

THE SIGNPOST

September - December 1986

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

CPRS Begins Parks & Recreation Law Enforcement Division

The formation of a Parks and Recreation Law Enforcement Division within the Park Operations Section of the California Park & Recreation Society was officially established at the annual conference in Fresno, CA. Over 50 representatives were present from over 40 different agencies.

During this one-day institute, presentations were made by Jack Rogers of the East Bay Regional Parks Police, Jim Angelo of Sonoma County Parks and Recreation, Gary Kukkola of Sacramento County Parks and Recreation, Michael Orleas of the United State National Parks Police, Bill Berry of the California Department of Park and Recreation, and Lee Shackleton, United States National Park Service, Yosemite.

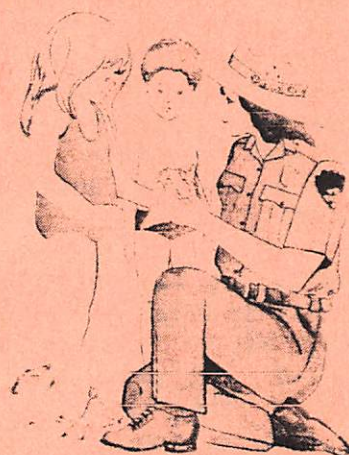
The speakers each spoke of their law enforcement programs. Discussions about the various problems common with the diverse types of park law enforcement agencies were discussed. Jack Harrison, executive director of the California Park and Recreation Society discussed the possible benefits of CPRS to the Park Law Enforcement Division.

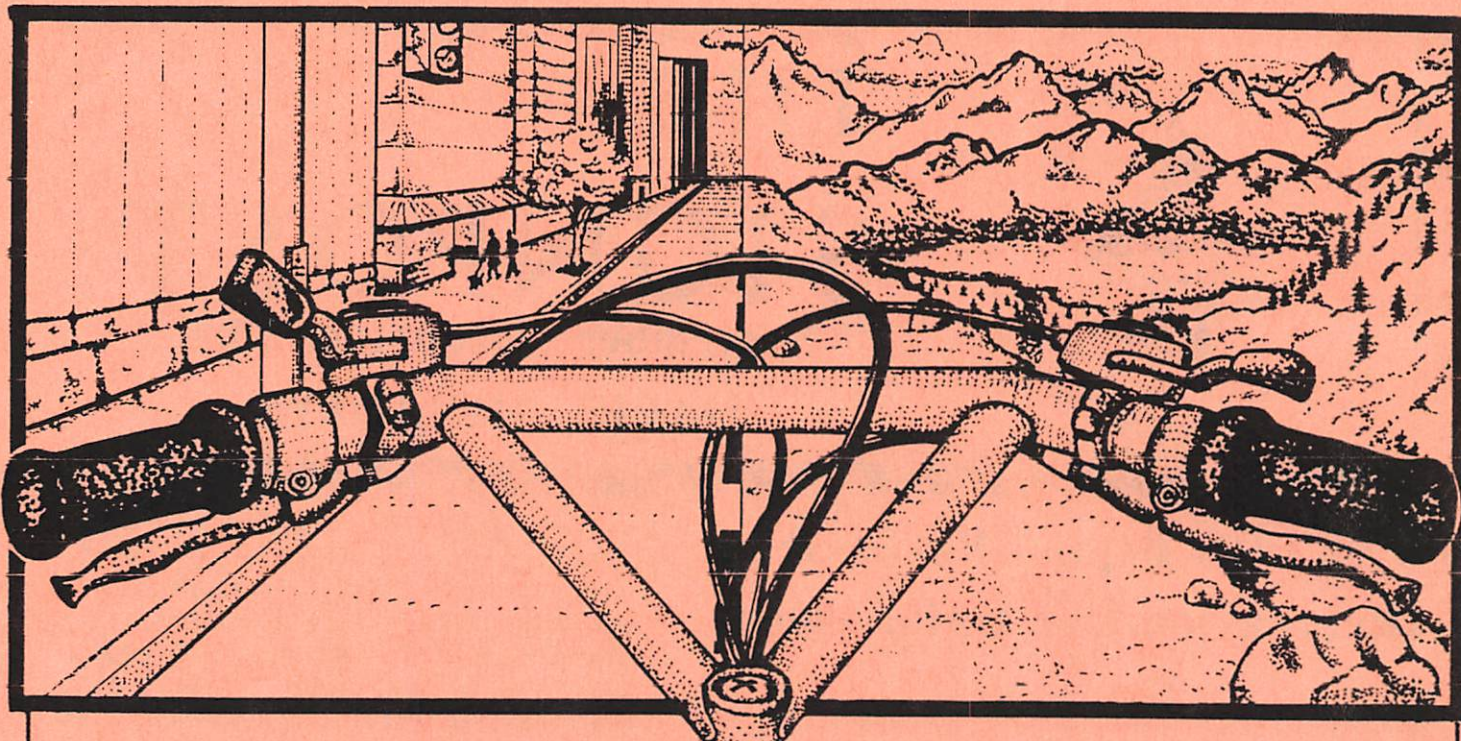
The goal of the Parks and Recreation Law Enforcement Division is to promote awareness of, and support for Park and Recreation Law Enforcement training and educational opportunities. It will also provide scientific research, as well as facilitate informational networks and professional linkages between members. ®

