



The Signpost

May - June 1989
Volume XIII, Number 3

PEACE BILL (A.B. - 805) MIGHT ENDANGER LOCAL PARK AGENCY USE OF THE TITLE "RANGER"

A bill is now before the California State Assembly which would make it a misdemeanor for any person, other than P.O.S.T. certified peace officers, designated employees of the California Department of Forestry, and State Park Rangers to use the title "ranger, park ranger, forest ranger, or derivations". This bill was authored by Assemblyman Peace (R - San Diego), and has passed the Assembly's parks and wildlife, and ways and means committees. It has also passed the floor of the Assembly and is pending passage in the Senate. The California Association of Recreation & Park Districts, in opposition to the bill, stated that this bill "may have fiscal impact (on agencies) related to

employees,... and will confuse the general public who is accustomed to addressing park workers as rangers. The use of this title by federally commissioned (eg., national park service) employees in California would also be in conflict with the proposed bill.

The major proponent of the Peace Bill is the State Park Peace Officers Association of California (SPPOAC).

Others opposing the bill include the: California Park & Recreation Society, California Association of County Park Directors, City of Fremont, Sacramento County Parks & Recreation Department, and the California Department of Parks & Recreation.

The Park Rangers Association of California joins in opposing this bill. PRAC members concerned about the impact this bill may have on their agency are encouraged to contact the Governor, as many state senators as possible. It is requested that they vote no on the Peace Bill when it comes before them. PRAC members should also encourage their agency to officially oppose the Peace Bill through resolution or letter to the State Senate and the Governor.

For more information on the text of the bill contact Doug Bryce, PRAC Executive Manager, (916) 383-2530. For a complete list of the California State Senate contact Chris Crockett, at (408) 226-2147.

TEENAGER BITTEN BY RATTLESNAKE IN SIMI VALLEY PARK

Excerpted From An Article By
Susan Chasen In The
March 29, 1989 Issue Of The
The Enterprise

Aaron Williams, 14, of Simi Valley was in serious but stable condition ... after being bitten by a rattlesnake in Chumash Park north of Indian Hills.

And a ranger is credited with saving the teen's life.

..."I'm very thankful that he was with a ranger when it happened," (Williams mother, Kristine Robinson) said.

Lt. Donald Watstein, a senior park ranger for the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District was on hand

when the bite occurred.

"He radioed for an ambulance and ... controlled the spread of the poison," according to Williams' cousin, Brandy Tomlin.

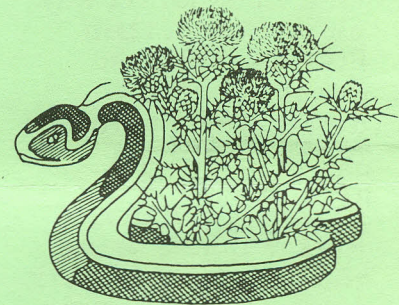
"The ranger really saved his life," she said. "If the boys were just there by themselves, it could have been fatal."

Williams said he and three friends had a BB gun in the park, and the ranger was escorting them out when the bite occurred.... "on a path

with a little bit of grass and I stepped on the snake and it bit me, and I jumped away so it wouldn't get me again," he said.

The snake, he said was about 3 1/2 feet long.

Editor's Note: Lt. Donald Watstein is a member of PRAC.



WHAT DOES A RANGER DO WHEN A RATTLESNAKE VICTIM IS ENCOUNTERED?

First aid for rangers who encounter rattlesnake bite victims is quite simple but the required steps are essential. Though quite toxic, snake venom causes fewer deaths annually than bee stings and lightning strikes.

American Red Cross emergency first aid procedures include the following:

1. The primary threat to watch for is shock. Keep the victim still and relaxed. Place the victim in a seated reclining position and cover them. This position ensures that any bitten appendage will be lower than the heart.
2. Engage the EMS system immediately - Call For Help!
3. Make sure the bitten body part is kept lower than the heart, and place a restricting band between the bite and the heart. Tourniquets are not recommended; you should be able to slip at least one finger between the band and the skin.
4. Monitor the victim's vital signs every 3-5 minute (eg., breathing and pulse).
5. If an ambulance or paramedics are more than one hour away, gently transport the victim to a designated medical facility or rendezvous point.
6. Use of a snake bite kit should only be considered if medical assistance is more than two hours away. Follow kit directions when using.

PRAC HIGHLIGHTS

From The Executive Board Meeting
April 21, 1989

Foothills Park, Palo Alto, CA.

The Board, and members of the Park Rangers Association of California met on April 21, 1989. The following are items of significant interest addressed during the meeting:

-Membership-

As of April 21, 1989 there were 170 members in PRAC.

-New Student

Representative-

PRAC President, Bill Hendricks, appointed Rod Turner as the new Student Representative. An employee for six seasons at Yosemite National Park, Rod is currently a student at CSU-Chico. Warm greetings to Rod for accepting this responsibility.

-Trail

Construction

Workshop Review-

PRAC member Dennis Danielson noted that the workshop held April 21, 1989 was a success. The presentations and brochure packet were both well done. There were 46 participants,

representing 26 agencies. A repeat of this program is planned in the next few years.

