



The CSPRA

Wave

Newsletter

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 2

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

MAR-APR 2006

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT



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CSPRA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Ron Brean, Retired
(541) 547-3640, ron@cspra.com

PRESIDENT ELECT

Angy Nowicki, Silverado
(707) 938-5216, angy@cspra.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Pam Armas, Monterey
(831) 649-7172, pam@cspra.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Valerie Bradshaw, HQ
(916) 653-8542, val@cspra.com

DIRECTORS

Joe Rodgers, HQ
916-651-9150, joe@cspra.com

Jill Dampier, Goldfields
(916) 885-2798, jill@cspra.com

Gail Sevrems, No. Service Center
(916) 445-8827, gail@cspra.com

Joe Mette, Retired
(707) 875-9492, joemette@cspra.com

ADMINISTRATION

Laura Svendsgaard, Executive Manager
P.O. Box 1117, Yachats, OR 97498
(800) 749-8749 or (541) 547-3640
executivemanager@cspra.com

INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

Jeff Price, Webmaster
(805) 278-9201, webmaster@cspra.com
www.cspra.com

The CSPRA Wave
Janet Carle, Editor
(760) 647-6431, wave@cspra.com

The CSPRA Wave
(ISSN 0087-9176)
is published by CSPRA, P.O. Box 247,
Carpinteria, CA 93014-0247
Articles and letters are always welcome.
All submissions become the property of
CSPRA and may be edited without notice.

COVER PHOTO: The confluence of
the north and middle forks of the
American River in the Auburn State
Recreation Area. Photo by David
Carle

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



RON BREAN
CSPRA President

There will always be a need for an organization like CSPRA because there will always be people who value something else; money, power, development, roads, power lines, dams, etc., more than they value parks. Sometimes there will be elected officials in office with a clear sense of the extreme benefits parks bring to society. In those times our job will be easy and we can enjoy the fruits of our labor along with the millions of park visitors who are the recipients of those benefits. Sometimes there will be governors and assembly persons and senators that need reminding in order to do the right thing. And sometimes, hopefully few, there will be those in power with a completely misdirected sense of priorities who will need not only to be educated, but fought to a standstill.

New ideas will arise from time to time that can be used to enhance resource protection, interpretive programs, or public safety services. Because bureaucracies, no matter how benign, can be slow to evolve there will always be a need to push for professional development opportunities, new kinds of equipment, and training. There will be concepts that will enhance your ability to get the job done and the California Department of Parks and Recreation, for good and sufficient reason, will be unable to offer them to its employees.

There will always be great advantages to be achieved and synergy to be experienced by the gathering together of park professionals to share ideas and experiences. Knowing that others are facing what you face and that some of them have solved your problem is perhaps the most valuable outcome of our annual conferences. Being able to share what you've learned while learning more and revitalizing your commitment to the ideals of the parks and recreation profession is invaluable. Someone will always be needed to make those conferences happen.

This is my last message as president of CSPRA. It has been a pleasure to serve you. I want to use it to remind you all that because these challenges will always be here, there always needs to be a CSPRA to answer them. They won't go away. They will grow. People seeking transportation solutions will continue to look our way because we've got open land. Threats which exist today include high-speed rail, toll roads, and airports. As people engage California's greatest political and economic battlefield--water--they will be looking for places to impound it and routes to move it. Parks will be considered. As communities look for civic facilities or low income housing or prisons or any number of other "solutions", they will look our direction. There will always be a need for CSPRA and you must always be willing to step forward and fill that need.

In my retirement party speech I gave this admonition to the Director and her staff: "Don't screw it up". I said it kidding, but I also meant it seriously. As I step down as CSPRA president, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you. I will still be around to help, but now it's your turn. Step up and help your new President, **Angy Nowicki**, answer the challenges that await. Don't screw it up.



GOLD FIELDS DISTRICT

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

by **Scott Nakaji**, District Supt.

As you meander down the American River, you will pass by the many units that make up Gold Fields District. Much depends on which fork of the American you are meandering. In the foothill region of the Sierra Nevada mountain range as you whitewater down the North and Middle Forks of the American River is **Auburn State Recreation Area**. If you are whitewater rafting down the South Fork you pass by **Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park** in Coloma. The North, Middle and South forks of the American River eventually find their way into **Folsom Lake State Recreation Area** which was created by the completion of Folsom Dam in 1956. As water is released from Folsom Dam into the American River channel it flows into Lake Natoma, passing by **Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park**. After spilling through Nimbus Dam the American River leaves State Park jurisdiction and meets the Sacramento River just north of Downtown Sacramento. There is a certain mystique about the Delta, and as the Sacramento River flows southward it branches off into the amazing maze of sloughs that comprise Delta country. The Sacramento River and adjacent sloughs pass by Delta Sector units **Delta Meadows, Locke, Brannan Island** and **Frank's Tract**. So put on your life jacket, hop on board and let's take a quick river run through the "Gold Fields."

Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park (SHP) is arguably the most significant unit in the entire State Park system. Sutter's Mill is the site where James Marshall discovered gold on January 24, 1848. Thus began the Gold Rush and the resulting migration that has made the western United States what it is today. Today Marshall Gold Discovery SHP



educates thousands of schoolchildren and adults on the discovery of gold and life in the 1850's. A replica of Sutter's Mill stands to remind visitors of the historic gold discovery and emphasizes the significance of Marshall Gold as a State Park unit. Numerous special events such as Christmas in Coloma, Gold Discovery Day, and Coloma Gold Rush Live give park visitors a peek at the way things were in the Gold Rush days of the 1850's.

