



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY
MARCH 1985

P. O. BOX 28366, SACRAMENTO, CA 95828

Meet me at the fair! by Phil Holcomb, Lake Mendocino

What's a park ranger from the Sacramento District (U S Army Corps of Engineers) doing telling 3,000 - 5,000 people daily about the Mississippi River? That was the question I asked myself in October as I stood on the deck of the dredge *KENNEDY* at the 1984 World's Fair in New Orleans and did just that.

Last spring I volunteered to represent the Sacramento District at the Corps' exhibit at the Louisiana World Exposition. I figured it would be a good opportunity to meet employees from other Districts, see the fair, and eat lots of Cajun and Creole food. Well, I met my expectations, and more...

I've worked Corps exhibits at local county fairs where we staff booths and tell the public about the virtues of water safety and recreation at our local projects. I assumed staffing the *Kennedy* would be a similar experience. But much to my surprise, the Corps went all out in preparing a \$2 million, superb multi-media exhibit worthy of a world's fair. If you haven't seen the fair, sorry, it closed November 11. However, depending on funding, you may still be able to see the exhibit if it remains on permanent display as planned.

The exhibit is a 234 foot long, 44-foot wide, paddlewheel dustpan dredge. From 1932 to 1979, the *Kennedy* maintained a 300-mile section of the Mississippi River in Illinois and Missouri, the area of Mark Twain's boyhood home. The vessel had been mothballed in St. Louis since 1979, but was brought to New Orleans for complete restoration in February 1984. The vessel and exhibit were ready by the fair's opening May 12.

Under the theme "Managing the Might of the Mississippi," a series of exhibits aboard the dredge details hydrologic and geologic history as well as the Corps' role in managing the nation's largest river.

The approach to the dredge guides visitors through a 19th-century kiosk (looks sort of like a gazebo) housing a scale model of the dredge and a short biography of its namesake, James Kennedy. Next, visitors ascend a circular ramp on a barge adjacent to the vessel. A 56-foot long abstract model of the Mississippi River, made of acrylic tubing cut in lengths to suggest the relative depths of the river and colored to show sedimentation patterns, is mounted and suspended in the center of the ramp.

My assignment was to interpret the first exhibit, the "Menace Room" (No, Dennis didn't live here). Formerly, the officer's quarters, this room now houses enlarged photos of the huge 1927 flood on the Mississippi. These photos were displayed with jagged edges as reminders of the destructive menace of the river. About six times an hour I gave a short talk on the history of the "great flood" and answered questions.

Visitors proceed to the "Command Center" (staffed during my stint by an engineer from Omaha District who knew about as much about dredges as I did). Here they experience an audiovisual simulation of a major Mississippi flood, and the engineering techniques employed by the Corps to insure safe passage of excess flows away from heavily populated areas.

From the "Command Center," visitors walk along the *Kennedy's* outer deck on the river side for a view of the Mississippi. Back Inside, they pass through a "time tunnel" where are displayed photographs of the Corps' work from the nation's earliest years to the present. The tunnel leads into an exhibit of the construction of Lock and Dam 26 on the Mississippi River in Illinois.

Next stop is a small theater showing the Corps' award-winning film on the Mississippi's 2,248 mile journey. Filmed from a helicopter dodging ships, flying over and under bridges, and skimming tree tops this movie gives the viewer a feeling of actually flying. This won the pilot not only the award but a few citations from the FAA.

The last exhibit area on the lowermost deck shows the working parts of the dredge *Kennedy*. The original machinery was left intact, with the water, electrical, and mechanical systems color-coded to show the functions of the equipment.

Photographs of historic and modern methods of dredging and bank stabilization, as well as current photos of projects for hydropower and recreation, complete the exhibit as visitors exit the *Kennedy* from a lower ramp.

Visitors felt quite free to ask whatever was on their mind. ... Except for a few unusual questions, I found most visitors surprisingly well informed about the Corps' mission on the river. Actually, I learned a great deal about the Corps' work on the Mississippi River from the visitors.

