



The CSPRA

Wave

Newsletter

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 3

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

MAY - JUNE 2003

THE GREAT MOJAVE

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California Poppy
Reserve

Antelope Valley
Indian Museum

Hagen Canyon NP

Mitchell Caverns NP

Providence Mtns SRA

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Arthur B. Ripley
Desert Woodland SP

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Parks
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



KEVIN W. BUCHANAN
CSPRA Past President

A year sure seems to have gone by fast, it was not that long ago that we had concluded a Parks Conference in San Diego and now the South Lake Tahoe Parks Conference is also a memory. The South Lake Tahoe Conference was the best Parks Conference ever. It was great to see so many park professionals, not only from DPR, but also from parks departments from California, Nevada, and even as far away as Massachusetts. At the banquet, I had the great honor to bestow the Honorary Ranger Award to this year's recipient, Susan Smartt, President of the California State Parks Foundation.

I would like to thank all the dedicated individuals who helped plan the conference and the career tracks. Their hard work made it possible for so many people to have fun while learning. Now it is time to plan for Anaheim, the 2004 Parks Conference site. We are counting on those of you out there, who are interested in planning another great professional conference, to contact us. You will have the opportunity to work with other great park professionals from the Park Rangers Association of California.

As we are all aware, the budget crisis is hanging over all of our heads like a guillotine, with no easy solution to the State's financial

situation. Through the leadership of the California State Parks Foundation, over one hundred people turned out for the first annual Parks Advocacy and Awareness Day. Teams of parks employees, volunteers and parks supporters lobbied the members of the State Senate and Assembly on the importance of parks to the citizens of the State of California. Parks are important in providing solitude, recreation, inspiration and protecting important ecosystems and habitats.

It is still important that people who value parks continue to be seen and heard from, during what is most likely to be a lengthy budget process. To that end Monica Miller of Governmental Advocates, Inc. and the California State Parks Foundation are willing to provide assistance to interested parties, in setting up meetings with members of the legislature in Sacramento, or in their district offices. A member of the State Assembly told me that parks people need to be seen and heard from more often. The legislators are always hearing from the same interests in State Government, on why their programs are so important. Parks are important to the well being of the people who live in California. Our message needs to be repeated, so it is not drowned out by all the competing interests during an economic situation that is proving to be painful to all.

In conclusion, as my year as President has come to an end, I want to stress that it is important that we not lose sight of why we are so valuable as a profession. It is because of the park visitors. If our parks had no value to the people of California, they would not continue to support us. The public continues to love their parks, visiting us in record numbers. This is something that we must not forget. So thanks to all of the dedicated park professionals out there, who make our parks something the people of California can be proud of.

Cover photo: Supervising Ranger Mark Faull at Red Rock Canyon State Park

THE GREAT MOJAVE



by Kathleen Franklin, Supt.
Mojave Desert Sector/Angeles Dist.

"If the mountains represent our dreams for personal achievement, and the rainforest represents our world supply of oxygen, then the desert may very well represent our collective soul – a land of extremes where some of our deepest thoughts and most closely held beliefs are born."

Wonders of the American Desert

The Great Mojave and Beyond

Is there something in the desert that encourages the human spirit to seek deeper understanding? As we investigate human history, we find that most great civilizations evolved from desert lands. The major religions of the west were born in desert regions. Our sciences, alphabet, mathematics, astronomy and chemistry began in the desert. Solitude, vast open space, beautiful night skies and the extremes of desert survival stimulate creativity and the ability to see beyond the everyday. Come visit.

The deserts here in California are vast, arid yet fragile lands within a day's drive of 40 million people. Approximately 80 percent of the desert is publicly owned. If I were to pick just one issue that over-rides any other it would be a general lack of understanding and appreciation of the value, beauty and fragility of deserts.

My hope is to stimulate your interest.

There are two deserts in California – the Mojave and the Colorado. I've been privileged for the last several years to manage the units of the Mojave Desert Sector for California State Parks. Ordered by size, the largest first, here they are: Red Rock Canyon SP, Providence Mountains SRA, Saddleback Butte SP, Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve, Tomokahni SHP, Antelope Valley Indian Museum SHP, Ripley Desert Woodlands SP. I've chosen a few of these to write about.

The recreation and heritage resources in these units are diverse, ranging from limestone caverns, to brilliant night skies, historic mines, Native American villages and sacred sites, poppy fields and vast open space.



The Poppy Reserve celebrated the 100th birthday of the poppy as our state flower on April 6, 2003



^ photo by K. Franklin



Ranger Mark Faull shows Janet Carle bedrock mortars at Tomo-Kahni SHP

"Here you may find the elemental freedom to breathe deep of unpoisoned air, to experiment with solitude and stillness, to gaze through a hundred miles of untrammelled atmosphere...to make the discovery of self in its proud sufficiency which is not isolation but an irreplaceable part of the mystery of the whole."

