



THE SIGNPOST

**JUNE-JULY
1986**

POST-CONFERENCE ISSUE

EARTH FIRST FOUNDER TELLS RANGERS TO KEEP WILDERNESS ALIVE

Reprinted from the March 17, 1986
issue of the Contra Costa Times

San Francisco was one of the richest grizzly bear habitats in Northern America 200 years ago, environmentalist David Foreman reminded park rangers on Sunday.

"The only grizzly bear in California shouldn't be on the state flag," he said. "We need vision...vision not to think just in terms of our lifetime."

Foreman, founder of Earth First, a group that has used civil disobedience in its attempts to protect the environment, got a standing ovation from delegates to the California State Park Rangers Association conference at the Holiday Inn.

He gave the closing speech at the conference, where park rangers gathered to discuss topics ranging from native fish management to saving wildlife and plants.

"It's not wilderness unless there's something bigger and meaner than you in there," Foreman said.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by John Ramirez

Once again, another Annual Conference has come and gone. This is the time of year when interest in the Park Rangers Association of California peaks. I personally come away from each conference with a new vigor and full of enthusiasm. Besides renewing and making new friendships, the conference allows rangers throughout the state to discuss those issues most important to our profession.

This year, the list of new friends that my wife Maxine and I made includes the State Parks Director William Briner and the Director of the National Park Service William Penn Mott, Jr. The lunch I had with these colleagues was enjoyable. "It was like sharing lunch time with old friends."

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PRAC AGREES TO PAY TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

At the PRAC Conference Business Meeting, members agreed to permit gasoline expense reimbursement for any executive board member having to travel 100 miles or more to attend a PRAC meeting. Per Article XIV, Section 4 of the PRAC Constitution, advance payment can be made, on written request, at the current IRS rate of 21 cents per mile.

PRAC President, John Ramirez, noted "quarterly business meetings are very important to the effectiveness of the organization." He also stated, "I hope this measure will better facilitate higher officer attendance at future meetings."

JOB BULLETIN

The city of Palo Alto has announced the opening of two park ranger positions. Application filing and testing sites are yet to be announced. For information updates contact Annette Coleman, City of Palo Alto, Parks and Open Space, at 415-329-2638.



OFFICIAL PRAC MAILING ADDRESS CHANGED

The official mailing address for the Park Ranger's Association of California has changed. All future correspondence, including newsletter contributions, business correspondence, and membership dues should be directed to: Doug Bryce, PRAC Executive Manager, P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA 95828.

CONTRIBUTE TO PRAC AND YOUR PROFESSION

Your expertise and enthusiasm are needed to take on a leadership role in one of PRAC's standing committees. The function of these committees is to enrich and promote the various aspects of the park profession in California and to solicit articles for Association publications. If you have what you think it takes and are interested in improving your organization by heading a PRAC standing committee, please complete and return the attached form.

STANDING COMMITTEE INTEREST FORM

I would like to get involved in the following PRAC standing committee(s):

- ☐ Law Enforcement
- ☐ Interpretation
- ☐ Resource Management
- ☐ Legislation
- ☐ Maintenance
- ☐ Standards & Training
- ☐ Publications
- ☐ Nominations

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street City Zip

PHONE: () _____ () _____
Work Home

RETURN TO: Doug Bryce,
Executive Manager
P.O. Box 28366
Sacramento, CA 95828

PRAC
1985 HIGHLIGHTS...1986 GOALS

President John Ramirez reported PRAC's major accomplishments for 1985 at the Conference Board Meeting in Concord, in March.

The five annual goals achieved were (1) improved cooperative communication between PRAC and the California State Park Rangers Association, (2) regular printing of the SIGNPOST newsletter, (3) strengthened PRAC/CSPRA Conference committee representation by PRAC member Pat Hayes, (4) timely distribution of job announcements, and (5) assisting the City of Los Angeles in reclassifying their rangers as limited peace officers.

Ramirez also noted that the goals set for 1986 include (1) continued improvement of PRAC statewide communications, (2) continued strengthening of the SIGNPOST, (3) improvement of the PRAC image, (4) solidification of the standing committees and the determination to provide high-quality, low-cost training and social activities for all PRAC members.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK
(CONT--)

The election of officers produced many new Board members. This is very encouraging for the future of the Association.

