

NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

Volume VI Number 70

February 1996

A Bit of Magic: NAI Conference

Continued

by Linda Rath

Ranger II

Monterey District

Like Brian, I discovered the world of illusion and magic at the 1995 NAI National Conference.

Through a behind the scenes tour of Epcot Center's World Village where imagineers create a world of castles, waterfalls and a wonder of the world or two out of fiberglass, metal and paint, I was transported to countries around the world. This is a place where you can walk down a street in France while the aroma of pastries waft from a nearby bakery. Of course, as in Disney fashion, it's an illusion as scent jet sprayers send bakery smells out into the air around you drawing you into a shop full of pastries to buy baked elsewhere. (Could this be an interpretive method to use at often sterile historic sites to make history come alive for park visitors?)

Attending concurrent sessions, learning about interpretive solutions to problems I deal with everyday, meeting new friends and seeing old friends, listening to keynote speakers, browsing through the resource exhibits and discovering the latest developments in interpretation brought back that magical spark that I always feel (Continued on page 5)

Slice of History Facing Budget Ax

Copied from the San Benito County Free
Lance written by Laurie Lemmerman

Inside the walls of Mission San Juan Bautista, the mood is peaceful, even reverent, but step outside to the plaza, and the San Juan Bautista State Historic Park is filled with the sounds of hoop skirts rustling, spurs jangling on the wooden sidewalks and even a musician strumming his guitar outside the saloon.

It's not a time warp, but Living History Day, put on by volunteer docents of the San Juan Bautista State Park Association every first Saturday of the month as a way of exposing people to the rich local history of San Juan Bautista.

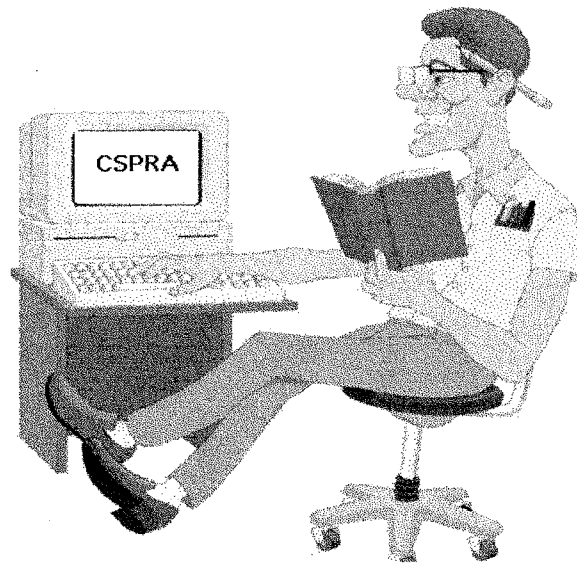
Yet, even as the event grows in popularity and the number of people visiting the park increases, according to state rangers, the park is facing one of its leanest budgets in recent years, operating on the same amount of funds from the state as it did in 1987.

"Our funding is dependent on the state's budget, and we are facing the possibility of a reduction in our seasonal budget," said Linda Rath, supervising ranger of the Monterey District/Gavilan sector of the state's department of Parks and Recreation, including Fremont Peak State Park. "It's been an ongoing situation since 1989, and we have had to face a lot of restructuring." (Continued on page 5)

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President's Message
President Getty is Vacationing in Costa Rica.



**Humor In Unicorn
Twisted Sayings Abound**
by Jeff Price, Marin

Hardware enigma.

No more fooling around, we have to
get our screws bolted down!

Don't lose your head!

Don't make those guys mad - any
one of them could take your hat off.

Cervical carpeting.

He had him by the nap of the neck.

Footloose with a leg up.

... so remember, when lifting
heavy loads don't use your back,
use your feet.

To be or not to be?

I'll have to check with the powers
that are.

Olfactory obstacle.

You could see the smell of death in
their eyes.

Not quite clear.

Don't get all muddied up in the
water.

Truly a pessimist.

It's just another example of a half a
glass full.

Amazing animals.

... and on top of the mountain, the
wind is blowing like cats and dogs.

Meteorological guilt?

If that is true, then we are all
painted with the same cloud.

