

NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

VOLUME VI NUMBER 7

April - May 1989

125TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE FORMED

by Susan Ross

A joint steering committee of CSPRA, SPPOAC, and DPR has recently been set up to coordinate a commemorative celebration of the 125th anniversary of the California State Park Ranger Service, which occurs in 1991. President Donald Murphy has appointed Susan Ross to serve as CSPRA's representative on the committee and Mike Lynch is representing SPPOAC. DPR's representative has not been selected but an appointment is expected soon.

The group will cooperate on numerous programs and activities designed to highlight the professional evolution of the State Park Ranger; to recognize a century and a quarter of superior public service; to pay tribute to all who have been a part of the past; and to highlight commitment to continued excellence in the future.

Anyone interested in hearing more about this celebration may contact Susan Ross at Delta District, (916) 777-5361. 🍏

BUD CAUGHELL DIES

Peggy Whitehead notified us that Bud Caughell, a retired charter member, died on Wednesday March 15, 1989. All who knew Bud will certainly miss him. 🍏

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: A JOINT SUCCESS AT BRANNAN ISLAND SRA by Rick LeFlore, SPR II, State Park System Planning

In April of this year, over 70 third graders from Pittsburg's Highlands Elementary School found new meaning to the word "IDEA." In this case, "IDEA" stood for Interrelationships, Diversity, Ecosystems, and Adaptations: basic principles that the pilot environmental education program was built upon at Brannan Island State Recreation Area.

A joint effort of DPR, the Headlands Institute, the California State Parks Foundation, and the Pittsburg Unified School District, this program is designed to provide an environmental education experience for students from urban areas while fostering an awareness and appreciation of State Parks.

In this comprehensive program, students actually began their experiences back in January when teachers started integrating the Brannan Island program into their daily class curriculums. Headlands Institute Staff, as well as SPR I Joann Ellison-LeFlore, soon followed up with classroom visits. In April, each of the four classes then spent two days and one night at Brannan Island SRA learning about the river delta, its seasons, the relationships of plants and wildlife and the delta's importance to the people of California.

(Continued on page 3)



Environmental Education Class at Brannan Island SRA.

**THE CALIFORNIA
STATE PARK RANGERS
ASSOCIATION**

A professional association.

Office of the
Executive Manager
Doug Bryce
P. O. Box 28366
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 383-2530

PRESIDENT
Don Murphy
(714) 780-6222

VICE PRESIDENT
Bud Getty
(408) 335-9145

TREASURER
Kevin Joe
(707) 877-3592

DIRECTORS
Donna Pozzi
Jeff Price

NEWSLETTER
Doug Bryce, Editor
Susan Ross, Ass't. Editor

CAL RANGER
(Vacant)

For additional information on the association,
write the
Executive Manager.

President's Message

Your mission, should you decide to accept it, "...is to acquire, preserve, protect, develop and interpret for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the people of the state of a balanced system of areas of outstanding scenic, recreational and historic importance..." Further complicating your mission is the charge that, "...these areas shall be held in trust as irreplaceable portions of California's natural and historic heritage." As usual, should you or any of your staff be get caught actually fulfilling this mission, the administration will deny any knowledge of your actions.

What makes any mission difficult is not the mission itself, rather it is the opposition faced in carrying out the mission. The first state-wide superintendent's conference I attended spent some time exploring the Department's mission. We actually tried to come up with a mission statement. For an organization to be confused about its mission is usually a sign of poor or no leadership. At that same conference we studied the popular videos of our time which outlined what an organization had to do to achieve excellence. Chief among the criteria for excellence is a clear understanding of the organization's mission.

Those of you who are familiar with the Public Resources Code will recognize the "impossible mission" statement in the first paragraph as an excerpt from the preamble to the State Park and Recreation Commission section on policy. The mission is further defined in Division 5, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 5003. With such a clear mission statement, our department has clearly achieved the first goal in establishing excellence. Or has it? It is not enough for an organization to have a mission statement. The mission must be accomplished. We enjoyed watching the television program, "Mission Impossible," because of vicarious excellence we achieved as a result of the IM force's success week after week. The greater risk involved in achieving success, the greater the degree of excellence.

