



# PLEA



JOURNAL OF THE PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

## NRPA NATIONAL CONFERENCE ISSUE

The Park Law Enforcement Association will again this year take an active role in the National Recreation and Park Association Congress. This year the Congress will be held in Baltimore, MD. from October 16th through October 22nd. As in prior years, PLEA will host an informational booth in the Trade and Exhibit Hall. In previous years this booth has been very well received by the administrators, directors, practitioners, and law enforcement professionals attending the Congress. This booth gives these individuals the chance to speak to our board members, officers and other PLEA members about the Association, the problems faced by the park and recreation profession, and gain information concerning problem solutions. The Association provides informational materials, shows videos about park law enforcement, displays the PLEA banner and patch collection, and generally serves to increase the visibility of PLEA and the park law enforcement profession. Continuing in PLEA's goal to provide educational opportunities for park law enforcement professionals and administrators, PLEA will be sponsoring three general education presentations and one research presentation during the course of the Congress. PLEA will also hold a Mid-Year Board of Directors meeting during the Congress. The time and location will be available at the PLEA booth. All members are welcome to attend and participate. Your input is important to this association! We will look forward to seeing you in Baltimore!

(ARE YOU AN NRPA MEMBER YET?).



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BALTIMORE, MARYLAND • OCTOBER 17- 21, 1991



NATIONAL RECREATION  
AND PARK ASSOCIATION

PLEA IS AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION

# JOURNAL OF THE PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

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### CALL FOR PUBLICATIONS

The Park Law Enforcement Association (P.L.E.A.), an affiliate of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), invites you to submit articles for consideration to *PLEA: the Journal of the Park Law Enforcement Association*. P.L.E.A. was established in 1984 to improve park law enforcement, natural and visitor resource protection services in park, recreation and natural resource areas through professional development, thus ensuring "quality of life" leisure opportunities in local, state, and national park, recreation and natural resource settings. P.L.E.A. serves individuals and organizations intersted in the advancement and support of park and natural resource law enforcement services. Membership includes park rangers, forest rangers, park police, park patrols, park security, game wardens, conservation officers, park and recreation board members, administrators, educators and other interested park, recreation and natural resource professionals.

*PLEA* is published quarterly and attempts to provide timely information to the membership concerning the association and articles specifically aimed at the park and natural resource law enforcement audience, with the goal of providing educational information for our membership, facilitating an exchange of ideas, and to generally promote professionalism within the field.

Articles should be from three to ten double-spaced, wide-margined pages and should include a short biographical sketch, listing the author's agency affiliation. Photographs, charts and tables are highly desired. Upon publication, the author will receive a copy of the issue his article is printed in for his/her records. Please submit articles to the Editor for review and consideration. Thank you for your interest in *PLEA*. We look forward to receiving your articles.

# HALT, POR FAVOR!

## FOREST POLICE!

SOONER OR LATER, ROBSON VITALI WILL  
GET HIS MAN, PROBABLY LATER.

by Bob Reiss, Outside Magazine

The bus jolted to a halt, and up and down the dark aisle shadowy figures groped for luggage in the overhead rack. "Extrema!" the driver said. Groggily, I sat up, shuffled to the front, and stepped down onto a dirt road. It was 5 A.M. As the bus pulled away, its lights receding, passengers fanned out around me and disappeared, surefooted in the dark.

The bus had left Porto Velho, the capital of the state of Rondonia, at 11:00 that night, heading west on Brazil's frontier highway, BR-364, passing ranches and gold-mining camps, bumping across turn-of-the-century bridges on wooden slats laid over rotting railroad ties. We had been ferried on a barge across the Madeira River and had reached the end of the paved section of highway. In the last ten years, Rondonia, roughly the size of the United Kingdom, had already lost as much as 25 percent of its rainforest, and environmentalists feared the rest was doomed. Extrema was a frontier town of colonists and sawmills, a town building itself out of the jungle, a town where I hoped to find the famed forest police.

All over Brazil I had heard boasts about the new forest police, both the state and the Federal kind. "Our state agents will help stop the destruction of the environment," the governor of Rondonia, Geronimo Santana, had told me in his Porto Velho office, smiling. "The Federal Forest Inspectors have received new men, better equipment," said Joao Alves Filho, the Brazilian Minister of Interior, poking a floor-to-ceiling map of the country.

I had never met a forest policeman, but they had seemed, as I listened, to be the Texas Rangers, the Elliot Nesses, of the frontier. On one side, the rampaging forces of illegal destruction, powerful ranchers and sawmill owners accustomed to having their way. On the other, a few brave men. Hold, it buddy! Forest police!

Extrema, which I could barely make out in the dark, seemed the perfect setting for the sort of confrontation I'd envisioned. Groping toward what I hoped would be the center of town, I passed the shadows of houses and stores. Dogs barked, and the barking kept getting closer. I slipped between some buildings onto a smaller street, caught sight of a glow of lights, and moved toward it. Soon I saw the source, a dying sawdust fire in a mill. Unattended, it must have burned all night. The glow lit the inside of the open-air shed, the trunks piled for cutting, the band saw, the neatly stacked beams for export or construction. It was as

if the saw had been working through the night on its own, a tropism of commerce, slicing trees.

I stepped into a ditch, almost losing my balance, and onto another road. I caught sight of the bus a hundred yards ahead and realized I must have got off at the wrong end of town. There was an official bus station, which I walked toward more briskly. About 5:30 A.M., the mosquitoes came out. Early morning is a dangerous time for contracting malaria, and since most people in Extrema get malaria, I preferred to be inside. I drew my collar around my neck and quickened my pace.

"You want to visit the forest police?" the Governor had said, his smile broadening. "Absolutely! Any time! Arrange it with the secretary of the State Institute of Forests." My meeting with the secretary, Chico Araujo, had been easily set up. We'd sat in his office during a power failure, leaning toward each other and squinting in the candlelight. A brand new building for a brand new government agency. And no electricity to run it.

Araujo, a fortyish man with a thick black mustache, lamented his funding problems. He wanted more money to fight illegal deforestation. He said that in the Amazon burning is the only way, the historic way, to clear land. And that his job was more to persuade people not to burn than to punish them for doing it. He was happy that I was going to visit the forest police and had written me a note guaranteeing total access.

The bus depot was a small restaurant with a few wooden tables lit by flickering candles. The proprietor, who introduced himself as Roberto, reminded me of a jolly German publican. Blond and thirtyish, he had arrived as a colonist eight years earlier. "In the beginning here," he said, pouring hot sweet cups of coffee, "the government gave away land. We heard about it on TV. Settlers came from the south of Brazil, pushed out by big soybean farms. We arrived on buses with nothing: no tools, no food. We lived in tents. Many people got malaria, and others left. I don't have my farm here anymore. I have the restaurant. But the ones who stuck it out are happy now. And we have big plans. We're forming an association. We want to plant bananas, rubber trees, coffee. We're getting funding from some people from Holland, through the Church."

The sun was coming up slowly. The town glowed orange. The first car drove up to the restaurant, and men got out and ordered coffee. I saw neatly laid-out red-dirt streets and homes with tin roofs, also a Swiss ski chalet. I told Roberto I had come to spend some time with the Rondonian forest police. I hoped the forest police would really be here. Back in Porto Velho, Chico Araujo had pointed out a town called Abuna on his map and told me to go there. I'd driven three hours to Abuna and asked for the forest police.

"Forest Police?" a man with a fishing rod had said. "There aren't any forest police here."

"Forest Police?" the local police sergeant had said. "Nope."

Now Robert said, "The forest police are that way." He pointed down a narrow dirt road past a row of small

wooden houses, "Fifty meters. They open at seven. The forest police," he added, "have a rough job."

Extrema was in a big mess, nobody knew what state the town belonged to, or even the real name of the place. The argument over who owned Extrema--Rondonia or the state of Acre just to the west--had heated up recently with the discovery of gold nearby. As I walked through the streets, smearing on insecticide, I saw evidence of the public relations battle everywhere. This is Tancredo Neves, screamed immense blue, yellow and green banners hung from Rondonian government buildings. Tancredo Neves was what loyal Rondonians called the town. Welcome to Acre, proclaimed more modest announcements in white. Half of the vehicles out that morning were the heavy, copper-colored Jeeps and Toyota Bandeirantes favored by the Rondonia government. Rondonia was stenciled in black on the sides. The other trucks were smaller, white Chevrolets with attractive green Acre Government painted in more modest letters. I asked directions from a man carrying a machete, and he directed me to a building where two men stood with their boots up on the bumpers of an Acre car.

"You want the Rondonia police. We're the Acre police," they said when I showed them Chico Araujo's card. "The Rondonia police are over there."

I asked them if they knew the time. "Acre time or Rondonia time?" they said coyly. "There's an hour difference."

Three weeks before, when I had arrived in Brazil, headlines were screaming that Rondonia had sent troops to seize Extrema and New California, a sister frontier town down the road. A day later the papers announced that Acre was sending troops, too. In Brasilia, a general named Rubem Bayma Denys had assured me that there was no danger in traveling to Extrema because Federal troops had been dispatched to keep the state armies from fighting each other. Terrific, I'd figured. Three armies.

"The troops all went home," one of the Acre policemen said now. "They kept to themselves anyway. There wasn't any fighting. This dispute is the greatest thing that ever happened to Extrema. Neither state paid any attention to us before, and now we have three medical centers, two police stations. The governor of Rondonia was here last week, and the governor of Acre is coming this afternoon."

"Nobody pays taxes to either state," said the other policeman. "Suppose they choose wrong?"

"I hope," said the first policeman, an Extrema patriot, "this fight never ends."

With the sun higher now, I could see a quarter-mile to the edge of town, to the jungle rising immediately on all sides. A macaw flew over a THIS IS TANCREDO NEVES sign on the new Tancredo Neves civic center and disappeared into the forest.

"The forest police must have a lot of work," I said to the two policemen. They shifted their boots on the bumper of the car. They shared a compassion for any law

enforcement officer, no matter which state he worked for.

"The forest police," said the first policeman, "have a tough job."

