

california state park rangers association **REPORTER**

VOL. VI NO. 45

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LEGISLATURE PASSES ASSOCIATION SPONSORED BILL

The legislature has passed Senate Bill 173. Since there was virtually no opposition to SB 173, it is expected that the Governor will sign the bill (and may have done so by press time). If signed, the bill would go into effect January 1, 1980.

Senate Bill 173 as finally amended, will give state park peace officers the same authority, to move or remove vehicles, as city police officers, the CHP, etc. This authority includes hazardously parked vehicles, accident vehicles, vehicles blocking roads, and abandon vehicles. The authority to remove (or just move) these vehicles extends to city, county or state roads "in or about" park controlled property.

The second part of the bill will allow a judge to reduce DPR CAC violations to infractions (at the first court hearing). This will help to eliminate jury trials and public defenders on DPR parking and traffic violations and other minor violations. Violations can still be tried as misdemeanors.

Senate Bill 173 was written and sponsored by CSPRA. A great deal of thanks go to Senator John Holmdahl and his very pleasant staff, for introducing and carrying the bill for the Association. Thanks also go to CSEA, the California Peace Officers Association, and the California Park and Recreation Society who supported the bill.

CSPRA REORGANIZING!

Precipitated in part by the pending Department reorganization, CSPRA is presently going through a reorganization of its own. Although awaiting final ballot approval of the membership the internal realignment of members into 6 Regions was unanimously endorsed by the Board in the passage of Resolution 79-3. The full amended version of 79-3 is as follows:

WHEREAS the Department is proceeding with a reorganization that eliminates the six, supposedly equal, Districts and replaces them with four unequal regions, and
WHEREAS CSPRA's regions 1 - 6 are constitutionally defined as the six departmental districts, and
WHEREAS these six regions will be eliminated with the Departments reorganization, and

WHEREAS it is becoming too expensive to pay for the travel of our eleven member board, therefore, be it

Resolved that a ballot be sent to the membership amending the appropriate portions of the Constitution to accomplish the following changes: (Continued on Page 4)

REPORTER FEATURE

**DPR Chief Deputy
Director's View
of Urban Parks**



california state park rangers association

PRESIDENT:

Denzil Verardo, 10899 Palm St. Castroville, CA 95012

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Jeff Price, 4232 Chasin St. Oceanside, CA 92054

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

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

Denzil R. Verardo, President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to see the 1980 joint CSPRA/WIA/Prac Convention coming along so well. Noted personalities such as William Whalen, Director of NPS; Grant Sharpe, author of *Interpreting the Environment*; and Raymond Dasmann, author of *The Destruction of California*, to name a few, will make our session one to be remembered. It is my hope that this conference will re-emphasize the importance of interpretation in parks, and reaffirm the almost fanatical dedication interpreters have for their "work". Park interpretation took a blow with Proposition 13 from both the interpreter's morale standpoint, and the actual fiscal standpoint. However, there are mutual and concerted actions we can take to help stem the irrational tide now taking place.

While on the subject of Proposition 13, and its aftermath, it is worth commenting on the actual impact it has had on parks in general, and the State Park System in particular. The first 10% cut, last year, which the Department of Parks & Recreation levied mostly on its Sacramento Headquarters staff, theoretically cut the "fat" from government. Most of us realize, of course, that any cut impacts some function without which our job of serving the public becomes, in some way, more difficult. Any cut impacts those personally involved to the point where position security, family life, and due to mental strain, actual health can be threatened. As if this first cut were not enough, another 5% was cut this fiscal year, from personal services; a cut which resulted in the proposed closure of historic monuments and museums two days a week, not to mention the impact on the system of reduced personnel in every section of the Department. Positions approved to protect new acquisitions and to staff new developments were eliminated. "Staff" vacancies and technical personnel vacancies were not refilled, and hiring was drastically reduced. The results are being noticed as direct public service is being curtailed in every area.

Of course, to the politicians seeking re-election, such cuts are the food of the CAMPAIGN. Will there be any of those brave enough, or far-sighted enough, to see that whatever environmental damage is done due to reduced

(Continued on Page 4)

AUBURN RECREATION PLAN ADOPTED

Although recognizing it will require changes because of delays and possible relocation of Auburn Dam, the State Park and Recreation Commission, nonetheless adopted a general plan for Auburn Lake Recreation Area.

In passing the plan, which proposes to accommodate 9,000+ persons at any one time, the Commission asked that both water skiing, and hunting be monitored and assessed; and that the law continue to be enforced on nude bathing.