Our Department, like the IM force, is faced with difficult obstacles to accomplishing its mission. Courage, patience, singleness of purpose, and a (Continued on page 4.)

The **NEWSLETTER** (ISSN 0887-9176) is published by CSPRA, P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA 95828.

The **NEWSLETTER'S** Editor is Doug Bryce; contributing editors and authors are as noted. Articles are welcome, 1000 words or less. All submissions become the property of CSPRA and may be edited without notice.

Hi! I'M THE OHV

by Morgan Zeitler
(Continued from page 4.)

Second is the fact that many state parks with unique scenic values and natural features were being increasingly damaged by OHV users whose access to any public land within a reasonable distance from their homes was almost nonexistent.

Rather than continue a policy of endless fence mending and stop-gap enforcement, the Department made the decision to take an active part in OHV management. The rationale is simple enough; perhaps no other agency is better equipped than DPR to manage OHV use. Our personnel have the resource management skills and experience necessary to mitigate the worst impacts of OHV use. More important is our concern for the environment and the real desire to protect it from unnecessary degradation. In other words, if OHV use exists it should be properly managed, and who better to manage it than ourselves if DPR's goals of recreation and resource management are to be met?

It must also be remembered that the OHV user underwrites the entire program. A 1% gasoline tax and OHV registration fees are the funding sources for everything from land acquisition to ranger staff salaries. The OHV user has said in effect "I'm tired of being run out of every park in the state. Here's the money. Find me a place where I won't be bothered and I'll buy it." What other segment of the outdoor recreating public has borne so much of the cost of providing for their own activity?

The Department has since acquired a handful of areas that are designated for OHVs. While no

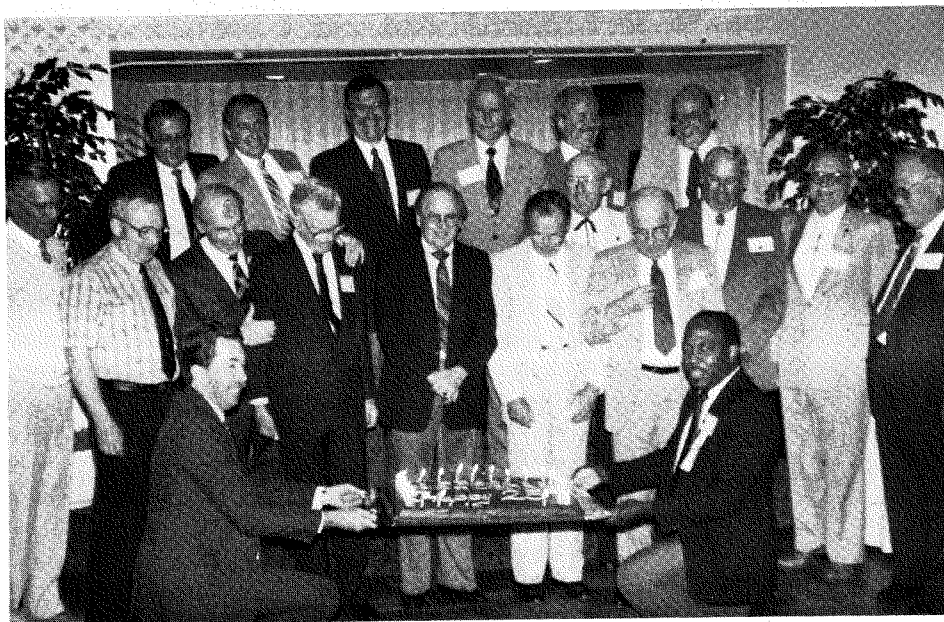
land is devoid of natural, cultural, or scenic values, these areas are generally marginal in the resources that could qualify them for traditional park status. Which is not to say that the Department has sacrificed its OHV parks to wanton destruction. Far from it. In fact, no units in the State Park System are as intensely managed for resource protection. OHV units have large and ongoing programs to control soil erosion and stream sedimentation, vegetation damage, and adverse impacts on wildlife and their habitat. We take our resource management responsibilities seriously. We're committed to it personally as well as professionally.

