

NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

Volume VI Number 40

July 1992

Update On Bodie: HR 4370 Approved in House

by Donna Pozzi

On July 27, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Bodie Protection Act of 1992 (HR 4370). While this is a major milestone, the bill must still be approved in the Senate before the end of the legislative session in the beginning of October; it also must be signed into law by President Bush. **Your help is needed now to ensure the passage of this important piece of legislation!**

As you know, Bodie State Historic Park is threatened by the possible resumption of gold mining on public lands adjacent to the park. The Bodie Protection Act would withdraw these BLM-administered lands from mineral activity, subject to pre-existing valid mining claims. Private property would not be affected by this bill. Historic preservationists and environmentalists have joined in support of this legislation because they do not view modern mining as a compatible land use. The ghost town of Bodie has been designated a National Historic Landmark, and is surrounded by Wilderness Study Areas. Nearly 200,000 visitors a year travel to this remote part of the Eastern Sierra to enjoy the unique experience of a historic ghost town that has been "frozen in time." The Canadian mining
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First California Symposium On Conservation Law Enforcement

by Mike Lynch

The California Conservation Law Enforcement Symposium's primary objective was to bring together, possibly for the first time, representatives of various agencies concerned with the law enforcement aspect of natural resource management/protection in California. It was jointly sponsored by the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service. I attended as a State Park participant, paid for by a CSPRA scholarship. I also set up the 125th Ranger Anniversary display on the first day and it received quite a bit of attention from the participants.



The Symposium easily met its primary objective as over 110 participants
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President's Message

Last Easter week my wife and I took a whirlwind vacation across Nevada, Utah, Southwestern Colorado and Arizona. Along the way we camped in two national parks and did day trips to two others. The amount of money turned over to the federal government for all of this was \$7.00. One campground wasn't charging because the water wasn't turned on, and the other simply wasn't charging: just register and have a nice day. Day use at the other parks accounts for the total bill.

I've been with state parks for long enough to remember when we were a bargain. No one expected us to make money, and we did our best to meet that expectation. If there was no staff available to collect fees, then fees weren't collected, and we were free to be out doing something more important. Some units then began experimenting with iron rangers, and personally I was offended by that bit of "progress." If fees were so important, then we could damn well provide a face to go with the stretched-out bureaucratic palm. Then along came "Park-Ur-Self" and the impersonalization of the state park system went high tech. What would Hayduke have said? Or done?

Then came pay showers. A nice idea from the conservation standpoint, but the campers had hardly lathered up before the Department saw revenue and doubled the fees.

The experiences we had at the four national parks were wonderful, and all the more so because I truly felt we were not regarded as dollars for the deficit. My sense of personal ownership of these treasures deepened, as did my respect for the focus NPS kept on its mission: parks are for people, and not the general fund. Remember when that was our mission, too? I know that I could make the same trip now and pay much more than \$7.00, but keep in mind that this was Easter Week, a busy period for any park. What was the attitude about revenue generation in California's state parks during the same period?

There are many arguments I could make against our current practice of dollar worship, but I'll stick with just one. My support for the National Park System was deepened by that trip. The various staffs were available, friendly, professional, and put my wife and me first, not our money. I know they have their own problems, and I am simplifying a complex issue, but the result was that I came away as a fan of NPS.

I wonder how **our** fan club is doing these days. How many supporters are we losing each day by treating visitors as paying customers, instead of honored guests? How many letters to the Governor are we losing as "Parks are for People" changes to "You Get What You Pay For?" We are no less professional, no less cordial, and no less dedicated than the employees of the National Park Service, but we face an uphill battle in our effort to gather support for parks.

Now, more than ever, we need the good will of the public. The sad thing is that DPR, as an agency, seems to be in a terrible position to develop that support, let alone use it. A major job for organizations like CSPRA will be to develop that constituency we've heard so much about, and get it working to restore the park system. For instance, we are currently developing plans for a "speakers bureau" that will reach out to the public for support of state parks. Just remember that "CSPRA" really means you. We'll be asking you to make contact with community groups, service organizations and businesses in your area to get them back in support of parks and what they stand for. I hope that when the time comes, you'll join in the effort.

