



california state park rangers association



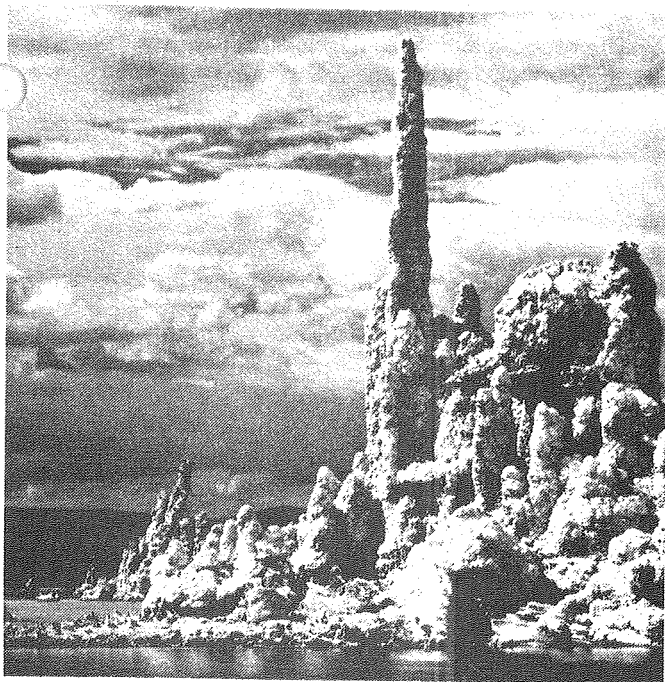
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 26 FEBRUARY 1982

MONO LAKE

by Jeffery Price

State Parks and Recreation assumed management responsibility of land and water surface area totalling 57,000 acres at Mono Lake on January 1, 1982. Newsletter learned in an interview with Sierra Area Manager, Bob Macomber, that SB 83 appropriated \$125,000 from the "Environmental License Plate Fund", for maintenance and operation. This funding will expire on July 1, 1983, at which time Macomber expects the operation expense to come from a general fund budget package.

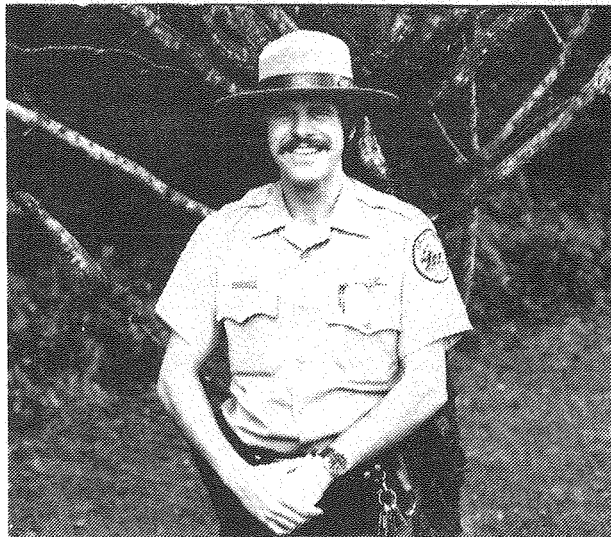


Mono's mysterious tufa formations will be protected by the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve and the proposed Mono Lake National Monument.

One hitch in the Department's plans is deciding ownership. Apparently State Lands Commission claims title while at the same time it is Bureau of Land Management position that the acreage in question is federal land. The law (SB81) says everything below 6417 feet elevation is State Reserve. According to Macomber, "This is a whole kettle of worms, and is currently in liti-

continued page 2

photo by Jeffrey Jones



JOHN MOTT, CSPRA's first Ranger I President, will be installed at the GEC.

TALLY FINAL

The ballot recently sent to all voting members regarding the issue of expanding CSPRA has failed narrowly. The proposed change in our By-Laws would have opened membership to all State Park Employees. Currently to be a voting member of CSPRA one must have worked in a maintenance or Ranger class. Anyone can join CSPRA as a supporting or associate member.

