

# NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

Volume VI Number 27

March 1991

## Park Bond Acts Introduced & Proposed

AB 72 Cortese has been introduced as a Park Bond Act. It would provide for the following:

a) Local Grants	\$325*
b) Acquisition	75
Development	170
Total SPS	245
c) Sno-Park Program	1
d) Wildlife Conservation Board	70
e) Calif Tahoe Conservancy	50
f) State Coastal Conservancy	60
g) Santa Monica Mts Cons	30
h) DWR Urban Streams	4
i) Dept Boating & Waterways	30
j) Capitol Park Planning & Rehab	2
k) Major Metro Museums	
CA Academy of Sci	10
Mus Sci & Ind	60
l) U C Tahoe Research Facility	11
m) State Lands Comm	
River Riparian Parkways	40
TOTAL	\$928

A bill by McCorquodale as proposed on 12/6/90.

a) Local Grants	\$150
b) State Park System	
Acquisition	35
Development	112
Total SPS	\$147
TOTAL	\$297

\* amounts are in millions

**Spring Workshop  
Gavilan District  
April 12 - 14, 1991  
(See Page 6)**

## Bodie Included in Congressional Testimony

by Donna Pozzi

On February 21, the Congressional Subcommittee on Mining and Natural Resources conducted an oversight hearing on conflicts between historic and cultural resources and surface mining activities. In his opening remarks, Chairman Nick J. Rahall (D. W.Va.) stated "recently proposed . . . gold mining operations on properties located within the historic Bodie Mining District in California have served to remind us that the potential detrimental impacts on historic properties due to mining operations are obviously not limited to coal mining."

Elizabeth Merritt, testifying on behalf of the National Trust for Historic Preservation elaborated: "Ironically, many of the historic resources threatened by hard rock mining activities are historic mining towns themselves. For example, the National Historic Landmark town of Bodie, California is currently severely threatened by BLM's inability or unwillingness to protect historic sites when confronted with the limitations of the 1872 Mining Act. Bodie is one of the best-preserved examples of a 19th-century gold-mining boom town in the entire nation, with more than 100 buildings remaining intact. Despite its remote location in eastern California, nearly 200,000 visitors every year come to Bodie to experience and gain an understanding of this unique chapter in America's history.

"Yet this wonderful time capsule is currently threatened by renewed mining activity. (Continued on page 7)

**THE CALIFORNIA  
STATE PARK RANGERS  
ASSOCIATION**

A professional association.

Executive Manager  
Newsletter Editor

**Doug Bryce**  
P. O. Box 28366  
Sacramento, CA 95828  
(916) 383-2530  
\*\*\*\*\*

PRESIDENT  
**Bud Getty**  
**Santa Cruz Mtns**  
**Superintendent**  
(408) 335-9145  
\*\*\*\*\*

VICE PRESIDENT  
**Rick LeFlore**  
**Delta District Ranger II**  
(916) 777-7705  
\*\*\*\*\*

TREASURER  
**Kate Foley**  
**Lake Oroville, Chief Ranger**  
(916) 538-2208  
\*\*\*\*\*

DIRECTORS  
**Donna Pozzi**  
**Supervisor of Interp. Programs**  
(916) 322-8545  
**Ninan Gordon**  
**SPS Planning**  
(916) 322-8710  
**Ron Schafer**  
**Chino Hills Dist. Sup't.**  
(714) 780-6222  
\*\*\*\*\*

CAL RANGER  
**David Brooks**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**SAVE BODIE!** and all other  
committees use CSPRA address.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I recently read some comments on our Department's current policy on state park fees, which I feel should see the light of day in the CSPRA newsletter. The author of the following has been an information officer with the Department since 1972. Bud Getty

### **Comments on Current State Park Fee Policy** **Larry Paynter 3/5/91**

Since passage of the 1990-91 state budget, state park fee policy has been determined almost exclusively on the basis of revenue requirements. All other aspects of fee policy have been subordinate---only to be considered when ignoring them might actually decrease revenue or when political problems require consideration of other factors.

The revenue-requirements emphasis may actually increase revenue---there really is a big demand for state park use. But that emphasis will not benefit the State Park System; it creates antagonism among the natural friends of state parks. Revenues will never pay the cost of state park operation---not even half the cost. And that does not address the matter of state park acquisition and development; for those costs, revenue is not considered.