Edward Abbey

The Sector manages the Mojave Desert Information Center – a multi-agency collaborative effort between state and federal land managers. The center provides information about public lands and recreational opportunities in the deserts. I hope you'll make use of this great resource.

Continued next page....



MOJAVE DESERT SECTOR



photo by K. Franklin

One of a Kind

Providence Mountains State Recreation Area, which contains Mitchell Caverns Natural Preserve, is truly one-of-a-kind. It is a true heritage and one the finest example of State Parks in California.

Located at the 4300-foot elevation, the park's campground and day use areas are situated to take advantage of a magnificent view. The view is expansive and inspirational. If I were seeking a place to write a book, this would be it. Here, the broad horizons, quite solitude and solitary beauty seem to stimulate thinking. The caverns foster imagination and creativity.

Almost 10,000 visitors tour the Mitchell Caverns every year. Spectacular limestone formations within the caverns include stalgmities, stalactites, lily pads, curtains and other unique features.

With the addition of this year's dormitory, State Parks will be able to house staff to provide additional opportunities for visitors who can't seem to get enough of the popular tours (offered year-around, daily, 1:30PM).

ANTELOPE VALLEY INDIAN MUSEUM SHP

Surrounded by the vast beauty of California's Mojave Desert, the Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park is best known for its historic buildings, cultural landscape, and extensive Native American collections and exhibits. Piute Butte, on which the Museum stands, contains inspirational desert and mountain views that are among the park's most valued scenic highlights. The park is located in the Antelope Valley, 20 miles west of Lancaster. This region of the high desert is predicted to triple in population from 250,000 to 750,000 over the next 12 to 15 years. It is about 80 minutes travel time northeast of Los Angeles.

The historic folk art Museum is set among the towering rock formations of Piute Butte. Nestled upon the site are other historic buildings, cottages, structures, wagons and artifacts. The Butte is a registered Native American Sacred Site and portions of it are eligible to be considered as a cultural landscape.

The Museum and associated buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places. And the Museum serves as one of California's Regional Indian Museums representing the tribes of the

Great Basin.

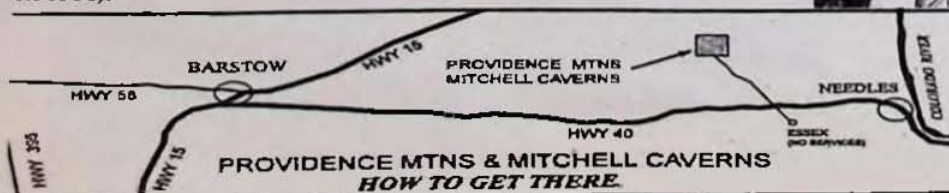
A number of Native American artifacts on display are rare or one-of-a-kind items. Although there are artifacts from a number of other geographic regions, the museum's collections emphasize the Southwestern, California and Great Basin Indians.

Piute Butte, behind the museum, is directly situated on a major prehistoric trade and interaction route that stretched from the southern California coast. Native American descendants value the butte as one of special significance. It contains a collection of important archaeological sites displaying pictographs, metates, petroglyphs, bedrock mortars and fertility-related sites.

Through the efforts of trained docents and a newly formed non-profit corporation known as the Friends of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum or "Friends", the museum and grounds were opened to the public in 1982.

In addition to numerous school tours, the Museum provides educational outreach programs to schools primarily in Los Angeles County. There are on site Native American interpretive events.

On average, over 14,000 people attend interpretive programs and offerings, and 30,000 hours are provided in educational programs. The Park is poised to become a substantial provider of Native American cultural curriculum through an on-line fourth grade educational program funded through a Getty Grant.



RED ROCK RAMBLE

by Janet Carle

Red Rock Canyon State Park is one of those places that lots of people have driven through, but never really gotten to know. It is a vision of towering, fluted red glimpsed through the car window on the way to ski at Mammoth.

Those that take the time to explore the park are well rewarded. Red Rock has the best paleontology in all of California and the Southwest for the portion of the Miocene period of 7.5 to 12.5 million years ago. The park is the home of several rare plants, including the Red Rock Tarplant, the Red Rock Poppy, and the beautiful, midnight-blue Charlotte's Phacelia. The creosote bush, thought to be one of the world's oldest living things, thrives in the park, along with the Joshua tree, signature plant of the Mojave Desert. Golden Eagles and Prairie Falcons nest in the cliffs of Scenic Canyon. Red Rock was on the Top 10 list of places in California to view the night sky in Sky and Telescope magazine. And the average temperature in July and August is 102 degrees!

Needless to say, summer is not the busiest time in this park. President's Day through Memorial Day is prime time, with visitors enjoying the spring wildflower bloom and pleasant temperatures in the 80's. Things pick up again in October and November. The canyon is used as an outdoor classroom for all ages to teach geology, paleontology, botany and photography.

