

NEWSLETTER

California State Park Rangers Association

Volume VI Number 79

December 1996

Dues Increase

by Dave Nelson

The CSPRA Board of Directors, at their December 2nd meeting, voted to increase the monthly dues. The increase raises the monthly dues from \$6 to \$8. The increase will take place February 1, 1997. This is the first dues increase since March, 1988. The board took action after reviewing recent survey results that showed everyone returning a survey agreed with the increase. (Continued on page 2)

How about India?

Part 2
by Steve Hill

I recently made a trip to India with my oldest son, Mohammed, as a gift for his having successfully completed college. India has the distinction of having been occupied by different rulers through time. Among the occupiers were the Greeks, Romans, Persians, Portuguese, French and, of course, the British.

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Photo:
Sponsors have added attractions to the Lal Bagh Gardens. This floral clock is accentuated by characters from Walt Disney's "Snow White." Bangalore.

Presidents Message

by David A. Nelson

As 1996 comes to an end, it is time to look forward to what the next year might bring. If the last board meeting is any indication. 1997 could be a very dynamic year for CSPRA.

Not that a dues increase is something to jump up and sown about! But the extra money will allow us to be an advocate for state parks in the legislature. As Director Murphy stated in a recent interview in Coast and Ocean. "We need to get people out of the current mode of taking their natural and cultural resources for granted. . . . The population as a whole, and our political leaders, have to understand the inherent value of these parks. A legislative consultant, funded by the dues increase, is the first step in furthering that understanding.

The board of directors also took action to change the Newsletter. Starting in January, the Newsletter will be a bimonthly publication. It will be more colorful, graphic, and packed with interesting information (with your help!). In fact, we will be experimenting with the first few issues and will expect feedback from you.

It looks like 1997 will also thrust CSPRA into the forefront of parks on an international level. Just as our formation over 30 years ago thrust us into the state and national scene, recent developments have given us prominence in the international arena. We are the only non-national entity that has been given "nation" status by the International Ranger Federation. We are providing a partial scholarship for a Latin American ranger to this year's conference in Costa Rica. And it appears that we will have a large CSPRA contingent in Costa Rica as well. Our future at the international level is exciting, with the e-mail correspondence already worth the price of admission. You will be hearing much more of the many international opportunities in the months to come.

Finally, I have one goal that has not been met. It is my belief, and that of the board, that CSPRA should offer ranger training not offered by the Department. My model is similar to the old Regional Interpretive Workshops. The Board has agreed to furnish any needed financial support. We need someone to take such a project on, start to finish. If you have any interest or ideas along this line, please give me a call. Happy New Year!

Dues Increase (Continued from page 1)

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The increased revenue will be used to hire a legislative consultant. The board approved \$1,000 per month for consultant fees. Interviews are currently taking place, and it is anticipated that a consultant will be in place shortly after the new year. Just in time for the new legislative session!

The board would like to thank the members for their support in these matters. The decision to raise dues and hire a consultant was not taken lightly, and was only made after considerable discussion and the polling of membership. The legality of hiring a consultant and how it might affect our tax status was also investigated. The goal is to be an advocate for state parks, not to support a particular political party or candidate. For further information, contact president Dave Nelson.

How About India? (Continued from page 1)

Like waves lapping a beach, each incursion left a distinct and different imprint on the culture and landscape of every community.

When I visited India fifteen years ago, India clearly recognized the value of its unique resources for the foreign exchange they could generate. It appears now, however, that the Indian people have developed a stronger personal interest.

and this tradition has added to its attraction. At the center is the "Glass House," inspired by London's Crystal Palace, with its arches and translucent roof tiles. An annual flower show attracts tens of thousands of people. Considered the "lungs of the city," Lal Bagh Gardens is a regular stop for tourists, most of whom are Indian. The government invests heavily in the nurturing of the facilities, while sponsors are adding special features.

Agra, city of the Taj Mahal, is about a 5 hour bus ride from Delhi. The Taj Mahal is a

