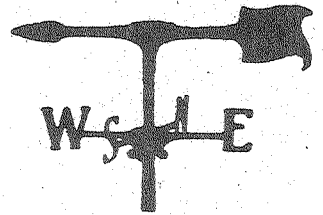




california state park rangers association

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

# REPORTER



Volume 3  
Number 5  
July 20, 1970

News from North, East, South & West

Dear Mr. Cater:

This is a follow up on our discussion concerning your participation on a lawsuit for equitable salaries in California state service.

As you are well aware, the principles set forth in Section 18850 of the Government Code expressing the "prevailing rate" basis for state employee salaries have long been a cornerstone of Association policy. The officers of the Association have become increasingly concerned about the failure of the State Personnel Board of request, the failure of the Governor to budget, and the failure of the Legislature to appropriate, sufficient funds to provide a level of state salaries which meets the prevailing rate standard of the law.

Accordingly, the officers of the Association have authorized the preparation of a lawsuit against the State of California for the purpose of determining whether Section 18850 imposes a legal obligation on the state to meet the prevailing rate standard.

Depending upon the outcome of the current legislative session with respect to salary adjustment appropriations, the suit would be filed on behalf of the Association, its members, and state employees generally. To comply with the law and for the purpose of providing identification for the suit, the usual practice is to identify a number of individual taxpayers who are also employees as parties to the suit.

Because of your interest and participation as a member in Association affairs on behalf of the California State Park Rangers Association we thought that you may wish to be identified as one of the parties. (We expect that there will be as many as fifty individuals named in addition to the Association as parties to the suit.)

If you still wish to add your name, please sign the enclosed authorization and return it to CSEA Headquarters Office in the enclosed self-addressed envelope as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

s/Donald B. Cardno  
Employee Relations Division  
C.S.E.A., Sacramento

Board of Directors meeting of C.S.P.R.A. was held in Sacramento on July 14, 1970. The minutes will be printed shortly.

Dear Mr. Cater:

We would like to know of your organization's interest and possible support of a constitutional amendment or statutory initiative to establish a statewide employee-employer relations plan. It would be based on a collective bargaining process tailored to public service.

Our association tentatively have concluded that an effective employee-employer relations plan for state employees could be obtained by a vote of the electorate. We have reason to believe that independent employee groups, like yours, also are seeking a more stably based employee relations plan, particularly one which includes appropriate administrative machinery.

CSEA has not developed a "package plan" for an initiative or referendum and will refrain from doing so until it determines if California's independent public employee organizations are interested in joining together to design and promote a statewide program.

We have decided, however, that once the question of joint action is answered, a public relations firm should be retained to test and evaluate the general public's response to alternative approaches.

We would appreciate your reply to the following general propositions:

- . Does your organization favor establishment of a statewide employee-employer relations plan through initiative or referendum?
- . If so, would your organization participate in development of such a plan?
- . Would your members be willing to circulate petitions for an initiative and perform other campaign work?
- . Do you feel your members would contribute individually \$10 to \$25 toward cost of a total ballot proposition campaign?

Undoubtedly, your organization has given much attention to employee-employer relations. We would welcome, in addition to a response to the above questions, any plans, ideas or comments you may have which would be of assistance in planning an initiative or referendum.

Sincerely,

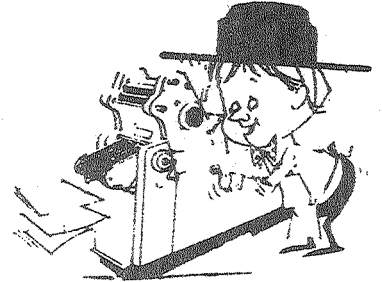
s/Robert F. Carlson  
President  
C.S.E.A., Sacramento

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This is a very important subject. Please notify your regional representative your thoughts or write direct to Mr. Wes Cater, President, 2870 Ironwood Avenue, Morro Bay, California 93443.



