



# REPORTER



VOLUME VI - NUMBER 18

OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1975

## FEATURED OPINION

### LET THAT FEELING BE KNOWN

Something rather unique may be happening at the Marin area parks and San Francisco Maritime S.H.P. + some of them are going to be given away. A bill sponsored by George Moscone (SB 834) has recently passed the State Senate and is in the Assembly to give Historic Ships, Angel Island, Stinson Beach, Mount Tamalpais and Marin Headlands State Parks to the NPS Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Little opposition exists even though the transfer of about \$52 million worth of lands are involved and no provisions have been made for the state employees affected. The parks involved will still be parks. Only the signs and uniforms will be different, right?

Last year the people of the state passed a \$250 million bond to secure and increase their park system. While the National Park Service is a fine organization, Californians have shown that they believe in, and are proud of a heritage that is first theirs and then the nation's. The park you are associated with is obviously of state-wide significance or it would not be a state park. Is it also of national significance (or adjacent to a National Park)? It's something to think about.

The State Park System is holding a trust for all Californians, hopefully forever. The speed and quietness which accompanied Moscone's bill are a little unsettling. Do the people of California really want to give away (and that is all it can be + no trade or sale can be involved) this much of that trust..

(Continued on page . . . 5)

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NOLAN RUST

## President's Message ..

As usual, your Board of Director's quarterly meeting in Sacramento on September 13th had an agenda too large to cover in the time available. Highlight of the Board Meeting was, of course, the arrival of Director Rhodes and Chief Deputy Director Bob Van Horn. Director Rhodes covered subjects from major Department objectives to communications with field personnel. The main theme of what he had to say was: **WE ARE HERE TO SERVE THE PUBLIC!!** To which this Association can say: **AMEN!!**

Regarding the rumors about the so called Department re-organization, Director Rhodes stated that his plans were not firm enough yet to reveal details but that any changes in the immediate future would only affect the Department at Division level. He also corrected the use of the term re-organization and chose to refer to it as "modification" of the existing organization. The main purpose of this modification is to provide better liaison and coordination between segments of the Department. Many people have complained in recent years that the existing organization has fragmented our direction and consequently lessened our effectiveness. This modification may put us back in the same canoe, hopefully paddling in the same direction.

### qualifiable people

Questions about the new proposed State Park Technician Class lead the Director to discuss the Affirmative Action Program. While the Affirmative Action Program is the prime purpose for the establishment of the additional entrance level class it is not the only purpose. Director Rhodes expressed his opinion that many good people without a college degree are passed up in the selection process. That given the chance these people could contribute much to the Department. He also allayed concerns that the Technician Class will be used to merely accomplish a numbers game to meet Affirmative Action goals. He stated that he is only interested in **QUALITY**

people who are either **QUALIFIED** or **qualifiable**.

While this Association can and will support the Affirmative Action program there are still reservations about accomplishing Affirmative Action goals by lowering the standards for any position in the Department. Your Regional Direc-



DIRECTOR HERBERT RHODES

tors will send me their comments by September 19th and I will compose a letter to the Director of a composite of their comments and restate this Associations position on the establishment of the State Park Technician Class.

### "FANTASTIC GRAPEVINE"

On the subject of communications within the Department Director Rhodes stated that he was aware of the lack of information being disseminated to the field and was working on the machinery and mechanics to provide a better system of communicating. (He did comment that we now have the most fantastic grapevine system he had ever seen)! He further stated that personnel in the field were in the best position to identify problems and also offer solutions to these problems and he wanted to hear what you had to say. He will also be working on an upward communication program in the near future.

### VERY EASY TO TALK TO

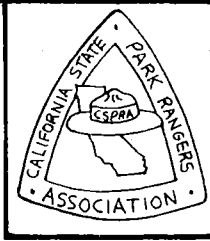
In his two and one half hour visit Director Rhodes covered many more subjects

(Continued on page . . . 2)

# california state park rangers association REPORTER

VOLUME VI - NUMBER 18

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1975



## PRESIDENT:

Herman Schlerf, 201 Valley Avenue, Fortuna, Ca. 95540

## VICE PRESIDENT:

Ron McCall, 7210 Langley Canyon, Salinas, Ca. 93901

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Doug Bryce, 8665 Florin Rd. #45, Sacramento, Ca. 95820

