



california state park rangers association

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

CSPRA NEWS BULLETIN, INFORMANT, ELEVATION,?

THE NAME GAME .

Last months request for suggestions for another name for this sheet brought these three suggestions. I prefer a name that suggests the nature of this paper. This is meant to be a means of communication between the members through out the state. Someday we will have the smooth paper quality magazine we all aspire for. One person sent in a suggestion for a sub-title which I think will make a good heading. "A JOURNAL OF NEWS AND OPINION FOR STATE PARK RANGERS."

I would like to thank all of you for your contributions and urge you to send in your opinions, suggestions, and reports. Each month I would like to see a report from each director. It doesn't have to be long or fancy, but it will sure help to keep us informed and together.

HAVE YOU DONE YOUR SHARE FOR THE ASSOCIATION ?

The Editor.

PRESIDENT BROCK REPORTS

I don't know what some of you may think of our new publication, but I thought Neil did a real fine job for the first time out. I know that he would welcome suggestions and contributions for future editions; let him know how you feel.

It is my understanding that the Governor and Director Mott have approved and accepted the Toothman Report on our enforcement problems. The district officers should be receiving copies soon. I hope that all of you will be given the opportunity to read the report.

I have been in contact with Don Cardno, our CSEA Consultant, and he informs me that the CSEA Committee is still in the process of reviewing the Maintenance Man specs.

Don could not give me any specifics at the time of writing this.

Good luck to all of you who are taking the "SOOP" and "ASS'T SOOP" exam
March 22 !

REPORT FROM THE JUNIOR PAST PRESIDENT

Recently many of us received an item from our "Better Ranger" Jim Whitehead entitled "Quality Begins With You". Where does this fit into professionalism? Isn't quality only one part of it? We must also consider our attitude toward our work and our willingness to accept new responsibilities, as well as taking the initiative to improve our qualifications to fit the needs. How are you doing, fellow Ranger?

Due to the many emergency conditions that existed as a result of the recent floods, the Constitution and By-Laws Committee were unable to hold a meeting as previously scheduled. It is hoped that we can hold the meeting within the month.

(continued)

NOTES AND QUOTES

"I was under the impression that the Newsletter would be printed and out on a bi-monthly basis..... I just hope we can keep up the interest sufficiently so you can have a monthly issue..."

Ans. It was supposed to be bi-monthly, only I forgot. As you see this issue is bigger than last one. Cost of last issue was \$61.00, cost of this issue will be about \$63.00. The mailing permit will save enough on postage for the extra sheet.

My directions were to "put out a newsletter cheapest way possible". Any suggestions for beating the cost will be taken seriously. In the meantime, I will do my best to make this monthly. Judging from your contributions, this won't be any problem.

* * *

From the Tahoe Area,

"Due to the storms and emergency conditions all of my activities have been toward this end and no time available for CSPRA".

* * *

"I have just been promoted to _____ at _____, but I still wear a Stetson and a badge and my first job was using a number two shovel, so it's hard to tell the difference".

Sound familiar? Your memory can fill in the blanks for you.

* * *

Somewhat feeble apologies are offered for quoting from letters, after I said there wasn't going to be any censorship. Your signed articles submitted as such won't be censored. Quotes from letters aren't taken out of context. They are used to bring you a little more news about your fellow rangers.

* * *

The next publication date will be April 21. Have your material to me before April 19th. at the latest. Thanks.

* * *

And please ! SINGLE SPACED. That alone will almost halve the expenses.

* * *

REGION III Reports. No meetings yet this year. Very soon now I hope to get going. If you wish to schedule one, let me know and I will do my best to be there.

* * *

About a year ago, many of us donated to a public relations program called "FOCUS". After many inquiries I finally obtained through the local CSEA chapter the following.

\$11,236.00 was raised by various means.

\$1,000.00 was donated to the League of Good Government.

\$2,500.00 is set up for an Award Program for news media that help better the public employee image.