# Rangers' Report & Review



Different ones here and there have been wonderin' out loud what th' heck has happened to RRR. When I told a few of them, personally, that RRR had folded up its folding machine, press and typewriter, they said they thought I oughta let th' guys in th' field know what's goin' on ----- or, in this case, what AIN'T gona be goin' on.

So, here it is ----- I'M TELLIN' YOU ALL. Can't say as there was any ONE reason, but rather an accumulation of things, I suppose, money and time being the two most outstanding reasons. And in that order, I reckon. Since RRR's first copy in April of 1967, \$5,013.07 has been paid out for equipment and operating supplies. In that same length of time, RRR has taken in \$925.00 in ad sales (\$700 from our never-failing supporters and uniform suppliers - ALVORD-FERGUSON) and \$1,098.00 from the troops in the field. With approximately 375 on the mailing list all this time, that averages out to about \$2.93 per person over a 3-volume period, or a 3-year period, OR a little less than a buck a year average. Every CSPRA member, by comparison, pays \$2.00 per year for the REPORTER.

Of course there were a whole bunch of you big-hearted guys who donated a heck of a lot more'n a buck a year. I have \$18.00 on two mailing plates, and several \$10.00 totals, plus many between \$2.00 and \$10.00. By selling business cards and doing a little printing on the side, the 3R Press brought in \$427.37. In spite of these efforts to bridge the gap between income and outgo, RRR just got to be to expensive as a hobby.

And TIME was another factor. RRR started out as a casual thing which I'd slap together in my spare time. First thing I knew, the spare time RRR hobby was eating heavily into my photography time and "fix-it" time, and stereo-Hi Fi time, and reading time and hand-holding time. It got so I NEVER had time to put up sweet pickles, lube my own car, catalog my slides, read the last issue of National Geographic, prune the hybiscus, ad infinitum. RRR became the one time-consuming hobby of my spare time ----- especially after the Pughs and Hibberts moved out of town and left all that collating, stapling, stuffing, stamping and licking up to one razzle-dazzled editor, printer, cleanup man. But thru it all, I managed to hang on to a little hand-holding time.

I have only one regret ----- I regret that a day has only 24 hours. With 11 hours a day devoted to being a Ranger (45 minutes "make-ready", sprucing up to the Ranger image, 1 1/4 hours driving to and from th' plant, 1 hour for lunch break and 8 hours + for Rangering) and 7 hours sack time, that only leaves 6 hours for fixin' and/or eatin' two meals, cleanup, mow th' lawn, wash th' car, water th' flowers, fix th' leaky faucet, trim th' hedges, haul firewood, get a haircut, write Gordo and my mother, read NEWSWEEK, pay bills AND work on RRR.

So, as you may deduct ----- Something had to go! And since RRR was digging quite heavily into my "MAD MONEY", I decided, MOST reluctantly, to fold up th' folding machine, press and typewriter.

IT'S BEEN FUN!!!

*Bob Hanks*

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Enough cans and bottles are thrown out each year to build a four-lane highway to the moon.

The Ponderosa pine flourished a million years B.P. (Before Pollution). It's now dying out 30 years A.P. (After Pollution).

Tomorrow morning the amount of food in the world will be the same as today, but there will be 190,000 new mouths to feed.

Only a very few people are fortunate enough to drink water that someone else hasn't used for other purposes farther upstream.

Lake Erie has become so polluted that it has caught fire several times. How about the water you swim and surf in?

Will the parks of tomorrow be made of concrete with plastic plants?

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"Good!" she replied, "why I've never been late for work in my life."

# # #

The forest service may now prohibit excessive noise, use of motorcycles in campgrounds for reasons other than access or egress, the dumping of garbage and defacing of plants.

Offenders will be issued a citation much like a traffic ticket. They will appear at an informal hearing before a federal commissioner and may be levied a fine.

All citations are considered misdemeanors. However violators will not be required to appear in a justice court.

This is the first time in the history of Stanislaus forest such designations have occurred. They are common, however, in other forest areas.

While the regulations permit the forest service to police a larger area, there are no plans to increase the number of rangers in an area.