Red Rock Canyon has always been a travel route. Gold prospecting began in the 1860's, with the heyday gold



Recently acquired backcountry includes Last Chance Canyon

strike occurring in 1893-94. Amazingly well-preserved miners' camps still survive within the park. The canyon was later used as a passage in driving large flocks of sheep northward to the grass of the summer Sierra, as a stagecoach stop, a railroad route, and a truck stop. The park campground is located at the site of the stage stop of Ricardo, named for the son of Rudolph Bart Hagen, one of the early settlers of the area.

Red Rock's size was increased by 17,100 acres in 1994 as part of the California Desert Protection Act legislation, bringing the total to 25,324 acres. The new acquisition

brought some beautiful areas to the park (and no more staff, of course) but also some headaches in the form of private in-holdings. A mining company is planning to begin extracting ash on one of the private parcels overlooking spectacular Last Chance Canyon.

When all is said and done, Red Rock's most glorious feature is, after all, the red rock. The cliffs, with their fluted folds of red and white, are breathtakingly beautiful. It's easy to understand why Hollywood loves them. Next time you're going by, stop and take a closer look.



Lorree Bullard, park aide, and Mark Faull, supervising ranger, in the visitor center at Red Rock Canyon SP

MING THE MERCILESS WAS HERE

"We've been Mars. We've been the Moon. We've been outer space. We've been the Planet Mongo of Ming the Merciless," said Supervising Ranger Mark Faull.

Red Rock Canyon State Park, with its mild weather and location within striking distance of Hollywood, has been the backdrop for over 140 films, ranging from the original "Mummy" to "Radar Men from the Moon". By far the most popular film genre has been the Western (85 of the 140 films). The majestic red cliffs have seen stagecoaches, outlaws and countless horse posses go by. Red Rock also served as the paleontologist's camp in the opening scene of "Jurassic Park". And watch for Red Rock scenes in the Disney movie "Holes", coming soon to a theater near you.

Most of these movies were filmed before Red Rock became a park in 1968. Things like carving out tomb sites in the cliffs for "The Mummy" would never be permitted today. "It's a continual challenge to work with film crews, especially on big Hollywood films," explained Mark. "They don't always understand the need to protect the resource. Steven Spielberg was the only director I've ever seen who gave his crew a briefing specifically about being sensitive to park values."

Making the most of a unique interpretive opportunity, the park visitor center offers a Saturday matinee during the busy season, showcasing a Red Rock celluloid adventure from days gone by.



Red Rock Canyon has always been a travel route. Early tourists near the Red Cliffs.



FLASH FLOOD

On Sept. 3, 1997, the skies opened directly over the main compound at Red Rock Canyon State Park. Within a few hours, 10-15 inches of rain fell, feeding a torrent of sand, bushes and rock through the wash along Hwy 14 and into the visitor center area. The park shop was completely swept away, park residences were damaged beyond repair, the water system was damaged, and the propane tanks broke loose. "We had 2 families camping in the park that day", said Supervising Ranger Mark Faull. "One group told us they had just sat down to eat, a flash came over the hill, and the deluge began. They just had time to throw their blown-down tent in the back of the truck and dive

into the cab for cover."

Mark lost his residence in the flood. Hwy. 14 was closed for 5 days, the park campground was closed for 2 months. In some places, the ground was 6 feet higher than it had been before. Luckily, the visitor center, built in 1993, survived and served as an oasis from which to re-build.

Mark estimates the flood to be a 1 in 300-500 year event. The brunt of the storm was directly over the park, while nearby California City was virtually untouched. "It was a wall of water falling, with blasts of wind and multiple lightning flashes. The landscape just radiated energy. You can't be in this profession and not be fascinated with an event like that."

TOMO-KAHNI

Winter Home of the Nuooah

by Janet Carle

It is a magical landscape, this eastern corner of the Tehachapi Mountains, north of the road between Bakersfield and Mojave. The Nuooah people wintered here amongst the honey-colored rock domes and juniper forest. More than 400 mortar holes have been pounded into a single sandstone outcrop. A year-round spring bubbles nearby. Fanciful animal shapes seem to spring to the eye unbidden from the rocks. Snakes and bears emerge in rock paintings.

Dave and I had a chance to visit this special place on a cool, cloudy day in February. Supervising Ranger Mark Faull guided us through a maze of unmarked dirt roads and locked gates and onto a small piece of priceless archeological heritage. The Nuooah people (also called Kawaiisu) worked with State Parks to preserve this site of their winter village. It is a highly spiritual place. The Nuooah believe that in the beginning of the world as we know it, spirits emerged from the rock and decided what form they would take, be it animals or people.

It is hoped that additional sites in the nearby area can be preserved with funds from Proposition 40. The Tomo-Kahni Project became part of the State Park System in 1993, and was recently classified as a state historic park. Perhaps a "cultural reserve" would be a more fitting description, but such a designation does not yet exist.

