

NEWSLETTER

California State Park Rangers Association

Volume VI Number 71

March-April 1996

Speech by Roger Kennedy, NPS Director

I've enclosed a copy of an address given by Roger Kennedy Director of the National Park Service about his feelings regarding the current federal budget mess.

Tyler Conrad

January 15, 1996

To: National Leadership Council

You have asked me to try to place our current traumatized condition, and our sense of betrayal by a democratic process we have been taught to revere in a setting larger than the National Park Service taken alone and longer than the last disheartening six months.

In the first place I want to state my view of you, as the leaders of the Service. You have shown yourselves to be capable of working your way, and leading your troops, without panic, or recrimination, or retreat. You are good leaders, worthy of your posts. You have shown your metal. Representing the Secretary and the President, I, and, the people of the nation; the people of the Service are fortunate to have you in the (Continued on page 8)

1997 California Parks Conference

The 1997 California Parks Conference will be held March 13 — 15, 1997 at the Sheraton Hotel in Concord. President Dave Nelson and '97 Conference Chair Larry Ferri met with representatives of the Sheraton on April 9 to finalize arrangements for next years conference. They toured the Sheraton, which has just had a 9 million dollar remodeling, and decided that this is the place for '97.

If you are interested in helping with the '97 conference contact Larry at (510) 673-2891.

CSPRA Conference 1996 by Ranger Susan C. Grove Palomar Mountain State Park

The annual California Parks Conference is behind us again for the year. After all the planning, recruiting of presenters, coordinating, and confirming, the conference went smoothly, much to the great relief of those dedicated folks on the conference planning committee. Cudos to Doug Bryce for choosing such a great site. The Holiday Inn at the pier, in Ventura, was situated so that all rooms had views of the beach. Quaint old downtown Ventura, with numerous coffee houses, book and antique shops, was (Continued on page 3)

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Presidents Message

I'm coming down with a severe case of optimisim. I was first exposed to this condition at the CSPRA Conference, and I've had recurring relapses ever since. The usual euphoria that goes along with this 'Condition" is not all-encompassing, but even strong doses of the drug Reality can't make it go away either.

Again, it had to come from the conference. I noticed early that nearly everyone had a touch of it, and as the week went on, it seemed to spread fast. What made it particularly contagious was the program that Steve Treanor and his Staff had put together. Who could fight off the strong words of Dr. Gary Machlis, Jack Fraser, Director Murphy, or Director Kennedy, just to name a few. The fact that Donald stayed the entire week made sure that it wasn't just a passing symptom. And all the celebrating over PRAC'S 20th birthday didn't help the immune system much, either.

... optimism may be the cure for reality. On Friday, I was finally able to get away from all that optimism. By the following Tuesday, I was just about cured. That was the day of the Park Hearing for the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee of the State Assembly, put together by Nina Gordon As the hearing went on, it became apparent that I was having a relapse. What made this new strain of optimism so hard to fight off was that it was coming not only from our usual park friends, but also from new sources. This new strain included the Vice-president of the California Manufacturing Association; the Vice-President of the California Chamber of Commerce, the law-enforcement community, the Tourism Industry, and the Park Concessionaires! It was almost too much for my over-indulged body to take.

Finally, as I sift through the latest election returns, I'm coming to the conclusion that this new optimism is here to stay. I'm just going to have to learn to live with it. It appears that we should look at a "Parks only" bond again. and peoples' concerns with the Mt. Lion Population, and the environment in general, may not have changed as much as we thought in the 6 years since Prop. 117. As I thrash around in this optimism-induced stupor, I'm starting to believe that reality is not the cure for optimism but optimism may be the cure for reality. I better go take some more medicine.

Dave Nelson

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LCSPNO Northern California Spring Workshop

Empire Mine State Historic Park Saturday June 1, 1996. 8:30 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Polish your skills at a one-day workshop on developing local community "grass roots" support for your park. Take advantage of this opportunity to participate in "how-to" training led by people who have practical experience working with legislators and community leaders on state park issues.

Call Betsy Strand for more information (916) 988-2297.

1996 Conference (Continued from page 1)

a short walk from the hotel.

The conference is always a special time for me and something I really look forward to. It's a time of recharging my professional batteries and renewing my spiritual ones. I attended sessions in all four "tracks": Public Safety, Interpretation, Resource Management, and Park Operations. I particularly enjoyed presentations by Bud Getty about his trip to the first International Rangers Federation conference in Poland and by Susan Ross about her two years in the Peace Corps working with the National Park Service in Botswana. I also enjoyed hearing our director speak and was quite inspired by the speech that National Park Service director Roger Kennedy gave.

