



REPORTER



VOLUME VI - NUMBER 21

OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY, 1976

President's Message ..

The count-down has started toward the coming GEC in Sacramento this next March. In addition to all of the required preparations for the actual meetings and work-shops, the reports and Resolutions, I would ask you all to give some thought to preparing for the coming year. I know President Elect Ron McCall will be giving this a great deal of thought, but will also be looking toward the membership for ideas and identified problems to work on.

Two years ago when I took office I asked your Board of Directors and officers as well as the general membership to focus on three things. First, direction — where do you want CSPRA to go and what do you want it to accomplish. Second, participation — ideally I would like to see everyone get involved. There is not one member who is not affected personally by some issue during the Associations annual activities, and when you are affected, your Board needs your input.

Third, but far from last, I wanted us to focus on contribution — contribution by each and every member. Each one of you has

(Continued on page 2)

A Year Without Resolution?

The January 10th due date for this year's Resolutions passed without one valid Resolution received by Executive Secretary Bryce.

Members are urged to check Article IV, Section 8 of our By-Laws to review requirements to submit Resolutions now. Most importantly - Resolutions will not be accepted from the floor during GEC. Any Resolutions considered this year must be delivered to the Executive Secretary in duplicate and properly signed **PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF GEC AT 0900 FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1976.**

Members are urged to contact Regional Directors for meetings to review any resolutions being considered.

—Inside—



New E.I.C. Chairman . . .	2.
Transferred	3.
Coordinated Interpretation . . .	4.
Ranger Retirement . . .	4.
G.E.C. Page	6.

You can make the difference

The Continuing Interpretation course at Asilomar needs additional instructors. No other park agency offers a similar course so we are setting the standards. Any ranger who accepts this challenge can really make a difference in the Department and the profession. A background in any of the natural or cultural sciences is good but what is really needed is the ability to interpret (communicate) to others. If you enjoy creating new approaches, if you like to dream and then work it through, contact John Kolb at the Training Center and get an application. Remember, to be a good instructor all you need is the desire to share what you have.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF RESULTS

Denzil Verardo	209*
Gene Velzy	161
* New Vice President Elect.	



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and
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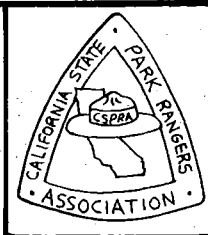
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california state park rangers association

REPORTER

VOLUME VI - NUMBER 21

JANUARY, 1976

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

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

President's Message ..



something to offer. A bit of knowledge, of some expertise, some new ideas or perhaps some experience that you can share to help make your fellow worker a better professional.

I know it is human nature and no organization is immune from having a certain number of members who are reluctant to get involved. But I wonder if those persons realize the opportunity they are missing? There are always those persons who will sit back and wait for things to happen, then react, or accept an outcome without reaction. Through CSPRA you can sometimes alter the outcome or change the direction of things that are happening that will affect you, your job, your circumstances, your very way of life.

OPEN LINE

This Association has an open line to the Governor, the Director, the Parks and Recreation Commission and many legislators. Our requests are not always honored in total nor our recommendations acted upon but in the past we have made significant contribution in many areas altering the ultimate outcome.

My point is this — CSPRA is an inert vehicle of action until you (that's spelled Y O U) push the starter button. That starter button can be a letter, a phone call or a statement to your Regional Director or local delegate. Don't expect your officers to read your mind. They ran for office because they wanted to accomplish something, but more important, because they wanted to be of service to their fellow workers. In the coming year let them know what you want done. Let them know when you approve or disapprove of their work. Give them your support by staying in touch with constant communication.

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E. I. C. REPORT

Dear CSPRA member—

As new chairman of the Environmental Issues Committee, I am faced with that too common problem of committee chairmen — lack of participation on the part of members. I have not been chairman long enough for this to become a problem, so I am trying to prevent it, and am thus asking for your help. The EIC attempts to identify environmental problems which affect the state parks both directly and indirectly. Then we try to get action on solving those problems, whether it be from CSPRA, the Department, private industry, state, local, or US legislators, or whomever it takes. Where the general membership of CSPRA is invaluable is identifying those problems and bringing them to the attention of the EIC so that action can be initiated. The following are subjects which this committee will be investigating and reporting on through the Reporter:

- The California Coastal Plan
- The nuclear power initiative on next June's primary ballot
- Concessionaires and concessions contracts as they relate to solid waste management
- Biodegradable plastic garbage bags for use in state parks
- Use of aerosol cans in state parks
- The paving of Bodie Road
- Alternative energy powered park buildings

If you know of any problems affecting us which can be referred to this committee, if you have thoughts on the subjects outlined above, if you are interested in becoming a member of the EIC, please contact me at the following address: PO Box 1913 Palm Springs, Cal. 92262

This committee needs you, and I hope you need it.