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . . .

than we have room to print in this edition of the REPORTER. I would, however, like to take the opportunity to make a personal observation of our meeting with Director Rhodes. I found him to be a very personable individual, very easy to talk to. While it was a consensus of the people I spoke to after our meeting that the Director's aims and the goals of this Association are parallel, Mr. Rhodes stated himself that we are not always going to agree on the route to reaching our stated purpose. He did add that he felt himself to be a reasonable person willing to discuss any problem. Since one of the stated purposes of this Association is to discuss problems and exchange professional thought I think that through effort and communication with the Director's office that we can contribute much to the Department of Parks and Recreation and to the professionalism of the Departments personnel.

## FISCAL POSITION INTO PERSPECTIVE

Probably the second most important item to be resolved at this Board Meeting was the question of finances. After due consideration of the goals and activities of this Association your Regional Directors voted to increase dues by \$1.00 per month. This was done only after considerable polling of members in each Region and receiving confirmation from the membership that you wanted to continue our existing programs and fulfill future objectives.

Increasing income was not the only action taken by your Board to bring our fiscal position into better perspective. It was voted to reduce personal car mileage from 9c a mile to 6c a mile. At today's gas prices this will only reimburse members for gas and oil when traveling on official CSPRA business. Overhead costs of travel by personal car will be borne by the member.



The election of Delegates, Regional Directors and Alternate Regional Directors will be rescheduled (Necessitating a change in the Constitution) to eliminate double attendance of officers at each years GEC. Both the outgoing officers and incoming officers now attend GEC, doubling travel costs.

Until our fiscal position changes sufficiently the REPORTER will combine issues for the months of June to July, August to September and November to December, reducing our annual cost of publication. It was decided to reduce the number of copies printed each year and retain the high standard of publication excellence that Editor Lloyd Geissinger has brought to the REPORTER.

Your support of this dues increase was a vote of confidence in your officers and Regional Directors. This support is very much appreciated. You have said, in effect, that you approve of the activities of the Association and in the management by your Board of Directors. We appreciate your support and will continue to work to merit your confidence.

Two very quick items to close this month's message. The Board of Control will meet the end of September to consider two items of interest to DPR employees, Uniform Allowance changes and State Housing Rental Rate changes. CSPRA Representative on the Department Uniform Task Force, Ken Jones has been studying the proposed changes recom-

(Continued on page . . . 6)

## NPS-DPR EXCHANGE

The Sequoia and Kings Canyon Interpretive centers are as nice as you would find anywhere. The park is broken up into three areas each with a head naturalist. In the winter the naturalist may receive assistance from volunteer labor and his job basically is to be available in the day at the Visitor Center to give out public information or to guide nature walks. Once a week the naturalist gives an evening program with sound, lapse dissolve, and automatic dimming lights.

At Kings Canyon the naturalist has 5 technicians who each have two programs they give, as well as assisting in various bike hikes, nature walks and rescue demonstrations. The rest of their time is divided to provide someone at the ranger station for directions and visitor information.

The technicians also tell stories in the evening to commemorate the Bicentennial, so there is a story telling session each evening as well as a campfire program which might be either a movie or slide presentation.

I have participated in 7 programs so far and I feel that lapse dissolve and a music sound track do much to improve a program and should be a goal for the Interpretive Specialists of our department. Aside from mechanical devised the quality of programs are very comparable to the State Park System. The following is a list of programs available for the summer season at Cedar Grove, Kings Canyon, which depicts the variety and interests of the naturalist staff.

The Pathfinders — about Kit Carson and Col Fremont.

The Emigrants — Early pioneers of Kings Canyon era.

Rebel with a Cause — John Muir.

The Bandits — Joaquin Murrieta.

The Visitors of this and Future Generations.

Stellar Performance — Sierran birds.

What's left of it — Vanishing Wilderness.

Boots and Blisters — back packing as an art.

The Little Folks — program about children.

Between a Rock and a Hard Place — Sierran Geology.

Gurgle, Gurgle, Gurgle — Story of water.

Creativity, sincerity & devotion are what make this schedule work — not excessive manpower — when you stop to think about it, that's not so different from the State Park System.