I wish to thank the outgoing Board members who have given so much of themselves to PRAC. These members have proven themselves to be energetic self-motivators. I plan to keep in close touch with all former Board members, as their knowledge and expertise are invaluable.

Please read the minutes of the PRAC Business Meeting where the annual goals for the organization are listed. The coming year should prove to be challenging, stimulating, and very rewarding to our association.



1986 PRAC/CSPRA CONFERENCE
REVIEW

The income breakdown for the 1986 PRAC/CSPRA Conference was as follows:

Registration	\$ 2,808.00
Meals	1,296.25
Raffle	213.00*
CSPRA Sales	97.00
PRAC Sales	0.00
Golf Tournament	52.00
Pistol Shoot	27.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,493.25

*These are approximate figures. They do not include raffle sales after the desk closed.

REGISTRATION

	#	%	
CSPRA	67	58	74% of profit
PRAC	23	20	26% of profit
Non-member	25	22	



Earth First founder tells rangers
to keep wilderness alive

(CONT--)

He said it's important to preserve a sense of danger in the wilderness--with grizzly bears, white water rapids, and sea cliffs "that people fall off of"--because "then we aren't quite so arrogant."

Foreman told of a young man named Aldo Leopold who graduated from the Yale School of Forestry 70 years ago and went to work for the Forest Service.

While Leopold was in charge of a timber survey crew, the group stopped to eat lunch on a hill above a stream. As they ate, they watched a wolf cross the stream and began to play with six of her pups that jumped out from behind a rock.

Leopold thought there was nothing good about wolves, Foreman said, so he and his friends pulled out guns "and began sending lead into the pack."

When he walked down the hill to look at the wolf he had killed, Leopold saw a sight that permanently changed his opinion about the value of wildlife, Foreman said.

"We reached the old wolf in time to watch a fierce green fire dying in her eyes," Leopold wrote years later, according to Foreman.

"We've got to get that green fire back, the green fire that makes the world go around," Foreman said. "That's your job, to keep the green fire alive."

Foreman told park rangers they are "priests and priestesses of the natural world" whose job it is to preserve the wilderness and help others appreciate it.

"I honestly think that the park rangers in this country are the most important people in the United States," he said. "Your job goes far beyond what it appears on the surface. You're guardians, you're guardians of evolution."

The keynote speaker at the conference was William Penn Mott, Director of the National Park Service, who spoke on Saturday and told of an inner-city student who went on a nature hike and was surprised to find dirt on the road.

"It's your job to bring all those lost souls of the 20th century back into touch with that dirt," Foreman said.



RANGER ACTIVITY SLIDES NEEDED BY PRAC

Bill Hendricks, PRAC Coastal Representative, needs 35-mm photo slides showing "California Rangers" performing their multifaceted duties. These will be used in a slide show being prepared by PRAC for presentation at official functions (conferences, etc.) and before college and university classes statewide.

Slide duty themes may include law enforcement, maintenance, public relations, interpretation, search and rescue, or any thing else you feel symbolizes the "California Ranger."

Be a part of this worthwhile project. Please send your slides by July 15, 1986 to Bill Hendricks, PRAC Coastal Representative, 1400 Marshall-Petaluma Rd., Petaluma, CA 94952. If you have any questions, call Bill at the Marin Municipal Water District (415) 459-5267.

EDUCATION IN URBAN AREAS CALLED KEY TO PARK SURVIVAL

Reprinted from the March 16, 1986
issue of the Contra Costa Times

It was easy to spot the delegates to the California State Rangers Association conference at the Holiday Inn Saturday. They were the only ones with tans in the middle of a record rainy season.

The rangers came indoors this weekend for talks on how to save plants and wildlife threatened with extinction (kangaroo rats and redwoods) and those they could do without (wild pigs and artichoke thistle) as well as a course on native fish management subtitled "Even Suckers Deserve a Break."

That's fisheries biologists humor.