But the future of the State Park System depends on its public image. That image has been tarnished since April Fool's Day 1987, when most use fees were increased by a very large percentage in a single year. State park users---people we need for philosophical as well as financial support of the State Park System---were incensed, and our public image has not recovered.

The voters saw the fee increases of April 1987 and September 1990 as simply an effort to make state park users help balance the state budget. We can logically argue that we were just asking users to bear a larger share of the costs of operation, but the people do not buy that argument.

(Continued on page 7)

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. **The deadline for articles is the 15th of the month prior to publication.**

## A Visit With Clyde Strickler and Jake Luskey

by Carl Nielson, Ranger I, Four Rivers Dist

On the morning of December 14, 1990, I met with two retired state park rangers simultaneously: Clyde Strickler and Jake Luskey. Both currently reside in Los Banos; we met at Clyde's home.

Clyde and Jake both have rich histories, and they enjoyed sharing stories of days gone by. Clyde, 70, retired as Area Manager of the Four Rivers Area (now Four Rivers District) in 1981. Jake, 65, retired as State Park Ranger I in 1984 from San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area.

Clyde was born in Colorado but was raised in San Diego County. His career with the Department began in 1948. In addition to the Four Rivers Area, Clyde's resume includes Palomar Mountain State Park, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Los Encinos State Historic Park, Donner Memorial State Park, and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The latter unit, without a doubt, was Clyde's favorite park. He loved its vastness and its high activity ... "Something was always happening," Clyde commented, "whether it was an employee barbecue or a search and rescue incident." Though he loved the public, he also enjoyed the solitude of a Borrego summer.

Jake, on the other hand, is a native of Ten-

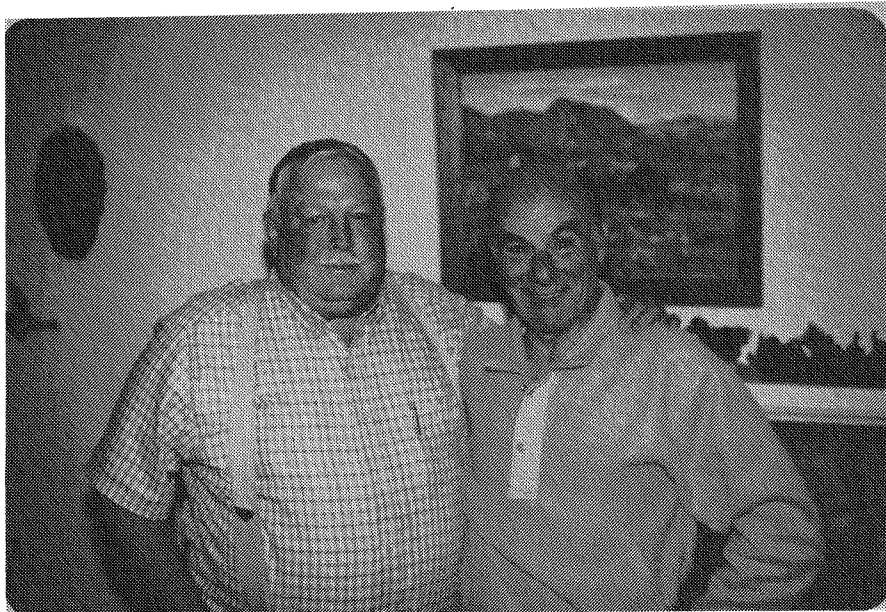
nessee. His state park career began in 1958, with experiences at Angel Island SP, Columbia SHP, the Sierra Area, and San Luis Reservoir SRA. Jake's favorite park? A toss-up between Tahoe and San Luis."

Their paths crossed in 1971 when Jake transferred to San Luis. Jake showed up to work in a body cast made of leather and fiberglass. Jake's supervisor was Clyde. Clyde's reaction when he first saw Jake? "What in the hell is this they sent me?" Jake had a broken back as a result of an incident at the Donner museum. The mountains had received copious amounts of wet snow causing the roof of the museum to sag. Huge beams were brought in to brace the sagging roof. Later, an inmate crew began removing snow from the roof; as this was being done, the roof expanded to its original position. Jake observed one of the beams beginning to fall. He immediately grabbed hold of the beam, preventing it from going through a big plate glass window; however, Jake struck a wall with great

force and heard his back go crack. Jake claims that he didn't get much support from "Sacramento" — he was thankful that Clyde accommodated him. For much of his tenure at San Luis, Jake served as an "administrative ranger," performing budgetary, accounting, and general office

duties. The back injury affects him to this day.

