

# NEWSLETTER

## california state park rangers association

Volume VI Number 59

November 1994

**Maurice Getty, President**  
**CSPRA**

Dear Bud:

I'm pleased to send hearty congratulations to the California State Park Rangers Association on this occasion of your 30th anniversary celebration!

I recall with pleasure becoming better acquainted with your organization at the 125th Anniversary of State Park Rangers held a few years ago at Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Since that time the role of State Park Rangers has certainly become more significant as responsibilities have increased due to social complexities and a diminishing state budget. I think it's not inappropriate to suggest that CSPRA represents a "thin green line" protecting the irreplaceable natural resources of California from misuse amid the growing pressures of increased visitor usage.

As California's oldest land conservancy and the driving force behind the establishment of California's first state park, Sempervirens Fund takes deep satisfaction in working with the State Park Rangers staff as we look forward together to the challenges that lie before us.

Sincerely,

**Verlyn H. Clausen**  
**Executive Director**

By now you know about the long-sought victory for protection of special portions of the California desert. It wasn't all we had hoped for but it is definitely a very good bill and it has the distinction of being the only significant piece of legislation for protection of the environment to make it through the Congressional gridlock during (Continued on page 3)

### **Brassington Elected Executive Director of the California State Parks Foundation**

#### **Board also Names New Trustees; Expands Advisory Council**

Kentfield (Marin County), Calif., October 13, 1994 — The Board of Trustees of the California State Parks Foundation announced today that it has named Michael J. Brassington executive director of the Foundation effective immediately. Brassington has been serving as the Foundation's interim executive director since May. As this month marks the 25th anniversary of the California State Parks Foundation, the Board also instituted a number of new programs and policies designed to (Continued on page 4)

#### **On The Inside**

President's  
Message 2

Trust fo Public  
Lands Report Con-  
firms Link Bet-  
ween Parks and  
Crime Reduction 5

Photos of Retirees'  
Rendezvous 7

## President's Message

### President's Message

The Save Bodie campaign has moved to a new phase. A major hurdle was overcome by the recent passage of the Desert Bill. There would not have been a Bodie Protection Act and it would not have become part of the Desert Bill if it had not been for the efforts of CSPRA. A lot of people in the organization worked long and hard for this victory. And for every hour that others worked, Donna Pozzi worked ten, or perhaps a hundred. She has given up a lot of her personal life for the cause.

There is still much to be done, the only certain way for Bodie to be truly, for all time, to be saved is for the department to acquire the existing mineral claims and fee title to the land. So continue to give time and money.

I hope that when you become discouraged over some issue that seems to not be going the way it should you won't give up and say one person can't be expected to change the world. Donna Pozzi has!

In mid-October a group of individuals representing organizations that focus solely on DPR issues met at the offices of the State Park Foundation in Kentfield. The groups present were CSPRA, Park Partners, SPOKE, Friends of California Parks, The Golden State Concessionaires Association, California Parks and Conservation Association, Superintendents Association, Maintenance Chiefs Association, DPR staff, and our hosts, the State Park Foundation. Director Donald Murphy set the tone for the meeting, encouraging us to coordinate our activities and get the department's message out to the public. I personally felt that this was one of the most productive first meetings of any I've ever attended. We've already got the nucleus of an action plan that we will fully develop at our next meeting. We will talk more about it in future messages.

CSPRA presented Joe Engbeck with a plaque on the occasion of his retirement. Joe has done a lot for CSPRA and DPR over the years. He assured us that we haven't heard the last from him. He believes in the mission of the California State Park System and will continue to work for this cause.

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### Correction

The October 1994 issue of the CSPRA Newsletter had an article on the first page entitled Findings From a National Bipartisan Survey of Voter Attitudes Toward Mining Law Reform. It should have been indicated that it was reprinted from the Mineral Policy Center. If you would like the complete article write to: Mineral Policy Center  
1612 K St NW, Ste 808  
Washington, DC 20006

## California Desert (Continued from page 1)

the past two years of the 103rd Congress. If it had failed to pass, we would have been back to ground zero.