Hunting became an issue after Mike Lynch, Director Region III, recommended that the commission consider elimination of some large game. Citing the example of a recent bear killing, Lynch said park rangers are concerned about persons coming onto park property with weapons and randomly shooting at all game. He did relate that rangers do not object to the hunting of upland game.

The nude swimming issue got an unsuccessful boost from a Sacramento state worker who asked not be identified. He agreed that "many California citizens are still being kept from their clothing-free use of their rightful share of the state park system. And only the closed-door application of a single administrative code regulation stands in the way in many, if not all, areas."

The Auburn recreation plan calls for 16 miles of scenic waterways where no powerboats would be allowed, 16 miles where powerboats would be allowed and 3,400 surface acres of reservoir for water skiing. In addition, there are plans for 120 miles of hiking and riding trails with overnight camps, multiple use areas and equipment rentals.

(Reprinted from National Geographic Magazine, Vol. 113, 1958 by Conrad Wirth, Director NPS)

"Independence National Historic Park in Philadelphia is a sacred place...

The park, still unfinished, owes its existence to close cooperation between the Federal, State and City governments, and private organizations. Each has done what it could; who holds the land titles is of no importance... We help states and local communities plan their own park systems, the thought being that if we all work together, we will wind up with one big nationwide system in which all units interlock to fill everybody's needs."



NOW A SAND SHORTAGE?

California beaches are doing a disappearing act due to sand shortages from beachfront development and flood control projects. A team of "surf zone" specialists from six universities has begun studies to develop a precise model of a beach's life cycle, in order to understand the movements of sand, and how beaches grow and decrease. The problem is two-fold: first, dams and erosion-controlling vegetation have all but eliminated the massive floods necessary to wash new beach materials down to the ocean, and second, waterfront development like piers, marinas, and housing interferes with the wave action that spreads new sand around the surrounding shoreline. California's last big flood was in 1862.

(Reprinted from National Wildlife Federation. "Conservation News")

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cont. from page 2

staff may take years to repair at vast expense in personal services which will outweigh any benefit of current reduction?

And what of the future? Will we only get inflation increases enough to barely operate the State Park System? No. Next fiscal year we will be taking yet another 10% cut. That will make 25% in 3 years at a time when our acquisition and development is rapid due to previous (1974 & 1976) Bond Acts (which the voters passed). Our ability to just protect the resource, let alone provide anything close to public service, will be severely hampered.

The public that voted for the passage of Proposition 13 did not want, I am certain, the curtailment of public park services, the disintegration of park resources from the environmental viewpoint, and the sheer personal hardship facing those affected with position cuts. Proposition 13 was meant to trim fat off government, not eliminate programs necessary for the survival of the future generations of mankind. The cause of clean air, water and general preservation of natural landscapes was not meant to be curtailed under the "Spirit of 13". Proliferation of governmental commissions, increases in programs and spending were the objections the voters wanted driven home. The saving of our only environment and the social implications of urban parks are worth any expense. It is with this "spirit" in mind that we must enter the political arena.

It is now time for all of you, individually, to do your part by writing your legislator. It is time for CSPRA to once again elicit public and legislative support for the all-important mission we have to achieve.

REORGANIZATION

(Continued from Page 1)

(A) provided for the election of one regional director and one alternate regional director from each of 5 regions of approximately equal membership, and one retired region.

(B) provide that the Board of Directors will determine the boundaries of the regions.

(C) provide for the elimination of the office of Junior Past President.

(D) provide for the elimination of Region 7 and the incorporation of its members into the adjacent geographical region.

In anticipation of membership approval of required Constitution and By-Laws revisions, nominations are now being accepted (should be forwarded to Doug Bryce) for ALL Regional Directors and alternates. In addition, by the first of November current Regional Directors will hold nomination meetings. At these meetings any confusions over new regional boundaries will be re-

solved in order to expedite appropriate nominations. If necessary, President Verardo plans to provide time on the GEC agenda for input on regional boundaries from the entire membership.

Following is a brief of other 1979 Fall Board actions:

After hearing Representatives of Benefits Unlimited propose to provide life, disability, and dental insurance to members, a committee was established to study insurance and benefits. Bryce indicated he has been approached by many companies wishing to provide various insurance/benefit packages.

Verardo will discuss with Director Cahill our continued interest in the unresolved Field Task Force Rec's. These include a multi-purpose facility at the Training Center for physical training and recreation.

