

NEWSLETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK
RANGERS ASSOCIATION

November, 1985

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

by Gar Salzgeber

I have several issues that need your attention.

The most important issue of the year is the "Bottle Bill", aka Beverage Container Reuse and Recycling Act, AB 2020.

This bill would require the payment of not less than 5 cents for empty beverage containers. (An amendment has deleted aluminum cans.) The bill does include beer, wine and liquor bottles, however the dealer doesn't have to give refunds on dirty or broken bottles.

Beverage manufactures would be required to mark the refund value on containers offered for sale after June 1, 1986. By Jan. 1, 1987, manufacturers will market beverages in refillable bottles.

The bottle bill is supported by farmers, environmentalists, local governments and some labor unions. It has worked successfully in Oregon, New York, Massachusetts, Maine, Iowa, Connecticut, Delaware, Vermont, Michigan and Yosemite.

This issue can be won if YOU begin a letter writing campaign to your legislator letting him/her know your thoughts.

If you wish to get involved even more send a contribution to Californians Against Waste, 909 12th

St. Suite 201, Sacramento, CA 95814. If you think that would be of little help, remember that the opponents (big business) spent six times the money than the proponents spent to defeat the bill when it was Proposition 11 in November of 82.

Along the same line, I would like to see us (DPR) develop either a policy or law that would outlaw the sales of glass beverage containers within units of the State Park System. With this law we should discourage the public from bringing glass beverage containers into parks through interpretive means. This alone would reduce our litter immensely. We would also benefit by reducing injury to the public and employees from broken glass.

A second issue that needs our attention is the commercialization of State Parks. This is a valid issue during these times of tight money. The question is, "where do we draw the line?"

Presently Mt. Tamalpais State Park has begun allowing jazz concerts for a fee of \$150 per day.

The trade off, as reported by Rangers, is that the number of events and attendance is beginning to degrade the environment and affect the park experience of people not related to the concerts.

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Here's to you, Ray!



I know it's not much, Ray, but this one's for you.

You've spent the better part of 10 years "working" for the State Park System as the Point Mugu volunteer. First at Sycamore Canyon and now at La Jolla.

Ten years, that's close to 45,000 hours that you've donated. You don't work 8 hour days, closer to 14, from light to darkness you're at your station in the Mugu back-country. Had you been paid by the state, even at Park Aid wages, you would have earned over \$205,000.

Have they said "Thank You" yet Ray?

Maybe they don't know of your contribution. You would never make a point of "blowing your own horn". It's not you to look for thanks for the job you have been doing so well, for so long.

Maybe it's time they know.

Though you've never told me, I figure you were born sometime around 1901, in July.

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Ray continued from page-2

I know you served in World War II, you volunteered. You were in your 30's, when most who went were in their late teens.

Have they said Thank You yet Ray? They didn't expect you to go.

After the war you continued to serve in your private jobs. On the trains, in the busses, you made us safe and you brought us home.

Now you serve the visitors of Point Mugu State Park. You are at your trailer from the point you open the La Jolla Canyon gates before sunrise and stay until you close the gates after sunset. You answer questions about the back-country, trails and campground you offer assistance to the hikers: "Watch for the snakes kids, they're out today." "Bring plenty of water it's a hot one." "Don't forget to be out before sunset, we close then you know." You give more than assistance to the ones who keep on coming back. Many just to see you.

You give your time. You give your smile. You give your hospitality. You have become a part of the park. You have become a reason for many to return.

Have they said Thank You yet Ray?

How many people have you helped?
How many friends for our profes-

sion have you made? I doubt I could come close to counting. It must be in the thousands.

What about your park family? We would stop by for lunch at your trailer. We would bring the chicken and you would supply the dessert. You would listen to me and my problems and I would always feel better by the time I left. You're a father to us, and you watched and worried as your "kids" left into the night.

Did I say "Thank You" yet Ray?

I don't work with you now. I spent two years there you made it special.

