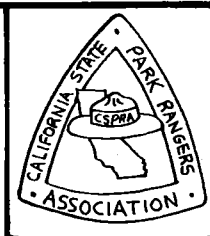




# california state park rangers association REPORTER

VOLUME VI - NUMBER 17  
AUGUST, 1975



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . . .

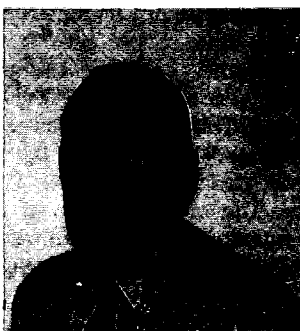
diminution of minimum qualifications would certainly affect the ultimate quality of employee.

Secondly, the filling of existing authorized Ranger positions with State Park Technicians would place an added work load on the remaining number of Rangers as they would have to pick up an added share of responsibility as well as spend time as a "trainer" to the State Park Technician.

Finally, as regards the goals of the Affirmative Action program it was felt that there were sufficient numbers of minorities who now meet the Ranger Trainee minimum qualifications. If these qualified minorities were successfully recruited we could meet the goals of the Affirmative Action program.

A number of letters to me indicated that field personnel were apprehensive about the Department's intent for filling and utilizing the proposed State Park Technician class. I expressed to Director Rhodes these feelings and suggested that the Department communicate to field personnel more information about the Affirmative Action program, its philosophy, purpose, goals, administration and implementation plans. Communication, I feel, is the key to employee acceptance and ultimate success of any Department program - adequate communication and understanding. In regard to this kind of communication I have offered Director Rhodes the assistance of CSPRA.

Executive Secretary Doug Bryce and I attended a meeting in Sacramento with Governor Brown's assistant Ray Fisher. The meeting was to solicit input for a new Office of Employee Relations in the governor's office. If and when collective bargaining legislation is enacted this office will serve as the governor's negotiating arm with employee organizations. If collective bargaining is not enacted this office may serve the



same function by executive order.

Employee associations were given until August 15 to submit input to Mr. Fisher. This office would appear at first glance to be a step up from the new relatively ineffective meet and confer process with employee organizations. Time will tell.

A committee meeting held in Sacramento this month examined suggestions that had been solicited on ways CSPRA could economize our operation. While there were a number of good suggestions submitted, the total savings that would be realized did not constitute a significant amount of our budget. The committee's examination of CSPRA expenditures did reveal that we are getting considerable service from our dues dollars.

Along with the many suggestions on how to economize was substantial encouragement for CSPRA to continue its efforts in the field of employee-employer relations matters. Along with this was the expressed willingness to raise dues to support these activities. If you have not expressed your desires to your Regional Director regarding CSPRA activities and expenditures be sure to do so before the next Board Meeting on September 13. This Association is your organization. Make your wishes known.

Retired employees received some con-

(Continued on page . . . 5)

## FEATURED OPINION

### NUCLEAR PARKS

In answer to the growing criticism of using nuclear power to generate electricity, some safety experts have come up with the idea of "nuclear parks." These parks would bring together all of the processes associated with nuclear power generation and locate them at some remote site. Fuel fabrication, processing, power generation, and waste disposal would all be located in one complex.

Are these "nuclear parks" something we can expect in the near future? Probably not. The various processes mentioned above are at this time quite separated from each other. Nuclear power plants being built and on the drawing boards will not be apart of any "nuclear parks" and many of these new plants are near population centers rather than in remote areas. Should the "nuclear park" concept eventually come to be a reality, it is something that we can not expect till the distant future.

This brings up the question that has been around for sometime, "If we have to live with these nuclear power plants, just how safe are they?" Some of the potential problems that nuclear power generation pose are: accidents that release radioactive materials into the surrounding environment (these accidents could take place while transporting the fuel to the plant, during the operation of the plant, or while transporting or storing the wastes); thermal pollution; and terrorist activities.

The Atomic Energy Commission has

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NOLAN RUST

attempted to show the public that the probability of any of the above taking place and having a significant effect on a large segment of the population is extremely small. In fact a recent study commissioned by the government to look into the probability of a serious accident at a power site (something like a runaway, uncontrolled nuclear reaction) found that there is a greater probability

(Continued on page . . . 3)

# Expressly for Wives



C'mon wives this column needs your support!

-Editor-

## NPS-DPR EXCHANGE

### ANT COUNTERS IN THE NPS

By JIM HART

Since going to work for the National Park Service last October I have been very impressed with the Resources Management Operation, which I feel is the one area where they have the latest lead over our Calif. State Park stem.

Last winter when I went to work for the Resources Management Division I must admit I was envious when I heard that they had tree counters counting and plotting on maps every Redwood tree in the entire park, but it made sense. Without a Resource Basic Inventory how can you determine for sure the Resource Management needs of a park. What really threw me was when they told me they had ant counters; not just any ants, these were specialists...they only counted carpenter ants!