By JIM HART

## Special Note

The deadline for submission of copy to the REPORTER is pay day each month. Articles received by pay day will be in the REPORTER coming to you around the middle of the next pay period.

A rule of thumb deadline reminder: if you haven't mailed your article by the time you get your pay check then its to late!

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### INTERPRETERS— AN ENDANGERED SPECIES??

By Buck Graham

The economic signs of the times are making themselves felt more as time goes by in our Department, with ever diminishing budgets and limited staffs. Many units feel the growing pains of rapid growth, and the continual crush of our recreation — seeking masses exert even more pressures on our limited staffs. As quantity of contacts increase, sometimes quality slips. The comment is often heard, "Interpretation? We don't have time for it."

But some time ago, in his mad rush for civilization, mankind estranged himself from his natural environment, and now deeply regrets the divorce. He descends upon us in the Park Green by the hordes in a frantic effort to reunite with his natural word. So interpretation must be worked into our every day contacts if we are to meet the public's need for it. Interpretation? We've got to have time for it.

All our skills as Rangers and Interpreters are put to a test much harder than that required for a campfire talk. Almost instantaneously we must be aware of the audience, to know what they want to hear, and how to put it across in such a way that we have told them what we must tell. The quality contact has to be the interpretive contact.

Interpretation? We can have time for it.



## Expressly for Wives



### COUNTING SHEEP

What do you do for excitement July 4th weekend? For a new adventure I counted sheep in Anza-Borrego Desert S.P. Basically what is involved in this is sitting in the sun about six hours a day for three days and waiting for Bighorn Sheep to come and drink some water, then count how many and what kind.

It began July 4, when my brother-in-law, Bob, and I put on our packs, heavy with 3 gallons of water each and provisions, at 5 a.m. and walked two hours up Borrego-Palm Canyon to the Third Palm Grove. Never being one to take the easy way, I took a wrong twist in the trail and we ended up scrambling over and through boulders instead of walking up the stream-bed most of the way.

Finally we arrived at the Third Grove and prepared ourselves to watch for sheep, which we did until 4 P.M., but alas, we saw no sheep on Friday. A breeze comes to blow away some of the day's heat, then there is some shade to hide in, and we drink the last of our melted ice water. The night comes and I am content to count stars til I fall asleep.

Saturday morning arrives dramatically as two hummingbirds do a ritual dance in front of my eyes as they mistake the bright orange sleeping bag for a giant flower full of sweet nectar. Next we find millions of ants have discovered our food during the night. We spend the first two hours of the day sorting food and ants.

We are again situated for sheep coun-

ting, but by noon we are beginning to think that the Bighorn Sheep are nothing but mythical beasts. Fortunately, for the project, I sight my first two sheep within an hour and for the next one and a half hours we sit, almost in a trance, and watch 14 sheep gracefully and seemingly effortlessly glide down rock mountains to fill their bodies at our water-hole. After they drink they seem to float back up the mountain and out of sight.

Thinking about the ants we probably missed does nothing to whet our appetites, instead we think about cold drinks and ice. The drinking water even though kept in the shade was at least 100 degrees and almost too hot to drink.

Sunday morning found the water cooled and us refreshed for another day of sheep counting, but all Sunday brought was 2 ewes and 112 degrees. We walked back to park headquarters, down the stream bed, with a rest at the First Palm Grove where pools of cool, clear water beckoned us to soak ourselves and drink our fill.

After a shower, cold drinks, and dinner Bob and I both agree it was a great weekend. We saw sixteen sheep and experienced the desert at a time when sane people go to the mountains, beach, or at least stay "air-conditioned." We are both ready to venture forth next summer, sit in the sun, and count sheep.

/s/Marjorie Schuessler

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# THE NOT SO OLD RANGER

By Tiny Philbrook

## DYNAMITE

Back about '55 on Mt. Diablo I found I had inherited a powder magazine with several cases of old dynamite left over from the CCC days of the Thirties. It was an explosive mess located about a hundred yards from my house and Little Pat's house. The Headquarters and one campground were also within the hundred yard range.

