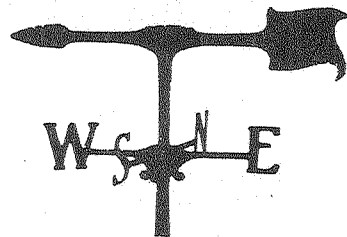




california state park rangers association

1108 O STREET • SACRAMENTO, CALIF. 95814 • PHONE (916) 444-8134

# REPORTER



VOLUME 2  
NUMBER 7  
Aug. 25, 1969

News from North, East, South, and West.

## ON SEEING WEATHERBEATEN TREES

Is it as plainly in our living shown  
By slant and twist, which way the wind has blown?

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO ALL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

I am calling your attention to certain provisions in our constitution and By-Laws regarding elections.

As you are aware, Regional Directors must be elected in Regions II, IV, VI. The procedure for nominations is detailed in Article VI of the By-Laws. The nominations must be in the hands of the Executive Secretary (Doug Bryce) prior to October 11.

Delegates must also be elected annually for each Region. Because of the fact that the current delegates will not have the opportunity to attend a G.E.C. (none for 1969) you may wish to re-elect those delegates now in office for next year (1970 G.E.C.)

I am somewhat at a loss as to how the President and Vice President will be nominated. The By-Laws (Article VI, Section 5) set up the procedure. However, without a G.E.C. this year we obviously cannot comply. Your suggestions will be appreciated. Perhaps the Constitution and By-Laws Committee can resolve this (Al Salzgeber??).

I have again requested action by CSEA on three (3) pertinent resolutions passed by our last G.E.C.

1. Possessory Interest Tax.
2. Peace Officer Retirement.
3. Salary increase, as well as several others.

I have also been informed that our law enforcement proposals have been received by Management and further comments from the field will be requested. You will hear more on this within the next 30-60 days.

May I again remind you to canvass your Regions for the best possible candidates for election to office. Your representation is in direct ratio to the caliber of man elected.

Best regards to all of you.

RICHARD L. BROCK, President, CSPRA

The Tuolumne County Historical Society had the honor on Saturday, August 9, 1969, of co-hosting, with the Calaveras Historical Society, the dedication of the new Calaveras Parkway leading to the new South Grove in Calaveras Big Trees State Park on the Ebbetts Pass Road. Mr. Glenn Jones, Chief Ranger at the Park, set up the program with the two Societies.

William Penn Mott, Jr. was the keynote speaker. As Director of State Parks and Recreation in Sacramento, Mr. Mott stressed the fact that it is not enough to build roads and parks but we must teach people to appreciate the meaning of the beauty and the historical values that surround them. He explained that the new road ends a mile from the grove "to get people out on their own two feet to appreciate this grove". Within the grove a mile-long trail takes the viewer beside such famous trees as the Trapper Smith Tree and many others of breath-taking size and beauty. A side trip to the Calaveras Grove Association plaque, mid-way through the grove, is well worth the few extra minutes walk.

# Judgment Asked In Government's Protest on Taxes

The possessory interest tax conflict was revived Friday when attorneys for the U.S. government filed a motion asking for a judgment in their two-year battle to cancel county levied assessments against some forest service employees.

The motion asks Judge Ross A. Carkeet to rule on the federal government's contention that the possessory interest assessments levied against 12 forest service employees who rent federally-owned housing at the Groveland and Summit ranger stations, are "erroneous and illegal."

The original complaint also charges that the board of supervisors "arbitrarily disregarded" evidence when they refused to cancel the assessments.

Assessor Art Ronten contends the assessments are not only legal but the county has a right to levy possessory interest taxes against federal government employees who rent their living quarters.

An opinion written by Assistant Dist. Atty. Tom Marovich to Ronten when the turmoil began advised:

"Rental paid on a monthly basis indicates a month to month tenancy, during the term of which an employee would be entitled to exclusive occupancy, and hence, the existence of a taxable possessory interest."

Marovich and District Atty. Ernest Geddes feel the county's case is so strong that following Friday's filing by the U.S. attorneys they filed their own document asking Judge Carkeet to deny the government's motion for judgment.

