times to raise the banner in support of ALL Park Professionals in order to continue our mission to support and preserve California State Parks for present and future generations.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

**Update from Sacramento**

*by Monica Miller, CSPRA Lobbyist*

The California State budget was signed 29 days after it was due. The budget continues to rely on borrowing, bonds and many deals that were brokered behind the scenes with the various interested parties, such as CTA and Local Government. The Legislature passed the budget just 48 hours prior to the State Controller's deadline to be able to pay for vital services on behalf of California.

This year California dealt with many new dynamics; such as a new governor after the recall and a promise to overhaul the way business is done in the state. This budget is not without its problems; it does continue a \$10 billion deficit into the next couple of fiscal years. While

many one-time deals were negotiated and the voters passed the bonds needed for the State to get through until next year, without any new revenue streams coming into the State, we will continue the battle of protecting our State Parks for the next few years at a minimum.

As many of you are aware, the budget relied on increasing user fees to offset state parks budget, however with the rise in costs and the fact that Parks has not seen a budget increase in many years, maintaining the same budget amount is a decrease in our overall budget. We must continue our work to protect state parks for future generations.

In addition to the budget being signed the Administration also

*See LOBBYIST, page 8*

# The Accomplishments and History of CSPRA

by Doug Bryce  
CSPRA Executive Secretary  
1968-2001

The idea for an organization like CSPRA had been discussed now and again for several years, but the spark that ignited the organization was struck at a park supervisors' meeting held in Columbia in the winter of 1964. The issue was a proposal that rangers in historic parks be required to wear period dress. The rangers at Columbia felt that no one would be able to tell them from the local townspeople. It was decided that an organization was needed that could represent the interests of rangers to park management, and with the help of several persons and the California State Employees Association that organization was formed.

On November 4, 1964, CSPRA held its **first meeting of the Board of Directors**. In the fall of 1965 the first annual conference was held at Asilomar. In 1967, CSPRA was incorporated as a professional organization and two years later it was recognized by the state as an authorized representative of the members.

In 1978, with the passage of the Employee-Employer Relations Bill, **CSPRA became a professional organization** only. Since 1979 CSPRA membership has been open to all state park employees, and now includes trades and maintenance workers, resource ecologists, guides, district interpretive specialists, and office technicians to name a few. Employees from all disciplines support the advocacy work that CSPRA does for state parks.

Over the past 34 years CSPRA has accomplished many tasks and



^Ranger Doug at Calaveras,  
early in his career

achieved some important goals. CSPRA has been in the forefront of many environmental battles. Some of the many accomplishments include arguing for **Pescadero Marsh** reclassification from park to reserve status, successfully urging that the **Off-Highway Vehicle units** be included as part of the current state park system, rather than creating a separate OHV department, and support of various initiatives such as the **California bottle bill** and a **ban against offshore oil drilling**.

Since 1974, CSPRA has strongly lobbied in support of all **Park Bond Acts** and initiatives. In 1988 CSPRA continued to lead in the effort to maintain the integrity of the State Park System by establishing the **SAVE BODIE!** Committee. This committee worked hard for nine years to prevent the mining of Bodie Bluff. This has been the largest project undertaken by CSPRA and is considered to be California's largest statewide historic preservation battle of the 20th century.

Just as CSPRA is concerned about the resources of the State Park System we are also concerned about individual members. Since 1967 CSPRA has been providing scholarships to its

members. Since its creation CSPRA has provided relief for its members in times of disaster or personal tragedy. Keeping the spirit of the park family alive is one of CSPRA's most important objectives.

Together with the Park Rangers Association of California, CSPRA sponsors an **Annual California Parks Conference**, attracting park professionals from many agencies throughout the state. CSPRA publishes a bi-monthly newsletter as well as a web page, to keep members up-to-date on current issues and trends.

In the 1990's, we began sponsoring an annual **Retirees Rendezvous** in the early fall. This has helped keep our retired members together and more in touch with CSPRA. The last decade of the century has been a very difficult time for park professionals with tighter budgets and ever-increasing demands on the park heritage. As the population has continued to grow and pressure to find prime land for development has increased, the pressure on parks has also continued to increase.

More than ever CSPRA and its members are needed to serve as the conscience for the Department of Parks and Recreation, and to do **The CSPRA Way**, Sept-Oct 2004 **3**  
integrity of our natural, historical, and cultural heritage.

# DENZIL VERARDO

1978-1982

My Presidency of CSPRA occurred from 1978-1982 (two, two-year terms). This short synopsis of those years is by no means complete, but I believe they do illustrate a period of high activity and major change for our organization.

In 1978 CSPRA adopted its **Code of Ethics**. CSPRA was also extremely active with environmental issues. Two examples readily come to mind CSPRA joined with the **Save Mono Lake Committee** to fight for preservation of the Reserve's environment (this one is for you, **Janet**) and we were also a major player in preventing **oil and gas development off the Central Coast**, supporting then Member of Congress **Leon Panetta**. CSPRA testified at the drilling hearings where our point of view prevailed. Monterey Bay was later made a marine sanctuary free from exploration. A major change occurred to our annual conference beginning in 1979 with the expansion of professional workshops and presentations at the GEC. During this time period we affiliated with the **Park Rangers Association of California** and for the first time held our conferences jointly. CSPRA's advocacy for safety retirement for State Park Peace Officers also was successful during this period, and rangers and lifeguards were required to obtain POST basic certificates.

