



THE SIGNPOST

MAY - JUNE

vol.12 - 3

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

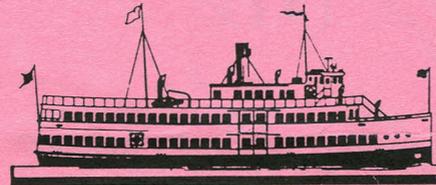
By Bill Hendricks,
PRAC President

I know what you're thinking. Here is another new President with another pep talk, telling us how great PRAC is; how members could be more involved; and how we represent the past, present, and future of the park ranger profession in the State of California. Guess what?... You're right!

I firmly believe that PRAC has something to offer all park personnel; however it is the membership, not seven or eight board members meeting quarterly, who must make the difference. As many of you know, PRAC saw some pretty lean times just a few years ago. Under John Ramirez' guidance as President we have begun to turn things around, but there is still much to do. If the Board maintains its high energy level, and if membership continues to grow, we can make a significant contribution to our park resources.

PRAC has successfully organized two training sessions this year. Cliff Lindquist of the City of Walnut Creek should be praised for hosting an excellent interpretive training seminar this past April. This Fall, a workshop on handling domestic and wild animals is scheduled. You may also expect future sessions in the Spring and Winter of 1989, so mark your calendars.

I would also like to note that PRAC honored three members in March at the annual conference. John Ramirez and Tom Hofsommer were recognized for their commitment to PRAC and to the ranger profession. Tom "Smitty" Smith was awarded our first honorary membership. See you at the June 10th Board Meeting.



A WELCOME TO NEW PRAC MEMBERS

The Executive Board of the Park Rangers Association of California wishes to welcome the following new members:

- Mike Conely, West Valley College
- Myra Saylor, West Valley College
- Kathy Dobelbower, Los Gatos Parks & Forestry
- Lester Hodgins, Palo Alto Parks & Open Space
- Pennia Saylor, West Valley College
- Geoff Nunez, Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation
- Don Rocha, West Valley College
- Paul G. Meyers, West Valley College
- Carol Elwyn, West Valley College

We hope your affiliation with PRAC will be rewarding. You are urged to become actively involved in future activities.

REVISED PRAC SLIDESHOW
AVAILABLE

Bill Hendricks is still looking for slides to revise the PRAC Slideshow. Slides are needed in the areas of interpretation, maintenance, resource management, law enforcement, and training. All slides must be in horizontal format for transfer to videotape. This is a good chance to get your agency some statewide exposure. Send slides to Bill Hendricks, 1400 Marshall Petaluma Road, Petaluma, CA., 94952.



1988 PRAC ELECTION
RESULTS

Some new and familiar faces are on the 1988 version of the PRAC Executive Board. Bill Hendricks was elected President, and Glenn Kinney from the Livermore Area Recreation & Park District will serve the year left in the vacated Coastal Representative position. Tom Hofsommer is the new Vice-President, and Dave Lydick from Sacramento County Parks was elected to be the new Valley Representative. Michelle Alex, Chris Crockett, and Doug Bryce will continue respectively as the Secretary, "Signpost" editor, and Executive Manager. Completing the final year of their terms are Annette Coleman (Coastal Representative), Bruce Baker (Treasurer), and Chuck Tello (Southern Representative).

Congratulations to all our new Board members, and continued praise for all continuing members.

TOM "SMITTY" SMITH
PRAC'S FIRST HONORARY MEMBER

By Bill Hendricks,
Marin Municipal Water District

In March, at the 1988 Annual Conference, the Park Rangers Association of California recognized Thomas A. Smith—"Smitty"—as its first honorary member. Smitty was well deserving of the award, which acknowledges an individual for distinguished service devoted to the objectives of the Association.