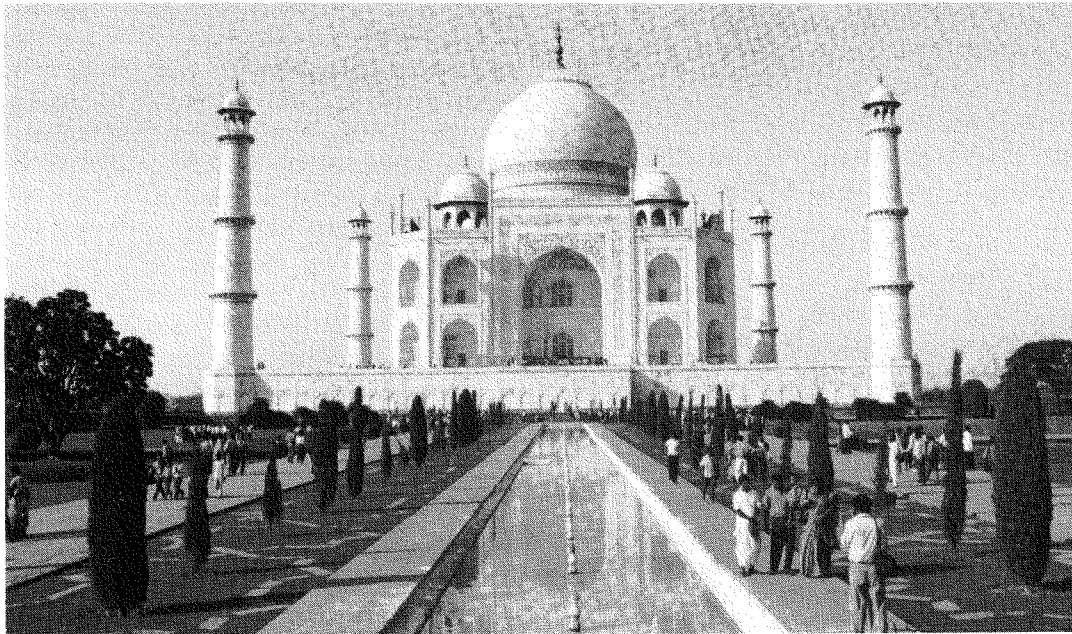


Photo:
The Taj Mahal was built between 1631 and 1653 by Emperor Shah Jahan (1627-1658) as the tomb for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, "ornament of the palace" Born in 1592, she married Shah Jahan in 1612 and died in 1631 after the birth of her 14th child. After his death the Emperor was buried by her side. Agra.

At all the places we visited we saw what appears to be a winning formula for parks. Pride in the resource features and concern about their protection is being translated into significant government investment in restoration and maintenance. Public travel networks and private tour operators have made access to parks and resource sites convenient for visitors and the information is well publicized and marketed. Low fees and free Friday admissions have resulted in obviously increased attendance, particularly by Indian nationals. The cities of Bangalore and Agra offer illustrations of the interest:

Bangalore, a southwestern city, is known as "the garden city". In the 18th century, ruler Hyder Ali Laid out 240 acres for a botanical garden, Lal Bagh Gardens. Rare trees were brought in from Persia, Afghanistan and France. Roses are a specialty. Visiting dignitaries such as Khrushchev have planted trees,

monument from the Mogul Emperor Shah Jahan to memorialize his departed wife, Mumtaz Mahal, mother of 14 of his children. The beautiful white marble structure is exquisite in its architecture and detail. Fifteen years ago when I visited, I was almost alone. The pools were dirty with landscaping limited to cutting grass. There was no apparent security. In contrast, my son and I found it to be a very lively place. Dozens of tourist shops line the route to the front gate. On this weekday afternoon there were hundreds of visitors, including groups of school children, all dressed in their gray and blue uniforms. The pride shows. The visitors, most of whom were Indian, were happy and quick to smile. The pools were clean and landscaping immaculate. Security guards were conspicuous and helpful. Restoration work is underway. "Improve it and they will come," appears to be the thinking, so the
(Continued on page 5)

HUMOR IN UNICORN

by Jeff Price



No skin off my nose.

"... and I came through it unscaled."

What was the point?

"Hey, you aren't making any scores with the Superintendent!"

Well then, I'll take two cases.

"It might not happen. It's just a first case scenario."

I'll have a filet mignon, medium rare.

"... and he really put her to the coals."

Strange circular hardware.

"... and so, everything hinges around the budget."

Saturday night on the bayou

"You might as well throw the baby in the back water."

Pandora's candle?

"Now you have opened up the whole ball of wax."

Stetson Hat

I would like to submit a letter for your approval to be published in the CSPRA newsletter. It was written by Ken Wilbur and has been inspirational to me. I hope other rangers find it that way too.

Ron Jones, Ranger I
North Coast Redwoods District

On October 1, 1996 we will be going into our winter mode of wearing the felt Stetson rather than our summer straw "Ranger Hat." Usually this occurs with little fanfare or thought. On October 1st of this year however, I'd like each of you to reflect upon the "Ranger Hat." What does it represent to you? What does it mean to the public when they see you wear it? Does it possess power? Do you feel different when you wear it? How long have you been a State Park Ranger and had the opportunity to wear the Stetson? It's one thing that visually sets you apart from nearly all other park employees.

We are now in the fourth year of the recent reorganization. We are still here, the parks are still here, and yes, the public is still here. You are a very resilient group of talented individuals who have been asked to do more and more and more. And you're doing it! As you put on that felt Stetson this year feel proud for what you have accomplished. Think of those individual park visitors that you have been able to help, the resources that you've protected, and the professional services you've provided to other agencies and your community.

You are doing a great job and it has not gone unnoticed by me or your supervisors. So on October 1st, when you put on that felt Stetson, take a little time to go to one of your special places in the park and reflect on what that Stetson means to you.