The exhibit staff represented a wide spectrum of professions, among them: rangers, military officers, outdoor recreation planners, and non-technical personnel. By staffing the exhibit with employees from such diverse backgrounds, the public had a unique opportunity to see some of the different hats the Corps wears. Being able to talk with the staff on a one-to-one basis helped visitors gain a broader understanding of the Corps. Such personalized contact with the public had much to do with the reason the display was rated as one of the fair's best exhibits. No other exhibit offered this; most were self-guiding and automated, offering minimum contact between employees and visitors. Tours of duty for visiting staff ranged from two - six weeks, a six day week alternating between day and night shifts. Since the average tour lasted about four weeks, a lot of Corps employees had the opportunity to work at the fair. A continuous influx also helped keep morale and enthusiasm high, which contributed to the visitor's overall positive experience on the dredge.

Although we worked six days a week, there was time left to see New Orleans. ... In my five-week stint I tried to eat my way through town, sampling as many dishes and restaurants as time allowed.

When I wasn't eating or planning where to eat next, I could always find something happening along the waterfront or in the French Quarter. New Orleans offers a wide variety of entertainment, from museums and nature centers to Mississippi cruises. When the sun sets over the city, the "Quarter" comes alive with entertainment and shopping. Many of the streets are closed to traffic to accomodate the hordes of people who flock here. I barely skimmed the surface of restaurants and sights in New Orleans, and I am already looking forward to my next visit.. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM PAR FOR THE CORPS OCT-DEC 1984.

B.C. [T] Johnny Hart



EDITOR'S CORNER

I hope everyone is as thrilled as I am to see the SIGNPOST in print again. Rangers have told us that the newsletter was "the reason why we joined - for the information."

SIGNPOST will supplement the CALIFORNIA RANGER. SIGNPOST will contain information about you, by you, and for you. We Want Information about your agency and items of interest to you. We're hoping you'll shoot your mouths off and reach the members of the best ranger association in the State.

Well, the pages are vacant so feel free to submit articles, news, poems, your own cartoons, artwork, etc??? If you're concerned about your writing ability, don't be. We'll be glad to help you out. In the meantime, we'll be personally contacting everyone requesting their input.

PRAC is on the move. So are you. Let your fellow members know about it! Mail your articles to:

Jeff Ohlfs
13923 Malcolm Avenue
Saratoga, CA 95070

I will be compiling each issue and Doug will do the layout. Some of the Sections we are looking for are:

FEATURE ARTICLES

IN THE NEWS - newsclippings involving parks & rangers

PRAC FAMILY TREE - we'll be highlighting various park agencies in each issue.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP - "want ads" from you concerning problems you're having and wanting to ask other members how they've handled them.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS - news concerning your personal side, ie marriages, children, job promotion, awards, etc. Toot your own horn or that of your friends.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY - for you trivia buffs, dates of historical importance - when was your park or agency established.

CALENDAR - upcoming seminars, meetings, and training dates.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES - job vacancies & training.

TRAINING OR TECHNIQUES

We need help! The Central Region Representative position is vacant. Do we hear a volunteer.

Remember, we plan to see everyone at Palmdale! Bring any comments on this issue and SIGNPOST's production with you.

Jeff Ohlfs, Editor

Doug Bryce, Layout & Production

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

During the past year your Executive Board met on three occasions and accomplished many positive things: too many in fact to list here. Of major importance are four objectives which were developed in order to help **PRAC** strive towards our stated goals. These objectives are:

1. Working together closely with CSPRA by holding joint meetings, communicating by phone and letter, and automatically sending CSPRA copies of everything that is being done or proposed by **PRAC**.
2. Improve communications among **PRAC** rangers from throughout the state by greatly increasing our participation in the SIGNPOST newsletters and in the CALIFORNIA RANGER.
3. Initiate social events and top quality training in all three regions of the state.
4. Solidify committees. Identify committee chairpersons and receive periodic reports on progress.

I have found the Board members to be energetic, self motivated, and highly dedicated and I am looking forward to the successful achievement of our goals.

On the subject of the Annual Conference, this years promises to be the best conference yet. Jeff Price and the rest of the CSPRA group are doing a lot of work in preparing for the conference. **PRAC** needs to become actively involved as much as possible. I recently spoke to Jeff regarding how **PRAC** could best participate. It seems that some people will be needed to arrive in Palmdale a little early in order to help with set up duties and to register people as they arrive. Those wishing to lend a hand please let me know. Our Southern California Representative, Chuck Tello, is contacting Southern California Rangers in an effort to beef up Southern California attendance at the conference. The more members and prospective members who attend the better since high attendance will surely lead to an increased unity of rangers statewide.

