

california state park rangers association

# REPORTER

VOL. VI NO. 39

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1978



THE DEVASTATED REMAINS OF THE JIM PEAT FAMILY RESIDENCE STANDS OUT AGAINST THE CHARRED MOUNTAINS IN TOPANGA STATE PARK.

## "PARK FAMILIES NEED OUR HELP"

On October 23, 1978 the Mandeville fire raged through portions of Will Rogers and Topanga State Parks charring 1,900 acres and leaving four park families homeless.

Jim Peat, Maintenance Supervisor for the Area, and his family lost half of their possessions as did Maintenance Worker Mike Rodrique. Maintenance Worker Jack Thompson and his wife were less fortunate having lost all of their possessions to the fire, with one exception, Jack's fishing pole. Clarence Acey lost no possessions but like the others must now find suitable housing in a very competitive area where standard two bedroom houses reportedly rent for \$500 - \$600 per month.

Anyone wishing to assist

these park families through these difficult times may send contributions to the Will Rodgers Park Relief Fund, c/o Carl Wilson, Manager, Will Rogers Area, P. O. Box 845, Pacific Palisades, California 90272.

Let's hope each of us will send all we can to help these fellow park people recover from their setback. By so doing we will surely make their holiday season a little happier.

**ALVORD  
AND**

**FERGUSON**



Denzil R. Verardo, President

## california state park rangers association

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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

The 1979 CSPRA General Executive Council (GEC) is only a few months away. As part of the "professionalization" of our Association, GEC's will become more workshop/program oriented and less employee oriented. All CSPRA members who attend the Fresno GEC will be allowed a vote in the resolution process. Only officers and committee chairpersons will have their expenses paid; delegates will not.

This will allow us to keep our dues from increasing in the next few years, without a reduction in service and programs to members; and also allow us more latitude in seeking professional GEC speakers who may require an honorarium. Tentative plans for the 1980 GEC will carry our professionalization one step further. We are

currently working with the Western Interpreters Association on the feasibility of a joint, statewide interpretive conference. While we would have separate business meetings, a joint conference would allow us to pool our resources in order to obtain the highest quality programs possible. Should the joint-conference idea work out, the possibilities will exist for joint activities with a myriad of compatible organizations.

On a more somber note, I urge all members to make a donation to the Will Rogers Park Relief Fund, c/o Carl Wilson, Manager; Will Rogers Area; P. O. Box 845; Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. The Fund was established to aid those families in the Will Rogers Area whose possessions and state homes were destroyed by the recent Santa Monica Mountains fire.

### **REPORTER SHOULD GET THE FACTS!**

The letter appearing on page 4 of our last issue which employed the REPORTER to "get the facts" was written by Bob McComber. (Sorry Bob, I carelessly cropped both the heading and signature during the layout process).

-- Editor

## THE SANTA MONICAS: BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

Just north and west of Los Angeles, the nation's third largest and dangerously polluted city, rise the dense forests and chaparral slopes of the Santa Monica mountain range. Though few humans inhabit this mostly wild 220,000 acre area within an hour's drive of 9 million people, numerous animal and plant species thrive.

Mountain lions and golden eagles share Santa Monica's ragged cliffs and ridgetops. The water-loving oak and sycamore forests and marshy fern groves that spread out alongside the streams flowing down from these peaks harbor Acorn woodpeckers, osprey, bobcats and gray fox. The expansive, rolling chaparral that extends in other areas of the Santa Monicas is one of the world's major chaparral zones. In this dry terrain, coyotes can be seen stalking prey between clumps of sage and sumac. The adjoining grasslands are one of the few strongholds of California's native grass species.

The Santa Monicas first rose from the sea about 15 million years ago, and judging from the frequent tremors and occasional earthquakes that continue to jar the land, the mountains are still being built. Where the youthful mountains meet today's ocean, freshwater streams continually empty into, and are trapped by, coastal inlets and hollows. At these junctures, biologically rich estuarine lagoons and salt marshes have evolved. Biologists describe

this marine environment, from Malibu west, as essentially pristine, with an ecological diversity and complexity that may be unmatched anywhere on earth.

For nearly 20 years conservationists have been trying to obtain some sort of protection for the mountains from the intrusion of terraced home and condominium developments.

A group calling itself *Friends of the Santa Monica Mountains* has led the movement to set this area aside, free from all threat of future development. To date, partly because of this group's efforts, 27,000 acres have been acquired for State Parks. But, 70,000 to 80,000 acres of undeveloped territory are still privately owned, and the pressure for development in these scenic areas, within an hour's drive of nine million people is enormous.

While the city government would welcome designation of the remaining wild areas as a national park or recreation area, some officials at the county level place high value on the sub- and ex-urban tax base potential of the region. Now, conservationists fear the impact of Proposition 13 on land sales in the privately owned sector. This initiative, which rolled back property taxes, could result in more inner-city residents moving to the outlying zone for the clean air and open spaces.