Thanks for being great rangers.

Kenneth G. Wilbur
Chief Ranger

How About India? (Continued from page 3)

government is now completing a four lane divided highway to connect Delhi to Agra. An international airport is also now under construction at Agra.

Despite the improved outlook in the attention to her heritage sites and parks, guides spoke openly of public concerns about long term effects to the Taj Mahal from air pollution. Apparently, nearby iron foundries generate harmful pollution levels that significantly exceed standards in several critical categories. The government has responded by banning new polluting industries within 50 kilometers of Agra, but the worry is that this is not enough to ensure that the Taj Mahal will be just as magnificent 500 years from now. Sound familiar?

Among visitors to India before us was Mark Twain, who wrote: "So far as I am able to judge, nothing has been left undone, either by man or nature, to make India the most extraordinary country that the sun visits on his rounds. Nothing seems to have been forgotten, nothing overlooked." My son and I agree, and I agree, and if anyone should ask for a travel recommendation, our answer will definitely be, "how about India!"

CSPRA Board Happenings by Scott Nakaji

The CSPRA Board of Directors met on December 3, 1996 in Old Sacramento. A number of issues had been in the works up until then, and this meeting was a chance to take action on these items and to move forward in our continuing effort to be proactive.

Many changes are occurring with CSPRA. The board has been taking a hard look at the services that CSPRA provides its members, including the effectiveness and quality as well as the associated costs. We felt that CSPRA needed to become more visible and proactive in its efforts to serve members, and in order to accomplish these goals things were going to have to change.

Perhaps one of the most important issues at hand was a decision to be made in regard to raising CSPRA's monthly membership dues by two dollars per month. In a recent survey in the newsletter members were polled about the possibility of a dues increase in order to hire a lobbying consultant. Of the surveys that were returned all were in favor of a dues increase for these enhanced services. Several members also verbally expressed their opinions in favor of the proposal. Based upon this information the board passed a motion in favor of the two dollar per month membership dues increase. As for the second half of the proposal, President David Nelson presented the results of his research of prospective lobbying consultants. The board then narrowed the field of candidates to two, passed a motion to commit \$12,000 per year to the consultant and formed a committee to conduct interviews of the final candidates. It is anticipated that the dues increase will take effect on or about February 1, 1997, and the lobbying consultant will start on or about March 1. One of the goals is to have the consultant attend one of the sessions at the California Parks Conference to help educate members on lobbying.

Speaking of the conference, David Nelson reported that the California Parks Conference to be held in Concord March 13-16, 1997 is progressing. East Bay Regional Parks will have a large presence at the conference, which is scheduled to include several tours.

In our continuing efforts to recruit new members CSPRA will be making a presentation to the new cadet class which begins January 5, 1997 at Mott Training Center. The board is busy making arrangements to provide the cadets with a quality presentation. We would like to thank Broc Stenman at Mott Training Center for his support of our efforts.

Director Susan Grove reported that the new, redesigned CSPRA membership brochure is almost ready for printing. The board passed a motion to approve funding for printing. Each member will receive a new brochure with a future newsletter, and the board is discussing incentives to members for signing up new members.

(Continued on page 6)

District Reps

Name	District	Work Phone	Home Phone
Muetz, M	American River	916 988-0205	916 622-9133
Padilla, F	Angeles-Coast	805 986-8484	818 880-4510
Crossman, J	Angeles Inland	805 945-1323	
Edgemon, C	Bay Area-Coast	415 726-8800	415 879-2025
Nielson, C.	Bay Area-Inland	510 673-2891	
Harrison, W	Calaveras	209 795-3488	209 795-5342
Vacant	Channel Coast		
Zemon, J	Colorado	619 767-5311	
Stokes, M	Four Rivers	209 826-1196	209 632-1627
Simmons, K.	Gold Rush Dist	916 445-7387	
Redoble, J	Los Lagos	909 657-0676	909 943-5119
Whitehead, M	Marin	415 435-5390	415 435-3082
Rath, L	Monterey	408 667-0148	408 667-0567
Vacant	Northern Buttes		
Jones, R	North Coast	707 946-2409	707 725-4920
Vacant	OHV		
Serpa, J	Orange Coast	714 496-6172	714 493-0773
Vacant	Pismo Dunes	805 473-7230	
Joe, K	Russ-Mendocino	707 937-5804	707 877-3592
Broderick, K.	Russ-Mendocino	707 847-3286	707 785-3432
Kerbavaz, J	S.D. Coast		619 575-3613
Vacant	San Joaquin		
Knapp, E	San Luis Obispo	805 772-7434	805 927-3516
Van Schmus, J	San Simeon	805 927-2020	805 772-9648
Oka, S.	Santa Cruz	408 338-8860	408 336-0822
Lindsey, T	Sierra	916 525-7232	
Nixon, V.	Silverado	707 279-4293	707 277-7713

If your District
doesn't have a
Rep give us a
call and volun-
teer.