You build up our profession, and people appreciate me more because of you. I don't know if we will ever realize just how much you have done for us, for the Department, the profession and individually. But I do "Thank You" Ray! If it were up to me, you would have more than this. You deserve much more!

note: Ray Miller has been a State Park Volunteer at the Santa Monica Mountains District, Point Mugu State Park, for the last ten years. He and his dog "Dyno" are on duty at La Jolla Canyon.

1986 CONFERENCE

The 1986 CSPRA-PRAC Conference will be held from March 14 to the 16th at the Concord Holiday Inn. This year's theme will be MANAGING RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE with an emphasis on current resource management projects now under way. William Penn Mott, Jr. will be the Keynote speaker.



LEGISLATIVE MONITOR

by Michael Whitehead

For this years look at the Governor's budget cuts (blue penciled out of the 85-86 budget), we will concentrate on DPR's losses and gains in the capital outlay line items. Other reductions were in Personal Services, Operating Expenses and Local Assistance Grants. Cuts in these areas reflected "increased efficiencies..." and the "Department..." indicating they can carry functions adequately with existing staff or having sufficient funds within operating expenses to meet the costs. Cuts in Local Assistance Grants are generally not favored by this Governor as a proper use of the General Fund. He feels that these type projects would be more appropriately funded from the Roberti-Z'Berg-Harris Program which will commence in 1986-87. These are competitive nominations and are funded if found to be of a high enough value in the process. Changes in the 1984 Bond ACT allocations are mentioned as a possibility within certain catagories.

Quotation marks (") in this month's column indicate the Governors remarks regarding the changes in funding:

A reduction in capital Outlay funding of 33% or \$6.38 million, this line item is broken down as follows:

A 92% reduction in funding leaving \$120,000 for facility development for a family campground and day use area at San Luis Rey SRA. "I am reducing the augmentation of \$1.5 million for the SLR SRA development to \$120,000 to provide funding for preliminary plans and working drawings only. I recognize the need for additional development at this facility; however, without a well-defined scope of the proposed development, it is premature to fund the full project at this time."

A 100% reduction (\$1 million) earmarked for development at Cuyamaca Rancho SP. "...because it is premature to propose any new development prior to completion of the general plan for this park unit."

A 100% reduction (\$4 million) earmarked for acquisition at Sinkyone Wilderness SP "...because higher priority capital outlay needs exist for the Special Account for Capital outlay. I also note that the appropriation is coupled with funding from the Parklands Fund of 1984 and that fund has been recommended for use on higher priority projects closer to the states population centers." (another line item under the state coastal conservancey deleted \$1 million from Sinkyone acquisition with some of the same reasoning).

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While the Rangers feel they should be dedicated to the protection and preservation of the unit, they frequently find themselves as parking lot attendants during the concerts. Even then, many of the audience's vehicles are creating traffic jams, and hazards by parking on young trees, on top of fire hydrants, on dry grassy knolls, in meadows, blocking fire gates and in front of "no parking" signs.

What happened to the definition of a State Park unit: ... "a relatively spacious area of outstanding scenic or natural character...". Shouldn't we prevent synthetic features that are attractions unto themselves and may be available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park?

I am not a hard nose, and feel that different types of concerts may be appropriate to a State Park setting. I am just quibbling with scale. A concert that is so large that it denies the enjoyment of visitors who are in the park for its given purpose is a concert that is too large.

Concerts or other events should not be allowed or should be scaled down if they affect the regular State Park users enjoyment.

We also have to remember that we are charged with the preservation and protection of all State Park units and if that duty is threatened, we should not allow the threat to continue.

FUTURE WATCH: We are watching two bills written by Assemblyman Statham, First District, Redding,

with much trepidation.

Ranger Michael Allan says that at this time the state is fully reimbursed by film companies (through the 511 process) for operating costs incurred by the Department. AB 2573 and AB 2574 are two bills that are an attempt by the motion picture industry to have these services provided by the state at no cost to commercial film companies.

