Training Session Successful. Fifty three park rangers attended the fall training at West Valley College co-sponsored by PRAC. The subject was "The Park Ranger, Without Weapons", which was designed for those in the park field without POST background. The instruction was great, and a good time was had by all.

Other Workshops and Conferences: March 16-20, 1983, Santa Monica Mountains in southern California. Annual WIA National Conference. Theme is "Interpretation is Management Too," which has three tracks: A hands on track for the field interpreter, a mid-level track for managers, and an executive level management track. A variety of interpretive presentations are being planned including demonstrations on video and computer technology, report writing, children's interpretation, panel discussions on personnel management, budgeting program development, time management, and career development. Sounds like an exciting conference. Contact Doug Bryce for a registration packet, or contact Paul Romero at the Riverside County Parks Dept. (714) 787-2551. As I understand it, the costs will be very slight (under $100 for the entire conference, lodging and meals included).

As a result of the fall training session, PRAC is now attempting to develop, and set a date for, a course in the spring (at least before summer) in "Law Enforcement for Managers." It was not surprising to learn that everyone in the training session had a supervisor that did not have a law enforcement background. Discussions brought out that this type of course was not only necessary, but a priority item. Course content has not been determined other than that of legal update, and civil liabilities. If you have any ideas that we might include in this course, please let me know as soon as possible.


"Nevada and California Parks-- Facing Professional Challenges" Plans are underway for next year's PRAC conference. The dates are set, so make a note to yourself and mark your 1983 calendar (when you get one). The place is the El Dorado Hotel and Casino in Reno, Nevada. Once again we will be meeting with the California State Park Rangers Association. And, for the first time, because we are in Nevada, we're inviting Nevada park folks to join us.

This is going to be a unique convention. Not only are we going out of state for the first time, but we are working on getting there by train! Workshops sessions will include speakers from Nevada, CSPRA and PRAC, so we can learn from others in our profession. There will be a lot of fun events, as always. Of course there are all kinds of possibilities for "recreation" in the Reno area.
A committee, headed by John Kolb of CSPRA, and Tom Hofsomer of PRAC, is already busy planning. If you have any ideas for workshop topics, get in touch with Tom, or write to John Kolb, California State Capital Museum, Sacramento Area, 111 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Pistol Team, Tennis Team, and Golf Teams

CSPRA has thrown a challenge to PRAC for a pistol match which will be held on Tuesday, March 8. Also a tennis and golf challenge has been accepted. Those of you that are interested should contact me as soon as you can, and start getting in shape. Maybe we should have a "dart throwing" contest, as well.

THE GHOST RANGER Submitted by Richard Gonzales Santa Clara County Parks

When a new ranger is first assigned to a park unit, he meets other personnel, undergoes instruction, and proceeds to his assigned duties. A mysterious situation begins to unfold! He comes upon a park visitor one day who is violating one of the park ordinances. Upon inquiry, he is told by the visitor, that the "other ranger" told him it was alright to do what he was doing.

He begins to think. "Maybe the other ranger is new and didn't learn the ordinances. Maybe the supervisor didn't give him complete instructions. He forgets about it and goes on with his duties. But, time and time again, he runs into the same situation with rule violators—the mysterious "other ranger."

Who can he be? Is one of his fellow workers a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde? They all seem like dedicated employees.

One night the mystery is solved. Knowing that he is the only ranger on duty at closing time, he is again told by a violator that "the other ranger said it was ok." Now he realizes that the "other ranger" is a figment of the imagination; a mythical person thought up by all law breakers in the park. This "other rangers" receives no pay, no fringe benefits, and no retirement. He is truly an ideal employee, who is always on duty in the mind of the violator.

So, on that cold, dark windy night, when you are closing the park and you come upon the citizen breaking a park ordinance, remember not to be afraid, because you will not be alone. A mysterious "other ranger" is always there to help you.

Dates to Remember

PRAC, Convention March 8-11, 1983

Watch for dates of "Law Enforcement for Managers" course.

(Alert your supervisors of its coming)

March 16-20 WIA National Conference, Santa Monica Mountains.
Grist cartoons presented the lighter side of life.

"There ain't nothin' that's ALL wrong - even a clock that don't run is right twice a day!"

Al Rutledge & I.B.L.

"The only man who ever got all his work done by Friday was Robinson Caruso!"

Al Rutledge & I.B.L.

"Ya gotta learn from tha mistakes of others-ya jist can't live long enough ta make 'em all yerself."

Jim Burnett & I.B.L.

"Ya can get friends free, but ya hafta make enemies.

Jim Burnett & I.B.L.

Watch out when things git easy - you may be goin' down hill.

Jim Burnett & I.B.L.

"If yer afraid some new idea might upset the organization boat, forget it. There's usually too much lead in tha keel for it to capsize."

Jim Burnett & I.B.L.

"A truth told with bad intent beats all the lies you can invent."

Jim Burnett & I.B.L.

"There ain't never time to do a job right, but it seems like there's always time to do it over again."

Jim Burnett & I.B.L.