I would like to commend Jeff Ohlfs and Doug Bryce for their efforts in getting the SIGNPOST back on track. This is of major importance in striving for professionalism as it will serve as a means of communication with rangers throughout the state. It is also important as a job finding source for those rangers in that situation, and above all it should be fun! I strongly encourage everyone to participate by sending articles, notes, comments, complaints, etc., so that we can all share our experiences.

IN THE NEWS...

DEAD LIZARD NATIONAL PARK Twenty suspected Kenyan criminals awaiting trial made their escape after a three foot long monitor lizard caused a stampede in a Nairobi courtroom. After bailiffs beat the lizard to death, the magistrate suggested that the courthouse be declared a national park. (Econews 12/84)

FIRST WOMAN NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISOR The first female Forest Supervisor was named to California's Tahoe National Forest. Geraldine Larson will oversee 800,000 acres of national forest land. Larson is a native of New York City. She never saw a National Forest until she married and took a cross-country trip with her husband. Larson holds a master's degree in botany from UC Berkeley. (San Francisco Chronicle 1/12/85)

LOWER SPEED LIMIT FOR PANTHERS Florida lowered its nighttime speed limit by 10 MPH on Everglades highways, hoping to reduce the number of panthers killed on highways through the endangered animals' habitat. Florida's total population of panthers is between 20 and 30. Seventeen panthers have been killed since 1972 - eight by automobiles and nine by poachers. (San Jose Mercury News 1/17/85)

HUE AND CRY A developer is someone who wants to build a cabin in the woods. An environmentalist is someone who already has a cabin in the woods.

WORLD HERITAGE SITE California's Yosemite National Park was added to the United Nations World Heritage List last month. This establishes international recognition for one of America's most marvelous natural wonders. (Oxnard Press Courier 1/22/85)

INTERNATIONAL PARKS MERIT AWARDS The Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas, IUCN, has established an International Parks Merit Award program to acknowledge the "unsung heroes of conservation" and provide some tangible recognition of their efforts. Two of the 1984 recipients were: 1981 DECEASED GUARDS OF VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK (Zaire) The inscription reads: "During the turmoil between 1960 and 1967, over twenty rangers gave their lives in the defense of Virunga National Park. Their valor in this critical period ensured the survival of a world heritage site for all humanity." SGT. MAJOR PETER LOGWE AND THE KIDEPO VALLEY NATIONAL PARK RANGER FORCE (Uganda)..." for the team's long record of distinguished service in confronting well-armed aggressive poachers. This ranger force has displayed numerous acts of courage, particularly over the past three years. Often outnumbered by better-armed poachers, this force has continually faced fire from automatic rifles, mortars, rocket launchers, and machine guns as a result of which eight rangers have been killed in action over the past decade. In addition, in 1980, the force as a whole suffered during the famine which affected Karamoja; two of the rangers' children died of starvation, yet there are no recorded incidents of rangers poaching to feed themselves during that time. Peter Logwe, a ranger since 1969 and leader of the force since 1976, has consistently exposed himself to danger from ambush and exchange of fire." (Parks, Jan-Feb-Mar 1984) (Editor's Note: and we thought we had it rough!)

NO SHORTCUTTING TRAILS IN POLAND! Bialowieza Forest Preserve (Poland). "Access to the preserve is severely limited. Small groups of Hikers are permitted to follow carefully designed pathways, but always in the company of a ranger. If any one presumes to litter, stray off the path, or-worse yet-raise their voice, they are instantly reprimanded. All traces of humankind, and most especially noise, are kept to a minimum. If a Park official needs to carry anything into the preserve, he does so only with a rubber-tired horse cart; if a fallen tree needs to be trimmed or removed, it is cut up with a handsaw, then brought out by human or equine muscle power. Souvenir taking, even the least mushroom, is forbidden." (Smithsonian 5/78)

POLICE RESERVES PATROLLING PARKS - Walnut Creek Police Reserve Officers began a new patrol program, in June 1984, for parks and trail areas. Officers ride specially equipped mountain bicycles while wearing special uniforms designed for bicycle use. They patrol day and evening hours with emphasis on weekends. The program is staffed by volunteer officers. The program covers the city maintained community parks and 2400 acres of open space with 13 miles of trails. (California Peace Officer 12/84)

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

U S Forest Service established February 1, 1905.
Death Valley National Monument created February 11, 1933.
Civilian Conservation Corps established March 31, 1933.
Yellowstone turns 113 on March 1st.
Happy Birthday, Parks Canada! (100 years of heritage conservation began with the world's third national park, Banff National Park.)