\$500.00 was set aside for the improvement of the Graphic Display.(Fair Display)

\$7,236.00 is in a fund for producing a documentary movie about the State Employee. This film will be shown at schools, service clubs, public meetings, etc.

* * *

"SPEAK NOW OR !! HOLD THY TONGUE.

Most of us have had various comments on departmental policies with regard to State HOUSING & TRANSFERS. Here is an opportunity to have your thoughts heard and considered. The department is establishing a committee to recommend policy on these two subjects which affect YOU.

I have been asked to serve on this committee and represent the field at the unit level. I NEED YOUR THOUGHTS TO PRESENT TO THE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION. Please offer facts where possible. I feel that emotion will not carry very far. All comments are solicited but brevity would be appreciated as long as your ideas are clear. Signatures are not required on your comments.

Housing and Transfer Committee, c/o R. C. McKillop, Rt. 1, Box 269 G, Goleta, 93017"

(Dick had a deadline of March 8th. If you haven't been contacted yet, send your suggestions now. The Ed.)

* * *

The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting will be April 11, 1969 in the Board of Supervisors Room, new civic center, San Rafael.

* * *

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

In reading the March issue of NEWS AND VIEWS regarding the Santa Barbara oil disaster, I find it no consolation whatever! According to their figures, the Torrey Canyon disaster dumped 35 million gallons of oil into the sea. And the Santa Barbara spill would have to continue for four to five years to match the Spill by the Torrey Canyon . . . But unless my math is failing me, I figure the Santa Barbara spill of 1,000 gallons per minute amounts to 60,000 gallons per hour, or 1,440,000 gallons per 24 hour day . . . At that rate, it would take less than a month (43 million plus per month) and this spill started on January 29th and continues to spill as of this date (3/13/69). Sorry about this Dick.

AL. SALZGEBER

COMENTS FROM THE V.P.

When I entered the Park System, some 12 years ago, it was my good fortune to work with a dedicated group of Rangers who put service to the public and protection of the Park ahead of their own personal needs and comfort. By their actions, and not just words, I, and many other young men, have come to appreciate and attain this very same dedication purely by close association.

In times of emergencies, such as lost persons, fires, disasters, etc., the Rangers act, without fanfare, to remedy the situation. This year appears to be one of those years in which emergencies are prevalent. The Park Rangers are being challenged by earthquakes in the desert, oil slicks on the beaches, heavy snows in the mountains, floods state wide and many more conditions which just are not expected or, by enlarge, are not normal.

The majority of our personnel in Sacramento, the news media and, in fact, the public we serve have become so complacent in the knowledge that the Ranger will except the challenge, remedy the situation and be "open for business as usual", that no great notice is taken of the fact that it is the Ranger who is putting in the 10 to 20 hour days, that it is the Ranger who comes home wet and cold from the hours in the rain and snow or that it is the Ranger who comes home from the beach covered with and smelling of oil.

We, as Rangers, all know that the monthly pay check only reflects the pay for a minimum work week of 40 hours and that there will be no extra for the hours of overtime worked. I am also sure that the public in general does not know what the basis of our pay is, but they do know that the name RANGER symbolizes a man in a green uniform and the, age old Smokey Bear Hat, with "esprit' de corps" and dedication.

I am sure that for some, the name RANGER is unimportant and would therefore do away with it. I am also sure that in this case the old axiom, "you can't see the forest for the trees" would well apply.

Kirk M. Wallace

Cezanne's tree, which stands on the edge of a road at Aix En Provence, France, and is renowned and preserved because the great impressionist once painted it, became a cause celebre as art fans and conservationists clashed with highway engineers who wanted to remove the revered pine to widen the road.

Our roads are covered with water. Our beaches are covered with oil. Our campuses are covered with riots. The other morning I called "Dial a Prayer" and they hung up on me.

GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN

"The best way to solve the salinity problem for the Colorado River, which is already heavily burdened by dissolved minerals, is to add substantial volumes of top-quality water. To meet the expected quantity demand, the river should be augmented by at least 3.5 million a/f yearly by the 1990's": Myron Holburt, Chief Engineer, Colorado River Board of Calif.

Money can't buy happiness, but at least you can be miserable in comfort.

Psychiatrist: a man who doesn't have to worry so long as other people do.

Wives are like cars. If you take care of them, you don't have to get new ones all the time!

REGION VII REPORTS

The most newsworthy regional activity during the last month has been the transfer of two members to our region. We have welcomed Harold Bradshaw and Ken Martin to Region 7 from Region 3. Both have transferred to headquarters as Recreation Planners.

A Regional meeting was held recently and many of the current issues were discussed. A great deal of discussion centered around our Association filing under Rule 545. Our region feels that we must exercise a great deal of care in using our representative power.

Cliff Bisbee, of our region, has suggested that a "filler" might be used each month on some item from California history. As a sample of just such an item, Cliff is submitting the following:

On June 30, 1776, the ship San Antonio - Captain Diego Choquet - sailed from Monterey with a load of "pine beams". Destination was San Diego, where the lumber was used in the reconstruction of Mission San Diego de Alcala, after its destruction at the Mission Valley site by Indian insurgents. This incident may be the earliest lumbering activity of any scale in California - at any rate involving coastal shipping.

Cliff has volunteered to forward an historic filler each month for use in the newsletter.

As you may know the Toothman Report has been released by the Governor. The report is extremely well done and has some excellent recommendations which, if carried out, will be of tremendous benefit to both the park visitor and park personnel. Limited copies are available at this time and as a result distribution is being limited to area managers and district offices.

I enjoyed the initial publication of our "reborn" newsletter and I appreciate your efforts in "bearing" this burden.

Ross Henry

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The BETTER RANGER checks in and comments,

President Ralph W. Chaney appointed me to the Council of the Save-The-Redwoods League about a year ago. I also serve on the League's Highway Committee which requires frequent contact with my colleagues in Department headquarters and with former Chief Newton B. Drury.

Mr. Drury expects to celebrate the tenth anniversary of his retirement as Chief, early in April. On March 14, the California Park and Recreation (Commission) is honoring him at their meeting in Sacramento. Early in January, he was given the highest honor which could be bestowed by the U.S. Dept. of the Interior.

His fifty years of distinctive service in the preservation and administration of America's heritages of history and natural history, including the California Redwood Forests, reached a new high in achievement with the dedication of the Pepperwood Unit, Avenue of the Giants, Humboldt redwoods State Park in June and of the Redwood National Park in November 1968.

I know you all join me in wishing Newton, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY-HONORARY RANGER".

I still spend a few idle moments, once or twice a week, reviewing old Department files for materials and data pertinent to the story of the California State Park System.

Drop in at 16th. and "L" when you're in Sacramento. You might be lucky and find me in!

Earl P. Hanson

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Ranging HIGH & WIDE

by Bob Rygh

The Whole HEARTEDNESS
is Equal to MUCH MORE THAN
the Sum of its Part ICIPATIONS

Bonus...Catalyst...Dividend...Synergy.....All these -- and many more -- are payoffs when those who are to implement decisions are included in the decision-making process. In mathematics, 2 plus 2 equal 4. Period. In interpersonal relations or group dynamics, 2 plus 2 CAN equal 5, 6, 7, ..10!,20!!; conversely, 2 plus 2 may add up to 3 or less.

Recently, in his "More Power to You" column in Rangers' Report & Review, Neil Power observed that, to his knowledge, no field opinion had been sought prior to the announcement of a new badge design. I concur; no consultations, either thru normal channels or via the Rangers' Association, took place that I know of. The badge is a relatively inconspicuous part of the uniform; nonetheless, with the new badge, we will be marked primarily as law enforcers, rather than as the educators we have historically been. I oppose this "new image"; far more strongly, however, I oppose the lack of field participation in the decision to change the badge, and with it, the image.