He carried an attache case instead of a gun, climbing out of one of those Rondonia Toyotas. Instead of a uniform, he wore a red basketball shirt, jeans, and pointy cowboy boots the color of faded earth. His sunburned face and blond curls gave the impression of a California beach-boy. I didn't show him Chico Araujo's card. I was curious to see whether he would be reluctant to talk, whether he would need official prodding. I was curious about whether or not he was crooked. But 26-year-old Robson Vitali smiled broadly and invited me into the office.

Robson, I've been told, was one of several forest policemen working for the Rondonian State Institute of Forests. He patrolled about 500,000 hectares of jungle in the Extrema area and had the power to arrest and to levy fines. He also reported violations to a Federal Forest Inspector in town who covered much of the same territory for IBAMA, the Brazilian Institute of Renewable Natural Resources, the brand-new Brasilia-based environmental regulatory agency. IBAMA, which had inspectors throughout the country, answered to the Secretary of the Environment, who in turn reported directly to the President of Brazil.

Already a line of supplicants had formed, waiting to see the forest policeman. Robson and Vera, his attractive, dark-haired secretary, sat down at side-by-side desks in front of the colonists. There was a refrigerator behind them, but it wasn't plugged in; they stored government forms in it. A photograph of Governor Santana had been set on the floor against the wall. The governor was smiling, wearing his green sash and holding a cane, his trademark, though when I had met him in his office he'd rushed around without it.

There was a pile of small wooden blocks in a corner, samples of different kinds of timber from the jungle. I picked one up. A tarantula was moving around underneath. "Don't step on it," Robson called over. "They kill insects."

The people here today wanted permission to burn rainforest to expand their farms. Under new laws apparently being honored at the moment, the forest police had to approve any cutting. There was a widow from Sao Paulo who had moved here two years ago. A 14-year-old girl who had hitchhiked into town to get Robson's permission to burn, and to bring her little brother to the clinic for malaria. A farmer in his best white shirt.

Each time a colonist presented the deed to his land, Robson consulted an immense blueprint tacked to a wall. The land on it was carved into rectangular lots, one after the other, one in front of the other, a layout that might have been of a California subdivision but was of the Amazon jungle. "Where is the northern boundary of your lot?" Robson would ask. "Who is your neighbor? How did you get his land?"

"Remember," Robson told the man in the white shirt after granting him permission to cut, "don't burn Brazil-nut trees. It's illegal."

Robson went out to the Toyota and came back with a stack of save-the-forest pamphlets. They featured the cartoon story of an old farmer who burns the forest and has to abandon his farm and a young man who preserves the forest and grows healthy crops.

A knot of colonists stood paging through the pamphlets. I noticed the widow staring at a caption.

"I can't read," she said. After a while, the self-contained aspect of the whole process began to bother me. Tucked away from the vast jungle outside, could a single man really monitor hundreds of thousands of hectares of jungle? Were the neat blueprints, the detailed questions, and the sense of order deceptively incomplete? Robson, cool, kind and unflappable, patiently repeated instructions to each person in line. Finally, he asked me if I wanted to go into the forest.

Dodging potholes, the Toyota Bandeirante shot east along 364. Outside town I counted sawmills, their smoking gray funnels rising into the Amazon sky. Four in a half-mile. Five. "Where do you want to go?" Robson asked.

"A big ranch," I replied, "I want to visit a big rancher who applied to burn forest."

Robson had his machete, water bottle, and attache case on the front seat. After a while we left the main road, drove into a ditch, and cut across a field. We stopped to unhook the latch on a barbed-wire gate and rolled up to a modest one-story ranch-house made of timber. Three women were gathered on the front steps watching us. They were better dressed than the colonists at the office. Two of them wore designer jeans.

The owner, it seemed, was across the highway at work in his rainforest. We thanked the women and followed their directions, parking at another fence and slipping through the strands of barbed wire. Robson led the way across another field toward a wall of jungle, past a muddy waterhole and four white Brahman cows, and across a log that spanned a stream. Already I was sweating, and insects were biting my neck. As we reached the shadow line of forest, two men emerged from the trees and approached. The shorter, stockier man, dressed in grimy khaki shorts and a shirt, turned out to be a sawmill owner, here to appraise the trees. He greeted Robson, shook hands, and quickly left. The rancher reminded me of the Marlboro man. Black cowboy hat. Sideburns all the way down near his chin, and neatly trimmed. Pointy boots. Cigarette. He seemed glad to see Robson, and he led us along a trail into the forest. Ahead of me, Robson looked funny with the machete and the attache case.

Suddenly there was a crashing in the underbrush. A man burst into view, wielding a scythe. Sweat drenched his face, his undershirt, and his running pants. His eyes rolled, red. "Ants! Ants! I'm fever!" he cried. He worked

for the rancher, and had been attacked while cutting. He sat on a log and tried to catch his breath.

We reached the area which the rancher had applied for permission to cut, but it was down already. Trunks lay drying, readying for the fire. Foot-high masses of brush were turning brown. In the new man-made clearing, the sun was very hot.

"You're not supposed to cut before you get permission," Robson said.

The rancher nodded. "I know it. Absolutely. And I want to tell you something," he said, touching his heart, "I did not cut this. It was my workman who cut it. I told him not to cut it. I told him, 'Don't cut it.' Can you imagine that! He didn't listen!"

The rancher lit another cigarette, and we began walking again. After a little while we saw a Brazil-nut tree down on the ground.

"You're not supposed to cut those," Robson said.

The black cowboy hat went up and down. "Don't you think I know that? That I'm not supposed to do that? But you know what? I did not do that. I would never cut a Brazil-nut tree. I like Brazil-nut trees. The former owner did it."

At a water hole, Robson pointed to more trunks on the ground. It was illegal to cut trees beside water, he said—bad for the cattle. the cattle could get stuck in the mud and die.

"The former owner," the rancher said.

The rancher asked if we wanted to come back to the house for coffee, but Robson demurred. We had to go. Back in the truck, I asked Robson if the rancher would be fined.

"Probably," Robson said.

"What do you mean, probably? Will you fine him?"

In the same calm tone, Robson said, "I'll write it up in my report and give it to the man from the Federal government."

"Well, uh, may I ask a question? Do you have the power to fine him?"

"Oh sure," Robson said.

What if the IBAMA inspector never gets around to visiting this ranch?"

Robson nodded sadly. "That is a problem."

"So how come," I pushed, "you don't do it alone?"

Robson glanced into my eyes. "I'd rather lose my job than my life," he said.

"That's what this is about? The rancher would kill you?" the forest policeman shrugged. "Somebody would."

Neither of us spoke for a few minutes. The smoke from the sawmills came into view. Robson said eagerly, "You want to see the illegal things they do at the mills?"

I was confused. Robson didn't seem embarrassed. He didn't seem to be hiding things. Why did he want to show me crimes he was doing nothing about?

The mill sat in the base of a small stadium-shaped depression in the earth. It smelled of burning wood and sap

and gasoline. A controlled sawdust fire raged just 20 feet from the mill. Through the hot, thick air I could see the flickering forms of shirtless, grime-smearing workers, the fat logs propelled on mechanical trolleys toward the screaming blade. A long semi-trailer with license plates from Rio, 1,500 miles to the east, was loaded with freshly cut timber. Logs were piled along the hillside, waiting to be cut.

All work stopped as the men caught sight of Robson.

"Everything here is illegal," Robson said, still in the cab, as the workers began drifting toward us like creatures out of *The Night of the Living Dead*. "See the truck? that's illegal wood in there, under the top layer. Plus, they've got Brazil-nut trees hidden around here somewhere, probably in back. They cut them and ship them at night. They're supposed to have a license to do any cutting, but IBAMA, which issues the licenses, is on strike. The mill doesn't have a license to cut any of this."

We were surrounded the second we left the truck. The mill owner, a surly-looking, curly-haired man with a clipboard, stepped nose-to-nose with Robson. "What do you want?" he demanded.

"Just to look around," the forest policeman said. "Is the wood in that truck legal?"

"Oh, absolutely," the owner said.

"Do you have a license for it?"

The owner held out a piece of paper. Lots of times, Robson had told me, sawmill owners use the same license over and over, just changing the dates.

"Where are you hiding the Brazil-nut trees?" Robson asked lightly, and everybody laughed. Big joke. "Ha ha ha ha," the owner said. "Brazil-nut trees? What Brazil-nut trees?"

Robson appeared to be defusing the tension. He climbed up the side of the semi and looked down at the wood inside. He didn't touch anything. He walked 30 feet up the hillside and glanced at a pile of logs. The workers returned to their jobs. At the screaming bandsaw, steel pinners rotated a four-foot-wide log, positioning it for cutting. Water sprayed over the saw as it worked, cooking it.

"Let's go," Robson told me.

"I don't get it," I said, back in the Toyota.

"Why didn't you look under the top layer of wood in the semi?"

"Are you kidding? There are 20 of them and one of me."

"Why didn't you check for hidden Brazil-nut trees?"

"Listen," Robson said. "Until Acre and Rondonia figure out who owns this place, the states have agreed to stop enforcement at the mills. I'm under orders."

Robson and I went to the Rondonia restaurant in town. I knew it was the Rondonia restaurant because every vehicle parked in front was owned by the Rondonian government, and every car across the street in front of another restaurant was white and green, Acre colors.

This is Rondonia, proclaimed one of those big banners near our outdoor table.

The waitress brought heaping plates of steak, rice, beans, potato salad, and extra large iced bottles of Antartica beer. The flies liked the steak and potato salad equally, I preferred the potato salad. "I noticed that all the applications you worked on in your office came from colonists," I said. "Do you ever have time to check the property of people who don't apply for burning permits? Squatters? Big ranchers?"

"No," Robson said, chewing.

"Do you ever get to check the property of rich people?"

"No," he said matter-of-factly.

"What happens if a rich man gets fined?"

Robson took a second helping of beans. "Once I fined a Rondonia state senator, and it didn't work. Last year I fined a rich rancher. My boss ordered me to cancel the fine."

Robson poured another beer. "Look," he said. "The Amazon has been populated by people without hope, desperate people. It's very easy for strong people to dominate the population. You want to know how Brazil exploits people? The man with thousands of hectares of land doesn't farm it, doesn't even use it. He sells the wood and gets rich. After he takes all the richness from the land, it is occupied by poor people. What happens when poor people occupy poor land? They get poorer."