The final vote was: 85 NO 81 YES

1982 SACRAMENTO G.E.C.
MARCH 3-6

SEND REGISTRATION NOW
SEE YOU THERE!

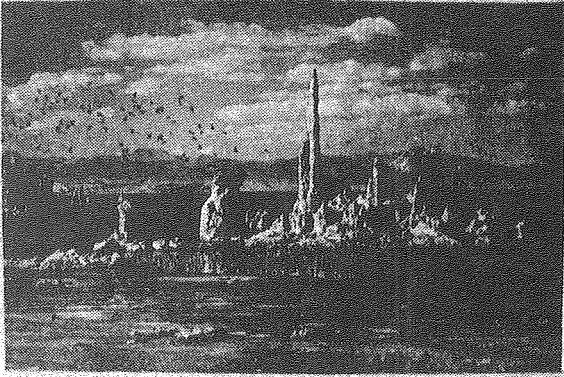
Woodlake Inn



Mono Lake

from page 1

gation between the State and Federal governments. What we're (State Parks) trying to do is negotiate a contract with BLM so that until this is settled there is a management presence to protect the tufa formation." He points out that it won't make much difference which agency gets control, if the natural values are destroyed.



The Area expects to have a Ranger I working at the area by March, and additional seasonal staff by summer. Personnel, equipment, signs and interpretive displays were included in the appropriation for the 17,000 acres of land and 40,000 acres of water surface. Another issue is wording of the originating legislation which states "any reasonable use prior to acquisition will be allowed to continue." "There were grazing permits, commercial brine shrimp operations, four-wheel drive use, rock-hounding, hunting and many other incompatible activities before January 1, 1982 so I see some real management problems," commented Macomber. Area administrative plans show the area under the direct supervision of the Ranger II at Bodie.

There is a simultaneous move by Congressman Shumway to make the lake a National Park or Monument. What role State Parks will play if the lake becomes NPS is unclear. The lands surrounding Mono Lake are a patchwork of ownership: BLM, USFS, NPS and now DPR.

U.S. Forst Service is constructing a new office and visitor center at the intersection of Tioga Pass Road and Hwy 395. Macomber hopes to rent space there as a unit office. NPS is doing the same thing for their staff.

When a visitor enters the information center near Lee Vining, he will see a National Park Ranger, Forest Service Ranger and State Park Ranger. Information will be available on Mono Lake, Bodie, Yosemite, Mono Lake National Monument and Forest Service lands. "This should provide good interchange between the three agencies," says Macomber. "Special abilities will be required of the Ranger there since he can't support either side of the battle over Mono Lake water diversion. It will be tough since he can't take the position of Los Angeles Water and Power or of the Mono Lake Committee. The intent of the legislation is very specific on our role." "The main use area we are going to direct the visitor to is the south shore," comments Macomber, "These tufa formations are probably the most spectacular so the public could meet a Ranger there for interpretive activities."

The tufa formations are now in danger from sheep which graze the area near Mono Lake. The sheep knock over the spires as they move about. Also in danger are what Macomber terms "associated sand structures". He says, "They are like miniature sand castles and no one ever seems to mention them. They are fantastic and really interesting."

Overall, it seems that State Parks will have a unique cooperative opportunity at Mono Lake. CSPRA wishes Sierra Area the best in the venture, until the courts/legislature can award management to one of the three agencies. Of course if Mono Lake Committee is successful in its effort to restore streams which feed the lake, and the level rises.... all parties will be seeking possession of an under water park.



Editorial

ByWord at Cowell Lacks Assessment

ByWord became operational at Cowell Redwoods on Saturday, August 15, 1981. The success, effectiveness and cost benefit of ByWord at Cowell is of great interest to CSPRA. Director Dangermond came under fire from CSPRA for his enthusiastic support of the electronic audio tour inside a redwood grove. Other groups such as Santa Cruz Mountains Natural History Association also opposed him. Unclear environmental impact and gross commercialization were issues. Dangermond remained committed to the project saying he felt this type of interpretative approach deserved a chance to be tried.

