

NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

Volume VI Number 61

January 1995

Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee's Interim Hearing "The Role of Parks and Recreation in Public Safety"

**by Carol Nelson,
Park Superintendent**

The identity of the people of California is represented by our state parks. Within these parks school children learn of their past and develop a sense of belonging, a connection to all things natural and cultural. Families who recreate together form lasting bonds, passed from generation to generation. The California Department of Parks and Recreation has the responsibility for protecting and preserving a multi-billion dollar park system, for generating revenue, for public protection and for providing recreational opportunities for over 70 million visitors yearly. The California State Park System consisting of 1.4 million acres represents the best, most significant natural landscapes and historical features in California, preserved for today and for future generations.

It is widely recognized that the open spaces and natural settings found in our parks play a role in mental health. Patients going through catastrophic illnesses are told to visualize themselves in natural settings with trees, waterfalls, (Continued on page 3)

International Ranger Federation To Hold 1st World Congress

The International Ranger Federation (IRF), established in 1992, will be holding a World Congress May 21-28, 1995 in Zakopane, Poland. The Congress is endorsed by the European Federation of National Parks, the U.S. National Park Service, U.N. Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas, and several other organizations.

The program will include keynote speakers of international repute (Continued on page 5)

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Tatra National Park, Zakopane, Poland. Near site of 1995 Ranger World Congress. Photo by Mike Lynch 11/94.

President's Message

Last column I discussed the take over of the state beaches that are operated by Los Angeles County. It now appears that we are going to give eight beaches to the county in fee. It can be argued that these beaches are not of state-wide significance and certainly they are not the jewels of the system. But if we look at all eight beaches collectively they are of state-wide significance considering the amount of recreation they provide to the citizens of California and its visitors.

We apparently are going to lose these beach units not on the basis of their worth to the public but on their economic value to the county and to politics. And the public will be the big loser again, because the county will build restaurants, parking lots and other money-making facilities at the expense of the sandy beaches and other natural resources.

Speaking of funding, it appears that the Governors Budget gives us the same basic amount of money that we have had in recent years. However, it remains to be seen what the legislature will do to us when they have to make hard decisions on all the underfunded programs of the state. The governor is again counting on a lot of federal money that may not be forthcoming.

A new funding source, the beverage recycling fund, is \$19.6 million of our budget. There is already opposition growing to keep us from tapping this fund on a one time basis. Even though this fund is over \$100 million there is a feeling that it should be used for strictly recycling projects.

It seems that this is actually a logical source of funding for the Department in that we are deeply involved in recycling programs and we are involved in educating the public about the benefits of recycling. Maybe not as much as we should be but as a condition of getting this funding source we certainly could become even more active in this field.

We all need to get active in letting our legislators know they need to support this funding in our budget. And we also need to make certain that our traditional friends lobby for us in this regard.

I happened to be at Asilomar when the news leaked out that there is a proposal over at DPA that would consolidate the Ranger/Superintendent classifications. This proposal would eliminate the Superintendent I through III and remove the Peace Officer requirement for the present Superintendent III and IV levels. This caused some consternation among the superintendents present. They expressed concerns to Don Murphy when he came down to fill us in on the details of the proposal. Most of the dialogue centered around the effects on the field rangers and superintendents on their way up and on existing superintendents. I think it is fair to say that this proposed change did not set well. While everyone does recognize that the peace officer requirement does serve as a barrier to other departmental employees it was felt that being a peace officer is an important aspect of the superintendents job.

I can't help but feel that superintendents brought this change upon themselves when they allowed themselves to become computer freaks thus proving that anyone CAN do the job of a superintendent.

As DPR's icons change from Thoreau, Muir and Whitehead to Drucker, Peters and Dr. Denning there will be a profound change in the organization. And it will be forever.

Parks & Public Safety (Continued from page 1)

C S P R A

the ocean waves crashing on rocks. Many in the medical profession feel this triggers the body's natural healing processes. John Muir, who was the father of the state and national park systems as we know them, said that in these places, humans would have a place to go where the mind and soul would not be bombarded with the sights and sounds of human activity.

