

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION



EOC: PARKS CHIEF
HARASSED BLACK"

by Thorne Gray,
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Bee - 1986

From an article that
appeared in the BEE
Sept. 20th.

"The federal Equal
Employment Opportunity
Commission has found
"reasonable cause" to
conclude that the
state's parks and
recreation director,
William Briner, and his
chief deputy forced the
department's highest
ranking black employee
to leave her job by
harassing her over her
race and sex, The Bee
learned Friday.

Briner said he was
"shocked" at the
findings.

The commission said
"credible witnesses"
had come forward to say
that Briner "routinely"
referred to minorities
in terms such as
"nigger, spear-chucker,
wop, nip broad and
spic."

In addition, the
commission said it
learned that Briner
referred to the
complainant, former
Deputy Director of
Administrative Services
Silvester Widemon, as

turn to page-5

LAKE NATOMA: from
the Community
Task Force to
Stop Commercialization
of Lake Natoma

On August 12, 1986 the
State Parks and
Recreation Commission
made an unjustified
decision regarding the
proposed overnight

recreational vehicle
campground, store, snack
bar and motor boat
rental facility at
Nimbus Flat on Lake
Natoma.

In spite of near-univer-
sal opposition to the
proposed project by
individuals, organiz-
ations and

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NOVEMBER, 1986

IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

CSPRA President Rick Farmer addresses some of the
Associations activities over the past few months. As
well as those events that tend to touch us in our
profession.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

Sinkyone wilderness, the Bottle Bill and a NPS fee
increase. These articles will bring you up to date on
some of our past and most pressing issues. A real
surprise wint Sinkyone - it ends on a happy note.

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GOLDMINING:

A training course by Inland Region surpasses all
others.

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EEOC CHARGES ON DEPARTMENTAL MANASMENT:

Along with our feature article on the front page read
a reaction from The BEE in the form of an editorial.
This is a sampling of writings popping up statewide.

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THANKS TO CSPRA MEMBERS:

Borrego Springs Principal Shanda Smiths writes a
touching letter thanking those who donated to the
Tamey Hendrix Sixth Grade Camp Memorial Fund.

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OF COURSE - LAST PAGE:

Shaun Fahey's murder suspect awaits his trial on the
17th. CSPRA welcomes five new members. And a new
feature: photographs of missing children. Perhaps you
will recognize one of these.

have a look!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Rick Parmer

Staffing Campaign

The Planning and Conservation League has completed the nation-wide survey of state park fee structures. This information will be helpful in our discussions with the administration and legislature. Our staffing coalition is scheduled to meet soon after the November election to consider a cooperative strategy that will propose longer term solutions for budget increases. New revenue sources that aren't affected by the Gann spending limit, the role of volunteers, and building a good case before the legislature and public are issues we expect to be covered.

Fundraising

CSPRA has engaged the services of a fundraising firm to assist us in upgrading our publications, marketing our 1987 conference, and mounting a membership campaign. Chew and Associates are also working with the State Parks Foundation on the Mount Diablo summit house project. Linda Chew, one of the partners, is the former Development Director for the East Bay Regional Park District.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

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The content of the NEWSLETTER is the sole responsibility of the editor, and may not always reflect the opinion of individual CSPRA officers.

SINKYONE WILDERNESS

a last update

The Georgia-Pacific Corp. will turn over 7000 acres of timberland. GP will donate about half of the land to the Trust for Public Land.

TPL will acquire the other half of the land by exchanging other timberlands in the area.

"Opposition from the county Board of Supervisors and the union (International Woodworkers of America) had been instrumental in blocking expansion of the wilderness area. Last year, Governor Deukmejian vetoed a \$7 million appropriation for land acquisition."

-S.F. Chronicle

Ed's note:

Trust for Public Land worked tirelessly on this and CSPRA's Tom Nixon and Gar Salzgeber offered active support during the past year. CSPRA was responsible for getting national attention for the issue in the Christian Science Monitor.

It will eventually become part of Sinkyone Wilderness and includes old growth Sally Bell Grove. ++

BOTTLE BILL PASSED

penny deposit imposed

Governor Deukmejian signed a bill to impose a deposit on bottles and cans and create recycling centers.

This may end two decades of bitter fighting over the issue among environmentalists and the beverage industry.