Ranger Frank Brown Passes

Franklyn Brown, 77, died on January 6, 1996 after a lengthy battle with lymphoma. Brown worked for 33 years with DPR. He started at Big Basin Redwoods State Park in 1940. He retired in 1973 after being in charge of the Bothe-Napa Valley State Park. After retiring Brown and his wife, Ione, made their home in Soda Bay.



INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION (IRF) UPDATE

by Mike Lynch

The following is from the International Ranger Federation (IRF) newsletter published by the IRF four times per year. Anyone interested in the IRF should contact Mike Lynch (916-885-4527) or Bud Getty.

National Contacts

The IRF Delegates at Zakopane in June 1995 enthusiastically endorsed a proposal to develop a system whereby rangers can contact their opposite numbers in other nations prior to making trips abroad in order to arrange travel, site visits, and so forth. England's Countryside Management Association has offered to set up a worldwide database. They are currently seeking funding from the government, and chances appear fairly good that they will receive some assistance. The database could be enlarged to also include information on skills, training opportunities and related matters.

Ethics

At Zakopane, delegates agreed to establish standards and an international code of ethics for rangers, employing existing models. Cliff Chetwin from the U.S. and members of his group are making progress and have produced a first draft of the code. A final draft will be published in the next newsletter for consideration by the membership.



*Ranger in uniforms, from around the world,
at the first Ranger World Congress,
Zakopane, Poland, 1995*

MEMBER ASSOCIATION NEWS

Canada

Parks Canada wardens have formed a national association, tentatively named the National Park Wardens, Association. At present, about 130 of Parks Canada's 450 wardens have joined the new organization. A newsletter has been completed which will soon be mailed to all members. It will be followed by a survey asking members questions on, among other things, allocation of dues, organizational structure, national meetings and affiliation with IRF.

The interim chair of NPWA is Mark Halley, a warden from Leamington, Ontario. Clint Toews, a fellow warden from Winnipeg, Manitoba, and interim board member, traveled to the United States in November to meet with members of the U.S. Association of National Park Rangers at their annual gathering. The meetings were very positive, with both sides agreeing to work together on a variety of issues, including training, job sharing, standards, and a possible joint meeting some time within the next few years.

(Late news: NPWA is now a member of the International Ranger Federation! Their membership was sponsored by the U.S. ANPR).

Denmark

Naturvejlederforeningen, the Danish ranger association, is working closely with Denmark's Nature and Forest Agency. One area is in training.

The Environmental Interpreter Service in Denmark costs about 27 million Danish kroner each year. Most of the budget comes from public funds - the pools and lotto. Every year, they pay for 20 new rangers to attend a seven week training course, which is given over a three year period. About 150 rangers have been educated to date.

The Nature and Forest Agency is about to come up with new courses for already educated rangers in the following areas:

- National and local environments
- How to find new target groups
- Interpretation and tourism

The latest initiative is a "future workshop" to investigate and develop new projects for interpretation techniques and similar undertakings.

Naturvejlederforeningen is arranging courses and seminars. The program for the upcoming seminar will include workshops on international cooperation. If you're interested in attending the session, please contact Ida Marie Jensen (address and phone are available).

Romania

The Association of Romanian Rangers (ARR) has just been formed and will have its first meeting this month.

Scotland/Iceland

The Scottish Countryside Rangers Association and the Iceland Rangers Association have agreed to "twin" - that is, to establish a formal relationship between the two organizations - and will sign an agreement to this end in April. A model twinning agreement is available upon request to Gordon Miller.

Slovakia

IRF chairman Gordon Miller has been working with Vlado Vancura on the establishment of a ranger association in Slovakia. Vlado has applied to act as a representative to IRF until such an association is formed. England's CMA has sponsored his membership.



Mike Lynch trades hats with Slovak Ranger Zdenek Pochop at the Ranger World Congress.

South Africa

The Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRA) will hold its annual meeting in Natal-KwaZulu between March 6th and 10th. The meeting is a large gathering of rangers and families from throughout the country. The theme for discussion this year will be the protection of threatened species in Africa.

Cape Vidal is part of the greater St. Lucia Wetland Park, some 200,000 hectares of bushveld, savannah, swampland, coastal dune forest, and the St. Lucia estuary (largest in Africa). The camp borders on the ocean. If you'd like to attend, GRA would like to know well in advance. Contact C. John Forrest (address and phone are on the attached IRF directory).