The District Reps are your best connection with the board. Give them your ideas, suggestions, questions and complaints.

CSPRA Finances

California State Park Rangers Association

Who we are . . .

*Support quality Department efforts

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

*Comment on proposed park uses

The Professional organization
that cares about protecting and
preserving the values of the
State Park System.

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

For more information about CSPRA
and how you can become a member
write:

What we do . . .

*Provide professional exchange of
thought

*Defend State Park System integrity

CSPRA
P.O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010
(800) 994-2530
(916) 558-3734

Checking
Balance

\$595.71

General
Savings
Balance

\$10,660.54

SAVE
BODIE!
Savings

\$1,268.20

Total Assets
\$12,524.45

Board Happenings (Continued from page 5)

President Nelson and President-Elect Scott Nakaji re-established dialogue with the department, meeting with Deputy Director of Park Stewardship Ken Jones on November 7, 1996. One of our goals is to make this a regular happening in order to provide and maintain an open line of communication between CSPRA and the DPR.

In order to upgrade the quality of the newsletter, as well as divert funds to other efforts that will better serve members (such as the lobbying consultant), the CSPRA Newsletter will become a bi-monthly publication beginning in 1997. This change originated from a suggestion by a CSPRA member and was approved unanimously by the board. This goes to show that your suggestions do make a difference.

The board passed a motion approving a scholarship of \$300 to be provided for a Latin American Park Ranger to attend the International Ranger Federation Conference in Costa Rica in September 1997.

Director David Collins has been busy in his efforts to provide state parks with maximum positive exposure. His current projects include the BAEER Fair in January, and he is looking into the Adopt-A-Highway Program.

As you can tell, the December 3rd board meeting was a very busy and productive one. Action was taken on many items, many of which came directly from members. If you have any comments or concerns regarding our efforts at CSPRA please contact your district representative or a board member. We want to hear from you.

Did You Know?

by Lo Lo

In proportion to it's size, the octopus has the largest brain of any invertebrate.

The Starfish and sponges have no brain.

Waking Up From The California Dream

by David Carle

"What possible connection . . . can there be between that lost world, with its arroyo cabins and Spanish imagery, its daydreams of Malibut sunsets and orange groves, and today's megasuburbs extending from Mexico to Kern County?" Kevin Starr

While everyone else celebrates the millennium's end in the year 2000, Californians will have another reason to party. It was September, 1850, when President Millard Fillmore signed the act confirming California as the nation's 31st state. So the turn of the century, also marks 150 years of statehood—California's sesquicentennial anniversary.

The mass invasion of gold-seeking '49ers which propelled us to overnight statehood was still to come in 1846. But Mexico's hold on upper California was already being challenged. Grizzly bears so impressed early Californians with their power and omnipresence in the region, that they became the symbol for the 1846 "Bear Flag Revolt." In time, the grizzly became the official state mammal, a status which did nothing to slow their rapid extermination during California's American era.

Grizzlies had actually flourished during the Spanish and Mexican periods, particularly around missions and ranchos where cattle carrion abounded. The state may have held a peak population of 10,000 grizzly bears around 1830. There came a quick decline following statehood, dropping to zero in the 1920s. By that time the pristine environment of California was changing in ways unimaginable back in 1850.

"At all seasons there was a variety and abundance of food, both animal and plant . . . whales, water birds, fish, elk, deer and antelope were common . . . Clovers . . . grew to unbelievable height and density . . . Berry-producing vines and bushes screened stream borders and hill regions . . . Oaks . . . covered many valley flats and slopes . . . and afforded acorns for months each year."

Tracy I. Storer

(Continued on page 8)

Director David Collins has been busy in his efforts to provide state parks with maximum positive exposure.

Grizzlies had actually flourished during the Spanish and Mexican periods, particularly around missions and ranchos where cattle carrion abounded.

Waking Up . . .

(Continued from page 7)

That description of the environmental richness of early California—for grizzly bears—could just as well have been meant for the first humans living here. The California Indians and grizzlies used similar resources, yet coexisted for thousands of years. But both bear and native human populations would be devastated in a few decades, by new competitors in overwhelming numbers.

The key years in California's modern development were 1913, 1940 and 1971. In 1913, the Los Angeles Aqueduct began delivering Owens River water to L.A. 1940 saw the completion of the Colorado River Aqueduct. And in 1971, Governor Reagan and dignitaries commemorated the transfer of Northern California water across the mountains into Southern California. Each new water delivery fostered a population boom in the following decades.

This watery focus may seem an oversimplified way to explain California's history. Most historians emphasize railroad and real estate company boosterism, with their heavy promotion of "the California Dream;" citrus farms expanding, then surrendering to freeways and suburbs; the Hollywood movie industry growing up and spreading images of the sunny Southland; and World War II bringing heavy growth of aircraft and military industries.