Dave Van Cleve
EIC Chairman

THE NOT SO OLD RANGER

TRANSFERRED

Moving from location to location is always a hassle, but not so much as it was back in mid-1900's.

Now the ranger and his family move in a commercial van and the State picks up the tab. It used to be that when a ranger got his orders the State provided a 1½ ton stakebed with driver. Everything else was the responsibility of the movee. Informal, no paperwork, but lots of hard labor and worry about protecting the bride's good china and heirloom furniture.

I remember one trip in particular when I was the driver assigned to move Joe from Mt. San Jacinto to Van Damme. On the return I picked up Tom at Diablo and took his prized possession to San Jacinto. Luckily for me both characters were big husky guys who could do their share of lifting. Their brides were most understanding.

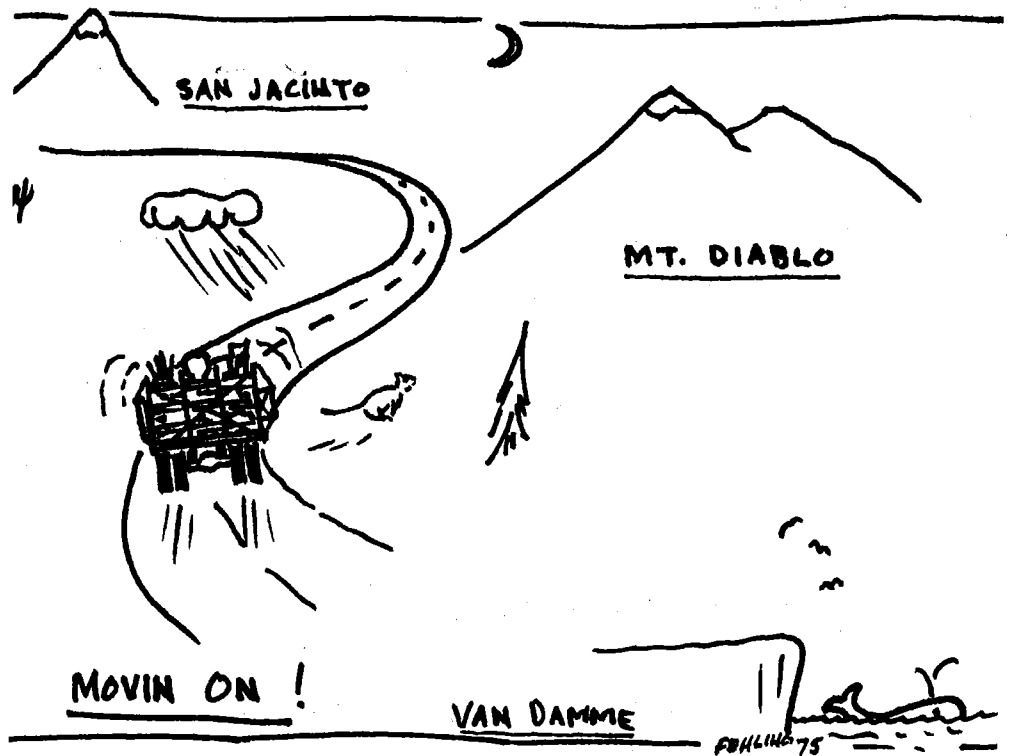
Bright and early I backed the ton and a half across six inches of snow to the porch of the house at Idylwild. Joe's heaviest items were the refrigerator and his gun collection. However, the worst items to pack were five twin size mattresses and box springs. We finally figured out that by stacking them on edge, they provided excellent protection for mirrors, glass framed pictures and such. About 1500 as we finished loading we got a weather report that I would be heading into rain up north. Joe scrounged around for tarps, but the best he could come up with was an old 16'x16' pyramidal tent. It covered the load and the folded corners added the final touch. That truck reminded me of the grapes of wrath days so vividly portrayed by Steinbeck during the dust bowl days of the Thirties. If anyone ever tried to throw a diamond hitch on a loaded 14' flatrack they'll know what I mean.

Anyway, about 1700 Joe loaded his family, including cat, into his car and headed north, after arranging to meet me two days later at Van Damme. Enroute the cat got loose in the Berkeley hills. When Joe finally rescued him about midnight, the cat thanked him by biting his thumb. I did run into rain, but all in all

too high for some of the low underpasses on the way. He finally left us alone when I told him I had just made the trip with a 13' high load, and I knew the underpasses had more than a 12' clearance.

After I drove away from the house, Tom remembered the low hanging branches on the park road which might threaten the legs of his chairs which were upended on the top of the load. He never did catch up to warn me so it was a good thing the branches weren't as low as he thought.