Clyde often talked about Anza-Borrego. "Sea level to peaks over 6000 feet . . . well, (Continued on page 4)



Clyde and Jake

---

## Clyde & Jake

(Continued from page 3)

---

not quite sea level . . . about six foot at Travertine Palms," Clyde bellowed, "so I had the boys go over, dig down to six feet! so I could say truthfully that I had a park from sea level to 6000 feet!" He spoke with much laughter about the time he and three cohorts recovered a six-pack of beer and 91 bottles of wine after learning that a train full of spirits had derailed along the San Diego & Arizona Eastern RR in the southern part of the park. A pack rat in disguise? Or perhaps a vulture — Clyde was well known for his recovery of road kills — bypassers were shocked as he once gutted a dead cow along a highway. "The secret of road kills," Clyde explained, "is to clean them up." A Four Rivers cohort of Clyde's era told me of the time Clyde showed up to work without a bag lunch or lunch money. Clyde scrounged Highway 152, recovering a loaf of bread, a stick of salami, and some tomatoes . . . Clyde had himself a meal.

---

**[A ranger is] a caring person that knows his [her] responsibilities, knows he [she] has a job to perform and does it in a manner that doesn't alienate the public. It's not the easiest job in the world."**  
**Clyde Strickler**

---

Jake brought up the point that the Department would move you in transfers. He recalled the move from Angel Island to the Sierra: The moving vehicles included a State dump truck and pick-up. A new dining room set was a casualty of this move when it fell from one of the vehicles during the transport. Transfers were often at the direction of the Department. Three years in one park was considered the norm; the Department's feeling, according to Clyde and Jake, was that employees get stagnant in a position and must be placed in a new park, a new situation.

Clyde shared this story about his retire-

ment, or, rather the Department's decision in his retirement: "A guy came into the office one day and said, 'Think about retirement? — Well, let's do something — How old are you?' I said, '60.' He takes a tape measure, drops it down to the floor. 'Life expectancy is 70,' he tells me, 'but I'll give you 75' . . . he indicates the mere 15 inches of length in contrast to the 75 inches of tape measure laid out before me and he says, 'That's all you got left.' Quickly you see what the hell's going on."

Both Clyde and Jake took pride in seeing the development of a park. San Luis Reservoir SRA serves as an example. Clyde arrived in 1964 during the development of the reservoir complex. He was instrumental in establishing the framework of the unit. His first staff consisted of himself and his office was nothing more than a chair, card table, and a packing box for files. Today, the unit houses the Four Rivers District office and includes such developments as Basalt, Dinosaur, San Luis Creek, Medeiros, and Los Banos Creek. Jake also contributed to the development of San Luis, as well as the restoration at Columbia and Bodie. They are pleased by equipment, supplies, and infrastructures that have been obtained since their retirement — items that they struggled to obtain when they were employed by the Department. Examples at San Luis include the new patrol boats, a storage shed for the boats, the improved road to Dinosaur Point, and the Check 12 development. These are just a few of the samples.

Clyde has been pleased with the advancement and accomplishments of his former cohorts and those he supervised. He stated: "[It] makes me feel good seeing the people I've worked with — good kids — turn out higher than I ever did." Bill Monaghan reflects this sentiment: Bill served as a SPR II under Clyde at San Luis; today, Bill serves as Regional Director of the Inland Region. Clyde recalled hiring Bud Getty as a Seasonal Naturalist at Anza-Borrego; Bud is the current District Superintendent of the  
(continued on page 5)

---

## Clyde & Jake

(Continued from page 4)

---

Santa Cruz Mountains District. Clyde proudly proclaimed, as he pointed toward the fireplace in his living room: "Tex Ritter got married right here." Tex was a seasonal Park Aide at San Luis — Clyde referred to him as "our champion in the field." Today, Tex is District Superintendent of the Los Lagos District. How many of you have crossed paths with either Clyde or Jake? I'm also curious as to who ate what in roadkills that Clyde recovered and cooked during his long and illustrious career in the Department.