I asked if the number of ants in a park had a significant bearing on its Resource Management Plan and this is the answer I got:

A few years ago giant Redwoods began falling at an alarming rate of 2 or 3 a year. A naturalist having just observed a tree fall found that it was ridden with carpenter ant tunnels, which were the apparent reason for its collapse. Since people are always the cause for bad things in parks a hypothesis was drawn: People must be brining food into the park, the ants are ripping it off and increasing in disasterous numbers. Management objective was to close off campgrounds and picnic areas in the vicinity of the effected area and let it return to its natural state.

Now here is where the ant counters come in because a management decision is only as sound as the research with

which it is based upon.

The ant counters, after two years of study, are just now putting their facts together, but the basic hypothesis now appears to be that the trees were being protected to death.

The number of carpenter ants has increased, but not from people food — from aphids. The aphids increased because they depended upon White Fir for their food. The Firs increased because of a lack of natural fire, which man had prevented. The increased duff and shade perhaps raised the water table, very slightly exposing Redwood roots to elements of decay, which attracted the carpenter ants, who chopped the tree down.

The report isn't out yet so there may be more facts to interpolate than what I have presented; but the importance of sound resource management practices cannot be over stated and Park Rangers must understand these to do a good job of teaching the public to understand and comply with park rules and regulations.

Simply fencing off a protected area from the public makes no better sense than to let the public run rampant in a protected area.

Resource Management's job is to research natural processes and to feed this information to Park Managers who must be aware of all the facts before management decisions are initiated. Management decisions are nothing unless they are enforced by Rangers who are knowledgeable in what they are doing.

Jim Hart  
Exchange Ranger  
Sequoia-Kings Canyon N.P.

## NUCLEAR PARKS, cont.

that a major American city will be struck by a large meteor than suffer from an accident at a nuclear power plant.

However, there is an element in our society that believes the probability calculations are in error. These people are of the opinion that the risks involved with nuclear power generation are far too great for us to continue our present programs to develop nuclear power. It is suggested that nuclear power plant construction come to a halt until these serious problems can be resolved, if they can be resolved.

Who are we to believe? It would appear at first look that what we have are the scientists who are saying its O.K. and some laymen who are crying wolf. That is certainly how I first perceived the conflict. Looking into the problem more, I found that many scientists were disputing the safety of our nuclear power plants. A book called Poisoned Power is highly critical of the nuclear power plant development program. It was written by two scientists hired by the AEC to investigate safety problems with respect to nuclear power generation. The expectation was that the two men would find no insurmountable safety problems. The conclusions these two men came to startled them and the AEC. The AEC dismissed the report as being in error and the men who wrote the book.

Is the above story just an isolated instance? I think not. Consider this story that appeared recently in the New York Times. A leading AEC safety expert announced he was quitting his job with the commission "in order to be free to tell the American people about the potentially dangerous conditions in the nation's nuclear power plants." Carl Hoyer, the author of one of the AEC's basic nuclear power plant safety analysis methods, said in his letter of resignation "in spite of the soothing reassurances that the AEC gives to the uninformed, misled public, unresolved

(Continued on page ... 5)

## EVENTS CALENDER

SEPTEMBER 5 -Constitution Amendment Ballots must be postmarked to Doug Bryce.

SEPTEMBER 13-Board Meeting at Host Hotel-Sac. Metro Airport. Topics up for action: dues increases; CSPRA operating expenditure cuts; recommendation for DPR Training Center name.

## ENFORCEMENT REPORT

(Continued from page . . . 1)

4. Post Certification.
5. MACE and non-lethal equipment.
6. Standard Firearms Qualification Course.
7. Manpower.
8. Ranger Non-peace Officer.
9. C.A.C. Revisions.
10. Mutual Aid.
11. Chapter 6 Review.

### EQUIPMENT

1. Firearms and Related.
2. Authorized Emergency Vehicles.
3. Radio Dispatch.
4. Ammunition, type, quantity.
5. MACE and non-lethal.
6. Patrol Dogs and Horses.
7. Prisoner Transport Vehicles.
8. Specialized Patrol Vehicles.
9. Radios, Portable and Mobile.
10. Forms.

Between the April and May meetings, members of the committee researched enforcement policies and practices with a number of other agencies. Interviews were conducted and formal policy statements obtained from: California Highway Patrol, San Mateo County Sheriff, Half Moon Bay Police Department, Department of Fish and Game, Division of Forestry, East Bay Regional Parks, and the National Park Service at Yosemite. The committee expects to maintain contact with these agencies and consult with others in future weeks and months.

In the May meeting, the committee considered positions on the high priority topics under each heading, i.e. 1) Ranger Image, 2) Wearing and Use of Protective Equipment, and 3) The Protective Equipment itself.