Part of the roof had caved in. The dynamite had crystallized so the nitro was like whiskers on each stick. A 5-gallon can full of electric blasting caps was stored in the same magazine. Pack rats had sampled the dynamite and buried some of the caps in the dirt on the floor. The situation was complicated even more by young park guests who insisted on prying open the door to investigate the cave behind.

A couple of the cases were branded Hercules 40 percent. For help I called the Hercules Powder Company. They sent one of their powder experts up the mountain to look over the situation. The only way he'd handle it was to use some fresh powder and blow up the whole thing in place. He wanted nothing to do with whiskered old dynamite sticks. I figured 4½ cases of dynamite exploded in that location wouldn't be too good for my house, Little Fat's house, the office or the campground.

The expert offered one other solution and then left the mountain before anything else could happen. Next morning Little Fat and I tackled the explosive situation while another one of the crew stood by out of range where he could notify our beneficiaries.

First thing was the can of electric caps. One hundred feet away we dug a hole about 4' deep. Carefully — oh so carefully — we removed the can of blasting caps from the magazine and placed it in the hole together with all the loose caps the pack rats had scattered around the floor. On top of the can we put one stick of dynamite with a long, long fuse, also fresh, so we could trust it. We backfilled the hole, lit the fuse and scurried for a nearby gully.

After holding our breath for the required time, we breathed a deep sigh of relief when we heard the caps go off. It didn't even blow the loose dirt out of the hole.

Feeling like experts we then started on the harest part of the job. Using several Sunday editions of the Chronicle we scattered a 6" layer of crumpled newspapers on the floor of the magazine. Then one by one each whiskered stick of the old powder was gently, very gently, removed from the box and laid one deep on the paper. Since there was no percentage in both of us going skyward in an accident we took turns in the magazine or with our lookout a safe distance away. About 15 minutes at a time was all either of us wanted to sweat in the magazine. It was a cool spring day, but somehow that job wrung all the perspiration out of us.

After the dynamite was all laid in a single layer we added another layer of crumpled newspapers with a 30 foot fuse of crumpled paper leading away from

the magazine. Finally about 1600 we were ready to touch it off. The road was blockaded and the nearby buildings evacuated. The top layer of paper and the fuse were soaked with 10 gallons of diesel fuel as was the fuse.

Little Fat had the matches so he drew the assignment of torching the fuse after I was in a nearby gully. He wasn't very tall so he was not noted for speed. Believe me when he lit the fuse he covered the downhill slope to the gully in nothing flat, at least 5 yards per stride.

Sure enough it was a beautiful fire. About the time we were brave enough to stand up to look, the heat found one of the blasting caps, the rats had buried. Down in the gully again, this time to stay down until the blaze died down and the remaining roof of the magazine caved in on the embers.

Little Fat and I decided we'd earned our money for the day so we enjoyed a couple of cool, foamy ones while we watched some of the rest of the crew mop up the area with the pumper unit.

## Honorary Lifetime Membership

## Nominations Due

### WHO?

"An Honorary Member may be any person who, for distinguished service devoted to the objectives of the Association, is nominated by a member of any membership class and approved by a two thirds vote of the Board." Section 6, Article 4 of the Constitution of C.S.P.R.A.

### HOW?

By placing in nomination a person whose distinguished services meet the following criteria:

- I. The individual shall have contributed in an outstanding or extraordinary manner, or to an unusual degree, to the advancement of the State Park concept, the profession of State Park Ranger, public service within the State Parks, or in the field of ecology as it affects the park system or the public use of parks.
- II. This service or action is to be beyond that in which the individual would normally have accomplished as part of his job or responsibility.
- III. The service may not necessarily be of state or national importance, but it is to be judged on its own merit and degree of contribution.
- IV. Normally, the recommendation would be made during the person's lifetime.

### WHAT?

Compose a letter, including the name, address and telephone number of the person, the date and place of his birth, the educational and/or service background and listing the specific accomplishments which you believe qualifies him, or her for the Honorary Lifetime Membership.

### WHEN?

NOW, complete and sign, along with other participating members, the letter, or letters, of nomination and mail to Richard L. Brock at 2334 Walnut Ave., Carmichael, Ca. 95608. Nominations received later than December 1, each year, will not be considered for that year's award.

DO IT EARLY!