If you go into the Cowell Visitor Center before hiking the redwood trail, you'll find several interpretive media available to enhance your stroll. You have your choice of a regularly scheduled guided walk (free), a printed trail brochure costing 15¢ or an audio - tour receiver wand costing 50¢ per person. You could also just walk through.

If you choose the audio tour you would rent one wand for each member of your group and begin the trail. You may have some initial confusion with the numbered posts since they are keyed to the printed guide. You must hold the wand at your ear while walking so you know when you come within the range of one of the 12 transmitters. Each stop has a 4 to 6 minute message, some with accompanying background music. Sometimes you'll hear several messages at once, but can move on to avoid the crossed signals.

By the end of your tour you will have listened to nearly an hour of dialogue and spent about 30 minutes walking.

When you return the wands, a park employee asks you to write a comment in a log book on how you liked the tour.

That's how the system works.

Area Manager, Herman Schlerf, reports that, on the average,

for every ten people entering

the Visitor Center one wand will be rented. Actual attendance figures at the Center for the first month and a half (47 days) of operation were 10,359 people. During that time 1,056 wand rentals were tallied, yielding \$528.00.

Operating costs most easily identified were contract fees and employee salaries. Other costs such as maintenance and additional energy to keep the Center open and to operate the system weren't readily available. Other costs not considered here are installation of cable and electronic hardware, staff time producing the taped text, and administrative time. Schlerf said the five year contract with ByWord calls for a monthly payment of \$2,053.00. The two additional seasonals when working full time add another \$1,680.00 per month. Total cost during a typical August for contract fees and salaries would be \$3,733.00. Schlerf said he expects an augmentation to cover these additional costs, but no final budget amount was available to him when we talked.

Schlerf was asked what method of evaluation was being used to determine public reaction, interpretive success, satisfaction, why visitors don't use it, etc. He said no formal evaluation is being done, but that the Area came up with the "log book" idea. That is the written comments from users, when they return wands. The seasonals also sometimes ask non-users for their comment. According to Schlerf's report to Region containing a count of Center visitors, wand rentals and comments, most remarks were half sentences or one word observations.



Schlerf was very helpful in answering all my inquiries but he didn't know what the Department's criteria for measuring success or failure of the project were to be. Calls to the Regional Office and Sacramento Headquarters revealed no plan or even semi-scientific evaluation of By-Word at Cowell is planned.

If the Director's intent for installing By-Word is as he told the CSPRA Board on December 12, 1981, someone isn't doing his homework. Dangermond said he felt this new type of electronic interpretation deserved "a chance to be tried". This certainly conjures up some images of testing, experimentation, research and development or trial.

No information could be found on how Dangermond plans to determine whether his experiment "deserves a chance" or not. He didn't



Information sign at Cowell.



photos by Jeffrey Jones

Visitor with ByWord wand.

seem receptive to a CSPRA Board members suggestion of an independent evaluation either. It seems there will never be a "report card" on this new child's progress.

There was, however, some attempt before By-Word was installed to analyze the program. At the Sacramento level, an extensive report was done by Research Writer, Joe Engbeck, Jr. He did testing of text, music, timing and interpretive message, before the tapes were installed in the transmitters at Cowell.

Engbeck found when an interpretive text is read aloud or played on a cassette player to a group they tended to look around and listen to the Grove as well as the message. He said when the message is read or played aloud, visitors are confident that all are sharing the same information. The tendency then, he states, is for the group to gather together around the reader or player and look outward into the Grove.

The ByWord text was tested on site by means of a cassette player. It was explicitly written to encourage visitor awareness, according to Engbeck's report.

Engbeck found different results, however, with ByWord. He says, "When the same words, read by the same voice are delivered by way of the ByWord wand the results are totally different and much less enjoyable. The difference is so profound that I now have serious reservations about the value of ByWord in this particular setting."