In the meantime, I urge you to think of other things CSPRA can do to get our department back on track and our mission back in focus. The CSPRA board will be meeting again on August 9 and any suggestions you have will be considered.

Other items. CSPRA has continued to act as a watch dog for the preservation of park values. The internal and external threats to our parks have not taken a holiday during reorganization. Grazing and fire management at Mount Diablo are back again, and CSPRA is determined to ensure that the provisions and spirit of the unit's General Plan are adhered to. The City of Folsom wants to build a new bridge across

(Continued on page 3)

Save Bodie! Update (Continued from page 1)

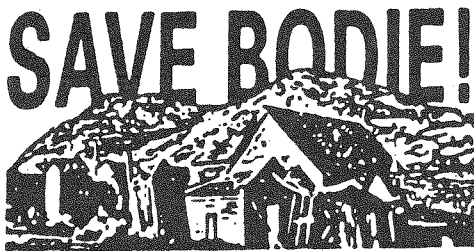
company that has been doing the exploratory mining work at Bodie has been promoting the notion that a contemporary mining operation would add to the public's enjoyment of Bodie. Preservationists worry that Bodie's fragile old buildings, historic setting, and ambience would be irreparably damaged.

While HR 4370 would not entirely solve the problem of the threat to Bodie, it's a critical first step. Please call or write your U.S. Senators and urge them to actively support this bill:

The Honorable John Seymour
367 Dirksen Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3841

The Honorable Alan Cranston
112 Hart Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3553

Also, write a letter-to-the-editor of your local newspaper. Better yet, if you know the paper's editorial board, ask them to write an editorial in support. Spread the word to other organizations! Don't forget to tell your friends and relatives in other parts of the country.



While progress is being made on the legislative front, Galactic has resumed exploratory drilling near Bodie. To keep their mining claims active, they're required to do annual assessment work. (This requirement would be dropped if HR 4370 passes.)

Bodie belongs to all of us, and to future generations; its preservation is a **national** issue.

Conservation Law Enforcement

(Continued from page 1)

from 20 federal, state and local agencies attended. State Parks, Fish and Game and Forestry were well represented. The three-day program was a mix of sessions from a wide variety of agencies. Overall the Symposium was interesting, informative, and a gold mine of contacts in other agencies.

To give some idea of the program, I will just list some of the sessions:

Panel — Coordination and Cooperation Among Conservation Law Enforcement Agencies.

Assaults on Conservation Officers

Effects of Homeless Residents on Urban Park Environments

National Guard Resources and Assistance

Off Road Vehicle Enforcement

Ritualistic Criminal Activity on Public Lands

Archaeological Investigations

We-Tip Crime Reporting Organizations

Threatened and Endangered Species

Many of the sessions were extremely interesting. For instance, the session on "Drug Labs and Hazardous Materials" was an actual case study of a major methamphetamine drug laboratory discovered by rangers in Death Valley National Monument. Similarly, I found the session on "Assaults on Conservation Officers" very interesting. Presented by NPS Ranger Paul D. Berkowitz, it detailed a long, virtually unknown history of deadly assaults upon federal conservation law enforcement officers. For instance it has been widely publicized that the 1973 murder of a NPS Ranger at Point Reyes National Seashore represented the first ranger slain in the line of duty. Paul's research has found and confirmed that "this ranger was, at the time, actually no less than third, or possibly fourth, killed in the agency's (NPS's) history." Paul is writing a book on *The History of Law Enforcement in the Federal Land Management Agencies*. Each participant received a copy of Paul's 126-page "A Chronological Summary of Incidents"

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Conservation Law Enforcement by Mike Lynch

Involving the Use of Deadly Force By, and Deadly Assaults Upon, Federal Land Management Law Enforcement Officers (and other employees." For more information in this area contact Paul D. Berkowitz, P. O. Box 196, Whiskeytown, CA 96095.

The Symposium ended on a "what's in the future?" session and general agreement that a future similar symposium was a very good idea. Based on the first symposium, if there is a second I would certainly recommend it.

Notice

CSPRA would like to put together a committee to develop support for the continued operation of the northern redwood parks by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Anyone interested in serving on such a committee should contact John Knott or Doug Bryce.

Time is of the essence.

We especially need a person in the northern redwoods region to chair the committee.