---

**"[A ranger is] an individual that loves the natural beauty of the area he's [she's] working in and has the safety and respect of the general public." Jake Lusky**

---

Among Clyde's innovative ideas that did not become a reality was an "Amigos Park," a unit that was on both sides of the border in a joint effort of Anza-Borrego and the Department with the government and people of Mexico. He tried unsuccessfully to get bees reintroduced to portions of Anza-Borrego in response to their decline due to the pesticides of the Imperial Valley. And he wanted to obtain a camel for parades and special events at Borrego. Our Department has canine patrols . . . why not camel patrols in the desert?

Neither Clyde nor Jake wholeheartedly welcomed the increased law enforcement responsibilities and duties of the state park ranger. Jake really enjoyed the many maintenance functions he performed as a ranger before the era of specialization. Nevertheless, Clyde stated, "If you're going to do it (law enforcement), do it with the best equipment and best training; don't do it half-assed — that's the problem with this Department: they do things half-assed." Jake echoed Clyde's sentiments.

Asked what he enjoyed most about being a ranger, Jake responded, "Public contact —

the pleasant surprise that there are so many good people out there." Similarly, Clyde responded, "The P.R. part of it . . . people . . . helping them understand [the park]." Clyde added, "The ranger is a public relations person first, the other [law enforcement] comes along."

Both were critical of the Department's acquisition of property without subsequent personnel and development. In addition, Clyde criticized the Department's past position on volunteers. "Volunteer now is a good word," explained Clyde, "but in the past, the use of volunteers was discouraged." He claims to have nearly lost his job when he used some Boy Scouts to work on a trail. He also stated that the Department was reluctant in the use of field rangers to conduct interpretive programs. Clyde welcomed the changes in these two agendas.

Salaries have changed as well. Clyde recalled the first time take-home pay was over \$200. "We were really living it up." Yet to paraphrase Clyde, it's still a field you'll never get rich in, but if it's the good life you're seeking, you'll find it as a ranger.

Clyde and Jake enjoy retirement. They seem to have established roots in Los Banos. The housing was, and continues to be, affordable. One of the appeals of Los Banos is its central location — the Bay area, Monterey, Sacramento, and the Sierra are all within short driving distances. Jake and his wife Sally have one child and two grandchildren. They have done some travelling in California since retirement, and they make regular trips to Sparks, Nevada, to visit their daughter's family. Clyde and Rosemary enjoy travelling in their RV trailer — they have visited a number of state and national parks, going as far east as Wisconsin. They have four kids and nine grandchildren. They also partake in "ranch sitting."

Best wishes to both Clyde and Jake during the 125th Anniversary. My thanks go to Clyde and Jake for sharing their time and stories with me. It was a pleasure.

## Spring Workshop — Gavilan Mountains District — April 12-14

The CSPRA board decided to hold an annual workshop 6 months before/after the annual conference. Since this year's conference is being held in the fall (125th Celebration October 1 - 3), the workshop will be held in the spring. Next year the schedule will reverse to get the conference in March again.

Harry Batlin, workshop chair, and committee are planning an exciting three day workshop in the Gavilan District. The activities will start at Fremont Peak State Park on Friday evening at 7:00 pm with registration. The program will begin at 8:00 with a presentation on "A Sense of Time" and a chance to use the units 30" telescope.

Saturday sessions will begin at the Bell Station gate to Henry W. Coe State Park at 9:00 am. ( Bell Station is a historic stage stop 5.5 miles north of Casa De Fruta at the bottom of Pacheco Pass Grade) Activities will include: presentations on Mountain Lions and Land Form Restoration — removal of roads and reservoirs; Preservation of Cultural Sites; a tour of

this section of the park; and a Santa Maria type barbecue. For those who camp over night at Coe, there will be a cookout breakfast on Sunday morning.

On Sunday after breakfast there will be programs an archaeological investigation at San Juan Bautista and living history.

There are several excellent Mexican Restaurants in San Juan Bautista to prepare you for your trip home.

Camping is optional at Fremont Peak and Henry W. Coe.

### Lodging

For those who want to rough it in a motel, the San Benito Inn (Best Western) in Hollister offered us the best rate for a very good motel. Rates are \$35 single, \$45 double, and \$5 for each additional person. Call (408) 637-9248 for reservations — mention CSPRA.

For additional information call Harry Batlin at (408) 623-4526 or Doug Bryce at (916) 383-2530.

