



# REPORTER

VOL. VI  
NO. 24

## CALIFORNIA'S DEAD SEA?

There has been a great deal of conjecture over the years concerning the health of the Salton Sea. By our calculations (and those of the Department of Fish and Game) the Sea should have been dead by 1974. Not only is it not dead, but we expect better fishing this spring than has been experienced for many years.

Some of the forces responsible for all the rumors are still at work and the Sea certainly has its problems. Without farmland irrigation runoff water the Salton Sea would have evaporated long ago. The water that fills the Salton Sea is also the root of most of its problems, namely increasing salinity, rising water level and nutrient buildup with the problems that follow.

The amount of runoff the last few years has caused the Sea to rise about one-half foot each year. This, combined with a seasonal fluctuation in water level, has caused considerable shoreline erosion. During a spring windstorm in 1975, 24 campsites at Mecca Beach campground were lost due to erosion. This year another of our campgrounds is becoming slowly inundated.

The Sea has no outlet except through evaporation. Dissolved salts which enter the Sea remain behind when the water evaporates. The critical salinity level for successful fish spawning is calculated at 40,000 parts per million, 6,000 ppm greater than the Pacific Ocean. Even though the salinity level is approaching this figure, the 1975 spring spawn was exceptional. Springtime salinity is

(Continued on page . . . 6)

## Board Seeks Legal Advice

DPR Hiring Practices  
P. I. Rangers Promotions  
Senior Citizens Passes  
Coastal Bond - Non Support  
Park House Fireplaces

In a marathon meeting the CSPRA Board of Directors monumentally moved to obtain the services of an attorney to review the Departments' hiring procedures. This decision, spurred by membership complaints and concerns about the new Affirmative Action Plan, will provide the Board with the expertise required to assure effective leadership. President McCall has assured the REPORTER we will be kept closely informed on this matter.

In further response to membership complaints the Board directed the President to recommend the Department consider permanent, non-probationary permanent intermittent employees meeting minimum qualifications as promotional employees for the State Park Technician and State Park Ranger Trainee classes.

Turning from employee to public concerns the Board then moved that CSPRA develop a "Golden Bear Pass System" akin to the Golden Age Passport and recommend it be adopted by the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Your Board further directed President McCall to contact personally the legislative sponsors of SB 1321 and AB 2948 and go on record as not supporting the Bills

at this time as adequate funding for proper administration of lands has not been made available for previous bond acquisitions.

In consideration of late resolution the Board supported motions to study the effect of dogs on park wildlife; and to recommend fireplaces be installed in park housing.

Dick Keleske visited the Board Meeting and reported that our basic and supplemental life insurance policies will be issued about July 1, 1976. He also indicated new locations and dentists for CSPRA dental plans are coming soon.

For a complete wrap up of one of the most active Board meetings in years contact your Regional Director.



## —Inside—

Presidential Comments . . . . .	2
Camels . . . . .	3
Does The Public Know Who We Are . . . . .	4
New Park Families . . . . .	5
E. I. C. Report . . . . .	5



**PRESIDENT**  
Ron McCall

## california state park rangers association

### **PRESIDENT:**

Ron McCall, 1275 Sunnycrest Avenue, Ventura, Ca. 93003

### **VICE-PRESIDENT:**

Denzil Verardo, 801 Panoramic Hwy., Mill Valley, Ca. 94941

### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:**

Doug Bryce, 8665 Florin Rd., No. 45, Sacto., Ca. 95820

**MEMBERSHIP . . . ACTIVE:** *current or retired, permanent or permanent intermittent employees of Department of Parks & Recreation of State Park Ranger or State Park Maintenance classes. ASSOCIATE:* *permanent or retired employees of the Department 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.*

# PRESIDENTIAL COMMENTS

## **PRESIDENT . . .**

Your Board of Director's have just returned from Sacramento and a successful Board meeting. A wide variety of subjects were discussed and acted upon ranging from Solar Housing Legislation to Safety Retirement. Your Regional Director will be holding meetings soon to discuss the issues and actions taken.