In answer to the government's charge that the possessory interest levy is wrong because the employees are serving at the pleasure of their employer, the county counsel cited several court rulings upholding possessory interest levies including a 1967 ruling in the case of McCaslin vs. DeCamp.

In that case an employee of a tax-exempt irrigation district was held to have a taxable possessory interest in a district-owned residence where he lived while an employee of the district. The court stated:

"The test is not whether the tax-exempt agency has the right to terminate the tenancy or occupancy, or whether taxpayer has nontransferable interest, but whether he has exclusive use and possession of the property against all the world, including the owner."

The court noted further:

"The right of the employer to terminate the employment and hence the occupancy is only a factor to be considered in fixing the value."

The government's motion for a judgment and the county's answer were taken under submission by Judge Carkeet.

Boss, after looking over contents of suggestion box: "I wish employees would be more specific. What kind of kite? What lake?"

\* \* \*  
If at first you don't succeed, you're pretty much like everyone else.  
\* \* \*

## Tax Bill Upheld By Judge

A claim that the county's possessory interest tax is unconstitutional was turned down in Sonora Justice court yesterday.

Judge Basil Leever, Columbia Justice court judge, made the claim in refusing to pay a tax bill for 1967-68 and another from 1968-69.

The bill came to a total of \$110.73 and Leever was billed \$2 for court costs.

Judge Frank McNally, in rendering the decision in favor of the county tax collector, noted that his court would not make a decision on the constitutionality of the matter because, he said, it doesn't have jurisdiction.

The original bill for the two years amounted to \$94.57 but was raised because of penalties and interest.

Judge Leever, after paying the bill, noted that he would not appeal the matter to a higher court and told one observer on hand that he will be leaving the county.

The controversial possessory interest levy is collected on occupants of buildings on government land. In Judge Leever's case, it is the state department of parks and recreation.

Other government owned buildings whose occupants are taxed include those owned by the forest service and the City and County of San Francisco.

## Protests Hearing

The board of supervisors has set Sept. 2 as its next meeting as a board of equalization.

Tuesday was their most recent session as an equalizing board but the meeting was adjourned shortly after it began because only one petition asking for a lowered assessed valuation had been turned in.

Property owners have until next Tuesday to file appeals for consideration by the five-man panel.

Since Tuesday, two more petitions have been received, both of which ask that no taxes be levied on property.

Assessor Art Ronten said the two petitions were filed by Columbia residents who protest paying possessory interest taxes on property they rent from the state park.

The petitions have been filed by June D. McLaughlin who occupies property with a taxable possessory interest listed at \$420 and Lloyd Geissinger a former Columbia resident who occupied property with a \$580 taxable interest.

**"I used to  
cry for no  
reason at all"**

The above clippings are from the Sonora Union Democrat, recent issues. They tell the story, we are still protesting, but not getting very far.

We have made several appeals to the State Board of Control and in a test case they agreed to reduce an employee's rent by 1/12 th. of the tax paid each month. Then even that got shot down.

Generally, our Department seems to feel that this is a tax against the employee and he should pay it. The tax is becoming an issue in more than one agency and it is not a dead issue yet.

I have contacted the CSEA locally and the Regional Director and I urge you to do the same.

Neil Power, Editor

COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR --- Your letters will be printed, but PLEASE, send originals, no carbons, SINGLE spaced to save space and money.

Slips that pass in the type. If you keep a record on such things, you will notice that I made a mistake last month in that there are two Volume 2, Number 5s, and no Volume 2, Number 6. Sorry 'bout that.

Some of you may have missed the last issue entirely. We had trouble with the address labels, but hope that is all corrected now. I have now set up a card file for each member and will keep Doug Bryce informed of any changes. Please keep me and Doug informed when you move and between the two of us we will try to keep your correct address. Thanks.

Neil Power, Editor

Dear Neil:

August 11, 1969

The personnel at this Unit do wish to give you a vote of respect and gratitude for a job well done with the "Reporter".

