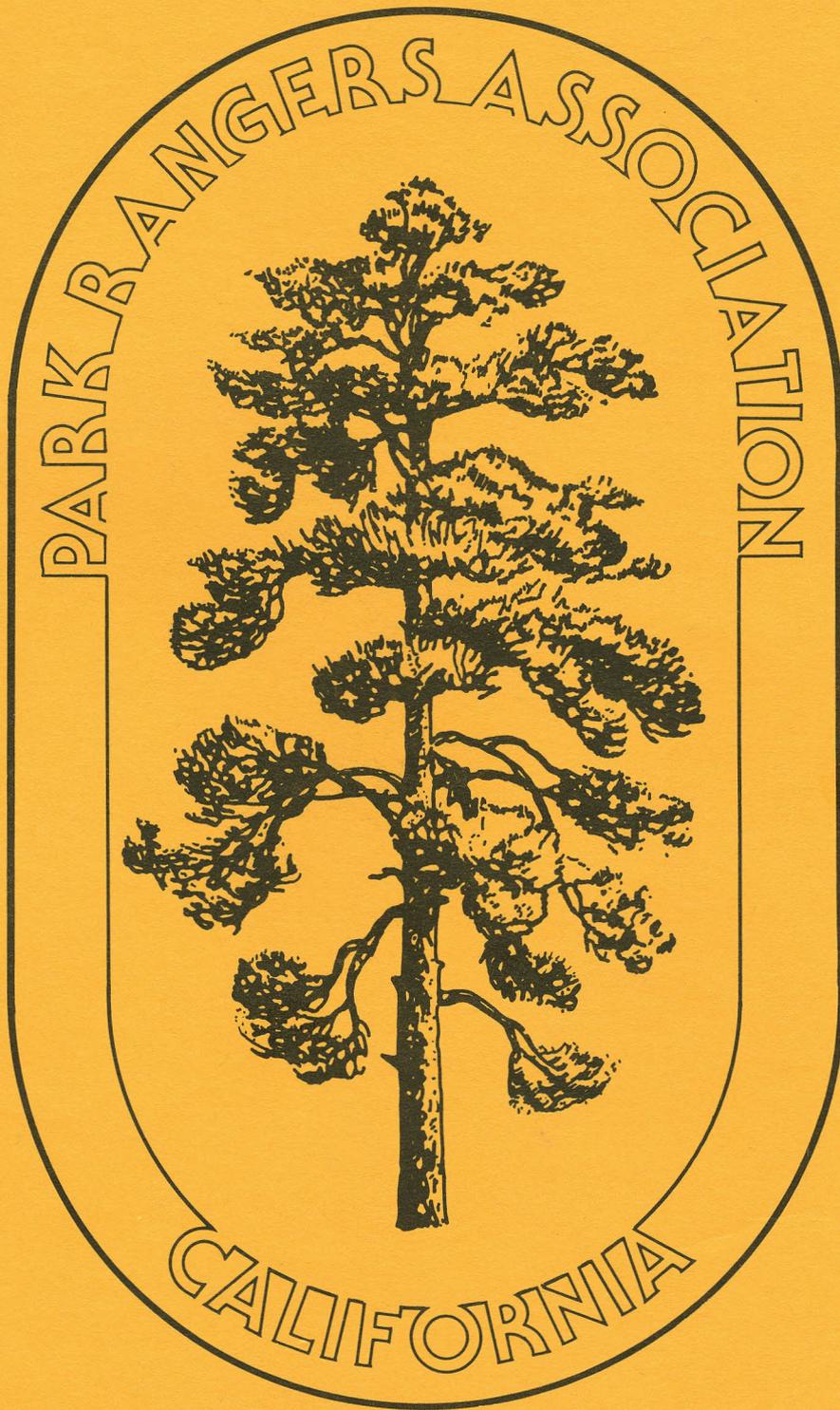


THE SIGNPOST

vol. 3 no. 2



FALL
1979



THE SIGNPOST

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The official journal of The Park Rangers Association of California

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

You should see the different letters I've written for this column over the last six months. Five months ago I was bragging, sure that the SIGNPOST would be out on a quarterly basis for the first time. Several months later, I was fudging on the original brag, but still confident that it would be closer to the mark than any of its predecessors. Now, I find myself looking back over the six months since the mailing of the Spring SIGNPOST, and that's no improvement at all.

The last SIGNPOST did show an improvement in format, if not in punctuality. This issue again will reveal some changes, but we feel that these changes have not detracted from the quality of the publication. Though the Association is in good shape financially, we are going to attempt to keep the cost down on SIGNPOST; at least until we can supplement the cost of production with much-needed advertising. This cost cutting will mean, at least for the time being, fewer pages and a lighter weight cover. If we have enough success in this capacity, we may be able to afford typesetting for the pages, as opposed to the "home-typing" we are presently using. This will insure a neater, more error-free journal, and it should also help to insure that the issues will come out on their scheduled quarterly basis.