Perhaps the most significant action taken was the decision to obtain the services of an attorney to analyze the current practices and policies of the Department concerning employment. The Board expressed concern over the number of complaints received from individuals who feel they have suffered unfair hiring practices when seeking employment with the Department. These complaints, coupled with questions arising out of a review of the Department's Affirmative Action Plan, prompted the action to obtain legal advice. Since we are an organization of professional park people with little or no legal expertise, we cannot pass judgement on the Department's policies without taking steps to better inform ourselves.

If you have information regarding this matter, see that it gets to your Regional Director. I will keep you informed as to our progress.

## **VICE PRESIDENT . . . .**

At the June 5 & 6 C.S.P.R.A. Board of Director's meeting past goals and future objectives were discussed to find out exactly what the membership wanted from C.S.P.R.A. and its Board. We also wanted to know passed, unresolved, but still current, resolutions that the Board needed to reconsider on behalf of the membership. Upon researching all previous G.E.C. resolutions, from 1965 to the present, we found an amazing success rate on C.S.P.R.A. resolutions (which will be in a later *REPORTER* issue), but also found several resolutions that had not been acted upon to the satisfaction of the Board:

1. *Possessory Interest Tax Inequity* - possessory taxes vary from county to county and certain inequities arise with transfers.

2. *Safety Retirement* - C.S.P.R.A. is "on record" as favoring safety retirement options for its members and will follow legislation with all member's interests in mind.

3. *P.O.S.T. Certification* - C.S.P.R.A. began pushing for POST certification for its members several years ago and is still doing so. We believe minimum standards of training should be mandatory.

4. *Carrying Mace* - was passed in a resolution and was dropped by the legislature for Rangers. We

will pursue this one again.

5. *Public Service Announcements* - A resolution to urge the DPR to broadcast public service announcements on various park regulations or issues never received a satisfactory reply from the DPR and will be posed again.

6. The banning of live-burl sales by concessionaires was not acted upon or a reply received.

7. The limited use of gas-powered generators in the campground from 0800 to ½ hour after sunset was not acted upon by the Park Commission and will be re-submitted.

8. The concept of having wastewater from RV's in sealed containers was not acted on by the Park Commission.

9. The urging of a DPR physical fitness program is still outstanding, but is in the discussion stage.

10. A report on the effects of inadequate seasonal funding is still outstanding.

These outstanding resolutions will be acted on and monitored along with the 1976 GEC resolutions, to the full satisfaction of the CSPRA Board for its members.

Denzil R. Verardo  
V.P. - C.S.P.R.A.

# THE NOT SO OLD RANGER

## CAMELS

To many people, camels and deserts seem appropriate together. One day, while sorting out my incoming mail in District 6, I found a copy of a startling letter. Ranger Joe, Supervisor of Anza-Borrego Desert had written to a friend asking for instructions on the care and feeding of a two year old Camel named Borrego Barney.

I believed the whole thing was a new P.R. idea to promote the park. Joe probably wanted to put Ranger Willie on the camel with a sheet around him and a towel around his head. Then have Willie ride into Westmoreland and confuse the local citizens by inquiring the way to Mecca. Willie was dark skinned and had burned in the desert sun long enough to pass for an Arab.

To me, a danged nasty, spitting, stinking camel biting people was one problem we didn't need in Borrego. So I fired off a two word memo "NO CAMELS." This upset the Sheik of Borrego no end. He'd already arranged for the San Diego Zoo to give the young prime camel to the State for the desert park.

