

NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

Volume VI Number 64

July 1995

Ranger World Congress 120 Rangers from 29 Countries by Mike Lynch

The first ever "World Congress" of park rangers was held May 21-27, 1995 in Zakopane, Poland and was attended by over 120 rangers from 29 countries. Representing CSPRA, President Bud Getty and IRF Chairman Mike Lynch attended the Congress. Countries represented stretched from Armenia to Iceland, India, Latvia, Nepal, Portugal, South Africa, Uruguay and most of Western Europe and North America. One of the special features of the Congress was that British ranger groups raised \$15,000 to bring park rangers from countries that normally could not have afforded to attend.

The Congress featured six days of sessions, speakers, workshops
(Continued on page 3)

Announcements

First Planning Meeting For The 1996 Conference Scheduled

Steve Treanor announced that he will hold the first California Parks Conference planning meeting on either the 27th or 28th of July at the Ventura Holiday Inn. Call him or CSPRA headquarters for the exact time. We need all types of help so please come and see what you would like to do.

Darrell Knoefler died on June 20.

No other details.

Joe McCall Retires

Joe McCall and his wife Virginia are moving into a retirement home and will not have room to continue making retirement plaques. Send future requests for retirement plaques to CSPRA headquarters, P.O. Box 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829-2010. (See page 7)

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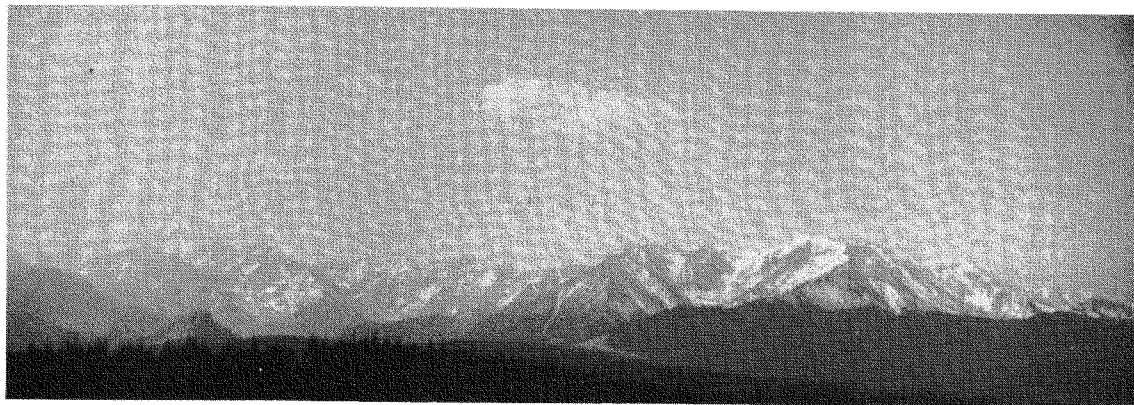


Photo:
The Mountains of
Tatra National
Park, Poland.

President's Message

Mike Lynch and I just got back from Zakopane, Poland and the 1st International Rangers Federation Congress. It was really great — if you see me don't mention it unless you have several hours to hear about the congress. Some impressions and facts:

About 125 delegates from 23 countries participated in the conference. Very diverse group — Tasmania, Iceland, Israel, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and many other nations.

The rangers from Scotland came over in force. They have no national Park system so they all work for Nature trusts, large estates, etc; but they have a very strong organization and great interpretive programs. They also sponsored 12 rangers from other countries with financial aid so rangers from Latvia, Lithuania and other eastern and central European countries could attend. (We should think about helping rangers from Mexico so they can come to the next congress.)

The next congress will be in 1998 in either South Africa or Costa Rica. CSPRA will cast its vote in the next few months.

Mr. Sighn from the Punjab told us about a religious group in his part of India that hold all animals as sacred so no animals are killed. That made his job of managing a wildlife refuge very easy — no poaching. However, rats and feral dogs are also protected adding an element of difficulty.

Juan Carlos, the ranger from Uruguay, turned out to be the **only ranger** in that country. He badly needs a support group.