It seems from information available, that there has been insignificant direction. Region feels that Area is collecting all necessary data. Area isn't collecting much of anything. For every visitor dollar spent on wand rental it costs the Department \$9.60. Sacramento is holding a report which casts serious doubt on ByWord's effectiveness. All agree they need more time to evaluate. All mention another year to give the program a chance.

continued

More time isn't going to provide anything, except more expense. It actually cost the Department \$5.30 per user to provide By-Word during its first 47 days of operation in July and August. This experiment will cost \$24,636 in contract fees plus an estimated \$14,000 in seasonal funds. This fiscal year alone, DPR will spend \$40,000, and earn an estimated \$2,500 on Cowell's By-Word.

No indepth evaluation is being required, so just waiting for time to pass will do only one thing -- stall. A gross error was made when By-Word was installed at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. The Director should admit his mistake and cancel the By-Word contract.



Rattlesnake

SANTA CRUZ TRAINERS DOUBTFUL

by Jeffery Price

What promised to be one of the most unusual presentations at any GEC has been cancelled. According to John Mott, who was coordinating the appearance, negotiations with the "American Rattlesnake Trainers" have been dropped due to their failure to return John's phone calls.

While this performance was not a critical part of the program, many were looking forward to some unique interpretive hand held objects. A cocktail hour sponsored by Alvord and Ferguson scheduled after the presentation was being dubbed the "Rattlesnake Recovery Period".



Dick Snyder, Les Liebenberg, Steve Liebenberg Phil Cross and "Matador" the Diamondback.

Storm at Santa Cruz Sets Record

by Jeffery Price

The Santa Cruz Mountains Area parks were devastated by a storm which struck on January 4th and 5th. "Some areas had 20 inches of rain in a 24 hour period," tells Manager Herman Schlerf from his makeshift office at the park shop. "This has been declared a hundred year maximum flood".

According to a Meteorologist's report, two large low pressure areas collided. A cold front from the Alaskan Gulf and a warm front from the tropics met head-on over Santa Cruz. Normally when two fronts meet, the stronger one pushes the storm on through in its direction. These two were apparently of equal intensity and when they came together, just stalled. "The colder air from the north just wrung all the moisture out of the warm tropical front," he says.

"It will be several weeks before we can use the Area office," says Schlerf. "When the flood water came through, it floated logs off the cold deck at Santa Cruz Lumber Mill. They floated into parking areas and jammed up around the office. One Ranger's mobile home was knocked off its jacks and flooded the inside with 6" of mud and silt. The bottom of the next mobile home up was washed away, tearing out insulation and wiring. One park residence was also damaged when it was inundated with over 18" of water. In the day use area, water completely covered one of the restroom buildings depositing 8 feet of silt and debris.

The Henry Cowell By-Word equipment was knocked out when sheets of water covered the trail. Area staff have not been able to reactivate the system at all. Power has been restored and some damage repairs are expected.

Ray Moore, a DPR engineer from Sacramento, visited the area and assessed the damage. He feels one of the biggest problems is an immense landslide which knocked the water treatment plant completely off its foundation. "Big Basin is totally closed to the public until we get water again," tells Schlerf. "The reservoir is in bad shape. The water is brown with silt." Rancho del Oso is also closed. A landslide there loosened one end of the entrance bridge and it collapsed into the creek. "We lost a lot of our footbridges and trails. The

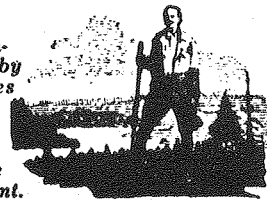
YCC has worked so hard to put these in over the past five years," he says, "and now they are wiped out."

At The Forest of Nisene Marks, a huge log jam formed. It spans 1,000 feet and is several hundred feet thick. Working with Santa Cruz County Watershed Management, the park has cut a path for water to flow through the log jam. Fears are that a subsequent storm would cause the logs to crash downstream into downtown Aptos, taking houses and bridges.