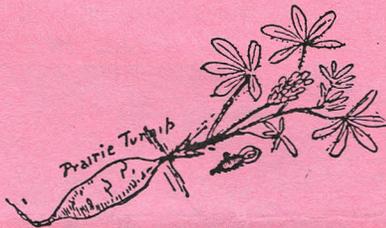
A native of Indiana, Smitty says he is a diehard "hoosier" who even has corpuscles shaped like little basketballs. A graduate of Purdue University, Tom received his masters degree from Indiana University. He also attended Northern Arizona and Arizona State universities, and Grand Canyon College. Tom has certificates from the National Park Service Albright Training Center (Park Operations), Colorado State University (National Forest Recreation), and the National Park Service Law Enforcement Training Program at Santa Rosa Junior College.

Smitty's outdoor interests were fostered by his involvement, as a boy, in the Boy Scouts of America. He is still active in Adult Leader Training, and has received the Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver for distinguished service to youth. Other awards include special achievement from the National Park Service for researching and developing a living history presentation on the role of the cavalry in the history of Yosemite National Park.

Tom has been an instructor in the The West Valley College Park Management Program since 1970. The program was started by him and John Nicholas. Since 1976,

over 500 rangers and forest technicians have passed through in-service training at West Valley. Tom has also been a seasonal park ranger/horse patrolman in the protection division at Yosemite for many years. He purchased his horse after its retirement from the Park Service, "so it would'nt end up in an ALPO can." This year, Smitty followed suit, retiring from the Park Service, to pursue his hobbies of riding and shoveling.

A founding father of PRAC, Smitty was the second President, serving two terms. He exemplifies the finest standards of the park ranger profession; and with his wife Mildred and five children, PRAC thanks, cherishes, and honors Thomas A. Smith as its first honorary member.



PARK DISCOVERY

"Buried Treasure-Sugarloaf Open Space," from the California Park & Recreation Society, Park Operations Newsletter, Spring 1988.

Eye-popping ridgeline views of Mount Diablo and nearly three miles of scenic trails await visitors to the Sugarloaf Open Space- one Walnut Creek's most inconspicuous "buried treasures."

Sugarloaf's relative obscurity, compared to the better-known Shell Ridge Open Space, baffles resident ranger Cliff Lindquist.

"Sugarloaf could be a very, very popular place," said Lindquist, who came to the 177 acre... area in 1982. "The land is unique, and we need to give citizens knowledge of its uniqueness."

Not only is Sugarloaf close to downtown and easily accessible from Interstate 680 in southern Walnut Creek, but it's undeveloped hills and valleys are linked to the other open space areas via a trail network.

The Twin Oaks Picnic area offers a tranquil creekside setting, volleyball (courts), horseshoe (pits), and tire swings for visitors; and there are facilities for the handicapped.

Sugarloaf is also a popular equestrian haven, with bridle trails crisscrossing the ridges and pastures.

Walnut Creek Youth Council and Scout groups have done community projects in recent years to add amenities such as trees, a display board, and a flagpole.

A public open house at Sugarloaf will be held Saturday, May 30 from 9 a.m. to noon. From Interstate 680 south, take Rudgear Road to Young Valley Road to reach (the park).

(Editor's Note: Cliff Lindquist, the ranger mentioned in this article, is an active member of PRAC. Last month he coordinated a successful interpretive seminar for PRAC members, and in 1987 he was the PRAC Vice-President.)



