

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1984 ISSUE
NUMBER 53



Honorary Membership Nominations Open

by John Mott

Do you know someone who has made outstanding contributions to the California State Park System and the objectives of the California State Park Rangers Association? Wouldn't they enjoy being formally recognized for their accomplishments? Why not nominate them for Honorary Membership in CSPRA? The Board of Directors will be acting on all nominations in early January. No later than 12/31/84 be sure to send your nomination to: Honorary Member Committee, Chairman John D. Mott, 2975 Graham Hill Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

To nominate a candidate, send the committee the following information:

- Nominee's name, address, phone and brief resume.
- Nominating CSPRA member(s) name(s). A petition format is fine.
- What has nominee done to make outstanding contributions to the State Park System and the objectives of the California State Park Rangers Association? (Ideal candidates will have made regional or statewide contributions).

The winning candidate will receive a beautiful plaque, all rights and privileges of Associate membership, and formal recognition at the 1885 Conference Banquet this March.

The Committee encourages members to submit all nominations prior to the 12/31 deadline in case further information or clarification is required.

Current CSPRA Honorary members include: Joe and Katheryn Stone, James Whitehead, Vern Whittaker, William Penn Mott, Jr., Harriet Allen, Phil Geiger, Earl Hanson, Howard King, Edward Dolder, Claude A. (Tony) Look, Everett Powell, William Goodall, Josephine P. Read, Bertram K. Dunshee,

Continued on page 3

★★★ *Membership* ★★★

Please send me more information on the benefits of CSPRA membership.

name _____

street _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____

Clip and mail to Doug Bryce, CSPRA
P.O. Box 28366, Sacto, CA 95828



RANGER I



Full Body Wetsuit

**CHANGING
YOUR
ADDRESS?**

Please Print
Name _____

OLD ADDRESS

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NEW ADDRESS

Street _____

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Send to:
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FREE CLOTHING

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS Contact Doug Bryce, Box 28366, Sacramento, CA 95828

Harriet "Petey" Weaver, and Joseph Houghtelling. Deceased Honorary Members include: Ansel Adams, Pearl Chase, Walt Disney, Percy French, Verna Dunshee, Newton B. Drury, Joseph R. Knowland and Harry L. Blaisdell, Sr.

Many people have made outstanding contributions to the greatness of our State Park System. Submit your nominations without further delay.

california state park rangers association



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FLAT CATS

by Roger Nelson

A Roadside Guide to Compressed Critters

My first introduction to the usefulness of compacted creatures came during a period of abject poverty known as being a College Student. During summer break in the hot baking vastness of the central valley some agricultural acquaintances too far removed from civilized shopping emporiums to have access to a new fad called "frisbee" demonstrated a country equivalent they called a "cat fly".

The flat, very firm and hard baked disc was not altogether satisfactory. The balance was poor and some residual fur made catching the thing well nigh impossible. It demonstrated, however, there could be a certain usefulness in found objects.

Since that time I have noticed a marked reluctance among most people to even mention "flat cats," "sail rabbits," and other road kills, regardless of their numbers, their ecological significance, their recreational potential, or their penchant for accretion.

Still, there comes a moment for everyone when cruising down the highway of life that the head swivels for one last backward glance and we wonder out loud: "What was that thing?" This guide was created to answer that question.

Dichotomous Key to Roadside Remains - Begin with number one and read both (a) and (b). Choose the statement which is true for the remains you wish to identify. At the end of the statement is a number. Find this number further along in the key and again choose between (a) and (b) statements. Continue in this way until your chosen statement leads to an identification.

- 1(a) Has fur or feathers.....go to 4.
- 1(b) No fur or feathers.....go to 2.
- 2(a) Has smooth or scaly covering.....go to 3.
- 2(b) Hard plate-like remains, or spines.....go to 5.
- 3(a) Is about ten times longer than it is wide, or is long round and skinny for the most part with a couple of wide flat spots. This is a snake. In the first case it was slithering in the same direction as the highway, in the second case, it was attempting to cross the highway.
- 3(b) Small featureless blob. Other reptiles such as lizards, or frogs, and toads. At certain times of the year amphibians such as frogs, toads, and newts commit mass suicides attempting to cross our highways. The carnage is reminiscent of the great migrations of lemmings.

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The Classic Sail Rabbit after arguing
right-of-way with a Mac truck.




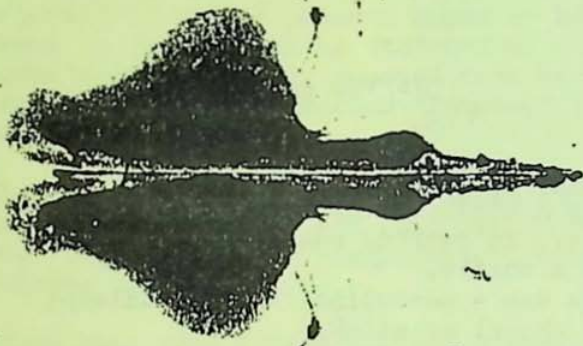
3(b) Frog or toad.