Years later I got some more of the story. The military forces used the desert park for secret maneuvers. A squad of paratroopers was dropped at night in the southern end of the park. The mission of this red force was to capture the crossroads at Scissors Crossing. If the red force ever got past the defending blue force, they never made it past Joe's Marauders. The Park patrol rangers got in the act and joined the maneuvers unofficially. With their knowledge of the terrain and water sources, they had little trouble locating the attacking red squad. When they found one, they would

Boy! Are They Gonna Be Surprised!



get his identity and then instead of giving the poor guy a lift, they'd tell him "SORRY, YOU'RE DEAD."

The whole thing became a contest between Joe and the Colonel in charge of the maneuvers.

Sure enough, Willie was to be part of the show. First, he was to grow a scraggly beard. Then costumed with the sheet and towel, armed

with an old 44-40 rifle, he was to ride Borrego Barney into the red camp at daylight and utter a string of unintelligible sounds. The whole idea was to convince the red attackers they had been dropped in the wrong desert.

If I'd known the whole story at the time, I might have been tempted to O.K. the camel.

By A. D. Philbrook

# Does The Public Know Who We Are?

## PROFILE

We, the Department, are not doing what we can when it comes to handout materials for the public. Don't get me wrong - - - publications like *The Enduring Giants* are excellent. The void we should try to fill covers a number of subjects such as outdoor education, environmental educations but maybe the most important is our own public relations.

As I look around my office for things to entice children with when I go to schools for a talk - - nothing - - we have nothing aimed at the preschooler or elementary school child. We hand out "Pitch In" litter bags which are put out by the United States Brewer's Association and litterbags with Smokey the Bear which we acquire from the California Division of Forestry (CDF). CDF, in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service will supply us with all sorts of Smokey the Bear/Fire Prevention materials like book covers, litterbags, posters, decals, book marks, rulers and bumper stickers, etc.

It's no wonder why so many people do not know the difference between a forest ranger and a park ranger. Here we are, park rangers, handing out all sorts of forest service material with USFS or CDF logos.

What can we do?

First of all, a statewide contest for school children to create a state park mascot. Entry blanks could be handed out at our units. Run the contest for a summer with the winner receiving \$100 or an educational prize.

After choosing the mascot, we now draw attention to it. We want the mascot to become recognizable along with our state park system emblem (who knows, maybe the mascot will wear a shirt with the emblem on it). Almost everything that has our emblem on it could also have the mascot.

— Litter bags could be the first

item to produce. They are useful and a good item to hand out at schools (or campground).

— How about a booklet of tips on camping? We could get our rules across as well as helping our camping public. Again, use the mascot.

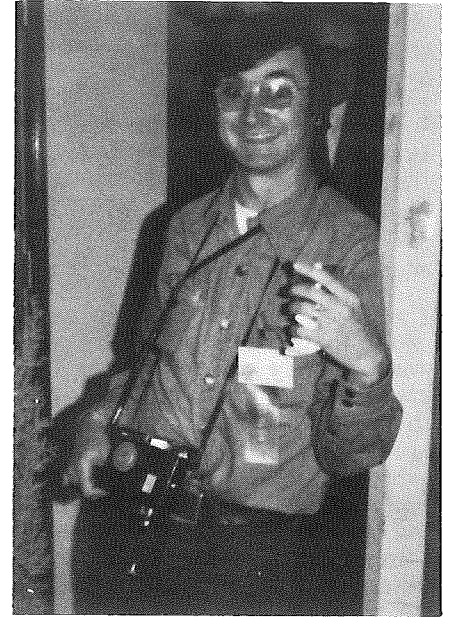
— A bumper sticker, with the mascot, District 6 came up with the saying, "Parks Are For People" but we could come up with others, "Parks Are Fun", "Parks Feel Good", etc.

— A decal of the mascot saying, "State Parks Are Fun" or "Visit a State Park Today", etc.

— Who knows, we may even want to have a rubber stamp made up so that an appropriate saying could be put forth by the mascot on letters to the public (or park return addresses).

Our potential is unlimited and the results could be most successful - - to be recognized as a special park system - - California's park system - - *our* park system.