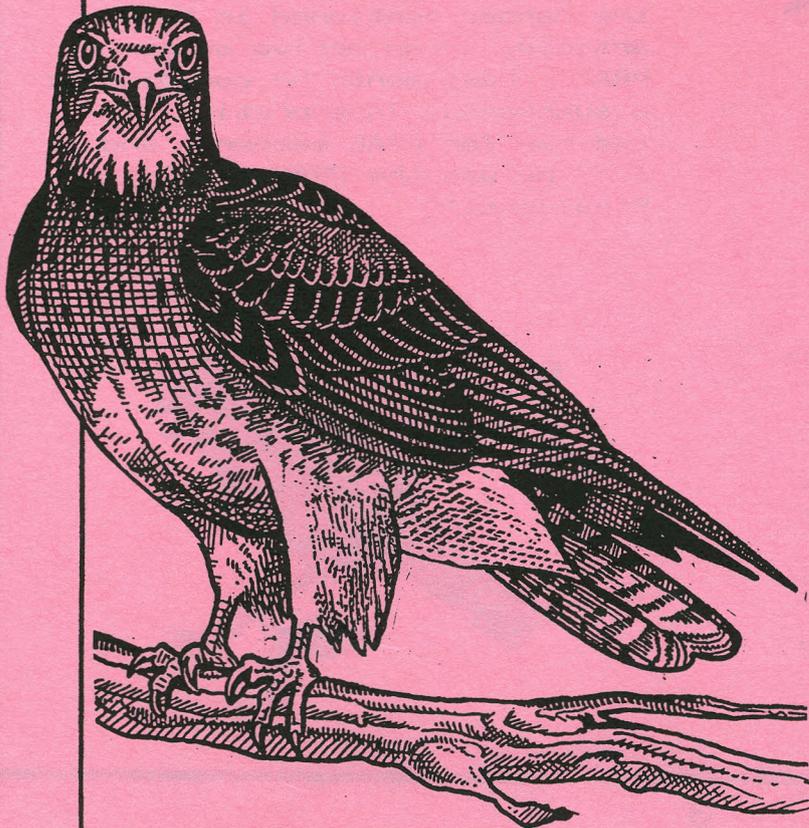
TWO POSITIONS ADDED TO
P. R. A. C. EXECUTIVE BOARD

At the 1988 Annual Conference in March, the PRAC Executive Board made two By-Laws Amendments.

The first amendment added a Current Past President position to the Board. This position will automatically be filled by outgoing Association presidents. John Ramirez of the Tulare County Parks Department, is the inaugural appointee.

The Board also approved the creation of a Student Director position which will be appointed by the President. This office was created to represent the growing number of parks field students throughout California, who are joining PRAC.

Those student members interested in the Student Director position should contact PRAC President Bill Hendricks at (415) 449-5267/663-9305 or write him at 1400 Marshall Petaluma Road, Petaluma, CA., 94952.



A NEW BOARD MEMBER'S WELCOME
TO JUNE PRAC MEETING

Hello fellow rangers, my name is Glenn Kinney and I am your new PRAC Coastal Representative. At the beginning of the Annual Conference in March then Vice-President Bill Hendricks asked me to attend a Board meeting with the hope of becoming more deeply involved in the Association. Little did I know that by the end of the Conference I would not only be a new Board member, but I would also be hosting the next PRAC Board Meeting. And I'm glad I accepted this offer, because it will give me a chance to take you all back in time....

On June 10, 1988 at 6:30 p.m. I would like to invite all PRAC members and friends to Ravenswood Historical Park. Administered by the Livermore Area Recreation & Park District, Ravenswood is located at 2647 Arroyo Road.

I always look forward to meeting other rangers- making new friends and exchanging new ideas. With this in mind, experience a bit of history in the good ol' summertime. For further information contact me at Sycamore Grove Park, (415) 449-0491.

PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF
CALIFORNIA

PROPOSED 1988 BUDGET

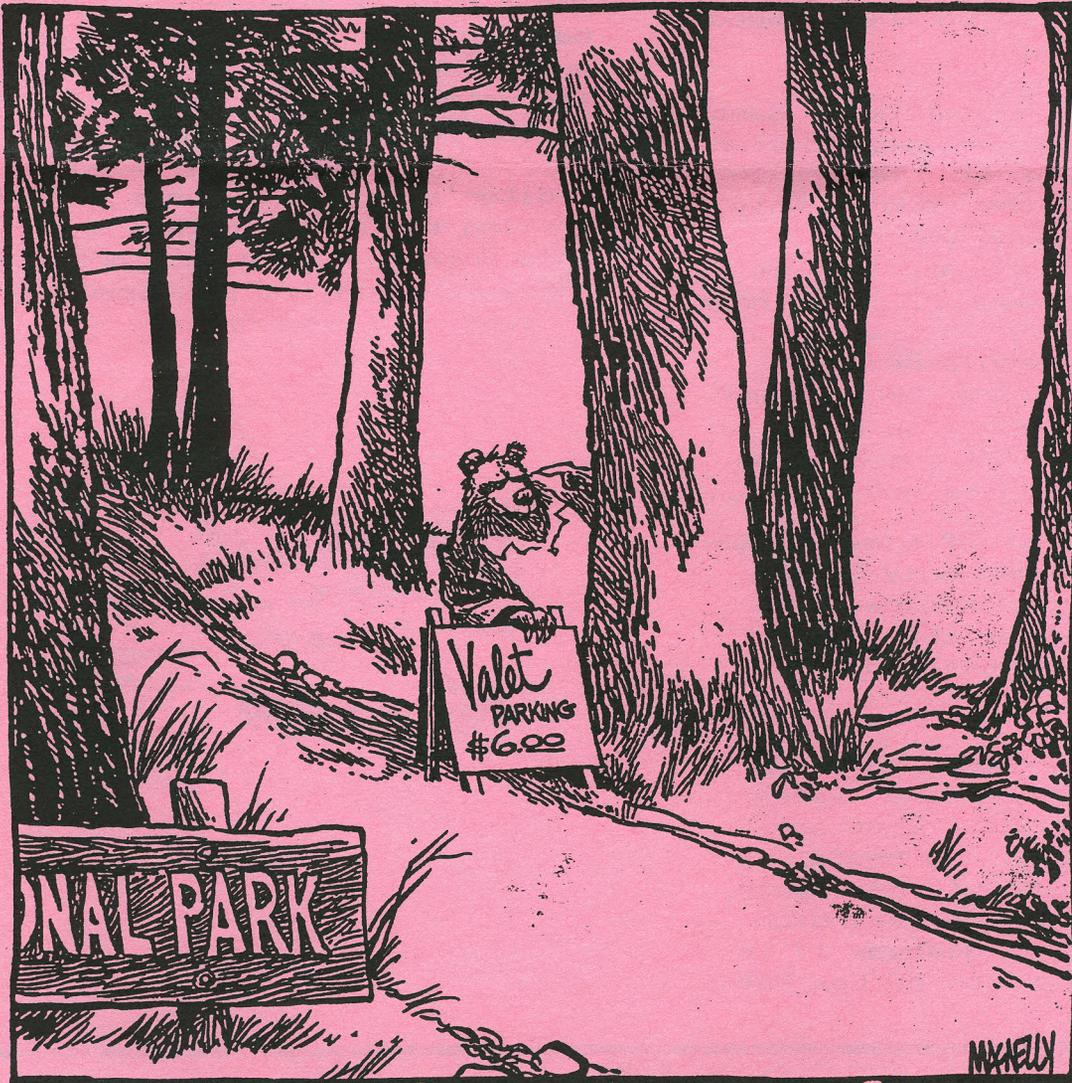
INCOME:

Memberships	\$2,000.00	
Annual Conference Proceeds	50.00	
Interest Income	100.00	
Training Proceeds	400.00	
-Total		\$2,550.00

EXPENSES:

Executive Manager	\$180.00	
Annual Conference	500.00	
Executive Board Expenses	300.00	
Publications	720.00	
Bank Service Charges	0	
Training	400.00	
Travel Expenses	450.00	
-Total		\$2,550.00

Bruce T. Baker, Treasurer
March 8, 1988



"WHERE DID ALL THE WATER GO?"

Excerpted From An Article By
Frank Sweeney,
San Jose Mercury News
April 17, 1988

It's 7 o'clock on a Sunday morning, the gates to Calero Reservoir (in San Jose) won't open for another half-hour, and the line of cars and pickups towing boat trailers already stretches a third of a mile down narrow McKean Road.