I stared at Robson. He relaxed, lapsing back into his calm, evenhanded demeanor.

"Want more potato salad?" he asked.

Talking with Robson reminded me of Paula Beninca, a top IBAMA official I'd met in Brasilia. There the setting had been so different. In Brasilia the government seemed so powerful, so efficient. Built in the 1960's to launch Brazil into its own interior, Brasilia was a city perfectly planned, a monument to human order over nature. The ministry buildings all lined up in a row, of green glass and marble, in the center of town. The hotels in the Hotel Sector. The schools in the School Sector. A political pollster had given me directions to his office by saying, "It's in Commercial Sector Three, Block Two."

The grounds of the spanking-new IBAMA building were beautifully landscaped with flower gardens all around. Classical music, Ravel, was softly pumped into the waiting room as jacketed waiters brought coffee on silver trays. IBAMA vice-president Jose Carlos Carvalho sat in his office with me and described how his department was combatting the fires in the Amazon. "They are decreasing even now," he said. "We're establishing ecological stations to protect the Amazon. Our goal is to work on prevention."

Afterward, in a small side-office, Beninca, the IBAMA head for Acre, told me how thugs had almost killed him when he tried to enforce the law. The attack had taken place about 10 pm in Rio Branco, the capital of Acre, a

hundred miles west of Extrema along BR-364. It had resulted in the hospitalization of Beninca's boss, Rente Nascimento, who was in charge of IBAMA enforcement for all of Brazil.

"We'd finished dinner at a restaurant," Paulo said. He was a tall, lean man with prematurely gray hair, brushed back so that he faintly resembled the actor Marcello Mastroianni. "And we were driving back to the IBAMA compound, where we sleep. A white Fiat came alongside us. The passenger was pointing two guns out the window. He ordered us to pull over, and I did.

"When we got out I saw there were two men. A short one, with the guns. Dark. Heavy. Cowboy boots and a black shirt. And a taller man, who carried a stick. He was well dressed. The one with the guns pointed them at me. The one with the stick started hitting Rente. On the head, the shoulders. He was saying, 'Don't do it again.' We had confiscated illegal wood at a sawmill that day. Rente went down, and the man kept hitting him. I grabbed the stick, and fought with the tall man. The other one fired near my foot and yelled, 'Do you want to die?' But Rente got up and ran away into a construction site. Then the men drove away."

Paulo still lived in the compound in Rio Branco but didn't go out at night anymore. His men were on strike. They wanted police protection and more money. When I asked him if he could show me where the bad sawmills were, he refused. "They have guns," he said.

Rente confirmed the whole story on the phone. "Police found the Fiat at the sawmill," he said. "The bloody stick was still in it. I believed that if I did my job the situation would improve, but it's bad. In southern Para state, in Mato Grosso, in Amazonas, people have no security. Professional killers walk the streets freely. People have got rich based on no law. I'm quitting my job and moving from here."

A few months later, Rente was working for the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, DC.

Then there was Miguel Ferreira, the Acre equivalent of Robson. I met him in Rio Branco. "You'll change my name if I talk to you, right?" Miguel had said, and I'd agreed. Miguel isn't his real name. "You'll change my sex, too, or at least write that I may not be a man." I've done that, too: The state's forest enforcement branch, the Environmental Institute of Acre, has men and women inspectors.

The restaurant where we met was noisy, but Miguel leaned forward and lowered his voice. Pork chops and cold Fanta sat on the table in front of us.

"I used to inspect ranches with the IBAMA agents," he said. We'd go to a ranch where the owner applied to cut 100 hectares, except he'd cut 300. 'That's illegal,' we'd say. 'OK,' he'd say, 'I'm wrong, but what should I do? Let's have lunch.'

"So we'd go to lunch at his house. And the rancher would say, 'Look, how much would the fine be?' 'We'd say, maybe 15,000 cruzados {then about \$1,100 on the black

market}. He'd say, 'I'll give you 3,000 if you'll forget it.' So we'd take it."

Miguel looked around and leaned closer. "No name, right? We used to have a little stand we worked in, near the highway, near a Coca-Cola factory. Lots of times we would see Brazil-nut trees going by on the logging trucks. And we'd smile. We'd know we were going to make money.'

"Look, you know those Federal Inspectors who are striking at IBAMA? Look at their clothes. They get paid about 270 cruzados a month. That's about \$90 on the black market. They have wives, kids. How do you think they can afford to live?"

"I was young when I started," Miguel said. "I considered trying to stop them, but they just would have found a way to shut me up. They would have said, 'I've worked for the government for 30 years! Miguel just started!'"

The inspector looked around again. "No names, right?"

So these were the Texas Rangers. These were the Forest Police. After a while I began to see Robson differently. He wasn't a coward. He cared about what he did. He had decided that, practically speaking, he could do nothing to change certain things that were wrong, but he showed them to me anyway, so I would know. His matter-of-factness seemed more gently now. He liked to talk the philosophy of his job.

"I am a teacher, that's what I can do," he explained. "I don't want to confront people. Jesus said, 'Don't give a starving man a fish. Teach him to fish.'"

Robson made up laws as teaching aids. "You have to keep the Brazil-nut trees standing," he would say. That much was true. "And you have to keep 15 meters of vegetation standing around the trunk."

"That's not true, is it?" I asked him.

"No. I made it up," he said gently. "but when people leave Brazil-nut trees standing and burn the rest of the pasture, the trees die, too. They get roasted. Keep a buffer around them, and they live."

"You have to keep Copaiba trees standing," I heard him tell one rancher. Copaiba oil is prized for its medicinal value and because it helps soothe insect bites. But there is no law protecting Copaiba trees.

Another of Robson's jobs was to stop illegal hunting. "I don't want to fine them," Robson said of the hunters. "I suppose I could take them to jail, but I'd be in serious trouble when they got out. They could shoot me."

"Do you have a gun?" I asked Robson.

"No," he said.

"Do you want one?"

"No. I want to keep people from hunting another way. For instance, there was a man who would always shoot pacas (an edible rodent), so I gave him a paca as a pet. I thought, if you give a man a pet, he won't shoot animals anymore."

"Did he stop shooting animals?"

"Well, he stopped shooting pacas."

Robson loved the forest. He liked to camp in it on weekends, to sleep under the stars. He liked to fish. He had grown up in the southern state of Santa Catarina, and his job training had consisted only of a high school education and a course at the Rondonian State Institute of Forests, but he read anything he could find about endangered rainforests. He asked me, "Why does the World Bank give development money to Brazil? It's bad for the forest."

He shared an apartment upstairs from the malaria clinic with a Federal employee responsible for distributing land to new colonists. Holes in the walls provided an excellent view of the street outside, and the bathroom sink was smeared with the blood of squashed mosquitoes. There was a lone table with a Playboy magazine on it, a refrigerator. Social life in Extrema stank, Robson said. "The only pretty girl is my secretary, and she has a boyfriend."

"He's probably a jerk," I said, trying to be sympathetic.

"I don't know," Robson replied, not wanting to speak ill of anyone. "I haven't met him."

After dinner, Robson had to address a colonists' meeting. We drove to a small wooden shack where nine adults were squeezed into the living room. The house seemed to be rotting from the inside out. Its wooden planking had warped so much that gaps were visible in the walls. No mosquito net or glass pane covered the window, only shutters. Two blond girls were watching television in a bedroom in back.

The colonists leaned forward, intent, hopeful. They were the same group Roberto had described to me that morning, the ones who dreamed of growing bananas, rubber trees, and palm trees for oil, who had gotten funding from Holland. They had bet everything on the move to Extrema, and Robson was to be their agricultural advisor.

"Brazil-nut trees. Be sure to plant Brazil-nut trees," he advised. There was an increasing market for the nuts, he said, and the Extrema area was particularly well suited for growing them.

At 11 P.M. the meeting broke up. Robson and I sat with Roberto in his restaurant, eating more chicken and rice, for which Roberto refused to accept any money.

"You're a guest here," he said. "I would never take money from a guest."

We played around and did magic tricks for Roberto's young daughter. I pretended to take off my thumb, and she gasped. I pretended the Coca-Cola bottle was telling me secrets about her, and she stared at the bottle and laughed and tried to get it to talk. The bus back to Porto Velho was due at 3 A.M., but the ticket agent didn't know if that was according to Acre or Rondonia time. As Roberto and Robson chatted, I took a short walk down the darkened street, I stopped beside the Swiss ski chalet and looked back at the bus station.

Electricity goes off at midnight, so Roberto had his candles ready. In the glow of a street light, the station took on the look of an Edward Hopper painting. The long,

lonely one-story building. The lounging figures on the front porch, some wrapped in blankets, asleep, waiting for the bus. The ticket seller in the glassed-in office, head bent, maybe reading, maybe asleep.

The United States had grown great because of people like these, colonists who left their homes, or farms, or countries, and forged into a land they considered hostile. They'd built new homes, died of disease, harvested crops where forest had been. I walked back to the station, where Robson was getting into the Toyota. He wanted me to come back to Extrema again so he could take me fishing. He said that he wanted to show me a really beautiful, really special place in the Amazon that he loved. There were lots of places he wanted to show me. "So come back," he said. "Come back."

Robson climbed into the Toyota and started the engine. Then he seemed to think of something. He leaned toward me across the front seat, his face framed in the half-open passenger window. He didn't seem sure how to phrase it at first, and he frowned slightly. Then he said, so softly that I had to ask him to repeat it, "I'm going to get them some day." I knew who he meant. So did Roberto. "You have patience," Robson said. "And you wait. And then, when the time is right, you get them."

He rolled up the window, put the truck in gear, and the forest policeman was swallowed by the Amazon night.

## TWO TENNESSEE MEN FINED FOR DIGGING AT PARKIN PARK

Two men from Memphis, TN, were arrested and charged with criminal trespassing when they were caught digging at the State-owned Parkin archeological site in Northeast Arkansas March 16, 1991. Dr. Jeffrey M. Mitchem of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, the archeologist directing research at the site, saw evidence of probing and digging while patrolling the site and contacted the Parkin Police Department. Police Chief Buddy Young and Officer James DeWitt arrested and charged the men, confiscating two shovels, metal probes, and several hand tools. The men paid fines of \$250 each.