Unanimous resolution to support the State Park Commission in their resolution

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THE FUTURE OF URBAN PARKS

by

Alice A. Huffman

While urban parks and recreation may not be considered as basic a commodity of life, as say, police, fire, education, sewer and water, it certainly cannot be looked upon as a fringe concern or a frill. Having open space with trees as a buffer in areas of intense development adds appreciably to the quality of life in urban areas. Having places to play lessens, in part our concern for the safety of our children and provides a neighborhood base for acquiring leisure skills. Having recreational programs and parks adds to the social betterment of urban areas and serves as a deterrent to urban blight.

Urban parks and recreation issues relate also to education and our schools. The reduction in funding for schools means a lessened availability of school playgrounds and school recreational programs and, consequently, the loss of important recreational resources in urban neighborhoods. School lands, declared surplus because of a dwindling school population, are often sold for non-public purposes. In losing a school we have lost a community recreational center on which we depended. Losing school facilities means that we place more responsibility on other local units of government to provide recreational resources. Because these units of government also have less annual revenue, some parts of their programs must be sacrificed. This usually results in less land acquisition, less facility development, fewer rehabilitated facilities, and less attractive urban parks because of lack of maintenance funds.

To increase revenue local jurisdictions have started charging for the use of parks, special facilities and recreational programs, resulting in fewer free things and more fees and charges. With such charges often comes a different clientele and a stratifying of the economic groups. Many low income people are already being affected by the increased fees and charges.

There seems to be a spiraling effect to all of this. Having fewer recreational resources means that they will be used primarily by those persons most advantaged, and the non-users then create new vandalism and crime statistics. This vandalism and crime often occurs in the public parks, that we expressly set aside for these people. The park is then less attractive to other users. This leads to a loss of a park and recreation constituency, resulting in a loss of tax support for urban park facilities. At that point, we are back to only those forms of park and recreation that tend to pay their own way. In the public park movement some facilities, such as golf courses and zoos, pay for themselves, but not the small neighborhood and community parks we need so badly.

I see three critical problems in the area of urban parks and recreation: The greatest problem is *lack of accessibility*. Inaccessibility can mean many things. It can mean the facility does not exist, or that it is poorly located. It can also mean people do not feel wanted at the park or have not been informed of recreational opportunities.

The second problem is the *lack of open*



Alice A. Huffman
Chief Deputy Director
State Department
of
Parks and Recreation

space and developed parks. In some of our intensely urban areas of California there are less than two acres of play space for every 1,000 people. When it does exist, the park facilities are often poorly located, worn out, and overcrowded.

The third problem is *attitude*. Those of us in the parks and recreation field have long believed that parks and recreation programs were deterrents to crime. Why is it then that our urban parks are experiencing more crime and vandalism than at any other time in history? I believe this to be a problem of attitude. How can we get the message to urban residents that urban parks should have greater value and meaning to them? Can schools play a bigger part in this type of education?

What can we do about improving accessibility? What can we do about buying and developing more urban parks? What can we do about changing attitudes on how parks are viewed?

The State Department of Parks and Recreation is trying. Cities are our most immediate form of government and must accept the greatest responsibility for urban parks. One thing the State can do is financially assist them. This we have done and are continuing to do through grant programs. The present state administration created and financed a multi-year, \$75 million urban grants program. That program will continue for at least one more year. Our department has also been trying to meet some of those needs through acquiring urban state parks. While we realize we have a long way to go, we have made significant progress in the past year. Less than two months ago we dedicated Candlestick Point, our first urban state

park. The area, formerly a refuse dump, is being revitalized as an urban shoreline state park.

Also, we are trying to do something about attitudes. Last year we initiated an Urban Interpretation Program. This program provides high school youths with formal instruction in park interpretation. One of the goals is to involve them in interpreting natural values to people in the community. We believe this is one way to improve attitudes. A number of these young people are now employed in the State park system.

Two other actions of our department merit some mention. One is a statewide recreational needs analysis currently in progress. This short-term program should provide us with new data on the attitudes and desires of the public concerning their leisure time and use of recreational resources. Currently there is very little hard data on the habits and characteristics of the public in pursuit of their leisure. Finally, our department is highly supportive of all types of legislation that tends to improve the lot of the inner-city resident.

Urban parks and recreation problems can only be partially remedied by state actions. Citizens, neighborhood organizations and local government must also be involved in analyzing the recreational needs of the community and implementing programs to meet these needs.