The head of the Game Rangers of Africa, a South African, talked about rangers in some of the emerging nations in Africa that haven't been paid for years. He showed us a picture of a huge, rhinoceros with a horn worth about a half million dollars. That's the formula that is killing the rhinos and leading to their possible extinction.

The Game Rangers of Africa think the only way to save the big game on their continent is through privatization with large ranches raising the animals for hunting and viewing.

The ranger from Kenya expects to lose about 10-12 rangers a year that are murdered by poachers.

Mike and I will be giving a slide program at the CSPRA Conference in Ventura next March so we can talk about your possible involvement in the International Rangers Federation (IRF). If I was a young ranger I would get involved in IRF. There will be lots of opportunities to go on exchanges and other contacts with members of the World Ranger Family.

Bud Getty,
President
(See article about
the IRF on page 4)

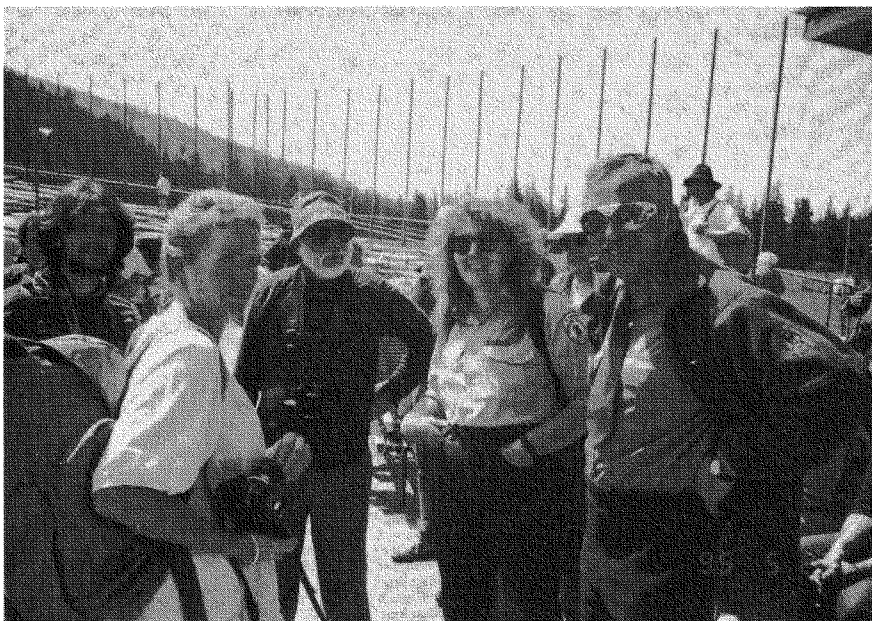
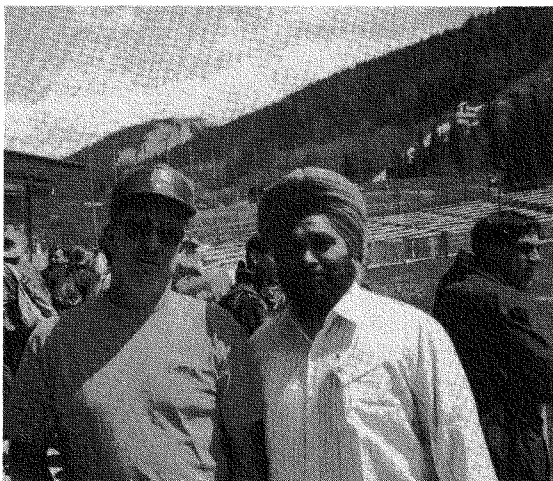


Photo: Ranger World Congress participants — (L-R) Latvia, Britain, California - Getty, Australia and Poland

World Congress (Continued from page 1)

and field trips.

The general theme was sharing ranger/park work, problems and solutions amongst the international audience of participants. The three sub-themes for the Congress were titled Balancing Conflicts, Human Resources, and Resource Management. The agenda was jam-packed with presentation from virtually every country represented and by several United Nations representatives who



spoke on IUCN efforts on behalf of environmental and protected areas throughout the world.

