



# The Signpost

July - Aug  
1991

## Coming Attractions

### Interpretation Workshop

The upcoming workshop on interpretation will be held on September 26, 1991 at Prusch Park in San Jose. The day will begin at 8:30 a.m. with registration. The sessions will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A wine and cheese social will follow, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The San Jose Park Rangers Association will be hosting this social session.

The San Jose Park Rangers Association have tried to develop a workshop around the theme of *Protecting The Environment Through Interpretation*. Good speakers have been found, though they may expand the theme.

Speakers list will include; Frank Shiavo, a professor at California State University, San Jose. Ira Bletz, a supervising naturalist for East Bay Regional Park District. Sandra Niman, a professional story teller will present a session how to do story telling. Kathy Lee, a State Park Ranger will talk about the new Junior

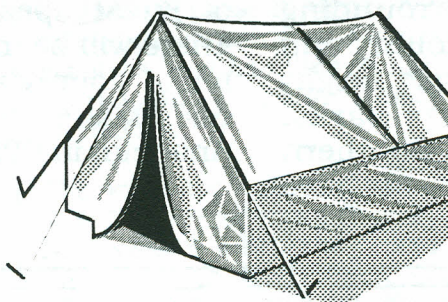
### PRAC Campout!

Pack your camping gear and make your reservations for the **PRAC Campout**. September 20-22, 1991 is the date. Camp Shelly is the place and is located in the Lake Tahoe area.

Activities will include:

- \* A field trip to a mine
- \* BBQ
- \* PRAC Board meeting
- \* Lake Tahoe sites

More information and a registration form can be found inside. Don't miss this opportunity to get away from it all after the busy summer season. Sign up today!



Ranger program.

See inside this issue for a registration form and more information. Hope to see you there.

### Ranger Games

Region 1 and Region 3 will be hosting the **PRAC Ranger Games**. This fun filled event will be held Thursday September 26 at Lake Solano Park. Lake Solano is located approximately 5 miles outside of Winters, CA.

Activities will include horse-shoes, volleyball, softball and of course, seeing old and new friends.

This event will be a potluck. There will be a \$2.00 parking fee per car and a \$2.00 charge per person attending.

RSVP by September 23. So keep watching your mail for further details.

For more information, call:  
Judy Morris at  
(415) 791-4340  
or  
Cheryl Goss at  
(916) 644-2545





# From the Presidents Desk

## "Parks In the 90's: The Future Is Here!"

By Christopher W. George

That's it, that's the theme for the 1992 Spring PRAC/CSPRA Conference to be held in March, in Anaheim at the **"Inn At The Park"** right next to Disneyland.

Now many of you are probably saying to yourselves; "Anaheim, what the devil is in Anaheim to make me want to attend the next conference?" Well, I think you might just be a little surprised.

As I write this, I am reflecting on the meeting I had with the 1992 Conference Committee a few hours ago. In attendance were representatives from both PRAC and CSPRA. We discussed the main question, "How do we top Yosemite?" Well, the answer is we don't. Yosemite was a unique experience not to be compared or outdone. However, Anaheim is a unique place as well. The hotel (*Inn At The Park*) is a beautiful facility with a prime location to the many attractions located in the Southern California area. The City of Anaheim has the reputation of having one of the best parks and recreation departments in the country with a wide variety of parks and historical facilities. The surrounding area also has a vast resource of county and state parks; these range from basic neighborhood parks to vast wilderness parks. Many millions of people travel to Southern California annually and now you can have an opportunity to see how it's done.

Southern California is what the future is: it is primarily urbanize. The implications that revolve around it will eventually touch areas that are considered pristine in both Central and Northern California. The population in California is expanding at an incredible rate. Eventually park rangers will all be facing the issues that Southern California is now facing.

The theme for this upcoming conference will revolve around the following tracks: Resource Management, Interpretation, and Park Operations. The Conference Committee is currently working on criteria that will be of interest and entertainment. If you have an idea or a topic or speaker you would like to see, please contact Doug Bryce in Sacramento. Doug will then forward your suggestions to the committee members.

We will also be attempting to get the Disney folks involved to show you many of the fascinating topics and techniques that they are currently using to bring people to the "Magic Kingdom." We will also bring you a vast array of guest speakers, classes and lectures. There will be many special side attractions to make your visit to Anaheim a memorable one. Make your plans now to join us in Anaheim in 92!

## Correction

Last issue we reported that the Long Beach Rangers were developing their own statewide ranger organization. Jack Deaton, Chief Ranger at Long Beach, informs us that this is totally incorrect.