In this issue we have a potpourri of shorter, yet still informative articles. I might add at this point that many of these articles were at

one time more timely than they would appear to be now. Ron Subia of San Jose City Parks submitted a fine article on low-riding in our parks for the summer issue. It is not Ron's fault that it was not included in the summer issue, because there wasn't a summer issue - and that certainly wasn't Ron's fault! But it is in this issue, so I will both thank Ron for the article, and offer my apologies for the delay.

We also have reports on all the meetings held since last spring - not only with PRAC, but meetings in conjunction with CSPRA and the WIA on the upcoming Joint Annual Conference.

Probably the most important thing to happen to PRAC was Raleigh Young's (Santa Clara County Parks) recent trip to Southern California to testify on the need for Rangers at Los Angeles County Beaches. We'll be getting an introduction to Raleigh's activities in L.A. in this issue, with more to follow in later issues.

Finally, you'll notice that we have two messages from PRAC President Tom Smith. Tom, like Ron Subia, had submitted his first message to see print this summer. A second message was sent last month, and it too is included here.

Well, sit back and relax, and enjoy the fall season and the holidays. We'll try to get back to you with another SIGNPOST before the Conference in March. Keep your fingers crossed!

Dave Laclergue
Alcatraz Island
NPS

FROM THE PARK OFFICE

the president's message

ALOT OF CHALLENGES AHEAD

I have just returned from a Memorial Day weekend on duty in Yosemite National Park. Watching the traffic, or lack of such, along Tioga Road from a position at beautiful Olmstead Point, a lot of thoughts were going through my mind. Thoughts that ranged from the gas crunch and its effect upon the park scene, to the future of the Park Ranger's Association of California. It dawned on me that the two are more closely related than we would like to think.

It really doesn't take a real genius to figure out that the people that used to go to Yellowstone are going to stay closer to home, and that closer to home means our municipal, county, regional and state parks or anywhere that is a round-trip tank of gas from home.

In a real sense, it is really too bad because the National Park scene was just beginning to pull itself out of the upper class, upper middle class syndrome. You know that the price of gas is not going to affect these people. So the challenge presented to us is now almost at the "push the panic button" stage. What we are facing is more people in our parks, with less staff, in a lot of cases with less funds, and a lack of training or at least a lack of update. It also helps to indicate the importance of a united front, now more than ever before. The potential that we possess as an organization is staggering.

Back in the days when I was coaching, I used to talk to young athletes about pride. Pride in what they were doing, in the hard work that it took to get to where they were, and real pride in knowing that they had given their utmost to do the best job they could under the circumstances that were presented to them. We used to say of champions that they could "rise to the occasion", and that was why they were what they were. That, and pride in what we are, and what we stand for.

We need to be as professional as we can in the way that we meet this going challenge. The public does have a lot invested in us, and is expecting this professionalism. One way that we can become professional is to update our skills by added training; another is to read professional journals; a third is to share experiences; and certainly not last, is to become involved with your fellow professionals in carrying on the cause.

We especially need members from the south of our great state. Your commitment to PRAC is not a waste of money. In comparison to other like organizations we rank right in there. The Association of National Park Rangers costs \$15, the California State Park Rangers Association, \$4/month. CSPRA is 15 years old and is just now getting the political clout that they feel they need in Sacramento. We have started well. We have people on board that are willing to "pay the price" to keep us going. What we need most of all is your support. Recruit more members, become involved yourself. Carry the cause.

(this is the second of two letters submitted by Tom. -ed.)

A couple of events have happened in the past few weeks that are very much worth mentioning. First, Pat Hayes, our treasurer, has grown accordingly to a level that we can, at least, operate with. And not too soon. A Southern section member put in a request for support from our organization regarding the formation of a ranger service for the beaches of Los Angeles County. The situation there has reached a crisis proportion with 38 miles of beach under the jurisdiction of nine communities, and the elimination of 50 of the maintenance force of 75 to take care of them. Below is a resolution sent to L.A. County Board of Supervisors in the name of the PRAC. Executive Board member Raleigh Young was sent to testify for our organization as to the importance of such a ranger force. As of this writing, no report is available as to the action which took place at the hearings, but we will certainly keep you informed.

Planning for the spring conference in cooperation with CSPRA and WIA is forging ahead. Our contribution includes the golf tournament on March 5, and getting a good caller for the square dance Friday night, March 7. All you square dancers out there, if you know of a good caller, let me know as soon as possible. The conference is rounding out to be outstanding. The theme for this year is "Resource Preservation Through Interpretation".

We stand to gain from a profit standpoint, as we will share the profits of the conference with CSPRA and WIA in proportion to the number of those attending from each organization. The more we have attend, the better off we will be. Certainly I hope to see you all there. Camping is close by, and I am sure that some of the Northern California members would be willing to share their "pads" with a Southern California member for a couple of days so that they can attend. I know I already have at least one staying that week-end from down south. Hope you all had a good, sane summer. My summer was filled with all kinds of new "learning" experiences.