The Parkin site, a National Historic Landmark in the new Parkin Archeological State Park, is a Mississippian village surrounded by a moat. It was occupied from approximately A.D. 1300 until at least the 16th century. Archeologists believe the site was visited by the Hernando de Soto expedition in 1541.

For further information, contact Jeffrey M. Mitchem, State Archeologist, Parkin Archeological State Park, P.O. Box 241, Parkin, AR 72373-0241; telephone (501)755-2119.



Preservation and park protection laws were almost unknown when the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove of Giant Redwoods became a state park in 1864. In 1866 the California Legislature formally accepted the Federal Grant of these areas. Included in the acceptance act were the first state park protection laws. These laws made it illegal to deface or injure any natural feature, tree or park structure. It also made it illegal to set fire or to settle or otherwise trespass in the park areas.

## CALIFORNIA'S FIRST PARK LAWS & THE RANGER WHO ENFORCED THEM

By Michael G. Lynch

California's first state park laws were enacted in 1866. The laws were included in an act of the California Legislature that accepted Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Redwood Big Trees from the Federal Government for a state park. Perhaps the first state park laws in the nation, they provided,

*It shall be unlawful for any person willfully to commit any trespass whatever upon said premises, cut down or carry off any wood, underwood, tree or timber, or girdle or otherwise injure any tree or timber, or deface or injure any natural object, or set fire to any wood or grass upon said premises, or destroy or injure any bridge or structure of any kind, or other improvements that is or may be placed hereon.*

The penalty for violation was a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars and/or up to six months imprisonment in the county jail.

The act also provided for a governing commission and the appointment of a "Guardian" at \$500 per year. In May, 1866 the Commission met and on May 21st appointed Galen Clark as Guardian. Clark thus became California's first state park ranger.

Clark took up his duties immediately. His first letter of instruction from the Commission was almost entirely concerned with protection and enforcement duties. From Galen Clark, Yosemite Guardian "An eight-page, hand written letter of instructions from the Board of Commissioners detailed his work: No trees were to cut in the grant, nor were Indians to be allowed to break off branches from oak trees to harvest acorns. Campers were to be restrained

from making fires in dry grass..." The letter also outlined Clark's other main responsibility, which was to remove or issue leases to the settlers and squatters in the Valley. Guardian Clark, of course, would have many other duties, as he had to administer all of the Commission's policies concerning Yosemite. However, his first defined duties were concerning protection and enforcement.

In November of 1867, in their first report to the legislature, the Yosemite Commission asked, "that police authority be given to the guardian and sub-guardian of Yosemite Valley, so that offenders may be arrested at once, without the necessity of taking out a warrant at a place sixty miles distant from the spot where the offense was committed." The Commission detailed the reason for this request as follows:

*One of the important duties of the Commissioners is the care of the valley and grove, so as to secure them and their surroundings from devastation by fire and from wanton injury by cutting down trees and defacing natural objects. The care of the guardian has prevented fires from running in the Big Tree Grove, and to a considerable extent has protected the valley from wanton injury. There have been instances, however, of the felling or mutilation of conspicuous and beautiful trees, which instances were not discovered until after the offenders had left the valley and were far away from the place where the mischief was done. It is considered necessary by the Commissioners that there should be a guardian and sub-guardian, one or the other during the season of visitors, at least—always in or about the valley and Big Tree Grove, in order to bring about entire safety and security at that wanton damages will not be inflicted. It is also necessary that the guardian and sub-guardian should be endowed by the State with police or constabulary authority, so that offenders may be arrested on the spot where the mischief is done, as otherwise it will be entirely impossible for the Commissioners to answer for the safety of the property committed to their charge. The localities are so distant from the county seat or residence of a magistrate that it would be impossible for the guardian, unless this change is made, to obtain a warrant for the arrest of offenders and get back to the place where the offense was committed until long after the offenders had left the valley.*

It is not known exactly when such police authority was conferred on the Guardian and Sub-Guardian. However, the first known arrest by Guardian Clark was made in 1870. He caught the men responsible for cutting a huge pine tree near one of the rustic hotels in the valley. The offenders were convicted and fined \$20 each by a Mariposa County judge. A \$20 fine in 1870 must have been a stiff fine indeed. Guardian Clark also had a touch enforcement and public relations problem with the Indians of Yosemite. It was their custom to break off the oak tree limbs to harvest



GALEN CLARK,  
CALIFORNIA'S FIRST STATE PARK RANGER

the acorns. Clark had specific instructions to stop this practice. In the end, Clark was able to convince the Indians to voluntarily quit breaking off limbs and to wait until the acorns dropped off naturally.

By the 1890's the Commission had adopted a complete set of Rules and Regulations. Some of the rules followed the laws already in effect and most the other regulations would look very familiar to rangers or park visitors today. For instance the discharge of firearms was strictly prohibited and no trees were to be cut or injured or any natural object defaced. Some of the regulations are time dated. For instance, no person was to drive a horse or wagon faster than a walk over any of the bridges.

The Rules and Regulations also provided law enforcement authority and direction for the Guardian. The Commission provided that, "The Guardian shall exercise general police supervision in the Valley and Grove, and shall forbid and prevent all acts that tend to a breach of the peace, for the discomfiture of visitors, or injury or destruction to property." The Guardian was required by these Regulations to "promptly cause the arrest of any person violating Rules XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX and XX, and prosecute the offender or offenders to the full extent of the law, under section six of the Act of April 2, 1866..." Rules XVI to XX related to illegal campfires, cutting trees, defacing natural objects, discharging firearms, allowing horses or stock to run at large and driving faster than a walk over any bridge. The Guardian was also to give safety inspections to all horse, trappings and vehicles used for hire. Unsuitable or unsafe equipment or animals were to be removed from the valley.

During the 1890's, summer patrolman, or as they would later be known, seasonal rangers, were first hired. Under the direction of the Guardian, the duty of the patrolmen was to visit the camps, enforce the rule that campers must be registered at the Guardian's office, take note of camp conditions, take complaints and perform

other duties as required by the Guardian. Each patrolman was to report in writing each day, to the Guardian, the results of his patrol. The state Guardians, Sub-Guardians and Patrolmen continued until 1906. It was at this time that Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove of Big Trees were returned to the Federal Government to become part of the surrounding Yosemite National Park, which had been established in 1890.

This did not end California's state parks or the protection and enforcement duties for state park rangers. In 1891 a ranger was appointed at the state monument to the discovery of gold in California. In 1903 the California Redwood Park was established and a park warden (ranger) was appointed to protect and administer the area. These positions, and many others established after them, have continued to this day.

There are now over 750 rangers (and superintendents) to protect and manage the more than 250 parks in the California State Park System. Many of the enforcement and protection responsibilities of these modern day rangers are unchanged from those of Galen Clark and the other Guardians who protected and preserved Yosemite Valley and Big Trees of the Mariposa Grove.

#### QUOTED SOURCES

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The Commissioners to Manage the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove. "Rules and Regulations" appendix to the 1896 *"Report of the Commissioners to Manage the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove"*, 1896.

#### LEGAL NOTES

by Dan S. Murrell<sup>1</sup> and Lisa K. Coleman<sup>2</sup>

*A law enforcement officer may open a closed container during a consent search of an automobile if that container might reasonably hold the object of the search and it is objectively reasonable for the officer to believe that the container was within the scope of the suspect's consent.*

In the May 23, 1991 decision of *Florida v. Jimeno*,<sup>3</sup> the United States Supreme Court held that the Fourth Amendment does allow a law enforcement officer to open a closed container during a consent search of an automobile if that container might reasonably hold the object of the search and it is objectively reasonable for the officer to believe that the container was within the scope of the suspect's consent.

In this case, Jimeno was stopped for a traffic violation after being followed by a police officer who had overheard what appeared to be a drug transaction. Officer Trijillo asked permission to search the car, stating that he had reason to believe Jimeno was carrying narcotics in the car and that Jimeno did not have to consent to the search. Jimeno responded that he had nothing to hide and consented to the search. Officer Trijillo saw a folded brown paper bag on the floorboard, opened it, and found a kilogram of cocaine inside. Jimeno was charged with possession with intent to distribute cocaine, and before trial moved to suppress the evidence obtained during the search on the ground that his consent to search the car did not authorize the search of the closed paper bag in the car.

The trial court granted the motion to suppress the evidence and the Florida District Court of Appeals affirmed. The Florida Supreme Court also affirmed, relying on its decision in *State v. Wells*,<sup>4</sup> in which it affirmed a suppression order in its holding that consent to search the trunk of a car did not extend to a locked briefcase in the trunk.

The United States Supreme Court distinguished *State v. Wells*,<sup>5</sup> stating that "[i]t is very likely unreasonable to think that a suspect, by consenting to a search of his trunk, has agreed to the breaking open of a locked briefcase within the trunk, but it is otherwise with respect to a closed paper bag." In reaching this conclusion, Justice Renquist, writing for the majority, reasoned that the basic test of the Fourth Amendment is reasonableness, and that only unreasonable searches violate a criminal suspect's Fourth Amendment rights. In *Schneekloth v. Bustamonte*,<sup>6</sup> the Court approved consensual searches as reasonable, and in *Illinois v. Rodriguez*,<sup>7</sup> the court defined the scope of the suspect's consent by an objective reasonableness standard, or by "what the typical reasonable person [would] have understood by the exchange between the officer and the suspect." The Majority in the present case further reasoned that since the object of the search was clearly stated, "it was objec-

tively reasonable for the police to conclude that the general consent to search respondent's car included consent to search containers within that car which might bear drugs," and therefore Jimeno's Fourth Amendment rights were not violated. In response to Jimeno's argument that the search of each closed container must be separately consented to, the court stated that if the consent would reasonably be understood to extend to a particular container, the suspect has the option of withdrawing consent to search that container if he or she chooses.<sup>8</sup>

In his dissenting opinion, Justice Marshall criticized the majority's distinction between a closed paper bag and a locked briefcase, stating that using an objective reasonableness standard under the Fourth Amendment would lead to case by case decisions "in which paper bags, locked trunks, lunch buckets, and orange crates [are] placed on one side of the line or the other." Rather, the approach advocated by Justice Marshall is a privacy expectation test. He argued that the suspect retains a heightened expectation of privacy in containers in a car even when he or she has consented to a search of the car in general. He further argued that those who elect to transport personal possessions in a paper bag have as much guarantee of privacy as the "sophisticated executive with a locked attache case."<sup>9</sup>

Nevertheless, an objective reasonableness standard with respect to the extension of general consent to search to include closed containers was established by the majority in this decision. There were, however, implied limitations to the holding. First, the court, in distinguishing *State v. Wells*,<sup>10</sup> stated that, while it may be reasonable to search a closed paper bag, it is very unlikely to be reasonable to search a locked briefcase. Thus it appears that a more stringent standard may be required for sealed containers as opposed to closed containers. Second, the consent extends only to those containers which might reasonably bear the object of the search. The court emphasized that the officer expressly stated the object of the search prior to asking permission to search the car.<sup>11</sup>

The majority also emphasized that a suspect is entitled to delimit a consent search as he or she chooses. In *Schneckloth v. Bustamonte*,<sup>12</sup> the Court held that the Fourth Amendment does not require a law enforcement officer to inform a suspect of his or her right to refuse to consent to a search, but the person must in fact have consented voluntarily and with the knowledge that he or she could refuse. Similarly, in this case, the court did not suggest that the officer should have informed the suspect of his right to restrict the scope of the search, but the court placed great weight on the fact that this right does exist. Therefore, the prudent law enforcement officer may wish to inform a suspect not only that he or she is not required to consent to a search, but also that the consent may be withdrawn at any time.