We are very sorry that this misinformation made it into the Signpost. But, we are delighted that Jack and his associates from Long Beach are sticking with PRAC.



## Help Wanted

**PARK RANGER I.** \$25,620-\$34,236/year. The County of Orange is currently accepting applications for Park Ranger I.

Rangers perform technical and professional duties involving the operation and management of a parks, coastal or recreational facility; and supervise park maintenance personnel. In addition, you will have the opportunity to creatively prepare and present recreational and interpretive programs, to coordinate special historical programs with other public agencies and commissions or by private contract service provider. Qualified candidate will have related experience or education and ability to qualify for a limited Peace Officer status.

Call for information and a n application. Resumes will not be accepted. (714) 834-2844, (741) 834-2423, COUNTY OF ORANGE, Personnel Department, 10 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701. Affirmative Action Employer.

## Other Workshops

### City of Poway Workshop

On Friday, October 4 the Park Rangers Association of California and the City of Poway Community Services Department will be conducting an all day workshop at the Lake Poway Recreation Area. The workshop, which is scheduled to begin at 8:00 a.m., will be broken up into two 1/2-day sessions. From 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. the San Diego County Regional Occupational Training Center will lead participants through a series of exercises that focus in on what it takes to have effective "Team Building." After lunch (and until 4:30 p.m.), participants will have an opportunity to learn first hand from the experts what it takes to lead a nature hike, give an on-site interpretive talk and how to go about developing a top-notch interpretive center.

The cost of the workshop is \$20.00 per person that includes workshop materials and a B.B.Q. lunch (featuring: smoked trout, fried catfish, B.B.Q. shrimp, hamburgers, hot dogs, salad, dessert and drinks).

For more information and/or to make your reservations, call Brent Mason at (619) 679-4386. Registration deadline is Friday, September 27.

## Natural Resources Communication Workshop

The 1992 Natural Resources Communication Workshop will be held from January 6-10, 1992 (and possibly January 13-17 depending on enrollment demand) at California State University, Chico. The workshop is designed to help natural resource workers more effectively communicate with the general public through personal presentations using good visual aids - especially 35mm slides. Since many of the problems in natural resources management are people-oriented, more effective communication can significantly improve many management programs.

The hands-on workshop is practical-oriented. It will enhance participants' communication skills in planning, preparing, presenting, and evaluating presentations. A variety of topics are covered including: selecting communication strategies for specific audiences, creating graphics, and handling equipment problems. A special session entitled "Verbal Judo" provides hints for handling difficult or even hostile audiences.

The workshop has been sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society for more then 20 years. The deadline for applications is November 8, 1991; the course fee is \$350. For more information, contact Dr. Jon K. Hooper, California State University, Chico, CA, 95929-0560 or call (916) 898-5811.

## World Conference Update

For those interested, a correction is needed on the date for the World Ranger Conference. The Conference is tentatively scheduled for September of 1994. This will be in Poland, near the joint Polish-Czech-Soviet park in the Tetra mountains.



# Controversy swirled along the lakeshore

by Joe Holmberg  
Operations Br., C-O Div.

*The waters of Isabella Lake have long been turbulent. Conflicting winds of local politics and economics collided with those of public safety and conservation to create not a tempest in a teapot but a ruckus at a reservoir. A history of Isabella was traced by Joe Holmberg, chief of the Natural Resources Management Unit of Con-Ops' Operations and Maintenance Section. (Reprinted from the US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, Public Affairs Report, June 1991, 91-6)*

The lake was completed and began filling in 1953. In 1955 the Secretary of the Army granted Kern County a 25-year license to use and occupy approximately 15,500 acres of land and water at Isabella Lake for park and recreational purposes.

But by early 1960s, it became apparent that the county had problems. It had been providing primarily primitive recreation facilities, was financially unable to establish and maintain the facilities at the standards required by the license agreement or to accommodate the growing number of people flocking to the lake from Los Angeles and all over Southern California.

In March 1964 the license was amended, and the county returned to the Corps all development and maintenance along the west shore of the lake. In 1971 the county terminated the agreement entirely and turned everything over to the Corps, keeping only the small Wofford Heights Park and its boat patrols.

As early as the partial relinquishment in 1964 the Corps began upgrading facilities. It paved roads,

installed waterborne restrooms with solar water heaters, added fish-cleaning stations and enlarged boat-launching ramps.

But along with the new responsibilities given to the Corps was the problem of the county's practice of permitting unrestricted vehicular access and uncontrolled camping along the lakeshore.