The focus of the conference was "Managing Resources for the Future," and keynote speaker William Penn Mott, Director of the National Park Service, told the rangers the key to protecting parks for future generations was to reach out to the growing urban population with nature programs.

Mott, an Orinda resident, told of following an inner-city elementary school class through a nature hike in the Santa Monica Mountains. On the hike, a boy looked up perplexed and exclaimed, "You know, there's dirt on this road."



"Do we have a job to do in these urban areas?" asked Mott. We have a tremendous job to do if we can just understand the problem."

Mott said he has instructed regional parks directors to exempt nature hikes and other public education from budget cuts resulting from the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction legislation passed by Congress.

But, he said, unless Congress passes President Reagan's budget which includes \$59 million worth of increased entrance fees to national parks -- the future for national parks may be grim. Entry fees to the most popular parks, such as Yellowstone, would increase to \$10.

"In 1988 -- and the people have a right to know -- the cuts could be so severe that we could have to put a lock on the gates of some of our national parks," he warned.

Conference delegates, who work in the California state parks, said they are also concerned with budgets and the increasing number of park visitors.



PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF
CALIFORNIA

Income/Expense
Financial Statement 1985

CHECKING

<u>Income</u>	
Memberships	\$1165.00
Annual Conference Proceeds	28.61
Income Total	<u>\$1193.61</u>

<u>Expenses</u>	
Executive Board Operation (postage, printing, phone)	\$ 150.04
Publications (Signpost)	81.35
Bank service charges	40.88
Transfer to savings	400.00
	<u>\$ 672.27</u>
	<u>\$ 521.34</u>

Balance January 1, 1985	\$ 208.21
Income above expenses	521.34
Balance December 31, 1985	<u>\$ 729.55</u>

SAVINGS

Transfer from checking	\$ 400.00
Interest income	46.39
Balance December 31, 1984	625.93
	<u>\$1072.32</u>

Total as of December 31, 1985	<u>\$1856.32</u>
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March 3, 1986

Bruce T. Baker, Treasurer



Proposed Budget
Fiscal Year 1986
Park Ranger's Association
of California

Income

Memberships	\$ 1200.00
Annual Conference Proceeds	26.00
Interest income	50.00
	<u>\$ 1276.00</u>

Expenses

Executive Manager	\$ 278.00
Annual Conference	100.00
Executive Board	210.00
Publications	315.00
Bank service charges	45.00
Training	328.00
	<u>\$ 1276.00</u>

PRAC: WHY I SHOULD BE A MEMBER

The Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC) consists of local, regional, state, and federal professionals who oversee the direct operation of park agencies statewide. They are people dedicated to the park profession as a whole and in their community. They have shown interest in recreational needs of countless visitors.

Since the parks profession is a constantly changing and growing one, many times park rangers, managers, and administrators must seek outside help to solve many problems. This is where PRAC comes in. PRAC provides a communications network with almost 100 other park agencies and individual professionals throughout the State of California.

Throughout the year, PRAC also offers members special training, social event opportunities, discounted registration fees to the PRAC/CSPRA Conference, regular subscription to the CSPRA/PRAC California Ranger Magazine, and a regular subscription to the SIGNPOST, the PRAC bimonthly newsletter.

Join PRAC or, if you are already a member, please renew your membership. Be a part of the "California Ranger" movement. Complete the following membership application, and send it in today.



NAME: _____

AGENCY: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street City Zip

PHONE: (Work) () _____

(Home) () _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

ENCLOSE THIS AMOUNT

Voting Members

Regular _____ \$25.00/year

Non-Voting Members

Agency	_____	\$35.00/year (1-10 Personnel-2 Mailings)
	_____	\$60.00/year (11-50 Personnel-5 Mailings)
	_____	\$80.00/year (More than 51 Personnel-10 Mailings)
Student	_____	\$ 5.00/year
Associate	_____	\$10.00/year
Supporting	_____	\$50.00/year

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

PRAC
P.O. BOX 28366
SACRAMENTO, CA 95828

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP, PASS THIS COPY OF THE SIGNPOST ON TO A COLLEAGUE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PRAC MEMBER.

PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
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