For more information please contact:

PARKS & RECREATION LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE

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East Bay Regional Parks Police
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East Bay Approves Bicycle Use Regulations

A policy regulating all bicycle use in regional parklands was approved unanimously by the East Bay Regional Park District board of Directors. Directors took the step partly in response to increasing popularity of mountain bikes; bicycles whose heavy-duty construction enables their use on rough trails in more remote areas.

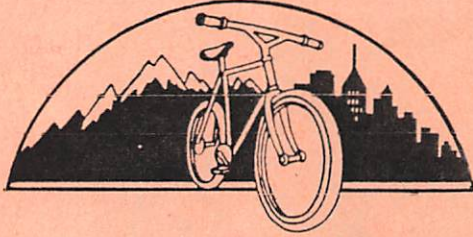
The regulation states that bicycles, including mountain bikes, are permitted only on fire roads, service roads, and bicycle paths in regional parklands. Bicycles will not be permitted off trails, or on the narrower dirt trails used by hikers and horseback riders. Increasing popularity of bicycles, especially mountain bicycles, had led to trail use conflicts and some accidents.

The policy was recommended by the district's Park Advisory Committee (PAC), representing a broad spectrum of citizens and park user groups, after almost a year of discussion. Robert Doyle, the

district's acting chief of land acquisition, told board members that the new policy seemed a reasonable "middle road" solution to the problem.

He noted that the district's narrower trails were not designed for bicycles, but for hikers and horseback riders. The problem is most serious at Redwood Regional Park, Doyle said where there have been collisions between cyclist and other park users, and some riders have been thrown from horses. He has received about 35 complaints in the last several years. "We're lucky we have had no serious injuries," Doyle added.

Besides safety concerns, the new policy was prompted by erosion damage on some parkland trails due to bicycle use. Mountain bike riders contend the proposed limitations on bicycle riding were too all-inclusive, that limits should be imposed on a case-by-case basis. Several speakers noted that mountain bicyclists have to ride on hiking trails to complete loop trips between fire roads.



Doyle said that the PAC has asked for specific recommendations from cyclists regarding what connecting trails were needed, but none were forthcoming. Park board president Ted Radke of Martinez noted that the PAC will review the new policy in a year. In the meantime, PAC and staff will welcome any specific suggestions for connecting trails, Radke said.

In approving the new bicycle policy, directors authorized a change in the district ordinance governing parkland use. The new policy will go into effect in about 30 days. Some 200 to 250 miles of hiking and riding trails will be affected by the new policy, and will be off limits to bicycles. This will leave some 750 miles of parkland fire roads, service roads and bicycle paths still open to cyclists.®



From The President's Desk

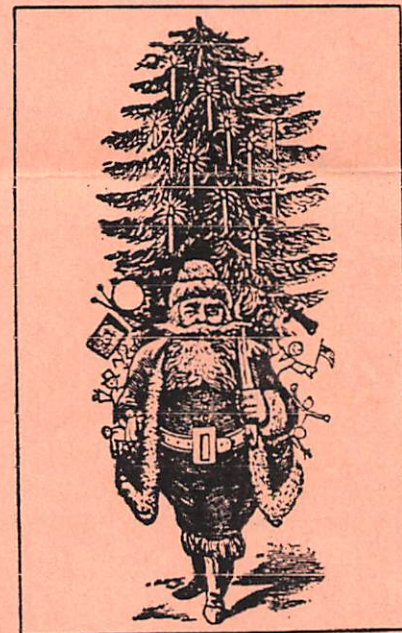
At the PRAC Board meeting of November 21, 1986, many exciting items were discussed. Among them were several training topics and instructors, and a great deal more PRAC involvement in the annual conference than in the past.