So the next time you meet a ranger from OHV, be kind. We're on your side. 🍏

OHV PERMIT SYSTEM FOR ANZA BORREGO DEFEATED

Senate Bill 603 by Cecil Green, Doolittle, and Maddy died in committee. This bill would have required the Department to set up a permit system allowing the use of off-highway motor vehicles at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. CSPRA has been leading the fight against the use of Green Sticker vehicles at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park for several years. (See letter from Senator Presley regarding this issue on page 10.) 🍏

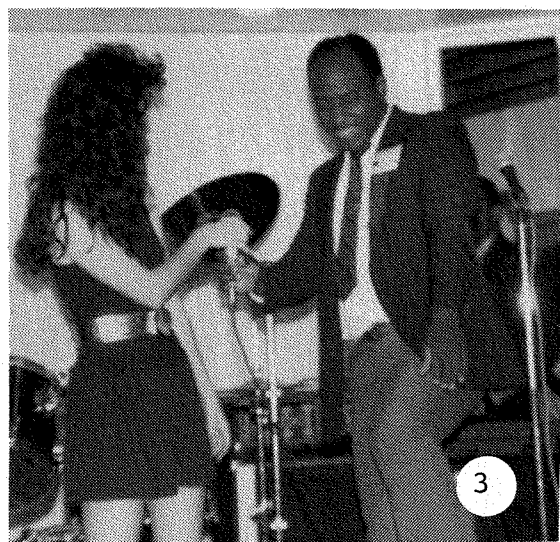
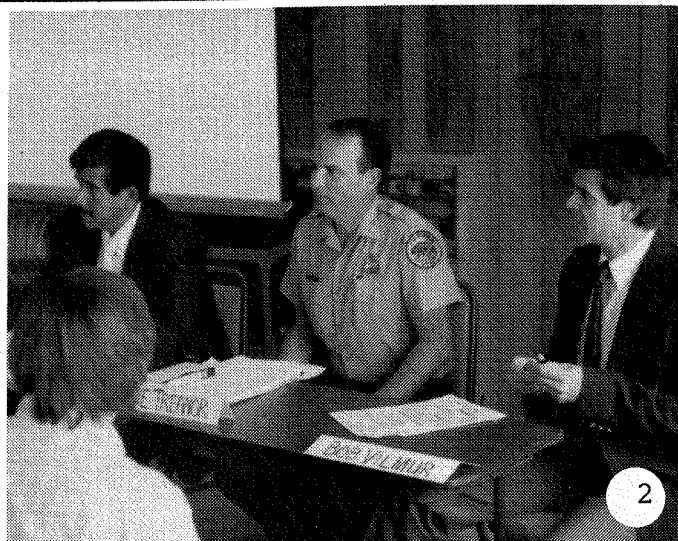
CHARTER MEMBERS HONORED



Charter members in attendance at Palm Springs were introduced and presented a cake by the Park Rangers Association of California. Top Row: Al Ulm, Jerry Johnson, Ron McCall, Milt Frincke, Jim Geary, and Kirk Wallace. Bottom Row: Bill Reinhardt, Herman Schlerf, Chuck Lyden, Phil Van Duesen, Ron McCullogh, Chuck Mehlert, Jim Davis, Joe McCall, Wes Cater, Dick Brock, and Doug Bryce.

Kneeling with cake: Bob Foster, Conference Chair, and President Don Murphy.

1989 CONFERENCE IN PICTURES



Save Bodie!

P.O. Box 28366
Sacramento, California 95828-0366
916/383-2530

April 9, 1989

Dear Friend:


The old frontier mining of Bodie, the best known and most interesting ghost town in the American West, is threatened by a major gold mining proposal. Galactic Resources Ltd. of Vancouver, Canada is behind the effort. There are strong indications that they will develop an open pit mine and remove the entire ridge behind the town. The cyanide leaching process typically used would enable them to extract gold from some 25 million tons of low-grade ore. Friends of Bodie fear that this massive industrial enterprise will permanently destroy Bodie's natural environment and ruin the hauntingly quiet, stark, and lonely setting of the state historic park.