Tomo-Kahni SHP is open to the public only by guided tours in the spring and fall. Call 661-942-0662 or 661-822-3937 to arrange a visit.



Snakes and bears emerge in rock paintings



"In the beginning of the world...spirits emerged from the rock and decided what form they would take, be it animals or people."



*< A guided walk to Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park
Photo by K. Franklin*

HONOR THE PAST, IMAGINE THE FUTURE, ENJOY THE JOURNEY



"We are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams". With these words from Willie Wonka, CSPRA's new president, **Dana Jones**, opened the California Parks Conference at South Lake Tahoe. Dana, the Sector Superintendent at Carnegie SVRA, was also conference co-chair along with PRAC president **Mike Chiesa**. The conference planning team put on a wonderful event for a near-record crowd of close to 300 park professionals. Two rangers came all the way from Boston!

Monday, March 31st, turned out to be the day with the best weather. Considering the range of field trips offered, this was a big help. Former Sierra District rangers **Bob Burke** and **Steve Johnson** presented snow hikes (Bob has moved to Silverado District and Steve has recently retired); ranger **Jim Baird** took people fishing on Pyramid Lake; **Gary Bell** took a group mountain biking; and Marine Research and Education hosted a boat ride on Lake Tahoe to demonstrate research techniques.

The California State Parks Founda-



tion presented training for the 1st Annual Park Advocacy Day on April 7th, and provided a wonderful reception on Monday evening. Acting Director **Ruth Coleman** gave the group an update on the budget situation and words of inspiration.

Tuesday was the first full day of sessions, and also the first hint of

snow. Nevada State Parks Regional Manager **Brad Kosch** delivered a wonderful keynote address on park management in difficult times. "Everyone needs beauty as well as bread" said John Muir. This is true more than ever in uncertain times where we as "the thin green line" are dealing with spiraling attendance and



Hardworking conference planning team

diminishing budgets. A wide range of topics was covered in the sessions, from Writing Press Releases, to Tahoe Basin Partnerships, and A Child's Need for Wilderness. Good use was made of Lake Tahoe staff, with **John Knott** and **Ken Anderson** from Sierra District State Parks, **Don Lane** and **Rex Norman** from the US Forest Service, **Steve Weaver** from Nevada State Parks, and **Bob Kingman** from the California Tahoe Conservancy all presenting workshops. CSPRA, PRAC and SPPOAC all held general membership meetings. The highlight of Tuesday



Rangers **John Harbison**, **Angy Nowicki**, **Robyn Ishimatsu**, **Ann Meneguzzi**, **Mike Whitehead** and **Interp Specialist (former ranger) Pat Clark-Gray** enjoying the research boat ride

had to be the dinner cruise on Lake Tahoe aboard the M.S. Dixie.

The weather had worsened throughout the day, and a light snow was falling as the buses delivered people to the dock at Zephyr Cove. Once we pushed off, the only sights we saw were snow and water. Dinner was delicious, however, and being park people, we were all used to dealing with uncooperative weather. Just as sunset approached, the clouds lifted, the mountains appeared, and an orange glow was visible to the west. A lively snowball fight ensued on the deck, cameras snapped the beautiful views, and lights twinkled on shore as we returned to the dock. A wonderful day was capped off with an indoor



PRAC members **Don Pearson** of Sly Park, and **Bill Lawrence**, City of San Diego

campfire program at the hotel led by **Amy Lethbridge** from the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority. Amy had us all in stitches with everything from trivia tests to paddle ball contests, best animal call challenges, sing-alongs and a special appearance by **Elvis** (aka PRAC's **Lee Hickinbotham Jr.**).

On Wednesday, the weather got even worse and it pretty much snowed all day. But we didn't care, because the outdoor stuff was over! Sessions continued with interesting talks on the history of the park profession by both **Ron Brean** from DPR and **Jim Covell** from the Monterey Bay Aquarium whose father was a City of Oakland Park Naturalist at Lake Merritt.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE>

CALIFORNIA PARKS CONFERENCE - 2003



Cruising, and dining, in the falling snow on Lake Tahoe



Homelessness, communication techniques and Americans with Disabilities Act issues were also covered in other sessions. State Park Ranger **Bob Burke** entertained us at lunch as "The Mountain Man", complete with a buckskin suit, coyote hat, a beaver trap that really worked and a black powder rifle that really shot (just a small load, with the permission of the hotel!) The afternoon was filled with intensive, certified courses in water safety, medical calls, programs for large groups, GPS, and chainsaw operations. Some of the Wednesday sessions were held in the Van Sickle barn behind the hotel, part of the newly acquired land in the area that will soon be the California/Nevada State Park, a joint venture between the two state agencies. A busy day finished off with the annual conference banquet and dance, ably hosted by DPR Deputy Director of Operations **Bill Berry**.