The Signpost is now back on its feet and coming out regularly in a new format. This is another positive sign.

I believe that we must continue to pursue the positive path that we have begun to follow. Once our PRAC slide program is completed, we can channel the efforts of the Board and the efforts of the active PRAC membership towards organizing a multi-faceted training program and solidifying committees. These accomplishments will go far towards allowing for the accomplishment of additional projects.

As you can tell by this message, this is an exciting time for our association. I hope to travel to Ventura in order to meet with the Conference Committee. This will allow us to solidify the details of our conference participation.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!



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During the 1987 PRAC conference, a 20 to 30 minute narrated slide show segment will be reserved for the start of each day. The PRAC slide program will be shown, containing slides from various districts around the state. Bill Hendricks said the last day to accept slide entries is January 10, 1987, so please get your entries in soon.

MINUTES

PRAC BOARD MEETING

November 21, 1986

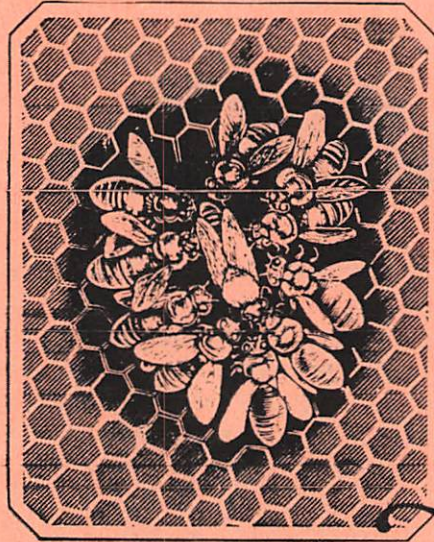
1. The following video tapes were reviewed by the Board: Santa Barbara County Training (provided by Pat Hayes), Resource Management and Controlled Burns (provided by Bill Hendricks). The following slide programs were reviewed: Search and Rescue - Yosemite, Training in Lake Management, Ring Bouy Tossing, Ranger Without Weapons Law Enforcement Training (provided by John Ramirez), Boat Patrol Do's and Don'ts (provided by Pat Hayes).

2. Bill Hendricks mentioned that he had been in contact with Rob MacLeod of the Santa Rosa Training Center. Bill felt that Rob might be available to teach a segment of the Annual Conference. John will speak to Jeff Price about this possibility and Bill will then get a commitment from Rob.

3. A proposed training session on animal control for Park Rangers was discussed. It was decided that the Board should pursue this training program for either the annual conference or a separate training session. Bruce Chase will be contacted to be the instructor. Pat Hayes will make contact and will invite him to the next Board meeting.

4. Bruce Baker will secure an interest earning checking account for PRAC. The President and Treasurer will be on the account.

5. The next Board meeting has been set for Friday, February 6, 1987 in Fremont. ♡



Remote Preserve Named After Last Wild Indian

NEWEST WILDERNESS AREA WAS HOME TO
LOST TRIBE

By Charles Hillinger

Copyright, San Jose Mercury News
November 4, 1986.

ISHI WILDERNESS - This remote cliff country, crisscrossed by roaring canyon streams swollen by melting mountain snow and choked with dense brush and tall timber, has a name so new it has yet to appear on California maps.

It is the state's newest wilderness area, set aside by Congress in October 1984 to protect the natural and archeological resources from as much human intrusion as possible.

The wilderness, a seldom-visited difficult-to-penetrate section inside Lassen National Forest in Northern California, is called Ishi in honor of America's last Indian living in the wild.



For 45 years this was the home and hide-out for the lost tribe of Yahi Indians, a tiny band that avoided contact with civilization and numbered 16 members at most at the beginning of their long concealment in 1866.