"Smitty"

Park Rangers Association of California
P.O. Box 219
Menlo Park, California 94025
September 10, 1979

Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Room 822, Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Ms. Burke;

The Executive Board of the Park Rangers Association of California has passed the following resolution:

Whereas

The department of Beaches operates approximately 38 miles of public coastline and contain many areas of natural resource significance and are utilized by an excess of 14 million visitors per year on the approximate 2000 acres of land and

Whereas

the concomitant operating costs for control of beach users is spread among 9 local governments for police services and as a result enforcement of beach regulations is ephemeral, crisis orientated and costly and

Whereas

most of the beaches operated by the County are those of the State Park System and

Whereas

since 1974 attempts have been made to approve several ranger positions but have been rejected and

Whereas

the Department has never completed a resource analysis of any site nor even a general survey of the beach areas under its jurisdiction and

Whereas

most parks and recreation areas are low priority areas for most police departments until behavior reaches intolerable levels, a situation that now exists on the beaches and

Whereas

the Coastal Zone Act of 1972 has been implemented to insure that sensitive coastal resources are competantly managed in the public interest.

Be it resolved

that the Park Rangers Association of California, a professional association of municipal, county, regional, state and federal park rangers support the concept of a ranger service for the public beaches of Los Angeles County to better service the visiting public and to better protect the resource, and that the Association further supports any proposal to identify the natural resources and develop any management plan that would better protect and enhance this fragile environment.

Thomas A. Smith, President
Park Rangers Association of California

* * * * *

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FEATURED ARTICLES

A LONG HOT SUMMER: BOULEVARD DAYS?

by Ron Subia
San Jose City Parks

As Park Rangers working for various agencies, we anticipate the summer months to be a period of increased visitor use and heavy activity, especially in our local parks. This summer in San Jose, specifically Kelley Park, the Park Rangers are experiencing a new plateau of professional fortitude: Low Riders!

The encroachment of these park visitors has prompted the San Jose Police Department and all available Rangers to combine forces in order to restore Kelley Park to its original state: a state of community contentment.

What is a low-rider? Before you head for your Webster's Collegiate, let me save you some time. A low-rider is an individual, usually a Latino male, who "cruises" the streets of a popular area in a vehicle which can either be raised in the front or raised in the rear or completely high or completely low, depending on the mood of the driver and the flick of his finger. If you were to look in the trunk of these vehicles you would see at least six (6) twelve volt batteries, which are the power source of the hydraulic shocks. The vehicles could be classified into two categories:

(1) The expensive show car. A \$1700 paint job, \$500 in wheels, and equally expensive interior ranging from a chrome chain steering wheel, a crushed velour dash and matching upholstery, a super stereo, and in all probability, a solid brass club badge indicating

the club name (proudly displayed in the middle of the rear window) and many more optional accessories. The total value of the vehicle could easily reach five figures.

(2) The not-so-expensive aspiring apprentice low-rider. Usually a far less expensive car with the hydraulic shocks (a must in the cruising world), the rabbit ear antenna attached to the outside of the rear side window, the chain steering wheel (of course), and maybe a club badge, if he's lucky to be accepted by a club.

This is a brief synopsis. A much more comprehensive characterization could easily be the subject of another article. The element we seem to be dealing with is the apprentice low-rider, although not exclusively.

Yes, the low-rider is now on the park scene, and unfortunately, he has brought with him a few problems. After two weeks of mass drinking (90% under 18 years old), mass cruising resulting in ponderous traffic jams, and persistent harassment of Ranger and Police personnel (the culmination was a barrage of bottles and rocks in answer to a Police Officer's request to clear the area), the Park Rangers and San Jose Police Department have joined forces in attacking the problem with the only solution this element understands--intense law enforcement. In my nine years as Duty Ranger of the Coyote Creek Park Chain, this has been my biggest challenge: to be professional and apply no-nonsense law enforcement in six out of

an eight-hour shift. Memorial Day weekend was stage one in our offensive. The score, after a three day weekend: Rangers/Police - 60 infractions and 25 misdemeanors; 90% by a Ranger staff of seven. Park visitors - two arrests, \$2500 in bail.

As you read this article, the summer will have reached the half-way point (and then some!-ed.) If you, or your park, have not experienced this "problem", you will! This problem has no solution. The smart ones will leave

Kelley Park to search for a new park to congregate in. If they pick your park for an alternate, don't be intimidated! It's you and your community's park and you must make it safe! Get together with your administrators and local police agencies. Remember, this is not a park problem. It's a community problem. Without a community, you don't have a park!!

I hope this bit of information helps you to address a problem that you might not understand.

* * * * *

SOLUTION FOR THE PADLOCK JUNGLE

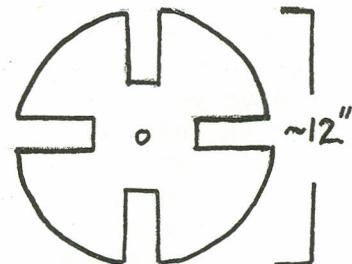
by Dave Laclergue
NPS

How many of you have that problem with gates, where several different districts or authorities have their own locks locked on to your lock, and several others besides? Isn't it a mess? What I've found may not end your troubles with gates, but it might help.