If development continues

Continued on page 7

## WARREN DOUGLAS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

When Warren Douglas, Safety and Enforcement Specialist from District 4, passed away last year, State Park employees lost a good friend and ally. Warren was always available to offer advice and help to any who asked. He vigorously supported the rangers goal of becoming a professional peace officer and felt it was imperative that ranger peace officer training programs continue so as to ever improve upon our peace officers skills and techniques.

Though Warren is gone, we have established a scholarship fund so that his memory and efforts may be perpetuated. Therefore, we are asking each CSPRA member donate \$5.00 per year in his memory. This money will be used to offer scholarships to CSPRA members for specialized enforcement training.

The following is a very brief outline of Warren's life and some of the contributions he made towards making the park employee a professional employee.

Warren Ray Douglas Sr. was born in Raymond, Washington on July 3, 1929, which was to be his home throughout his grammar and high school years. At the age of 17, Warren joined the Navy and while on assignment in southern California he met and married Kitty. After being discharged from the Navy, Warren enlisted in the Army and was assigned to Port Townsend, Washington where he served until his discharge in 1950.

After leaving the service, Warren returned to southern California where he attended Sawyers School of Business, completing classes in Business Administration. While attending Sawyers, Warren worked part-time at Wheel-dex-Simpla, a Los Angeles Filing System com-



WARREN DOUGLAS

pany. After completing school, Warren went to work for this company on a full-time basis.

In 1957 Warren was to take his first step towards a lifetime career when he joined the Buena Park Police Department as a reserve officer. A year later Warren was working full time as a patrolman for the town of Cypress, California. When Warren started work for Cypress in 1958 there were only 7 patrolmen on the force, ten years later the force had grown to 50 patrolmen. During his ten years at Cypress, Warren expanded on his knowledge of police work by performing a variety of assignments including juvenile officer, sergeant, watch commander and training officer. He was responsible for developing training programs for the Department as well as developing procedural and training manuals.

Throughout his life Warren believed that a continuing education was the best way to improve job performance by workers, and he actively practiced this belief by attending a wide range of college courses throughout the State himself until 1975 when he received his AA degree in Police Science from Hartnell College in Salinas, California.

In the mid 1960's the Department of Parks and Recreation reorganized field operations to better meet the needs of the public. One of the long recognized deficiencies addressed by this change was the inability to handle the increasing enforcement and public safety problems within the parks. In an attempt to handle the problem at the source, the Department started sending their rangers to various peace officer training academies around the state. Prior to this time park staff had only received minimal training as peace officers. As the rangers increased their enforcement and safety contacts due to better training, it became evident that an expert in the field of enforcement was needed to help handle the various reports and problems generated by this complex activity.

To fill this need the Department hired six ex-police officers with experience in all types and levels of enforcement. Each District received one of these newly hired specialists to help them with their enforcement program. Warren Douglas was hired as a Safety and Enforcement Specialist in District 4 in 1969. Working with the District and Area staffs he set up a series of training sessions throughout the District.

Warren was constantly looking for new methods and techniques to help the ranger on the job. When special enforcement problems continued to increase the demands on the rangers in the Big Sur Area, he recommended a patrol dog program to help give the patrol ranger added protection during night patrols and back country patrols. This program that Warren developed is now being used successfully in many other

areas of the State.

After several years of utilizing the various enforcement academies around the State, it became apparent that although a good general enforcement knowledge was acquired from these schools, they did not handle the rather special enforcement problems encountered in parks. For this reason it was decided that the Department of Parks and Recreation would develop their own specialized Basic Peace Officer Training Program to be taught at their training facility at Asilomar. Warren Douglas helped develop the general criteria as well as some of the individual lesson plans for this new program.

In 1972 Warren took a training assignment as the Director of the Department's Training Center. During this assignment through his administrative and teaching skills, Warren continued to improve the Basic Peace Officer Training program as well as the Peace Officer Refresher program until they developed a reputation as the finest specialized law enforcement program in the State.

In 1974 Warren returned to his position as Safety and Enforcement Specialist at District 4 Headquarters where he remained until his untimely death due to a heart attack.

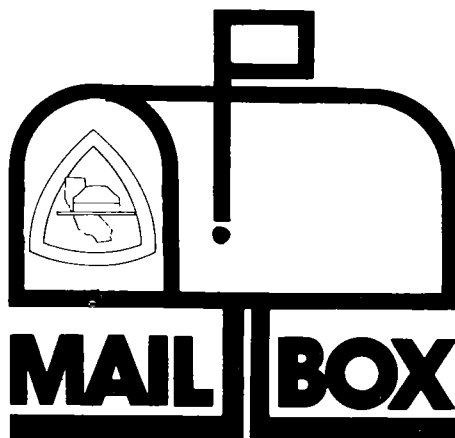
Although the foregoing does give a brief sketch of Warren's life, does not begin to describe the real contributions he made to the Department of Parks and Recreation and more importantly to the field.