The 2003 CSPRA Honorary Ranger award went to **Susan Smartt**,

president of the California State Parks Foundation. **Bill Orr** received the PRAC Honorary Lifetime Member Award. He founded and directs the National Park Service Seasonal Law Enforcement Ranger Academy through Santa Rosa Junior College.

Thursday dawned sunny, a relief for all of us with long drives home. The roads were icy, so tires were examined, chains were purchased, snow scrapers were made out of cardboard, and all the lowlanders got a taste of mountain living.

All in all, the conference was a rousing success. **Dana Jones** shared Emerson's definition of success in her opening comments: "To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; leave the world a little better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is the meaning of success."

Next year's Parks Conference will be in sunny (probably) Anaheim. See you there!

Elvis was "in the building" at the campfire program > (PRAC's Lee Hickbottom, Jr.)



The registration gang. L to R: Katerina Jose and Pam Armas (DPR Personnel) and Melissa Glipa (DPR Info. Tech.)



^Kevin conducts CSPRA GEC meeting



New CSPRA Board: L to R: Kevin Buchanan, past-Pres; Dana Jones, President; Ron Brean, Boardmember; Val Bradshaw, Pres-elect; Angy Nowicki, Sec/Treas; Gar Salzgeber, Office Mgr; Geary Hund, past-Pres; Darren Cooke and Joe Rodgers, Board members

The CSPRA Wave, May-June, 2003 **9**

MORE FROM THE LAKE TAHOE CONFERENCE



Honorory Ranger Susan Smartt tried on her new Stetson, presented by outgoing CSPRA President Kevin Buchanan

Banquet host Bill Berry, Deputy Director for Operations >



Exhibitors showed their stuff

Mountain man Bob Burke and his wife, Sue



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Gar Salzgeber, king of the dance floor.

***Behavior Analysis
Investigative Interview
and Interrogation
Techniques: a 40 hour
POST certified course.***

by *Kevin Joe, Ranger
Mendocino District*

Thanks in part to a CSPRA education scholarship I was able to attend a 40 hour POST certified class entitled: Behavior Analysis Investigative Interview and Interrogation Techniques. Over the years I had heard from other rangers who have attended this weeklong intensive class, all have highly recommended it.

Our class had about 18 officers from local police and sheriff departments. Some had only a year or two in the field and others were seasoned officers going into the detective branch of their departments.

The Behavior Analysis Training Institute (BATI) of Santa Rosa, California, was the course provider and has been offering this class since 1985, utilizing many retired investigators and a psychologist as their training staff.

I looked forward to the training as I felt I needed some new ideas on how to interview suspects, witnesses and victims. Many of us have not had any training since the basic academy on how to conduct interviews.

BATI's course teaches a standard format for interviewing and interrogating, which has been successfully used by officers from all over California. One amazing taped interview showed a detective using the technique for the first time on an unsolved murder case and in about 10 minutes the suspect admitted being involved in the murder.

So what is the difference between interview and interrogation?

Interviews are what you do when you are first gathering information from suspects, witnesses and victims. You ask the person to tell you what happened and then you ask probing questions to clarify the usual who, what, when, where, why, questions.

When people (including officers)

think of "interrogation" many scenarios come to mind. Did you just say "Dragnet...just the facts ma'am" or think "good cop/bad cop?" Hollywood has also perpetuated other "interrogations" that are clearly against the constitution and amoral.

Interrogation is what you do after you have identified a potential suspect and have already interviewed them. The interrogation consists mainly of accusing the person of the crime and then psychologically pressuring them with specific questioning techniques to tell the truth.

The BATI training relies on a basic understanding of the psychological and physiological processes in the human body that occur when people are lying and how to recognize these signs and symptoms to find the truth.

This morning I observed a suspect exhibit the classic delayed (i.e. guilty) response when I asked her about camping illegally in the park. "Were you camping on the beach?" "Uhhh.....no.....I wasn't" "Where did you stay last night?" "... (silence)..."

The delayed response is one of many clues the trained observer must note when talking to a suspect.

One of the key principles is to obtain an uncontaminated commitment statement. Before you ask any specific or probing questions that can tip off the person as to what you know and what you are looking for, you need to have them write down in their own words everything they did and observed within the timeframe of the incident you are investigating. The commitment statement makes a suspect commit to an alibi.

Next, you gather personal history information, which is non-threatening information that allows you to build rapport and observe their truth telling style. BATI offers three different types of interview formats, depending on if you are trying to help a witness/victim remember the event more clearly: Cognitive Interview, separate suspects out: Credibility Assessment Interview and there is a Standard Interview which works well with all interview scenarios. All of these

interview formats rely on open-ended questioning, not direct "yes" or "no" questions.

As an example, if you ask "Did you see a brown truck?" you will get a "yes" or "no" or "I don't remember" but if you ask "what cars or trucks did you see?" you will find out if they saw a brown truck and you will find out what other vehicles were around, maybe ones you didn't know or suspect were involved.