Anthropologists had voiced concern about setting the area aside as a protected wilderness because it calls attention to an area with more than 100 ancient Indian village sites, many yet to be scientifically excavated.



Until now, no more than 200 people a year have visited the area. One anthropologist said he was here for five weeks recently and saw only two people.

Black Rock, a spectacular pyramidal hill looming 250-feet above Mill Creek, is the gateway to the wilderness. It is reached by a 20-mile, single-lane, twisting, pot-holed dirt road perched on the shoulders of a perpendicular cliff.

Ishi became the last of his people, living alone in the wild for three years without a single encounter with another human being.

He emerged August 29, 1911 on the outskirts of Oroville, CA, emaciated and starving, a bewildered and frightened man of about 50, convinced that he would be shot and killed by the white man, as had happened to many of his people.

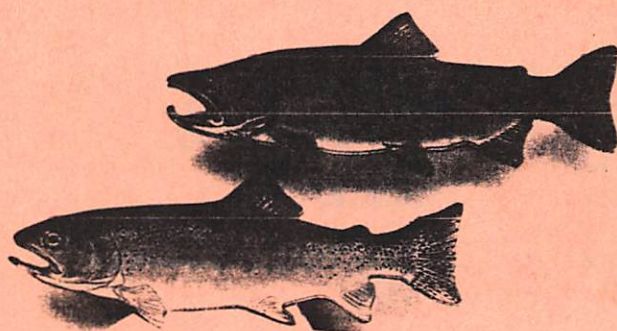
There had been an estimated 300 to 400 Yahis living in what is now the Ishi Wilderness in the early 1850s, at the time of the first settlement of Tehama County in the Sacramento Valley.

Within 15 years, the Yahi were virtually annihilated in a series of massacres described by anthropologists as the fiercest and most uncompromising resistance met by Indians on the West Coast.

The wilderness covers 40,670 acres (13 miles long, eight miles wide) of the forest, which is about 50 miles southeast of Redding. As a wilderness area, it is protected from development. There can be no roads, no structures, not even an outhouse. Visitors need a permit to enter and are required to leave no trace of having been there.

Although the wilderness is a difficult place to get to, vandalism and theft at many of the more than 100 village sites have already been serious problems.

At the village site on Mill Creek where Ishi is believed to have spent his early years, there is fresh evidence of digging in house pits. The Indians dug holes in the ground and around them erected homes with conical-shaped roofs constructed of branches and hides.



Scattered on the ground are metates (grinding stones), scrapers, cutting tools and obsidian flakes, not prime objects of value to pot hunters.

"People come in here and dig for baskets, beads, arrowheads and other Indian artifacts. It is a crime to remove anything from a national forest, punishable by fines up to \$20,000 and two years in jail," archeologist Jim Johnston explained. He said that rangers have increased patrols since the area was given the special designation.

"I would love to place interpretive signs in here pointing out caves and the bear den where Ishi, his mother, his sister and an old man lived for several years in hiding, and note other historically significant Yahi sites," he said.

"But we cannot risk the chance of people coming in and destroying these important areas."◊



Interpreting California's Park Heritage

Editor's Note: The Signpost will explore the "art of interpretation". Its history, quality and unique methodology will be covered in subsequent issues. In this issue, we start at the beginning by asking "What is interpretation?" The following is excerpted from The Interpreter's Handbook by Russell K. Grater, Southwest Parks & Monuments Association, 1976.

A visitor walked up to the desk in the Visitor Center and said: "Someone said this is an interpretive center, and that I could get my questions answered here. I don't know what an interpretive center is, but I do need some information."

This visitor was not unusual. Many people do not know what is meant by interpretation, and many more do not know what an interpreter is. To some, it is simply a fancy new word. However, slowly but surely, this work is becoming better known and appreciated by the public. For that reason, it is important that the person who selects the field of interpretation as a career should become as familiar as possible with the subject, and how it can be successfully accomplished.

The question is often asked: "What is the difference between interpretation and information? Don't they mean the same, with just different words being used?" Unfortunately, this conception is often accepted by the person meeting the public in our parks, before clubs and organizations, or on related situations. Many a guided tour is simply a vocal listing of facts and figures about what is being seen. There may be some minor interpretation accomplished, but it is lost in the maze of details. It is likely that you have gone on a tour through a dam, a power plant, a museum, an important building, or a park, and came away with your head so whirling with facts and figures that your mind could not begin to retain them, let alone understand what they really meant.