You will have learned at least something of the final drama from the newspapers. There are lots of credits to pass around — to Senator Feinstein for sticking by her guns to the very end, to Congressman and Committee Chairman George Miller for masterful generalship in getting the conference committee report passed by the House, to his tenacious lieutenants, Congressmen Vento and Lehman, and so on. But it was George Mitchell who somehow managed to give the Conference Report a last chance for passage by the Senate. I don't know what he had to give for it, but late Friday when all Congressmen and many Senators were streaming out of town, he persuaded the Republican leadership to agree that the last cloture vote (against the promised filibuster) could take place Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. Doubtless the die-hard opponents of the bill figured that on Friday night, when this agreement was reached, it would be too late to bring back to the Senate chamber by early the very next morning the necessary 60 Senators prepared to vote "aye" on the motion for cloture, and the bill would die. But it did not die. Mitchell and many other got on the phones got on the phones through the night to turn those Senators favorable to the bill around who were en route home, to get those who had reached home on a plane back, and to get the message to all others still in Washington that the session was held over through Saturday morn-

ing so the crucial votes could be taken.

It is truly amazing that so many returned to cast their votes for cloture. Only 15 minutes are allowed for a recorded vote, with a little leeway typically permitted when time has expired. On this Saturday morning there were 59 votes for cloture when time expired. One more vote was essential and no one present in the chamber was prepared to give it. But Mitchell and Feinstein knew that Carol Moseley-Braun of Michigan was at last on her way to the chamber by taxi, having been unable to thaw her garage door opener. If she had not made it at last to cast the deciding vote — or if only one of the other Senators voting for cloture that morning had not come in to cast an "aye" vote — it is likely that there would have been no desert bill.

The rest was anti-climax. Eight more votes for cloture piled in, but only when the result was assured by the 60th vote. Now, the statesmen of the U.S. Senate were desperate to leave and the legislation "passed by acclamation." **No** Senator needs admit he voted for it or against it!

Heartfelt thanks again to all of you.

Nancy & Frank Wheat

*Editor's note: This letter was reprinted to give you some idea of what it took to get The Save Bodie Act (which was amended into the Desert Bill) passed.*

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**Roger Chatterton's New Address**  
P O Box 499  
Trinity Center, CA 96091-0499  
(916) 266-3677

## State Parks Foundation (Continued from page 1)

better position the organization for the future.

"I am pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the Foundation's goals to preserve and enhance the California State Park System," said Brassington. "I look forward to working with our members, contributors, the Department of Parks and Recreation, businesses and all others who can help us achieve our goals for the millions of Californians who use and enjoy our magnificent state parks."

Brassington is the former executive director of The Commonwealth Club of California and has more than 25 years of non-profit organization management experience. From 1990-1992, Brassington served as president and chief executive officer of the Meyer Friedman Institute in San Francisco. More recently, he served as a special project manager for San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan, working with the mayor to help develop public understanding of the city's budget process. In addition, he developed for Mayor Jordan a review of 25 municipal departments and programs.

### Board Names New Trustees

The Board has also named three new Trustees to the Foundation. They are Howard H. Bell, Donald E. Cooley and Alistair W. McCrone.

Bell has served as the Foundation's legal counsel since its inception in 1969, and will continue in that capacity. He lives in Orinda and practices law in Oakland with the firm of Bell, Rosenberg &

Hughes.

Cooley, a retired executive with IBM Corporation, lives in Watsonville. He brings to the Foundation a long history of involvement in the state park system and support for conservation organizations.

McCrone, president of Humboldt State University in Arcata, has been serving on the Foundation's Advisory Council. He received a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Kansas.

The Trustees have also elected current Board member Shirley Bogardus to the office of treasurer. Bogardus, who lives in Mill Valley, is an active conservationist.

### Board To Expand Advisory Council

The Board voted to expand the Advisory Council, up to a maximum of 60 members, to encompass a broader range of interests throughout the state of California. It also established four committees that will focus on membership, development, long-range planning and financial and personnel issues, respectively.

"These changes are indicative of our efforts to return to the original spirit of the Foundation," said Marvin L. Krasnansky, co-chairman of the Foundation. "Our mission, established 25 years ago by our founder, William Penn Mott, was — and is — to support the preservation and enhancement of California's state park system."