Just last month, systems analysis and programming, in all their arcane glory, were sprung on field personnel. The unkindest cut of all, tho, was the ringing conclusion: "This is YOUR program." As it happens, I'm a program and systems fan, but here, too, I oppose the imposition of the concept without participation in its formulation by those who, it is claimed, will benefit most. How much more enthusiasm might have been generated had the beneficiaries helped with the groundwork! How much more feeling of belonging, of really being an important part of the Department, might have resulted!

Contrariwise, field opinion has been sought in, for example, law enforcement training. Other instances exist; perhaps supplements, or comments -- or rebuttals! -- will appear in future issues.

But participation is not the wave of the future; it is the wave of the PRESENT. Approval or disapproval of specific methods or goals aside, it is the core of today's church ferment, student-faculty unrest, many labor-management disputes, even some international misunderstandings. It ought, therefore, to be the rule, not the exception, in administration-field relationships. Were this so, that intangible and virtually indefinable concept, morale, would be boosted to new high levels.

CSPRA can -- and should, in my opinion -- take considerable initiative and flex considerable muscle in this area. It would be a notable contribution toward further implementing our purpose and objectives: "...providing .. professional services and recommendations ..", "...exchange of professional thought ..", "...to promote sound judgment (and) high quality .. in .. planning," etc. Having truly participated more fully, we will be more wholeheartedly involved in putting theories, policies, or decisions into practice.

Jack Bhend, Past President of the Tuolumne County Historical Society, was signal-ly honored at the Annual Lamp Light Dinner on January 25th, when Superintendent of Columbia State Park, Neil Power, announced that Jack's name would be engraved on the plaque honoring outstanding citizens for their assistance in promoting the work done at the Park. Jack has been unstinting in his donation of time, money and effort along those lines, and as a retired Restoration Expert for the California State Division of Beaches and Parks, has given valuable help to the Park management. The plaque, on permanent display at the Museum in Columbia, bears the name also, of another of our members, Mrs. George Eastman, the first recipient of this honor. This is a justly deserved award for Jack and the Society is proud to congratulate him for it.

COMMENT

Rangers are being asked to join California Tomorrow. We have a great relationship with this organization, the Sierra Club, and the Save the Redwoods League, all fine organizations. We should join them and aid them in anyway we can, but we are communicating in a closed circuit. We must get our story out to the Philistines. Interpretation is useful, but, again, we are too often only confirming the committed.

Our situation is getting desperate. How anyone can see freeways eating up crop lands and virgin forests, or drive on those same freeways through a city on a smoggy day, or see that city sprawling to the extent that he sees nothing but city for over an hour on a straight run at high speed, or see our beaches and wet lands used for housing developments and yacht harbors - how anyone can remain unconcerned is mystifying. But the unconcerned seem to be the vast majority.

We must not be content to represent the California State Park System; our vocation must be the cause of conservation and restoration. Ecology is the magic word. The average man doesn't even know what it means. We must make him know what it means.

I have no idea if "From Little Acorns" is true or not, but it was as inspiring to me as Anadis of Gaul was to a conquistador. Perhaps gems like this should be sent out, not a single copy to each man, but in batches of 50 or 100, and each of us be obliged to send it on to anyone he knows or has even heard of.

As I was leaving Benicia for my new assignment in Frontera Area I saw a beautiful picture of rolling hills and oak trees. I saw it in a real estate office "as advertised in LIFE." That picture haunts me. What will that landscape look like after the developer who used it in his advertising get through? Will it be covered with jerrybuilt houses, or will fail and look like the area around Joshua Trees State Park or California City with streets going no place crisscrossing the landscape causing ugliness and erosion?