If these bills pass, Cal Trans, DPR, and CHP will be affected, as these three Departments are involved with filming on state property.

The realistic bottom line for our Department is that we would not have the funds to afford a Ranger as observer. Hence the filming companies would have no DPR supervision, and as they may not have our best interests in mind, the Department's resources and park visitors could suffer at their unsensitive or unknowing hands.

Gerry Meral, Executive Director of Planning Conservation League, says the bills are still in committee and will have to be heard in the legislature by the end of January or they will be killed. However, the filming industry has the power to keep these bills active. and it's worth our effort to keep our eyes open and amend these bills if necessary.

If you wish to add any information about what's happening in the Department please write or phone me.



legislative Monitor continued from page-4

A reduction in Capital Outlay funding of approximately 16% or \$8.2 million for a different line item as follows:

A reduction of 100% or \$3 million for acquisition at Baldwin Hills SURA "...because I have approved an augmentation of \$3.5 million in this budget for development at Baldwin Hills which I consider to be a more appropriate use of the funds." A reduction of \$200,000 to \$1 million for acquisition of the South Monterey Dunes ARCO Bosland property "...because the state's last appraisal of this property does not indicate a need for this additional amount."

An elimination of a \$500,000 augmentation for acquisition within the Delta Meadows Project within the Delta District. "...until there is a resolution of the issues which will result from the reduction in scope of the existing acquisition project at Delta Meadows caused by the high cost of a stipulated judgement pertaining to Southern Pacific right of way."

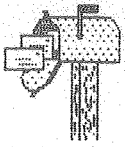
An elimination of the augmentation of \$2.5 million for campground development at Half Moon Bay SB. "...because the project, while meritorious, is quite costly and this fund has limited reserves that will be needed to meet other pressing recreational needs."

An elimination of \$2 million for acquisition at Sinkyone Wilderness SP with reasoning being within the limited reserves and needed closer to population center areas.

In a final capital outlay line item, a re-appropriation (add on, that is) amount not to exceed \$1 million as cited in a line item from the budget act of 1984 for Seccombe Lake SRA. "I am reserving the remaining \$2,176,000 of the appropriation and would support legislation to reappropriate this balance for development at Seccombe Lake, provided that all operational responsibilities and costs for this facility are reassumed by the City of San Bernardino or another nonstate agency".

So goes the blue pencil for this fiscal year. If you wish to read further, check the Budget Act of 1985-86 otherwise known as SB 150 (chapter 111), all 582 pages. As a closure, a reminder to those that have ideas on legislation that CSPRA would be interested in supporting or working against, please let us know. Ken Gray is CSPRA's liason with the planning and Conservation League of which we are a Board of Directors member.

All errors in interpretation of the above topics and submissions are the sole responsibility of the authors. Any questions or suggestion, please contact me at P.O. Box 3639, Idyllwild, CA 92349.



LETTERS

Mr. Jeffery B. Price, Pres.

Dear Mr. Price,

The fine gift of "State Parks of California" sent to me compliments of the State Park Rangers Association is deeply appreciated. Having been an observer through some of the era documented in this report it was a pleasure to recall faces, facts and the many accomplishments. In addition I was delighted to read about an earlier era which was so important in setting the programs, policies and philosophies which are a foundation for the California State Park System today.

The report certainly is valuable as an historical document. I also believe it will help and guide those of us fortunate enough to be on the commission today. Please express my thanks to your association.

Sincerely,

Ray Nesbit

(Raymond J. Nesbit is a Parks and Recreation Commission Member.)

Hi Doug,

I earned my private pilots license and bought an airplane - age 64/
Now, am preparing for my first parachute jump!!

I am going to Rabaul Popue New Guinea, this winter!

Think I'll live to be 100 years and 1 day!