It is with regret that we have to report that GRA's Mike Landman, who was a delegate at Zakopane, is suffering from a brain tumor. Mike is a great fighter and heartfelt wishes for his full recovery go out to him from all his friends in the Federation.

United States

The U.S. Association of National Park Rangers held its week-long annual meeting in Minnesota in November. The meeting was conducted during a period of political turmoil in the United States; shortly after it ended, the government including most of the U.S. National Park Service - closed down for almost a week due to insufficiency of funds. The "rendezvous" was nonetheless a success, with members attending a variety of workshops, listening to presentations by numerous speakers, and revitalizing their sense of camaraderie and purpose.

During the business meeting, ANPR's board of directors endorsed four recommendations made by the association's international affairs committee:

To assist the Canadian park wardens (rangers) in establishing their association, and to explore possibilities for future collaboration, including a possible joint meeting in 1997.

To determine criteria for twinning and appropriate countries to twin with. To continue to support formation of ranger associations in the Western hemisphere.

To provide specific support necessary to ACORENA to ensure a viable IRF congress should Costa Rica be identified as a future site, and to continue on-going support to IRF in other business.

IRF Resource Sharing

Do you have something you can share with rangers in other nations? Do you have a need that rangers in other nations might be able to meet? Send your offerings or needs for the next newsletter.

The Associazione Ligure Agenti Di Vigilanza Ambientale (ALAVA) in Italy will probably be able to donate three, second-hand, two-way, YAESU FT-23R VHF portable radios in need of communications equipment. They would like to donate them to rangers assigned to anti-poaching duties in an Asian or African country.

ALAVA is collecting all available information from foreign countries on wildlife law enforcement topics, including training, equipment, regulations, patrol techniques, anti-poaching programs and activities, wildlife forensics, etc. Augusto Atturo, ALAVA's chairman, is preparing a review of publications, agencies, and other useful addresses concerning law enforcement in natural resources protection. ALAVA would like to receive other publications about these matters, and is willing to share its training papers and other documentation with fellow IRF members involved in law enforcement duties elsewhere in the world.

Translators Needed

We are very much in need of volunteers to regularly translate this newsletter and other IRF documents from English into the world's many other languages particularly Spanish, because of its great usage in South America. If you would like to help, please contact Bill Halainen.

Personal Notices

If you or any member of your national association is looking for overseas training opportunities, plans on traveling abroad, or has any other need requiring broad contact with many rangers of the world, she or he can send along a short notice for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Andrew Marwick, ranger in charge at Arthur's Seat State Park in Victoria, Australia, writes that rangers in his area are interested in exchanges with rangers throughout the world. If you'd like to engage in such exchanges, write to him at RMB 5528, Arthur's Seat, Victoria 3928, Australia.



A Bit of Magic (Continued from page 1)

when I step away from day to day park operations to attend one of these conferences.

Among the many concurrent sessions I attended, one workshop that made the most impact on me and my future as an interpreter was presented by Connie Rudd of the National Park Service featuring interpreting through the use of compelling stories. Interpreting through the use of compelling stories answer the question "why should I care?". (All interpretation should answer this question). During a time of questionable public support, budget priority shifts, increased workloads and reduced staff, and an unknown future for all parks, this, perhaps, is the question we should all be trying to answer to each and every person who attends our interpretive programs or visits our park units.

Why Should I Care?."

Visiting Disney's World Epcot Center was a magical experience for me. But the magic that will stay with me even longer was the magic I discovered at the 1995 NAI conference.

Budget Ax (Continued from page 1)

Rath, who has been in charge of the two local state parks for the past two years, says she is not sure if any of the park's exhibits, which include the Castro/Breen House, the Plaza stable, the Plaza Hall and the Plaza Hotel, would have to be shut down if legislators call for a reduction in the park and recreation department's budget.

"The director (of the department) says he is committed to keeping the parks open without any more cuts," she said. "I don't know what will happen to us if we do (lose funds)."

During the 1989-90 fiscal year, the department received 56 percent of its State Parks operating budget from general-fund tax revenue; in 1995-96, that number will drop to just 27 percent, forcing the balance to be made up from a variety of other sources, including increased revenues and the backing of non-profit organizations.