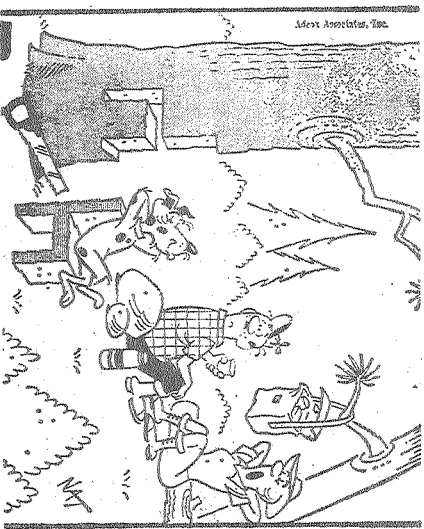
The Clarks Fork area of concentrated public use will include the Clarks fork bridge near Highway 108 upstream to Iceberg meadow.

The Brighman recreational area will extend from Brighman Flat along Highway 108 to Kennedy meadows.

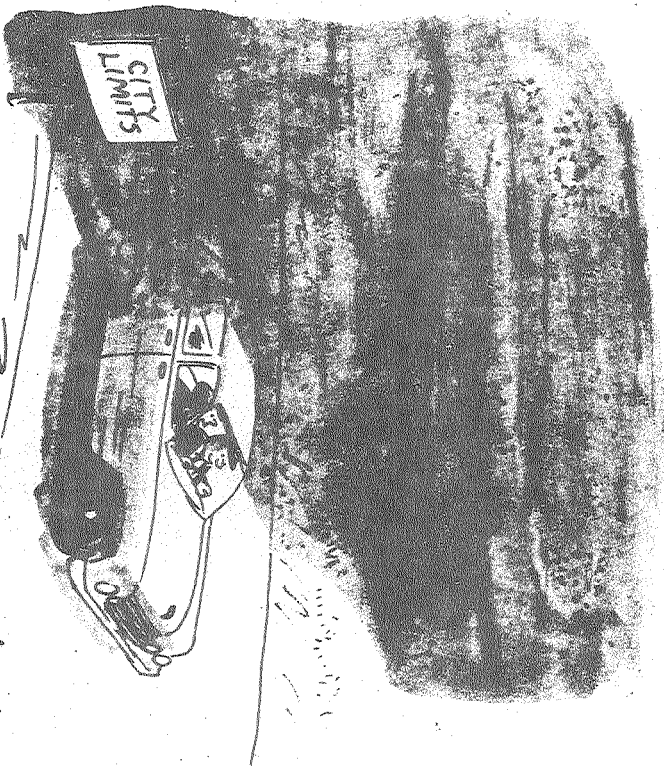
# SMOKEY BEAR GETS TOUGH

## RISE IN VANDALISM, POLLUTION CASES CITED

By Greenwood



"I wondered why he brought along that saw."



"It's always such a relief to get out of the city."

# 45 States Adopt 'Always On Monday' Holidays

WASHINGTON (AP) — Forty-five states, including California, have followed the Federal Government's lead in adopting "Always on Monday" holiday bills to give the workman at least five three-day weekends each year.

California passed the Monday holiday bill last year, with the provision that it go into effect in 1971 to coincide with federal law.

A Monday holiday bill may still be enacted this year in Louisiana. The legislatures of Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia and Wisconsin, each year, celebrated the first Monday of September, the new dates assure all federal workers five three-day holiday weekends.

Unchanged are New Year's Day, Jan. 1; Independence Day, July Fourth; Thanksgiving, fourth Thursday of November; and Christmas Dec. 25.

# Memorandum

To :

Neil E. Power  
Area Ranger, Columbia Area

Date : June 29, 1970


Subject: Possessory Interest Tax

Park personnel in this County have all at once been hit with a possessory interest tax such as shown by a copy of Walt Martell's tax bill, we are enclosing. \$93.04

There was no forewarning, it came about two weeks after a couple of assessors came around Big Basin looking around and apparently taking a few measurements. Being that you have had considerable experience in fighting this issue, what information or advice do you have or can you give us.

For one thing, it bothers most of us that some assessment is based on some land value. Some question the legality of that one issue. Also, apparently there is no recourse or protection for a ranger who conceivably could be transferred out the day after he pays the tax bill. Has that been your experience? Also, do you know of any person, either in our agency or some other agency, who did not meet the tax due deadline and what action was taken by the County to collect it? What punitive penalties or action does our Department enter into?

Any information that you have along this line will be appreciated.

  
Anton J. Trigeiro  
Area Ranger

Some progress was made on getting the State to pay the tax. The Board of Control authorized the payment of one bill in Columbia., but reversed their decision when additional bills were presented.

How the assessor figures the tax is complicated. It could include use of the land.

If a ranger is transferred after the assessment date (first of Monday in March) he is personally liable for the tax bill even if he is transferred the first Tuesday in March. In these instances in Columbia, we have been able to get the assessment reduced to zero and therefore no tax. However, if you are transferred some distance it is necessary to return to the County of the tax, at your own expense.

One local resident, a judge living in a State house in Columbia, refused to pay. Tuolumne County eventually took the bill to Small Claims Court and the judge had to pay the bill plus interest.

Small Claims Court can not decide on the legality of the issue, only that the bill is in order. We would have to hire a lawyer to fight the case to get the legal decision reversed.

The best solution seems to have the Board of Control recognize the tax and add it to the employees rent. Then we would only pay the tax while we occupied the residence.

## CALIFORNIA QUIZ

It only takes five correct answers for a passing score. Six is good, seven is superior, eight is outstanding, nine is great, and 10 is superb.

1. What in California is considered the oldest known living thing in the world?
2. Where is the largest tree in the world?
3. What state county has the greatest climatic diversity?
4. Where is the oldest county courthouse in the state?
5. Which tree, now a characteristic part of the California scene, is not a native plant?
6. What is the highest earthfill dam in the United States?
7. Famous Lake Tahoe was once named for a California governor. Who was he?
8. What county was named for an industry which spurred its economic growth?
9. How many stars in the Great Seal of California?
10. How long did gold remain California's leading mineral commodity?

## ANSWERS

1. The bristlecone pine in the White Mountains in the Inyo National Forest, reported to be 4,600 years old.
2. In the Sequoia National Park. It is the General Sherman Tree.
3. Inyo County where below zero temperatures are common in winter in the mountains while minimum in the Death Valley areas is 15 degrees and the maximum 134 degrees.
4. In Mariposa, Mariposa County, which became the county seat in 1854. The courthouse has been in continuous use since its construction.
5. The eucalyptus. Seeds were brought here from Australia about 1860. The trees flourished and led to speculation for exaggerated plans for creating lumber plantations.
6. Oroville Dam, a key unit of the State Water Project is 770 feet high.
7. John Bigler, governor from 1852 to 1856.
8. Madera County, created from a part of Fresno County in 1893, was named for the town of Madera, which in turn got its name from the Spanish word for "timber." The town was the terminus of a vast lumber flume from the mountains.
9. Thirty-one, the number of states in the Union at the time California was admitted.
10. Until 1907. However, the sharpest decline came since World War II when production dropped from about \$50 million in 1940 to \$2.2 million in 1965.

# # #

If Benjamin Franklin and his 16 brothers and sisters each had 17 children continuing on and on until the present, there would be 40 quintillion, 121 quadrillion, 893 trillion, 376 billion, 34 million, 254 thousand, 302 Franklins in the world today.



To: Superintendent District 3

The campsite reservation program for the California State Park System is now in its third year of operation and its first year of being centralized. My comments relate primarily to the centralized operation wherein the Department Headquarters staff or a computer type system issues campsite reservations for all parks.

With the beginning of our heavy camping season, starting approximately the middle of May for the 1970 camping season, we have experienced seven occasions where organized groups have secured reservations for family campsites. These reservations were made with the group making the reservations requesting a block of campsites together. Once the reservation is made by our Department, we feel obligated to honor the reservations for public relations reasons.