Although many of the individual problems and solutions were different, the big challenges facing many of the participants appeared to be similar. I would characterize the top three as 1) lack of adequate funding, 2) human pressures on park resources and 3) undue political involvement. Sounds very familiar to our own "challenges" here in California.

There were some fantastic presentations, including one by Robert Swan, U.N. Ambassador for Young People and the Environment. Swan's slide talk on his walking expeditions to the South and North Poles was the inspirational highlight of the conference.

Several field trips to the nearby Polish Tatra Mountain and Pieniny National Parks were a fun part of the program. The Tatra Mountains are the only alpine mountain environment in Poland and Zakopane is Poland's only ski resort. One field trip took participants on a raft trip into a joint Polish-Slovak National



Park in the Dunajec Gorge. In fact the Slovak Republic was so close, Bud Getty and I even managed to make a short unplanned trip across the border for a quick cultural experience (a Slovak beer).

It's a hard to describe the energy and experience of being around so many park rangers from so many places. The program was very full (from early morning to late evening sessions). I only wish there had been more social/open time to meet and talk with the other participants informally about their jobs, parks and countries.

The Congress was organized by the newly



established International Ranger Federation (IRF). CSPRA is a member of the IRF, along with 25 other park ranger organizations worldwide. The IRF is working to establish ranger exchange programs, international networking, and a method for making contacts/exchanges for social purposes among its members. These programs will be available to all CSPRA members. A full report on the Congress will be made at the next CSPRA conference. For more information on the IRF contact Bud Getty at Silverado District or Mike Lynch at Auburn SRA.

CSPRA

World Ranger Congress rafting field trip. Traditional wooden "rafts are used and the guides wear traditional garb.

Mike Lynch and Gurmit Singh from the Punjab, India Parks and Wildlife Service.

Polish Park Ranger Vehicle.

International Ranger Federation

On July 15, 1994, CSPRA joined the recently organized International Ranger Federation (IRF).

The IRF was born when several members of England's Association of Country-side Rangers (ACR) began laying the groundwork for such an organization with their friends in the Scottish Countryside Ranger Association (SCRA) in the late 80s and early 90s. During a SCRA meeting near Loch Lomond in 1991, representatives from ACR, SCRA and the Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR) from the U.S. met and discussed the framework for which culminated in an international accord which the presidents of the three associations signed at a meeting in Peak District National Park in England in July of 1992. Since that time, the IRF, under the chairmanship of England's Gordon Miller, has been working to bring other national ranger associations into IRF. The statement of purpose found in the accord outlines the goals and intents of the federation:

"The ranger associations of the undersigned nations recognize that international unity is critical to the protection of the world's increasingly threatened and inter-linked natural and cultural resources. We have accordingly agreed to unite in an International Ranger Federation (IRF) in order to:

- * further the professional standards of rangers throughout the world;
- * advance the aims of IUCN's World Conservation Strategy in all our common efforts;
- * share knowledge and resources;
- * establish global communications among ranger organizations;
- * foster professional exchanges among rangers;
- * provide each other with advice and guidance on travel contacts in parks in our respective nations;
- arrange and conduct regular international meetings; and

* undertake joint activities to directly support each other's operations where necessary and feasible.

Membership as an affiliate association in (IRF is open to all national associations of rangers or wardens who perform the services associated with ranger work, including protection and preservation of wildlands and their resident flora and fauna, protection and preservation of historical and cultural heritages, provision of recreational opportunities in natural settings, interpretation of natural, historical and cultural themes, and administration of public lands.

Anyone interested in the IRF should contact Mike Lynch at Auburn SRA, (916) 885-4527.

Letter

After reading Darrell Knoefler's letter of memories and asking if there are still some of the old gang.

Yes some of us are still around.

Yes we worked six days a week and often did park business along with shopping and etc. on the 7th.

Yes the Wardens, Custodians, Rangers wore many hats.

Besides the daily routine of operating a park that meant cleaning restrooms, collecting fees, policing the park, P.R. — Some of us ran campfire programs led nature hikes, you name it, if it needed doing it was done by a "Ranger" — no specialists. When we started the main office was in San Francisco. There were about 100 units and about the same number of employees.