But population increases after the early 1900s, beyond the limits set by local water sources, could happen only because of imported water.

"... the emergence of Los Angeles as the leading metropolis of Southern California was in splendid defiance of all visible logic." T.H. Watkins

"There was never a region so unlikely to become a vast metropolitan area as Southern California. It is . . . man-made, a gigantic improvisation." Carey McWilliams

What if Southern California's development had followed a different path? In some alternate reality, some parallel universe, perhaps water engineer William Mulholland

was successful when he begged Los Angeles' city fathers to end their deification of growth. Perhaps they took him at his word when he growled that the way to solve the city's water problem was to kill the Chamber of Commerce members.

It is intriguing to imagine the Owens Valley as it might be today, if its river waters had remained in their natural watershed. As a ranger in the Eastern Sierra, I hear opinions expressed, again and again, that today's sparsely populated Owens Valley was preserved by the water imperialism of Los Angeles—saved from the overdevelopment rampant elsewhere in the state.

I wonder if the City of Bishop might, today, be an urban center, not the equivalent of Los Angeles, but akin to Carson City, Nevada (which shares a similar climate and setting), with agriculture still viable on nearby valley lands.

In this imaginary reality, Bishop's small town atmosphere might be lost. But consider Orange County and the Los Angeles basin within that same scenario. Picture urban enclaves far smaller than today's, and still encircled by rural farmland . . . still scented by the blossoms of nearby citrus orchards. The south coast would, as always, attract tourists, but to far less crowded beaches, moving along far less congested highways, breathing air far less polluted by the "people fumes" we call "smog."

Ah, but those decisions bringing water—bringing people—are behind us now. Their consequences have been faced. Why should history and imaginary "what ifs?" concern us today?

In the early 1970s, when our state had 10 million fewer people, and the population seemed to be stabilizing, historian Remi Nadeau wrote:

"Today Southern California has lost its booster spirit. It has vanished along with the clear skies, the uncrowded beaches, the unjammed streets, and the delightful countryside that made Los Angeles the mecca of tourist and settler. [Our] culture . . . turned its original objective—to settle the vacant land—into a blind dogma that
(Continued on page 9)

I hear opinions expressed, again and again, that today's sparsely populated Owens Valley was preserved by the water imperialism of Los Angeles

Waking Up . . . (Continued from page 8)

persisted long after its reason had disappeared. Indeed, one might say that . . . they have brought in too much water. For if California now has enough water to more than double in population, then much of California is doomed to become insufferable."

If Nadeau had been right about the end of boosterism, then, twenty years later, we might hope that the process was closing down. Yet when he wrote those words, newly available Central Valley water had just come on line, and he had not seen the growth it fostered through these final decades of the 20th century.

Why should history lessons matter today? One month ago, in October 1996, the U.S. Census Bureau announced projections that California will add another 17.7 million people by the year 2025; 56% more people in the next thirty years, bringing us to an incredible 50 million residents! And a California demographer criticized those Census projections as being too low!

Can anyone other than shortsighted developers and land speculators seriously want that? Our poor children and grandchildren.

As we consider our first 150 years as a state, we can embrace the truth that such projections do not have to come true. They cannot be realized unless we accommodate them by, yet again, seeking ways to move water.

Plans have long been prepared, are now growing dusty, but still exist, to bring Columbia River water from Oregon, or Canadian waters, or even polar icebergs down to California, to facilitate future growth. Much closer to home, and more immediate, the Los Angeles Times reported on Aug 25, this year, the City of San Diego's wish to import 500,000 acre-feet of water annually from the Imperial Valley.

The "blind dogma" is apparently alive and well. It shaped our first 150 years as a state, too often making environmental nightmares of our California Dreams.

Perhaps, finally, we should wake up.

Census Bureau announced projections that California will add another 17.7 million people by the year 2025; 56% more people in the next thirty years, bringing us to an incredible 50 million residents!



Photo:
Donna Pozzi and John Mott recently joined with the CSPRA Board to honor past Executive Manager, Doug Bryce. A plaque was presented to Doug that reads: "In recognition of your 29 years of service to CSPRA. With deepest affection from your friends, the members of CSPRA."
March 14, 1996.