We believe the "Reporter" is filling a very badly needed communication link and outlet.

No doubt your family feels the pinch on your time allocation, and we wish to recognize their contribution, also, to the successful issues that have come forth.

Please find enclosed some filler material and another article, partly in answer to a thought provoking article awhile back by Mr. Salzgeber.

s/ Millerton Lake Staff

#### WHOLE OR HALF RANGERING

The problems facing the Ranger are many fold, and there are times that with good conscience I could limit my activities to interpretation and maintenance only. Interpretation is the field I enjoy and would prefer to limit myself to. Pleasurable talks with Park visitors and research to help broaden their aesthetic and recreational experience while visiting their State Park system are a most refreshing activity.

However, when I joined this Agency and every time uniform or personnel appearance has been discussed, I have been informed that we are a semi-military type organization. Further search into the title of "Ranger" bears this theory out from the King's Rangers of England armed with Staff and Bow, down through war and peace to our present day, the image portrayed is men capable of handling any job handed to them and this included the carrying of arms of appropriate nature.

Recently I had the opportunity to view a picture of some of the first Rangers at Yosemite. They looked more like cattlemen with their Australian shepards, horses and pistols. However, these were the men that started the image of our present day Ranger.

Over the years it appears that the local Ranger image has become lopsided with employees only wanting to do the pleasant chores and shunning the disagreeable ones. This approach grew and has affected the whole organization until it has become a belief backsliding, even though every Ranger was given the responsibility and his job description called for "protecting the Park system, patrolling the Park, and to preserve law and order". Nothing in this simple statement limits the Ranger to protecting only the birds and the bees. Rather, it is a job enlarging statement that challenges the best in each of us, for our only justification for being is "people".

Without people the good Lord managed the ecosystem without the need of Rangers. With people, Rangers are needed to preserve the ecosystem both within the species as well as the surrounding environment. With the increase in human impact on the supposedly protected and maintained environment and interhumane stress within the species our job is expanding - not specializing.

This expansion of duties is challenging the Ranger of today, and it will take outstanding men to meet this challenge, to be a complete Ranger, capable of handling any job that needs doing.

There is no White or Black hat Ranger because the very nature and definition of a Ranger as built up over the history is a man that is capable of wearing both hats at once, a man, among men, is the Ranger. To me, this

## Whole or Half Rangering (Cont'd)

means a man capable of talking quietly and sincerely to a child, while maintaining the latent ability to apprehend and protect the people from violators or felons. In this day one may use both skills within a matter of minutes of each other. I believe some call it doing a whole job. not half a job.

This whole job is being done by Rangers today with the Department denying the employee the right to defend himself, if necessary, of equipment authorized for Rangers in King George's time in England. Yet the Ranger of today is continuously coming in contact with a greater variety of situations, many of which contain latent threat to his personal being.

Section 12027 of the Penal Code authorizes a civilian to carry a weapon, "or any person summoned by any such officer to assist in making arrests or preserving the peace while he is actually engaged in assisting such officer", while the Ranger, because he works for the Department, is denied the right to carry a weapon, even when knowingly apprehending a felon.

The half job approach lies, I believe, not only on the Rangers' shoulders but at the Administration's feet. They must decide whether they want a whole Ranger or not. No decision has been made in ten years. Since I have been with the organization, crime has doubled, tripled, and quadrupled in individual Parks in this period. The Parks and employees cannot stand a second ten years of a "drag foot approach". We must accept our responsibility and start doing the whole job of Rangering or do away with Rangers in the State Park system and have only a few Administrators, Naturalists and Maintenance Personnel.

S/ K.R. Morgan  
State Park Ranger II

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July 8, 1969

Mr. William C. Dillinger, Chief  
Information and Interpretation Division

We have three inhouse organs. The "Reporter" put out by the California State Park Rangers Association; "Rangers Report and Review" put out by Bob Hanks, and "News and Views". Each of these publications serves a purpose and provides for a good regular communication system within the employees of the Department.