I was in Santa Barbara last Spring with friends, and one day we decided to find the hot springs that we heard were located in the hills above town. After a number of false starts, we found Hot Springs Road (so O.K., we thought it was a little too obvious!) and followed it to its terminus. And there we encountered the foe of most intrepid explorers, the gate - complete with locks representing local water and utilities districts, fire districts and private land holders. But what a difference! Gone were the familiar loops of chains on chains, and locks over locks.

The gate was familiar enough: built of 1-3/4 to 2" pipe with a sliding bolt latching device. The difference was with the device used to separate

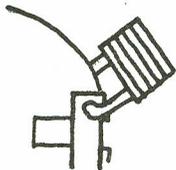
the different agencies' locks. This was a simple apparatus based on a wheel with four equally-spaced slots cut into the wheel.



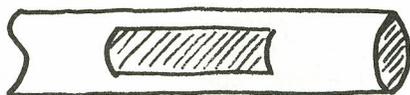
Four small straps of metal, approximately 3/4" x 3" or so were loosely bolted at one end near the mouth of the slots on the wheel so that it would spin freely at one end.



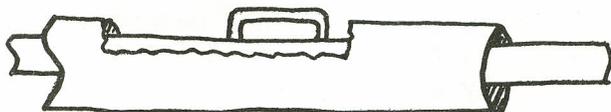
A hole was drilled at the other end of the strap and through the disk as well, for the insertion of the agency's padlock.



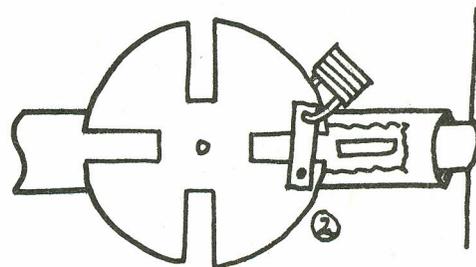
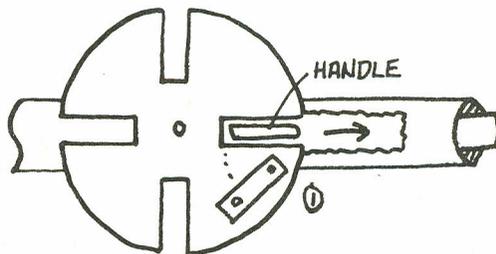
A slot had been cut into the side of the pipe that formed the top of the swinging fence.



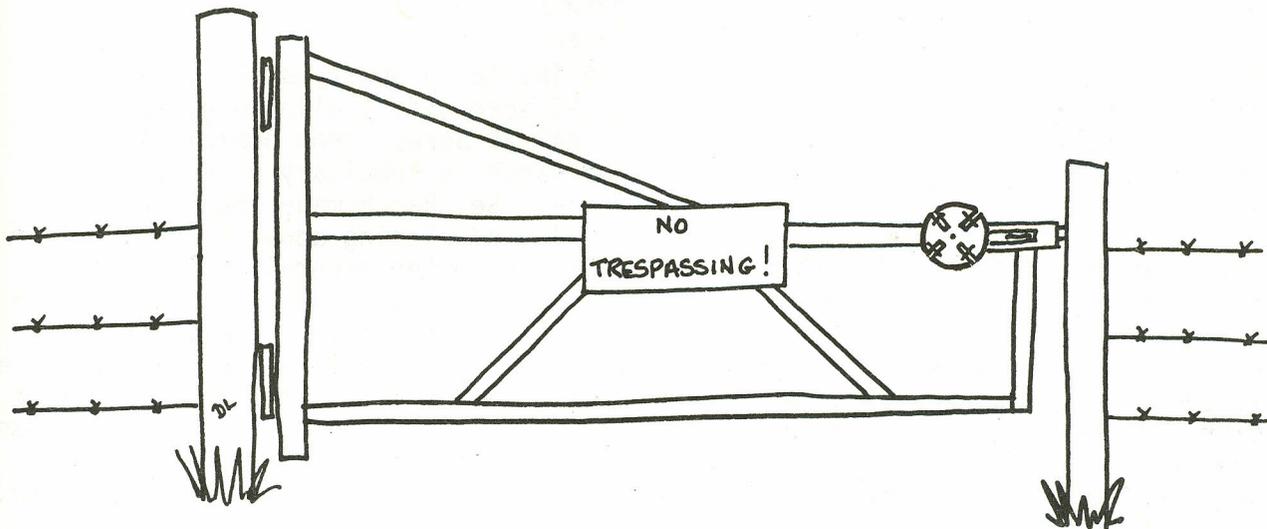
A smaller diameter pipe, used as the sliding bolt, was inserted, and a "U" shaped handle welded on through the slot.



The disk was fastened to the gate so that the bolt could not be backed out of its receiving counterpart without unlocking one of the straps, or "gates" on the wheel, and lining up the slot with the handle of the bolt.



Suffice to say that the gate did not keep us out; but then, by that time we were roughing it on foot - without a car. The spring was small, and smelling of rotten eggs, and it changed colors several times while we were there. Nevertheless, a good time was had by all, and I made sure that all present were respectfully enthused by the marvelous gate!



SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS

This is the first in what we hope will be an ongoing series on the various Park districts and agencies represented by the PRAC from material submitted by Gary Greenough and Janet Ross, Sonoma County Regional Parks.

The Sonoma County Regional Parks District had its beginnings not so long ago, in 1966. Like many of our agencies, they started with one park, Doran Park, run by the Department of Public Works. In 1967 they underwent a name change operation and was unveiled the Department of Parks, Harbors, and Beaches. Two years later, in 1969, they became the Sonoma County Department of Parks and Recreation. Finally, in 1973/74, they emerged in their present form, as the Sonoma County Regional Parks District.

Today, the Sonoma County Regional Parks District (SCRPD) is comprised on one large unit, and a number of smaller parks and open space parks, all totalling 3,000 acres.

SCRPD maintains a year round staff of ten rangers, and two ranger trainees, rounded out to fourteen or so with several CETA employees. Seasonally, they hire an additional twenty five workers comprised of lifeguards and park aids.

Doran Park, at Bodega Bay, was again district's first unit. It is located on the sand spit, over the San Andreas Fault, and has accommodations for approximately 150 R.V. sites, and 10 or more tent sites in sand dunes, all designated campsites. Doran offers beaches, surfing, fishing from the jetty, clam

digging, and there is a busy boat launch, in addition to the camping. The nearby dunes host nature walks and talks, as well as an active birding area, of which marsh hawks are among the included residents. Geologically the area is interesting, as the rocks of the region match the geologic features in Hollister, 135 miles south along the San Andreas Fault line. Last and probably least, Doran is the home of A (atomic) hole, the initial construction on the ill fated Bodega Head Nuclear Power Plant. Let's hear it for the San Andreas Fault!

Gualala, along the Mendocino/Sonoma County coast is an ideal site for whale watching and driftwood. The visitor center there, the staging area in the park for nature walks, self-guided tours, and nature displays, is totally powered (repeat:totally!) by a wind generator. Keep this in mind folks, as we all try to tighten our energy belts, not to mention making these alternative energy ideas available to the public.

The initial property at Gualala was a 125 acre gift (followed by an additional 25 acres) from Oceanic Inc's Sea Ranch, a subsidiary of Dole Pineapple. Sea Ranch made the land gift in lieu of closing about 5-10 miles of beach to the general public. Today there is a campground of 25 sites, with 6 walkin sites, all sheltered from the wind. The park experiences two complete seasons: the first, the regular summer season, and the second is a winter season to the great steelhead fishing in the Gualala River, bordering the campground.

Another park, Stillwater Cove, is a good place for scuba, and abalone, and there are a number of picturesque inland creek valleys. In one of these areas is the transplanted, but historic Fort Ross schoolhouse, open for tours only, and future home for a possible visitor center.

Watson Wayside is a one acre park with a picnic area, and another old school house - this one un-moved dating back to 1846. Another smaller park is Healdsburg Beach, along the upper reaches of the Russian River.

315-acre Spring Lake Park, within the Santa Rosa city limits, is the district's most heavily used year-round facility. There is a swimming lagoon with a boathouse renting non-motorized paddle boats and canoes, and fishing for large mouth bass, catfish, and blue gill is another activity. Spring Lake features a "multiple-use" path which, depending on the year, season or current rage serves as a bike path, roller skating path, and so on. Spring Lake has 31 campsites, five of which are walk-ins.

A few more of the smaller units include 128 acre Crane Creek, an old ranch site, Lake Suttonfield, Sonoma Valley and Bouverie Open Space Parks, which include trails, vistas, nature study, a waterfall

(Sonoma Valley) and wildflower preserve (Bouverie). Ragle Ranch an Open Space Park of 150 acres is a site well suited for outdoor weddings and other similar affairs and special events and it was the host for the First Annual Apple Festival which attracted 8,000 people.

Hudeman Slough is a no-charge public boat launch, with access to northern San Pablo Bay. West Petaluma Regional Park (171acres) is another of SCRPD's undeveloped open Space Parks, and it will make its debut this fall featuring fine views of southern Sonoma County and northern Marin County. For the time being, West Petaluma will be limited to day use activities.

Mt. Hood is Sonoma Counties largest unit, with a total of 1450 acres of 100% wilderness, not far from Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. Mt. Hood has picnic sites along Santa Rosa Creek, and there are group camps at the end of a two miles walk from the park entrance. Because of its greater size Mt. Hood has more and longer hiking trails, with a 10 mile round trip nature walk. These walks reward hikers with views of Sant Rosa and, once a year the rangers at Mt. Hood lead a moonlight trail hike. Finally Sonoma County hired two horses to assist the staff patrol Mt. Hood's many miles of trails.

NEWS & EVENTS, etc.

GALLUP POLL ON PARK USE

In the May 1979 issue of the Courier, the National Park Service Newsletter, results from a recent Gallup poll regarding American attitudes and opinions towards the National Park System were released. The poll, conducted in 1978 and commissioned by the National Park Foundation was the first nationwide poll of its kind since 1955. And times have changed.