It is interesting to compare John Muir's comments with those of Troy Williams, a community leader and Director of Activities for Youth in San Francisco. He took 100 young people from the urban core on a four-week camping trip in state parks this summer. At the end of the summer he wrote to me about the success of his program. He said, "We wanted to teach them that there is more to life than gangs, drugs, sex and hanging out. In the outdoor environment we were able to get their attention without the distractions of T.V., peer pressure, and drugs and gangs."

Mr. Williams shared with me that the parents of the young participants in his four-week-long "Fantasy Camp" reported that their children were calmer, stronger (more endurance), and more confident. John Muir's vision of 100 years ago holds true today and has become more critical with the challenges of today's society.

Hundreds of organized groups camp and picnic in our parks every year. In addition to those who go on their own, the Department has worked with local community organizations and recreation leaders who traditionally have not used state parks to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation experiences. Some examples include:

Candlestick Point State Recreation Area Camping Program

Involves ranger-led camping experiences. Equipment and outdoor leadership skills training provided to youth serving organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area. 20 groups participated in the program this year (1994).

Fam Camp

A unique program designed to introduce disadvantaged families to the family camping experience. Unlike many programs, this one brings families together

to learn outdoor recreational skills while exploring interpersonal relationships and values. Each family is hosted by a young adult at the site who provides assistance and acts as a role model to participating children.

Family Camp is currently running in Southern California in partnership with the Los Angeles Housing Authority. We are working to move the program to northern California, through a partnership with a local university and grant funding for equipment.

In these programs, we find that many young people from urban areas have never seen the ocean, yet live within a few miles. Many young people have never been outdoors in the dark without street lights to obstruct their view of the stars. Many young people are more afraid of the raccoons and snakes than the dangers of their own neighborhoods. These fears, when conquered, have a profound effect on self-esteem. These fears are often reflected in adult leaders, who themselves have had little experience in outdoor recreational activities.

We have found some barriers to outdoor recreation activities include:

- * Many of the leaders of youth-serving organizations are unfamiliar and uncomfortable with park settings and to some degree fear the "wilderness;"
- * Lack of skills, knowledge to confidently take a group camping;
- * Lack of equipment necessary to conduct a camping trip;
- * Cost of camping fees for group campsites are high;
- * Complicated reservation system which requires planning months in advance.

By addressing the barriers, our programs will evolve and grow. Through partnerships with local agencies and youth-serving organizations we can institutionalize the activities, giving generations opportunity and access to our parklands.

Another area of focus is cultural awareness. The California Department of Parks and Recreation is the "keeper" of our state's cultural history. It is through our past that we come to understand the cultural diversity in California's history.
(continued on page 4)

Parks & Public Safety (Continued from page 3)

Historic sites such as:

- * Allensworth State Historic Park, site of the first African American township in California; and
- * Pio Pico State Historic Park, preserved in honor of the last Governor of California under Mexican rule, a man of African American, Native American, Spanish and Italian heritage;

and figures such as:

- * James Beckwourth, an African American, raised by members of the Sioux nation, Mr Beckwourth was a remarkable mountain man and businessman who discovered the lowest pass over the Sierra Nevada mountains over what is now Highway 70. We hope to see his cabin become our newest state historic site.

These are but a few examples of the rich diversity in California's history.

In cooperation with the California State Fair's Black Culture Day Committee, we have sponsored exhibits of these historic figures at the State Fair in Sacramento and the Los Angeles County Fair. We are training our interpreters to recognize California's cultural pluralism and the contributions of the many people, of many colors, who built our state. By expanding the perspectives by which we view history, we give young people of any heritage a sense of place, not only in our history but in our future.

Finally, through our parks, school children learn of their past and develop a sense of belonging, a connection to all things natural and cultural. 16,033 school groups visited state parks in 1993.

We are working to improve our educational efforts with school districts to assist them in meeting their goals by providing curriculum-based field trips. Similar to the National Park Service's, "Parks as Classrooms," state parks and historic sites are the place for experiential learning. Through improved training of both teachers and interpreters, we will come closer to environmental literacy for all.

We see, today, that our agency must actively play a role in solving our state's

most serious problems. Success will depend on the partnerships we can generate and the support from local government agencies and community organizations and the private sector. Outdoor recreation is essential to a healthy society and is an important component of any crime prevention efforts.