Up to now we have been lucky — we need to get busy and really work this time — luck may not continue to be enough.

Editor Apologizes

I am very sorry for the typos in the last Newsletter. It had just been printed out for a final proof reading when the wrong button was pushed destroying my whole table-top printing program and all its files. Rather than start all over on the Newsletter, it went out as it was. The president's message and a few small portions had not been proofed at all.

I'll try not to make that error again.

Letters

Park Family

In the April-May 1992 issue of the CSPRA Newsletter there was an article that stated that the park family had died on March 16, 1992. I am glad to say that I have proof that the park family is still alive.

On the afternoon of May 26 I had a heart attack. By the evening of May 26 the park family was responding to my difficulty. Park employees and their family members across the state offered their well wishes and assistance immediately and repeatedly. Phone calls, letters, cards plants, books, visits, food, prayers and assistance poured in to me from close friends and casual acquaintances. The help rendered from the park family made a very difficult time much easier for myself and my family.

It would be impossible for me to individually thank all of you who helped me. I hope this small note of thanks will reach many of you. No matter how bad things are looking right now in DPR, the family appears to be surviving. Thank you all very much.

Joe von Herrman
Columbia District

Ranger History Book Delayed

The publication of the book on the history of California State Park Rangers by Mike Lynch has been delayed until the end of 1992. The book is the final unfinished project of the 125th Ranger Anniversary.

The initial delay was caused by the need to raise money to pay off the Ranger Memorial Grove at Big Basin. Thanks to generous donations by CSPRA and SPPOAC, the major portion of the Grove was paid off and the remaining portion was paid by borrowing \$1,400 from the 125th Anniversary Book fund. There is enough money in the fund from donations and advanced book sales to continue the project, but it has increased the purchase price of the book to an estimated \$14.95 when published. The 125th Ranger Committee will be making one last drive to raise the \$1,400 loaned to pay off the Grove by accepting \$20 or more donations that will include a free copy of the book. You can send your donation (which includes a free copy of the book when published) to 125th Ranger Anniversary, P.O.

Box 3266, Auburn, CA 95604.

RETIRED MEMBER INFORMATION

(Please save until needed)

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: _____

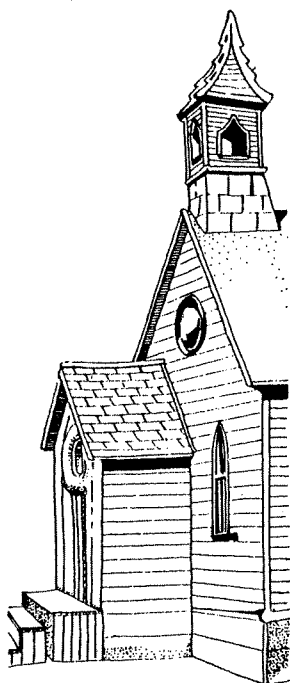
Plaque inscription should refer to retiree as a: Ranger; Superintendent; Manager; or _____

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

CSPRA member who could present plaque: _____

Coordinator's name and phone number: _____

COMMENTS: _____



Summer Sale Sensation Save Bodie T-Shirts

Limited Offer to CSPRA Members

Here's your chance to obtain an original Save Bodie T-shirt
at a special summer Price!

Medium, Large, Extra Large — two for the price of one!

Small size — three for the price of one!

Colors are limited so indicate a second choice.

Shirts are 100% cotton and are pre-shrunk.

Make checks payable to CSPRA and mail with order form to:

Fred Soderlund

5567 Camino Cerraldo

Santa Barbara, CA 93111

Name _____		Color	2nd Choice	Size	Number
Address _____ Apt # _____					
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____					
Phone Number (____) _____					
Colors — Red, White, or Blue					
Sizes — S, M, L, XL					
Price: Small 3 for \$12.50					
Medium, Large & X Large 2 for \$12.50					

I've ordered _____ (Med - X Large) shirts @ \$12.50 per pair
_____ pairs of shirts @ \$12.50 = \$ _____

I've ordered _____ small shirts @ \$12.50 for three
_____ sets of three @ \$12.50 = \$ _____

Shipping and handling (first pair or set) \$ 4.00
Add 1.00 for each additional shirt \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Clyde Newlin Passes

Retired District 3 Superintendent, Clyde L. Newlin, passed away June 25th after being hospitalized for about a month. Clyde Newlin retired in 1975 after more than 40 years of state service. He began his career in the early 1930's at Big Basin State Park. Expressions of sympathy can be sent to his wife, Dorothy at:

4863 E. Live Oak Road
Lodi, CA 95240

Contributions may be made in Clyde's memory to the American Heart Association, 1212 W. Robinhood Dr., Stockton, CA 95207.