-1990 Fire

Training Training-

Coastal Representative, Glenn Kinney noted that live fire training would not be possible due to liability. A 32 hour classroom course is planned for Spring of 1990.



-1989 Fall

Workshop-

The committee is working on a two-day workshop on ethnic interpretation, and resource management.

-1990

PRAC/CSPRA/LEAGUE

Conference- The 1990 conference will be at the Holiday Inn in Chico.

-1989 Ranger

Summer Games-

This event is scheduled for Thursday, August 10, 1989 at Foothills Park in Palo Alto. There will be a golf tournament in the morning, and other games in the afternoon. Mark your calendars!

For further information contact Bill Hendricks, PRAC President at (415) 663- 9305.



THREAT TO BODIE STILL LOOMS

In the March/
April 1989 issue
of **The Signpost** an
article alerted
PRAC members to
plans for a strip
mine which
threatens the
historical ghost
town of Bodie in
the eastern Sierra
Nevada Range.

At presstime, this
issue is still
pending approval
before the Mono
County Board of
Supervisors, and
the Governor of
California.

Therefore, the
support of
informed citizens
is still crucial
in order to defeat
this proposal,
opposed by both
PRAC and the
California State
Park Rangers
Association
(CSPRA). Voice
your objections by
writing Governor
George Deukmajian,
State Capitol
Building,
Sacramento, CA.,
95814.

For more
information, or if
you wish to make a
donation to save
this valuable
historical
resource write:
CSPRA-SAVE BODIE!,
P.O. Box 28366,
Sacramento, CA.,
95828.



COMMITTEE WATCH !!

PRAC President
Bill Hendricks
wishes to
encourage members
to become involved
with one of the
current committees
which are
addressing issues
critical to the
Association.
People are needed
for the following
committees:

-**Audit**, people are
needed to review
PRAC's finances
for 1988 in order
to comply with
state guidelines.

-**Standards and
Training**, people
are needed to plan
the Autumn 1989
workshop. The
theme is "The
Ranger's Role With
Varied Cultures".
Preliminary
planning is also
to begin for the
Spring 1990
workshop.

-**Legislative**,
members are needed
to officially
oppose AB 805 (The
Peace Bill, See
page 1).

-**Scholarship**,
people needed to
review/select
recipients for the
PRAC scholarship.

Interested PRAC
members should
contact Bill
Hendricks, PRAC
President, at
(415) 663-9305.

L. A. Park Rangers Given Limited Police Powers

The morning after two teenage girls were raped and one shot in Griffith Park, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley visited the park to sign into law an ordinance that gives rangers limited police powers to control disorderly conduct, unsafe driving and other unlawful actions.

...The city's 25 rangers still are not authorized to carry firearms, but they now have certain immunities from civil and criminal liability. Additionally, the assault of a park ranger on duty... is now a felony.

In the past, the hands of our park rangers have literally been tied because they did not have the authority to effectively arrest and cite law violators who disrupt, destroy and invade our parks," Bradley said.

"Under the new law,... when park property is damaged, the ranger can take quick action. Today we are giving our park protectors the tools they need," he said.

...Park rangers are regularly involved in law enforcement and

public safety duties, ranging from the issuance of citations for infractions to full custody arrests.

"Rangers are faced with situations that may require immediate apprehension and arrest.... However, in the past, rangers would make citizen arrests which expose the arresting officer to a personal suit."

(Bradley)... called the upgrading of the park rangers status something that has been needed for a long time. They have certainly done their jobs well in the past, but now they are faced with different dangers.

Editor's Note: This article culminates a series of articles "The Signpost" has printed regarding the plight of park rangers in the City of Los Angeles. PRAC committed its support when the rangers were attempting to obtain peace officer powers. PRAC is gratified that Mayor Bradley and The Los Angeles City Council took the actions noted above.

Strange LAWS!

Did you know that survivors of an airplane crash cannot be buried in Riverside County (California)?

Of course this is not true. But, stranger still, are some real laws, such as...

-It is against the law for a monster to enter... Urbana, IL.
-In Santa Ana, CA., two or more persons may not congregate for the purpose of a discussion on the sidewalk.

- In Memphis, TN., it is against the law to sell yo-yos and teddy bears on Sunday.

-In Miami, FL., it is against the law to imitate animals.

-In Boston, MA., an old law prohibits the taking of baths on Sunday,

- In Baldwin Park, CA., it is unlawful to ride a bike in a swimming pool.

-(And finally) In Los Angeles, CA., it is prohibited for a wife to be beaten with a leather strap wider than two inches...except with her written permission.

If you have some strange laws to enforce, drop "The Signpost Editor" a line at (408) 226-2147.

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The Signpost is published by the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC). The Association mailing address is P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA., 95828. **The Signpost** editor is Christopher Crockett. Articles of 1,000 words or less are welcome. All submissions become the property of PRAC, and may be edited without notice. Submissions should be mailed to Christopher Crockett, 330 Viewpark Circle, San Jose, CA., 95136. Information can be submitted by telephone at (408) 226-2147. **The Signpost** is published bimonthly. Submission deadlines are the last day of February, April, June, August, October, December. Dated material should be submitted at least two months prior to the desired print date.