Two days later we met again at San Jacinto. Here our only



the load made the trip in fair shape except for five wet mattresses. When I arrived at Van Damme about 1300 on the second day Joe was waiting for me. It didn't take long to unload and had back for Diablo.

0800 on the third day found me at Tom's house on Diablo. He was ready and anxious to move so we got with the loading project. Two problems. Tom had an upright grand piano. Thankfully he owned a piano mover's dolly for it, so we managed. The other problem was the ornery old ranger in charge of Diablo. He kept telling me the load was

real problem was the dang piano. Tired as we were, it seemed even heavier than before. The two of us wrestled the piano onto the dolly on the front porch. When we started to roll it toward the door, the small wheels on the dolly wouldn't roll over the rough flagstone porch. Tom's wife, Lois, was holding back the screen door for us and supervising the handling of her pride and joy. When the dolly wouldn't roll, Tom and I gave each other a disgusted look and without needing any words, we

(Continued on page . . . 5)

FEATURED OPINION

TOWARD COORDINATED INTERPRETATION

Throughout California, the Department of Parks and Recreation makes hundreds of thousands of park-related interpretive contacts each year. From campfire programs and community presentations to individual encounters, our department is adopting a progressive interpretive posture. Carrying our programs to the people, we have become an active participant in environmental education.

An excellent example of the department's stance occurred in a coastal park several year ago. The staff in that park was having trouble with local juveniles. Ugly confrontations had occurred on the beach. Rather than adopt a defensive posture, waiting for the trouble to come to them, the staff went into the community, to the schools, to the students themselves, approaching the source of the problem. At first, the rangers

were laughed at, but they established a dialogue, and the students listened. An understanding was reached; positive results were achieved. Young people, who had acted as antagonists, now became allies. A way had been found to deal positively with a difficult problem. Such incidents, although not always as dramatic, form an essential part of our approach to environmental education.

But despite our growing social involvement, we remain a low priority department. The slide and sandbox stereotype still haunts us.

Norman E. Brown, in *Islands of Hope*, points out that, "Whether at the national, state, or local level, park and recreation resources rank low on society's priority list -- as measured by tax dollars. This low priority reflects a political judgement that park and recreation resources are a desirable but peripheral social investment . . . the decision makers (must be) con-

vinced that park and recreation resources are more, much more than places to have a little fun or learn the names of butterflies and dead generals." Part of the solution, Mr. Brown writes, lies in the interpreting of our resources to "increasingly urbanized, socially insulated people (whether living in urban, suburban or rural places) in ways that convince these people they must continue to have and support such resources."

Already, the need for environmental education has been recognized on a national level by the passage of the Environmental Educational Act of 1970. But much remains to be accomplished if we are to constructively implement programs which Freeman Tilden might describe as designed "for the enrichment of the human mind and spirit."

We are operating on two fronts. We must carry our programs to the people, and, at the same time, convince "the decision makers" of our department's worth. Without this educational effort, we shall remain a low priority department. The question which confronts us now is one of coordination, the sharing of information gained through experience, especially in the field.

When I began researching this short article, I intended to discuss the need for active community involvement by our department. I was astounded to discover how deeply we were involved. A large number of people had enthusiastically undertaken projects that were closely linked with environmental education. But I was equally amazed when I found out that the knowledge gained from these programs and projects was not being fully utilized.

Let me cite a few examples: Several years ago, the staff at Lake Oroville adopted an excellent program consisting of six or seven finished slide presentations especially tailored for schools in the surrounding community. Every school in the area was contacted and the program met with success. The project took several years before it was running smoothly and much experience was gained that might be of help to another area

(Continued on page . . . 5)



RANGER AL MURRAY RETIRES — Lloyd Geissinger presents a CSPRA retirement memento to Al Murray for 18 years of dedicated service to the Department and nearly 25 years with the State.

Al began his career at Colusa in '57 and moved to Oroville in '63. He worked the Oroville project from the "river bed up" and the past two years he pioneered operation of the new Visitors Center.

Al is now relaxing, fishing, and attending his farm of exotic "Kiwi Fruit" in Oroville. (Photo by Bill Royer)

OPINION

(Continued from page . . . 4)

considering the implementation of a similar program. Yet few people are aware of the knowledge gained at Lake Oroville.

In the Marin Area, over 90 Youth Conservation Corps Aids are involved in a fantastic project financed by matching state and federal funds. The program is a vital one, involving not only work in the field but also carrying environmental education into the schools. How many of us know the story of the YCC project in Marin? And how many of us have ever thought of using the Marin Area's experience in formulating our own programs?

In the Sonoma Area, we have worked hard at building an Explorer Post centered around the study of careers in the field of parks and recreation. Sponsored by CSPRA, this is the first post of its kind in the United States, with vast potentials in terms of community relations and vocational training. We have had our victories and defeats and have learned a great deal concerning the formation of such posts. This is the type of knowledge which is highly valuable and should be shared.

I begin to wonder: what interpretive efforts are being undertaken in and around Los Angeles? What programs are being initiated at Channel Coast or at Donner?

The circulation of such information is of utmost importance if we are to successfully coordinate our educational efforts. The distribution of such information might take several forms, but one of the most interesting might be found in the publication by CSPRA of an annual report. We have active members in every district throughout the state. These members might investigate and write up innovative programs in their areas, submitting reports to a committee for publication. In this manner, we could share information not only within our department, but with other parks and recreation departments through-

out the United States.

In *The Unexpected Universe*, Loren Eiseley has written, "Since man first saw an impossible visage staring upward from a still pool, he has been haunted by meanings - meanings felt even in the wood, where the trees leaned over him, manifesting a vast and living presence . . . Since the red morning of time, it has been so, and the compulsive reading of such manuscripts will continue to occupy man's attention . . ."

Through environmental education we interpret the meanings Eiseley describes, these meanings and more, for we are attempting to reach millions of people. We are inextricably involved in the "compulsive reading" of our environment. Initially, we may act in a singular fashion, and much may be accomplished. But unless we share our knowledge, our efforts are doomed. Only through enthusiastic cooperation and coordination can we truly succeed in interpreting our environment.

Steven Kahn
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Mailbox

Hi Lloyd:

On Nov. 4th I sent you a request — to solicit information for an **Interpretive Methods Handbook**.

Linda Engel:
Torrey Pines State Reserve
P.O. Box 38
Carlsbad, Calif. 92008

News & Views wants to put together a song book & skits etc. I have contacted her and have decided to combine our efforts and together we will put the handbook together.

So, people can send their information to either one of us.

We have so much talent in CSPRA — lets contribute so we can have a fine, comprehensive handbook.

Bill Krumbein

THE NOT SO OLD RANGER

(Continued from page . . . 3)

each picked up our end and carried the dang piano into the house, Lois did the groaning for us, while telling us what a couple of fools we were. As I think back, we were both lucky we didn't cripple our backs. With our new emphasis on safety I'd raise H--- with any employee I found doing the same thing now.

Anyway, at the end of a long hard week, (about 60 hours) I was glad to get home for a rest. Except for the wet mattresses and a few minor scratches both loads came through the trip in good shape. I forgot to mention the wives packed their own dishes and other fragile items. Those things I didn't want to be responsible for.

My main reason for this yarn is to let some of the younger ones know they can be thankful in at least one respect, they didn't work for the State Park System in the not so good olden days.

TINY PHILBROOK

G.

E.

C.

PAGE

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Reminders.....

Advertising If you receive this issue of the Reporter before February 1, then you still have time to solicit some ads for the program brochure. This is one way to really help the association.

Golf Tournament - Jack Stowe and Glen Jones are looking for golfing partners. Let them know if you plan to join them on Thursday, March 11.

Slide Contest Submit your entries soon. Deadline is February 10. See the December issue of the Reporter for details. Let the rest of the membership in on your hidden talents.

Set aside the second week-end in March (Fri-Sat) and plan on coming to Sacramento for CSPRA's 1976 General Executive Council. The annual business meeting, on March 12, will be followed by a series of workshops and discussion sessions on Saturday, March 13. A major theme of Saturday's programs will be to help our membership gain better perspective on future priorities and

directions in parks and recreation in California. If 1976 is a turning point, then where are we turning to? We will have a chance to hear opinions on this subject from representatives of both the legislature and the current administration.

More information will be forthcoming on location, reservations, and activities. Plan on attending!!!

Raffle Prizes Banquet raffle prizes will emphasize items handcrafted by the membership. As an example, Mike Lynch of Region III has macramed one offering and will be bringing it to GEC in March. How about the rest of you? Drop us a line if you plan to make something for the annual banquet raffle, or just bring it with you.

Dick Troy, 1976 GEC Committee



EVENTS CALENDAR

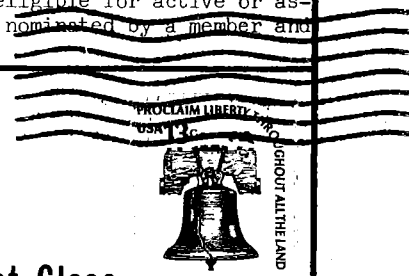
February 10 - Slide Submission Deadline.

March 11-14 - GEC 1976.

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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First Class

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