Friends of California Parks is Endorsed by CSPRA Board

At the May 30/31 Board Meeting, FCP's founder, Laura Svensgaard, presented plans for a grass roots advocacy coalition to promote legislative support of California's State Parks.

Friends of California Parks has established contact with numerous environmental lobbyist in Sacramento and has been very successful in soliciting their guidance and support. FCP is also currently negotiating with an environmental grass roots campaign organizer/lobbyist who could represent FCP/State Parks in Sacramento.

In addition, Laura is working to establish support networks within each legislative district. She has met with leaders from a number of cooperating associations and has received their commitment to bring in other community leaders to promote legislative support of State Parks through letter writing and telephone campaigns.

If you know of active volunteers in your area that can assist in this way, please call at her daytime work (415) 332-1100.

There may be other requests made in the future, but for now, establishing grass roots networks focused on pressuring legislature to support State Parks is a critical element to the success of this cause and in creating a more secure future for State Parks. Any ideas or assistance you can lend will be greatly appreciated.

Editors note: The board voted to donate \$580 to FCP to help with start up costs.

President's Message (Continued from page 2)

Lake Natoma that would go right through Negro Bar Campground, and we are concerned that the Department may be sending mixed messages. We have also expressed our concern to Director Murphy that a land exchange at Santa Monica Mountains was seemingly accomplished without public input or departmental review, and without regard to the general plan process.

In this time of transition and organizational upheaval, it will become much easier for special interests to take advantage of the situation, and push agendas that are not to the benefit of the department and the public. I urge all of you to keep close watch on such activities and immediately contact me, a board member, or Doug Bryce. We might not be able to stop it, but we'll do our best.

Humor In Unicorn by Jeff Price

Thanks for the positive encouragements from those of you who wondered where this column had gone (or was going). We are back with new and even better mixed metaphors and malaprops gleaned from staff meetings, speeches and faxes. We still need and beg your diligent assistance in forwarding those you happen to overhear or read. Send them to me in care of the *CSPRA Newsletter*.

The Supervisor's porcine response given to an excellent proposal. "I think we should go full hog on this idea."

It seems the concept was no picnic for this guy. "That decision really threw a wrench in my handbasket."

I'd much prefer a live one! "So the selection for director comes down to a dead horse race."

That and fifty cents will get you a free cup of coffee. "Well, that is a bargaining chip in your favor."

Rumors are flying with reorganization and each source has a caveat, it seems. "Of course, this demotion and bump scenario is only after the fine print is dry."

I didn't get the drift, how far was that again? "I think it is only about 20 miles, as the snow flies."

**The California State Park
Rangers Association
A professional association.**

Office Manager - Newsletter Editor

Doug Bryce
P.O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010
(916) 383-2530
FAX (916) 387-1179

President

Wayne Harrison
Associate State Park Resource Ecologist
Calaveras Big Trees
(209) 795-2334

Vice President

Tyler Conrad
Ranger I
Tule Elk Reserve
(805) 765-5004

Treasurer

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

Calendar

1993 Workshop
Planning Meeting
in San Jose 8/3/92

Board Meeting
CSPRA Headquar-
ters 8/9/92

1993 Workshop
Santa Clara
3/4-7/93

Directors

Ron Schafer
Chino Hills District Superintendent
(714) 780-6222

John Knott
State Park Superintendent
Legislative Office
(916) 653-9909

Kathryn Yee
State Park Ranger I
San Francisco District
(415) 557-4069

Save Bodie! and all other
committees use CSPRA address.

**For additional information on the
association, write the
Office Manager.**

The NEWSLETTER (ISSN 0887-9176) is published by CSPRA, P.O. Box 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829. 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.**

July



1992

**California State Park Rangers Association
P. O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010**

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