I would like to see the three house communications continued. It seems to me, however, that there is the possibility that these house organs could take on the image of each other, and thus not accomplish the objectives which they could if each had its own goals and objectives distinct and different from each other.

I am sending a copy of this memorandum to each of the editors. I would like to suggest that you talk with them and, without in any way limiting their publication, try to establish the function and goals of each of the publications so that they remain distinctive. Under such a program, we have within the Department, an excellent written communication system that I believe will be effective and important to the morale and understanding of the employees of the Department.

S/ William Penn Mott, Jr.  
Director

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COMMENTS FROM THE V.P., Kirk M. Wallace

In the April 21st issue of the REPORTER I mentioned the forthcoming election of officers for the Association. I hope that by now you have considered your position and have decided which office you are going to bid for. As you are aware, there will be some changes in the method by which the officers and directors are elected and other changes in the terms of office. These changes will be reflected in the revision of the constitution and by-laws which you will be voting on in the near future. The changes have been brought about by the change in dates of the G.E.C.

One method which I feel can be used to make your position and qualifications known to all of the members of CSPRA is the REPORTER. An open letter to the membership of the REPORTER declaring an interest in a particular office will certainly assist the rest of the membership in selecting the best man for the job. Too often we get a ballot on which we are to select a person to represent us and we know very little about the candidates. I, for one, would like to know that the man I am going to vote for has a "Get Up and Go"

Comments From the V.P. (Cont'd)

interest in the office for which he is seeking. If you write your open letter now and send it to our Editor, Neil Power, you will be assured of meeting the deadline for the next issue of the REPORTER. Don't wait for the next guy, be the first!

It is not often that an outstanding example of professional accomplishment, imagination, creativity, pride, and hard work jumps out of nowhere and hits you smack between the eyes. This is the impression I got of Ranger Ken Huddleston when I saw his handywork at Manchester State Beach last week. The Class "C" (IPU) type) Campground at this unit will bare out my impression to anyone who cares to stop for a "Look-See". My only regret is that I did not have the opportunity to talk to Ranger Huddleston as my time was limited.

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June 27, 1969

Dear President Brock:

For some time now, I have become increasingly concerned at one particular aspect of the debate whirling around the law enforcement problems and planning of the Department, and the results of those problems and proposed solutions on the historical image of the Ranger and the California State Park System.

Through the early history of the organization, and until relatively recently, the State Park team was made up of a few classifications; each one in his, or her special way, contributing to the team effort with the result that the California State Park System has established a reputation for the finest kind of dedicated public service. With the changing times and the need for more and more specialists to meet the needs of those changing times, it is absolutely essential that we maintain and strengthen the datum that will assure the continuance of the kind of tight-knit teamwork that has made the State Park System what it is today.

We must insist that, regardless of classification and/or specialization, those of us now members of the team and those who will join us at a later date, are first and basically Park People. On this foundation, each specialist can then work and contribute, through his special training, to the total team effort and the enhancement of the aims, objectives, and philosophies in which we all believe so fervently.

We cannot permit any schism through classification. There cannot be any second-class citizens on the park team!

The California State Park System is unique among public service organizations in this state, and elsewhere, because we have been Park People first and specialists afterwards. We must not lose sight of those qualities that have made it possible for us to contribute to the welfare of the people of this State and nation in such a significant and lasting way.

s/ J. Whitehead  
Superintendent, District 6  
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August 6, 1969

CSPRA  
President Brock

It appears for years at the opening ceremonies of CSEA General Council, California Highway Patrol, always raise the colors.

Would it not be fitting, if possible for some of our sharp young Rangers to perform this chore, this might let other State employees be aware of how their State Park Rangers look, and assist in spreading our image.

Perhaps CSEA is waiting for suggestions for other uniformed personnel to rotate in this function.

Asides:

We should contact our legislators and ask for their support of S.B. 706 which deals in Assault on Peace Officers of Department of Parks and Recreation.

Nice to see A.B. 1587 Lifeguards law enforcement trying to include Supervisors (Aquatic) into newly won Safety Members Retirement System. This is excellent M.R. Organization work.