To be quite honest though, it's not the sessions I look forward to the most. It's the chance to socialize with some of the nicest folks I know — my State Park Colleagues — and some pretty nice PRAC folks I've gotten to know. It's fun to get the dirt on who's doing what and who's transferred where. It's fun to see how people have changed and to hear their latest park trials and tribulations. It's fun to connect with people from our own and other agencies and realize that you're not alone in your own trials and tribulations. It's also fun to chat with other park professionals besides rangers; among the other employees I saw there were District Interpretive Specialists, a Park Interpretive Specialist (seasonal), Park Aides (seasonal), Lifeguards, Lifeguards (seasonal), an Associate Park and Rec Specialist, a Maintenance Chief, Park Superintendents, District Superintendents, Interpreter Is, and undoubtedly a bunch of others I've left out!

The conference makes me realize how proud I am to be a park professional, and for all its ups and downs, I can't think of another job I would enjoy more. If you need recharging around this time next year and just want to have a lot of fun, I hope you'll join me in attending the next conference at the Sheraton in Concord. It will be inspirational and educational,

Help Wanted!

If you've previously worked at California's oldest State Park, Big Basin Redwoods, then perhaps you can help me. I am deeply interested in the history of Residence #3, the original "Custodian's Cottage," which is the little house situated directly next to the nature lodge. The house was built in 1922 and I believe it may be the oldest State Park residence that was built as a State Park residence. Does anyone know of one that is older? Also, there is a timber in the attic with a record of who has lived in the house for the last 20 years. Eaach new resident adds his/ her name to the list. Who lived there for the first 55 years? Who was living there while you worked at Big Basin? Did you live there?

If you can provide any information, please contact Susan Grove at (619) 742-3830, Fax (619) 742-1092 or contact the current resident, Ranger Nick Franco at (408) 338-8860, Fax (408) 338-8863, Thank you!

IRF NEWS

Exchange Wanted by British Park Ranger

I am writing to you with an interest in pursuing an exchange with a Warden or Ranger in your National Park. I am currently the Senior Warden for the Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Somerset, South West England.

I have been in full-time employment since 1984 in the field of Countryside Management and am looking to widen my experience. I am employed by Somerset County Council and work within the Countryside Section of the Environment Department. I have discussed my desire to participate in such an exchange with my Countryside Manager, who has given me full support.

This year, 1996, is the 40th Anniversary of the Quantock Hills being designated England's first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and would be a timely opportunity to initiate a work experience exchange. Obviously these arrangements would take some organizing but I would be keen to start an exchange any time from September 1996.

I would like to think that some of the skills and experience that I have gained through working in different areas of countryside management would be of some benefit to your department, e.g.:

- detailed experience in heathland and ancient woodland management;
 - · wildlife monitoring & species surveys;
- use of grazing regimes for conservation purposes (i.e. Exmoor Ponies);
- · visitor management and dealing with urban fringe problems;
- · environmental education and interpretation skills;
- using volunteers in the countryside
 (e.g. running a 50 strong team of voluntary wardens)

A year's exchange would give myself and any Ranger/Warden you may have in your Authority a reasonable length of time to benefit from the experience of working in another designated area.



I am presently the co-chairman for the South West Region of the Countryside Management Association (formerly the Association of Countryside Rangers) and have actively been involved in many aspects of developing training and the professional profile of Rangering in this country. I am also a member of the International Ranger Federation.

I am married to Jilly who is a qualified and experienced Primary School Teacher and we have two daughters, Rose (5) and Ellie (3). We live in a cottage on the south west slopes of the Quantock Hills which would obviously be available to a Ranger/Warden keen to participate in an exchange-..

I enclose some general information on the Quantock Hills and a copy of my job description [available from Mike Lynch 916-885-4527].

I can, of course, provide references as to my experience and character if required.

If you have a Ranger/Warden who might be interested in an exchange here in Somerset, or require further information, please contact me.

Tim J. Russell "Keepers Cottage", Lower Teritill, Cothelstone, TAUNTON, Somerset TA4 3EA

For more information on the International Ranger Federation contact Bud Getty or Mike Lynch, via CSPRA.