Among the findings in the preview of the final report:

In 1978, 66 percent of the people surveyed reported that they had visited a national park. The 1955 figure was 37 percent. The poll also indicates that visitation to the parks is not likely to decline. Eighty-one percent of the respondents said that it is "very likely" that they will visit a national park in the next few years.

Eighty-five percent of recent visitors to national parks said that their experiences were "very enjoyable", 12 percent said that their experiences were fairly enjoyable," and only two percent said that their experiences were "not enjoyable."

The few respondents who expressed concern about conditions in the parks found litter and overcrowding to be the major problems they encountered. Only 19 percent of the respondents who had visited parks said that there had been anything at all about their visits which had not come up to their expectations.

In this day of concern about public spending, the response to a question about amounts of money devoted to our parks is of special note. Surely, one measure of the value of the parks is the public's willingness to see more public funds invested in them. In 1955, 21 percent of those surveyed said that "not enough" money was being invested in their parks. Last year, 50 percent of the respondents felt that "not enough" money is being spent.

The question was asked, "If someone asked you what good are the national parks, what would you say?" Seventy percent of those who were contacted chose the answer that parks are "for people to use for recreation and enjoyment." Thirty percent said that parks are primarily "for the preservation of land."

When asked how important the opinions and desires of conservation and environmental groups should be in planning future national parks and parklands, 65 percent said that conservation and environmental interests were very important. The public rated visitors' interests as being next in order of importance. Economic interests were rated least significant in the decision making.

Respondents who had visited national parks were asked what they did in those parks. Of those who had visited parks recently, the responses were as follows: 71 percent had visited museums and historic sites; 71 percent had made an auto tour of the park; 65 percent

had visited displays at a visitor center; 70 percent had picnicked; 63 percent had hiked short trails (2-3 miles); 45 percent had hiked back country; 34 percent had camped; 28 percent had attended ranger talks; and 26 percent had gone on ranger-guided walks.

Most recent park visitors - 90 percent - felt that their expenses for services at the national parks were about what they had expected the expenses should be. Respondents included entrance fees as part of their expenses.

When asked what sort of information they found most useful in parks, a large majority indicated that they preferred traveler information, park literature and recreation information.

GAS SHORTAGE AND THE PARKS

reprinted in part from the
San Francisco CHRONICLE,
7-25-79

The vacation crowds that usually pack national parks have thinned dramatically this year, apparently because of higher gasoline prices and shortages.

Reversing the upward trend of recent years, visits to most of the national park system's major spots are down 10 to 35 percent from 1978.

Only parks close to urban areas, such as the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, where the number of visitors is up more than 60 percent, are the exception to the general pattern.

Yosemite had 2.7 million visitors last year. Visits in June this year were 315,149, an 18 percent drop from the same month in 1978.

For the first three weeks of July, the falloff was about 15 percent.

Declines in June at other California national parks from 1978 were: Kings, 9 percent; Sequoia, 26 percent; Pt. Reyes National Seashore, 21 percent, and Lassen, 15 percent.

Elsewhere, visits to the Grand Canyon dropped 32 percent, and such other popular places as Yellowstone and Great Smokey Mountain National Park in Tennessee also had far fewer vacationers.

"The park-a-day syndrome of past years seems to be disappearing," said Edwin N. Winge of the National Park Service's western regional office in San Francisco.

"People are going to fewer parks and staying longer, and usually at parks closer to home."

Although no one has made a definitive survey of vacationers, Winge and other seasoned park observers said the fuel situation probably has been the single most significant influence.

Some park rangers believe concerns about inflation and recession also figure in the public's 1979 vacation patterns.

Whatever the actual reasons, the reduced number of visitors has made vacationing in the national parks less harried and, therefore, more enjoyable.

"At Yosemite," Winge said, "there are fewer people on the biking and hiking trails. The congestion is less in Yosemite Valley, with shorter waits in cafeteria lines.

"Altogether, there's more of a feeling of looseness and relaxation.

Campgrounds in the valley fill up every night but, occasionally, it has been possible on weekdays to find a vacant campsite at Tuolumne Meadows and White Wolf, in the high country.

NEWS FROM WEST VALLEY COLLEGE

The Fifth Annual Mid-Winter In-Service Training session is in the planning stages. Course will be held January 20-26, 1980. The subject this year is "Basic Rescue Techniques". Instructors will be National Park Service Experts from Yosemite, Sequoia, and Pinnacles National Monument. Costs are undecided, but as in the past, will be minimal. Because of the very practical nature of the course, space will be limited. The course will be offered for credit at the new Sanborn/Skyline Park Training Facility.

We are in the planning stages of the spring courses. Right now, we are fairly certain of one course "Interpreting the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Bay Area". Harry Batlin of the California State Parks will be the instructor and the course will be held at night at the Sanborn Center. It will be a credit course, so students must be enrolled in the college.