Some of those who hope to get on the water have there since dawn.

That's because in these dry days only the first 43 boats and jetskis...will be allowed on the water. Those too far back in the line...will spend four to eight hours in a dusty parking lot for slots to open up on the crowded reservoir.

That's pleasure boating in Santa Clara County in the second year of meager rainfall. Of the 10 reservoirs in the county, only Calero has enough water to accomodate powerboats, and it's clearly not enough.... "We have more people than we have water," said Dennis Besson, the County's senior park ranger. "We just ask people to be patient, and we'll put them on the lake as soon as possible...."

Even in the best of times, power boats are allowed only on the four biggest reservoirs. But this year most of the... reservoirs are bone dry or nearly so.

Anderson Reservoir, the seven-mile long giant of the system east of Morgan Hill that can handle more than 300 boats, is empty. So is Coyote Reservoir, east of Gilroy, and Lexington Reservoir, along Highway 17 in the mountains south of Los Gatos.

The limit on the number of boats... was imposed for safety reasons. Calero is only 2 miles long and about a half-mile wide at most.

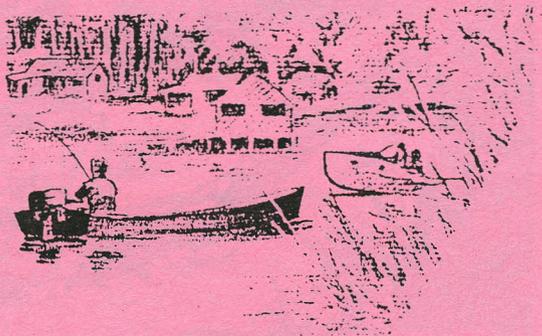
When the limit is reached..."it's one off, one on," said Luana Ransier, a park management student at West Valley College who on weekends works at Calero's entrance booth.

Ransier is the one who makes the count and, when tempers flare, incurs the wrath of waiting boaters....

What irks those waiting in line...are the people who when they finally pull their craft off the lake leisurely clean them up in the parking lot.

"Sometimes they'll even wax their boats...," Ransier said. "But we don't know if they're going back or not," Ransier said, so until the boater drives out past the entrance booth, she can't let another boat on the lake.

(Editor's Note: For those of you working those hectic lake areas this Summer, I hope this article makes you feel not so alone. Best of luck this season.)



PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

"THE SIGNPOST"
NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

"The Signpost" is always in need of timely and interesting articles and stories for PRAC members to read. You are our most important information resource. Your daily exploits are unique, and worthy of other members attention. Please take a few minutes to read the following guidelines for article submission; and then send a story in. We want to see your work in as many future issues of "The Signpost" as possible, so start writing!

Christopher Crockett
"The Signpost" Editor

I. Newsletter Story Suggestions:

- A. Personnel Stories- New staff, departing staff, staff accomplishments.
- B. Unique programs, facilities, resource management ideas, or anything about your agency you feel is newsworthy.
- C. Information on upcoming training, programs, or events you feel would be of interest to other PRAC members.
- D. Speak-Out: We welcome editorials concerning issues related to our profession.
- E. Any feature story you come across from another source (ie., magazine) which relates to the park profession.

II. 1988-89 Submission Deadlines:

July/August- June 15, 1988
September/October- August 15, 1988
November/December- October 15, 1988
January/February- December 10, 1988
March/April- February 10, 1989

Send your newsletter submissions to:
Christopher Crockett
"The Signpost" Editor
806 South Saratoga Avenue, #P206
San Jose, CA., 95129

Stories can also be called in at (408) 249-4312.

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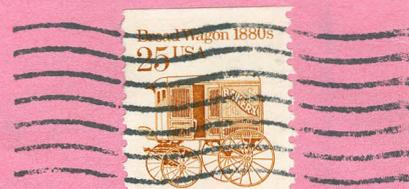
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