Letters

March 13, 1996

Abigail R. Cushenberry 100 Mitchell Canyon Rd. Clayton, CA 94517

Dear CSPRA Members,

I wanted to make sure I thanked as many of you as possible for your support as my family and I have been going through my battle with cancer. Many people have donated sick leave, moral support and love since this whole fiasco started back in September. I have tried to get thank you notes out to everyone, but I'm sure I missed a few and thought that this letter might round up some of the stragglers.

I didn't appreciate the "Park Family" bond completely until I found myself in the position of sick (no sick leave), two kids (3 and 1), and a husband out of work with a back injury. At that point catastrophic leave was requested and boy did everyone come through! Approximately 200 people donated leave credits for a total of nearly 3000 hours, you can't imagine the feeling of relief and support that gave me. My father, Carl Chavez, Chief Park Stewardship designated all of you "Abby's Angels" and I agree completely.

The latest word on my health is positive. I had a CAT scan done in early February that showed no cancer, just a little scar tissue. I am currently going through a bone marrow transplant as precaution against a relapse. I spent February 13 through March 4 in the hospital undergoing more chemotherapy to be sure the T-cells (bone marrow cells) would be clear of cancer for harvesting. I had the

cells harvested on March 11, 12 as an out patient. I'm still recovering from spending the three weeks in isolation, it tends to make you very out of shape (it's pretty hard to run in the room when you're attached to an IV pole all the time). I will return to the hospital April 8th for the final part of the bone marrow transplant. I expect to be there for 2-3 weeks.

Again thank you everyone for your support. This has been a terrible and yet very fulfilling time. If there is anything that I can do for any member of the "Park Family" please let me know, I very much would like to share what I have been so lucky to receive, your support, prayers and love.

With Love, Abby Cushenberry

March 19, 1996

Mr. Bud Getty, Outgoing President CSPRA

Dear Bud,

How can I ever thank the State Park Rangers Association for bestowing on me such a great honor at their Annual meeting in Ventura, March 14, 1996? Your complimentary introduction, the honorary state park ranger award and plaque, Dave's lavish remarks and the overwhelming ovation truly touched me. Rarely does one hear said such wonderful things about one while still living!

This is just a feeble attempt to say how much it meant to me.

Sincerely,

Roma Philbrook Rentz

If there is anything that I can do for any member of the "Park Family" please let me know, I very much would like to share what I have been so lucky to receive, your support, prayers and love.

More Letters

Chico Visitor & Information Bureau

February 14, 1996

Dear Governor Wilson:

The Chico Visitor and Information Bureau would like to express its support for the State Park System as it relates to tourism in our area. We recognize and appreciate your strong support for programs, such as State Parks, that generate visitor spending throughout California and ask that you continue to give the parks a high priority in your budget considerations.

We believe the dollars invested in parks generate a tremendous amount of visitor s p e n d i n g throughout the state and we encourage your continued support.

The City of Chico benefits greatly from the Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park and Visitor Center as well as the near by Bidwell Sacrqmento River State Park. In fact, the Bidwell Mansion is one of our most, if not the most, popular tourist attraction in Chico. It provides the best education in town on our local history and culture and is Chico landmark that is often highlighted in travel publications promoting our area. We view the State Parks in our area as a vital link to preserving our heritage.

We believe the dollars invested in parks generate a tremendous amount of visitor spending throughout the state and we encourage your continued support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Peterson Tourism Manager

Letter To Editors

Sent to approximately 300 papers statewide and printed in many.

March 9, 1996 Dear Editor:

The only issue of concern in Proposition 197 is the sport hunting of mountain lions. But nowhere in the language of the proposition is the real issue memtioned. This purposeful omission is deception!

The California State Park Rangers Association opposes Proposition 197 because of this deception and because it provides nothing new for the management of cougars. The legislation only reiterates the list of management programs that are already in place. Problem lions can already be taken, and they are being taken where they pose a threat to humans or livestock. These programs will continue regardless of the passage of Proposition 197.

Opening up sport hunting of mountain lions so that individuals could hang trophy heads on the wall is the sole reason for this legislation authored by Senator Leslie.

Sport hunting is not necessary or sensible for management of the mountain lion population. It could lead to local extinction of lions in heavily hunted areas and would do nothing to address the real issues of public safety.

The California State Park Rangers Association strongly urges you to vote NO on Proposition 197. Mountain Lions should continue to be managed for public safety reasons, not sacrificed for personal egos.