Yes it was a kinder gentler life — Never a more dedicated staff.

Yes We of that era have the most beautiful memories. All the moves and crazy experiences just added spice to a wonderful 30 years.

The very proud wife of a Custodian, Ranger, Assistant District Superintendent, District Superintendent, Several special assignments in Sacramento. Finished off as Head of Planning and Development.

Mrs Gordon (Thelma) Kishbaugh

Retiree's Ramblin's

Kirby Morgan

We are charging up our batteries, filling our fresh water tanks and cleaning our our waste water tanks. Tomorrow A.M. (0500 hrs) we leave for the 40 mile trip north to Coulee Dam for 4 days of boondocking on asphalt as we work the Grand Coulee 4th of July Festival as Venders. Went up yesterday evening to check area and work site. The dam is quite impressive. The trip up through the canyons is beautiful and striking. It is humid as we spend the day in camp in this canyon, with two lakes, one on either side of this low ridge. Our last show at Long Beach, Washington we had rain. Still it was a good show for us. We have some smoke haze and it is being blown down from the fires in British Columbia.

Jim Stewart

We are enjoying the rainy summer here at Lake Almanor. Finally saw Anza Borrego last winter. Beautiful spot. We traveled the southwest during the winter and got as far as Carlsbad Caverns. I hope all retirees are enjoying their retirement as much as Kay and I.

Lorin & Gerry Forsyth

Lorin and I are temporarily in Glacier, Washington, working at a Forest Service Park as campground managers. It is very beautiful here. We will be here until September and then head back to California.

Jim Davis

I am presently writing the history of my World War II unit. When that's done, maybe I'll reminisce about my early Park (National and State) days if you have a place for it in "The Newsletter". Editors note — Send it!

Jim Neal

Bev and I are on the road again! We sold our house, stored our furniture in Fortuna, and bought a new truck and 5th wheel trailer. Our first trip is back to Central Missouri, for Bev's family reunion on July 16th. After that fun event we will probably head towards the New England States and Maritime Canada. From there who knows. We do plan to be back in California for the Christmas holiday period. We are taking our birding hobbies more seriously, and will attend classes and workshops as we can.

CSPRA Membership

The California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) has been dedicated to protecting and preserving features of the California State Park System for almost three decades.

Membership is open to all current and retired employees of the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

CSPRA was organized in 1964 by California park professionals as a non-profit, tax-exempt, professional society to encourage quality interpretation, resource management, public protection, maintenance and management of the State Park System.

CSPRA actively promotes advancement of the ideals and philosophy for which state parks were originally founded.

For membership information write: CSPRA, P O Box 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829-2010. (800) 558-3734.

Herm & Rae Schlerf

We are great, finally home for awhile to catch our breath and catch up on a back-log of paper work. Fishing has been slow this spring due to a lot of rain. However, we're dumb enough to even go fishing when it's snowing (Lake O'Dell). Have about 60 Kokanee in the freezer to smoke or can and several pounds of shad smoked and ready to can. Hope we don't run out of frozen Mackenaw before the salmon season starts again in August. Sturgeon still seem to evade us but we have several neighbors willing to share their catch, one 60 or 80 pounder goes a long way! Can't understand retired folks who say they can't find anything to do? We can't find enough time to do all the things we want to do! Garth and Maggie Tanner came by the other evening, they were house setting in Florance and giving the area the once-over as a possible locale for retirement living. Looks like we will not make the Retirees get-together this Fall. We will just be getting back from Nova Scotia that week-end Darn!! .
(Continued on page 6)

C S P R A

Retiree's Ramblin's (Continued from page 5)

Bud Heacox

How about joining all of us oldtimers at one of the P.O.T.S (Parks oldtimers) meetings. Our next is a visit to Empire Mine and vicinity in July. Inez Cook is now the Honcho who arranges meetings, events, etc. In addition to our annual "Pilgrimage to Paradise" at the Pikake on Maui (Jan. thru to late Feb.), Barb and I attended our 45 yr. class reunion at Pomono College, Claremont, California and capped the trip with a week in Aptos. I am still plugging along at the Sacramento Blood Center. (Almost 14 yrs. now) and at Sutter Memorial Hospital in Surgery (surgical instrument workroom) over 10 years. Also, last September I donated my 120th unit of blood (15 Gals.). Almost to the day that I donated my first unit in 1954 while stationed at Cuyamaca Rancho. Barb keeps busy as my finance manager, tax expert, property manager, etc. and keeping me out of trouble. Her main complaint is that my volunteer schedule forces her to make an appointment to even see me on Sundays.