Manufacturers of aluminum, glass and plastic containers will pay one cent per container into a special state account, which will start Sept. 1, 1987.

If recycled levels for a particular material do not reach 65 percent by 1990 the deposit rate would go to 2 cents and 3 cents by 1992.

Ed's Note:

CSPRA gave \$\$\$ to CAW to assist them with this bill. Hopefully this will help to reduce trash on State Beaches and in Parks.

The plan was sponsored by Assemblyman Burt Margolin, D-Los Angeles.

There will be some 2000 recycling centers statewide to accept returned containers. ++

MORE \$\$\$ TO ENTER NPS UNITS

"The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, endorsing a Reagan administration request...voted to more than double nation park entrance fees.

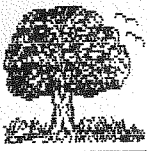
(The)...Legislation would allow the NPS to charge a maximum entrance fee of \$7.50 per vehicle, up from the \$3 in effect since 1972.

The bill would allow walk-up fees of \$3...and raise the cost of the Golden Eagle pass for unlimited annual admissions from \$10 to \$25." ++

CSPRA DIRECTOR TOM NIXON RESIGNS

In a letter to President Farmer, Tom Nixon offers his resignation, saying: "I'm finding it increasingly difficult to fully commit myself to the position for reasons of work and family."

To replace Tom's position Farmer appointed Syd Brown as Director. Syd of, Nevada City, will complete Tom's term, after which elections will be held.



CSFRA

A

SMALL TASTE OF THE PAST

"...and here were we poor souls living almost out of doors. Sometimes of a morning I would come out of the wagon (that has been our bed room ever since we left the States) and find the tent blown down and the shed under which I cooked blown over and my utensels lying in all directions, fire out, and it pouring down as tho the clouds had burst. Sometimes I would scold and fret, other times I would endure it in mute agony..."

from A Letter Home,
written by the Yuba
River, May 19th, 1805

by Mrs. C.M. Berry
goldminer

And on went
the life of a
goldminer. A
life that a
handful of
Rangers and
interpreters
experienced.
Compliments of
Inland Region.

We learned of
the rigors,
the shattered
dreams, the
elation and
the day to day
struggles for
existence.