## LET THAT FEELING BE KNOWN

(Continued from page . . 1)

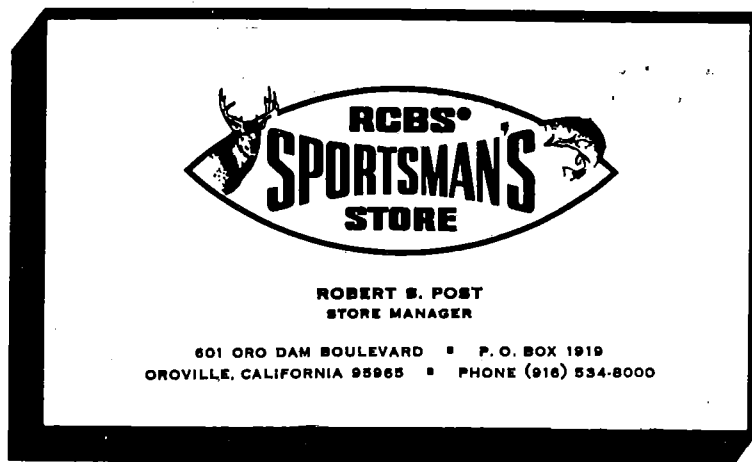
As private citizens intimately involved with State Parks, you can do something. Regardless of how you feel on this issue, let that feeling be known. Let your park and non-park friends know about this situation. Talk it over. But most importantly, let your State Assemblyman and the Governor know how you feel. There is no apparent objection to the bill in the State Assembly at this point, so by next July, N.P.S. signs could be going up.

Perhaps the parks involved could be better or more efficiently operated by N.P.S.; but the precedent being set and

the ease with which the legislation is being approved are frightening. Will it stop in Marin county, or as one N.P.S. official publicly suggested, should the Golden Gate National Recreation Area extend to Santa Cruz? California has one of the most diverse and magnificent heritages in this country and I feel we should be a little more jealous, a little more protective of it. Share it, but don't give it away!

Please write while there is still time.

/s/Jennie Verardo



## Mailbox

Dear President Schlerf:

The Ranger's Association in '1974 donated some funds for a "dry stack" or wooden chimney vent hole for the Candle Shop at Sutter's Ford SHP.

The week of August 2, through August 9, the Candle Shop was manned by Campfire Girls and some leaders. We were able to operate the shop with natural fuel such as charcoal (usually from the Bee Hive oven) and occasionally coal. The vent worked as anticipated and allowed us to use the room as a living display in a more accurate and historic manner.

The Campfire Girls are planning additional weekend use of this facility as well as for a possible Pioneer Day in the spring.

Will you please see that the Association receives our appreciation for the assistance they have given us to finish this project.

Respectfully,  
K.R. Morgan, Area Manager

Dear Herman,

I want to thank CSPRA for the full scholarship that I received to attend the Audubon Camp of the West this summer.

The Audubon Camp is a great experience for anyone and is especially valuable for Rangers. Besides exposing me to many concepts and values which can be used in both interpretive efforts and administration of park resources, I met a lot of wonderful people and had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

As of this summer, 200 California State Park Rangers have attended the Audubon Camp of the West. CSPRA can be proud of its support of this fine program.

Sincerely,  
Donald W. Hoyle

Dear Doug Bryce:

Thanks for the dues reminder; it indicates that the retired rangers are not completely forgotten.

I'm celebrating the eighth anniversary

of my retirement and only wish CSPRA well; but its problems are not the problems of the retired rangers. For the \$72.00 dues expended over the past eight years, I feel I have received no benefits whatever.

I belong to the Natural Resources Chapter 136 of CSEA and for the \$6.00 annual dues I receive the "State Employee", low cost accident insurance, and a cut rate annual barbecue dinner, plus benefits secured through CSEA legislative lobbying. I also belong to San Luis Obispo Chapter 38, Retired Public Employees. We have bi-monthly dinner meetings and worthwhile speakers.

Since about 1968, I have not been notified of any CSPRA regional meetings; the CSPRA "Reporter" isn't worth \$9.00 a year to me. I much prefer to use that money on more worthy charities. I belong to and support the Sierra Club, the California Native Plant Society, and ECOSLO (the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo) San Luis Obispo County Historical Society, plus other civic and conservation societies.

So please accept my resignation from CSPRA.

Cordially,  
Paul W. Minton

## GEC 1976

Committee chairpersons have been appointed and G.E.C. '76 is beginning to take shape. While we intend to tap the wealth of potential speakers and participants in the Sacramento area, it may be just as important to address some of the more important concerns of the membership, through workshop and panel discussion sessions. Some ideas that are being passed around are:

What are some of the long range objectives of the Association?

Where do we want to be in 5-10 years?

Are we a professional association? An employee organization? or Both?

Is CSPRA truly autonomous, or is it just a mirrored reflection of the departmental structure?

The State Vehicular Recreation Area and the State Park Ranger.

An informal discussion with the new director, Herbery Rhodes.

How does C.S.P.R.A. relate to a possible new "urban direction" in parks?

These are just a few of the ideas we've heard. What are some of your concerns?

Send us some suggestions.

Dick Troy  
1612 La Sierra Dr.  
Sacramento 95825



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### President's Message

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mended by Board of Control Staff and will appear at the hearing to rebut any recommendations that are not correct or equitable.

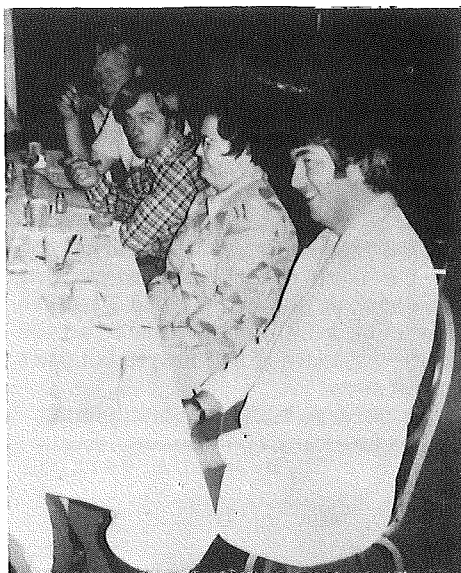
Concerning the State Housing Rental rates the Board of Control Staff have gone back to a proposed formula similar to what is used now. The rates are slightly higher on the basic rental rate. What will prove most expensive will be the addition of utility costs.

There was also a recommendation to tie future increases in housing costs to the National Price Index. It has been recommended, however, that should annual pay raises not follow the National Price and Wage Index that any increase in housing costs be adjusted to the employees wage increase rather than the Price and Wage Index.

All in all the new proposed formula will be much more equitable statewide than the originally proposed fair rental market appraisals and in most cases considerably lower.

### EVENTS CALENDER

December 15 - Deadline for submission of requests for Audubon Camp Scholarships. If you are interested contact Exec. Secretary Doug Bryce.



Deputy Director Robert Van Horn (foreground) joined Director Rhodes in a visit with the C.S.P.R.A. Board of Directors.

Seated with Deputy Director Van Horn is C.S.P.R.A.'s own Recording Secretary Pat Cloney and Regional Directors John Knott and Jeff Price.

For details of the meeting see page 1.

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### IN MEMORIAM

The California State Park Rangers Association lost a friend and fellow worker for conservation matters with the passing of California Assemblyman Edwin L. Z'berg last month.

While few of us had the privilege of knowing Assemblyman Z'berg personally, his name and reputation was well known to all of us.

He was a champion of many causes supported by CSPRA and was admired for his high standard of concern for conservation issues. He also supported many legislative bills providing State employee benefits.

A personal letter was sent by President Schlerf to Assemblyman Z'berg's family, expressing CSPRA's sympathy at their loss.

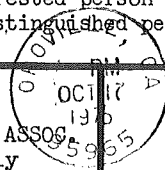
### IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy Brock, wife of Past President Richard Brock, passed away September 17, 1975 in Sacramento. Dorothy is also survived by her daughter Cherry and son Larry. Memorial services were held at the Lombard Mortuary, Sacramento, Friday September 19, 1975.

Donations in Dorothy's name may be sent to the Sacramento-Yolo-Sierra Heart Association, P.O. Box 16011, Sacramento, California 95816.

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.

official publication for the  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOC.  
The REPORTER, published monthly  
Lloyd Geissinger, Editor  
90 Glen Circle Drive  
Oroville, California 95965



First Class

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