- 4(a) Covered with fur.....go to 6.
- 4(b) Covered with feathers. Undoubtedly a bird.....go to 9.
- 5(a) Looks much like a smashed flowerpot. In outline nearly circular with just a hint of legs and tail. This was a turtle.
- 5(b) Can cause severe tire damage. This was a porcupine. Do not attempt to pick up. Remove from roadway with a shovel or stick.
- 6(a) Spread out over several hundred yards. Has an appearance something like raw hamburger with lots of ketchup. Cow, deer or other large animal.
- 6(b) The same size or smaller than an LP.....go to 7.
- 7(a) Odor absent or rotten.....go to 8.
- 7(b) Smells like a skunk. You guessed it!
- 8(a) Traces of leather, plastic, or other man-made artifacts.....go to 9.
- 8(b) Could be any small common mammal such as raccoon, opossum, gopher, rat, mouse, etc. If there is enough fur left to judge coloring you may find this animal in another book. Otherwise, who cares?
- 9(a) No bigger than Hostess fruit pie. Probably a small insect catching bird such as swallow, starling or blackbird.
- 9(b) Size of large combination pizza(or bigger). Location, color and size will help to identify as domestic chicken, duck or goose. If large, may be scavenger such as a Turkey Vulture. Vultures are often involved in the accretion process where one small road kill snowballs in a chain reaction attracting scavengers out into the roadway to feed upon the remains and then becoming a victim themselves.
- 10(a) Traces of sharp skinny claws. A domestic cat. If old, flat and hard enough can be substituted for a Frisbee.
- 10(b) Traces of rope, chain, leather etc. especially a small flat metal disc or tag. Domestic dog. Prevalence of these animals on our highways is one reason for county leash laws.



3(a) Snake heading north in the southbound
lane

For those featureless blobs that defy this simple key a solution is readily at hand. Just slip the unidentified animal into a large manila envelope and mail to the university, zoo or museum of your choice for an expert opinion. Don't worry if you are not sure of the address. The postal service maintains a dead letter office for just that eventuality. 



4(b) Undoubtedly a bird.



5(a) A turtle in presentation condition.

Name the Newsletter

Thanks are in order to all individuals who submitted suggestions to endow our newsletter with a more stylish title. The list of your proposed titles was submitted to the CSPRA Board in September. Unbeknownst to the editor the Board had made a decision to re-examine and alter the format of both the Cal Ranger and the Newsletter. Consequently, renaming the Newsletter has been indefinitely postponed. THANK YOU all for your enthusiastic participation!

Conference 1985



high desert

Holiday Inn



GEC

PALMDALE

March 15 — March 18

Possible Field Trips

SPRING WILDFLOWERS - Adequate precipitation should transform the Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve into a lush carpet of wildflowers.

SAN ANDREAS FAULT - Stand on top of the famous "Palmdale Bulge." Follow the desert trace of this major crustal fault.

DESERT TORTOISE - Learn about these desert adapted animals at the BLM's Desert Tortoise Natural Area near California City.

NASA TOUR - Enjoy the Edwards Air Force Base NASA facilities while acquiring knowledge about the multitude of their ongoing programs.

MOJAVE MINING TOUR - Between the Tropico and Rand Mining Districts nearly 40 million dollars in gold and silver have been recovered.

DESERT FOSSILS - The bluffs of Red Rock Canyon State Park yield more than just bright colors. Encased in the sandstone layering is one of the richest mammalian fossil assemblages in the western United States.

KIOSK KWIPS



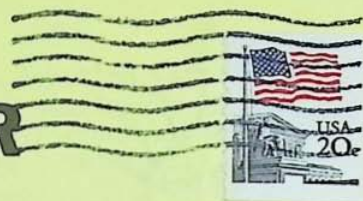
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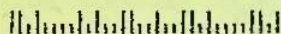
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P.O. Box 26, Cantil, CA 93519



NOVEMBER

MICHAEL A. WHITEHEAD
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Sharp-shinned Hawk



Crags Update

The California Department of Parks and Recreation has reportedly abandoned a possible land exchange with Southern Pacific (SP). Approximately two years ago 830 forested acres of undeveloped state land across the Sacramento River from Castle Crags State Park was suggested as a trade parcel in a swap to obtain 1711 acres of SP inholdings high on Castle Crags. Because the 830 state acres were forested in comparison to SP's 1711 acres of granite peaks and brush, a second SP parcel of railroad track in Sacramento was added to the exchange. As negotiations continued the value of the Sacramento track was escalated to equal that of the state's 830 acres and the exchange proceeded without the original 1711 acres of inholdings. CSPRA opposed this altered land swap agreement. With the help of local political support and editorials this land exchange has apparently ceased.