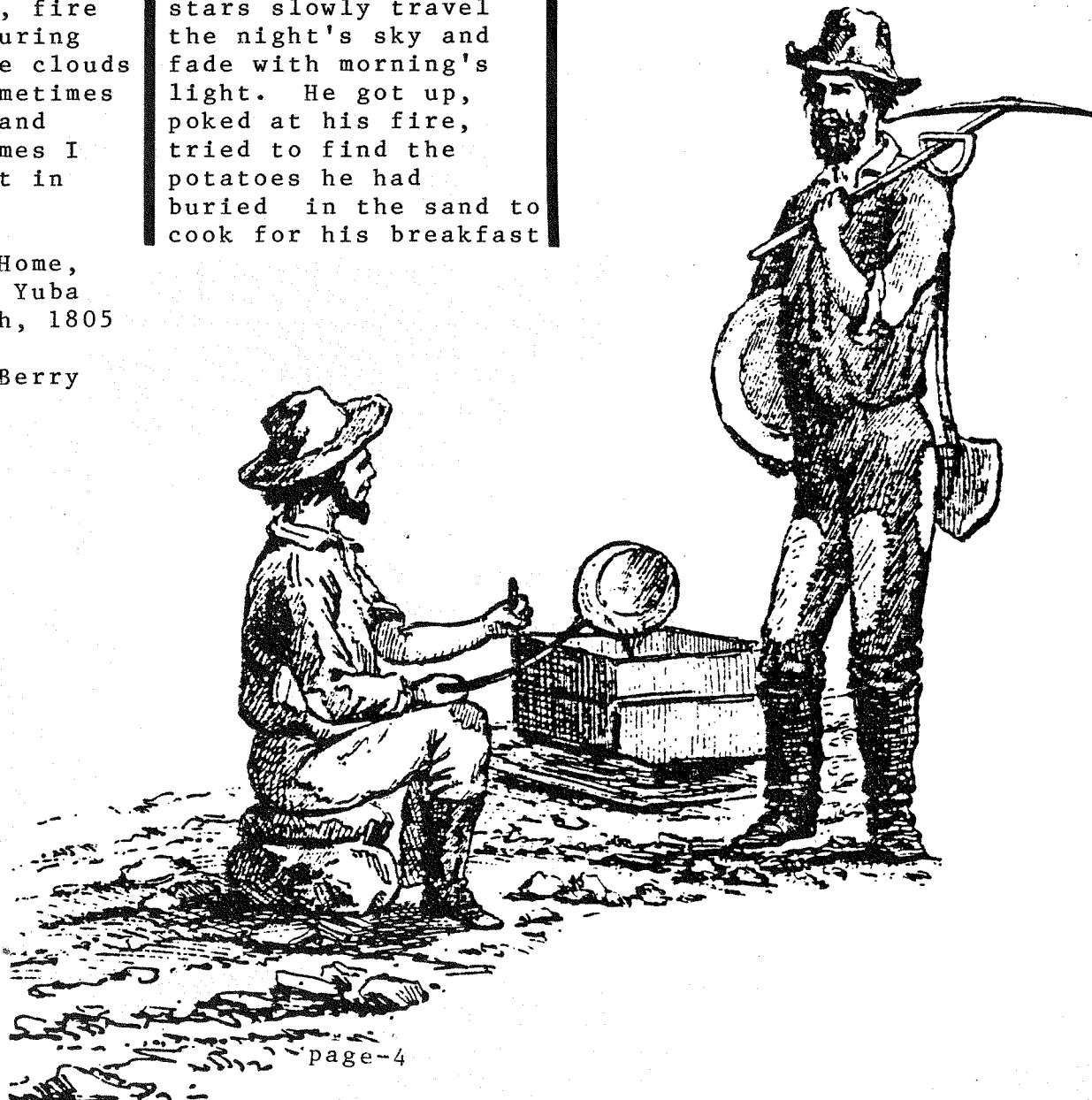
By the end of the course I could imagine a miner living on the banks of a northern California river, hoping for the big strike. I could almost feel the miner long for morning light after a long cold and comfortless night. Maybe, his body aching from the chill and his bones sore from the hard, unpadded ground, he watched the stars slowly travel the night's sky and fade with morning's light. He got up, poked at his fire, tried to find the potatoes he had buried in the sand to cook for his breakfast

and looked forward to another day of hunting for the color.

Most who participated said it was the best course they had taken in their carriers.

To Donna Pozzi and her team that organized it:

-Damn, it was one hell of a program.



EEOC from page-1

"it."

Briner's chief deputy, Garth Tanner, carried on a "vendetta" against Widemon, referring to her as "fat and lazy, incompetent" and unworthy of her position except for being black, the investigating agency said.

...Contacted in Morro Bay by telephone, Briner said he was shocked at the commission findings and surprised he had not been interviewed....

...Widemon filed her complaint with the federal investigators last year after taking an early retirement. She asked the commission to award her two years of lost salary plus 11 percent more in retirement benefits for longer service.

... He (Briner) suggested Widemon was angry because she was ineligible for early retirement benefits. He insisted she had not been forced into early retirement.

...Under the law, the commission must now try to mediate a settlement between the department and Widemon. If that fails, the department can be taken to court..." ++

LAKE NATOMA from page-1

government entities, the Commission decided to approve a fifty unit overnight recreational vehicle campground with the condition that a review be made in two years to determine if additional recreational campground units, a store, and motorboat rental facility should be added to the already approved portion of the project.

In all probability

IN ALL PROBABILITY THIS WOULD BECOME A TYPICAL CASE OF THE CONCESSIONAIRES BECOMING ESTABLISHED AT THE SITE AND ULTIMATELY OBTAINING THE TOTAL ORIGINAL PROPOSED PROJECT...

this would become a typical case of the concessionaire becoming established at the site and ultimately obtaining the total original proposed project consisting of the following:

1. A minimum of one hundred fifty overnight Recreation Vehicle campground units.
2. Store
3. Snackbar
4. Fishing/Interpretive Tour Boats.

The Community Task Force to Stop Commercialization of Lake Natoma feels that because of significant deficiencies in the State Park and Recreation Department's Environmental Impact Report, and because of certain procedure irregularities, a legal challenge to the approved project is appropriate.