Even though insurance covered some items, three employees in park residences or on mobile home pads lost personal belongings estimated at \$15,000. Two employees cars were filled with water and mud, and one is considered a total. CSPRA would like to ask members for cash donations to help out Ed Wasley, PMWI, Rick Ray, PMSI and Steve Hansen, SPRII. Please send checks to Doug Bryce/CSPRA Relief Fund, Santa Cruz Mtns., P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA 95828

"This has been declared a 'hundred year flood', and I hope to be long retired before the next one hits," quips Manager Schlerf, "but one thing that has been so encouraging is that everyone has taken a positive outlook, everyone said, 'well, its over now where do we go from here? Lets roll up our sleeves and get with it'."

1876 The beginning of forestry by the United States government. Congress authorizes the appointment of the first forestry agent.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

James Meier Laura Van Etten
San Jacinto Hemet
Steve J. Woods
Poway



BOOKS

RANGER HISTORY UPDATE NEEDED

CSPRA Historian, Al Salzgeber keeps track of the goings on within our organization. He has photos, clippings and stories dating from our first general executive council back in 1965.

Al is updating retirement info for 1981. If you prepared a plaque for a retiring CSPRA member in 1981 and didn't send a copy of the wording to Al, please do so. Any photos taken are also of value to our historian. Send these and any other items for the CSPRA History Files to Al Salzgeber, 5511 Calle Arena, Carpinteria, CA 93013.

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Researchers at the University of Arizona are working on a "Presto" - type log - - the raw materials require very little water and no upkeep - - They are made from tumbleweeds. Now that's Yankee ingenuity!

## CALAVERAS BIG TREES

by Jeffery Price

The Calaveras Big Trees Association (CBTA) has logged over 15,000 volunteer hours during 1981. According to Interpretive Ranger, Curt Kraft, a new award had to be developed for seven CBTA members who donated more than 1,000 hours each. The awards were presented by Manager Craig Engle.

This past summer docent activities at Big Trees included 84 campfire programs, guided walks and puppet shows. Craftsmen donated time building exhibits, storage, rewiring, sanding and painting. Two films, "The Life Story of the Hummingbird" and "Why Do We Still Have Mountains" were acquired by CBTA. Also purchased for park interpretive use were an increment borer, 35mm camera and accessories, a slide projector/tape recorder synchronizer, reference books, freeze-dried animal mounts and stereoptican cards.

This park association has provided a tremendous boost to interpretive efforts and are justly proud to share their news with CSPRA Newsletter. Does your park have newsworthy activities you could send in?



Understanding the Game of Environment: An illustrated summary of major ecological principles and concepts viewed as a game in which living organisms interact with each other and their nonliving environment. The use of game terminology helps place a bewildering array of facts and relationships into an understandable framework. All students are familiar with games, identifying the Players, and understanding the Rules of the Game. Similarly, students understand that when Rules are violated and Fouls are committed the Players will be Penalized.

This bulletin also should be of value to special interest and youth organizations-- members of the Youth Conservation Corps, Scouts, and others interested in understanding their environment.

David R. Houston, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Agricultural Information Bulletin No. 426, USDA-Forest Service.

Order from: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington DC Document No. 001-001-00498-7.

## MADCAP MUSHROOMS



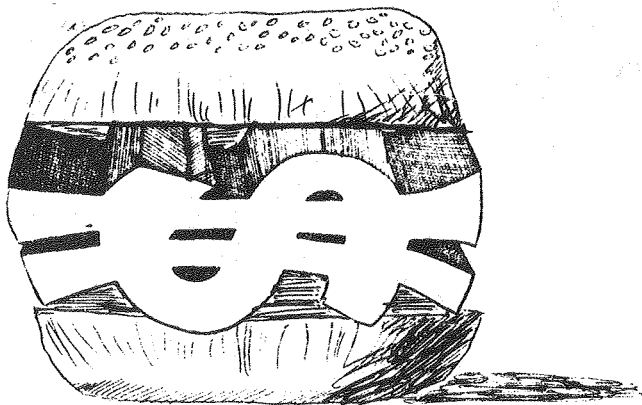
WJ Krumbein 11/81

by Jeffery Price

The newest Redwood Memorial Grove at Klamath Area is very special. It will honor us !!!