"The needs of the park system have never been greater, and with the support of our members and contributors, we pledge our efforts (Continued on page 5)

to preserve and expand California's critical natural and recreational resources," added co-chairman Richard F. Alden.

### **Operational Changes**

The Board voted to enact several new operational policies, including the installation of new fiscal and administrative controls, reporting procedures and personnel policies. It also named Wallace, Mah & Louie of San Francisco as its new auditing firm.

"We believe these changes will create a more efficient and more effective Foundation," said Brassington. "It is critical to the future of our parks that Bill Mott's vision be preserved. The issues affecting the preservation of parklands have shifted significantly and we want to make sure and we want to make sure that our focus remains as relevant as we look towards the future as it has been as we reflect on our past."

The California State Parks Foundation is an independent, non-profit membership organization dedicated to protecting and interpreting California's wilderness and cultural history through our state park system. Over the past 25 years, the Foundation has raised some \$90 million in cash and property donations for the state park system.

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### **Announcement**

Michael Brassington has announced that the California State Parks Foundation will provide a Grant of \$3,000 for our annual conference in Santa Rosa.

## **TPL Report Confirms Link Between Parks and Crime Reduction**

In June 1994 the Trust for Public Land released a major report titled "Healing America's Cities: Why We Must Invest in Urban Parks." Aimed at raising awareness of the importance of open space in urban life, the report provides evidence that crime rates drop when adequate parks and recreation programs are available to inner city residents. Says U.S. Representative Bruce Vento (D-Minn.), "Urban recreation and sports programs are a proven, common-sense, and cost-effective means of preventing crime and delinquency."

Vento, along with Representative Charles Schurmer (D-N.Y.), Ira Hutchinson of the Roundtable Associates (a national association of African American parks professionals), TPL President Martin Rosen, and TPL Senior Vice President Lisa Cashdan, announced the report at a well-covered press conference in Washington, D.C.

The report, which reflects the views of law enforcement professionals, community activists, psychologists, and elected officials around the country, found that parks and recreation programs have a central role in a city's safety and quality of life, but are in crisis due to dwindling funds. Inner city programs are hardest hit by budget cuts. The report cites evidence from cities nationwide that crime goes down when young people have something positive to do and somewhere to do it.

Among the examples cited by the report are the following:  
(Continued on page 6)

## Link Between Parks and Crime Reduction (Continued from page 5)

\* In Phoenix, when basketball courts and other facilities were kept open until 2:00 a.m., police calls dropped by as much as 55 percent. The program, in which more than 170,000 take part, costs just sixty cents per youth.

\* Since Hart County, Georgia, began a recreation and mentor program for first offenders, incarcerations have dropped by 23 percent.

\* In Newark, N.J. a rejuvenated recreation center that once was a magnet for vandalism now serves 5,000 young people each month. Crime in the area has markedly decreased.

Noted Vento, "Perhaps our urban youth crime rates would be different if these programs hadn't been neglected in the past decade." Vento and Representative George Miller (D-Calif.) are working to include funding for parks and recreation programs in an omnibus crime bill now before Congress.

"The answer is much more than strictly law enforcement," stresses Mayor Sharpe James of Newark, President of the National League of Cities. "We can't afford to put a cop on every corner, and we can't build a jail cell for every youth-ful offender. We must provide viable alternatives for our young people."

The report closely follows TPL's launch of its Green Cities Initiative, a broad-based plan to help urban parks around the country. TPL has identified 12 cities with strong potential for successful park expansion and improvement: Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Bos-

ton, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Minneapolis/St. Paul, New York, Portland (Oregon), Providence (R.I.), the San Francisco Bay Area, and Seattle.

For copies of the report, "Healing America's Cities," please contact TPL's Office of Public Affairs, (800) 714-LAND. For more information on the Green Cities Initiative, please contact Kathleen Blaha at TPL's Washington, D.C., office, (202) 543-7552.

### **CSPRA-PRAC Annual Conference March 6 — 10, 1995 Doubletree Inn Santa Rosa**

Next month we will be mailing the registration form and the newsletter will be filled with information about the conference/workshop.