We must keep the economy expanding. The growth rate must not lag. The gross national product must increase. The growth rate is sacred. Is it more sacred than the water we drink, the air we breathe, the wildlife species which become extinct? Must we really have DDT in our stomachs and strontium 90 in our bones?

Hank Nicol

From Your Insurance Committee:

The ballots which will decide for us whether or not we will have a CSPRA insurance program will be in your hands very soon.

Your committee wants to emphasize that a "Yes" vote and your signature on the enclosed enrollment card merely indicate your intention to participate, if and when at least 75% of eligible members sign up.

DO NOT drop your present coverage. As soon as we are certain that the legal minimum required participation has been met or exceeded, your applications will be processed and the necessary steps taken to effect the changeover.

This is the time of decision we have been working toward for four years. As soon as the ballots are in and counted, CSPRA will either have a viable insurance program or our efforts will have failed.

Committee: Jim Beck
Bob Reese
Don Rich

Since Don wrote the above, you have received your ballots. Don phoned and asked me to add the following information. "We should not accept Mr. Bob Sander's letter as denying us a program. This committee feels that we have a good program with or without the Meyers-Geddes support."

The Editor.

The Numbers Racket

For the past 32 months, we have been building, number by number, an intricate pattern of our monthly heart beat. The Department of Parks and Recreation Form Number 202 has, like a prodding, questioning, inquisitive census taker, been looking down our collars, peeking over our shoulders and recording every bodily move we've made while in our park greens. And bit by bit, the menagerie of computerized code numbers and man-hours of labor have grown into a form, or pattern, into which each of our lives, on the job, fit quite snugly. And the key, or keys, to the secret chambers of this hip-hugging, soul-searching, action-revealing, all-encompassing archetype lies in the correct use of NUMBERS.

Perhaps unbeknown to some users, DPR Form 202 was designed not only as a correspondence course-type of employees' own personal time-use study, but it was to be the prototype of our future computerized payroll system, ultimately replacing our present Form 681 Attendance Report, from whence we are paid. As new channels to the manifold blessings of the State's central computer works are opened to the Department, additional time-saving, work time-reporting programs will be planned and disseminated to field personnel.

One of the present hang-ups on the use of DPR 202s is the scarcity of coded entries and corresponding word identification for the last two right-hand columns on the form. Beginning with FY 69-70, however, the burdens of this decision-making chore will be lessened considerably. Dozens of additional code numbers will be available, most of which, it is hoped, will ally themselves more closely with field chores actually being accomplished. As an exaggerated example: Instead of one code number representing landscaping, there possibly will be one code for tree planting, another for grass mowing and still another for rose bush-pruning.

By the time the 202's are modified in July, we will have been feeding our daily work data into the machines for three years. And in these three years, the coded data stored on reels and reels of computer tape have, hopefully, been building a case history for each State park unit.

For example: Razzmatazz Redwoods State Park has 1 grade IV, 1 grade III, 3 grade IIs, 6 grade Is, a Maintenance Foreman, 10 Maintenance Men and a Steno. With this number and diversity of employees, five campgrounds are maintained and 37,000 acres of Redwoods are protected. For three years the big computer in Sacramento has been memorizing a pattern of operation from bits and pieces of numbered, coded data fed to it via the DPR Form 202. Everything from how much time was devoted to scrubbing pots to how many man-hours were devoted to telling the 202s how many hours were devoted to scrubbing pots.

So the pattern has been made; the die has been cast. By merely pushing a few selected buttons, the computer operator can program a print-out from his wonder machine, and "chomp, chomp, chomp," line after telltale line, out comes irrefutable facts about any unit, any area, or, as a matter of fact, any given employee, should that particular information be necessary.

If, for instance, over a three-year period, "X" number of dollars was expended to maintain an area of a given size, with "X" number of employees, then, for planning purposes, Director Mott or Jack Knight, or whoever, could, within reasonable bounds, assume that that same area could be maintained for an equal period of time with an equal amount of employees, which would represent an equal amount of money, --- plus the normal spiraling percentage cost of operations, or cost of living, or cost of doing business as usual, or whatever other handle the planners attach to it.