CALENDAR

March 15 - 18, 1985 CSPRA-PRAC Convention Palmdale, CA **SPRINGTIME ON THE DESERT**. For more information or registration contact Doug Bryce, P. O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA 95828. (916) 381-4620.

PRAC FAMILY TREE

E B M U D - Watershed & Recreation by Jeffrey Lewis, Ranger Naturalist II

Beautiful lakes, secret hills and valleys on East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) offers a peaceful recreation experience far removed from life in the San Francisco-Oakland Bay area.

EBMUD is a publicly-owned utility providing water to Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The district also provides sewage treatment for the Oakland-Berkeley and other areas and maintains recreation facilities on its 55,000 acres of watershed land and reservoirs.

EBMUD owns five reservoirs in the east bay hills - Chabot, San Pablo, Lafayette, Upper San Leandro, and Briones; and two reservoirs in the mother lode country on the Mokelumne River - Pardee and Lake Comanche. The east bay Reservoirs serve as storage facilities for the billions of gallons of water piped across the Central Valley by aqueduct from Pardee Reservoir in the Sierras. Local runoff satisfies about 15% of the east bay water needs.

Originally, most watershed lands were closed to the general public to assure adequate protection of the drinking water supply. In 1973, as better environmental testing systems were developed, it became possible to permit hiking and horseback riding on the 55 miles of trails. Boating, fishing, and picnicking also became available at all reservoirs except for Briones and Upper San Leandro, which are closed to the public. An annual permit is required, for the safety of hikers, to use the trails on the watershed lands.

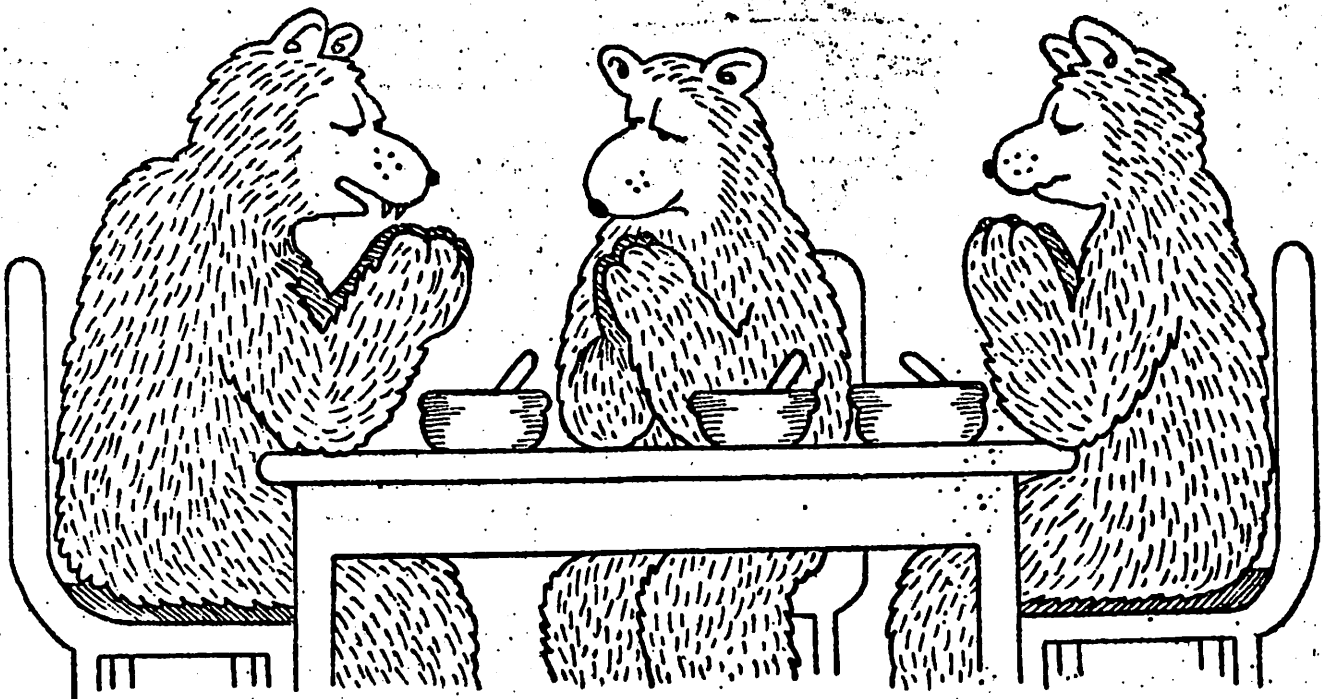
EBMUD currently has 15 Ranger Naturalist II's, who maintain and protect the watershed lands. These rangers are currently responsible for fire suppression, recording lake elevation levels and weather readings, maintaining cattle fence and trails, and operating the recreational areas. San Pablo, Chabot, and Pardee reservoirs are under a concession contract.