The rule established in this decision is that under the Fourth Amendment, general consent to search a vehicle may extend to a closed container within that vehicle "when, under the circumstances, it is objectively reasonable for the

officer to believe that the scope of the suspect's consent permitted him to open [the] container," and the container might reasonably hold the object of the search.<sup>13</sup>

## FOOTNOTES

1. Professor of Law at Memphis State University School of Law
2. Law student and graduate assistant for Professor Murrell at Memphis State University School of Law.
3. \_\_U.S.\_\_, \_\_S.Ct.\_\_ 1991 WL 83089 (U.S.).
4. 495 U.S. \_\_ 110 S.Ct.1632(1990).
5. *Id.*
6. 412 U.S. 218,93 S.Ct. 2041 (1973).
7. \_\_U.S.\_\_,110 S.Ct. 2793 (1990).
8. *Florida v. Jimeno*, \_\_U.S. \_\_, \_\_S.Ct. \_\_, 1991 WL83089 (U.S.)
9. *Id.*
10. 495 U.S. \_\_,110 S.Ct.1632 (1990).
11. *Florida v. Jimeno* \_\_U.S.\_\_, \_\_S.Ct.\_\_, 1991 WL83089(U.S.)
12. 412 U.S. U.S. 218, 93 S.Ct. 2041 (1973).
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## Foundation Seeks Victims of Environmental Sabotage

Mountain States Legal Foundation is seeking information from victims of so-called "environmental sabotage." American citizens who have been the victims of acts of sabotage, violence or terrorism by environmental terrorists are asked to contact the Foundation by called its "Hotline" (1-303-TESTIFY).

"We are asking everyone—rancher, timberman, miner, oil and gas explorer, ORV'er, private citizen—who has been the target of these terrorists to call us," announced William Perry Pendley, president and chief legal officer of the Foundation. "The attempt of these radicals to frighten men and women from their lawful pursuits must be documented, made known to the American public, and put to an end," concluded Pendley.

The Foundation is particularly interested in acts perpetrated by the group, Earth First!, as well as acts undertaken in accordance with instructions published by Earth First! in its book, *Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching*, or other similar publications. Letters or telephone calls which claim responsibility for various acts of environmental terrorism are also of particular interest to the Foundation.

The Mountain States Legal Foundation can be reached at (303)861-0244.

# PROPOSAL FOR NUDE BEACH AWAITS PARK SERVICE OK

By JOHN LANCASTER-The Washington Post

The National Park Service, which celebrates its 75th birthday this year, may be nearing another milestone: the designation of its first officially sanctioned nude beach. In a proposal making the rounds of the agency's Washington headquarters, managers at Koloko-Honolohau National Historical Park in Hawaii have included a "clothing optional" beach as part of a draft management plan for the park scheduled to be unveiled in the fall.

The proposal, which must be considered in public hearings and approved by Park Service Director James M. Ridenour, would formalize what officials say is a long-standing policy of permitting-if not encouraging-nude recreation so long as it does not offend local laws or customs. The Hawaiian beach, which the Park Service did not acquire until last year, has long been popular with nude sunbathers, officials said.

"We're in the business of providing recreational opportunities to the American people, and we practice a policy of inclusion," said Steve Goldstein, a spokesman for Interior Department Secretary Manuel Lujan Jr., who oversees the Park Service.

"That's excellent news. We were looking for some type of definitive statement from the Department of the Interior," said Ronald A. Burich, executive director of the 17,500 member Naturist Society, a Wisconsin-based group that promotes nudism. "All we're saying is it's a legitimate form of recreation, just like snowmobiling or horseback riding or anything else."

But Park Service officials, for whom the temptation of bad puns proved irresistible, cautioned that the Hawaii proposal does not signal a formal policy shift. Chief spokesman George Berklacy ("this would mark the first time we've exposed ourselves in this fashion") said the agency has typically taken its cues from local communities.

For example, he said, nudists risk arrest at Gulf Island National Seashore in Florida and Mississippi "because we know how the locals feel." On the other hand, he said, the Park Service generally turns a blind eye to the activity at Park Service beaches in San Francisco and New Jersey.

"There are no federal laws, and our rangers really don't go out looking," he said. "As one of our superintendents once said, 'It's not nudity, it's lewdity'" that concerns the Park Service.

Confusion over the issue is suggested by a May 29 draft memo on the subject to park superintendents from deputy director Herbert S. Cables. Citing the potential for nude recreation "conflicting with the enjoyment of visitors participating in other recreational uses," the memo said the agency will "neither encourage" the activity "nor designate areas" for nudists.

# PROFILE: THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK POLICE

## Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board:

### General Information

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board was founded in 1883. The semi-autonomous body is responsible for maintaining and developing the Minneapolis Park System and for providing recreational opportunities.

The park and recreation system is governed by an elected nine-member Board, with commissioners serving four-year terms. Six commissioners are elected from designated park districts and three are elected from the city at-large.

Minneapolis parks total 7,050 acres; 1,474 of which are water. There are approximately 170 park properties including playgrounds plus parkways, triangles, six municipal golf courses, gardens, picnic areas, and a 55-mile parkway system which includes roads, lighting and landscaping. Within Minneapolis parks there are approximately 38 miles of designated walking trails and 36 miles of designated biking trails.

Forty-two recreation centers are staffed year-round offering programs for all age groups from preschool to seniors including special programs planned for the developmentally disabled.

People for Parks is the private funding resource which assists the Park and Recreation Board in special projects.

As you drive along the parkways, parks and city streets it is easy to see many small, new trees everywhere you look. Beginning in 1976 a very extensive planting program was begun. This involved planting from 15,000 to 20,000 trees per year. All neighborhoods in the city have been planted at least once.

## MINNEAPOLIS PARK POLICE

The Minneapolis Park Police Department handles most police matters occurring on park property. It exists to assist park patrons and for the protection of the internationally acclaimed Minneapolis Park System.

The Minneapolis Parks are under the direction of the elected Park and Recreation Board and its appointed Superintendent. The system consists of over 7050 acres and 170 separate parcels of park land in Minneapolis. The area includes 15 lakes; 3 scenic creeks; a large portion of the Mississippi River waterfront; indoor ice arenas and outdoor concert areas; 45 full-time recreation centers and 19 seasonal and summer playgrounds; 6 municipal golf courses; 55 miles of parkways; 74 miles of bike and walking paths; and various garden, sculpture, nature and picnic areas.

The Park Police Department is the law enforcement arm of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and provides key public services. It currently consists of 28

full-time licensed peace officers and an almost equal number of seasonal park patrol agents. The department is under supervision of the Park Police Captain, who is the commanding officer.

Park police officers work closely with Minneapolis city police officers, assisting each other when necessary. Both departments use the same communication system, identical report forms, detention facilities, and many common central services. Officers from both departments belong to the same police federation and receive identical salary and benefits.

Minor violations that occur in Minneapolis park areas are often handled by advising or warning the violator. However, when the safety of the public is threatened, it is necessary for strong police action. Citations, arrests, vehicle impounds and property seizures often occur in these instances.

When crime such as theft, assault and burglary occur, park police investigators are assigned. By identifying crime patterns early and investigating them thoroughly the enjoyment and safety of millions of Minneapolis park visitors is enhanced. In a typical year, officers and agents make 3000 arrests, write 20,000 citations, and investigate 1200 offenses.

Park patrol agents are uniformed, unarmed seasonal employees that work full-time during the summer. They assist sworn police officers by making routine reports; assisting with control of large groups; dealing with minor offenses; responding to requests for first aid; and handling vehicle lockouts. Agents may issue citations and have limited arrest powers. Often they are professional educators or other school personnel but many are college students preparing to enter law enforcement. Whatever their background, an ability to communicate effectively with teenagers, young adults and other members of the public is essential. These employees receive extensive paid training prior to their field experience.

#### HELPING AND ARRESTING

The function of law enforcement is "to protect and serve." There are opportunities to help others; counsel and provide medical assistance; use psychology or educational training; perform public relation duties; apprehend criminals; investigate crimes and traffic accidents; and control crowds.

Helping the public to enjoy the park system may involve verbally warning law violators; however, at times it may also include issuing citations or effecting a custodial arrest. Under certain circumstances, it is necessary to transport persons to a crisis or detoxification center.

Whatever your interests, whether it be serving the public or enforcing the law, there may be a place for you with the Minneapolis Park Police. If you would like to help make our city and its parks better and safer we want to hear from you. Call and ask to speak to the Minneapolis Park Police Recruiting Coordinator.

#### EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

##### Officers and Agents:

Acceptable work, credit and arrest histories, a valid driver's license and a good driving record.

Ability to pass physical, hearing, vision, medical, psychological and drug screening evaluations.