Those interested in donating to the Warren Douglas Scholarship Fund, send your checks or money orders payable to CSPRA in care of Doug Bryce, P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, California 95828.

Members of outside enforcement organizations have already asked to donate in memory of Warren, so the fund could grow to a significant size with your contribution.

Submitted by Bill Beat

# President's



Denzil Verardo, President

Thank you for your letter of October 4 concerning the need for this Department to gain jurisdiction over lands beyond the mean high tide, in areas seaward from our coastal units.

Our lack of adequate jurisdiction in these areas is a source of many problems, ranging from resource management to law enforcement. As our Advisory Board on Underwater Parks and Reserves has pointed out, our authority is inadequate even in those few offshore areas we lease from the State Lands Commission.

Past attempts to negotiate better terms from the Commission have not proven fruitful. You will be pleased to know that we are seriously considering the introduction of corrective legislation in the next session. Should we do this, the experience and advice of CSPRA will be of value to our effort.

Sincerely yours,  
Russell W. Cahill, Director

Mr. Dean Atkinson,  
Dean of Students  
University of California  
Los Angeles

Dear Mr. Atkinson:

Please accept the enclosed check from the California State Park Rangers Association for the Sigma Nu Scholarship Fund in memory of Robert Meyer. Bob was a good friend of our Association, as well as of all park people. His constant efforts in the public sector, his dynamic personality, his dedication to the environment through purposeful action - - all will be sorely missed. Bob will truly be missed.

Sincerely,  
Denzil R. Verardo, President

Mr. Denzil R. Verardo,

Dear Mr. Verardo:

This is to acknowledge your letters of October 4, 1978, concerning transfers of jurisdiction of State Parks.

I have asked the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to keep you informed on the subject of the Redwood State Parks and other similar transfers as they may be proposed in the future.

Your concern is appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Huey D. Johnson  
Secretary for Resources

## DEVELOPMENT — Cont.

surging into the mountains, contamination of this clean air, a scarce resource is this part of California, will cause Los Angeles to lose its major "airshed," according to the environmentalists. In addition, they say, the same open space that has already attracted so many home buyers to the mountains will diminish rapidly, leaving the mass of city dwellers with no place to go to escape urban pressures.

This issue has been settled with the passage of the Omnibus Parks Bill. This large potpourri piece of legislation designated the mainland Santa Monicas as a national recreation area, along with a \$155 million authorization for acquisition of critical privately held lands. In addition, \$30 million would go to the state and local governments to set up and administer a "buffer" zone around the area.



Portions of the foregoing reprinted from *Conservation News* published by the National Wildlife Federation.

**Editors Note:** During the recent 79th meeting of the National Park System Advisory Board, NPS Director William Whalen joined the board in its lack of support for the proposed Santa Monica National Recreation Area. Whalen said, however, that the park service will try to face the many problems surrounding the site and make the best of it.

## BOOK REVIEW

### *Mother Nature's Michigan*

by Oscar Warbach:

Hillsdale

Educational Publishers, Inc.

Hillsdale, Michigan 49242 \$3.60

Through cartoon comments on conservation and environmental awareness, Oscar Warbach's 80-page book is a delightfully informative publication. Not just facts: the ideas and topics offer ready-made material for our interpretive needs.

Content Examples:

*Mother Nature: Designer - - Problem: Design a flying trap that will be able to hear, locate, and capture a mouse hidden in grass during darkness.*

*Nature's Population 'Control Pills'*

*Nature's Grow - What - You Need Plan*

*Understanding Skunks*

*Understanding Wood Ducks*

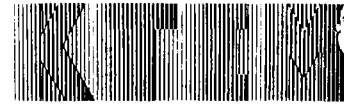
*Be An Outdoor Detective*

Warbach is a wildlife biologist by training; and although some of the animals and plants discussed are not native to California, similar themes can be adapted. His light hearted approach serves as a springboard for many interpretive schemes. A truly captivating, fun, useful book - - for interpreters, parents, kids and, well, just about everyone should enjoy it.

Bill Krumbein, Chairman  
CSPRA Interpretive Needs Com.



CHARRED UTENSILS, TWISTED PLUMBING, AND CHIMNEYS ARE DISTINGUISHABLE AMID THE ASH OF THE JACK THOMPSON HOME IN TOPANGA STATE PARK.



(the North Bay Noise from  
San Rafael)

SALUTES  
THE MOUNT TAM RANGERS

*Bob Walker Roy Flatt*  
*Rich Gililand Charley Smith*

For Performing Extraordinary  
Service to Radio Listeners in  
the Bay Area.

— Reminder —

1979 GEC AD  
SALES DEADLINE  
Is January 15th!

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First Class

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