The watershed employees were originally classified as Watershed Caretakers. In 1973, the title changed to Watershed/Recreation Attendant. In the Fall of 1977, the job title was changed again to Watershed Ranger. The rangers were sworn peace officers responsible for enforcing laws protecting the watershed resources and the visitors. In December 1983, East Bay Regional Park Police took over the responsibility of law enforcement on the watershed land, by contract. After this change, the ranger title changed to Ranger Naturalist.

The watershed and recreation division in Orinda is divided into three units: Recreation; Range Management; and Fisheries/Wildlife. The Recreation Unit operates and maintains the recreation areas. The Range Management Unit maintains trails and fence lines, fights fires, controls erosion, and manages forest and pests. The Fisheries/Wildlife Unit enhances natural habitat, such as improving trout spawning beds and wood duck nesting sites. EBMUD has land use lease agreements with cattle ranchers; and land use permits are issued to educational study groups, bee keepers, and a college rowing team.

EBMUD has provided a rewarding experience for my career in park management. I am glad to be a part of this program, where needed water supplies provide remarkable recreation areas for the public to enjoy.

FREEZE FRAMES



And God bless the campers from New Mexico who left this food in their car with the windows down

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

If you know of any job openings or training, your fellow members would appreciate getting in on the goodies. For example, the following course, not entirely publicized by PRAC, slipped by many people's fingers. It is hoped, this section of the newsletter will alleviate that problem in the future. KEEPING INTERPRETIVE SERVICES ALIVE AND WELL. San Jose State University recently offered an interpretive management course through the Office of Continuing Education. The two day course was taught by Mr. Duncan Rollo, Chief of Interpretive Services at Fluorescent Fossils National Monument, CO and Ms. Debbie Tewell, Colorado Springs City DPR. The main thrust of the course centered around justifying interpretive programs to your administration and using interpretive programs to meet management criteria. Of the PRAC members who attended, all walked away with many new ideas to take back to their administration to meet management objectives and keep interpretive services alive. If you hear of training or vacancies, please contact us so we can get the word out!

TRAINING

This section in each issue will have an article on techniques or a particular training item. For example, PARK PROBLEMS? Are your signs getting the message across! Recently, S.b. Kent Schwarzkopf completed his master's thesis, in conjunction with the National Park Service and Oregon State University, on "Feeding of Golden Mantled Ground Squirrels (Spermophilus lateralis) by Park Visitors at Crater Lake National Park" (May 1984).

Schwarzkopf used two different signs in his study area to see which was most effective in deterring park visitors from feeding the GMGS. The first sign read: "We know they're cute, but please don't feed any park animals. An abundance of natural foods exists for them, such as insects, grasses and seeds from cone-bearing trees. Human food often spoils easily. By not feeding the squirrels, chipmunks, and birds, you are encouraging them to store up natural provisions." The second sign read: Please don't feed any park animals. Ground squirrels and chipmunks are potential carriers of such serious diseases as bubonic plague and Colorado tick fever."

Schwarzkopf found the second sign to be almost twice as effective in deterring feeding as the first sign. Likewise, the first sign was found to be twice as effective as no sign at all. It's Schwarzkopf's belief that "people are more likely to alter their behavior when they become aware of a threat to their own health as opposed to the health of another animal." So if you have a similar park problem, change your signs to impact the visitor's well-being.

PARK RANGER DL 3/15

Salary: \$1709-2080/mo

**Apply to: Livermore Area Recreation & Park District
71 Trevarno Road
Livermore, CA 94550
415-447-7300**

Qualifications: BA in park management, recreation

Duties: Supervises and directs workers in the day-to-day maintenance of park and recreation facilities; enforces facility use rules and regulations, issues citations when required, assists in budget preparation and budget control regarding area of responsibility; conducts public programs and organized tours.