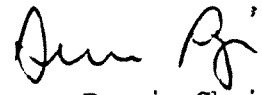
Once a wild and woolly boom town of some 10,000 people, Bodie has survived fire, weather, and other threats for more than a century. Today it is protected in a state of arrested decay by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. But Bodie's setting in a natural basin, high in the eastern Sierra, is an integral and important part of Bodie's meaning to present and future generations. And even the old buildings within the town itself could be destroyed by the confusion, vandalism, constant truck traffic, and 24-hour-a-day blasting that are part of a major open pit mining operation.

A disturbing indication of Galactic's environmental attitude is contained in an investment research report prepared by Kitcat, Aitken & Company for distribution to prospective investors in Galactic Resources Ltd. This report states that if a cyanide leach plant is not permitted by California, "Galactic has a contingency plan whereby ore could be transported by conveyor across the Nevada state line where the environmental lobby is not so strong."

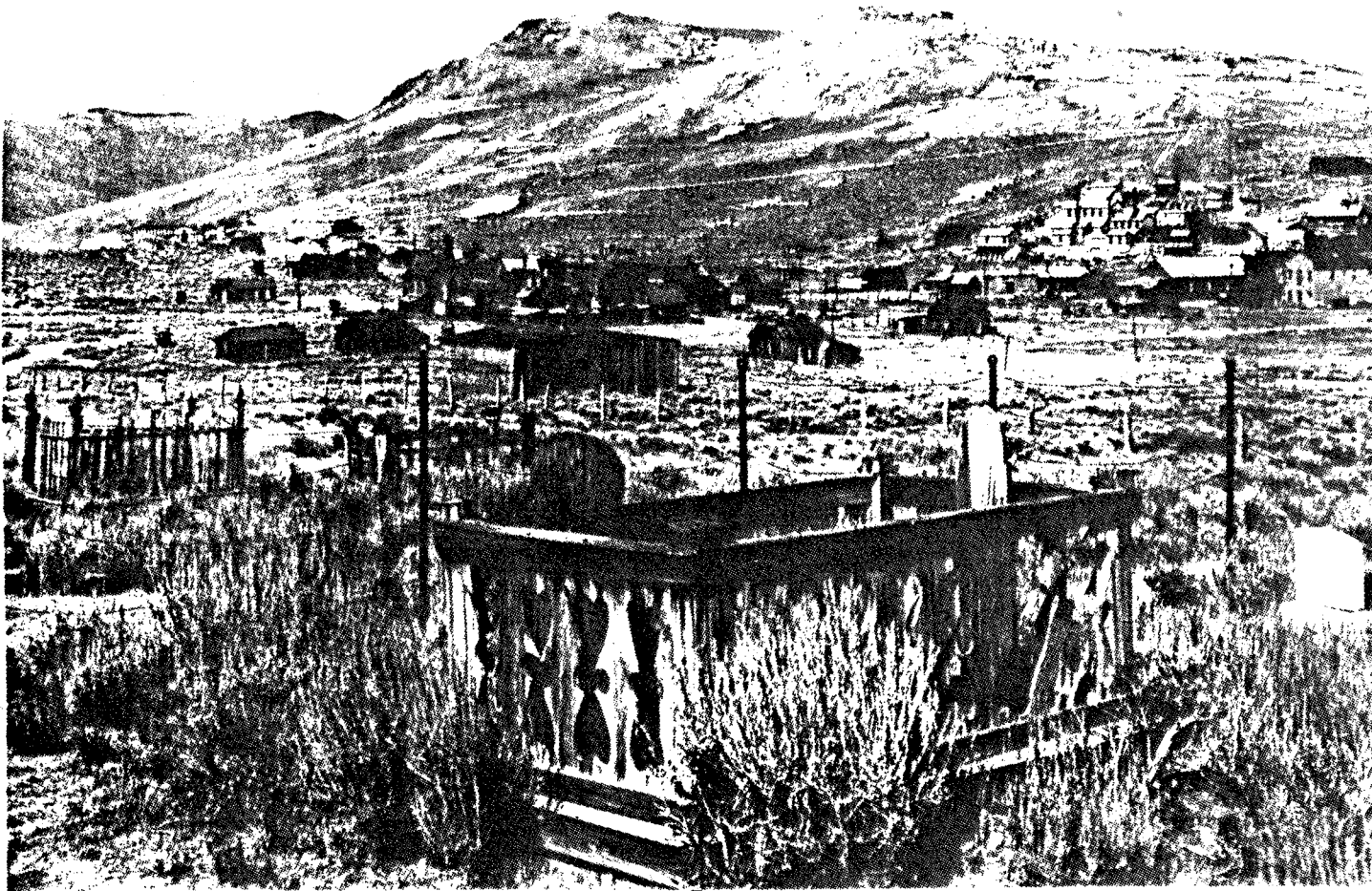
The SAVE BODIE! committee of the California State Park Rangers Association needs your help. If you love the Sierra and its past, our history and heritage, let your feelings be known. If you want to help, write us and we will provide further information. Mobilize your organization through its newsletter. Write letters to the Governor, your local legislators, and the Mono County Board of Supervisors, who will be issuing the mining permits. (We'd like copies for our records, too.) Tell everyone you know of the threat to Bodie. Funds to carry on the fight are also needed. Please respond using the attached form.