##### Officers Only:

Successful completion of requirements established by the Minnesota P.O.S.T. Board. Out-of-state licensed officers must have passed the P.O.S.T. reciprocity examination.

##### Agents Only:

One year of work experience in law enforcement areas, education, social service or a closely related field. Law enforcement classes may substitute for up to six months of work experience.

#### CITIZENS CAN HELP

People willing to use their eyes and ears can be of great assistance to the Park Police. Shared crime information can improve neighborhood parks while assisting crime victims in their pursuit of justice.

Unfortunately two-thirds of all crime is not reported in our society. Some crime victims are embarrassed about mistakes they make while others fear retaliation from suspects. Police officers are highly sensitive to victims and they can help lessen any sense of embarrassment. Retaliation is extremely unusual against victims that cooperate fully with the police as there is legal protection for victims, witnesses, and informants.

Occasionally crimes are not reported because the victim doubts that police can help or even care to deal with a seemingly insignificant problem. However, police desire to have all possible information, even about lesser crimes because those offenses are often the missing link necessary to solving larger, more serious crimes.

## Record Pollution Fine

Pfizer Inc. agreed to settle pollution allegations by paying a record \$3.1 million - an amount the government says includes the money the chemical company saved by not installing pollution-control equipment.

The payment settles a 1988 lawsuit accusing Pfizer of fouling the Delaware River by discharging waste from a synthetic magnetic iron oxide plant in Easton. The company admitted no wrongdoing.

The agreement announced Wednesday, involves the most money ever paid to settle a Federal Clean Water Act lawsuit, said William Wisniewski, the Environmental Protection Agency's deputy regional administrator.

# SECURITY ZONE- SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS PROTECT FACILITY

by Kurt Carmen

When pool managers and lifeguards in Los Angeles get together after work, there is a sense of camaraderie that one usually finds among service veterans. Although this analogy might sound far-fetched to a pool manager in a small town or city, in Los Angeles or Chicago and other large metropolitan centers, it is quite apt.

Take the activity report for one summer at one Los Angeles public pool: "Death threat against lifeguard by gang member already suspected of murder. (Action: transfer employee to another facility.) Stabbing in park next to pool. Gang fight at pool. Missing tools. Cash stolen from patron. Sexual harassment of employee by patron. Sexual molestation of young girl by adult male patron. Two drive-by shootings by gang members. Breaking and entering facility through cut chain-link fence. Tickets missing. Graffiti. Assault on patron leaving pool by gang. Gunfire in park. Intoxicated, disorderly patron. Strong-arm theft in restroom. Vandalism of employee cars." And that is just a partial report from one pool.

Theft, vandalism and other criminal activity at aquatic facilities is nothing new. What is new is the severity of this activity and what pool managers and city officials have to do to curb it. Compounding the problem is the question of liability in a society which, since the 1960's has turned litigious with a vengeance. Any aquatic or recreational facility, whether public or private, must carry liability insurance in order to operate.

Because of the liability situation, after-hours break-ins are the number one problem facing any facility. Youths climbing over the fence for an after-hours swim, breaking a few beer bottles or smashing a toilet are annoying, but not serious compared with the liability risk factor. More drownings occur during after-hours break-ins than during opening hours.

Multi-million dollar injury lawsuits are the bane of city managers and budgets. Even though the person who broke into the pool was in the wrong, if he or she is injured or drowned, the odds indicate a plaintiff attorney will start tearing apart security and safety procedures to prove liability.

Theft among patrons is also a common problem, but difficult to control without a centralized clothes storage system and regular walk-through patrols by staff. Employee theft, however, was not considered a major problem by most managers we spoke with recently.

Gang violence is high on the list of problems in many major metropolitan areas. And with gang activity goes vandalism, graffiti and the constant necessity to repair holes in fences and other forced-entry areas such as heater ventilating ducts.

## DESIGNED FOR PREVENTION

Crime prevention begins with the design of the facility itself. And right at the outset, a designer runs into a problem. Any facility with public access has design parameters dictated by fire department and other safety codes that also make it easy for the criminal or after-hours entry.

Conventional locker rooms are usually an invitation to trouble. Facilities that have switched to a centralized basket or clothes bag storage system have found their theft problems significantly reduced, according to Roy Bordes, president of Bordes & Associates, security consultants in Orlando, Fla.

"Design (the storage systems) so that baskets are retrieved from the other side so there is no reason for patrons to get back into locker rooms."

Control of patrons in this way is the best deterrent, Bordes said, and has been the most effective countermeasure in the municipalities with which he has worked. "The name of the game is control of people coming in, check-out baskets, regular patrols of locker room and toilet areas.

"A manager should look at the facility from a point of view of a person trying to break in or commit a crime. Use that mentality. Then see how you can best utilize pool personnel to thwart those attempts. The bottom line is: identify your risk, check your vulnerability against that risk and better utilize your personnel."

John Vowels is a Los Angeles recreation veteran. He is aquatics director of the San Fernando Valley Region where 14 of the total 55 public pools in the Los Angeles area are located. He was formerly director of the Metro district, having come up through the ranks as a locker-room attendant and lifeguard. Despite the difficulties of his job, he is enthusiastic and a total realist.

"If your crime and vandalism situation has been getting progressively worse," he said, "then you haven't been doing your job in the beginning. If you really do your job, if you supervise and train your employees to be dedicated, to have vision or commitment to what the job is about, then you can control things you might not think you would be able to."

## HIRING STRATEGIES

Like many other urban facility managers, Vowels has a strategy of hiring lifeguards from gang neighborhoods to staff pools in those neighborhoods.

Vowels strongly believes in instilling an "esprit de corps" among his employees. He is also realistic and honest with his employees about what they could encounter. "I have no illusions about what we are doing," he said. "I feel very responsible working with these youngsters. I don't want to put them in situations I wouldn't be comfortable in, or want my own children to be in. I use that as my measuring stick in terms of how far I push before I say we've got to pull out."

In some private aquatic facilities, towel theft has long been an expensive headache. The Boston Athletic Club, which has some 1,500 patrons daily, was spending

about \$50,000 a year on towels. This year, they expect that figure to be cut to \$14,000 with a new towel sensor system they have installed.

"It cost us \$7,000 to put the system in," said Cliff Seeto, director of operations, "and we made that back within the first four months."

Similar to the system used in video rental stores, a magnetic strip is sealed to the towel beneath a label with a 400F hand iron, which is part of the system. Patrons who trip the alarm are asked if they have a club towel. "We don't press the issue," Seeto said, "but most are cooperative and don't do it a second time."

The City of Tucson, Ariz., operates 48 pools at 23 facilities. Billy Sassi is aquatic supervisor for the city and places heavy emphases on personnel training with lessons on how to deal with troublesome patrons. Video showings, classroom discussions, lectures and role playing by students are all utilized.

Check-in bags and personnel rotating through locker rooms every 15 minutes has cut down on patron thefts. All cash is turned in on a daily basis so money and valuables are not kept on the premises overnight.

When it comes to graffiti, Sassi finds that ordinary oven cleaner works very well. "One of our workers suggested it. We use rubber gloves and a non-abrasive scrubbing pad to clean the area and then rinse well with water. It works on non-porous surfaces-metal signs and the sides of the building, metal countertops and doors," he said. To scrub galvanized and stainless steel metals, Sassi recommended using steel wool.

"(The process) may remove some paint," Sassi cautioned, "so I wouldn't use it on equipment like diving boards." Because of the corrosive nature of oven cleaner, he recommended contacting the manufacturer when in doubt about the surface to be cleaned.

#### MAXIMUM SECURITY

Security at Splash Town, Spring, Texas, five miles outside of Houston, is at the other end of the spectrum, with armed guards, a 10-foot high chain link fence hopped with barbed wire and patrol dogs at night to roam the 46-acre operation.

Formerly a failed Hanna-Barbera children's park, it was purchased from bankruptcy and re-opened in 1988. After a year of non-operation, a massive cleanup and renovation project was undertaken to remove graffiti and repair vandalism.

"To prevent vandalism, we took a very hard-line stand," said Dave Cowher, executive vice president and general manager. "I carry a letter of authority from the Texas Board of Private Investigators and Private Security Agencies which allows us to have armed or unarmed security officers. We put signage through the perimeters warning against trespassing and announcing armed security officers on premises."

Attempted break-ins, evading payment and shoplifting are the three major problems at Splash Town. Tight security has almost eliminated break-ins and vandalism

and shoplifting losses are down to a mere 1 percent. A rash of patron thefts in 1989 was handled with sting operations. A towel is placed over shoes or other personal items and guard observes from a distance. "We grab the guy right away and prosecute," Cowher said. Theft has dropped to a barely noticeable problem. The City of Miami operates 10 municipal pools, of which two are open year-round. Kevin Smith, aquatic director, Miami parks and Recreation, works with park and neighborhood advisory groups to cut down on vandalism and graffiti, and it's working.

"We try to get civic-minded citizens to take on the parks as their own, to instill a pride of possession. Break-ins and vandalism have been minimal this year. I don't know exactly why, but we have some very active recreation people who target the kids responsible and get them in a program. The idea is to make the parks neutral territory, but our gang situation - compared to Los Angeles - is non-existent."

Keeping staff turnover to a minimum and instilling a pride in work are at the top of Smith's prevention list. "I try to keep my head guards doing other work in the off-season," he said. "We have corrections officers and firemen who work as lifeguards and you couldn't find better people. We run a lot of lifeguard training programs. It costs \$35, but if a student is still on the job after six weeks, we refund the fee.

"If you have a real problem kid, give him a job to do," advised Smith, who has turned troublemakers into valuable helpers simply by giving them a job to do around the pool.

#### CITY SWIMMING

In Chicago, as in many other cities, older recreation centers were built in the center of parks. With the rise in crime, venturing through a park at night to reach a recreation center is an exercise in nerve. Newer facilities are built on the park's perimeter so people can get to the building from the street.

Joe Pecoraro is general supervisor of Pools and Beaches for the City of Chicago. Winning back the parks from gangs has been one of his priorities, aided by a Mayor's Task Force formulated a plan to increase cooperation between the police, the board of education and the department of parks and recreation.

Aquatic programming played an important part in this, targeting those in socially unacceptable behavior patterns and getting them into the indoor and outdoor activities.