Maurice H. "Bud" Getty, President

CSPRA 1996-97 Budget **Budget Approved at Annual Meeting in Ventura**

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Kennedy Speech (Continued from page 1)

positions you occupy. It was sometimes said of us, at our best, at the Smithsonian, that we were the keepers of the treasures. Well, you are the keepers of the trust — and I am proud to be your Director and your colleague in these or in any other times.

I want to talk with you this morning about what it means to be the keepers of the trust, the preservers and protectors of the best in American land and the best of America's historic places - and I do not mean just those in the custody of the National Park Service. More than any other set of professionals in this country, we have the responsibility to increase the likelihood that our descendants will inherit at least as good a country as we did. The Parks are the nuclei of that better America. They are not all of it. Our people know about caring for special places and they know that by doing that they can help more of our people to understand that all this country is a special place. We are trustees, and — as Stephen Mather and Horace Albright said over and over — we are also citizens.

Each of us, in our diverse ways, have been trained to know a little more than most people about the other species of plants and animals with which we co-inhabit this continent, and a little more about how humans have acted here.

We have also been trained to act a little more intelligently as trustees and as citizens because we have that knowledge. You have risen to become chiefly responsible for the National Park System. But what I have said of you is true to a greater and a lesser degree of everybody who works for that system.

I have been powerfully struck by the affirmation of that pride and that determination that has glinted through all the bafflement and frustration and sense of betrayal that comes to John and to me in our cc:mail. The people we lead are not happy, but they haven't gone passive aggressive. They may be a little punchy, but they're still on their feet. They're not on their backs kicking their legs in the air and howling.

I want to renew some themes of stewardship which must be reaffirmed, now, out of respect for the people of the Service who, dispite plenty of worries and plenty of anger, want to get on with their jobs.

The easiest way to remember where we are going is to remember what we have been trying to do. Let's start with our familiar triple commitment, to places, meaning especially but not only parks, to people, meaning especially but not only the National Park Service, and to partnership, meaning the willingness to participate in and out of the parks with other people in serving our country.

Of course, as professional managers, we begin with the preservation and protection of the specific places in our charge. We have learned something new during the recent crisis about what that means and what it does not mean. It does not mean that those places are to be exploited or mined for quick bucks.

Tourists are important; they are our friends and our most steadfast allies, and they will be a hundred years from now if we do not betray the future by failing to preserve and protect the parks now. That point has been lost on some of our non-friends: they want parks open but they (Continued next page)

Kennedy Speach (Continued from page 8)

don't care if they are protected or preserved. They do not care about training people in the technical necessities for preservation, whether that be biological science or adobe restoration. They don't care much about science, or social science, or history or archaeology, all necessary to the long-term preservation and protection of parks and the rest of the country, for which parks are paradigms.

Tourist dollars are important. So are gateway communities dependent upon tourists dollars. So are national beneficiaries of tourism, concessions and friends organizations. They are and always have been.

When budget deals are cut, or governors propose take-overs, or chambers of commerce put heat on congress people, they do not put enough light on training or science or education. And they won't unless every park service person — especially, perhaps, every superintendent — says to them — "yes, but what about preservation and protection over the long term?"

It is right that we should spend most of our time in the next two days finding means to restore the forward motion of the people of the Service. They have been repeatedly traumatized, first by reorganization, next by budgetary anxieties and then by shutdowns. It isn't over, either. Fortunately we know something about treating people after trauma, about denial, anger, bargaining, acceptance and commitment. All over the Service, people are going through that sequence. What they need from you is a welcoming of each of those stages, a candid acknowledgement that each of us is feel-

ing them — this is certainly not what people mean when they open conversations with me saying "you have the best job in the world, visiting all those parks!" — and each of us will be better able to accept and recommit if we feel each of those stages, express them, and share them with each other.

I sent out to some of you some thoughts about renewing our commitment to the purposes we stipulated when we started together — it seems like a decade ago!

You rightly responded that we have a lot of healing to do before we can re-engage with the positive improvements we want to help the people of the Service to make in the system. I agree. But, I also think that the people of the Service want to get past the present and on to the patriotic work which brought them and us into the Service. We have obligations to each other because, all together, we have obligations to our country and to our descendents.