The "California State Park Rangers Grove" will be dedicated on the first Saturday in June. The five acre "old growth" grove is located adjacent to Hwy 199 in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park in Del Norte Co.

Mr. David Fesler, a retail lumber merchant from St. Paul, Minnesota, came to the Klamath Area and asked to donate \$10,000 for a 10 acre redwood grove. According to Carl Anderson of the Eureka Office, Ranger Bob Perkins took Fesler on a tour of Jed Smith to find a suitable location. "Fesler was so impressed with Bob's presentation on the memorial grove program, and the work California's State Park people were doing that he decided to dedicate a five acre grove to them", said Anderson, "It was primarily the way Bob conducted his tour that this came about."



When Perkins was asked about his methods that got a \$5,000 donation for the Ranger grove, he was quite modest. "Gee", says Perkins, "All I did was talk about our work here and buy him a hamburger at Ima's Burger Bar. Fesler decided we were pretty good guys, so lo and behold he went down to John DeWitt at Save-the-Redwoods League and wrote out a check for \$10,000, half for a Ranger grove and half for an addition to the existing David King Fesler grove."

"I think this is a great gesture on his part", comments Perkins. "Something like this has never been done before. It is great to have park people recognized."

According to Perkins, the Area is seeking appropriate wording to go on a plaque which Fesler asked to be placed. If you have suggestions please call him at 707 464-9533 soon.

... in order that we increase our revenues:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

USER FEES

\$2.00 Per Vehicle

includes any THREE activities free

Additional activities 10¢ per person charge

ACTIVITY CHOICES

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Parking           | BBQ Facility   |
| Driving           | Park Table     |
| Bicycling         | Noisy Kids     |
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| Hiking            | Playing Sports |
| Strolling         | Fishing        |
| Romantic Endeavor | Picnicking     |
| Reading           | Napping        |
| Using Restroom    | Drinking       |
| Drinking Fountain | Birdwatching   |
| Girlwatching      | Frisbee        |

DPR FORM 1990

... if adopted, an additional \$1.5 million in revenue could be generated. WJK

RANGER CRISPIES

These crunchy cookie jar treats are sure to become one of your most requested recipes.

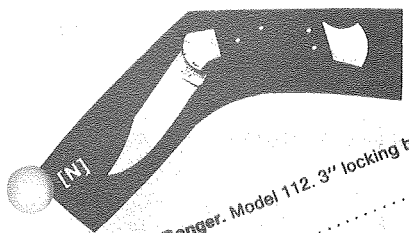
|                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| $\frac{1}{2}$ C marg. or butter | 1 tsp baking powder    |
| $\frac{1}{3}$ C shortening      | 1 tsp soda             |
| 1 C sugar                       | 1 tsp salt             |
| 1 C brown sugar                 | 1 tsp vanilla          |
| 2 eggs                          | 3 C crisp rice cereal* |
| $2\frac{1}{2}$ C flour          |                        |

Heat oven to 375°F. Grease cookie sheets. In large bowl, cream margarine, shortening and sugars. Add eggs and beat until blended. Lightly spoon flour into measuring cup; level off. Add flour, baking powder, soda, salt and vanilla to creamed mixture; stir until well blended. Stir in crisp rice cereal. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto prepared pan. Bake at 375°F. for 8 to 12 minutes. Let stand 1 minute before removing from pan. 5 dozen.