Starting with federal legislation on water pollution control, the Corps became increasingly aware of the environmental aspects of its resource management policies. In 1974, concerns about water quality at Isabella and other lakes led to a District policy against unrestricted camping below the gross pool elevation — the high water line.

Even so, until 1983 shoreline camping at designated day-use areas was tacitly permitted, particularly on holiday weekends. But the long-standing tradition of fee and ready access to the entire lakeshore, and the lake being open to all night fishing, made enforcement of the District policy politically charged.

The arrival of a new park manager with a strong land-stewardship philosophy strained the relationship between the park staff and lakeside residents and visitors. The new manager's attempts to apply Corps-wide regulations in a manner consistent with other District lakes was perceived as a negative impact on tourism.

A local newspaper then began printing adverse stories, which incited public outcry. Citizens advisory groups were formed to consult with the park staff on management decisions.

Two issues remained unresolved, however, to the dissatisfaction of some area politicians and businessmen. They were unrestricted access to the shoreline and open camping

along the lakeshore.

The controversy continued to swirl. Opposition groups then began to agitate for Forest Service management of the park because of a perceived "friendly ranger" philosophy of that agency — and potentially less public-use regulations.

The lake and surrounding land was turned over to the Forest Service May 15.

Because the federal lands around Isabella Lake will continue to be scrutinized by residents and businessmen, the Forest Service will no doubt become the foil for perceived local economic ills.

The problems at the lake are not new. In 1987, then Brig. Gen. Art Williams, a previous district commander, wrote to Col. Wayne Scholl, then the district engineer. In his note, which — ironically — congratulates Scholl for Isabella Lake Winning the Chief of Engineer's Project of the Year Award, Williams observed, "It's unfortunate that other forces (some beyond anyone's control) are creating further problems."

Can the U.S. Forest Service administer the lake without being dragged into local politics and economics? Or will controversy continue, regardless of whomever manages the lake?

It remains to be seen.





# Say Good-bye to Isabella

After 20 years as one of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers local district's most popular lakes, Isabella is being transferred to the Forest Service.

As far back as 1974 some Kern county residents and a county supervisor complained that the Corps was enforcing park rules. It was hurting the tourist trade, they said.

The Corps responded that it was simply doing what it was required to do — ensuring public health safety and practicing stewardship of the natural resources.

Park Manager Henry Hornsby discussed the lake's management at length over several years at public meetings in the surrounding communities. The District helped form a citizen advisory group. The Corps was not being authoritarian, Hornsby told them, but was providing for the public's safety and enjoyment of the park.

The proponents of the change, however, felt otherwise, and the Corps became the target for continuing complaints about the area's slowing economy. The permanent population of the area was about 5,500 when the lake was completed in 1953; today it is around 35,000, and Mike Helm, chief of the District's Operations Branch (Con-Ops Division). Communities sprang up around the lake, and they are dependent on it for their economies. The problem was, he said, that Corps regulations ran counter to the political desires and proposed economic development of the area.

County supervisor Roy Ashburn, the most outspoken opponent of the Corps, managed to enlist the aid of his longtime friend and former boss Rep. Bill Thomas (R-Bakersfield). They managed to get the Corps to transfer the park lands to the Forest Service, which said it was agreeable to the proposal.

But the Corps did a good job at Isabella Lake, Helm said. "Hats off to the men and women who operated the lake according to DA (Department of the Army) and Corps of Engineers regulations, while keeping the public interest always in the forefront. And they did it in a highly professional manner," he said.

No District personnel spaces were lost as a result of the transfer, and jobs were available for all employees. Some of the rangers transferred to the Forest Service and will remain at the lake, while others accepted reassignment elsewhere in the District. Three Corps maintenance employees will stay at Isabella to operate the dam for flood control and water conservation purposes. They will work under the supervision of the park manager at Success Lake.

Located on the Kern River 45 miles east of Bakersfield, Isabella Lake offers the area flood control, irrigation, power and a wide variety of recreation activities.

The lake backs up behind a 3, 257-foot-long main dam and an auxiliary dam, which together contain nearly 5 million cubic yards of earthfill. The lake, when full, has a surface area of 11,400 acres, stores 570,000 acre-feet of water, and has a 38-mile shoreline.