Relating to Range image, the following points were voiced and agreed to:

1. A visible weapon does not of itself determine the image of the man wearing it.

2. The demeanor and attitude of the Ranger-Peace Officer are the important determinants of image.

3. Negative association of Rangers with Police is an unwarranted generalization, tied to non-professional rather than professional law enforcement. The generalization is likely to be made, whether the Ranger is armed or not.

4. In the knowledge and experience of the committee, Rangers wearing protective equipment in presently authorized areas have encountered little or no negative public reaction; to the contrary, the only discernible reaction has been sympathetic.

5. Allowing that there may be unexpressed public opinion on the appropriateness of armed park rangers, this should not mitigate the basic responsibilities of the ranger in his role as a peace officer. Nor should it lower his professional standards in this role.

6. The image that he projects is of as much concern to the professional ranger as it is to the Department. The concerns of the Department may reflect a general

lack of confidence in the ability of the field ranger to carry out his function as a peace officer and still maintain the desired low profile.

Obtained in the committee's research was an essay on the issue of weapons vs.



VICE PRESIDENT RON McCALL  
Enforcement Committee Chairman

ranger image written by Yosemite Ranger Lee Shackleton. The controversy there is drawn on lines strikingly similar to those being debated within this Department. The committee felt a strong concurrence with Ranger Shackleton's essay, and is seeking to have it published in the Reporter with his permission.

Considered next was present Chapter 6 policy (0620, June, 1972) which defines times and circumstances when protective equipment may be worn.

The committee feels the Department's existing policy designating times when law enforcement equipment may be carried is unrealistic for the following reasons:

1. It is often impossible to anticipate when protective equipment might be needed. Serious situations by nature develop unexpectedly, often in the midst of routine tasks. Enforcement problems that can be anticipated are inherently safer, whether the ranger is armed or not, than problems that arise without warning. In fact more police officers are killed from incidents developing out of routine contacts than by any other cause.

2. When an enforcement situation qualifying the wearing of protective equipment is urgent but not imminent, important time and efficiency may be lost in the delay of returning to the vehicle for a weapon.

3. Wearing protective equipment only in response to required circumstances may be regarded as alarming, and by itself escalate a situation that might otherwise be handled low-key.

4. The park ranger is dealing with a

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### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Two Goofs!

In last months Reporter I was guilty of giving too much credit in one case and not enough in another.

Bill Krumbein has pointed out he can't take credit for "What Good Is A Dead

Tree". The article came from an issue of Audubon Conservation Topics, West.

And in case you didn't recognize his own inimitable style last month's "Not So Old Ranger" column was written by the not so old ranger himself, Tiny Philbrook.



# Fieldnotes

## WHERE IS FIELDNOTES???

Do you need information on State-wide interpretive activities? Do you need information on Where-To, How-To, When-To? Tight money in the Association has forced a re-evaluation of the Interpretive Needs Committee's publication FIELDNOTES. This publication could be printed in the RE-

PORTER or it could be abandoned. Let your Regional Director know if you need this information or if other sources are sufficient.

### ITEM

Copies of Bob LaBelle's "Notes on Plastic Embedding" are available for the price of return postage. Write to

John Kolb at the Training Center.

### ITEM

San Francisco Maritime SHP solved the problem of hauling artifacts to schools by placing them in an old sea chest. It's convenient and adds color to your theme. What conveyances do you have that would fit your interpretive theme?

## ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT, cont.

transient public, for the most part with people he does not know nor has ever seen before. As a peace officer, he is at a distinct disadvantage compared to a community or urban police officer who knows the neighborhoods and people he is dealing with.

5. Weapons kept in briefcases locked in patrol vehicles can be easily stolen; some likely will be if present policy is retained and expanded throughout the system.

6. The committee questions whether there is a significant difference in the incidence of night vs. day enforcement actions justifying the more restrictive daytime policy. In some areas and units, most enforcement is during daylight hours. In any case, aberrations of human nature are not bound by the clock.

In consideration of the above, the Enforcement Committee is prepared to recommend that existing Chapter 6 policy designating times when protective equipment may be worn be deleted in favor of awarding that decision to the ranger himself. Manual Section 0620/C., is appropriately worded, and could be adapted to include the wearing as well as use of weapons. The committee does not seek to have rangers armed all of the time, or even necessarily most of the

time. But neither is the committee greatly concerned with either prospect. The committee does seek to have all rangers equipped and prepared to do the job required of them.

In its discussion, the committee recognized that some would forsee "abuses" resulting from a liberalized policy as advocated. In the committee's view, inappropriate wearing of protective equipment that is of itself objectionable is a theoretical problem only, and highly unlikely to materialize. Should it develop, it would be documented through public complaint or observed by supervisory personnel and thereafter handled through routine supervisory procedure.