The interrogation format is probably the hardest technique to learn. Not only do you have to be extremely patient, you must be persistent and always go "another 15 minutes" past when you are ready to give up. Privacy is paramount. Most people will not tell a horrible truth to a whole group of people or even two people. One more reason why "good cop/bad cop" doesn't work on suspects.

During an interrogation, the suspect is accused of the crime and only given one opportunity to deny the crime, after that you do not let them get started on any further denials, you must cut them off and start to pressure them with thematic questions. Thematic questioning gives the suspect a way to rationalize what they did and will result in them starting to tell the truth—which will then allow you to hopefully get a confession from the guilty.

Once a confession or admission is made, you must corroborate it with physical or other evidence that ties the suspect to the crime.

The BATI interview and interrogation techniques are much more involved than what I have described. Each student of their 40-hour class receives a very detailed 200+ page handbook complete with checklists and forms. BATI's techniques will work on major criminal cases and the day-to-day minor violations that we commonly find in parks. I recommend this course to all state park peace officers.

For more information contact BATI at: www.liedetecction.com or (707) 528-9511; classes offered statewide.

DENZIL VERARDO

Editor's Note: Denzil Verardo began his career as a park ranger at Big Basin Redwoods State Park in 1971. His career included the following assignments: Supervising Ranger & Lifeguard Supervisor at Mt. Tamalpais & Stinson State Beach; Superintendent of the then Napa Valley District; Regional Administrative Officer and Safety & Enforcement Specialist for the Northern Region; Training Coordinator at the Mott Training Center; Manager of Visitor Services for the Central Coast Region; Acting District Superintendent of five districts during his tenure at Central Coast and later also served as the Regional Administrative Officer for that Region; District Superintendent of the Monterey District; Assistant District Superintendent of the Santa Cruz District; Assistant Director for Quality out of Sacramento Headquarters; Deputy Director for Administration appointed by Director Donald Murphy; and Chief Deputy Director (Administrative Services) appointed by Director Rusty Areias, the position he held until his retirement on May 1.

When Wave editor Janet Carle asked if I would write a short article with my thoughts on State Parks over the years, I accepted with some trepidation. She felt that I have had a unique perspective having been both in the field and at headquarters in multiple assignments. My reluctance was not so much on the perspective I could offer, but to make remarks which offer some degree of insight, without resorting to reminiscing. You, the WAVE reader will have to judge whether I was successful. So with that, let me give you a few personal thoughts, not necessarily in any order, from which you can discern my view on the Department which developed from these multiple perspectives of "field" and "headquarters."

There is no question in my mind that our Department employees, collectively, are better equipped, with more diverse skill sets, than at any time in our history. Our training programs not only have statewide recognition, but are respected nationally with regular attendance by the National Park Service and other agencies across the country. Our commitment to public service has been, and is, legendary. To whom do you talk that hasn't wanted to be a ranger at some point in their life? I use the term ranger broadly, not as a civil service classification, but as one who is in the profession of protecting our park values, maintaining our system of parks for future generations, and serving the public. When I was in the field, I really thought very little about what was occurring at Headquarters. I had a job to do; one which I loved. To serve the public, preserve our precious resources, and interpret our natural and cultural environment is a calling which has few equals, and one which I consider privileged to have done. However, that didn't make the job easier, only more rewarding. When I came to headquarters a decade ago, of course my perspective and view of the Department changed, perhaps broadened is a better term, but not a day has gone by where I haven't thought about the impact on the field with every decision of which I have been a part. And I have also loved this work. Farther removed from the front line makes me no less a ranger.

A decade ago we had a major weakness. We had little understanding of modern management practices which allow the application of various business tools to solve problems, build cases, and defend the organizational integrity of State Parks through the collection, interpretation and application of data. Why



should we? Our work in parks and serving the people who visit was enough. We were to a degree protected from the buffeting of Sacramento politics. Much like education and libraries, parks were seen as a noble cause of an enlightened society. But the severe downturn of the economy in the early 1990's changed all that. While still a noble cause to many, others felt parks were an unaffordable governmental luxury. The system was threatened with dismemberment. We had little data to support our viewpoint on the value of parks. It's not enough to know you are right, you better prove it! But our people are adaptable and committed. Through a major education and training effort, we went from an agency with little respect from a business management standpoint, to one that is viewed as among the top performers in government. And that protected our cause. We were able to demonstrate that if the playing field is level, public employees are every bit as good as their private sector counterparts. The most important feature of Parks is their value in people's lives and for California's future; however, they also have tremendous economic value for the state and local economies. That fact is as important to some decision makers as the cultural and environmental importance of

A WAVE GOODBYE

parks is to park professionals. That reality is one we dare not ignore again, or we do so only at our own organizational peril. We need to keep forecasting the political and economic scene so we are ready for changing trends, while excelling at our core, Mission-based, responsibilities: Preserve, protect, interpret, maintain, and serve.