Why cannot we get started and secure more equitable retirement for our Rangers in "hot spot" areas? This would at least open the door for others later.

I strongly urge some of our Board of Directors and Officers to attend Legislative Buffets when possible and get to meet more intimately, Legislators who may or may not pass on legislation favorable to State Park Rangers.

s/ William J. Reinhardt  
Ranger "Professional"



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Last month there was a letter in the REPORTER from Ted Milne to Gene Velzy in which Ted told of his experience trying to see a very busy Park Supervisor on one of the Southern California Beaches. The Supervisor couldn't see Ted at that minute and Ted commented, "Have 'law and order' and big business replaced the old ranger spirit of friendliness and courtesy in the California State Parks?".

The following letters were received in answer to Ted's letter.  
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Dear President Brock:

August 14, 1969

In the CSPRA house organ of July 29, 1969, there appeared a letter from Ted Milne, retired State Park Ranger. Many of us were pleased to hear from Ted and delighted that he is enjoying his retirement with such gusto. Great!

On the other hand, I cannot for the life of me, understand what benefit CSPRA could possibly realize by including in a supposedly professional publication, the paragraph concerning the alleged experience at the San Diego Coast Area Office. Even if the incident was as described, and I know it was not, the inclusion of the allegation in a professional organization house organ is, in my opinion, thoroughly unprofessional. The letter could have been appropriately excerpted as is frequently done in such cases.

The image of the organization, as well as the reputation of a real professional park man, has been unjustly tarnished. I hope we are big enough to make amends.

Sincerely,

J. Whitehead, Supt. Dist. 6  
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Dear Neil:

August 16, 1969

I was very interested in reading the letter from Ted Milne to Gene Velzy.

It's very alarming to discover the change taking place in our field forces. It is high time that we take a good long look at the California Park Ranger image. Those who cannot take a few minutes out of a day to welcome a retired ranger who had dedicated his life to the advancement of the California State Park system should remember that one of these days he will be among the retired group. They will do well to remember that this group of retired personnel now belong to the Public which we serve.

I believe we all should place more emphasis on the Old Ranger Image and not worry so much about playing cop.

Sincerely,

Eric H. Leffingwell, Area Manager  
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Also received was a letter from a person who was there at the time. As most of you have probably guessed the true facts behind the incident, the Area Manager was unable to come and visit at that minute. (My secretary won't even put through phone calls when I am busy with a meeting or in conference, not even my wife's calls.)

I don't believe any reputations have been hurt. In the future, I will be careful not to print such accusations. As for now, I accept my share of the blame.

In Ex-Chief Earl Hanson's letter in this issue, he says, "The 'Ranger image' cannot grow without a spirit of friendliness and courtesy". True, and that 'image' can only be seen by less people as an Area Manager's time confines him to certain matters of urgent business. What Area Manager wouldn't rather converse with an old buddy?

*Neil Power*  
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COMMENTS FROM THE PRINTER --- It has been my pleasure to reproduce your REPORTER these past few months and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with your Editor, Neil Power. I do, however, have a few suggestions that would greatly help both Mr. Power and myself in presenting an attractive, easily read REPORTER. Copy may be typewritten, printed, hand drawn (using india ink, felt tip pen, etc.), or a combination of all three. It should be black copy on white paper. When preparing typewritten copy an electric typewriter is preferable. Please make certain that the machine is clean and a good, black ribbon is used. Newscippings, photographs that have been reproduced (clipped from newspapers or magazines and have been "screened") photograph well. Thank you.

Esther Atkinson

Here's a few news items from Marin Area that you might like to use in the REPORTER.