Coupled with easily accessible attendance figures, these 202 reapings can give men like Mr. Warren and his cohorts solid fuel for launching new development plans for expansion to keep abreast (or at least try) of the burgeoning recreational demands from the public. Who knows --- as unit visitation figures increase, and 202s reflect additional time spent in direct services

(continued)

7 8
5 5
3 7
to meet the demands of that increased visitation, there MAY come a day when unit or area managers will be issued a new body automatically as his area's work load increases to a certain pre-established level. This would negate the need for the routine "hard sell" exercises in seeking the services of an additional employee.

The blessing to arrive with the newly-revised 202 in July will be the omission of worded entries in the right-hand column. Numbers, alone, will record our daily deeds as numbers, alone, is the only language the super brain of Sacramento understands. Instead of watching our "Ps" and "Qs", we'll have to MORE CLOSELY watch our "6's" and "9's" and our "3's" and "5's". WHAT A RACKET --- these numbers!

Bob Hanks

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RENIE LARET REPORTS FROM REGION V . . .

Last month two meetings were held within Region V. Sixteen members, including Junior Past President Salzgeber, attended at Carpenteria, while 11 met at Morro Bay. Both meetings proved to be productive, informative and stimulating as indicated by the participation of those in attendance. Items discussed included:

CSPRA Newsletter: The majority of the members felt that this organ should be financed within the resources of the organization. One method of financing would be to ask each Region to contribute \$25.00 from yearly Region allocation of \$100. . . Some information contributed to the Newsletter was felt to be premature in it's release.

CSPRA Expenses: Everyone felt that this is one area in which economies could be effected. Some thoughts:

Pay only actual expenses supported by vouchers.

Reduce cost-per-mile paid.

Reduce the number of guests invited to GEC at the Association's expense.

All members felt that CSPRA should defray actual costs incurred for the Association however we could reduce the total travel budget without hurting any officer acting for CSPRA.

AB 403 - Uniforms for Special Funded Classes: The 16 members attending the Carpenteria meeting backed a motion, made by Wes Cater and seconded by John Fleming, to oppose AB 403 because it provides uniform allowances out of special funds (fishing licenses, fas tax, etc.) for only a few select groups (Highway patrolmen, game wardens, toll bridge operators and driver's license examiners). Rather than using special funds, the Carpenteria group favored the expenditure of General Funds for ALL classes required to wear uniforms.

Ranger Title: This subject was naturally discussed at quite some length. We are all proud of the title of Ranger and would like to see it retained within the uniformed field staffs. Perhaps consideration should be given to bringing others into the Ranger classes, i.e.

Guides could be Ranger Interpreters

District Interpretive Specialists would be Ranger Naturalist

Also Enforcement Ranger and Patrol Ranger would be appropriate titles in some units.

GEC April 1970: Still nothing firm on the Queen Mary in Long Beach. George Lynn is trying to obtain prices. George also requested that the GEC agenda be modified to allow additional time to be spent with our exhibitors. These exhibitors defray a great portion of our expenses. And exposure time should be available.

A Regional Officers meeting is planned for this month to explore types of activities, meetings, etc. to be held in the near future.

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PROUDLY TELL THE WORLD . . .

"I am a member of the CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION".

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CONFERENCE

"There Must be a Better Way" is the theme of a two day training conference conducted by the Associated California Employees' leaders of the many Associations affiliated with ACE. ACE is a federation of the major statewide independent organizations and some of the county and city employee associations not affiliated with a statewide league and represents over 430,000 California public employees.

The Conference begins with registration at 3:00 p.m., Friday, April 25, 1969 at the Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, on the Monterey Peninsula, and continues through luncheon on Sunday, April 27, 1969.