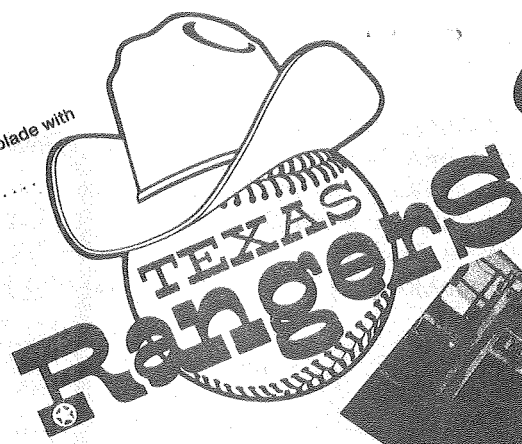
TIP:\* Any favorite cereal may be substituted.

HIGH ALTITUDE - Above 3500 Feet: Decrease baking powder and soda to  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. Bake as directed.

contributed by Karen Poret



[N] Buck Ranger. Model 112. 3" locking blade with thumb release.  
 835-750 Weight, 7 oz.



# Road Ranger KIT

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES BY



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The "Ranger" 4-Post Steel Drafting Table



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Jeffery B. Price  
 Supervising Ranger, Anza-Borrego Area

RANGER LINE  
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RANGER BELT (BL04) RANGER  
 Plants are glossy, wonderfully firm, and brilliant.  
 Plants are upright, vigorous and very

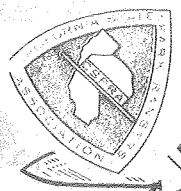


Ford Ranger

RANGER

BRAND POCKET KNIFE

california state park rangers association



RANGER  
 ULTRA-HONED KNIFE



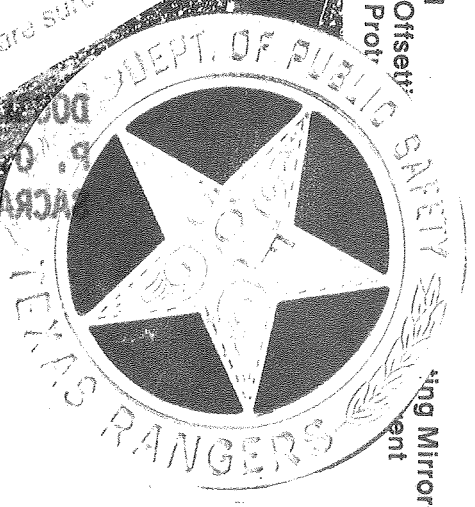
3000 RANGER



RANGER CRISPIES

...treats are sure to become one of your

• Liquid Filled  
 • Decalcification Offset  
 • Instant Prot



Silva Ranger-type 15

THE BEN MEADOWS COMPANY

One of the more popular fund raisers at recent annual CSPRA conventions has been the raffle. Money raised from ticket sales is used to off-set expenses for those attending GEC, for example to pay for a band, catered luncheons, guests and speakers.

If you have an item that CSPRA could use as a raffle prize please contact 1982 GEC Co-Chairmen Dave and Janet Carle at (916) 791-0276 or Executive Director Doug Bryce at (916) 383-7299. Also accepted are donations of items from other supporters of CSPRA. If you know of an interested business or individual, get in touch.

Memorable items from past raffles:

1 gallon can of chili peppers, a hand made plant hanger, pair of mounted bull horns, flowering plants, wine, cheese, Coleman products, passes and tickets to local attractions, 10 gallons of gas, motel accomodations, bumper stickers and many others.

Get busy now and support this CSPRA fund  
raiser at 1982 Sacramento GEC.

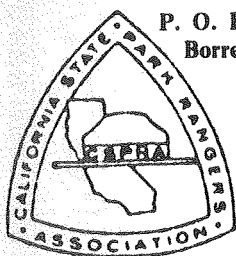
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KIOSK KWIPS



WHEN IT  
COMES BE-  
TWEEN COLD EARS  
AND THE UNIFORM  
CODE... COLD EARS  
WIN.

W. K. K. K. K. 8.



P. O. Box 1468  
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

# NEWSLETTER

DOUGLAS R. BRYCE  
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SACRAMENTO, CA 95828

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