Bill Krumbein



### FLASH WILLARD



During the past two GEC's the man behind the flash has been our own Charlie Willard.

The last *Reporter* failed to give Charlie photo credits (seems a certain Departmental publication failed too) so the *Reporter* wishes to acknowledge his camera work with this writing. We thank you Charlie.

What kind of man unselfishly lends his time and talent to capture some of our "good" moments on film?

Charlie, an Environmental Studies graduate of Sacramento State University who subsequently attained a Masters in Parks and Recreation Administration came to our Department as a Ranger Trainee at Folsom Lake in 1972. Then in mid 1974 he assumed a Park and Recreation Specialist position working with the Off Highway Vehicle Program. Presently, Charlie is the Department's Coordinator of the Youth Conservation Corporation Program.

Charlie and his wife Syd reside in Fair Oaks where its rumored he tends a large vegetable garden. End of expose!

**BOB FERGUSON**  
and  
**PAUL WALLACE**

representing

---

**ALVORD AND FERGUSON**

434 West 17th Street  
P.O. Box 677  
Merced, California 95340  
Phone (209) 722-8854

## E. I. C. REPORT



# Expressly for Wives



### ORIENTATION OF FAMILIES TO A NEW PARK AND COMMUNITY

Probably the best way to learn to adjust to moving is to help someone else adjust to a move. Among life's traumatic experiences, psychologists rate moving as the third greatest under death of a family member and divorce! Professional moving companies often have family move advisors and helpful booklets on how to adjust to a new community. Some communities still have Welcome Wagons usually sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. But for park moves there is too often no such help. Adjusting is especially difficult knowing that even the new assignment is not to be long enough to feel rooted.

I feel that moves would be much easier if each park family took the responsibility of personally welcoming and helping each family new to that park. Let it be immediate help like an invitation to a simple dinner, their first night (since no one can yet find pots and pans, or have time to shop) or watch the kids while the folks arrange housekeeping essentials or an offer to take the homemaker on a tour about town in a couple of days to find the stores, schools, doctors, etc. Share with them a copy of the local newspaper - always a good guide in a small community. Since it is a healthy idea for all of us to cultivate friends and interest in the community outside of the park structure you may want to introduce the newcomers to a community

function - take them with you when you go.

This is not to be limited to those who live in the park nor should the welcoming committee be just one person. EVERYONE should introduce themselves to the newcomers. A party for introduction is nice, but can be hollow if it is the only welcome.

I hope you will be heartily welcomed at your next park.

/s/ Judy Muetz

## EDITOR'S NOTE

My first exposure to park life came in 1955 and I can say that the gestures Judy recommends (Expressly For Wives) were common practice at that time and had been for years.

However, in recent years there has been a definite decline in the "park life traditions."

I believe the reasons are many. Our Systems rapid growth, increased mobility - causing less dependence, and introduction of the Area concept to name a few.

Perhaps we should take stock and reassess our social direction. What do you think?

- Editor -

The Environmental Issues Committee has been active in various important issues lately. The wolf hunts in Alaska have been halted temporarily. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service halted their funding of the project because of public protest, but it took a lawsuit by eight conservation organizations to get Alaska's DFG to discontinue the hunt. On other issues, letters have been written to state legislators supporting the bill requiring deposits on beer and soft drink containers. This bill has been delayed to allow more testimony on it. It is aimed at cutting down litter and saving energy by encouraging use of bottles that can be refilled and cans that can be recycled. Other letters of support have been sent concerning Assembly Bill 15, which would protect prime farmland from non-agricultural development. Protecting California's farmland would have many beneficial side-effects as well.

On another front, "Wilderness in California has gained a new friend", according to Friends of the Earth's publication *Not Man Apart*. Concerned with the need to better protect and preserve California wilderness is a new group called California Wilderness Coalition, P.O. Box 891, Davis, California 95616. Dues are \$6/year for individuals, and of course, other contributions are accepted. For more information, write to the Coalition for a free brochure.