A complete program of the Conference activities will be made available to participants several weeks before the Conference date. In keeping with the theme, the program emphasizes the need for seeking a better way for the solution of today's problems. Wherever possible, an overview of the subject area will be presented by experts, followed by workshops in which the leaders of the various organizations may participate by exchanging views and facts.

ASSOCIATED CALIFORNIA EMPLOYEES SECRETARIAT
1108 "O" Street - Sacramento, California 95814

Litter Cleanup From Dist. Supt. Meeting Jan 28-30, 1969

The Director then explained a suggested method for gathering of litter in selected units. "America Beautiful" would provide the financing for a program which might be called "Litter Getter". A publicity program would be launched encouraging children between the ages of 8 and 12 to become part of the program. The children would be provided with a hat, T-shirt with a badge, and a sack to collect the litter. They would be asked to sign a conservation pledge relating to a conservation program. For each sack of litter they collect they would receive a certificate worth five or ten cents. After accumulating a certain number of these certificates, they could be turned in at a bank for deposit to a savings account for the youngster.

The Director asked each Superintendent to give some thought to this type of a program for one or more selected units in each District and if they were willing to try it this summer it should be put into effect no later than June 1.

The Director further stated that this type of a youth program could help to develop a positive approach to the cost of litter collection and be part of an educational process to encourage saving money and would be a program that might impress upon the adults the cost of collecting litter in the parks.

Dear Old World

"There's a lovely unspoiled stretch of country just outside of town. We often go there for picnics," an acquaintance told us while we dallied over coffee and cake. "But it won't be there much longer. Have you seen the route they project for the new superhighway? It goes right through those hills and after they put it in, you can bet the developers and the factories will be coming right along to ruin those wilds for ordinary people."

"They saved Nine Mile Beach, though," we offered hopefully.

"It was a near thing," said our friend. "For once, people got together and saved some of nature. But do you realize that when one jet airplane goes over, it spews out more smoke than thousands of automobiles?" A slightly mad glint was coming into his eye, so we moved to talk to somebody else.

Our friend has a right to be excited, though. Supersonic planes are going to come even if we shake out fists at them and cringe at the thought of the booms. The lake we used to swim in, and even drink from, is facing a threat of pollution. A current popular song tries to wrestle with the question. "Someone has poisoned you, dear world," it says. And "We're sick of having a sick world."

The trouble is, we are the ones who are doing the poisoning. And we don't seem to have the will or the skill to do anything about it. Some fine day, we are afraid, a crowd of moon-bound astronauts will look down at their old homeland, earth, and they won't be able to see it at all. They will simply have to guess that it is somewhere there under the layers of smoke and ash and detergent foam, the piles of bottles and cans and broken-down automobiles.

*From the musical production, Dear World, at the Mark Hellinger Theatre in New York. Lyrics by Jerry Herman used by permission of the publisher, Edwin H. Morris & Company Inc.

REFLECTIONS ON A RAINY DAY

By Jim Neider
District Interpretive Specialist
District 2

I was sitting at my desk, which is located somewhere near the middle of a rather cluttered fifty square feet of floor space, underneath the only window at my end of the district office, watching cars zip along the freeway and tracing the raindrops as they slid down the windowpane, and wondering what great words of wisdom I could impart to you, the readers of CSPRA'S new medium of communication.

It suddenly dawned on me that our "new" interpretive program was a year old and something should be said on the occasion, but what? I let my thinking wander backwards in time. Should we mention something about our new equipment? Maybe we should talk about those exhibits we need, or the money or the manpower.

A beam of sunlight shocked me back to reality. The rain had stopped. Maybe we don't have all those things but we do have one thing-- a lot of Rangers who are really trying to put on good interpretive programs and doing one whale of a job.

So fellows - I, and my cohorts in crime - lift our mugs of dark Bavarian in your honor and trust you never back into the camp - FIRE.

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