The department has already streamlined management, and the two state parks in San Juan now operate with just one state ranger apiece. Rich Morales at Fremont Peak and Nedra

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Budget Ax

(Continued from page 5)

Martinez at the Historical Park. Locally, there are also plans to generate additional revenue through partnerships, sponsorships to private businesses (which would give the right to claim being a sponsor but not the right to advertise at the park) and concession stands.

The Association also helps to raise funds, with the big event being the annual two-day Living History weekend in June, including a Victorian period costume ball Saturday night and this year the raffle of a quilt made by volunteers.

To merchants who thrive on the business the park provides, the news of possible cutbacks is worrisome, at the least.

"It could definitely affect the businesses here in town," said Diana, the assistant manager at Dona Esther restaurant. "A lot of people come here just for the park. Especially during the weekends, but even during the week, the park brings them in."

Irene Schultz, owner of the Woodworks, the manager of TOPS, a jewelry and rock store located next to the park, and a member of the Association, says although she hasn't heard of any proposed cuts, it could hurt local merchants.

"This store (TOPS) gets a lot of foot traffic, and we would definitely feel it," she said. "What we have here is very unique, and it's very important to the town."

Fees for the park is the main source of income. To tour the inside of the Castro/Breen House and the Plaza Hotel, there is a State Park fee of \$2 per adult and \$1 for children ages 6-12. One problem rangers face is often visitors do not realize the park is run separate from the actual Mission. "The state actually owns just three missions," Rath said. "Here, the Catholic Church owns the Mission and simply asks for a donation. Then, when people come out here, they often say 'we have to pay to see this?' If we hear that, we try to encourage them to come in."

Visitors as well as local merchants praise the park's uniqueness, as it is the only mission to still have an operating plaza as well as one of the only mission churches still providing daily Mass. The area provides the opportunity to learn several different periods of history, including the settling of the Mission, the Spanish period, the Mexican period and the Indian

period of San Juan Bautista.

Last year, 35,000 people paid to tour the park, and that number doesn't come close to the unpaid attendees, according to Martinez. But as busy as the park is on weekends, it doesn't come close to the approximately 300 students from as far away as Fresno who visit the park daily as part of their California history classes, said Rath.

"Even cities who have their own missions, like Santa Cruz, bring their students here," she said. "We have all kinds of information on all periods of history, and our buildings are often in better shape than others. We are already full with (school) reservations from now until June."

Students don't bring in money, however; additionally, the students miss the experience Living History provides, said Rath.

"When the docents are not here, it is just a museum," she said. "When they are here, it is alive."

"It's education, and it's fun," agrees Mark Hatfield, a docent who takes on the persona of a Pennsylvania volunteer in charge of training during the Civil War. "You get to teach others local history and create an atmosphere. I love history, and this is perfect for me."

Hatfield, along with 10 other regular volunteers, went through six weeks of training to become a docent, and is constantly researching local history as well as the history of his character.

"I thought about being a Breen, but then what if I met someone from the Breen family and I missed a question about their family history?" he said. "You don't want to cause any problems, and you want to be able to answer questions correctly about the period your character is from."

The park and Mission draw people from all over the state, who almost always stay to check out the museums, shops and restaurants.

"I was here once when I was six," said Roger Bradley, who brought his wife, Mo, to the park for her first time. "It is something that should be preserved and kept going."

Even locals who have visited the park over and over are often willing to pay the fees or

(Continued on page 7)

Budget Ax

(Continued from page 6)

donate to the Association to keep the park alive. Assemblyman Peter Frusetta, R-Tres Pinos, who will help decide the fate of the state park budget later this week, uses the park as a way to relieve stress.

It's a little bit of recreation for me when I can find the time," Frusetta said. "I like reading the old letters and manuscripts, and I love history. It's my way of relaxing."

Scully Scholarships

The summer is coming and another year for the Scully Scholarships for California State Parks Rangers. This is your chance to apply for a complete scholarship including meals, lodging and instruction at Audubon Workshop in the Rockies.

What are you applying for? Mountain ecology is the main theme of this "stimulating week-long workshop". The setting is a glaciated valley in the Wind River Mountains. The reputation of this workshop is legendary. You have a chance to participate and rejuvenate.