**Education and Training Committee
Scholarship Request Form**

Instructions: Please send completed sheet to Frederick Jee, in sufficient time to receive your grant prior to your training.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

CSPRA Member? _____ When did you send in your DPR 392? _____

Description of training _____

How will it be of value to you? _____

To the profession? _____

Tuition \$ _____ Material \$ _____ Travel \$ _____

Miscellaneous \$ _____ Total requested \$ _____

How much will the Department pay? \$ _____

Please attach a copy of your returned DPR 392 and a course announcement. Send to:

Frederick Jee
Education and Training Committee
P. O. Box 483
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

A California Timeline

(To accompany the article "... The California Dream"
by David Carle — Page 8-10)

- 1848: Gold discovered at Sutters Mill; Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends war with Mexico and transfers California territory to the United States.
- 1849: Gold Rush; 90,000 49ers arrive.
- 1850: Statehood
- 1875: Southern Pacific Railroad reaches Southern California.
- 1886: First trainload of oranges leaves for the East.
- 1887: Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad reaches L.A.; competition with Southern Pacific drops fares from Midwest from \$125 to \$1; land speculation booms.
- 1900: L.A. population has doubled since 1890, from 50,000 to 102,000.
- 1905: L.A. voters authorize Owens Valley project; "... Mulholland warned that the cities existing water supply was incapable of supporting more than 220, 000 people, a number only slightly larger than the current population . . . But in the next eight years that it took to complete the aqueduct . . . the city's population rose to more than 500, 000 without experiencing a water shortage of any kind." Marc Reisner.
- 1913: Owens River water begins flowing down L.A. Aqueduct.
- 1920: L.A. population 576,000, finally surpassing San Francisco.
- 1930: Since 1920, 2,251,000 people added to the state (1,368,000 to Southern California).
- 1940: Colorado River Aqueduct completed to Southern California; State's population is at 6,907,387.
- 1941: World War II; water diversions from Mono Lake Basin begin to Los Angeles.
- 1947: In prior 7 years California gains 3 million new residents; smog has been a noticeable problem since 1943; "... a manmade blight so despised that the California legislature passed a law against it in 1947 by a vote of 73 to 1." Los Angeles A.P.C.D.
- 1960: California Water Project Bonds approved, to move Central Valley water to the south.
- 1970: State's population is 19,953,134; now the most urban state in nation, as well as most populous.
- 1971: Northern California water begins to be pumped across mountains into Southern California, through the California Aqueduct.
- 1982: Voters reject the Peripheral Canal, meant to move water around the delta, before shipping it south; the first electoral defeat of a major water project in California.
- 1994: The State Water Resources Control Board amends LA's water licenses in Mono Basin, to protect and restore Mono Lake and its tributary streams.
- 1996: California population is now over 32 million.

International Ranger Federation Update

A message from IRF Chairman Gordon Miller of the UK

Since the first IRF Congress in Poland, we have made progress in encouraging the formation of new ranger associations around the world. Canada, Germany, Romania and Slovakia have joined the world ranger family; Sweden and Kenya are on the threshold of creating new associations. Our ultimate strength will be in an organization that truly spans the globe, from the smallest to the largest countries.

This year, I've experienced wonderful hospitality from rangers in other countries. In the first part of the year, I was in Costa Rica and South Africa, inspecting possible sites for the next world Congress, and was not surprised to find very dedicated rangers working in their protected areas. I promise you that we have wonderful venues for the second Congress in San Jose, Costa Rica, next year, and the third Congress, in Kruger National Park, South Africa, in 2000.

During May, I attended the inaugural annual meeting of the newly formed Ranger Association of Ireland in Killarney National Park in the Republic of Ireland. The hospitality and scenery were both outstanding. It was also wonderful to see rangers there from the ranger association from Northern Ireland, and from the ranger association in England. IRF knows no political boundaries!

I also traveled to Austria in late May to address a symposium on the "Role of Rangers as Educators," and to talk about the Federation. As a result, a meeting will take place in September of all 75 Austrian rangers to discuss forming a ranger association.

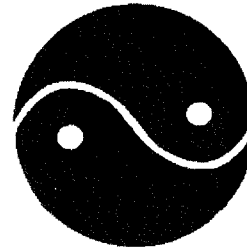
The Austrian experience is typical of an increasing acknowledgment around the world that the Federation is the international representative body for rangers in protected areas.

Over the next year, the Federation will circulate a code of ethics and will establish an exchange forum. We will also establish an international committee or council to represent all the continents. The Federation exists to represent member associations, and, by inference, their individual members. We depend on feedback and also a commitment to share our problems and our successes...*Gordon Miller*

Second World Congress in Costa Rica

The second world IRF Congress will be held at the four-star Hotel Cariari in San Jose, Costa Rica, between Thursday, September 25, and Monday, September 29, 1997. The U.S. Association of National Park Rangers will take the lead in organizing the Congress.

- **Cost** - The Congress will cost about \$600 per delegate, double occupancy. The price includes six nights in the hotel, five days of three meals with a sixth dinner, and all tips and taxes. It will also cover the cost of meeting rooms, audio visual equipment, complimentary rooms for guest speakers, field trips, and sundry conference facilities.



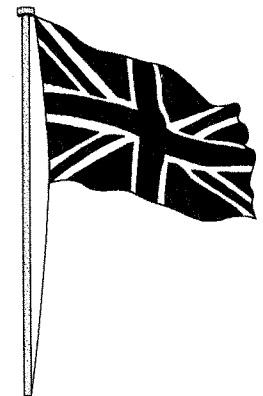
- **Governmental Support** - President Figueres and Environmental Minister Ren Castro hope to participate in the welcoming ceremonies and at other times during the Congress.