We must be prepared to start the lawsuit as early as possible because of the statutory requirement that a lawsuit be initiated within 30 days after

filing of the Notice of Determination by the State Department of Parks and Recreation. The Notice of Determination has not been filed as of this date, but filing is expected in the very near future. We wish to emphasize that if we fail to contest the Commission's action within the prescribed 30-day period, we have no further recourse.

The Community Task Force is presently in the process of contacting all who oppose the project and informing them of the proposed lawsuit. ++



CSFRA

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Editorials

The charges against William Briner

If state Department of Parks and Recreation Director William Briner's problems with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission were the first he'd had with charges that he "routinely" uses racial slurs about minorities, one might dismiss them as stretchers told by disgruntled employees. But Briner had the same problem two years ago, when confirmation of his appointment to the parks and recreation post was held up on similar charges. Eventually he publicly apologized for any racially offensive thing he might have said and was confirmed.

If the EEOC's most recent allegations are true, Briner, for all his apologies, still has a propensity to use words such as "nigger," "spear-chucker," "wop," "nip," "broad" and "spic." A nice, evenhanded form of bigotry, one might say, in which all minorities are equally demeaned, but bigotry all the same.

To make things worse, the EEOC found "reasonable cause" to conclude that Briner and his chief deputy, Garth Tanner, forced the department's highest ranking black employee, Silvester Widemon, to take early re-

tirement by harassing her about her race and sex.

The details of the EEOC case aren't crucial here. The commission now must negotiate a settlement of Widemon's complaint or, if it fails, sue the department for a settlement on her claim for payment of lost salary, additional pension benefits and punitive damages.

But the prime issue to be resolved is what Gov. Deukmejian's office is doing about Briner and Tanner. There is already said to be an investigation under way, though for the moment no one is saying any more about it.

That investigation should be as vigorous as possible and, if it confirms the charges for which the EEOC found reasonable cause, Briner (and perhaps Tanner, too) should be fired. It also should be swift. There is no possible way that Briner can be effective as long as such charges hang over him. The issue here is not only bigotry, but also what those epithets say about the kind of person he is.



Borrego Springs

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT • P.O. BOX 235

BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA 92004

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go, yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day,
You tell me of our future that you planned
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad.

by: Christina Rossetti

Dear Members of the California State Park Rangers Association,

Thank you for your donation to the Tammy Crawford Hendrix Sixth Grade Camp Memorial Fund. Tammy felt this yearly trip was one of the most beneficial events of the year. It was always her worry that some student would not be able to go because the parents could not afford the fees. It is certainly a fitting memorial by which to remember her.

The Crawford's and Jim Hendrix will be receiving a list of the donors. Once again the school appreciates your contribution.

Sincerely,

Shanda G. Smith
Principal



CSPRA



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SUSPECT WILL BE TRIED IN PARK AIDE'S KILLING

from the Santa Cruz Sentinel copyright 1986

"Murder suspect Nathan William Seaman, free on \$50,000 bail, will be tried on a charge of first-degree murder in November in connection with the strangulation death of a Big Basin State Park aide in 1983.

Seaman, 22,...is charged with the murder of Shaun Fahey, 24 whose body was found in March 1984 in a wooded canyon off Highway 1, south of Carmel.

...Seaman is back working and attending school... the murder trial will begin Nov. 17 in Superior Court in Salinas.

The case against Seaman was dismissed once, after a judge ruled testimony by an astrologer was inadmissible in Seaman's preliminary hearing. ++

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

ROD PARSONS

San Mateo Coast Dist

BRENDA C. ELAZIER

Russian River Dist.

MARY ANNE ANGLE

Benicia Capitol SHP

NOELLE E. HOLLOWAY

Candlestick Point

FUSAKO ARLENE YAKATOBI

Candlestick Point

Remember! Every new member receives a free CSPRA mug.

And everyone who signs a new member up also gets a mug.

Now is the time to act, join and become active with the Professional Association. Receive benefits that include educational and training grants.

Support the profession

MISSING

If you have any information that could lead to the recovery of this missing child, call 800-843-5678

For more information or for posters write: the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 1835 K St N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20006.



15. Christi Dianne Proctor
DOB: 2/29/76 Dallas, TX