With the passage of the Dills Act – the State Employer-Employee Relations Act – CSPRA changed in a major way. Until that act, CSPRA acted as both a professional and employee representative organization. In 1978, in anticipation of the unionization of park rank and file



*Denzil speaking at the CSPRA G.E.C. in 1981*

staff, CSPRA signed a “placeholder” affiliation agreement with C.S.E.A. The term of the affiliation was to last until December, 1979 when unit elections would be announced and the employee representative determined. **CAUSE (SPPOAC)** won the election and became the employee bargaining agent for State Park Peace Officers with CSPRA Vice President **Mike Lynch** elected as SPPOAC President. Mike and I worked together to make that controversial transition as smooth as possible. CSEA was successful in

its election to represent our maintenance staff. Most of you are well aware of the remainder of the representative bodies. At this time 1979-1980, CSPRA became a “bona fide” **professional organization** and, as such, was precluded from representing its members to the state on employee issues. That allowed the organization to increase its focus on state park issues.

While much more can be said about the period from 1978-1982, let me leave it with this statement: It was definitely an exciting period of change for CSPRA and State Parks.



*Tom Smith, president of the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC) and Denzil Verardo sign an affiliation agreement in 1981*

*“Throughout my 34 years with State Parks, there have been two constants: a dedicated and incredibly creative staff in all disciplines, and CSPRA.”*

**Ron Brean, CSPRA President-elect**

## PAST PRESIDENTS

# JOHN MOTT

1982-1984

In March 1982, I became CSPRA's first Ranger 1 President, following **Denzil Verardo** and other superintendents. After serving two years as a Regional Director, I ran unopposed. The election ballot also contained a survey to determine what direction the association should take. SPPOAC/CAUSE (the ranger union) was asserting its union responsibilities and many people questioned what a "professional" organization could do that a union could not. The board and I strove to involve more members in professional causes and steer the association away from issues of wages, hours and working conditions. The following two years CSPRA tackled many professional challenges that helped define the course for the organization for years to come. Some of those issues were:

### **Saving the California Park and Recreation Commission**

A legislator introduced a bill to abolish the California Park and Recreation Commission. CSPRA responded by sponsoring legislation to strengthen and reaffirm the integrity of the Commission. The Department, as is commonly the case, had to take a "neutral" position on both bills per direction from the Governor's office. Aided by behind the scenes support from Commissioner Victoria Araujo and others, CSPRA successfully defeated the bill to abolish the Commission. Unfortunately, our bill to strengthen the Commission also died. Nevertheless, preserving the status quo was considered a victory.

### **Coppertone Garbage Cans**

Early revenue generation and marketing efforts yielded a proposal from the Coppertone corporation to fund the purchase and maintenance of garbage cans on state beaches with the condition that the cans would be bright



yellow and contain a large Coppertone logo with the words "Tan, don't burn. Use Coppertone." For those of you who don't remember, the logo for Coppertone was a tanned young girl in a two piece swim suit, with a playful dog off leash pulling her swim suit off slightly her left hip exposing a pale posterior. CSPRA felt this was neither an image we wanted to promote on the state beaches, nor was DPR receiving a fair return for the advertising space the suntan oil company would receive to a virtually captive audience of hundreds of thousands of their primary customers. CSPRA wrote letters, met with the director, and testified at Commission hearings with the result that Coppertone lost and CSPRA won.

### **Funding Stewardship via the Bond Act**

CSPRA joined with Sierra Club and other groups in promoting a then-radical idea for a State Park Bond Act—provide money for resource management or "stewardship" projects. This idea raised many eyebrows because up until that time park bond acts had always been for land acquisition and capital development. I remember deputy directors telling me, "Voters will never go for stewardship—that will kill the bond act!" The stewardship money stayed in, the bond act passed, and stewardship has been a part of bond acts ever since.

### **San Onofre Golf Course – Not!!**

Early in the park's infancy a serious proposal surfaced to build a

golf course at San Onofre State Beach, displacing campsites and destroy (the now rare) coastal sage scrub habitat. CSPRA and other groups vigorously opposed this proposal and defeated it.

### **Park Integrity Committee**

Threats to park values and changes in State Park System management philosophy inspired CSPRA to form the Park Integrity Committee to provide a forum for evaluating and responding to proposals that reflect significant changes in traditional park philosophy.

CSPRA also lent its name to support a variety of environmental issues (such as the bottle recycling bill, gillnetting, federal wilderness efforts, off-shore oil drilling, and others) that were not unique to State Parks.

Maintaining park integrity and supporting environmental causes were significant professional issues that clearly were not in the union realm. After two years CSPRA's professional role was more clearly defined, conferences were well attended, and members received a monthly CSPRA Newsletter and a semi-annual professional journal, *The California Ranger*. In March 1984, after a very exciting two years, I passed the gavel to President-elect **Jeff Price**.