- **Sponsors** - The Costa Rican Institute of Tourism and the National Tourism Council has promised assist the Congress.

The program is still under development, but the theme of the Congress is "The Ranger's Role in Sustainable Development". There will also be guest speakers, field trips, and other activities.

Twinning

One of the recommendations that came from the first world Congress was that associations should attempt to "twin"; that is, develop formal relationships in order to facilitate member exchanges, mutual support and related activities. SCRA, the Scottish Ranger Association, has formally signed an agreement to this effect with the Iceland Wardens Association, and CMA, the English organization, is considering a link with the Game Rangers Association of Africa.



IRF - NEWS ABOUT RANGERS

Rwanda:

The following was taken from the March/April edition of Focus, the newsletter of the World Wildlife Fund: "For risking their lives to stay at their posts and guard endangered mountain gorillas during the 1994 Rwandan civil war, the staff of Rwanda's Parc National des Volcans will receive the J. Paul Getty Wildlife Conservation Award. The \$50,000 prize, administered by World Wildlife Fund, is one of the largest awards given for outstanding achievement in the conservation of wildlife and its habitats...

"Roughly half of the world's 650 remaining mountain gorillas reside in the Virunga mountain range of Rwanda and Zaire. Long beset by poachers, these gorillas faced a potentially even greater threat to their survival last year when Rwanda's bloody civil war spread to the Parc National des Volcans.

"The park's troubles began when soldiers breached the park's perimeters and ransacked and damaged its buildings. Later, when remnants of the deposed government's army fled the country, they beat a destructive path through the park, breaking into offices, destroying records and books and throwing computers out windows.

"Throughout the ordeal, park guards and administrators remained calm, refusing to abandon their posts for the relative safety of neighboring Zaire. Park guards, even without financial assistance, continued patrolling the grounds for poachers - so successfully that not one gorilla was lost during the conflict (although one was later killed by a land mine), even as gorillas in neighboring Zaire and Uganda fell to poachers.

"Eventually, the deposed government army, in an effort to clear out as much of Rwanda's population as possible, forcibly drove park staff into Zaire. When the new Rwandan government finally gained access to the park, they found a heap of buildings and infrastructure - all of it needing to be rebuilt...

"In addition to rebuilding facilities, the national parks office needs equipment, uniforms, raincoats, boots, rations, and field allowances," said Henri Nsanjama, WWF's Vice President for Africa. "The Getty prize money will help defray some of those expenses, while at the same time honoring a group of courageous conservationists as they resume their task of protecting mountain gorillas and their forest habitat."

Australia

The new Australian Ranger Association (ARA) held its inaugural meeting at Belair National Park in Adelaide, South Australia. Participants representing park services in Northern Territory, South Australia, Western Australia, Victoria, and Australian Capital Territory attended. ARA can also be reached via the Internet by contacting Richard Coombe, South Australian NPWS, at: rcoombe@senet.com.au



Eire (Ireland)

The Ranger Association of Ireland (RAI), reports that the RAI's annual general meeting, was held in Killarney National Park on May 10-12, 1996. Rangers attended from both Northern Ireland and the Republic, as well as a small contingent from the U.K., also representing IRF.

The weekend was used by all to gain new contacts, share common experiences, and to learn differing approaches to similar problems... Weekend activities included night lowland deer counts, a boat trip across the lakes, and guided walks through the Derrycunihy oakwoods and Muckcross yew woods.

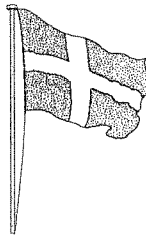
Any inquiries relating to the RAI should be addressed to the secretary, Tim Burkett, c/o Killarney National Park, Muckcross HQ, Killarney, County Kerry, Eire.

South Africa

The Game Rangers Association (GRA) of Africa is undertaking an effort to control "the almost indiscriminate use of the designation 'game ranger' by establishments outside of wildlife and conservation management..." The problem is that the term "game ranger" is now being used by graduates of brief (one to four week) insubstantial training programs. GRA is looking at registering the "game ranger" name.

Sweden

The establishment of a National Conservation Association in Sweden is under way. One of the main topics for the new association will be the major cut in the government's nature conservation budget planned for 1997.



National Interpreter's Workshop

by **Brian Cahill, District Interpretive Specialist**

Over a thousand interpreters and one little black dog converged on Billings, Montana at the end of October. The National Interpreter's Workshop is the annual gathering of a unique group of folks.

At airports and hubs like Chicago and Denver you began to notice them. Near the gates marked "Billings," there were fewer suits and a lot more gore-tex and flannel, lots of guys with beards. Outgoing folks! Yes, interpreters were migrating from Mount Rainier and Mount Katahdin, the Everglades and the San Diego coast along with Scotland, Taiwan and other exotic places.