An agreement was signed on June 11, by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to establish a practical park training facility in Sanborn/Skyline County Park. The agreement, between the County and West Valley College, provides a classroom facility, a small operating budget, office and storage space for the Park Management Program at West Valley, in return for maintenance, patrol and interpretive services by the students. The students will be able to experience the operation of a large park (1600 acres) which is education of the

highest order. Sanborn/Skyline is only 10 minutes drive from the Saratoga campus. We applaud the County for their cooperation in this unique adventure.

Three slide tapes are now available for rent or purchase from the program. Money made from this program will be put back into the account to produce more slides and duplication of other programs. All programs are approximately 8 minutes in length.

"Restroom Housekeeping" - \$30.00
Rental - \$10.00
"Campground Maintenance" - \$30.00
Rental - \$10.00
"Patrol Procedures" - \$30.00
Rental - \$10.00

Order directly from the Park Management Program, West Valley College. Make checks payable to "Parks Management Club, West Valley College". The slide/tape programs are currently in use by Los Padres National Forest, San Mateo County, Santa Clara County, and the California State Parks, Santa Cruz Mountain Area.

PRAC 3rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Plans are nearing completion for a joint conference of the Park Rangers Association of California, the California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA), and the Western Interpreters Association (WIA), to be held in March of 1980. The conference, with the theme of "Resource Protection Through Interpretation", will be held on March 5 - 9, at the Holiday Inn in Santa Cruz, marking a return to the site of PRAC's Second Annual Conference.

The March 1980 meeting will be the third annual conference for PRAC, but it is the first time the Park Rangers Association of California has affiliated with any other professional association in any event. CSPRA and PRAC officials in particular feel that this is only the beginning of a long future of cooperation and coordination.

On June 9 of this year, PRAC and CSPRA officials met in Santa Cruz to discuss preliminary plans. Denzil Verardo and Doug Bryce, CSPRA President and Executive Secretary respectively, and member Bob Culbertson represented the California State Park Rangers Association. PRAC President Tom Smith and member Dave Lacleague were present for the Park Rangers Association of California.

The joint conference will hold forth for five days altogether, from Wednesday through Sunday, and will follow this basic outline:

Wednesday will largely be a day for registration and "get acquainted" social activities. Thursday will be devoted to CSPRA's GEC (General Executive Council), with a number of organized tours of local attractions available for PRAC and WIA members. Friday will mark the actual beginning of the joint conference, with the official welcome from the three association Presidents and the keynote speaker. This will be followed by a number of workshops, panels, and other speakers. On Saturday there will be a continuation of the previous day's program of workshops, panels and speakers, followed by the

general meetings of both PRAC and WIA. At this time, CSPRA will meet with their Director, a regular feature of their annual conference. At the completion of Saturday's activities there will be a closing speaker followed by the banquet.

Sunday will wrap up the affair with board meetings for at least two of the participating associations, and should end by noon.

Organizers of the affair assure us that many of the programs and guest speakers are in the process of finalization now, but more detailed information will not be released until all the plans are more solidified.

But, I'm sure that a good time will be had by all!

PRAC MEETING REPORTS

REPORT ON MAY MEETING

Not long ago, a total of four members appeared for the May 2 general meeting of the Park Rangers Association of California. The meeting was held at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Santa Rosa, hosted by Gary Greenough and Janet Ross, representing the Sonoma County Regional Parks District. Also present were PRAC Vice-President Diane Blackman, Secretary Jerry Lawrence, and members Dee Blackman, and Dave Laclergue.

Essentially, the purpose of the rotating, or traveling, general meeting is two-fold. First, it is to allow a small segment of the far-flung membership, or potential membership, to observe and participate in the on-going decision-making process of the Association. Second, and perhaps at this point more important, the Association would be able to introduce itself to the potential membership, and allow those people to become more familiar with the association and its purposes. Because of the lackluster attendance (and this is not to fault Gary and Janet !) we had to be content with an informal discussion on what had initially precipitated the formation of PRAC, as well as some of our more recent activities and successes.

We briefly covered a range of topics which included the SIGNPOST soliciting more literary contributions, as well as supporting the journal with advertising. We discussed the up-coming joint conference (together with the CSPRA & WIA) and the possibility of a more permanent affiliation with a professional association, and we mentioned as well the existence of and/or need for committees dealing with standards and training, publications & job service, action in government, and, again,

affiliation. And finally, as always, we talked about the purposes, objectives, and destiny of the Park Rangers Association, as well as our obvious difficulties with geography, time constraints, and seemingly lack-luster response from the working rangers themselves towards the Association.

Now, that was our end of the deal. PRAC has asked of members or agencies that sponsors the general meetings that they provide a presentation of their agency as well as refreshments. For those of you who didn't make it, you missed a look at what must be one of the finest local park districts in the Bay Area, and California as a whole.

Gary and Janet worked together to present the material, and an article on their agency from the information provided by them will follow. The meeting was adjourned to the rousing stomping, banging and blowing of the VFW marching band, practicing in the corridor outside the meeting hall. Again, thanks to Rangers Janet Ross and Gary Greenough, of the Sonoma County Regional Parks District, for organizing and sponsoring the June meeting.