### **Board Officers and Committees**

during my presidency:  
VP/President Elect: **Jeff Price**; Board Members: **Rick Parmer, Joan Grammer, Dan Abeyta, Bob Grace**; Treasurer: **Ken Gray**.

Committees: Installations: **Jim Whitehead**; Historian: **Al Salzgeber**; Ways and Means: **Denzil Verardo**; '84 Convention: **Broc Stenman**; Executive Manager: **Doug Bryce**; Education and Training: **Steve Horvitz**; Retired Members: **Joe McCall**; Maintenance: **Larry Tierney**; Legislative: **Dave Vincent**; Environmental Issues: **Larry Santoyo**

Publications: CSPRA Newsletter: **Mark Faull & Wendy Leiber**; CAL Ranger: **Heidi Doyle**

## PAST PRESIDENTS

# JEFF PRICE

1984-1986

CSPRA was undergoing discernible pressure from within the organization to become a global environmental watchdog and feeling external pressure as it became one of the leading voices supporting the integrity of the park system.

The Board quickly took steps to focus CSPRA's direction to California's parks and move away from involvement in every environmental issue in the world. We determined to concentrate on three main issues during my term of office: **Eliminate direct threats to individual parks; counter threats to the park system's integrity and, promote our professional image.**

CSPRA promoted a forum for specific issues such as improving the professional standing of our technical members when we formed the **Maintenance Committee** with **Larry Tierney** serving as chair. CSPRA also formed the **Park Integrity Committee** with **Ken Gray** as chair and we sought to reinvigorate our **Environmental Issues Committee** while **Mike Whitehead** refined his Legislative Committee mission.

It was so easy to simply oppose the Department's many destructive proposals in 1984. The Board decided to make a shift in philosophy and become as proactive and positive as possible. I met regularly with then Director **William Briner** to let him know what CSPRA was doing and to identify ways CSPRA could support the Department. We found quite a few.

We fought hard to get **Prop 18 (park bond)** passed. **Ken Gray** even developed a great "I LOVE STATE PARKS" bumper sticker. It was encouraging to see the bond act passed in June 1984. We also worked for the 1985 "**Bottle Bill**" which passed. We spent considerable effort



trying to reverse the Director's decision to sell **commercial cattle grazing leases** at Mt. Diablo, Henry Coe and other units.

CSPRA was concerned that some Deukmejian appointed **Park Commissioners** did not have a park-related background, so we sent every Commissioner a personal invitation to visit a few parks near where they lived. We even set them up with CSPRA-provided guides to assist in the familiarization. I believe it was a positive effort to get them involved and get their attention.

During this time CSPRA also had a little fun. We got the first look at **Roger Nelson's** weird sense of humor in a great Newsletter article titled, Flat Cats: A Guide to Compressed Critters, complete with illustrations. The **Mixed Metaphor and Malaprop column** concept was begun quite by accident at a San Mateo Coast staff meeting. We saw the debut of a News & Views spoof, and as much as I enjoyed the humor (like the part about the new headquarters support group, "State Coalition of Unqualified Managers" or SCUM, that was formed to assist new "experientially impaired" managers, stressed by lack of job qualifications)

I was not involved. Really!

Not all was fun, however. We set up the **Shawn Fahey** Reward Fund to assist in a search for the missing Big Basin seasonal. I accepted the first cash donations to the fund from Director **William Briner** and Operations Chief **Garth Tanner**. Sadly, the fund changed to support the arrest and conviction of those responsible for her death, when her body was discovered in 1984. I also represented CSPRA in presenting a portion of the eulogy at Charter Member **James Whitehead's** funeral. This was a man who inspired me to a higher level of panache and professionalism early in my career and I was pleased that CSPRA then established an **educational scholarship fund** in Jim's name.

In 1985 we took a stand on restoring park staffing levels, cut from the budget, and presented testimony at legislative hearings in Sacramento and Monterey. We easily supported Director Briner's budget request for an **additional 362 positions**. We also continued to collect and present actual, park-specific data to show that a lack of maintenance was allowing the facilities to deteriorate, natural resources threats were going unaddressed and that we needed staff to protect both the public and parks. CSPRA was able to carry points to the public and the elected that the department could not make in its own defense.

It was an enjoyable term of office and I am proud to have represented a great group of park professionals.



Jeff and Don Murphy

## PAST PRESIDENTS

### **RICK PARMER** **1986-1987**

I became the “second” Ranger I president (after **John Mott**). I owe much of what we accomplished during my tenure to the tireless administrative support and institutional memory of our long-time executive, **Doug Bryce**.

Our Board of Directors served during Reagan’s term as President when James Watt served as Interior Secretary. I remember being in a state park training class at Asilomar and sneaking over to hear **Ansel Adams** address a convention of photographers on the threats and danger to public lands management and the National Park System from the policies of Secretary Watt.