PARK RANGER DL 3/13

Salary: \$1119-1499/mo

**Apply to: State of Oklahoma
Jim Thorpe Memorial Office Building
2101 North Lincoln Blvd.
State Capitol Complex
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
521-3890, 521-3990**

Qualifications: two years of experience in law enforcement, public relations or environmental science, or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Duties: Patrols all areas of a state park, carrying a firearm, to ensure the safety and welfare of all visitors and park property; assists and provides visitors with information; advises visitors of rules and regulations on camping and recreational activities; collects camping and user fees; serves in a community resource capacity giving oral presentations about safety, career opportunities and state recreational facilities to schools, community organizations and industry.

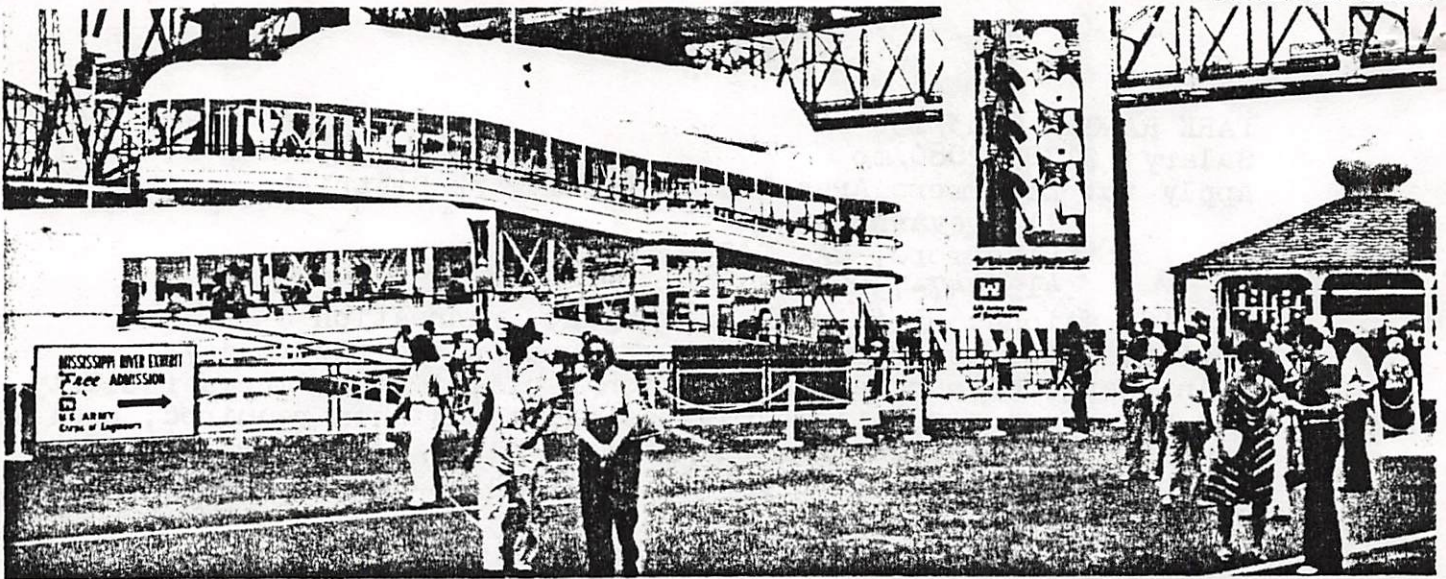
PARK RANGER II (Historical Resource/Museum Specialist) DL 2/25

Salary: \$1681-2078/mo

**Apply to: County of Orange Personnel Department
Hall of Administration
10 Civic Center Plaza
Santa Ana, CA 92701
Applications: 714-834-2844
Information: Joyce Allen, 714-834-5483**

Qualifications: any combination of experience or education in historic site operation, collections management, historic maintenance programs, interpretive programs and exhibits. Driver's License. Lifting 50 pounds frequently or carrying up to 25 pounds.

Duties: Under direction, will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of historic sites, museum collections. Conducts historical research; prepares and implements interpretive programs, coordinates volunteer activities, oversees restoration contract services, and prepares budget documents.



The Kennedy's three decks housed multi-media exhibits, including a 3-D sculpture of the Mississippi River Basin.



PHOTOS FROM MEET
ME AT THE FAIR

No menace he, Mendocino ranger Phil Holcomb tells some of the Kennedy's 5,000 daily visitors about the Mississippi on the rampage.

Doug Bryce - Executive Manager
P.O. Box 28366
Sacramento, CA 95828