Chief among those obligations, together with, and not separated from, parks and people serving parks, is the third of our liturgical triad — partnerships. Some of us are most comfortable thinking of partnership as "constituency building" to protect the next generation of park servants from times like these. Some of us are most comfortable thinking of partnership as learning from people who are our friends but are not exactly us. I believe that emerging from our bunkers and our routine to learn this is the best antidote to the vigilante egocentricity and anarchy, and the growth of gated subdivisions and gated minds, which are symptoms of withdrawal from community and refusal to listen respectfully.

(Continued next page)

Kennedy Speach (Continued from page 9)

I want your guidance on when to renew my call for a reassertion of the importance of partnering both to gain adherents for the protection of parks and to learn how better to do our work for our country.

Finally, please permit me to suggest some ways in which I believe our condition is representative of the condition of our country. The people of the Service feel traumatized by the collapse of what some felt was a broad national consensus that what we do is important as well as where we work.

For a long time we have been contented with reassertions that though the National Park Service was, somehow, a bureaucracy — we all knew that — it was the nation's most beloved bureaucracy. What we have discovered lately is that many elected officials, which means many other people, don't know what we do, and don't care very much. Now we, who love the System and respect the Service, have to ask ourselves: why don't they?

We need to find better ways to celebrate the professional skills of our people. It takes work to learn something and pursue it professionally, going at something hard enough to become thoroughly competent. We must help the American people understand that we work hard to be good at our work. We are not just nice ranger story tellers. We must look beyond the moment, and inform our fellow citizens what it is that we are doing for America. There is underway in this country an attack on learning how to do well, on the acquisition of knowledge and skill. We have a stake in professionalism, in learning, in science, history and archaeology. Our work is not just taking care of the zoos and dead museums.

We have become, in the minds of many in Congress, the custodians of a bunch of theme parks. We must make it clear that we are not tending theme parks. We are the competent trustees of a national heritage. We should go back and tell our people that they are doing things extremely well.

And this note, received from a Vietnam veteran this morning:

So let me quit my bitching and get to the point of this letter. I'd like to offer up an interesting little anecdote, which you might care to relegate to the dusty files of National Park Service historical trivia. Ranger teams in Vietnam were generally made up of 5 or 6 men, all of enlisted rank. We worked our missions far out in the field, often times in Laos and North Vietnam, many miles from secure rear area base camps. Removed from the proximity of the military's officer corps, it was only noted in later years by military historians, that the men doing the most dangerous job in Vietnam, had far fewer medals for valor (except Purple Hearts) than any equal number of rear area career military officers. U.S. Army historian, Colonel Michael Lee Lanning, was the first with the courage and forthrightness to admit as much.

Medals weren't that big a deal to most Rangers though. Mutual respect was a far more valued commodity. But there was one little bauble (as Napoleon so aptly labeled military medals) that made its way into Ranger folklore.

(Continued next page)

District Reps

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 415 879-2025 Harrison, W Calaveras 209 795-3488 209 795-5342 Vacant Channel Coast 209 826-1196 209 632-1627 Simmons, K. Gold Rush Dist 916 445-7387 99 657-0676 909 943-5119 Whitehead, M Marin 415 435-5390 415 435-3082 814, L 408 623-4526 408 623-4398 Vacant Northerey 408 623-4526 408 623-4398 408 623-4398 Vacant OHV OHV 707 946-2409 707 725-4920 Vacant OHV 805 473-7230 706, 707 877-3592 Franco, N Pismo Dunes 805 473-7230 707 877-3592 Broderick, K. Russ-Mendocino 707 847-3286 707 785-3432	Name	District	Work Phone	Home Phone
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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	Joe, K	Russ-Mendocino	707 937-5804	707 877-3592
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			805 772-7434	805 927-3516
Oka. S Santa Cruz 408 338-2935 408 338-7914		San Simeon	805 927-2020	805 772-9648
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Kennedy Speach (Continued from page 9)

Colonel Lanning also mentioned it in his book on Ranger history. It was a little Smoky Bear pin issued by the National Park Service in the 1960s. They were passed among Rangers as signs of respect. As medallions of honor. And they became more prized as measures of duty and selflessness than anything the Pentagon could throw our way. I still have mine. It's my most treasured possession from the Vietnam War. And to this day, I can't look at someone in a National Park

Service uniform, and separate them from ideals of patriotism and duty to their country. And that's the way it ought to be."

Evelyn Wilson Passes

Evelyn Wilson, the wife of Ted Wilson died on Tuesday, March 12, 1996 at a hospital near their home in Paradise, California.

Memorial contributions can be sent to Paradise Hospice and Home Care, in care of Rose Chapel.

March-April

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