Interpretation differs from information in many basic respects. "Interpretation," by contrast with information, conveys the meaning of something, through exposition or explanation. "Information" is the knowledge derived from study, experience, or instruction. It is information that is so often given to a visitor; it is interpretation that should have been accomplished. Good interpretation uses all sorts of information such as facts, figures, etc., but in a way that the listener can understand and appreciate.

If we put into simple words the end results we hope to accomplish through interpretation, they would be: understand, stimulate and appreciate. Let us examine these words carefully to grasp the meaning of each. A person can be a good listener without understanding a thing. Without understanding any explanation is sterile from the listener viewpoint.

With understanding may come a desire in the listener to learn more about what is being discussed. If you accomplish this, you have succeeded in another of your objectives, stimulating him to try on his own to enlarge his knowledge of the subject.

With understanding and desire to learn more comes a sense of appreciation of the subject, and what its worth really is. This doesn't mean appreciation cannot be had without understanding and stimulation; simply that it is greatly enhanced in combination with the other two factors. One can appreciate a view of the Grand Canyon and not understand or want to learn a thing about it. However, still greater appreciation is likely to accompany an understanding of how the great canyon came to be, with a desire to learn more of its story.

Anyone can be an interpreter if he is familiar with the story to be told, and with methods and techniques of interpretation that can make the story come alive and meaningful.â



Ranger's Winter Waterproofing Tips

Editor's Note: A cold wet and possibly snowy winter is just around the corner. PRAC Treasurer, Bruce Baker, provides an article from the July 1985 issue of Outside magazine entitled "Waterproofing Boots - How It's Done." It is hoped the following excerpts will make your winter duties more comfortable.

High technology has yet to improve on waterproofing materials for boots. The old standbys--Sno-Seal, Bee Seal Plus, and Biwell--are still the best waterproof coatings for most leather boots. Made of beeswax, lanolin, or fish oils, they keep water out and stay on through several soakings. ...But in order to work at all, waterproofings must be applied properly.

Before treating your boots, clean them with a scrub brush and warm water, and dry them at room temperature.

Next, using your fingers or a rag, apply the waterproofing lightly and evenly over the entire boot. ...As a rule of thumb, apply the coating until the leather can't absorb any more.

For new boots,...apply silicone bathtub caulk or Liquisole, a rubber-and-latex compound, to the seams.

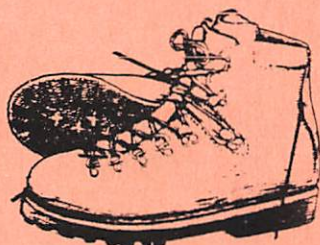
After applying the waterproofing, gently warm the boots with a hair dryer to help it penetrate the leather. Let the boots dry overnight, then wipe off any excess.

Generally, boots need waterproofing only at the beginning of the season or when they start to leak.

In between treatments, apply shoe polish to help preserve the original waterproofing.

It's also important to take care of the inside of your boots. With a fabric-and-leather boot, simply cleaning the lining with saddle soap and water helps the Gore-Tex membrane, if there is one, work properly. On traditional leather-lined boots, a thin layer of Vaseline inside prevents damage from sweat.

Despite all this, hiking boots aren't designed for standing in water for long periods. Everest veteran Gary Neptune, in fact, believes that the most comfortable footwear for hiking in a Nepalese monsoon is nothing at all. ☺



Search & Rescue Training

PRAC has arranged for all members to be added to a search and rescue mailing list at the Criminal Justice Training Center in Santa Rosa, CA. Courses offered include cliff rescue, swiftwater rescue, high rise rescue, search and rescue techniques, and rescue boat operations.

Rob MacLeod, search and rescue coordinator at the training center, has over 30 years of experience in mountaineering and high angle rescue. In addition, he is President of Emergency Management Training Consultants (EMTC) which provides technical training to individuals and agencies involved in rescue services.

Our board members are currently working with Rob MacLeod to offer a course this spring tailored to meet the search and rescue needs of PRAC members. Course dates and details will be outlined in a future newsletter edition. ☺



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

The Sequoia National Forest will fill about 80 fire fighter and other positions for the 1987 season. Those interested must obtain and file applications by January 15, 1987.