People love Bodie, and working together, we can save it. Please help.


Donald Murphy, President
California State Park
Rangers Association


Donna Pozzi, Chair
SAVE BODIE! Committee

Save Bodie! is a committee of the California State Park Rangers Association.



Bodie Townsite, Photo by Philip Hyde

SAVE BODIE!

Name_____

Affiliation_____

Address_____

Phone # (____) _____

___I want more information

___I want to be actively involved

___Here is my contribution to SAVE BODIE!

(Make checks payable to CSPRA)

May we use your name? ___yes ___no

SAVE BODIE!

P. O. Box 28366

Sacramento, CA 95828-0366

(916) 383-2530

SAVE BODIE! is a committee of the California State Park Rangers Association

RETIRED MEMBER INFORMATION

INSTRUCTIONS: Please return completed sheet to Joe McCall at least four (4) weeks prior to retirement date to ensure prompt arrival of CSPRA retirement plaque.

MAIL TO: Joe McCall, Chair
Retired Members Committee
9028 Talisman Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 363-7566

RETIREE'S BACKGROUND

Name to appear on plaque: _____

Location, title, date when hired by DPR as a permanent employee: _____

Date first hired as a seasonal employee (if applicable) _____

Total years with DPR: _____ Total years of State service _____

Ending date, location, and position with DPR: _____

Notable accomplishments during career: _____

The retiree is best remembered by co-workers for being: _____

Name of spouse: _____

Plaque inscription should refer to retiree as a: Ranger; Superintendent; Manager; or _____

Retirement party information (time, date, location): _____

CSPRA member who could present plaque: _____

Coordinator's name and phone number: _____

COMMENTS: _____

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST FORM

INSTRUCTIONS: Please return completed sheet to Frederick Jee, in sufficient time to receive your grant prior to your training.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

CSPRA Member? _____ When did you send your DPR 392 in? _____

Description of Training _____

How will it be of value to you? _____

To the profession? _____

Tuition \$ _____ Materials \$ _____ Travel \$ _____

Miscellaneous \$ _____ Total requested \$ _____

How much will the Department pay? \$ _____

Please attach a copy of your returned DPR 392 and a course announcement. Send to:

Frederick Jee, Chairperson

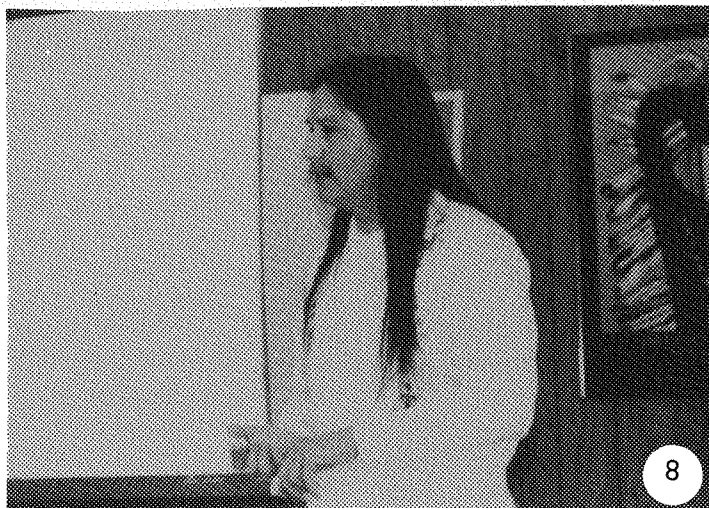
Education and Training Committee

P. O. Box 483

Borrego Springs, CA 92004



7



8



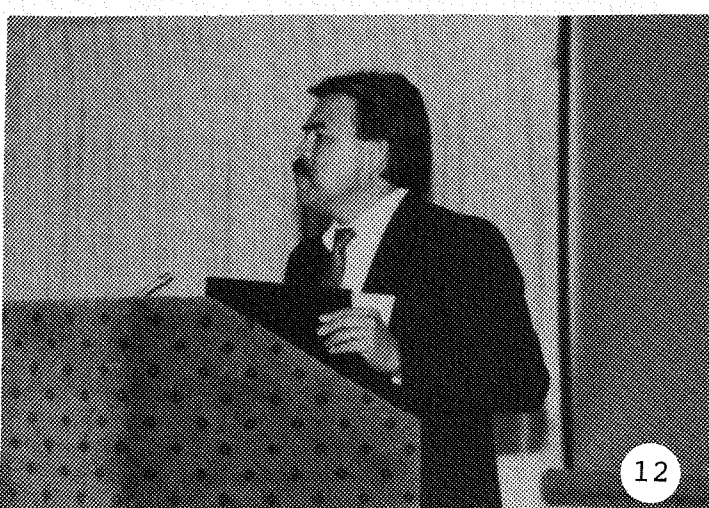
9



10



11



12

1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11: educational sessions; 3. Don Murphy assisting band; 4. Donna Pozzi talking with a presenter; 6. Don Murphy and Bud Getty reviewing Certificate of Recognition from Senator Ruben S. Ayala; 8. Jose Rivera making presentation on Native American reburial; 12. DPR Director Henry R. Agonia. (Photos on page 6 courtesy of Jeff Price.)

"WATERBIRDS FOR EVERYONE"

by Kevin Joe

"Waterbirds for Everyone" was a 2-1/2-day course given by Rich Stallcup through Point Reyes National Seashore. I arrived armed with my bird books, binoculars, and enough rain gear for the whole group. Luckily the weather was fine.

Friday evening was spent acquainting ourselves with various types of waterbirds using slides and some reprints of articles Rich had written for the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. By the end of the evening I felt confident about spotting the differences between Pelagic, Brandt's, and Double-crested cormorants, and possibly recognizing a few other waterbirds. I came to the conclusion that gulls and ducks must be the beginning birder's nightmare. Immature birds are a close second. Seasonal and intermediate plumage differences are my excuses for not having grasped gull identification. Let me explain. There are three distinctive plumages prior to the fourth, which is adult plumage (adults are those from age 3 1/2 onward). Now with 8 species of gulls multiplied by 4 different plumages we get 32 dissimilar gulls. I was relieved that not even experts like Rich can identify every gull seen, and that among adult gulls there is one way to divide them. "Typical gulls, or those gulls with entirely white bodies and grey mantles (back and upper wing surface) as adults, may be quickly broken down into two groups: the large, pink-legged types and the smaller, non-pink-legged types."

Saturday morning we walked around the Limantour lagoon, seashore, and Muddy Hollow area. There were lots of ducks: pintails,

ruddy, widgeons, and coots dabbling and diving (the two generalized feeding behaviors used to divide ducks) around the pond at Muddy Hollow. As the tide receded, more mudflats were exposed, which increased the number of shorebirds we saw. It is always a good idea to consult a tide table before heading out to the seashore.

We watched a great blue heron catch a 12" striped bass. The heron managed to swallow it whole, but looked a bit ruffled afterwards.