Feinstein Letter

December 20, 1994

Dear Mr. Getty:

Warm thanks for your kind words for the California Desert Protection Act and the election. I want to convey my thanks and gratitude for your support.

Regarding the Headwaters Forest Act, I appreciate your letting me know of your support for the Headwaters legislation. As you may know, Congress was only able to consider the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) the week of November 30 when Congress was in session.

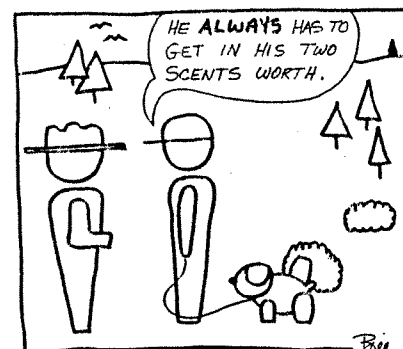
Congress has now adjourned for the remainder of the year. Please know, though, that I will keep your support for the Headwaters Forest in mind and it is helpful for me to have your input.

Once again, thank you for contacting me. It was good to hear from you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Lum of my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 224-3841.

Sincerely yours,

Dianne Feinstein

RANGER LOGO



International Ranger Federation

(Continued from page 1)

and will focus essentially on shared experiences of "grass-roots" management in different types of protected areas. This Congress will be the first to address the needs of those who work at the 'grass-roots' interface between the natural and cultural environments and the forces influencing them. This will not be a conference for administrators or policy makers,

Themes will include:

Resource Management - Including erosion problems, modern and traditional technology, and intervention vs non-intervention.

Human Management - Including controls, capacities, enforcement issues;

Keeping the Balance - Tools for management, environmental education & interpretation.

The Congress will also study the future role and functions of the Federation. Site of the conference is the spa and alpine sports resort city of Zakopane. Located in the Carpathian Mountains bordering several National Parks, Zakopane is in a spectacular setting surrounded by an International Biosphere Reserve designated by UNESCO in 1992.

The IRF was formed to:

- * further the professional standards of rangers throughout the world;
- * Advance the aims of the IUCN World Conservation Strategy in all our common efforts;
- * share knowledge and resources;
- * foster professional exchanges among rangers;
- * provide each other with advice and guidance on travel contacts in parks in respective nations;
- * arrange and conduct regular international meetings; and
- * undertake joint activities to directly

support each other's operations where necessary and feasible.

C S P R A

CSPRA is a member of the IRF. For more information on the IRF and registration forms for the World Congress, contact Mike Lynch, 916-885-4527 or (H) 916-885-9420/FAX: 916-885-9428.

Pete Orchard Dies

(From the Sacramento Bee)

Orchard, Peter Daniel. Aged 44. Died on November 24 after an extended illness. Born on August 11, 1950 in Oakland, CA. Resident of Pilot Hill for 10 years, 44 years in California. Survived by companion Dana Correla of Pilot Hill, CA; mother Harriett Orchard of Carmichael, grandmother Evelyn Orchard of Carmichael, nephews Mathew Peter Orchard of New Zealand and Daniel Orchard of Chico, CA; nieces, Elizabeth Orchard of New Zealand and Kristiana Orchard of Chico, CA; brothers David Orchard of New Zealand and Mark Orchard of Chico, CA. Preceded in death by father Walter Orchard. He worked 20 years for the State of California Parks Department. Member of State Park Rangers Association, Sierra Club and Nature Conservancy. Services will be held Friday, December 2 at 2 p.m. at Carmichael Presbyterian Church. Interment private. Remembrances to AIDS Foundation, Sacramento, CA; Nature Conservancy, 201 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94105, attention, Cosumnes River Preserve.

Retired Ranger, Wesley H. "Wes" Jones, passed away January 12, 1995 at his home near Langlois, Oregon.

Wes began his park career as a skilled laborer at New Brighton State Beach in 1950. Appointed State Park Ranger I at Samuel P. Taylor State Park in 1951, Wes continued his career with assignments at Big Basin Redwoods and Castle Rock State Parks before his retirement in 1976.

As a career State Park Ranger I, Wes earned the respect of peers, supervisors, and the visiting public through his professional attitude, appearance and actions. Park people at all levels who came to know Wes took from his example of dedicated professionalism and carried it throughout their own careers.