The Enforcement Committee did not conclude on specific types of firearms and related accessories in its first two meetings. Strongly endorsed, however, is the concept that there be two standards of protective equipment; high and low profile. Implicit throughout this report, is that there be an additional standard of low profile equipment as an alternative to the present full enforcement kit.

Respectively Submitted,  
Ronald D. McCall  
Committee Chairman

## NUCLEAR PARKS

(Continued from page . . . 3)

questions about nuclear power safety are so grave that the United States should consider a complete halt to nuclear power plant construction while we see if these serious questions can, some how, be resolved."

What all of this boils down to is a probability game. Some people say that probably nothing serious will ever go wrong with our development of nuclear power. Some say something serious probably will go wrong.

Perhaps then the best way to meet this problem is to consider the consequences of continuing the current program as contrasted with the consequences of abandoning the nuclear energy program in search of other sources of energy.

Although many will argue that a serious nuclear accident will never take place, few, if any, will argue that a serious nuclear accident would not kill thousands of people. The potential for an accident is compounded by the possibility of a terrorist group gaining access to nuclear materials.

On the other hand, to abandon our plans to develop nuclear energy may result in our inability to meet projected energy demands in the future. While we are developing other sources of energy, we may have to change our lifestyles.

Its a game of chance. Do you get your life or your lifestyle?

/s/ Jerry Henderson

## THE NOT \$0 OLD RANGER

### WILD DRIVERS

It happened on Diablo back about '55. The north road up Mt. Diablo was a rather steep winding almost two lane road from the Concord-Walnut Creek communities. More commonly described as a snake track, the north road presented a challenge to car and driver alike.

Ranger Joe was assigned to the old Riding and Hiking Trail in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Because he spent considerable time on the mountain, he knew the north road like the back of his hand. In an old '47 International pickup he made the route eight or ten times a week. Even tho' the little old 1/2 ton cornbinder was heavily loaded with tools and supplies Joe could make time up the hill. The truck had a high speed second gear.

One day Joe was headed up the hill at what he considered a moderate safe speed. Most flatlanders would have been grabbing the cinches. A new T-Bird passed him. Ford had recently introduced the T-Bird as a sports car.

Anyway Joe decided the guy was going too fast for safety. He put his foot in the carburetor and caught the guy from behind. Joe

**EVENT:** Bill Weatherbee's Retirement Party  
**PLACE:** Santa Barbara Miramar Convention Center  
**DATE:** Saturday, September 27, 1975.  
**TIME:** 6:00 p.m. No Host Cocktail Hour  
7:00 p.m. Dinner  
**MENU:** Top Sirloin Steak  
**PRICE:** \$8.00 tax and tip included  
Dancing Will Follow

Please send your dinner reservations and gift money by check, money order, or whatever—payable to Florence Freeman, by September 5th.

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District 5 Headquarters  
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pulled the driver over and in his own inimitable style, which was none too polite, tried to convince him he shouldn't threaten the safety of others on a park road.

After Joe ran out of breath, the driver had his say. "Ya know I'm trying to sell this guy a T-Bird. Here I am demonstrating what a good sports car can do on this snake track and you catch me with that danged old cornbinder. Thanks for ruining my sale."

TINY PHILBROOK



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### President's Message

(Continued from page . . . 2)

sideration this year when CSPRA supported Senate Bill 877 was signed by Governor Brown. This was a benefit package increasing retirement compensation as much as 15 per cent for those who retired prior to 1966 and lesser amounts on a sliding scale to 3 per cent for those who retired prior to 1974.

CSPRA will continue to watchdog and support any legislation that helps our retired members who are really bearing the brunt of the inflation bite. The intent of Resolution 75-5 will be carried on with constant vigilance.

**LATE ITEM** — Just received word that the State Board of Control Staff will be presenting recommendations to the Board of Control **REDUCING** the amount of uniform allowance for Department of Parks and Recreation personnel. This change is based on a new survey made by SBC Staff of wear out periods for uniform items.

I will be asking CSPRA representative Ken Jones as a member of the Department's Uniform Task Force to examine the Staff proposal and prepare rebuttal to any items found to be inaccurate. We will present this rebuttal to the Board of Control at the time of the item hearing.

### PERSONALS:

Born July 20, 1975, 10:04am  
William Wesley Geissinger  
6 lb. 8 oz.

Association Membership: **ACTIVE:** current or retired, permanent or permanent intermittent employees of Dept. of Parks & Recreation of State Park Ranger or State Park Maintenance classes. **ASSOCIATE:** permanent or retired employees of the Dept. of Parks & Recreation in classes not eligible for active membership. **SUPPORTING:** any interested person not eligible for active or associate membership. **HONORARY:** distinguished person nominated by a member and approved by Board.

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