Positions will serve: on initial attack engines, handcrews, Hotshot and Helitack Crews, and as fuels, timber and recreation technicians. Work will begin about mid-May and end about October 1, 1987. Pay rates are \$5.18 to \$7.10 per hour depending on qualifications and job. Those interested in outdoor work, travel and in protection of our natural resources, should apply. Most of the jobs are hard work performed under long hours, steep rocky terrain, adverse weather conditions and remote locations. Applicants should be in excellent physical condition. The Sequoia National Forest includes the High Sierra from Bakersfield North to the Kings River.

Applicants must be 18 years of age and U.S. citizens. Applications are now available at all Forest Service Offices, or by mail from the Sequoia National Forest, 900 West Grand Avenue, Porterville, CA 93257, (209) 784-1500.



INTERPRETIVE STUDENT AIDES SOUGHT BY EBRPD FOR 1987

The park district is now accepting applications for Interpretive Student Aides, a job especially attractive to students preparing for careers as naturalists (environmental educators).

The Interpretive Student Aide position is a two-year training program, during which the aide performs a wide variety of naturalist and receptionist duties in park visitor centers, under the supervision of park district naturalists.

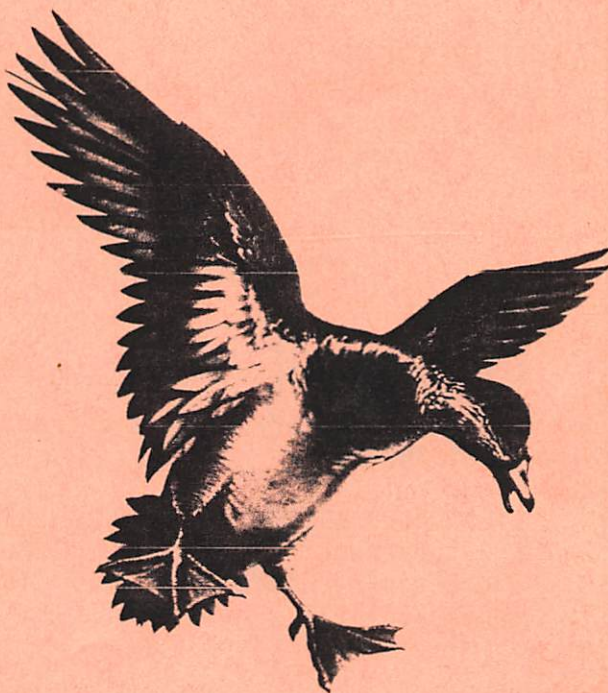
Aides must maintain college enrollment status during the entire two years, either in continuing education, undergraduate, or graduate programs. The aide job is part time during the school year and full time during summers.

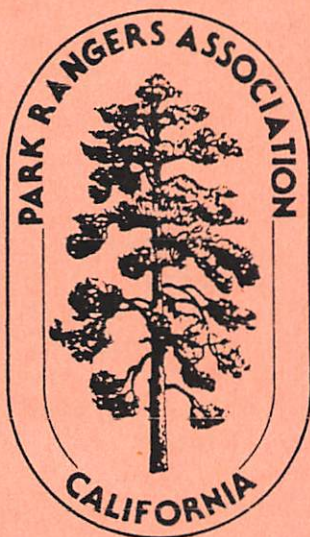
Minimum qualifications for Interpretive Student Aides are completion of three semester units of college level natural science, cultural history or other academic course work; and possession of a valid California driver's license.

General knowledge of natural science and cultural history is desirable, together with the ability to communicate well with park visitors.

Aides may be assigned to one of nine interpretive locations: the Nature Area or Botanic Garden at Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley, Crab Cove in Alameda, Black Diamond Mines in Antioch, Coyote Hills in Fremont, Del Valle near Livermore, Sunol Regional Wilderness in southern Alameda County, Garin Park in Hayward, or Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont.

Salary is \$5.56 per hour for the first year, with a step increase in the second year based on job performance. Twelve Interpretive Student Aide openings are anticipated during 1987, and applications will be kept on file for one year. For more information, contact the park district personnel department at (415) 531-9300, ext. 250.6





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