These were also the heady initial years of the development of SPPOAC and some in the department felt CSPRA might hear its death knell and be replaced eventually by SPPOAC. But with a spirited activist board of directors including **Gar Salzgeber** and **Syd Brown** we voted to become an institutional member of the Planning and Conservation League under Executive Director, **Jerry Meral**. This affiliation helped steered us in a direction of legislative and environmental activism on behalf of many state park issues (e.g. golf course development at Lake Tahoe, fees for movie making in state parks, advertising policy in state parks, removing land from Hungry Valley SVRA to build another prison in Los Angeles County).

We launched a “staffing campaign” with the support of PCL media consultant, **Leo McElroy**, still a political consultant in Sacramento. Leo was successful in getting CSPRA media attention concerning the “woeful state” of the parks and short staffing. Director **William Briner** and Deputy Director, **Garth Tanner**, were not happy campers (nor were quite a few CSPRA members and



managers) to see CSPRA on the editorial pages of major newspapers and on the evening news in major markets.

Leo coached me and arranged TV interviews and had me speak before the editorial boards of the San Francisco Chronicle and Orange County Register. Then the wire services picked up the story and I did more interviews. So much for Ranger I career advancement opportunities. At least we got attention and raised public awareness about a serious issue facing the state park system at the time. One Bay area TV station wanted to show how short staffed DPR really was. We sent them to Henry Cowell Park on a late Friday afternoon before a fairly busy weekend and there was no one staffing the entrance station. They interviewed several campers who didn’t understand the check-in procedures and aired it on the evening news. **Alex Weiss**, my supervisor, often gleefully taunted me about the impending demise of my State Park career during this staffing campaign but was actually very supportive of CSPRA efforts throughout these years and beyond. The late Superintendent **Carol Nelson** was also a supporter of CSPRA causes and our 86/87 Board of Director efforts in my years as President at Candlestick SRA. The late **Milt Frincke**, assistant regional director of the Central Coast when he retired, was a confidant and advisor to the Board on many issues. Behind the scenes, his friendship, idealism, and knowledge of park management were invaluable in navigating the contentious state park environmental issues of that 86/87 era.

1986 was the year we established the **Jim Whitehead** Scholarship fund for CSPRA members after **Jeff Price**’s administration got the ball rolling and **Peggy Whitehead**, Jim’s

wife, endowed it with a deeply appreciated contribution.

CSPRA also hired a fundraising consultant to help increase membership and GEC revenues since we were entirely a volunteer contribution organization and SPPOAC union dues and influence were rising under the adept leadership of **Mike Lynch**.

**John Mott** was our master CSPRA recruiter at Asilomar for new ranger trainee classes and combined with sage counsel on fundraising letter writing we netted nearly 100 new members in one year.

Big Basin Ranger, **Carl Burger**, an excellent guitar player and composer, wrote some creative, humorous, and cynical songs about State Park life and donated the proceeds of his original cassette tapes to CSPRA and the Save Bodie! campaign. I still play the cassettes once in a while and chuckle all the way to my next meeting. Carl’s tape sales were a big help.

CSPRA gave me some of the most satisfying moments of my public service career. My thanks to the many members and board members who helped make our 2 years a memorable and effective time in the 40 year history of this wonderful association.

### **A WAVE GOODBYE**



#### **RODGER KELLOGG**

Aug. 5, 1938 - Aug. 7, 2004

After a long career with State Parks, Rodger retired in 2000 as Chief Ranger at Oceano Dunes SVRA.

## PAST PRESIDENTS

### **BUD GETTY**

**1990-1992, 1994-1996**

During my reign of terror, many long-term integrity issues were the main focus of CSPRA. These issues were the same everyday issues we were dealing with at work. Sometimes it was difficult to remember which hat you were wearing, but it was important when testifying or talking to the media to separate the two, the professional job from the work of the professional organization.

The Administration was not always in tune with the park environments and seemed all too ready to make an exception to any policy or regulation that we lived by. As much time was spent fighting internal battles as the outside influences.

The most important issue we were facing was the fight to keep **mining**



interests from brutalizing the ghost town of **Bodie** and its environs.

**Donna Pozzi's** leadership took us to a successful conclusion of this fight. Other important issues were the problems relating to the differing views for **Henry Coe State Park**, whether there should be grazing or

**wilderness**, and whether the **air strip** should remain. The battle to stop **commercial grazing in Mt. Diablo State Park** was a similar conflict. Our influences resulted in victories for the parks.

Off-road transgressions in parks led to the solution of establishing the system of **Off Road Vehicular areas**. This system preserved park resources while allowing large numbers of off-road operators to be able to continue their form of recreation.

CSPRA played a role in all of the above decisions, as well as many other issues that faced State Parks. This I believe is the reason for the existence for our organization. The combined work of individual members, along with the lobbying efforts we have maintained, have made the park system greater and better, and have served the people of California well. We need to keep up the fight.

### **NICK FRANCO**

**1999-2000**

I was fortunate to be the CSPRA President during the change of the millennium (March 1999 to March 2000). This was a year of **deferred maintenance money**, the **park bond** and numerous rapid-fire things happening in parks.