Wes Cater

Been a heck of a year so far, so it has to improve. Hope you are o. k. Broke my foot in late January. In a cast for a month and recuperating for a month. April, due to complication of cast on foot etc., had to spend 10 days in hospital, spent rest of April and May here at the house getting swelling in leg back to normal. Had a massive blood clot in left groin. Started feeling better, then damn near cut a finger off working on the awning on my trailer. Dr. sewed it back on.

H.W. (Mike) Hanna

As you will note, we did arrive in Grand Junction, Colorado O.K. and have more or less gotten settled in. Still lots of things to do but nothing urgent. I have a small garden that is beginning to produce radishes, onion and lettuce, with some beans due later on. I have heard that there are other California State Parks (retired) employees living here in Grand Junction but haven't had the time to look them up. Later on, perhaps. I sure got blamed for bringing Oregon weather here with us as this area has had an unusual amount of rain ever since we arrived in April. Now we are into the hot weather — 92 degrees yesterday and the same predicted for today.

Bill Reinhardt

Still hanging out at Fish Camp. Volunteer at Wawona NPS. Will be at U.S. Open Golf Tournament as a volunteer! Crowd control! Shinnecock Hills, Long Island, NY June 14-18. Then tour and enjoy musical at Washington D. C. on the 4th. Back home middle of July. Observing the closure at South Gate Yosemite the last few weeks. Crowds are over whelming the troops some days! However, they are handling it quite well.

Ron McCall

Nothing much to report from here for this year. Judy has been ill so that we didn't do much traveling. However we have kept busy in the yard and at Coloma with G.D.P.A. We're getting ready for the U.S. National Gold Panning Championships in October (7& 8) It should be great fun. We plan on being at the Ranger Rendezvous at McConnell. Hope to see old friends there as well as meet some new ones.

Jim Neider

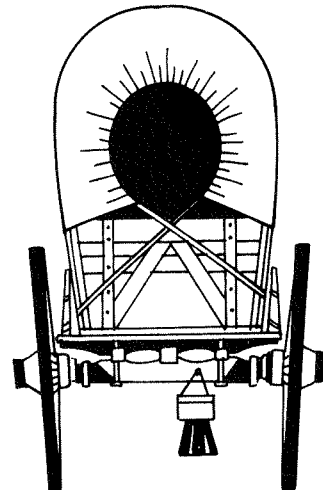
Everything going okay with us. The wife and I are heading for Alaska on the motor bike.

Bob Perkins

Darrell Knoeffler passed away June 20, I just returned from a 3 day/night wilderness survival training. Sponsored by F.A.A. Air Force-Kingsley Air Force Base, Klamath Falls, OR.

Where is Ed Hixson?

I have a request for the address of Ed Hixson. I don't have it so if you could notify me I would appreciate it. Editor.



RETIRED MEMBER INFORMATION

(Please save until needed)

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

MAIL TO: CSPRA
Retired Member Committee
P.O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010
(800) 994-2530

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: _____

July



1995

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(209) 826-1196

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Steve Hill
Assoc Pk & Rec Spec
Four Rivers District
(209) 826-1196

CSPRA
Calendar

**California
Parks
Conference
Ventura
3/11-15/96**

(Directors Continued)

Scott Nakaji
State Park Ranger I
Hungry Valley Headquarters
(805) 248-6447

Susan Grove
State Park Ranger II
American River District
(916) 988-0205

Jill Dampier
State Park Ranger II
Save Bodie! and all other
committees use CSPRA address.

**For additional information on the
association, write the
Office Manager - Newsletter Editor**

P.O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010
Local and outside California
(916) 558-3734
Long distance (800) 994-2530
FAX (916) 387-1179

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