Having served in the Navy, Wes was a member of the V.F.W. and the American Legion (Past Commander, Post 76, Port Orford, Oregon). He was also a member of the California State Park Rangers Association.

In addition to his wife Nan, Wes leaves a daughter, Sharon; a son, Jeff; two step-daughters, Cindy and Toni; along with a combination of his and Nan's 16 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Family services were held in Bandon, Oregon. After cremation Wes's ashes were spread at sea.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Nan Jones, 45748 Hwy. 101, P.O. Box 264, Langlois, OR 97450. The family requests that in lieu of flowers a contribution be made in Wes's name to: Save the Redwoods League, 114 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA 94104.

California Parks Conference

by **Dan Murley**

When was the last time you were north of San Francisco? When was the last time you were west of Sacramento? For that matter, when was the last time you were south of Ukiah? Well, now is your chance to visit beautiful Napa and Sonoma counties and attend the California Parks Conference.

From March 6 through 10, 1995, park professionals from all over California and the western United States will meet at Santa Rosa's Doubletree Hotel for four days of fun and information exchange. On Monday, March 6th, "hackers," "hookers" and "slicers" will whack the white pill around in a friendly golf tournament. On the same day, others will be attending tours of local historic spots, scenic areas, and of course, the area's world renowned wineries.

Tuesday, March 7th, will begin with keynote speaker Dr. Carlos Schwantes, from the University of Idaho. His address will kick off the conference with a presentation on cultural landscapes. Those who have heard Dr. Schwantes speak have

been very impressed. Also, Tuesday marks the beginning of three days of workshops and panel discussions. Sessions dealing with park problems and programs in operations, interpretation, resource management, and public safety will feature many interesting and controversial topics. These include: conflicts over trail use; aquatic biodiversity research and education; garbage, past and present; and environmental crime.

In addition to approximately sixty individual sessions, there will be two panel discussions. One will deal with predator/bear management in parks, and the other will deal with private land trusts and their relationship with parks.

There will also be a speaker at the Thursday luncheon, whose topic is park funding. The speaker at the Thursday evening banquet is from the Nature Conservancy, and will discuss "Making Connections with Old Adversaries to Cure Environmental Problems."

A special field trip/workshop will travel to Jack London State Historic Park to discuss unique problems at that unit with local staff. While at beautiful Jack London, "cultural landscapes" and the National Registry program will be discussed with representatives from National Parks.

Well, I'm sure there will be something to lure you from your desert hideaway, snowy mountain retreat, capital "ivory tower," or redwood rainforest. Let's get together for a successful, fun-filled convention in March.

**Make your hotel reservation
by 2/7/95**

**Doubletree Inn, Santa Rosa
(707) 523-7555**

**Although you are not subject to
late registration fee,
please register
by March 2, 1995.**

**Don't get left out — come to Santa
Rosa for the best conference yet.**

**CSPRA 1995-96
Proposed Budget
1995/96**

C S P R A

Income

Dues	36,108.00
Donations	500.00
Interest	
25.00	
Sales	125.00
Workshop/Training	

Total Income

36,758.00

Expenses

Administration

Bank Charges	40.00
Collect Dues	1100.00
Contractors	8,400.00
Equipment Repair	500.00
Equipment	500.00
Fees & Taxes	135.00
Officer & Board Mtgs	5,000.00
Office Expenses	3,000.00
Phone	425.00
Printing & Postage	2,300.00

Membership Services & Recruitment

Newsletter	6,000.00
Recognition & Awards	800.00
Recruitment	200.00
Retirees Rendezvous	750.00
Scholarship	2,000.00

Heritage Protection

Special Projects	1,533.00
Membership Dues (paid)	2,575.00

Park Image

Special Projects	1,500.00
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Total Expenses

\$34,758.00

This budget will be voted on at the GEC in Santa Rosa on March 8. If you can't be there please contact your District Rep or any officer to express your feelings.

Feb 1995

February

See You In Santa
Rosa

Register
Now!

1995

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**CSPRA
Calendar**

California Park
Conference
(CSPRA) annual
workshop)
3/6-10, 1995

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Save Bodie! and all other
committees use CSPRA address.

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

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