Auburn Dam was authorized by Congress in 1965 as part of the Auburn-Folsom South Unit of the Central Valley Project. Construction began in 1966 and was stopped in 1975

because of seismic concerns. Work was never restarted. The US Bureau of Reclamation entered into a contract with California State Parks in 1977 to operate the lands of the Auburn Dam project and State Parks has been operating the project area as a State Recreation Area ever since. Auburn

State Recreation Area is 42,000 acres of rugged river canyon terrain that contains some of the most scenic land in the Sierra Foothills. Originally scheduled to be inundated by the water of the proposed Auburn Reservoir created by the Auburn Dam, the river canyons continue on in "permanent limbo" status. This has occurred because the Auburn Dam project continues to be an active federally authorized project, and the possibility exists that it may never be decommissioned as an active project. This ensures that the lands that make up the Auburn State Recreation Area will continue to be funded by the US Bureau of Reclamation and operated by California State Parks. This relationship and the parameters that are set in place make for a unique management challenge as State Parks is prohibited from building any permanent facilities in Auburn below the theoretical high water mark of the proposed reservoir. One oddity of note in Auburn SRA, the Foresthill Bridge, is a structure that sits 730 feet above

the American River below. It is the third tallest bridge in the United States and the highest in California. The bridge was built to this height in anticipation of a reservoir below. In recent years Auburn SRA has



become a favorite filming location for Hollywood. The opening scene of the blockbuster movie *XXX* starring Vin Diesel features a red Corvette falling off of the Foresthill Bridge into the river canyon of Auburn SRA. The river scene from the Kevin Costner

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GOLD FIELDS

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movie *Dragonfly* was filmed at the confluence of the North and Middle Forks of the American River within Auburn SRA. Auburn has also been dubbed the “Endurance Capital of the World” in reference to the numerous endurance races and events that occur within the American River canyons, including the Tevis Cup ride and the Western States 100 mile Endurance Run. Auburn SRA has over 100 miles of trails. State Parks manages an active whitewater program with over 40 commercial whitewater raft outfitters on the North, Middle and South Forks of the American River. In terms of resources, Auburn was named by DPR Natural Resources Division as one of the Representative Parks for two distinct ecological regions.

Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (SRA) is another US Bureau of

Reclamation project and is one of the most popular recreation areas in the state with over 2.5 million visitors annually. Folsom Lake SRA is comprised of Folsom Lake and Lake Natoma. State Parks has been managing Folsom Lake SRA under an operating agreement since 1956. As is typical of many State Park units, Folsom Lake SRA has become, in essence, an urban park as it is set within the greater Sacramento region. Urbanization, Homeland Security concerns and the many proposed projects for flood protection around the reservoir make for some management challenges in the 21st century. Folsom Lake is home to an active aquatic recreation program, an excellent Jr. Lifeguard program and offers over 32 miles of paved bicycle trails throughout the SRA. Because of

its calm water surface and serene setting Lake Natoma is considered to be the finest rowing lake in North America and it hosts events such as the PAC-10 Conference Rowing Championships and the NCAA Women’s Rowing Championship.

Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park is the site of the first long distance transmission of electricity in the United States in 1895. This innovation sparked the world’s industrial and technological revolution which continues to evolve today. One little known fact is that the Folsom Powerhouse once generated 95 percent of the state’s electric power. The Powerhouse was constructed out of granite blocks that were quarried and shaped by Folsom Prison inmates



and brought to the Powerhouse grounds by the Central Pacific Railroad. The Powerhouse is still considered such a significant engineering feat for its time that in 1999 it was named one of the world’s top 125 engineering feats by Engineering News-Record. State Parks has just completed a \$2.8 million stabilization project and we are anticipating a \$2.4 million dollar visitor center to begin construction in the near future.

The Locke Boarding House is part of the historic community of Locke. Acquired in April, 2005, State Parks is working in partnership with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) to stabilize and ultimately rehabilitate the building with the ultimate goal of making it a visitor center and the cornerstone of the town.

Brannan Island was created from the dredge spoils from the construction of the Delta levee system. Today it is a very popular State Recreation Area that serves a diverse audience in the greater Delta region of the Central Valley and East Bay. Brannan Island provides individual and group camping, a day use area and a swim beach along seven mile slough. Across Highway 160 is Windy Cove, which is on the Sacramento River and is an area that is popular with the local windsurfing community.

Franks Tract in the Delta Sector is comprised of 3300 acres of flooded farmland. In 1938, a levee break in the Delta resulted in severe flooding of Frank’s Tract. The levee was never repaired. State Parks acquired Frank’s Tract in 1959. Little Franks Tract was

the result of another breach in a levee in 1981. Both areas are popular fisheries and Frank’s Tract is one of the few State Parks in which hunting is officially

allowed. Each year Delta Sector issues permits to hunters for floating duck blinds, as duck hunting is a popular sport in Franks Tract SRA.

Historic buildings, controversial river canyons, a high use reservoir and active recreational opportunities, all within a short drive of major urban areas, present numerous and fascinating management challenges in all of the DPR core program areas. As with all of our park units within DPR, each park unit within Gold Fields District has a unique story and place in history. Some of those stories have yet to completely unfold. As you can see, Gold Fields District is a dynamic, diverse district and it provides a great blend of history, recreation, resources and education for the people of California. I encourage you to stop by and take a trip around the “Gold Fields.”