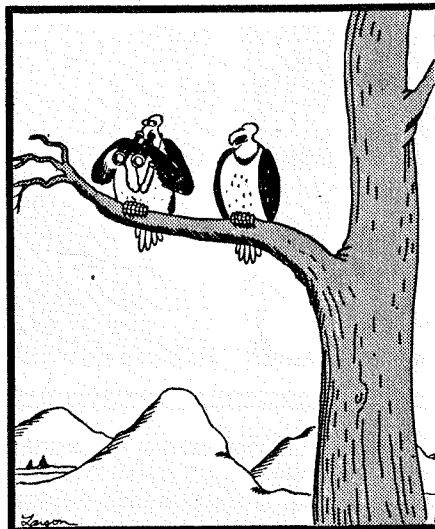
They must learn quickly to swallow fish head first so the spines don't catch on the way down.

Sunday was spent birding in a variety of habitats around Point Reyes from the Chimney Rock area to the Bolinas sewer ponds. On the way back from Chimney Rock, I saw my first Peregrine falcon. Rich spotted it three-quarters of a mile away without binoculars and guessed that it was a peregrine. To me it appeared to be a bump on the grassy hillside, but with the spotting scope I could easily recognize the hooded head of the peregrine.

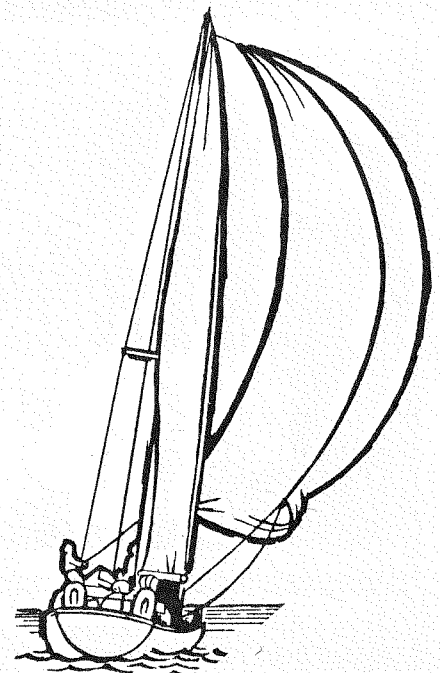
I wasn't expecting to see any owls on this trip, since the emphasis was on waterbirds, and we were only out during daylight hours. Rich surprised all of us by first finding two resident great horned

owls perched in some cypress trees, then in another cypress hedge we got a good view of a barn owl, its white, heart-shaped face peering down upon us. In the past, during daylight, I've been content finding owl pellets (the indigestible balls of fur, feathers, and bones, that owls expel from their crop). Now I'll always look up in the trees when I find any signs of an owl.

Back on patrol at Manchester State Beach, I always have my bird book next to my binoculars in the pickup truck. As I struggle to identify new birds, I appreciate the time spent with an expert birder. Birding involves much more than I thought. Recognizing specific calls, being able to imitate calls, identifying birds by flight pattern and habitat are all fine points which practice will improve. During the Christmas bird count this year, I was still more of a bird spotter than identifier, but I hope my enthusiasm will encourage people I meet in the park to learn more about birds. 🍏



"Julian ... you're cheating."



WETLANDS VAN EXPERIENCE

by Ranger I, Kathy Kinzie

For the past two years in early spring, staff of Brannan Island SRA have worked together with the staff at Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (Department of Fish & Game) to present a series of environmental education programs using DPR's "Wetlands Van."

The goal of the program has been to introduce some basic ecological principles to 4th and 5th grade children, using wetlands as the example ecosystem. The children took walks into Suisun Marsh, where they were able to see salt marsh plants and animals. They also attended a program inside the Wetlands Van, parked at the marsh. Interpretive resources used in the van were: slide projector, freeze-dried animals, and the displays and diorama which are permanently mounted inside the van. The combination of these two programs gives the students an exciting introduction to ecology and wetlands.



The Wetlands Van spends most of the year at San Mateo Coast District, where it is used in a busy schedule of interpretive events. It is, however, available for use throughout the Department, but be sure to make your requests well in advance. The contact person is Lois Harter, SPRII, at San Mateo Coast District. 🍏

BOARD MEETING

The CSPRA Board met on 5/20/89 at the Sacramento Host Inn. The following are highlights of that meeting.

Murphy reported that action had begun or was completed on all 1989 GEC resolutions.

Jennifer Rodriguez was appointed to fill the vacant Director position on the board.

Doug Bryce reported that a meeting will be held in Chico in June to start planning for the 1990 conference.