During this year, CSPRA successfully (after previous attempts in years past) got the State Parks Historic and Cultural Resources listed as one of the **National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places**. We used the **Angel Island Immigration Station** as an example of the types of resources we have in State Parks and the lack of funding available to provide true stewardship. We joined with the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation in submitting our application. The dubious "award" of being endangered helped lead to the allocation of significant funding from



the 2000 bond for cultural resource projects.

Speaking of the bond, CSPRA played an active role in advocating for the passage of the **2000 park bond**, the first bond to pass after 12 years of no park bonds. The active work of the California State Parks Foundation along with many CSPRA members and many, many others helped pass the bond.

In addition, we continued work on the **strategic plan for CSPRA** to try to better focus our activities. We rallied opposition for a proposed **Bodie Hills RV Park** that would have diminished the visitor's experience by being located on the entry road. We took an

active role in trying to reinvigorate the department's **Junior Ranger Program**. And, of course, we continued **partnering with PRAC** to sponsor the California Parks Conference. It is a proud pleasure to continue to be a member of CSPRA.

#### **LOBBYIST, from page 2**

released the California Performance Review, otherwise known as CPR. While many are poring over the 2,500 pages of detailed reform and recommendations by the CPR, we are told that they plan to implement the plan in stages. The Governor will have the ability to implement pieces through executive order, however the Legislature will also have some say in the various proposed recommendations.

As we quickly approach the end of the Legislative session (August 31, 2004) CSPRA will continue to keep you apprised of any new details regarding the CPR. In the meantime, we will wrap up our legislative year having successfully avoided major reductions in the parks budget, which is always a victory and could not be done without your help and support.

## PAST LEADERS



^CHARTER MEMBERS, celebrating 25 years of CSPRA in 1989: top, l. to r.: Al Ulm, Jerry Johnson, Ron McCall, Milt Frincke, Jim Geary, Kirk Wallace; bottom: Bill Reinhardt, Herman Schlerf, Chuck Lyden, Phil VanDuesen, Ron McCullogh, Chuck Mehlert, Jim Davis, Joe McCall, Wes Cater, Dick Brock, Doug Bryce; Kneeling with cake: Bob Foster, President Don Murphy.

OTHER CHARTER MEMBERS, not shown: Harry Batlin, Keith Caldwell, Glen Farris, Bud Getty, Dominic Gotelli, Bud Heacox, Gene Junete, Floyd Lemley, Carl Lonnecker, Ken Martin, Kirby Morgan, Jim Neal, Bob Perkins, Jack Schlotter, Bill Stahlberg, Jack Stowe, Dick Felty and Ken Pierce.

BENEFICIARY MEMBERS: Peggy Whitehead & Doug Bryce.

L to R: Past presidents Al Salzgeber, Dick Brock, Honorary Ranger Earl Hanson, and past presidents Jack Welch and Wes Cater >>



^Past presidents, L to R: Denzil Verardo, Nina Gordon, Bud Getty, Ron McCall, Rick Parmer, and John Mott at Bud's retirement party.

President Val Bradshaw, with past presidents Kevin Buchanan, and Dana Jones >>



## CSPRA PRESIDENTS

1. Paul Griffith 11/64 - 7/66
2. Al Salzgeber 7/66 - 1/68
3. Richard Brock 1/68 - 3/70
4. Wesley Cater 3/70 - 3/72
5. Jack Welch 3/72 - 3/74
6. Herman Schlerf 3/74 - 3/76
7. Ron McCall 3/76 - 3/78
8. Denzil Verardo 3/78 - 3/82
9. John Mott 3/82 - 3/84
10. Jeffery B. Price 3/84 - 1/86
11. Rick Parmer 1/86 - 3/88
12. Donald Murphy 3/88 - 3/90
13. Maurice Bud Getty 3/90 - 3/92
14. Nina Gordon 3/92 - 4/92
15. Wayne Harrison 4/92 - 3/94
16. Maurice Bud Getty 3/94 - 3/96
17. Dave Nelson 3/96 - 3/97
18. Scott Nakaji 3/97 - 3/98
19. Jill Dampier 3/98 - 3/99
20. Nick Franco 3/99 - 3/00
21. Kim Baker 3/00 - 3/01
22. Geary Hund 3/01 - 3/02
23. Kevin Buchanan 3/02 - 3/03
24. Dana Jones 3/03 - 3/04
25. Valerie Bradshaw 3/04 - 3/05



## HONORARY RANGERS

Honorary Rangers are individuals who have made an exemplary contribution to State Parks. In some years more than one was chosen. Those pictured on these two pages are marked in bold.