1. The possessory interest tax bug has finally bitten Marin County. The local assessor has been out looking at the residences. The trailer pads are also going to be taxed. Don't know what the rate will be yet.
2. Park Attendant Bill Lintow, working through the Area Office, has been trying to get the area maintenance crew and anyone else interested, enrolled in the carpenter apprentice program at College of Marin. He has run into a little union type static, but the school has said that if 15 dependable bodies could be brought together a new class could be started- possibly.
3. Sunday, August 17th, District Interpreter Jim Neider and Ranger Don Engler served as tour guides for 2 bus loads of national delegates to the Conservation Education Association 1969 Conference at Humboldt State College. The busses left the Hilton in San Francisco at 8 a.m. and arrived at Willets for lunch via Highway 101. At Willets, District Superintendent Tiny Philbrook and District Forester John Summerly took over as tour guides for the rest of the trip to Humboldt State.

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The following suggestion earned Ranger Robert G. Robles of Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park a Certificate of Commendation from the Merit Award Board. The REPORTER would also like to add CONGRATULATIONS Ranger Robles.

The background to the suggestion was the increased vandalism and thefts in our parks. Bob says the idea is also used in banks, stores, and other public buildings.

The purpose is 1. To create a psychological effect on the violator or potential violator which will make him think twice before he commits an unlawful act. 2. To inform the visitor that persons violating park laws, acts of vandalism, thefts and other deliberate infractions will not be tolerated. 3. That Park Rangers do have authority to arrest. 4. The encouragement of good behavior by informing the visitor that Peace Officers may be watching or patrolling any hour of the day or night.

SUGGESTION: A decal or miniature sign, 3" x 5" maximum as per attached sample:

W A R N I N G

This building and park is PATROLLED and PROTECTED  
by State Park Rangers and local Police or Sheriff  
Officers, either in uniform or civilian clothing.  
Anyone arrested in violation is subject to provisions  
as provided in the California Penal Code and  
or Public Resources Code, Section 5008.

State of California  
Department of Parks and Recreation

(The Department seal is to be in the background of the above warning.)

Bob suggests that the signs be the decal type or aluminum and screwed on type. And, the wording cleared by the legal section. The signs would then be mounted in public places as needed.

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EDITORIAL POLICY. To promote the Association's objectives and the professional interests of the membership of the California State Park Rangers Association. Letters from members ( and others ) of interest to professional rangers are encouraged. Reports from officers, regions, and committees will be printed. All information relative to the professional interests of rangers is welcome and solicited.

Due to the geographical location of members, the REPORTER hopes to be the means of communication of ideas, thoughts, problems, solutions and professional matters between members.

( The above is my wording even though I have tried to paraphrase your thoughts. Your suggestions for rewording will be appreciated. The final policy should be approved by the Association. Neil Power, Editor. )

Dear Neil,

August 18, 1969

Bob Pugh writes thoughtfully in the July 29 issue of CSPRA REPORTER, "On The Changing Ranger Image", and his optimism about the restoration of the "traditional Ranger image" is encouraging. "The best way to do this is to start with ourselves", he advises.

In the same issue, Ted Milne's letter to Gene Velzy asks, "Have 'law and order' and big business replaced the old ranger spirit of friendliness and courtesy---?"

Old, and not so old, rangers may detect a symbiotic relationship (likened to a lichen) between the above two quotations. The "Ranger image" cannot grow without a spirit of friendliness and courtesy.

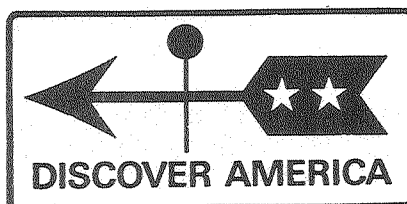
But we hope for a broader application of the term "Ranger image". It should apply to all field personnel who perform services for the park visitor and avoiding classification distinctions. I like Bob Hanks banner, "A Publication For State Park People".

Congratulations on your steadily improving REPORTER and please tell the Junior Past President that I would have quipped, (not as he parens) "No one can say Kneel Power hasn't a prayer."

Sincerely,

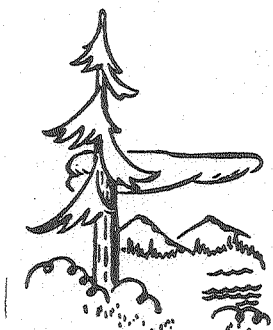
Earl Hanson

Am fully recovered and hope to see you one of these daze.



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