State Parks' total acreage and attendance has soared during the past 30 years. In fact, in 1972 the Department consisted of 790,000 acres and attendance was 45 1/2 million visitors. Today those numbers are almost exactly double what they were 30 years ago! Both those numbers, to me, are positive. Another positive trend was that while we were successful at "reinventing" our organization from a management perspective, we were equally successful at maintaining a positive image at the field level with the public we serve — no easy feat with 90 million visitors. The public's support of parks is another positive trend as evidenced with the passage of recent park bonds and bonds which included support for parks. An analysis of those bonds shows a definite trend to an urban, diverse population supporting parks. It is a population we must serve, both through local grants for urban recreation, and through the direct presence of State Park people. I mention all these trends only because we as park people are directly responsible for influencing them through our management of resources and our service to the public.

I have a few perspectives with which I can be relatively impartial since I've worn both the field and headquarters hats — quite literally. First, whether in the field or headquarters, first line supervisors and first line managers have the really tough jobs. They do. Not that the rest of us have it easy, it's just that the real difficult problems — operational problems and personnel issues — wind up with at those two levels.

Next, most of the field staff joined parks not to be in civil service, but to be park employees. Most of their classifications exist only in the Department of Parks and Recreation. Many in headquarters are in a similar situation. But there is a significant number of staff in headquarters — most — who are in civil service classifications whose promotional patterns are throughout state government. They are loyal and dedicated, but their view of the organization is different since public service is on a broad plane. One, the field, directly serves the public; the other serves to keep the internal processes of the organization running smoothly. One maintains continuity for our Mission; the other keeps parks from a parochial inward-focused viewpoint. While this is an oversimplification of the organizational dynamics of State Parks, it is critical to nurture and respect both. And I do.

Finally, let me say that 30 years ago were indeed, the "good old days." About as good as right now(!): dedicated park staff; a critical mission; jobs to perform which make people feel like they are making a difference in our society and for our environment; and seemingly never enough resources at our disposal to get the job done. But decade after decade, we've done it. If I had to start over today, I'd do it again in a heartbeat.

Denzil Verardo has graciously offered to have all his retirement gift money donated to the CSPRA Scholarship Fund. Please make donations to CSPRA (see contact information below)

Do you know someone who is retiring?

CSPRA provides a plaque for each member when they retire. Contact CSPRA at (800) 749-8749, or make a request at www.cspira.com, or write to CSPRA, P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93004-0247, or email:

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PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM IN CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

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For all except "Active" member payroll deduction, please include check for 1 year's dues.

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I hereby authorize the State Controller to deduct from my salary and transmit as designated an amount for membership dues in the California State Park Rangers Association. This authorization will remain in effect until cancelled by myself or by the organization. I certify I am a member of the above organization and understand that termination of my membership will cancel all deductions made under this organization. Send to: CSPRA, P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93014-0247

Signature

Date



THE OFFICE MANAGER'S MAILBAG



Gar Salzgeber, Office Manager

Correspondence

Getting personnel notes from our retired members about what they're doing with their lives warms the cockles of my heart and sends chills of joy up my spine. I hope everybody else enjoys them as much.

Sam Bitting writes: After mailing most Christmas cards, the love of my life, Betty, entered the hospital on December 15. She was found to have terminal cancer and on January 2, 2003 was put in the local hospice and passed away January 5, 2003. I am thankful that the Lord did not let her suffer. Many of our park family will remember her cooking, especially her pies and acts of love. I would appreciate your mentioning her passing in the next "Wave" or any DPR publication.

Curt Kraft writes: Have been busy working on home improvement projects. We recently purchased a home with a beautiful view of the Mokelumne River Canyon and the high Sierras, but it is 30+ years old and needs some attention.

My wife was not ready to retire from her job as the Superior Court Judge's Legal Secretary...So I joined her at the Courthouse with a part-time job as a Deputy Sheriff/Bailiff. It is the perfect part-time job. I tell them when I want to work and no paper-work, nights, weekends or holidays!

Our son and his wife just presented

us with our first grandchild – a girl. They moved to Elk Grove, so will only be an hour away for babysitting duties by the grandparents.

Our daughter and her husband are expecting a girl in June and they live near us in Pine Grove, so you can see we are looking forward to the Grand parenting years. The Lord has richly blessed us. Take care.

Report to Board- (exerpts)

New Organizational Members: Angel Island Association, Friends of Channel Coast State Parks and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks. **New Supporting Members:** Dr. David Rolloff of CSU Sacramento and **Christine Spiller** a senior park aid/interpreter from Big Basin. **New Active Members:** **Nina Gordon**, a Manager at Office of Grants and Local Assistance; **Kathleen Holt**, a Maintenance Supervisor at Santa Cruz – Central; **Rain Swank**, a Maintenance Supervisor at Crystal Cove SP; **William Wisehart**, a Supervising Rangers at Eel River Sector and **Jeff Gaffney**, a Park Ranger Cadet at Mott Training Center.