Water, Power, Flood Control and Recreation

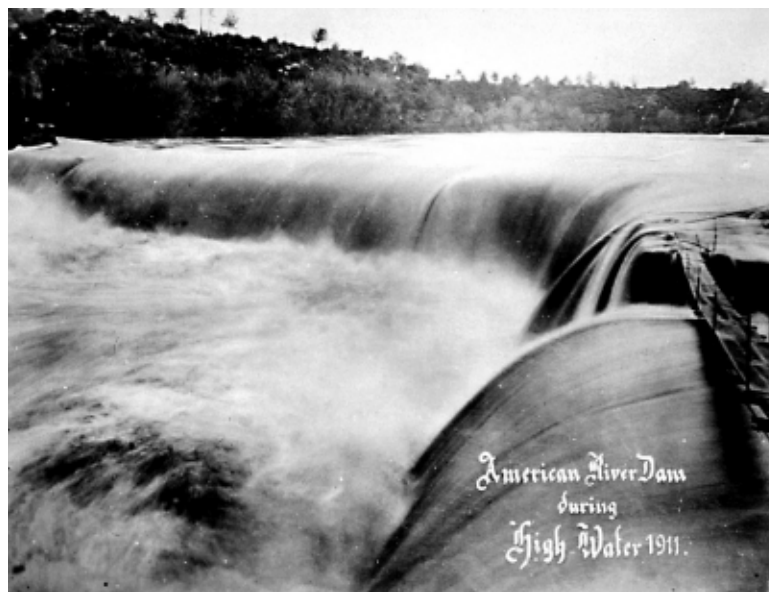
by **Jim Micheaels**, Staff P&R Spec.

A “river runs through it” might well be the motto for the Gold Fields District which is comprised of park units strung along all three forks of the American River and on down the Sacramento River into the Delta. The need for water and power and the desire to control floods along these rivers has created and shaped the parks within the Gold Fields District today. The river dictated the location of Folsom Powerhouse, now a State Historic Park. Built in 1895, the Powerhouse utilized old Folsom Dam to harness the fall of the American River, spinning turbines and generating electricity which lit up Sacramento for more than fifty years. More recently the construction of the “new” Folsom Dam and Nimbus Dam in 1955 resulted in Folsom Lake and Lake Natoma (an afterbay), the two reservoirs around which Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (SRA) is centered. An authorized and then stalled dam on the

North Fork of the American River at Auburn is the reason the 40,000 acre Auburn State Recreation Area exists today. In the Delta, Brannan Island SRA, Delta Meadows State Park and Franks Tract SRA have all been created or altered by fill and levees.

Certainly when visitors are rowing the narrow and intimate length of Lake Natoma, water skiing on a brim-

full Folsom Lake surrounded by oak studded foothills or plunging through whitewater on the South Fork – it is easy to become immersed in the natural surroundings and forget how human needs have and continue to shape these landscapes. However, as reservoir levels fluctuate at Folsom Lake, park rangers and visitors alike are reminded that the reservoir is fundamentally a flood control and water supply project. This is especially true when reservoir levels drop and rangers struggle to corral unauthorized off-road vehicle use and “mud bogging” down in the bath tub ring, boat owners are forced to vacate slips at the marina, vulnerable cultural resources are exposed and visitors are



squeezed into fewer opportunities or abandon the park altogether as boat ramps and beach areas are left high and dry and the shoreline recedes into the distance.

For the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), managing Folsom Reservoir levels is a delicate balance of emptying the reservoir sufficiently in the fall to capture flood events and run-off in winter and spring and preserving enough water into the

summer to provide cold water for endangered salmon and steelhead downstream, municipal and agricultural water supply, and fresh water to help control salt water intrusion in the Delta.

Folsom Dam “Mini-Raise”

When the “new” Folsom Dam was first completed in the spring of 1955, the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) expected that it might take several seasons for the empty reservoir to fill to its one million acre-foot capacity. That winter the American River watershed experienced a tropical storm event, a so-called “pineapple express”, that has had engineers and flood experts scrambling ever since. Folsom Reservoir filled within a

matter of days.

Similar significant flood events in 1964, 1986 and 1997 have caused the Corps to reconsider the level of flood protection afforded to the Sacramento region by Folsom Dam and have generated a host of proposals and projects to push that level of flood protection up to 200-year flood protection. These projects include ongoing work to shore up downstream levees, a

proposed new spillway in order to pass a greater volume of water around the dam more quickly and a recent decision to raise Folsom Dam and the nine appurtenant earthen dikes and dams an additional seven feet.

Over the course of fifty years of recreation planning and development at Folsom Lake SRA many of the major recreation facilities in the park

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THE BIG PICTURE

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have been constructed in the seven-foot topographic band around the shoreline that will be available for additional flood storage when the dam is raised. While the probability of this purposeful inundation occurring in any given year is very small (1-2%), recent flood events have demonstrated that it is likely inevitable. Picnic facilities, beaches, restrooms and concession facilities all have the potential to be flooded if the additional reservoir storage capacity were needed. Construction of the dam raise will disrupt recreation activities and facilities over the course of a decade. Many of the popular trails within the SRA utilize the top of the dams and dikes. Re-routes will need to be developed during construction and the trails replaced. The District is working with the Corps, Reclamation, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) and others to see that recreation and resource interests are protected within the context of this huge and important flood control project.

PCWA Pump Station/River Restoration

At Auburn SRA, even in the absence of a dam, water and power continue to shape the landscape. Active construction of Auburn Dam was halted in the mid-1970's due to concerns about the seismic safety of the dam and Congressional concerns with the costs, both fiscal and environmental. In 1977 California State Parks reached agreement with Reclamation to manage the public lands withdrawn for the dam and reservoir as part of the California State Park System. What was left at the dam site was a myriad of construction roads, the

exposed bedrock and massive concrete "dental work" of the dam keyway and a 33-foot diameter, half mile long tunnel that diverts the river around the dam site. While dam construction halted, population growth in Placer County did not. It boomed.



The communities of Placer County, through their local water agency Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), had assumed Auburn Dam would be built and they would be able to pull future water supply from near the top of an Auburn Reservoir. By the mid-1990's the need for additional water supply forced Reclamation and PCWA to develop plans to install a permanent pump station at the Auburn Dam site in order for PCWA to be able to fully utilize their water rights. The State Attorney General convinced the U.S. Department of Interior (Reclamation's parent agency) that in addition to PCWA enjoying their full water rights, fish and recreationalists should be able to enjoy the other beneficial uses of the de-watered segment of river. Hence, the pump station project was expanded to include closing the diversion tunnel and returning the river to its former channel.