REPORT ON AUGUST MEETING

The City of Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park Ranger Station was the site of the August 1st meeting of the Park Rangers Association of California. Although the attendance at this meeting easily doubled that of the June meeting, those in attendance represented only one agency - Oakland City Parks. The guest speaker, Gary Martin of East Bay Regional Parks, represented a second.

Association officers present were Vice-president Diane Blackman of Oakland City Parks & Treasurer Pat Hayes of Fremont City Parks. President Tom Smith was still away for the summer at Yosemite National Park. Also present was SIGNPOST Editor Dave Laclergue, also of the NPS.

Gary Martin, a member of the East Bay Regional Park's Police Marine Services Unit began the meeting with a background of and introduction to the EBRPD, followed by a lengthy discussion of their law enforcement problems and successes.

The meeting closed with a treasurer's report from Pat Hayes, and a short, informal discussion on suggested future directions for PRAC. Pat reported that from our February conference the membership had grown from 50 to 86 or more, and that there was at least \$830 in the treasury.

Again, thanks to Diane Blackman, and the Rangers of Oakland for hosting the fine August meeting.

OCTOBER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

If having an agenda for the meetings is an indication of progress, then we have come a long way. An agenda is exactly what we had at the most recent Executive Board meeting, held October 10, 1979 in Fremont. President Tom Smith, back after his annual absence in Yosemite; Vice-President Diane Blackman; Treasurer Pat Hayes; Membership Chairman Worth Young and Editor Dave Laclergue were present.

Pat reported that there were currently 93 members, with a total of \$972.00 in the treasury. Diane, Pat and Dave brought Tom and Worth up-to-date on the general meetings of the past summer. A proposal was made that the summer general meeting dates be dropped, citing poor attendance during the usually hectic summer season. Wednesday, December 12, was tentatively chosen for

the date of a general meeting/social, at the Sanborn Park training facility. There will be more information on this soon.

Tom reported on the progress of the joint conference in March. The five-day schedule is nearing its final stage, but there is still an opening that PRAC might be able to fill, to help balance the largely interpretive-oriented theme of the conference. Tom noted that the Seacliff Golf Course in Aptos has been selected as the site for the golf tournament. He also added that a square dance has been scheduled, but there is still a need for a caller (that's your cue, Y'all!).

Under new business, Tom recommended a change in the PRAC address, possibly shifting it to the Sanborn training facility. At this point, Pat Hayes suggested that we might make better use of a mail receiving service, and he will investigate that possibility.

Worth Young reported on his trip to Southern California to testify on the need for ranger services for the Los Angeles County Beaches. This was in response to a letter from PRAC member Paul Pettit of Manhattan Beach. Prior to Worth's appearance in front of the L.A. County Board of Supervisors, PRAC provided written testimony. Worth then appeared for an oral statement of PRAC's position, also answering questions and emphasizing the need for a comprehensive Resource Management Plan for the district. Worth assured us that he would be making a more complete report for SIGNPOST shortly. Tom Smith authorized the reimbursement of \$98 to Worth Young for funds spent during his testimonial trip, and officially thanked Worth for his fine efforts on behalf of PRAC.

The Board moved on to a discussion of alternate funding for SIGNPOST, which includes advertising from businesses not ordinarily associated with parks, as well as funding from foundations or grant monies.

Tom made the suggestion that PRAC is ready for an annual operating budget, and all agreed. Up until now, PRAC has been operating on a "management by crisis" basis, and he proposed that a budget format should be developed by the first of the year for approval at the conference in March.

Finally, Tom was glad to announce that we have made a valuable regional coordinator contact in Southern California. His name is Don Pimental, of Palos Verdes Estates. Don worked for 32 years (!) as a seasonal in Yosemite National Park, and is a retiring school teacher. Welcome aboard!

"T" SHIRT ORDER FORM

<u>Types</u>	<u>Colors</u>	<u>Sizes</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Man	Blue; Tan.	Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large.	\$6.50
Woman	Blue; Tan.	Small, Medium, Large.	\$7.50
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(price includes tax and shipping)

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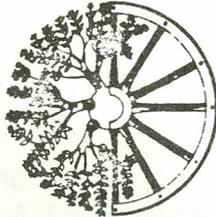
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JOINT WORKSHOP - CONVENTION

March 5 - 9, 1980

Holiday Inn, Santa Cruz, CA

"RESOURCE PRESERVATION THROUGH INTERPRETATION"

Key Note Speaker: Grant W. Sharpe, Professor of Outdoor Recreation University of Washington and author of Interpreting The Environment.

Other presentations will be made by: J. Alan Wagar, Bud Getty, Ron Russo, Tony Look, Robert Reese, Dick Kuehner, and many more!

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Employed by _____
(if this is a student membership, list school and major)

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(includes retired and non-uniformed personnel with
previous uniformed experience)

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(uniformed seasonal experience with a park
agency)

Agency.....\$25.00 ()

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(anyone interested in the Ranger profession,
but who has not had previous uniformed experience)

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(any individual or group that wishes to financially
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