Finally, there is an article by Richard C. Johnson on the environmental problems of the Salton Sea. Attention should be paid to the proposed geothermal energy plant at the south end of the Sea. According to Rich, this plant could help the problems of increasing salinity and rising water level, as well as provide better fresh water for Mexico.

/s/ Dave Van Cleve  
EIC Chairman

## CALIFORNIA'S DEAD SEA?

(Continued from page . . . . . 1)

relatively low and will probably allow several more successful spawning years. Perhaps selective pressures are increasing the fishes' tolerance to higher salinity, but salinity will undoubtedly take its toll eventually.

### — Eutrophication —

Eutrophication is a major cause of fish die-offs and the Sea's well known odors. Algae blooms or "green tides" caused by the excessive nutrient levels are primarily responsible for massive fish die-offs in the Sea. As the algae population outgrows (or loses) one of its environmental elements it dies off rapidly and the plant bodies are attacked by various bacteria. Not only do these bacteria give off a noxious odor during the process, but they deplete the water of oxygen and fish suffocate by the millions bringing about more decay and more foul odors. These odors are not present at all times as many people seem to think and, except for a few days a year, are quite tolerable.

Another cause of fish die-offs may be starvation due to a very unsophisticated food chain which becomes overweighted at one trophic level at certain times of year.

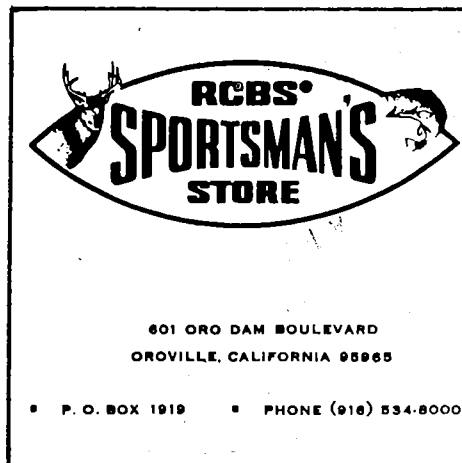
"Red Tides", caused by a dinoflagellate, are also common but most fish appear to be able to escape them and the toxins they excrete.

### — Geothermal Harness —

The Department of the Interior has come up with several proposals to solve the Sea's problems, but apparently the recreational worth of the Salton Sea has never been great enough to justify the cost in the eyes of the Federal Government. A new, complicated plan to harness geothermal energy at the south end of the Salton Sea to generate electrical power for the San Diego area may, as a side benefit, solve the problems of salinity and water level.

Meanwhile, in spite of its problems, the Salton Sea is very much alive. With its great potential as a recreation area it could once again take some of the pressure off of those Southern California Parks with more fragile resources.

/s/ Richard C. Johnson



## Mailbox

Dear Lloyd:

Our family, while traveling throughout California, will usually make an attempt to stop in when passing near a State Park unit. Not unlike most park people, we are curious . . . who knows when I might be assigned there, or what friends might be around.

Recently, we visited a few parks for the first time. For some, at the closed kiosk was a small box with park maps or mini-folders. With this little courtesy we could then find locations of park features and facilities which interested us, just as the 25 or so carloads of genuine "tourists" were able to do that day. Some other parks we visited also had closed kiosks, but no maps or mini-folders were available. Just inside the kiosk several boxes of same were visible.

I feel that where ever possible we should make this little extra effort to provide an initial orientation to our park philosophy, features and rules.

Couldn't your unit provide this courteous and helpful service?

Thanks,  
Jeff Price



california state park rangers association



First Class

Official publication for the  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOC.  
The REPORTER, published monthly  
Lloyd Geissinger, Editor  
9311 Folsom Boulevard No. 83  
Sacramento, California 95826

Kirk Wallace V  
12716 Tesuque  
Apple Valley, Ca.  
92307