The restoration of the river will permit recreation use of a five mile

stretch of Class 2 whitewater that has been closed to recreational use for decades due to the danger the diversion tunnel presented. As part of the PCWA Pump Station/River Restoration Project, some recreational facilities are being developed to accommodate the additional recreation

use that will occur with the restored river. State Parks has worked with PCWA and Reclamation in planning these facilities as part of the larger project. Thus far, the pump station has been built and the excavation of hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of material from the river channel is nearly complete. The next phase of this project will construct a boater and fish friendly diversion structure, put the finishing touches on the river

channel configuration, and build the public use facilities.

Auburn to Cool Trail Crossing

Returning the river to its former channel will restore river recreation opportunities but the river will divide a popular recreation trail that crosses the North Fork Canyon at the diversion tunnel, the Auburn to Cool Trail. During the environmental review for the Pump Station/River Restoration Project, in the midst of huge challenges presented by restoring the river channel and designing a fish and boater friendly diversion, the seemingly minor issue of the bifurcation of this single trail emerged as one of the most controversial issues of the project. As a result, the State and PCWA have committed funds to explore options to create a trail crossing, including possibly a 500-foot trail bridge across the North Fork Canyon.

FERC Re-licensing

As with most of the other rivers flowing out of the Sierra, the Middle

THE BIG PICTURE

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and South Forks of the American River have been dammed and diverted to take full advantage of the hydro-power potential as these streams descend to the Valley. Dams and reservoirs stair step down the watershed to capture and re-capture the water many times over in order to spin turbines and generate electricity at each step. The utilities that operate these hydro-electric projects were granted fifty-year license agreements by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the use of these public resources. Nationally many of the FERC license agreements have gone through a re-licensing process over the past decade. On the American River the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) re-licensing project for their Upper American River Project on the South Fork is in mid-process. On the Middle Fork, Placer County Water Agency has just initiated the re-licensing process for their facilities.

The many dams, penstocks and power plants on these two Forks of the American have resulted in highly altered and regulated river flows. These altered flow regimes have had impacts on the native fish, other aquatic species and the riparian habitat. Over the past three decades, whitewater boaters have learned to adapt and even take advantage of the altered flows. The South Fork of the American River is the most popular whitewater river in California. The last mile of the whitewater and the take-out for this popular run are within Folsom Lake SRA. Approximately 70,000 whitewater boaters utilize the take-out facilities within Folsom Lake SRA annually. The Middle Fork of the

American River within Auburn SRA is also a popular whitewater run with over twenty commercial outfitters operating on the river and 25,000 visitors annually.

When the hydropower licenses were granted fifty years ago, whitewater boating hardly existed. Past re-licensing processes have demonstrated that the utilities operating the hydroelectric facilities have responsibility not only in mitigating the impacts of the altered flows on natural resources but also some responsibility in paying for the cost of providing for and managing the whitewater recreation resulting from the altered flows.

The Gold Fields District is actively engaged in these FERC re-licensing

the construction of levees, is now a Delta waterway that was "re-claimed" by floods in 1938 when the levees were breached and the area inundated. State Parks has managed the area for boating and fishing recreation opportunities since 1959. Over the years the breached levees have slowly eroded and more importantly waterfront property on the adjacent Delta islands has been developed. These adjacent property owners have raised concern about the diminished capacity of the levees to protect their assets from waves during storms. The District has begun to address this issue. This isn't the only park unit in the Delta with abandoned levees which may still provide some incidental flood protection. The role

and responsibility of State Parks to maintain these levees is a question the District will be addressing in the coming years.

Winter snowfall and spring run-off characterize the hydrologic cycle in the American River watershed. The need for flood control, water supply and electricity shape and shift this water as it

descends from the Sierra to the Valley. Recreation use and management of the park units within the Gold Fields District has and will continue to adapt to the ebb and flow of human attempts to harness and use this vital resource.



processes along with other agencies and interest groups and hopes to reach equitable settlement agreements with the utilities to manage the resources and uses affected by the hydroelectric projects.

Parks and Levees in the Delta

Flood control and the vulnerability on levees are much in the news and on the minds of Sacramento area residents following the flooding of New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. State Park units in the Delta have their own challenges with aging levees. Franks Tract State Recreation Area, once an island created through



FOLSOM POWERHOUSE

by **Tim Guardino**, *Ranger*

When we think of the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area we think of hot summer days, and tens of thousands of visitors escaping to Folsom Lake to cool off in its inviting waters. We think of collegiate and nationally ranked rowing competitions on the calm waters of Lake Natoma. Rain or shine, we think of hikers, bikers and joggers enjoying endless miles of multi-use trails. What a lot of us do not think about is the fact that the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area is home to the Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park.

The Folsom Powerhouse was the first in the nation to provide high voltage alternating current over long distance transmission lines for major municipal and industrial use. The Powerhouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as being significant in the areas of engineering and industry. It has been said that it represented a momentous advance in the science of generating and transmitting electricity. The Folsom Powerhouse has been compared to the Eiffel Tower, as engineering marvels of their time. The Powerhouse is also mentioned with the likes of Niagara Falls. The Folsom Powerhouse started generating power six weeks before that of the plant at the base of Niagara Falls.

The Folsom Powerhouse sits alone on the edge of the city of Folsom's diverse Historic District. The brick and mortar building, surprisingly in great shape, stands camouflaged among the eucalyptus trees along the east shore of Lake Natoma. The Powerhouse is cherished by many but remains unknown to most.

Like a lot of life's journeys, the main attraction is not only the destination but also the road traveled to get there. To appreciate the

significance of the Folsom Powerhouse one must consider its evolution.