Bob Perkins

(Bob is a retired member/Ranger)

Dear Editors:

In your August edition, your story on AB 1427 (dealing with transient occupancy taxes) did not correctly identify the author of the bill. He is Assemblyman Jim Costa (D. Fresno). Thank you calls and letters should be directed to Assemblyman Costa. If you could run this correction in the next newsletter, it would be most helpful. Many Thanks.

Sincerely,

Gerald H. Meral

Executive Director

(Gerald Meral is with the Planning and Conservation League)



EDITOR'S PAGE

WALKING BOUNDARIES

I will opt for conservation, but if this property becomes an island in a sea of asphalt, it will preserve little. There must be many such tracts, in order to save a significant part of the region's plants and animals. All of them will have to be protected against short-sighted exploitation. Some proponents of development will claim that "wildlife refuge," "open space," and "endangered species" are nothing more than empty words, piled up to block progress. The words themselves are empty: They have meaning and usefulness only in proportion to the amount of detail that backs them up. We must be prepared to describe what it is about wildness that we want to preserve. It is easy to forget the details, to forget about duck nests and walking ferns. The best way to remember, the best way to restock with a fresh supply of reasons, is to walk a boundary again.

All of us have boundaries that we can walk, whether or not we have title to land. Boundaries are, by definition, those places that we don't get to visit very often. They are nevertheless places that are important to us, whether they be sources of nourishment or inspiration a wheat field or a volcano. Our ever-increasing human population needs ever more resources to support it. Demands for energy, food, raw materials, and recreation are scarring the most remote deserts and beaches, the vastest forests, the deepest lakes. We must take the time to go and see what is happening, to find out what is new, and while we are there take note of what it is that we might lose.

It is easy to get caught up in daily life, whether it is going to the laundromat or weeding strawberries. It is easy to say that change cannot be stopped, that the land has been through changes before, and survived. Indeed, the land has changed and survived. The stone walls ringing my woods are proof of that. But the current changes promise to have more far-reaching consequences than any that have occurred before. Ground water is being contaminated, soil is eroding, more and more species are going extinct. Change cannot be halted, but it can be directed. A greater understanding of our boundaries will give us some of the power and the wisdom we need.

Roger B. Swain

Wildness is precious to me. All my life I've been in it, or around it. Spending my summers and "free" time as a child in the upper Sierra, living in the Montana openness, working in some of California's finest spaces. When I'm not in it, it's in me. Though, in my 30 years I've begun to see less and less of it. I worry that my girls, when they're grown, won't have it at their finger tips as I have.

Therefore, I'm proud to be a part of a profession that stands and lives to preserve wildness. There may be less in 30 more years, but there will be some. Because of what I do and what others are doing, at least there will be some.

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

name: _____

street: _____

city: _____ St: _____

zip: _____

clip and mail to Doug
Bryce, CSPRA P.O. Box
28366, Sacramento CA
95828

SALE ITEMS

PIG\$18.00

Decals-3"\$ 1.00

Decals-1.5"\$.75

Lapel Pin\$ 2.50

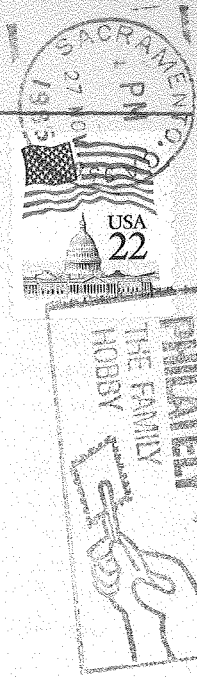
Tie Tac\$ 3.00

Patch\$ 3.00

Trivia\$ 2.00

order from Doug Bryce
P.O. Box 28366
Sacramento CA 95828

BULLETIN: We deeply regret to announce that Jim Whitehead died of heart failure on Saturday November 16, 1985. Jim spent the day working at Torrey Pines, then went home and laid down to rest. He never awakened. Our condolences to Peggy, Mike, and the family. Jim will be sadly missed. The family has requested that any remembrances be sent to C S P R A.



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CHANGE OF ADDRESS Contact Doug Bryce.

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