Minimizing graffiti was a key part of the program. A survey by the Task Force showed that graffiti plays a major part in the perception of a facility as safe or unsafe. If graffiti indicates the facility is within gang turf, parents keep their children away from those facilities.

The answer, Pecoraro said, is to remove the graffiti as fast as it goes up. "Do it right now," he said. "It discourages them and they don't come back so heavily." The city uses power washers and chemicals, which are very effective.

One of Pecoraro's biggest problems is after-hour pool break-ins. "For that reason, we are installing ornamental iron fences. It is not going to stop them from jumping the fence, but at least we won't be spending our iron-workers' time going back to patch a hole. What really scares us with a hole in the fence is that a 2-year old child can follow the bigger youths into the pool. So at least we are eliminating that problem."

Other changes include a basket checking system in the newer pools and letting patrons at older pools bring their own padlocks.

This year, a special mobile park security force has been organized, which will check every city pool every 30 or 40 minutes all night long. "These are off-duty policemen," Pecoraro said. "The last two years we had a security guard on deck and it worked - there were no after-hours drownings - but it was very expensive. We feel, with the new fences and roving patrols, it will discourage most people from breaking in."

Security of filter rooms and chemical storage should be a number one concern. Don't store chlorine and acid together. If someone breaks in and starts vandalizing the containers, the result can be as deadly as mustard gas, Vowels said.

In Los Angeles, only liquid chlorine is stored on the premises. Powdered chlorine is considered to be a risk. If someone should break in and use a water hose on a container of powdered chlorine, there could be a spontaneous explosion. Acid is brought to the pools on a maintenance truck every three days to regulate the pH, Vowels said.

Despite warning signs and bylaw notices that threaten ejection from facilities for unacceptable behavior, a pool manager or lifeguard has no real authority under the law. Their authority is implied and depends on intelligence and tact for its effectiveness.

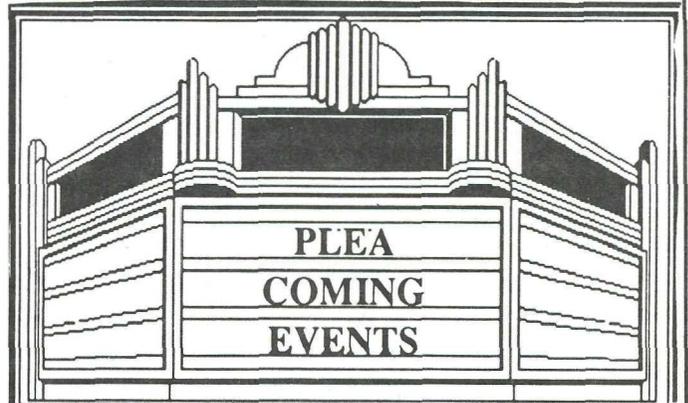
The result, as attorney Mladin Azrubica of Zarubica Co. International, Los Angeles, said, is a headache. "I've had experience with the headaches of crime prevention at city pools and know it well. City councils or private companies do not want to get sued. The idea of calling the police and getting involved in the apprehension of a criminal can be the worst boomerang in the world.

"If you are sure there is a knife or a bottle in a locker, you may do the search. But whoever authorizes that activity, whether it is the city, county, state or Federal government, they can be sued for invasion of privacy," Zarubica said.

Finally, as John Vowels said, "The solution is not crime prevention per se, but having more responsible citizens who control their own behavior. That's where you have to start. Meanwhile, it's a juggling act, but it is extremely rewarding when we are successful, because our success is not generated from outside but from our own wits. The point is, you know in your heart what you've done is good. And we will continue to do everything in our power to provide a service to the general public."

## VANDALISM HOTLINE HIGHLIGHTS ARCHAEOLOGY PRESERVATION WEEK

Colorado Archaeology Preservation Week, April 7-13, 1991, featured media events, lectures, educational programs, and other public service programs including a toll-free hotline number, (800) 448-NPCA, established in cooperation with the National Parks Conservation Association for use in reporting vandalism of archeological sites in the State. Programs were coordinated by the Colorado Interagency Anti-Vandalism Task Force represented by the Colorado Historical Society, Colorado Archaeological Society, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists. For information about Colorado Archaeology Preservation Week, contact Susan Colins, Ph.D., State Archeologist, Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway, Denver, CO 80202-2137; (303) 866-3395.



1991

October 17 - 22: National Recreation and Park Association Congress and Trade Show, Baltimore, MD. Contact NRPA for further details concerning registration (703)820-4940.

October 19: PLEA Mid-year Board of Directors Meeting. Held in conjunction with the NRPA Congress. Open to all members (Time and location to be announced at the PLEA booth in the exhibit hall.

1992

March 5: PLEA Annual Board of Directors Meeting.

March 5, 6, 7, & 8: PLEA 13th Annual Park Law Enforcement National Conference. This year's conference will be hosted by the Johnson County Park and Recreation Department of Shawnee, Kansas -- in the Kansas City, Kansas Area. Academic Sponsor: Department of Park and Natural Resources, Michigan State University. Contact Dr. Charles Nelson (517)353-5190 for details.

March 7: PLEA 4th Annual Trade Show, held in conjunction with the PLEA Conference. Contact Ralph Hays, Johnson County Parks for Details. (913)631-7050

# SCANTY SUITS PALE AGAINST STATE BEACH NUDITY

By Ralph Zahorik

The furor in Round Lake Beach over women wearing skimpy bathing suits pales in comparison to what's routinely exposed at Illinois Beach State Park near Zion.

Stark naked men and women - mostly men - frolic regularly at the somewhat remote south end of the state beach.

Park officials have waged an unremitting, see-saw battle for the past 10 years to drive the nudists out.

Recently, park rangers have been using jet skis to zoom down Lake Michigan to the mouth of the Dead River to surprise nudists.

The nudists countered by setting up observation posts manned by radio and binocular-equipped observers to spot, intercept and report rangers moving by land, air or sea.

Helicopters and horses also have been flung into the battle.

Mass arrests - park officials call them "roundups" - are made occasionally. Last spring, rangers mounted on horses surprised a dozen nude men playing volleyball.

The volleyball players were handcuffed and herded to park headquarters a mile away. "It was like a nude trail drive down the beach," said Bob Grosso, park superintendent.

"We've kept 'em running with the jet skis, but they've gotten sophisticated," he said. "They put a man in the (park observation) tower with a radio to let someone know we're coming. They're dressed before we get there. ...We have them every weekend. Last Friday I warned five."

First-timers get a warning and second offenders get a ticket. Regulars come to the beach with \$50 in cash to post bail if they're caught, said Grosso.

Illinois Beach, the most heavily-used park in the state with 2.3 million visitors a year, has no regulations on swimming attire, but nudity and "exposure of genitals" is prohibited. "It covers all public lands as far as the Department of Conservation is concerned," said Grosso.

Thongs or "string" swim suits aren't uncommon at Waukegan Municipal Beach, but they are rarely seen at other public beaches in Lake County, according to beach directors, police and public officials interviewed by The News-Sun.

The uproar in Round Lake Beach was reportedly touch off by the sighting of one thong-garbed woman.

"The only time I've seen them (at Illinois Beach) was at the Kawasaki jet ski event two years ago," said Grosso. "The only reaction was everybody looked."

20 years at the park, Grosso said he has never had a complaint - other than for nudity - about skimpy attire.

Other officials said the same thing.

Women wear thongs on Waukegan beaches occasionally. "But we've never had a complaint in the four years I've worked here," said Michele Logue, Waukegan beach director.

A vague Waukegan city law states: "No person shall bath or swim in the waters of Lake Michigan adjacent to the city unless clad in a suitable bathing suit and no person shall make any indecent exposure of his person or be guilty of any lewd or indecent act or behavior."

"No one has ever complained (about string swim suits)," said David Motley, assistant beach director. "If you've got the body you can do it."

"I've never seen one (at Lake Linden beaches)," said Alex Roberts, Lindenhurst Park District director. "We haven't had any problems like that."

The park has no specific rules on attire, although a village ordinance prohibits "indecent acts or behavior" in public parks.

"We try to be as unobtrusive as possible," he said. "But in the face of 1,000 petitions (as in Round Lake Beach), any elected body would stand up and take notice."

In Grayslake, Park District Director John Wilson said he has never had a complaint about skimpy attire at Jones Island beach.

"I've never seen anyone wear a thong and there is no policy or rule on clothing," he added.

Lake Villa has a vague law on beachwear requiring "conventional" clothing: "No person shall appear on any beach or pier of this village except in conventional bathing costume of their sex or in their regular conventional dress."

"I've never seen a thong at Lehmann Park," said Lake Villa Police Chief John Debevic. "And I've never had a complaint on attire."

Lake Forest has no law regulating attire at its public beach.

## HELP NEEDED AT NRPA

PLEA will again this year host an informational booth in the Trade and Exhibit Hall at the National Recreation and Park Association Congress which will be held in Baltimore, MD from October 16th through the 22nd. We are in need of uniformed officers to man this booth and assist in informing park and recreation directors, administrators, board members, and practitioners about park law enforcement in general and PLEA specifically.

If your agency can assign officers or if some officers will be in attendance and would like to volunteer their time to this worthwhile event please contact R. J. Steele at (413) 788-3269 to co-ordinate efforts. We look forward to seeing you in Baltimore!

# THE DACUM TASK CHART

## Ranger Skills Identified

Steven W. Swayne and Russell K. Tippett

During 1983, the Park Law Enforcement Association (PLEA) was struggling with establishing a solid foundation and direction for our infant organization. Major emphasis was on building a nationwide network of park law enforcement professionals who could share common problems and solutions. During the same period, in consultation with PLEA's Board of Directors and many other natural resource professionals, Hocking College initiated efforts to identify specific skills for park rangers. That identification was accomplished through the DACUM (Developing A Curriculum) process.

### What is the DACUM Process?

DACUM is an intense "brainstorming" session conducted with expert representatives from a particular line of work or from related lines. The purpose of the session is to make a task list for a given field of employment. This list is then used for the development of curriculum criteria. In this way, the current job market and employers determine the training offered.

DACUM is based on three assumptions:

1. expert workers can define and describe their job more accurately than anyone else;
2. any job can be effectively described in terms of the tasks that successful workers in that occupation perform; and
3. all tasks, in order to be performed correctly, demand certain knowledge and attitudes from workers.