To understand the Powerhouse's evolution let us travel two miles north



of the Powerhouse on the American River to Stony Bar Gorge where it all began. Today you will see the remnants of a granite block diversion dam that was blown up in the mid 1950's to make way for the new Folsom Dam. On the east side of the diversion dam a mortar lined canal runs 9,500' down river to the site of a mill pond and saw mill. The diversion dam and canal construction started 100 years earlier, in the mid 1850's, led by Horatio Gates Livermore of



Maine. Livermore's plan was to divert the waters of the American River into a canal and use this water to transport logs, operate a saw mill, irrigate farmland and run other industries in and around the city of Folsom.

What Livermore did not plan for

was the high cost of labor and the time and effort to quarry stone. Realizing that additional capital and more man power would be necessary, he

negotiated a contract with the State. The State would receive approximately 400 acres of land just east of the diversion dam to build Folsom Prison. Once the prison was complete, the State would provide Livermore with the much needed convict labor.

Twenty six years later, Folsom Prison was built, the state did provide convict labor and the dam

and canal were now ready to take on water. Although Horatio Gates Livermore did not live long enough to see his project completed, he did have two sons that would.

Horatio Putnam and Charles Edward would press on with their father's dream, but also with some dreams of their own. Construction of the saw mill continued while the Livermores paid close attention to the advancements of alternating current in the East. They were also paying close

attention to the water levels in the American River.

Unlike the rivers of Maine, the American River changed drastically with the seasons. Summers would not provide enough water to get logs downstream from the Foresthill divide while some winters would provide too much water, sending logs out of control and over the dam.

The Livermores began to realize that instead of using water power as a direct motive force they could use water power to turn generators to create electricity (hydro-electric power) and sell it to a much larger

FOLSOM SECTOR

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market in Sacramento. The Livermores would create power in Folsom and transmit it over long distance lines to Sacramento. The Livermores incorporated the Sacramento Electric and Light Company to build the Powerhouse and construct the long distance power line and a distribution station in the Capitol City.

Emerging from its experimental stages, the electrical power industry was trying to gain a foot hold in manufacturing and transportation. A few electrical power plants had been successful on a limited basis in Germany and New York in the late 1880's and early 1890's, but nothing had been attempted that was on the scale of the Livermore's endeavor.

"It was 4 am in Sacramento when a 100 gun salute shattered the quiet. People not planning on getting up early that morning never forgot it. It was a memorable day for other reasons too. It was the day electric power arrived in Sacramento over 22 miles of lines from the new Folsom Powerhouse." -San Francisco Chronicle, July 13th, 1895

A more extensive celebration was held September 9, 1895 in conjunction with the annual State Fair and Admission Day. The gala event was dubbed a "Grand Electric Carnival," and indeed it was – a night parade of illuminated floats mounted on electric streetcars rolled down streets ablaze with electric lights. The Capitol building itself was outlined by lights that could be seen 50 miles away.

In 1903 the Powerhouse was sold to California Gas and Electric Corporation, the immediate predecessor of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. The Powerhouse ran continuously for 57 years before giving way to the new Folsom Dam and power plant.

Pacific Gas and Electric gifted the Powerhouse and its equipment to the Division of Beaches and Parks on August 22, 1958, for the sum of \$1 for preservation as a museum.

Not bad for an afterthought.

URBAN INTERFACE

by **Michael Gross**, Sector Supt.

With the ever increasing development in California, many parks are now facing the same issues of urban interface as we do on a daily basis at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area.

Over the past two decades, Folsom Lake has become surrounded by urban sprawl. Most of the time, the park boundary line is also a homeowner's backyard fence line. This causes a multitude of problems from fire management, trespass, viewshed, illegal vehicle use, dogs off leash and numerous other issues.

As the warm weather approaches, the Folsom Sector Office fields several phone calls from adjacent homeowners asking State Parks to address the fire danger that our park land is causing to their property! Most of the time the homeowner has done little on their side of the fence to reduce their own fire danger, but expects our employees to cut trees, remove weeds and plant slow growing plants. Last spring we stumbled upon a neighbor who cleared the park property behind his back yard and installed irrigation lines so he could easily water the new lawn he was planning to install.

Neighboring property owners also use the park property as an extension of their own back yards. They cut the boundary fences so they can have direct access to the lake, and let their dogs run free causing havoc with visitors and other animals. Neighbors also cut park trees to improve their view of the lake. Other examples of what our employees find while patrolling the park boundaries include swing sets, yard furniture, exotic plants, horse trails, and vegetation

removal. We also find riders of All Terrain Vehicles using the park property as their motorcycle track.

Another recent example of our interface with the surrounding community was a complaint letter we received last summer. The homeowner was complaining about our floating restroom on Lake Natoma. She stated the restroom could be seen from her deck and had become an embarrassment when she had to explain its use while entertaining



friends. When we looked out from her deck at Lake Natoma, the City of Folsom and beyond, the floating restroom took up a minute portion of the 180° million dollar view.

To help address future urban interface concerns, our Park Planner, **Jim Micheals**, has been diligent by addressing comments to development CEQA documents and attending planning meetings. This has helped mitigate some of the negative effects by making developers install buffer space between the park boundary and homeowner property lines.

So, as urban sprawl reaches your parks, it is important to be actively involved with buffer acquisitions, local community planning, review of CEQA and NEPA documents, General Plan review, and other development processes.

LOCKE BOARDING HOUSE

by *Jay Galloway, Supt., Delta Sector*

In April of 2005, State Parks purchased the Locke Boarding House as a venue to tell the unique history of the rural Chinese community known as Locke. The town of Locke is located in the Sacramento Delta 30 miles south of downtown Sacramento. It is the only rural Chinese town left in the United States. The town was built in 1915, after a fire destroyed the Chinatown in nearby Walnut Grove. At that time, the California Alien Land Act prohibited Chinese from owning real property. As a result, the Chinese building owners built structures in the town on land owned by George Locke. Due to its unique status as the only town in the United States built exclusively by the Chinese for the Chinese, Locke was added to the National Registry of Historic Places in August 1970 and became a National Landmark in 1990.

In the intervening years since the establishment of the town by Bing Lee much has happened. The Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) purchased the land underlying the town, completed installation of a sewer system and fire protection system, subdivided the underlying property and then sold the land back to the building owners. Many of the original Chinese residents of Locke had moved away or died, but a few were present on a cold day in December 2004 for a ceremony commemorating the first time in history that they would own not only their buildings but the land under them. With the work done by

SHRA and the establishment of the Locke Management Association, a revival of interest in the town, its restoration and its history began.

At one time State Parks had considered purchasing and preserving the entire town of Locke. Those dreams were drastically pared down over the

involve interviews with the Kuramoto family and selected long time residents of Locke.

State Parks and SHRA are partnering to create a visitor center and house museum in the Locke Boarding House dedicated to preserving the unique history of the

town of Locke, the contributions of the Chinese to the Delta and the history of the Boarding House itself. There is much work to be done.

Phase 1 of the project will stabilize and weather proof the structure. Phase 2 will involve the rehabilitation and adaptation of the building to accommodate a visitor center and house museum. Phase 3 will involve the development of the

visitor center and museum.

The Locke Boarding House is an exciting project that will tell the story of not only the Chinese that came through Angel Island Immigration Station to the "Golden Mountain" and helped build the levees and agriculture of the Delta but also of the other ethnic groups that created the unique tapestry of history and communities of the California Delta.



years due to budget concerns, infrastructure problems in the town and the condition of some of the buildings. Shortly after the acquisition of the Boarding House was finalized, District Superintendent **Scott Nakaji** was contacted by Sam and Shirley Kuramoto. Sam's father Sukeichi Kuramoto and his mother Nobu owned the Boarding House from 1921 until 1942 when they were interned in Gila River Detention Center in Arizona during World War II. Their contact with Scott resulted in the Kuramoto's decision to hold a family reunion which included a visit to the Boarding House by Sam, Shirley and Sam's two surviving sisters who are both in their 90's. Gold Fields District staff was able to secure funding through a Cultural Stewardship Grant for an Oral History project that will



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A ONE-OF-A-KIND HOUSE

by **Mark Gibson**, Sector Supt.

Do you know your history? Those of you who answered yes must be familiar with Coloma. What you may not know is that the town of Coloma, including its historic structures and sites, is designated a National Historic Landmark. Almost the entire town is part of the 280-acre Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park. It is here, at Sutter's Mill on the South Fork of the American River, that James Marshall discovered gold on January 24, 1848, igniting one of the largest human migrations and effectively changing the course of history.

Between 1848 and 1852, the world's fascination with California caused its non-Indian population to grow to more than 200,000. Most had come to seek their fortune and then to return home, but many sent for their families and stayed. Others returned later to become permanent residents. Over the next 50 years, roughly 125 million ounces of gold was taken from the hills, which had a critical effect on California's early development. If gold had not been discovered, the land now known as California might have been ignored for another generation or two. Nor would the transcontinental railroad have been built, binding the nation together. Nor, perhaps would the U.S. treasury have had adequate funds to finance the Civil War.

Yes, Coloma really was a town of firsts. It was not only the place where gold was first discovered, that was to ultimately kick off the Gold

Rush, but it was also to rack up a few other firsts for the mining region. Did you know that Coloma had the first ferry, bridge, hospital, and cemetery? Continuing Coloma's tradition of "firsts", the James Marshall Monument is the first historical monument in California.

There are 36 historic structures at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park; 18 are currently on view to the public. The Thomas Hansford Williams House, the subject of this article, is one of the oldest structures in Coloma, built between 1853 and 1856, during what is considered the "Gold Rush Period" (1849-1862).

State Parks purchased this building in



the late 1990's. It was park staff and the Gold Discovery Park Association's goal to stabilize and eventually restore this severely threatened building that is at least 147 years old. With that in mind, the Gold Discovery Park Association was successful in competing for the Save America's Treasures grant of \$200,000. A California Cultural Endowment grant has also been applied

for. To start the project off the Cultural Resources division assisted the project by funding a Historic Structures Report, completed by PAST Consultants, LLC.

In delving into the history of the Williams House many interesting myths were confirmed, the most significant being the 1856 addition of the south-west bedroom of the south

wing, which appears to have been constructed of hand prepared Mill timbers. As it turns out, Thomas Williams, being the resourceful man that he was, gained access to the jail lumber. He likely demolished the original jail that was constructed of heavy timbers and transported these timbers, some as wide as 16 inches square, to his home site. You may ask why he did this. The Coloma Valley, the site for Sutter's Mill was completely denuded of trees by as early as 1853. In fact, the sawmill was closed down in 1851. The trees were cut down by the miners for firewood or for building materials. The Historic Structures Report documents that whitewash and notches visible in the attic testify to the reuse of these

oversized, hand-prepared timbers.

Perhaps the most interesting facet of the Williams House is the history of those who lived there. The original owner of the house, Thomas Hansford Williams, was born in Monticello, Kentucky, on May 18,

See MARSHALL GOLD, page 12

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MARSHALL GOLD, from page 11

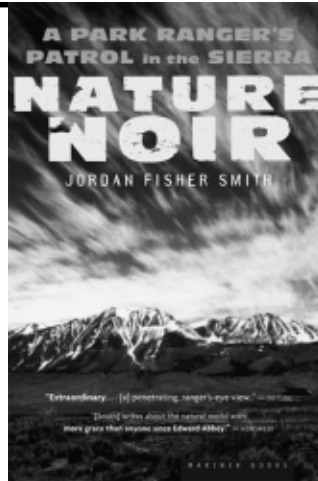
1828. He was the son of Sherrod Williams of Louisville, Kentucky, a lawyer and Congressman who served 12 consecutive terms in the U.S House of Representatives. Williams studied law with his father and in 1849 traveled to California and set up a law practice in Placerville (about 8 miles south of Coloma) in the spring of 1850. There is some evidence that he acquired the Coloma lot on which the Williams House still stands in 1853. Williams is best known for serving in Sacramento as Attorney General of California (1858-1862).

Upon Williams's death in 1886, the house was sold to Ezra M. Smith, a legend in his own right, who was the first park ranger (guardian) of California's first historical park – Marshall's Monument (which eventually grew to become today's Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park).

The Williams House has been referred to locally as the Markham House, in recognition of the brief occupancy of the house by Edwin Markham. Although the house was not Markham's, it was one of four places he lived in Coloma, and the only one remaining. Markham taught school in the 1870's and rented the Williams House between 1877 and 1879. Markham was elected Superintendent of Education in 1879 and moved to Placerville. He then returned to teaching. However, the publication of his poem, *The Man with The Hoe*, in the *San Francisco Examiner* on January 15, 1899, catapulted him into world-wide renown and he became a much sought after lecturer. He was chosen to read his poem, *Lincoln, the Man of the People*, at the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. following President Warren Harding's address.

Please stop by and see this one-of-a-kind structure. The restoration will bring it back to life and allow the public to understand, for the first time, the role of important figures from the Gold Rush era.

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Jordan Fisher Smith worked at Auburn SRA for over 13 years and wrote a book, *Nature Noir: A Park Ranger's Patrol in the Sierra* about his experiences there. Listed as one of the *San Francisco Chronicle's Best Books of 2005* and an *Audubon Magazine Editor's Choice*, it will be published in paperback this May. Thanks to Houghton Mifflin Co. for permission to use excerpts.

From Chapter 2, *It Never Rains in California*:

In our hot, dry summers and in the sort of dry, scrubby vegetation you see on our south-facing canyon walls, this country belongs to the great South-west--- dusty, parched and baking, the leaves of its prickly brush and tree species coated with layers of waxy stuff to seal in their moisture. But in the rainy winters and in the lush coniferous forests of our north-facing slopes and shady side canyons, the American River country pledges allegiance to the Pacific Northwest, that nation of Douglas fir, thimbleberry, black bear, salmon and rain, which stretches from here to southeast Alaska.

By late September, the first thing to change is the wind. Absent for most of the summer, it begins to blow again. One day thin clouds streak the sky, then lower to form a thick, featureless blanket. A little rain falls on a warm night, and when the weather clears the days are still warm but people begin to feel like putting up firewood. By October the nights grow chill and the black oaks on the ridges are tinged with yellow and orange. By November the rains come in earnest. In the



woods, the carpet of moss covering rocks and tree trunks that has been brittle and apparently lifeless for months becomes vibrant green again. Bug-eyed orange salamanders and newts make jerky slow-motion patrols across the forest floor. Ferns tremble with drips from the trees. Mushrooms come up. Water falls in diamond ribbons from moss and fern-covered cliffs and skeins together into creeks, seeking the river. And the roads we rangers travel, which for months have hemorrhaged clouds of soil behind every car, turn to mud.

From the Epilogue:

By the time this book is in print, it will have been four decades since the legislation authorizing the Auburn Dam was passed, and the forty-eight miles of canyons the dam would have inundated are still with us. Given half a chance, these canyons will continue to bloom and recover from the insults of the Gold Rush, yet they will henceforth lack the feeling of permanence they must have had for the first people who knew them. What has happened to them has rendered these canyons mortal in our eyes, and like the rest of wild nature, they will now continue to exist only at our sufferance. It is my hope that there will be rangers watching over them for a long time to come, or at least until armed men and women are no longer necessary to protect such places.



BACK IN THE DAY

I Would Do It All Again!

by **Jackie Ball**, Retired

I chuckled when WAVE editor Janet Carle contacted me to see if I would write an article for the new "Back In The Day" feature in the CSPRA Wave as the most recently retired District Superintendent for the Gold Fields District. I've been retired a bit over one year, and already I am eligible for "old timers" stories! As I reminisce I am going to focus on the "State of the State Park System for Jackie" in my early days.

As you might expect, there have been a few changes in DPR since my "full-time permanent hire" in 1976.

When I started college in the fall of 1969 the specs for Ranger said "male". When I graduated four years later the gender qualification had been removed as a result of a new federal law, Title 9. I did not know any of this until some years later when I researched the history of the State Park System for an Asilomar course I was going to teach. So, when I was hired for my first park aide job in 1973 at La Purisima Mission I was clueless that women in the "field" in State Parks were a real anomaly.

The fact that no one at La Purisima knew what I should wear for a uniform might have been a clue, but I didn't think much of that one way or the other. I did think that the white shirt with the Peter Pan collar (all I could find in those days of wild colors) and the "any color green skirt" (I talked them into a skort for practical reasons) were geeky-looking, but I wanted the job, so "oh, well". I laughed about my garb with college friends who came to visit me that summer.

My La Purisima job was the perfect way to start my State Park career, even though I was not aware at the time that that was what was happening. In those pre- Labor Relations/Union days my park aide job was a blend of maintenance and visitor services. I arrived at work and cleaned two bathrooms and if I had time cleaned out animal pens. Mid-morning I sold \$.50 entrance tickets. After lunch I sold tickets if

the park was busy. If not I went back to my Maintenance duties. By the end of the summer I was leading nature hikes and history tours. It was a great, "balanced" start for my career.

I spent most weekend lunch hours with Juanita Centeno, a Chumash elder who demonstrated weaving on the two harness-four poster Mission looms. She would let me weave for 30 minutes and the next day when I returned I could see that she had taken out my much inferior quality band of weaving. When I asked her one day if she wanted me to undo my weaving before I left she denied ever removing my weaving. She did not want to hurt my feelings and I loved our weaving

sessions, so we ended the summer with an unspoken agreement to continue as we were and "just not talk about it"! The next summer I worked as a full time "Interpretive Park Aide" at Carpinteria State Beach. Once the summer was over I did park aide kiosk work for Emma Wood State Park on an evening shift. I found out later there was quite a bit of conversation about the wisdom of scheduling "a female" for the evening shift, as "it might not be safe." ...once again, I was unaware of this "dilemma" and I was delighted to be getting additional park experience. (I survived, by the way....)