Urban parks and recreation programs definitely play a big part in the future of community life. As mobility decreases because of energy constraints and as inflation continues to overwhelm us, the urban park will become more of a focal point and will prove to be one of our most valuable community investments.

(Reprinted from *California Parks and Recreation* Aug/Sept, 1979)

INTERPRETIVE TIPS FOR LEADING CHILDREN OUTDOORS

Bill Krumbein

Keeping with the theme of "The Year of the Child", and our Department's goal for more success in children's interpretation, I hope these suggestions will be helpful.

Try to stop almost immediately after you begin your hike to point out a "discovery". This technique can set the pace for your entire hike. If you lead a group briskly for a few hundred feet before you encourage them to look closely at the environment, you are saying by your actions that there is nothing worth stopping for over most of the distance you'll cover. So use that first stop as an invitation to enjoy close observation.

Be alert for the first time a child points out something of interest -- a discovery. If you pick up on their enthusiasms, the others will get the message that you are interested in what they find.

The discovery approach is a revealing situation where you will quickly find that you do not have all the answers children ask. If a child asks a question you cannot answer, don't be afraid to say, "I don't know". Do your homework afterwards so you will grow in your knowledge of things that interest children.

We can get into a rut, leading children down the same trail, stopping at the same tree, or rock or creek, etc. There's a strong temptation to repeat favorite stops. With the discovery approach, each hike is much more of an adventure for both the group and the leader.

Beware of answering questions too soon, especially the "What is it?" question. Try, through your response, to stretch them toward learning on their own.

It is humbling to remember that the children with whom you work at some point in their lives learned actively, joyfully, on their own in a supportive but not manipulative atmosphere of loving attention from adults. They learned that their toes were attached to them that they could see and reach whole new worlds if they pulled up on their feet and held on, that pebbles can be collected by the fistful and that water runs through holes and fingers. It is humbling because far too many "educational activities" kill children's drive to learn joyfully on their own. You can share in the great opportunity that outdoor interpreters have to create the space, even for a short time, for joyful, active exploratory learning. And please remember that the "Year of the Child" is forever!

I have cited information from **Exploring Environments**, a handbook filled with ideas for children. You can order it from: **Handbook, High Rock Park Conversation Center, 200 Nevada Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10306.** Cost: \$5.00

HONORARY RANGER NOMINATIONS OPEN

Do you know of a person who has demonstrated distinguished service devoted to CSPRA's objectives? If you do, you may nominate that person as Honorary Ranger. Simply compose a letter giving the person's background and relate one or more specific accomplishments which you believe qualifies him or her for an Honorary Lifetime Membership in CSPRA.

Your nomination should meet four general requirements as follows:

- 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 effects 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 is to be judged on its own merit and degree of contribution.
- IV. Normally, the recommendation would be made during the person's lifetime.

Your nominee, if approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board, will be honored at the 1980 GEC in Santa Cruz. Please send nominations by December 15, 1979, to:

1980 Honorary Member Committee
c/o Jeff Price, Chairman
4232 Chasin Street
Oceanside, California 92054



GUN SAFETY

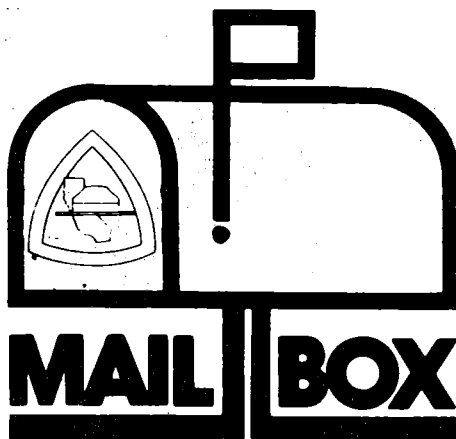
When I joined this Department no one even hinted that all Park Rangers would be carrying revolvers as standard issue equipment. I had no experience with hand guns prior to that time. In fact, my first opportunity to fire a pistol was out there in the 105 degree heat of Modesto. I have never shot the magic 300 (that must be my Rangemaster's fault) but 280's are not unheard of. Don't get me wrong, I am pleased to feel its weight in my present assignment at San Diego Coast, and to know that there are armed lifeguards as well.

The issue I am bring before you is one of responsibility, not at work, that is understood and regulated, but at home! Several recent sad occurrences to Peace Officer friends prompts me to write. The worst incident involved two sons of a CHP. One was toying with his dad's .357 magnum and shot his brother in the neck, killing him. In another, a County Sheriff came home to find his toddler with his .38. Incidents such as these should make us painfully aware of the responsibility thrust upon each of us and our families, since we have to take our weapons home daily.