There is truly plenty of room in Montana. There are fewer people in the whole state of Montana than there are in either San Francisco or San Jose. At 850,000 population, this state has been called just a city with very long streets. (Yep, those streets are the highways you have heard of, with no speed limits).

We had heard all the stories about weather so cold that dogs freeze to trees but it was a warm 46° when we landed at the rimrock airport overlooking the city. Before the week was over, the temperature dropped and we got our snow, cutting short our field trip to Yellowstone and spreading a blanket of white over the city.

Over 160 workshop sessions offered something for everyone. The National Parks Training Center staff showed off their new "Interpretation 101" curriculum. Among my favorites was a vendor presenting the latest materials and methods for producing interpretive panels from digital files. Another favorite was the Corps of Engineers discussing their integration of Quality Management principles into their interpretive program.

The workshop theme "A Sense of Space -- A Sense of Place" was illustrated with an interactive banner in the lobby. Covered with postcards and snapshots from the many places the interpreters call home, it por-

trayed the richness of this gathering.

During free time, we took in as much of the local scenery as time would allow. One highlight was the field trip to the "Classic Bars of Montana." Picture for a moment, ninety outgoing interpreters pouring into the Atlas bar where the floor is sticky and the walls are covered with the heads of dead animals cloaked in thirty years of dust. Locals look up from their beer in wonder and peer at the intruders from under cowboy hats. Actually there were few locals out that night in the ice and snow. Yet the interpreter's bus was filled with warmth as it braved the treacherous roads and we found fellowship and fun. I met a museum interpreter from Syracuse who swapped home brewing stories with me along the way.

Early the next morning it was back to work learning new techniques for training visitor center interpreters and picking up a wealth of goodies and ideas at the Marketplace of Ideas.

Little "Matt," our small black furry friend, attended every session. He enjoyed unique access as a guide dog puppy in training. Charming and well behaved, he became a bit of a celebrity. Unfortunately he lost his favorite yellow chewy toy during the workshop, but he made a lot of new friends.

Next year we head off to Beaumont (down on the right side of), Texas. We'll learn more new stuff, share neat ideas and have a great time. Maybe you should be there too?



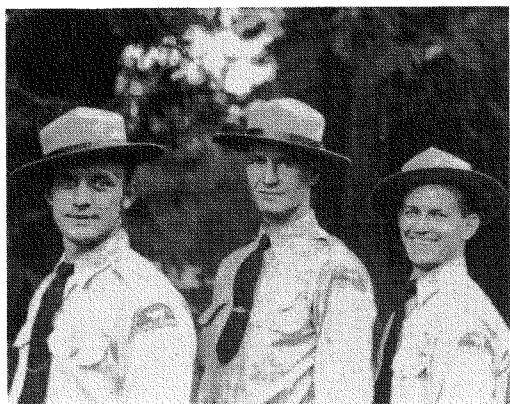
Dear Editor

The July 1996 Newsletter mentioned the passing of George Leetch and Gordon Kishbaugh. I thought I would send along a couple of photo's and some additional information. The photo's are from *Rangers of California's State Parks*.

Mike Lynch, Ranger I, American River District

Gordon Kishbaugh.

The story of Gordon Kishbaugh's days as a ranger was published in a 1990 SPPOAC article "Diary of an Early Ranger," written by Barbara Kishbaugh. Gordon started working seasonally for the department in 1938 at Sea Cliff Beach. He had many assignments, including closing D L Bliss in September 1943 "for the remainder of the war." Gordon retired with 30 years service in 1971. Anyone who would like a copy of the Kishbaugh Diary article, please contact Mike Lynch, P.O. Box 3212, Auburn, CA 95604-3212 — (916) 885-9420 or eMail: lynch@psyber.com



Ranger Gordon Kishbaugh, Center with Rangers Robert Carlson left and George Lynn right (1940's).



George Leetch.

As mentioned in the CSPRA article George was one of the few state park employees to be awarded the California Medal of Valor. His actions have been described as "Charges Into Earthquake to Evacuate Campers." The following is George's official Medal of Valor Citation:

On April 8, 1968 an earthquake occurred in the Split Mountain Gorge, located in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. At the time of the earthquake, nine families were camped at Split Mountain, a two mile long canyon with sheer, conglomerate walls ranging in height from 300 to 400 feet.

Upon notification of the danger to the campers, Ranger George Leetch immediately went into the gorge and started directing families from the area. The earthquake had caused huge boulders to loosen and crash down the mountainside, smashing vehicles and blocking the exit. Visibility was almost zero. The campers were confused; some were hysterical. While Leetch was in the gorge trying to calm the campers, an aftershock caused more boulders to fall and added to the confusion. With the earth still trembling, and despite imminent danger to his own safety and like, George Leetch calmed the people and successfully led the campers to safety.



Ranger George Leetch talking to a group in Fish Creek Wash near Split Mountain.

December



1996

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