### DACUM In Action

Using the services of a trained DACUM facilitator, a panel of fifteen (15) park ranger professionals met together for two full days. The panelists represented federal, state and local natural resources/park agencies. To provide a more comfortable situation, of the fifteen (15) panelists, a maximum of two could hold supervisory status in the field. No member of the panel could be the supervisor of any other member on the panel.

Panelists were subjected to long hours and intense examination. Sometimes heated debate erupted. Before the convening of the panel, most participants had neither met nor communicated with each other in any way. Most of those same panelist have become extremely close-working professionals since those early days in 1983.

### "Park Ranger" Defined

The panel established a clear, concise definition of a hypothetical person who had served in a park ranger capacity for a minimum of five years field experience. The panel identified tasks likely to be required of that person during a one year period. The panel determined that, "A park ranger is a high-profile professional who provides for

the use, restoration, preservation, and conservation of park resources. S/he provides for the enjoyment and safety of the public, educates, enforces rules and regulations, disseminates information, supervises others, and provides for short and long range planning in the park."

Our panel also determined that a park ranger:

1. Enforces Laws,
2. Provides Emergency Services,
3. Maintains Public Relations,
4. Provides for Employee and Visitor Health and Safety,
5. Administrates and Supervises,
6. Manages Resources,
7. Educates and Communicates, and
8. Maintains Park Facilities and Equipment.

Within these eight major categories, the panelists identified 195 individual tasks through the DACUM process.

Hocking College mailed the "first draft" of the Park Ranger DACUM Task Chart to approximately 250 park ranger professionals throughout the United States (PLEA members were a part of that group). Recipients then reviewed the chart and offered recommendations for change. The final 1983 Task Chart was a result of the work of the DACUM panel and of the nationwide review.

### Review And Updating

During 1990, the National Ranger Training Institute (NRTI) mailed the Park Ranger DACUM Task Charts to 50 active, knowledgeable park ranger professionals nationwide. Once again, the recipients reviewed and offered recommendations for change to the 1983 DACUM Task Chart; several requested permission to copy and send the chart to their personal "network" of colleagues to obtain a wider-based perspective for the National Ranger Training Institute. Of the responses received, no category deletions were requested — a testimonial to the effectiveness of the DACUM process. We received several recommendations for additions to existing categories, as well as for the inclusion of new categories.

### Curriculum and Specialized Course Development

The NRTI is the outgrowth organization and the primary implementer of the Park Ranger Task Chart at Hocking College. Hocking College has conducted approximately 30 DACUM panels in as many technology areas. The National Ranger Training Institute has cross-referenced common areas identified in the task charts for Park Ranger, Water Rescuer, Police Officer, and Fire Fighter. Hocking College's Department of Natural Resources, Ranger Services Academic Major curriculum (Associate Degree) is based on DACUM task charts. Additionally, approximately 30 highly specialized short-term NRTI programs have been developed from the DACUM Charts; these courses are offered each calendar quarter. New, specialized programs are continually being developed by the NRTI to address the identified tasks.

## Summary

The DACUM process can be used on a grand scale, similar to the National Ranger Training Institute and Hocking College; the process can also be applied on a smaller scale (such as in-service training programs). We have found the DACUM process to be an invaluable tool for developing training programs and processes. Whether using local, regional, or national participation, it is an excellent method for determining training needs and tasks. The usefulness of the DACUM process is limited only by the imagination.

For more information, please contact:

NATIONAL RANGER TRAINING INSTITUTE  
at Hocking College  
3301 Hocking Parkway  
Nelsonville, OH 45764-9704  
National Toll Free 1-800-222-3630 or  
(614) 753-3591 extension 2330

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## Tourists Beware! 'Car Clouts' May Ruin Your Vacation

WELLFLEET (AP) - Picture a national park, a pastoral place of towering firs, verdant meadows, crystal-clear babbling brooks, maybe an occasional bear cub - and roving thieves ready to break into your car.

"Car clouts" - thieves who break into locked vehicles at National Park Service facilities - are predators who threaten to make outdoorsy problems like mosquitoes and ticks seem tame by comparison.

While not yet a national scourge, the clouts, as park rangers call them, are undoubtedly vacation-wreckers.

"If you're from Kansas and you see your car window's been smashed and your camera's gone, it will ruin your whole trip," said Major Robert Hines of the U.S. Park Police in Washington, D.C.

A ring of car clouts operating in the Cape Cod National Seashore, a string of beaches run by the National Park Service, was broken up in the early 1980's. But thieves continue to be a problem.

"We've probably had eight or nine break-ins since April, and we haven't caught anybody," said Gary Carter, a ranger supervisor at the Cape.

Rangers say the clouts aren't the most clever criminals.

"We don't get a lot of sophistication in car clouts. They smash the window, grab the stuff and high-tail it out of there," said Sgt. Michael Blandford of the park police at Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada. "It's not like car thieves in the city."

A clout arrested in Billings, Mont., had hoarded thousands of dollars of stolen goods into his trailer home.

"The dummy would keep the IDs of people he had hit," said Pat Ozment, the criminal investigator at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. "He had cameras, binoculars, all this stuff he hadn't pawned yet."

But the clouts are effective because they prey on an easy mark - tourists.

"When people travel, they carry a lot of cash and travelers checks. Any they're more relaxed and not as careful as they should be," Ozment said. "The thieves know this."

And rangers with huge areas to patrol can't keep adequate watch on parking lots to prevent the clouts from striking.

"There are lots of tourists around, very few people to watch the cars, and fairly clear access to the lots," Carter said. "If the clouts can get in a position where they can target the cars, they can hit and then be gone. And we often can't catch up with them."

"Usually the thieves are long gone by the time we even get a report," he added. "The victims will say, 'We got on the beach at 9 and we came back at 1 and found our car had been broken into.'"

Blandford said his park averages about 300 reports a year of thefts from cars or boats.

"I've got all kinds of unsolved smash-and-grabs," he said.

Even if clouts are arrested, prosecuting them can be a problem. At parks that attract visitors from across the country, victims may have to travel from their home state back to the scene of the crime for the trial.

# HELP!

Your help is desperately needed. I have been Editor of PLEA since 1988 when the PLEA Board of Directors asked me to assume this role. Since that time I have been able to continuously improve this publication until it has become a fairly credible little magazine. But, this has not been without a cost!

Up until this time I have been able to draw on a series of sources to fill this publication with material of interest to the park and natural resource law enforcement community. A few individuals have volunteered material or I have been able to twist arms sufficiently to generate this material. I am frankly running out of material and member response has been limited. I NEED YOUR HELP NOW! Please consider submitting. without additional material I will not be able to maintain this publication at it's current level! Help me twist arms, submit articles from secondary sources. PLEA members want to hear from you!



# NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION

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EMPLOYER OR ORGANIZATION (Abbreviate if necessary) \_\_\_\_\_

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ADDRESS (Street/POB) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ NEW MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ OR RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual	\$ 15.00
Agency	\$ 50.00
State Affiliate	\$150.00



CURRENT MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

VISA AND MASTERCARD ACCEPTED \_\_\_\_\_

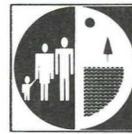
ACCOUNT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOUNT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION (NRPA)

MAIL TO: PAT CARTRIGHT  
NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION  
3101 PARK CENTER DRIVE  
ALEXANDRIA, VA. 22302 (703)820-4940



P.L.E.A. IS  
AFFILIATED WITH THE  
NATIONAL RECREATION  
AND PARK ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL RECREATION  
AND PARK ASSOCIATION

### AGENCY MEMBERSHIPS

Recently requests were made of the P.L.E.A. Board of Directors to establish Agency Memberships. The stated reason for this move was to assist agencies in joining officially. Many agencies have little trouble paying for an "agency membership" but balk at paying individual memberships, even though these memberships are in strictly professional organizations. By designing a new membership category many agencies were able to join en mass. Because of the inequities in agency size across the nation, benefits had to be strictly managed in this category. Thus the following benefits are offered to Agency Members: (1) Full membership privileges to the agency as in individual memberships, and (2) Reduced rates for official P.L.E.A. Functions (Conferences, Educational Events, etc., for all agency employees without the need for each employee to join P.L.E.A. individually. Because of the cost of printing and distributing PLEA only one copy of PLEA would be sent to Agency Members. Though the Board of Directors authorized reprinting and distribution by these members. P.L.E.A. membership is decidedly inexpensive when compared to other professional organizations. The Agency Membership allows agencies to financially support P.L.E.A. and receive benefits from that membership.

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

- (1) One vote per membership on official P.L.E.A. issues.
- (2) Four issues per year of PLEA: Journal of the Park Law Enforcement Association.
- (3) Membership I.D. Card.
- (4) P.L.E.A. Patch.
- (5) P.L.E.A. Window Decal.
- (6) Bi-Annual Park Law Enforcement Agency Directory.
- (7) Reduced Rate for P.L.E.A. Sponsored Conferences and Educational Events.
- (8) Access at a reduced rate (or free as available) of special P.L.E.A. sponsored publications.
- (9) Eligible for election to the Board of Directors and appointment to various committees.

### STATE AFFILIATES

State Affiliates are groups within a state which has organized along the guidelines established by the P.L.E.A. Board of Directors. State Affiliate receive one seat on the Board of Directors automatically and take an intimate role in developing the future of P.L.E.A. There is a \$150.00 affiliation fee. If your state is not currently an affiliate contact the President of P.L.E.A. for details on how to start.

# PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

## PLEA OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

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FAX (708)367-6649

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Ralph D. Hays,  
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## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

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Park Police  
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Riverdale, MD 20737  
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### SOUTHEAST

Captain John McLean  
Florida Park Service  
4801 S.E. 17th St.  
Gainesville, FL 32601  
(904)336-2135

### GREAT LAKES

Tom Hazelton  
Linn County Conservation District  
Plovicon Ridge Park  
Central City, IA  
(319)438-1247

# NOTES

PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION  
AN AFFILIATE OF THE  
NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION  
3101 PARK CENTER DRIVE  
ALEXANDRIA VA 22303



ADDRESS LABEL HERE

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED