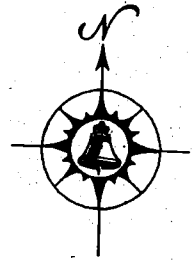


california state park rangers association

# REPORTER

Volume IV  
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October 30, 1972



News For  
All Points

Jack Welch, President, 2050 Alessandro Trail, Vista, CA 92083  
Herman Schlerf, Vice Pres., 245 Arnold Way, Fortuna, CA 95540  
Doug Bryce, Exec. Sec., 8665 Florin Rd #45, Sacramento, CA 95820

## Regional Elections Due

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope all of you will remember the coming Association election for Directors, Alternate Directors, and Delegates in some Regions. Either your Regional Director or his nominations committee chairman has no doubt made you all aware of the opportunities and I urge you to contest for these important positions.

I would also like to remind all of you that expenses are paid by the Association for those who are elected to office. If you're interested, get in touch with the man in your Region.

Two of the questions asked during the Sacramento meeting concerned the CSPRA \$500.00 donation to the Department for interpretive films, and the possessory interest tax. Elsewhere in this issue you will find the answers to my inquiries to Deputy Directors Robert Meyer and Ray Hunter.

It's very encouraging to see the number of interesting contributions to our September REPORTER issue. The minutes of our Sacramento meeting were very well done, complete and informative. Please give particular attention to the report on advertising for the REPORTER and the 1973 G.E.C. If you have any questions on how you can help sell space, contact your Regional Director.

You will note Cliff Wade's report on plans for the 1973 G.E.C. It promises to be a great convention with interesting programs. We usually average about 200 persons attending but for 1973, Cliff tells me he's hoping for about 300. Make our plans now and let's make it the biggest ever!

—Jack Welch

### Board of Control Keeps Possessory Tax

#### Ed. Note:

The following letter was received by President Jack Welch and passed on to the REPORTER.

Mr. Jack Welch, President  
California State Park Rangers Assoc.

Dear Mr. Welch:

Your September 12 letter asked for the latest developments on the possessory interest tax which is levied on our employees who reside in State housing. Bill Haussler and I met recently with staff members of the Board of Control to present our case and ask for some means of relief. We were informed as follows:

1. The possessory interest tax is one of the oldest forms of taxation existing and there would be very little hope of either negating the tax system or getting legislation passed to outlaw it.

2. The Board of Control would not look favorably on the State of California paying the possessory interest tax until such a time as our rental schedule approximates 90% of the cost of similar rentals on the outside.

3. The Board of Control recognized that there is an intangible value from state park employees living in a park from the standpoint of protection, but until we can place a dollar value on the worth of this protection, it would not be

considered by the Board of Control.

Both Bill and I left with the impression that there was little hope of this Department gaining relief or exemption from the possessory interest tax as things now stand. However, the possibility does exist to have some form of equalization of taxation take place. I have submitted information to the Board of Control staff on possessory interest taxes paid in each of our districts toward that end.

/s/Robert H. Meyer  
for Ray B. Hunter  
Deputy Director

#### CSPRA DONATION USED TO BUY PRINTS

#### Ed. Note:

The following letter was received by President Jack Welch and passed on to the REPORTER.

Mr. Jack Welch, President  
California State Park Rangers Assoc.

Dear Jack:

In answer to your question as to the funding of the motion picture being produced by the Department, the California State Parks Foundation is funding this project. The \$500 donated by the California State Park Rangers Association is being used to buy prints of the movie to be used in the State Parks.

/s/Robert H. Meyer  
Deputy Director

ON MOVING, ETC.

Sept. Ladies Viewpoint Assignment  
by Virginia McCall

Those of us who have been both military wives and ranger wives have had an opportunity to make a comparison between the way such problems in the distaff area as housing, transportation of household goods during a transfer, etc., are handled by the federal government and by state government.

Though we have been moved only twice at state expense we have found the state compared favorably with the federal government in providing information about state services and regulations, in weight allowances, and in reimbursement of moving and temporary quarters costs.

There are some noticeable differences, however. Since wartime and an unsettled period immediately following the conflict, military practice has been to give not less than thirty days notice of a transfer whenever possible.

Housing shipment offices offer information about houses, schools and other facilities at the new address, and experienced personnel give help in filling out applications and other forms. A wide variety of services is now offered, including an allowance toward the moving of a mobile home, if this is desired.

Military housing has steadily improved in the last decade (Mather AFB is currently installing dishwashers in its housing) and, of course, is more uniform than that supplied by the state. This is good or bad, depending on individual tastes.

But the inequities in state housing do not exist in the military, since everyone above the first few grades (supposedly of marriageable age!) is given a housing allowance, varying according to rank and/or the size of the family. Housing is furnished in lieu of an allowance, but where housing is not available, a cash allowance helps defray rental costs.

Military men have long been given a uniform allowance, and the state has recently made a similar provision for its uniformed employees.

The difference in size between the military establishment and the Parks and Recreation Department is considerable, of course, and in other ways they are not comparable, but a comparison can perhaps stimulate discussion when rangers meet to talk about common problems.

**MEMBERS MAILBOX**

Dear Editor:

As most of us Park Rangers already know AB 200-SB 100 were not passed by the Legislature due to pressure from business and real estate interests.

Enough citizens have been concerned about our coast to sign the California Coastal Zone Conservation Act of 1972 initiative to put it on the November State ballot. Points in the proposed ballot are almost identical to those in the defeated AB 200-SB 100 mentioned in last month's REPORTER.

Legislation is needed urgently to stop the uncoordinated bit by bit development of our California coastline. This legislation would establish a Coastal Zone Conservation Commission charged with developing a comprehensive plan at the state level to eliminate so much of the piece-meal development going on at present. The zone would extend out into the ocean as far as the outer limit of state jurisdiction and inland to the highest elevation of the nearest mountain or five miles, whichever is less.

The Environmental Issues Committee fully supports Proposition 20 and urges all other Rangers to likewise support this initiative. Proposition 20 is in keeping with the general objective of the California State Park System to maintain, and where necessary improve the quality of California's environment. It is in keeping with the State Park function, "To preserve examples of the natural and scenic landscape and to provide recreational opportunities."

Only 179 miles of California's

1051 mile coastline consists of sandy beaches with water temperatures and profiles suitable to swimming.

Only one-half of these beaches are now in public ownership. It has long been the recommendation of the Department of Parks and Recreation to make as much ocean swimming beach as possible available for public use.

The sandy beaches not suitable for swimming (lagoons, estuaries, bays, rocky shores, headlands, and sea cliffs) are also attractive locations for a wide range of recreation pursuits—sightseeing, boating, sportfishing, skin and scuba diving, camping, and picnicking.

Of the agencies protecting native landscape in California our department bears primary responsibility for preserving coastal areas. The National Park System has contributed by establishing Point Reyes National Seashore, Channel Islands, and a segment of Del Norte and Humboldt County Coastline. Our department already has many outstanding scenic and scientific interests preserved, but the job is far from complete and many, many other high priority acquisition proposals still exist. Proposition 20 would be beneficial to our department and all citizens of California in helping to put together a comprehensive state wide program to protect our coastal resources and provide additional recreational activities. EIC urges your active participation.

/s/ Jim Hart

EIC Chairman

ENVIRONMENTAL BOOKSHELF

"America's Changing Environment", by Daedalus. American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Richmond, Virginia. \$1.75

"The Fitness of the Environment", by Laurence J. Henderson. Beacon Press, Boston. \$1.95

"The Environmental Crisis", by Harold W. Helfrich, Jr. Yale University Press, New Haven. \$1.95

"The Conquest of Nature", by R.J. Forbes. Mentor New American Library. \$1.25

"The Meaning of Evolution", by George Gaylord Simpson. Yale University Press, New Haven. \$2.45

"Environmental Conservation", by Raymond F. Dasmann. John Wiley & Sons, New York. \$4.95

When we begin to think that most people are no better than we, the world seems full of people who are fairly unpleasant.

-Eric Hoffer

To grow old is to grow common. Old age equalizes—we are aware that what is happening to us has happened to untold numbers from the beginning of time. When we are young we act as if we were the first young people in the world.

-Eric Hoffer

Were the world to treat us the way we treat ourselves we would turn into firebrand revolutionaries.

-Eric Hoffer

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## MEMBERS MAILBOX

Dear Oren,

Thought perhaps the park wives who read the REPORTER might enjoy this little poem I ran across the other day. I think it sort of sums up the way most of us feel at one time or another.

/s/Anabel Menefee  
Sonoma Area

### "TRUANT"

I sit upon the terrace ledge  
Unfurling like a flower.  
The house is waiting for the mop,  
The vacuum's surging power.

The sun is warm upon my back.  
The roses lift their heads  
And every leaf is polished bright.  
I ought to make the beds.

With such an hour and such a day  
Before it is too late  
I must sit here and drink my fill.  
The house will have to wait.

-Georgie Starbuck Galbraith

Oren:

What are you doing to help our parks stay unpolluted? Are you doing a thorough job? Do you tell the park visitor that he is not allowed to have a hose running into the bushes from his trailer, discharging his sink water?

Or do you shrug it off as not very important and just something to overlook? Some of you Rangers must be doing the latter. "Well, at at Park they just said go ahead and water our trees", said a visitor last week, "And anyway, it's just sink water and that doesn't hurt anything".

We have laws forbidding this act:

4324 C.A.C. Sanitation, reads in part..."No waste, water, sewage or effluent from sinks, portable toilets or other plumbing fixtures shall be deposited directly upon or into the surface of the ground or water."

23112 Vehicle Code: Prohibits deposit of any nauseous or offensive matter of any kind on any highway.

18045 Health and Safety Code: Makes it unlawful to permit any wastewater or material from any plumbing fixture in a recreational vehicle to be deposited on the surface of the ground.

Yet, this act is still wide-spread.

Effluent from trailer sinks discharged onto the ground presents number of obvious hazards:

1. The discharge may leave a puddle...mud, which is a mess for the next camper...especially if a

tent is to be placed on this spot. Mud and soapy water is slippery which is another hazard.

2. Sink water is unhealthy. The bits of food and meat, etc., attract flies which carry many diseases. It can attract wasps.

3. It smells.  
You can almost always win over the park visitor with a little explanation of why this particular practice is bad for parks. Let's end this smelly act now.

/s/Bill Krumbein  
Region IV

Oren:

I had a thought which might help to stimulate written responses from Rangers in the field (responses to the REPORTER).

How about a "Ranger Response Column"? Here we could learn how different Rangers respond to a given question from the park visitor—or how they would do it, etc....

Let's say the question from the park visitor is, "But why can't three vehicles park in this camp space...they all fit"?

—One Ranger might say, "Because there is a law against it and if you park three cars here I'll cite you!"

—Another Ranger might say, "Can't you see where you have crushed this bush in trying to get three cars in here? We have to protect our parks from this type of abuse...or we won't have much vegetation left. These campsites were designed to handle two vehicles—not three...or four...or five. Do you understand?"

There are many ways to answer this question. I'm sure that some Rangers have come up with very effective answers which leave the park visitor satisfied and teach the park visitor a valuable lesson in conservation. We can all learn from good and bad answers. Hopefully we will use the best methods to promote good behavior from the park visitor.

Along with answers from the field. At the same time, we could submit possible questions for a later REPORTER issue.

/s/Bill Krumbein  
Region IV

Ed. Note:

What do you say members? Give your opinion to your Regional Director. This item will be brought up at the November Board of Director meeting.

Dear Oren:

Just a few lines to let you know the latest developments in our battle against Possessory Interest Tax.

At the present time Resolutions have been submitted to be presented to CSEA General Council Meeting in November, to sponsor legislation exempting all Public Employees from this tax, and to the Association of California School Boards to be presented to their November Meeting to support this legislation.

George and I have sent out over 200 questionnaires to the Park units. I have received some and am hopeful that the rest have already gone to Senator Way as this is the only way we can get something done.

Investigations thus far have found only 5 counties in California who apply this tax to county and city employees living in tax-exempt housing. Everyone can help if they will bird-dog their area and try to get the following information: (Caution—don't try to get it from the County Tax Assessor's Office)

1. Are county and city employees being taxed?

2. Do any school districts have housing—are they being taxed?

3. Are Federal, Fire and Water Districts, Irrigation Districts in your area being taxed?

4. Where is this tax deposited? In the General Fund or is it dispursed as other property tax?

So far we have received only one reply which indicated that the person thought everyone should pay this tax. Since we feel that everyone is entitled to be heard we sent this reply along with the others. There are many people who have been charged, moved, with someone else moving in the residence, and still had to pay the bill for the entire year. They feel this is unfair, and rightfully so.

We personally have been forced to pay this tax without any sort of a hearing. The County Tax Collector told us either we pay or they come in the house, take our furniture and sell it to pay the tax. All this without a court order, hearing or anything. We have protested to the Board of Equalization in Sacramento. What will happen, who knows???

Thanks to all for the letters of encouragement and offers of help.

/s/George and Betty Weldon  
Region III

## MEMBERSHIP CHART

						188
		141				
141						
			132	129		
	106					
					93	
58		70	67	68		?
	51					
						22
41%	48%	45%	51%	53%	49%	
REGION						
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII

Top Number = Total Possible Members  
Taken from the September, 1971  
Departmental Directory.

Middle Number = Number of Members  
Taken from mailing list as of  
August, 1972.

Bottom Number = % of Total Possible

Retired and Associate members  
can help us also. The following  
numbers are members in the respec-  
tive Regions. Have you tried to  
get more to join CSPRA?

Region	Retired	Associate
I	3	2
II	2	0
III	2	0
IV	2	0
V	2	4
VI	7	0
VII	0	0

## more mail

Hi Oren;

I received a letter from Re-  
tired Ranger Paul Minton. He and  
his wife, Ruth, just completed an  
eight week sweep of the U.S. and  
Canada. They covered 12,170 miles  
that took them into 6 Provinces, 26  
States, and a dozen National Parks.  
Paul and Ruth also stopped at num-  
erous State Parks.

They were particularly happy  
at the safe driving habits of thou-  
sands of motorists they encountered.  
They only saw three places where  
accidents had occurred before they  
came along.

They enjoyed the New England  
States' historic spots and also gave  
high praise for Biltmore House,  
Asheville, N.C., but were disappoint-  
ed in Mammoth Caves, Kentucky.

Paul and Ruth's interest in  
Western Art & History continues as  
their journey took them to many  
western museums and galleries; such  
as, Buffalo Bill Center & Gallery  
of Western Art in Cody, Wyoming.  
They also managed to again visit  
Will Rogers Memorial at Claremore,  
Oklahoma.

Ranger Paul and Ruth retired  
in 1967 from Will Rogers SHP. They  
formed close friendship with Robert  
and Paula Love, Manager and Curator  
of the Claremore, Oklahoma Memorial  
while working at Will Rogers SHP in  
Pacific Palisades.

We were pleased to hear of  
their interesting journey and wel-  
come them home at 1746 Pereira  
Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

/s/Ed Earl

Region IV

## MAINTENANCE WITH A CARE

Sept. Maintenance Assignment  
by Derrick Andrews Region II

Here is some food for thought  
on Park maintenance:

-When scheduling housekeeping  
chores, do you schedule them at a  
time to cause least interference  
with Park visitation?

-When cleaning facilities, do  
you leave them as you would like to  
find them?

-Can you put yourself in the  
visitor's place in all your daily  
work that affects the visitor?

-How much pollution do you  
cause in your daily maintenance  
activities—noise, dirt, dust,  
visual?

-How do the Park vehicles that  
you are responsible for impress the  
public?

-How much do you care about  
the Park visitor?—the ones you con-  
tact daily?

-How conscious are you of the  
natural flora of the Park when work-  
ing where it must be disturbed?

-How does your housekeeping in  
shop and office restrooms compare  
to public restroom housekeeping?

-How many safety hazards have  
you eliminated in the past week,  
month, year?

-When was your last tailgate  
safety meeting?

-What kind of a job would you  
get if you did the job following  
your own instructions to others who  
were assigned the job? Does what  
you say have the same meaning to  
those addressed?

-Finally, do you find real sat-  
isfaction in your work? How do you  
help others to find satisfaction in  
their work?

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