1965 Harry Blaisdell, Sr.

**1965 Walt Disney**

1965 Newton B. Drury

1965 Verna Dunshee

1965 Percy French

1965 Joe Knowland

1965 Everett Powell

1966 Joseph C. Houghteling

1966 Laurance S. Rockefeller

1968 Phil Geiger

1968 William Goodall

**1971 Harriett Weaver**

1972 Pearl Chase

1972 Earl P. Hanson

1973 Edward F. Dolder

1973 Claude A. "Tony" Look

1974 Josephine Read

1978 Helen "Harriet" Allen

1978 Bertram "Bert" Dunshee

**1979 William Penn Mott, Jr.**

1980 Howard King

1981 Vern Whitaker

**1981 James Whitehead**

**1984 Ansel Adams**

1984 Catherine Stone

1984 Joe Stone

**1985 Harold Biswell**

1985 John B. DeWitt

1986 Roscoe Poland

1986 Wilma Poland

1987 Sally Altick

1988 Victoria Araujo

1988 Harry M. Daniel

**1990 Phil Frank**

**1991 David Brower**

1993 William Alsup

1996 Roma Philbrook Rentz

1997 L.W. "Bill" Lane

1998 Margaret Owings

1998 Les Strnad

**1999 Andrea Mead Lawrence**

2000 Verl Clausen

2001 Doug McConnell

2002 Claire Schlotterbeck

**2003 Susan Smartt**

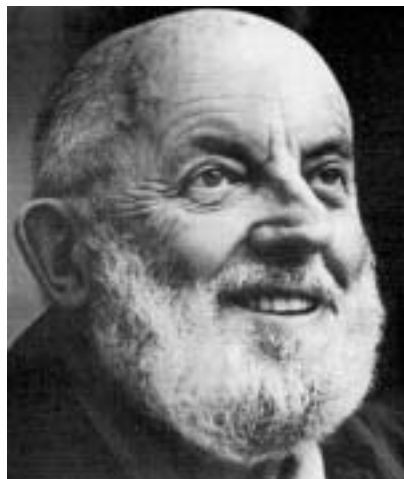
**2004 Huell Howser**



*L. Paul Griffith, CSPRA's first president and Walt Disney, one of the first Honorary Rangers*



*^^Jim Whitehead  
<<Harriett "Petey" Weaver*



*^^William Penn Mott, Jr.*

## HONORARY RANGERS



^^ *Harold Biswell*



^^ *Phil Frank*



^^ *David Brower*



^^ *Susan Smartt*



^^ *Andrea Mead Lawrence*

*Huell Howser >>*

Thanks to Michael G. Lynch for giving permission to use photos from his book, *Rangers of California's State Parks*, in this issue.



# SAVING A GHOST TOWN

by *Donna Pozzi*

*Chief of Interpretation and Education*

As CSPRA observes its 40th anniversary, it's appropriate that we pause to reflect on what was arguably the organization's greatest achievement to date: leading the campaign to SAVE BODIE! What I hope to accomplish here is to help us celebrate our organization's successes and remind us what we are capable of when aroused to protect the integrity of our cherished State Park System.

This is the saga of a 9-year long fight to stop an open pit gold mine that was going to be built by a Canadian mining company adjacent to Bodie State Historic Park. Bodie is the Mono County ghost town preserved in a state of "arrested decay." When the state acquired Bodie in 1962, it consisted of most of the townsite with about 100 remaining buildings full of furnishings left behind by the town's former residents. However, much of the land surrounding the park was retained as mining claims, awaiting new technologies and/or a higher price for gold. It was these claims that were proposed for development by Galactic Resources, Ltd. in 1988.

The technology of the day was a far cry from that of Bodie's heyday; it involved heap leach mining in which mountains (in this case the historic mining area and backdrop to the town) are removed, pits are excavated and the ore is processed in piles that are saturated with a cyanide solution. Investment literature referred to Galactic's mines in places like rural South Carolina and Summitville, Colorado. In fact, they pointed to Summitville as a model of what Bodie would become since it was also an historic mining district in a remote,

high altitude setting. We knew that a modern mine was incompatible with Bodie's ghost town ambiance, would threaten the fragile buildings, and compromise wildlife habitat.

More background: this was during the Deukmejian administration; *Henry Agonia* was our director; the field was still organized into regions. Bodie's supervising ranger *Brad Sturdivant* had learned about this mining proposal and called Inland Region where I was working as the Visitor Services Superintendent. While we were quite alarmed about this in the field, it quickly became apparent that the administration would not let the department take a position opposing the project. Several



department managers including Regional Director *Bill Monaghan* and Sierra District Superintendent *Bob Macomber* turned to CSPRA. *Don Murphy* was our president; *Bud Getty* and I were on the board along with , I believe, *Rick Parmer, Ron Schaefer and Kathy Franklin*. I still don't quite know how it happened but I agreed to head up a committee to do what we could to stop the mine. I naively thought that we would call some of the big name environmental organizations and they would take this on for us. Of course it doesn't work that way.