If the above is any indication of what is to come it appears the camping groups will usurp the family camping sites through a non-controlled centralized campsite reservation system. I am strongly opposed to the centralized approach for it takes control of the camping program away from the area managers staff. As previously stated, once a reservation is made we, the field ranger force, feel obligated to honor the reservations. During the two previous years when we handled all reservations requests at the field level we were in a position to control more effectively the family camping program.

I strongly recommend the reservation program be returned to field control at the area level. That a fair portion of the reservation fee charges be allocated to each area in accordance with the size of reservation work load handled. My estimate would be 90¢ of each dollar. This would be sufficient for postage and clerical. The other 10¢ should be adequate for the paper involved.

The family camping program is one of our most important programs in these days of unrest among the younger people, for this provides the opportunity to the family with teenagers to camp and be together in an atmosphere away from those elements conducive to the widening of the gap between parent and children. The taking of these campsites by groups for this short period took 76 campsites for 153 camping days-during this period we turned away 419 family campers.

The organized camping group is better equipped to compete in our society for they normally have the spiritual and physical leadership necessary for guidance of the individual. The single family needs to be held together. The kind of togetherness outdoor living can bring..father and son hikes and fishing trips. I firmly believe we must at all costs protect and further the family camping program, especially in destination parks such as Calaveras.

Again, I repeat, I strongly oppose the centralized reservation program. I do not believe the computer can give the personal touch the family camping program needs. We, the Ranger Force in the field, end up at the finish answering by mail and telephone the hundreds of questions the computer is not programmed to answer.

I have dealt here with only one aspect of the reservation system. I am not opposed to the reservation program.

s/ Glen Jones, Calaveras

Hi Neil:

The photos came out very good in the Reporter so sending a few more.

Also mention to the park gang that I can copy prints if they do not have extra prints nor negatives. Many of the employees do not want to part with the only photo they may have of themselves, friends and places. I will return their one and only prints to them. I have a close up attachment for my camera and it has worked real fine for film copy work. If any of the gang have photos in their albums they do not wish to remove please have them send me a card and I'll try to stop by and make copies at their park units, in time.

Your friend,

s/ Ed Earl

P.S. Sorry about no captions on last months photos. They were, sitting on wall (1949) Keith Caldwell (left) and Max Hanson, in front of truck Jim Whitehead (left) and Gene Davis (1948); sitting on steps at Morror Bay (about 1953) top left, 1. unidentified, 2. Jess Choffee, 3. Wayne Con; middle left, 1. unidentified, 2. Louie Wakefield, 3. Al Halzgeber, 4. Charles Pasho (?); bottom left, 1. Jim Whitehead, 2. Art Hill (het), 3. Bill Marble, 4. Neil Power.

Hi Neil:

Recently a directive pertaining to use of personal equipment originated from Chief John H. Knight's office. It carefully explained, with a deep sense of appreciation for past contributions, that due to changing times, it would no longer be possible for employees to use personal equipment on State projects. It was pointed out that such use, "-- tends to distort the need for budgeting State equipment; it sometimes gives the employees the feeling that they have a parrallel right to State equipment for personal use; workmen's compensation claims may be complicated by an injury sustained through use of personal equipment;--". In short, from an administrative point of view, the contribution of personal equipment for use on State projects is no longer considered to be of value to the State. The justification for this action as stated by Chief Knight is very understandable and, considering the times, quite reasonable.

Now, substitute the words, time or personnel in place of the word, equipment in the above quotation. Couldn't the same justifications be as understandable and reasonable when speaking of contributed overtime? Will limitation of overtime be the next prohibition? From an administrative point of view, is contributed overtime as valuable to the State as it is to the individual contributor? If it is not (as at least a few of us suspect) perhaps we should, as an employee organization, consider the possibility of voluntarily withdrawing contributed overtime.

Please give this some serious thought, fellow members.

s/ James H. Greene

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