In this day of no budgets, this scholarship program has been set up just for you; California State Park Rangers. Now is the time to write to the Executive Director, Jean C. Porter of the National Audubon Society. Their address is:

National Audubon Society
613 Riverside Road
Greenwich, CT 06831
(203) 869-5272
(203) 869-4437 FAX

Just send your letter of interest and a resume. That is all you have to do. Ms Porter will go over the applications and decide how many persons will be chosen for a week long Audubon Scholarship in the Rockies. If you have questions, please call her directly for details.

The sessions this year are scheduled from July 29 through August 9, 1996. Transportation is your responsibility and scheduling of your time away from your home park. So don't delay. Put your application letter and resume in now.

Fred Jee
CSPRA Education & Training Chair

C S P R A

Laws of The Forest

Excerpts from Rules and Regulations of the California Redwood Park, 1918, from John Wermlinski via Brian Cahill. Reprinted from the Colorado District Newsletter.

Forest have been under law from the time that the first sprig sprouted: nature's laws which provided for their growth and preservation. Nothing ever broke the continuity of the forest until man appeared on the scene. . . . To protect it from fire . . . requires that the building of fires must be strictly forbidden except by permission of the Warden, who will designate places where campers may locate . . . A burning match, a lighted cigar or cigarette — you know what may happen whenever you toss one carelessly away. Gentle-men don't do such things in these days.

Trees are not all that is required to make a forest park. Coincident with the construction of the first tree there was an animal made to stand in its shelter, and a bird to perch in its branches. If we are to **preserve** a forest, we must preserve the animals which are now called game, and the birds which have homestead rights here. To this end **no firearms are allowed in the Park**. This rule is imperative. Don't ask for an exception in your case, for there aren't any exceptions to be had.

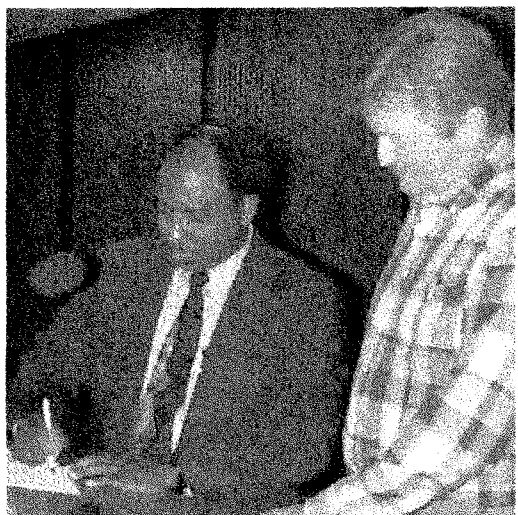
Preserving the denizens of the forest not only inhibits firearms but also **dogs**. Don't debate the matter with the Warden. He has no discretion in this matter.

You know, every reader knows, that California is being stripped of its berry bearing, flower blooming plants, and its evergreen foliage with ruthlessness unparalleled in the history of any civilized people. In regard to the plucking of ferns and wild flowers, the commission is compelled to be strict and severe if necessary. It ought not be necessary to state that the carving of names on the bark of trees . . . is a manifest misdemeanor.

Listen! joy riders, speed burners, devil-may-care wreckers of other people's rights: When you are caught speeding in the park the Warden (is) instructed to call you to a halt, to take the number of your machine and then to quietly but firmly inform you that you must turn about and leave the park and that the machine bearing this number will not be allowed inside the park again this year.

Now, one word to whosoever these rules may reach: This Redwood Park, this pristine forest, is yours, as much as it is ours. You and yours have just as much interest in its maintenance and preservation as we have. This forest is as sacred, or ought to be, as any cathedral, as much holy ground as a cemetery. This is one of God's forest temples. No church spire points heavenward with holier purpose than these venerable trees, which nightly hold communion with the stars far above the world we live upon.

February



Don Murphy writes material for Humor
in Unicorn (see page 2)

1996

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(209) 826-1196**

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

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

**CSPRA
Calendar**

**California
Parks
Conference
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3/11-14/96**

Directors (Continued)

**Susan Grove
State Park Ranger II
Colorado Desert — Palomar
(619) 742-3462**

**Jill Dampier
State Park Ranger II
American River — Auburn
(916) 885-4527**

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**For additional information on the
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C S P R A**

**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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