CSPRA's SAVE BODIE! Committee got organized with a meeting in my living room of *Joe Engbeck, Cindy Woodward, Frank Lortie, Bill Dillinger, Dorene Clement, Bruce Kennedy, Doug Bryce, and Patty Gregory*. The board allocated \$5000 and we hired a law firm in San Francisco that specialized in environmental issues. We spent that in no time but fortunately we had mounted a major publicity campaign (front page stories in all the major papers; state and national television coverage) and *William Alsup* of Morrison and Foerster came forward to help us on a pro bono basis. We also started fundraising through direct mail, t-shirt sales and benefits. *Carolyn Edwards, Inez Cook, Fred Soderlund and Don Napoli* handled the t-shirt and treasurer duties so we wouldn't overburden CSPRA's executive manager *Doug Bryce*. Doug was already helping in countless ways with mailings, newsletter production and all kinds of secretarial support. That may sound trivial but this was before the time of the internet and e-mail; home computers and fax machines were not common. We had to drive back and forth with typed drafts! Doug even represented us at a rather heated Mono Co. Board of Supervisors meeting.

## SAVE BODIE!

We became experts on modern mining techniques and ultimately got very involved in efforts in Congress to reform the 1872 Mining Law since it was largely responsible for allowing this type of exploitation of public lands.

I became friends with a neighbor of the Galactic mine in South Carolina and learned that the tailings ponds were killing birds including gulls. With Bodie's proximity to Mono Lake, this was a huge concern. We toured mines and networked with other grass roots groups dealing with similar threats. Local activists joined us by forming Eastern Sierra Citizens for the Protection of Bodie. The courageous **Andrea Lawrence** was on the Board of Supervisors and was often the lone vote supporting Bodie. **Nancy Whitmore** chaired the local effort.

**Rick Rayburn** and **Ross Henry** got the department to hire someone to deal with the Bodie issue and we were incredibly fortunate to have **Noah Tilghman** join the cause. Noah made sure the state did everything it could in dealing with Mono County, the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and elected officials. Likewise the park staff, especially Brad, coped with the onslaught of media attention, local controversy, and increased visitation. When Pete Wilson was elected governor, **Don Murphy** became the State Parks Director. Things started looking up and there was a sympathetic ear in the Resources Agency. Two national organizations provided significant support: the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Wilderness Society. Others began to sign on. At the time CSPRA was part of the Planning and Conservation League and **Jennifer Jennings, Corey Brown and Jerry Meral** all helped us. We got our feet wet in the legislative arena by getting a Senate Joint Resolution through the California Legislature. While it was only



advisory, it was still hotly contested, to the astonishment of our sponsor Senator Dan McCorquodale and our pro bono consultant in lobbying, Jeff Arthur from the Dangermond Group. Next the Bodie Protection Act was launched and I went to Washington, DC for the first time in May 1992 to testify and lobby in Congress. (Before it was over, I would testify on CSPRA's behalf twice in the House and once in the Senate.) Unfortunately, State Parks was not allowed to attend and BLM appeared to be closely aligned with Galactic. **Bill Mott** was the NPS director and he sneaked me a copy of the federal testimony to help me prepare mine.

Although Galactic's mine in



*Bodie's Supervising Ranger  
Brad Sturdivant*

Colorado had begun to malfunction and leak, this was covered up when they testified. Summitville's disaster ultimately led to Bodie's salvation when the mine, called "the Exxon Valdez of mining" destroyed all life in a 17-mile stretch of the Alamosa River. To this day the taxpayer funded clean-up continues, having set records for toxic remediation costs.

In late 1992, Galactic filed for bankruptcy and with the Bodie Protection Act of 1994 finally passed by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton, State Parks was able to put together an incredible acquisition deal to purchase the mining claims from the bankruptcy trustee and the other property owners. Along with Noah, **Warren Westrup, Charlie Willard, Heather Fargo** and others all worked tirelessly to pull it off.

This is obviously a very abbreviated version of a long, convoluted tale. I have had to leave out a lot including the names of scores of people who played huge parts in this story (please forgive me)—from CSPRA officers and members to Bodie lovers from all over the nation. I've omitted the intrigue and drama but to give you an idea of how bizarre it was, our fight inspired a murder mystery by a well-known author!

In addition to giving us all cause to celebrate on the occasion of CSPRA's anniversary, I wanted to share this with you in the hopes that it would serve as inspiration for others to get involved. I believe that we were a stronger, richer and more effective organization when we all pulled together the way we did for Bodie. Very little was done by paid consultants. Our members were energized and mobilized, supported by donations of time and money from hundreds of others who wanted to be part of our righteous cause. I am not willing to believe that you won't rise to the occasion again. Could that time be now?

## OFFICE MANAGER'S MAILBAG



*Gar Salzgeber, Office Manager*

This is probably a good time to recall what I know about the birth of CSPRA 40 years ago and it is only a very narrow version. I was around 20 or 21 years old and starting a new family, so must admit that CSPRA's beginning wasn't holding my attention. My crystal ball never gave me a clue that the harebrain scheme of **Paul Griffith** and my dad, **Al Salzgeber** would ever come to fruition. While there are probably several reasons for the birth of CSPRA, I believe part of its beginning could be blamed on a problem **Neil Power** had at Columbia SHP over the issue of period dress versus uniforms. **Paul Griffith** had the idea of a professional organization to support these types of ideas with the departments' evolution and Dad supported it. I'm sure other Charter Members had a large part in developing the organization also.