It was decided that Bud Getty will revive the Park Integrity Committee and develop a new name for it. The committee will identify threats to the integrity of the State Park System and its resources.

The Cooperating Association Committee met at the same time as the board and discussed with the board its goals. It was decided that the committee should: serve as liaison between CSPRA and DPR, the League, and cooperating associations; identify immediate problems; identify needs for increased or different training; and focus attention on DPR's need to manage volunteer program and spend more time working with volunteers.

Susan Ross reported on plans for 1991 celebration of the 125th anniversary of State Park Rangers. Ross is working with Mike Lynch of SPPOAC to plan joint activities for SPPOAC, DPR, and CSPRA.

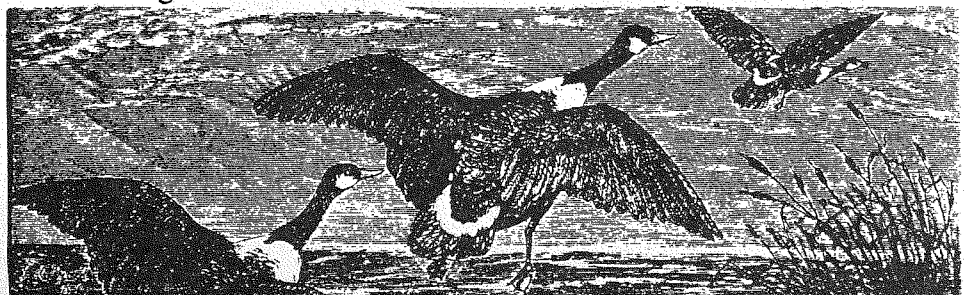
Gary Fregein, representing the California Park & Conservation Association, asked the board for permission to include a flyer regarding this new organization in the CSPRA NEWSLETTER.

Heard an update on Bodie by Donna Pozzi. See article in this issue.

Don Murphy will tour Mount Diablo with Commissioner Ray Nesbitt to discuss cattle grazing and other issues of the General Plan. Bud Getty may attend also.

Don Murphy announced that he will be taking an educational leave for 10 months beginning in July. He will be attending Harvard to get his Masters Degree. Bud Getty will be acting president during the remainder of Don's term.

Next meeting will be in Sacramento on 9/30/89.



SCHOLARSHIPS

A scholarship has been awarded to Rod Parsons, SPR IV, of the Gaviota District. It will enable him to attend a course on Leadership - Lompoc Valley. The grant was for \$200. 🍏

DOUBLE ISSUE

This double issue of the NEWSLETTER is the result of your editor having a little problem with my heart. When I returned from my three-week vacation to Taiwan, I was having angina pains again. I was in the hospital for 4 days having tests performed and then went back again for 3 days to have angioplasty performed (that is where they insert a balloon into your clogged artery and open it up, restoring blood flow to the heart). I am feeling great and will really try to never let this occur again - at least with this excuse. 🍏

WELCOME TO CSPRA

We are glad to introduce these new members to our organization. CSPRA offers a forum for sharing ideas and concerns and a means of making an impact in the professional field of the ranger. There is a place for each of you here, and your commitment to CSPRA requires a commitment to you from this organization. Each of us by getting involved can help the other. Again, welcome to CSPRA. 🍏

Betty A. Paris, Headquarters

Frederica Bowcutt, Headquarters

Kim A. Montgomery, Orange Coast District

Nicholas Franco, Santa Monica Mtns District

James Mike Doyle, Headquarters

Thomas E. Domich, Headquarters

Maryella B. Richardson, Headquarters

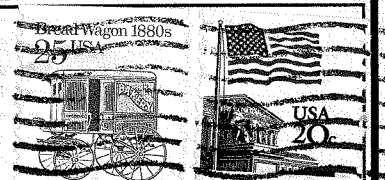
Michael Swezy, Headquarters

Gudrun L. Baxter, Headquarters

Renee Pasquinelli, Northern Region Headquarters

Gerald A. Vinson, Headquarters

California State Park Rangers Association
P. O. Box 28366
Sacramento, CA 95828-0366



Mail to:

JOHN D. MOTT
116 TREETOP DRIVE
SANTA CRUZ CA 95060