This should be the best ever with our partners from the State Park Peace Officers Association of California, the State Park Maintenance Supervisors Association, the California State Park Superintendent's Association and the League of California Non-profit Associations.



# Retiree's Rendezvous Photos

Clockwise from  
upper right:

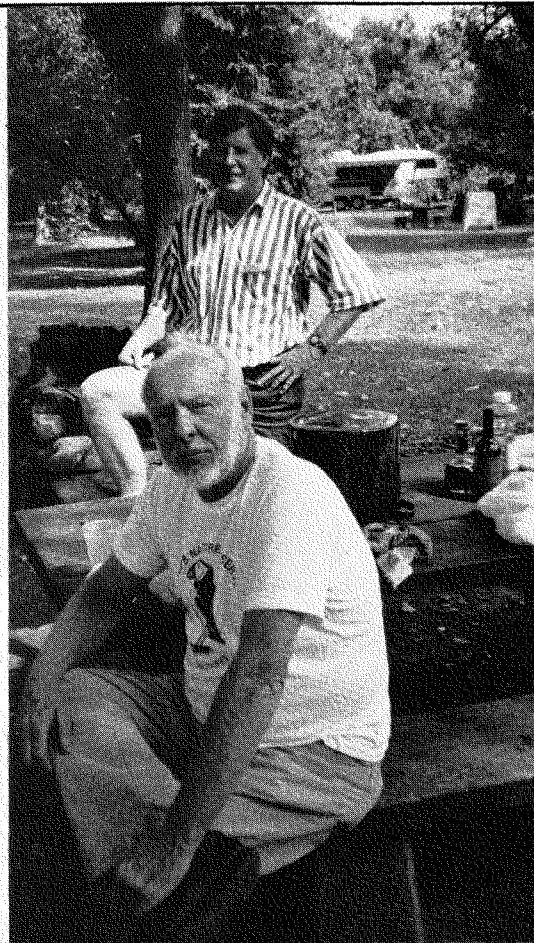
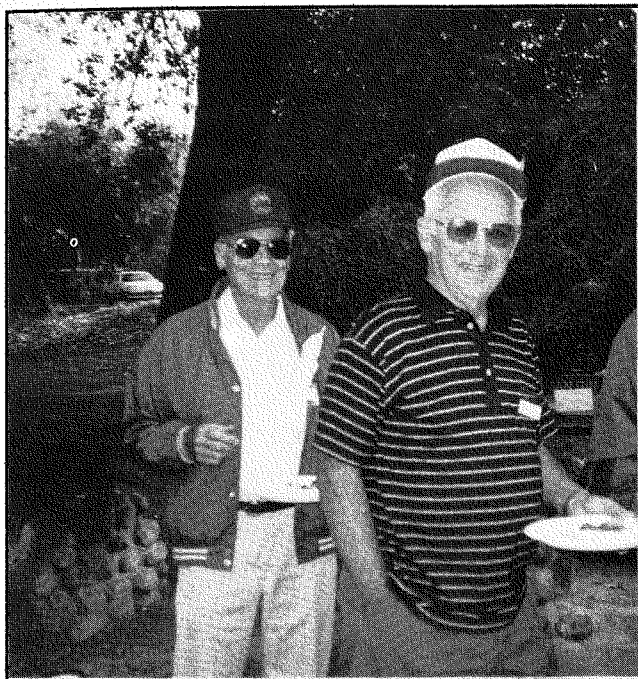
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John Michael.

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Elaine & Bob  
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Rosemary Strick-  
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Tex Ritter and  
Wes Cater.

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Sheila Miller.



November

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1994

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(209) 826-1196

**CSPRA  
Calendar**

**Honorary Member  
nominations due  
12/10/94**

**CSPRA ballots  
due 12/12/94**

**CSPRA-PRAC  
Annual Work-  
shop, Santa Rosa  
Doubletree Hotel  
3/6-10, 1995**

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**Save Bodie!** and all other  
committees use CSPRA address.  
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**For additional information on the  
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Office Manager.**

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