---

### Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City State & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Member CSPRA \_\_\_ PRAC \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Member	\$10 _____
Non Member	\$15 _____
Santa Maria Barbecue	\$9 _____
Sunday Breakfast	\$5 _____
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Make checks payable and mail to: CSPRA,  
 P. O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA 95828 by 4/8/91.

---

## Fee Policy

(Continued from page 2)

---

Users of our parks know (we have often told them) that recreation is only one of several purposes of the State Park System. It is not---and never has been---a purpose of the State Park System to offer a recreation service to be fully paid for by a fee to cover the costs of the service. That is the kind of service that private enterprise is better equipped to provide. Opportunity for recreation is indeed a purpose, but a major facet of state park recreation is education of the people of California in the natural and cultural resources of our state.

It is counterproductive to set state park fees so high that some users are priced out and others take physical and political action to thwart the increases. Even if the increased fees significantly increase the percentage of operation costs paid by fees, a tarnished public image will work to the detriment of the State Park System. The parks will have to get by with staffs that are insufficient to perform the functions of their mission: to ensure public safety, provide adequate visitor facilities, protect park resources, and interpret those resources to park visitors.

State park users will accept our charging of fees for the kinds of services that private parks traditionally provide. Those fees can reasonably be approximately equal to the private-park fees. However, most private parks provide many services that state parks do not provide, and we do not---and should not---compete with them in those fee-for-service enterprises.

State parks have much to offer, of course, that private parks do not. Our parks are, for the most part, show cases of natural and human history. Reasonable fees for access to most historic parks will usually be accepted because visitors can see the need for intense interpretation and costly maintenance. Fees for "access to nature" will be at best grudgingly accepted.

If we truly communicate with people---if we listen to them as well as talk to them---we can regain our rapport with our erstwhile enthusiastic supporters---the people who have repeatedly voted in favor of state park bond issues, the people who have considered state park rangers, maintenance workers, park aids, and office workers as valued friends, the thousands of volunteers who work with us to keep our state parks the standard of the nation, and most of all the millions of visitors who want to continue to enjoy the unparalleled beauty, diversity, and interest of our California state parks.

---

## Bodie Included in Congressional Testimony

(Continued from page 1)

---

For the past year, a mining company has been conducting exploration activities within the boundaries of the National Historic Landmark District. Included under consideration is the development of an open-pit mine on a bluff overlooking Bodie.

"The intrusion of an open-pit mine on this National Historic Landmark would be a travesty. Yet, notwithstanding the fact that the Secretary of the interior has designated Bodie as an "Endangered" National Historic Landmark, the BLM has failed to comply with Section 106 in reviewing this mining activity. Unless BLM begins to honor historic preservation responsibilities in Bodie, and unless the 1872 Mining Act is amended to give the agency more authority to protect historic resources, nothing stands to prevent this mining company from destroying a national treasure."

Nothing, that is, but the continued leadership and vigilance of CSPRA's SAVE BODIE! Committee. To help, **please write to your congressional representatives today.** For more information, contact Donna Pozzi c/o CSPRA.

## New Members

We are happy to introduce these new members to our organization. CSPRA offers a forum for sharing ideas and concerns and a means for making an impact in the field of the park professional. 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.

Linda L. Rawlings Sacramento Headquarters

### Help Wanted!

Volunteer to complete a fabric square of the CSPRA logo for the 125th Ranger Anniversary quilt. For further information and square guidelines, contact Margaret Chavez, Commemorative Quilt Coordinator, (707) 838-7683, or Susan Ross, CSPRA representative to the 125th Steering Committee, (916) 777-7701.

### Two Retired Members Die

Tom Spencer and Orville Short passed away recently. Orville died at home of a massive heart attack on 2/4. Orville retired in the mid sixties after suffering a major stroke. He worked at Doheny for many years and lived in San Clemente after retirement. Tom worked at Big Basin in the fifties and had resided in Santa Cruz since his retirement. Orville's wife Louise lives at 202 Pelayo, Apt. B, San Clemente 92672. Tom's wife lives at 475 Sims Rd., Santa Cruz 95060.

**March**

**See you at the  
Spring  
Workshop!**

**Gavilan  
District**

**April 12 — 14, 1991**

**Register Now!**

**(See page 6.)**

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

**Mail to:**