Originally the organization was only for State Park Rangers. I was a State Park Attendant and by the time dad became President, I told him I thought the organization ought to be open for other positions as I wanted to be a member of the organization. This is when Supporting Member category was developed and I became the first Supporting Member.

As you already know I am retiring from my position. Another office manager is being hired as I write this. I must say that the job doesn't pay enough, but it sure felt right to stay

connected with the State Park family. Thank you for all the thank yous and encouragement. I'm sure I will come to regret my decision to retire from this position, but I will never retire from the State Park Family.

### Correspondence

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.

**Roma Rentz** sent us another contribution for \$100, which is always appreciated.

**Allen and Pat Ulm** writes: Thanks for all your efforts in keeping us together. We know what a rough year this must be for you and hope you're holding up. Finally got the permit to rebuild our burned out home – it's possible we won't be "camping out" come the 1<sup>st</sup>. of 2005. See you in October.

**Keith Caldwell** writes: Sorry to be slow in responding to the Rendezvous Registration etc. I'm still deeply involved with the Retired Public Employees Association and CAL/PERS and of course their General Assembly. It's again planned for the same four days as the Rendezvous. I've watched for a way I could attend both, but it's not possible. We're working on legislative bills and congressional acts affecting public retirees and the State and Federal budgets. State retirees have already been hit twice and now they plan to hold back the States contribution to the State Trust Account for two years on all contributions from new hires and they want to get their hands on our PERS Trust money again. The governor can not do some of the things he'd like to do, i.e. take retirement money to pay State expenses. Thanks to a lot of State retirees volunteering their time and effort that work full time to protect our Retirement Trust Accounts at PERS. Don't think Carol and I would not like to see and visit with all of you at the Rendezvous. In one way the State Park System has changed a lot and in another good way, it hasn't changed at all. The Parks are open and

the employees are smiling even with the cutbacks and changes. Carol and I are fine; we enjoy our garden and yard, a few books and a trip now and then. Our best to you all!

**Craig Burke** writes: Since retiring from Calaveras Big Trees, I have purchased a log home with my new fiancé in nearly San Andreas. I am now substitute teaching at local schools and find I have even less time to play golf than before!?! I hope to tour the state soon looking up old former workmates.

**Glen Jones** writes: We are doing well here in Reno. Still travel some. Try to fish a lot and loaf more. Enjoy a little golf. Take care, enjoy life and good health.

**Don Lawyer** writes: Sorry can not make the Rendezvous. Give my regards to the guys.

**Floyd Lemley** writes: Here's my check for your dues kitty. Payroll deduction is too impersonal. (I know you worked hard for that). Wouldn't you get "more things up and down your spine" from a personal friendly check than an ol' statement from PERS??

We, Barbara and I, will not be attending the Retiree Rendezvous. Would be interesting I know. Worked with or for, or vice versa, many of them over the years. Know we would enjoy seeing and sharing our matured experiences and features (wrinkles and expanded waist lines), but will have to pass again.

[I agree with Floyd, it would be better for us to get a friendly check for dues instead of an "ol' statement from PERS", and have already paid my own dues by check. Floyd is one of the dependable members who always mails in his dues on time. Unfortunately many of us are on vacation and have too much mail when we return to catch up on little issues like dues. The Board thought it might be easier for these people to just have automatic deductions taken out of their PERS checks than to have to continue to write annual checks to CSPRA].

## humor in unicorn



## Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price, retired

Line of the times?

*Sometimes you have to draw a sword in  
the sand.*

Some of these I can't explain, so will just  
report.

*Well that just doesn't cut any ice with  
me.*

Depth perception, perhaps?

*He didn't realize how close he was  
getting to the tree, must have been a  
problem with his third dimension.*

Reefer madness?

*That idea stinks on hot ice.*

No sale.

*She plans to turn over a new lease.*



## RETIREES RENDEVOUS

Oct. 1 - 3, 2004

McConnell SRA

The Rendezvous is coming up once again. Events include a Friday night "Road Kill Grille" BBQ/Potluck, Saturday morning pancake breakfast, "Pitch and Put" golf match and Saturday afternoon BBQ. Camping is available at McConnell.

Registration fee is \$5, which includes the Sat. BBQ for retirees, spouses and families. For more information or to sign up, contact Gar at 1-800-749-8749 or [Officemanager@cspira.com](mailto:Officemanager@cspira.com).

## Want a CSPRA scholarship?

Contact **Fred Jee** at  
(760) 767-4651,  
[jeeology@yahoo.com](mailto:jeeology@yahoo.com)

## The 2005 Parks Conference


will be at the Sonoma Wine  
Country Double Tree Resort in  
Rohnert Park, **March 7-10**  
(Monday-Thursday). Look for  
updates in the CSPRA Wave or  
online at <http://www.cspira.com>.  
Mark your calendars!

## Do you know someone who is retiring?

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

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## THIS CUP COULD BE YOURS!

All contributors to the WAVE receive a  
stainless steel CSPRA travel mug in  
appreciation. Send articles to  
[wave@cspira.com](mailto:wave@cspira.com).



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## CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

### **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***