I am urging each of you Rangers and Lifeguards to secure your guns while at home. Some friends have suggested: locking handcuffs through top strap; lock it all in the trunk of your car; use a trigger lock; keep your pistol in a locked briefcase, drawer or closet. Where do you keep your gun when at home?

Please take time to secure your weapon when you are at home. Talk with your spouse and youngsters about the gun, what to do and not to do. Take a little precaution now and avoid a heart-breaking tragedy.

Jeff Price
Region VI



Mrs. Victoria Araujo, Chairman
California State Park & Recreation
Commission
2801 Coventry Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93304

Dear Chairman Araujo:

The California State Park Rangers Association strongly supports the State Park & Recreation Commission resolution which disapproves of the leasing and development proposal for California's offshore oil and gas resources by the Bureau of Land Management. We further commend the Commission for taking an active "environmental" stance on those issues which affect all California, and not just the state parks. Please let us know when we can be of assistance with our support of these matters of mutual environmental concern.

Sincerely,
Denzil R. Verardo, President
CSPRA

to oppose BLM's leases for offshore gas exploration (See "MAILBOX")

Unanimous resolution of EIC Chairman O'Brien's proposal that we support the maintenance of Mono Lake at an appropriate level.

Two DPR operational problems which are directly affecting membership received lengthy discussion. One, seasonal employee pay warrant delays - or non payment - was deferred to Verardo to pursue through the Dept. The second, the JOB vacancy advertising process, could be improved by Area Managers. For example: indications are that selections are made prior to the advertising; too many candidates are needlessly going through the motions of interviews; and unsuccessful candidates are not being given reasons why they are not selected.

Next Board meeting: December 8 & 9, 1979 at the Woodlake Inn, Sacramento.

Okay, Backaches — Back Off!

To avoid a backache:

At home or work, sit in a straight chair with a firm back.

Sit so that your knees are higher than your hips.

Avoid sitting in swivel chairs and chairs on rollers.

Do not sit in overstuffed chairs or sofas.

Never sit in the same position for prolonged periods. Get up and move around.

BOARD OK's NEWSLETTER

At the September CSPRA Board meeting in San Francisco, steps were taken to promote communications with members by the addition of a regular newsletter, in addition to the REPORTER.

The idea behind the newsletter is to more quickly transmit information. Regional activities, opinions, letters and articles will be included. Each Region will be able to use the newsletter to let members know what the organization is currently doing or planning in their vicinity. The decisions and deliberations of each Board meeting, member news and some humor or cartoons will be regular features.

The Board felt the need for more regular communications with the general membership. It was also seen that the REPORTER needed to be allowed to grow into a more significant publication. The newsy and regular transfer of Association information will use the newsletter as a vehicle.

REPORTER to be upgraded

The REPORTER will now focus on articles of a more lasting and professional nature. Each issue will be of such content that it can be saved as reference material on whatever topic is explored.

Circulation of the newsletter will be limited to members only. The REPORTER has a much wider circulation, beyond CSPRA members. The first newsletter is scheduled for mailing in January. Anyone wishing to submit material may begin sending it now to: CSPRA Newsletter, Jeff Price, Editor, 4232 Chasin Street, Oceanside, California 92054. Other than "CSPRA Newsletter" we have no name for this publication so if you have an idea send it along. The winner will be appropriately rewarded and recognized.

Jeff Price

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545-6585
2692 Mendocino Avenue
Santa Rosa, California 95401

PEACE OFFICER RE-CLASSIFICATION

The Legislative Joint Committee on Peace Officer Classification, chaired by Senator Robert Presley, has drafted three alternatives to redefine peace officer categories and powers. The out-come of this committee's work may well determine if state park peace officers continue with their current authority (and gain other items like felony assault protection) or become a more limited special or security officer, with very limited powers and protections.

Obviously, with the enforcement/protection job now required in the State Park System, the Rangers Association supports a broad level of authority and protection for state park peace officers. The Association is currently working to give the Joint Committee staff a modern realistic view of state park peace officers' duties and responsibilities. We need members to write letters of support to the Joint Committee members especially to Senator Presley.

Mike Lynch, Chairman
Employee & Governmental
Affairs Committee



BOB FERGUSON
and
PAUL WALLACE

representing

**ALVORD
AND
FERGUSON**

434 West 17th Street
P O Box 677
Merced California 95340
Phone : 209/722-8854

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