I also was a part-time dispatcher for the District on Friday and Saturday nights.

My first night as dispatcher, I was shown a dark office at Ventura State Beach with a stem-style radio transmitter (two buttons on the base) and told to "keep track of them". Then I was left alone. Once I found the not-easy-to-find light switch I rummaged around and found a radio log (seemed like a good idea to write down any calls, even though no one directed me to) With time to burn I called Office Assistant Sue Taveras at home. Sue described how the radio system worked. I made a list of after hours phone numbers,

and was pleased when the few Rangers on duty later told me that it was nice to have someone actually



^^Group Q, 1976, top to bottom, L to R: **Jackie, Janelle Miller, Bill Wisehart, Fred Lew, Randy Hogue, Ken McKowen, Jerry Waggoner, Ed Stuckrath, Bill Berry, Ashford Wood**

See BACK IN THE DAY, p. 14

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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.

Signature

Date

BACK IN THE DAY

BACK IN THE DAY, from page 13

answer the radio. (yep)

My hire as a Ranger Trainee in the
Marin District was a bit unbelievable
when viewed through the lens of
today's careful bureaucracy. A rep
from "Manpower Utilization" called
me at work at Carrillo State Beach on
a Friday and told me to report to Marin
the following Monday. Work would
not release me until midnight Satur-
day, so I drove all day Sunday from
LA to Marin County and reported at 8
a.m. Monday to Samuel P. Taylor State
Park. No paperwork. Simply "trust"
on both sides. (yep)

It is telling that in those days I
knew all the women rangers person-
ally. Janelle Miller and I were hired at
the same time and filled the 9th/10th
slots of full time women rangers hired.
It is a sign of healthier times that as the
years went on I no longer knew all the
women rangers.

I was so excited to be hired, none
of the "oddities" of those early years
really resonated with me at the time. I,
along with the other new hires of our
day, felt fortunate to be hired in the
days when hiring lists had 1500-2000
names. I feel the same today.

ELECTION RESULTS

Election results

to be presented at the 2006 General
Meeting. 147 ballots were cast

Board of Directors — 3 vacancies

Sal Goshorn / 130 votes

Brett Mizeur / 129 votes

Natalie Lohi / 128 votes

President-Elect

Gail Sevrens / 132 votes

Secretary/Treasurer

Becky Schenone / 131 votes

Constitutional Amendments

#1: Supports the addition of a
Professional Development member-
ship category, available to any active
Seasonal DPR employee for \$36 per
year. Professional Development
members will have all the rights and
privileges of Active and Active
Retired members.


Ayes: 114 // Noes: 21

#2: To create a new officer position
by dividing the responsibilities of the
Secretary/Treasurer into two separate
offices. Following adoption at the
GEC, the Board will appoint a
current Board member or eligible
CSPRA member to fill one of the
vacancies. The other vacancy will be
filled by the newly elected Secretary/
Treasurer.

Ayes: 132 // Noes: 6

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humor in unicorn



Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price, retired

Outfoxed on the Dubai port contro-
versy.

*It looks like they let the chicken into
the henhouse.*

Rangers of the black hand.

*I am sure all PI's were godfathered
in to safety retirement.*

Drained by dancing with the stars!

*The show's finale was so high it pre-
empted every prime time newscast.*

No longer fluid currency.

*All the money will be desiccated to
Katrina victims.*

Cable-ready premonitions.

*I knew it was you; maybe I have
ESPN or something.*

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District Reps

(Number indicates Rep(s) needed)

| District | Name | Email Address |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Angeles | Frank Padilla | fpadilla@parks.ca.gov |
| Capitol | 1 | |
| Central Valley | Wayne Harrison | wharr@parks.ca.gov |
| Channel Coast | 1 | |
| Colorado | Jeri Zemon | jzemon@parks.ca.gov |
| Diablo Vista | Carl Nielson | junctionrangers@earthlink.net |
| | Ann Meneguzzi | amene@parks.ca.gov |
| Four Rivers | Greg Martin | gmart@parks.ca.gov |
| Gold Fields | Matt Cardinet | mcardinet@parks.ca.gov |
| | Kevin Pearce | kpearce@parks.ca.gov |
| Inland Empire | Susan Neary | sneary@parks.ca.gov |
| Mendocino | Natalie Lohi | nlohi@mcn.org |
| Monterey | Pat Clark Gray | pgray@parks.ca.gov |
| North Coast Redwoods | Rick Sermon | sermon@wave.net |
| North Bay | Karen Broderick | karen@mcn.org |
| Northern Buttes | Val Nixon | nixons@mchsi.com |
| | Rebecca Schenone | rschenone@parks.ca.gov |
| Orange | Jenny Donovan | roadkil151@aol.com |
| | Robert Simoneaux | bob4q@cox.net |
| San Diego | Fred Jee | jeeology@yahoo.com |
| San Joaquin | Sean Malis | sean.malis@us.army.mil |
| San Luis Obispo | Nick Franco | nfranco@hearcastle.com |
| Santa Cruz | Charles Edgemon | charlesedgemon@earthlink.net |
| | Linda Hitchcock | Llinda3@juno.com |
| Sierra | Susan Grove | susan@gbis.com |
| Administration | Jann Bullock | jbull@parks.ca.gov |
| Grants | 1 Historic Preservation | 1 |
| Northern Service Ctr | 1 Southern Service Ctr | 1 |
| OHV | 4 Interpretation Div. | 1 |
| Cultural Resources Div. | 1 Natural Resources Div. | 1 |
| Planning Div. | 1 Tech Services Div. | 1 |

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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