808 members: 524 Active, 154 Retired, 32 Maintenance, 8 Supporting, 4 Organizational, 2 Benefactors, 16 Honorary, 44 Legislative/Committee, and 24 Non-members.

Don Battin was presented with a retirement plaque. About thirty 10&25 year pins sent to members attaining those milestones.

General Executive Council

South Lake Tahoe, April 1, 2003

Outgoing President **Kevin Buchanan** summarized the past year's activities, including letters in support of the removal of the El Moro trailer park in Crystal Cove State Park and encouraging the permanent appointment of **Ruth Coleman** as DPR Director. Kevin was also involved in planning the Park Advocacy Day of lobbying in Sacramento on April 7th. The CSPRA budget was presented, with an income of \$58,180 and expenses of \$32,130 for administration, \$10,900 for membership services and recruitment and \$12,500 for heritage protection which pays our lobbyist in Sacramento. Changes to the CSPRA Constitution and Bylaws were proposed and passed by the membership: language better clarifying the duties of the Executive Manager and Secretary/

Treasurer; and PRAC and CSPRA Board representatives will attend each other's Board Meetings as non-voting participants. A new Student/Seasonal membership category was established. A Corporate/Business membership category was discussed, but the matter was tabled for further discussion.

CSPRA Board Mtg Minutes

Lake Tahoe, CA, March, 30, 2003

By Angy Nowicki. Attendance: Gar, Darren, Joe, Dana, Val, Kevin, Angy

a. Still hope to recruit a head of the organizational Grant Committee, to recruit funding for a full time Executive Director for CSPRA.

b. **Geary Hund** was successful in gaining CSPRA support on the Burrowing Owl issue.

c. Budget issues: focus will be placed on the impact of tourism dollars and also the need to have a place of solace. Need to remember that seeing staff in parks gives the public a sense of safe being.

d. Kevin and Darren working to get the District Reps more on line with CSPRA. Particularly to recruit people to join.

e. Need to actively search for vendors to advertise in the WAVE.

f. Membership fee structure discussed (see GEC report).

g. Opening a Critical Event account at the Golden One Credit Union. so people can donate in the event that a park employee suffers a catastrophic event.

h. Discussion about possible support for a parks fee increase. Agreed that parks should be studied to base the fee structure more on amenities offered in a park: showers, trails, flush toilets, water.

j. Will try to keep the dues to \$8.00 per month and to raise money by gaining more members, sell advertisements in the WAVE, etc. Need to show the membership what we do with their money.

Operating costs are up, interest rates are down, Office Manager, Newsletter Editor, Web site, Scholarships.

k. Approved GEC Agenda.

l. 2005 Conference, looking at Bass Lake as a possibility

m. Retirements, **Paula Peterson** (5-16-03) **Carol Nelson** (5-16-03)

n. Reviewed contracts for the Office Manager and the Newsletter Editor and made some slight changes.

o. Gar requests a new lap top computer to use or some memory upgrade. He has maxed out on his personal laptop.

humor in unicorn



Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price, retired

Confidence in destiny.

I took a leap of fate and transferred
to Bay Area in the middle of reorg.

Adulation or increased personnel?

He did a great job and deserves a
few "add a boys."

*That's not only dull and boring, it
hurts.*

The Marines are taking the blunt of
the injuries in Basra.

GET CONNECTED

CSPRA ONLINE

Catch up on CSPRA activities
contact your District Reps, Board
or Officers, get latest information.
www.cspra.com

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Attention Retired Members!
Want to keep in touch after you
leave DPR? Join the GrayBears
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DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

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| Bay Area, Diablo Calaveras | Nielson, Carl Harrison, Wayne | 925 837-6129 209 795-3488 rxfire@goldrush.com |
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| Colorado Desert | Zemon, Jeri | 760 767-4399 |
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| Orange Coast | Serpa, Jim | 949 496-5290 serpa@fea.net |
| Oceano Dunes | Monge, Rey | 805 473-7225 rmonge@parks.ca.gov |
| Park Services | Maris, Vic | 916 653-9315 maris@parks.ca.gov |
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| San Simeon | Van Schmus, James | 805 927-2020 ivans@parks.ca.gov |
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| Sierra | Lindsey, Tom | 530 525-7232 tomlindsey@ips.net |
| Silverado | Nixon, Valerie | 707 279-4293 |
| So. Service Center | Webb, Paul | 619 220-5311 |



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CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Mission Statement



The California State Park Rangers Association is an organization of park professionals dedicated to advancement of the highest principles of public service, and established to support, protect, and defend the integrity of State Parks for present and future generations.



Founded 1964