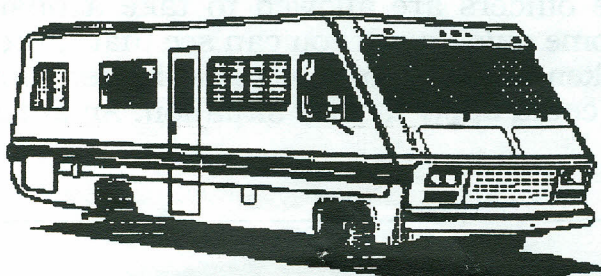
The dams give flood control protection to the city of Bakersfield and about 350,000 acres of surrounding agriculture lands and oil fields in the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley. As of 1987, they prevented well over \$100 million in flood damages — more than five times their initial cost of construction.

The District developed a variety of popular recreation activities at the lake. These are: camping areas (all with restrooms and some with hot-water showers), picnic sites, hiking trails, boating swimming and — the prime attraction — **fishing**. There is even an off-road vehicle trail and a trapshoot area. In 1987, Isabella was named the best-managed park in the Corps of Engineers.

The Corps also managed an award-winning wildlife area. Visitors could see a natural riparian forest and diverse animal life in the 1,400 acre South Fork Wildlife Area. It is part of the largest existing stretch of contiguous cottonwood- and-willow riparian forest left in California. In 1979 it won an Audubon Society award and the Chief of Engineers Design and Environmental Program Honor Award.

The transfer of Isabella to the Forest Service was done in the most expeditious manner available by using a previously-signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Agriculture, the Forest Service's parent agency. The MOU requires that there be an exchange of land between departments, rather than a one-way, something-for-nothing transfer. The amount of land traded need not be equal, but there must be some value received for value given.

Accordingly, the Corps exchanged its' 16,000 acres around the lake for approximately 2,500 acres of Forest Service land near the District's Pine Flat Lake in eastern Fresno County.





## To the Signpost Editor

Dear Editor:

As we spoke to fellow park rangers in Yosemite last March, we had no idea what the long range effects would be. Since March we have spoken to city commissions, councilman, neighborhood groups, park employees, and city sponsored safety fairs. We have become the "unofficial" gang experts for park rangers throughout the state. We have been disseminating information up and down the coast whenever and wherever possible. Michael Barnes and I were the only two park rangers invited to attend the California Gang Investigators Association's (C.I.G.A.) statewide conference in June of this year in Anaheim, California. We really received some valuable training and information at this conference.

Our gang team has been invited by the Conservation Law Enforcement Association in Arizona to speak at their conference in February 1992. We will be co-hosting a half day session with the FBI who will be discussing satanic rituals, while we discuss L.A. County wide street gangs.

Our gang team can assist your organizations' efforts through written gang information and trends. We also have information to assist you on how to read and understand graffiti. The gang team can be reached from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at (213) 420-1208.

Respectfully,

*Jack C. Deaton*  
Chief Park Ranger  
City of Long Beach

## Quotes from Tom Maloney

"I hope the United States of America is not so rich that she can afford to let wilderness pass by - or so poor she cannot afford to keep them."

—Mardy Murie 1977—

The definition of Bureaucracy: The process by which energy is turned into solid waste.

What's the difference between a morning dove and an evening dove? About 12 hours.

## Southern California Board Meeting

The first PRAC Southern California Board meeting will be held on September 9, 1991, at 7:00 p.m. at the Anaheim City Ranger Office. All PRAC members who live in the south part of the state are welcome to attend and assist their Board in making things happen in the Southland.

## Tax Refund Information

In a recent Supreme Court decision, peace officers may be able to deduct up to 80% of their meals for 1988, 1989 & 1990 tax returns. For all you rangers out there who are also peace officers, this applies to you.

This is based on a recent case brought before the U. S. Supreme Court; U. S. vs. Christey, State Police MN. The Court ruled that peace officers are allowed to take a business deduction for their meals while on duty. With some quick math you can see that this could amount to a bit of money if meal breaks are taken while on duty at restaurants. Your tax preparer needs to be consulted to see how this could apply to your situation. An amended return could bring you a refund.



# Park Rangers Recieve Valor Awards

Memo from Jack C. Deaton  
Chief Park Ranger, City of Long Beach,  
Department of Parks and Recreation

Senior Ranger Lloyd Cox, Rangers Richard Covos, Mike Barnes, and Billy (the Kid) Greco have all received valor awards from the City of Long Beach, Parks and Recreation Department. The valor awards are presented annually by the city and are the highest award an individual can receive. Sometimes it's not so much what you do as what you do not do.

It is my sincere pleasure to nominate Park Rangers Michael Barnes, Richard Covos and William Greco, as well as their supervisor Lloyd Cox for the Department's valor award.

This nomination is based on actions taken by the Park Rangers whereby they put their own lives at risk in order to protect the 150 youths attending a dance at King Park.

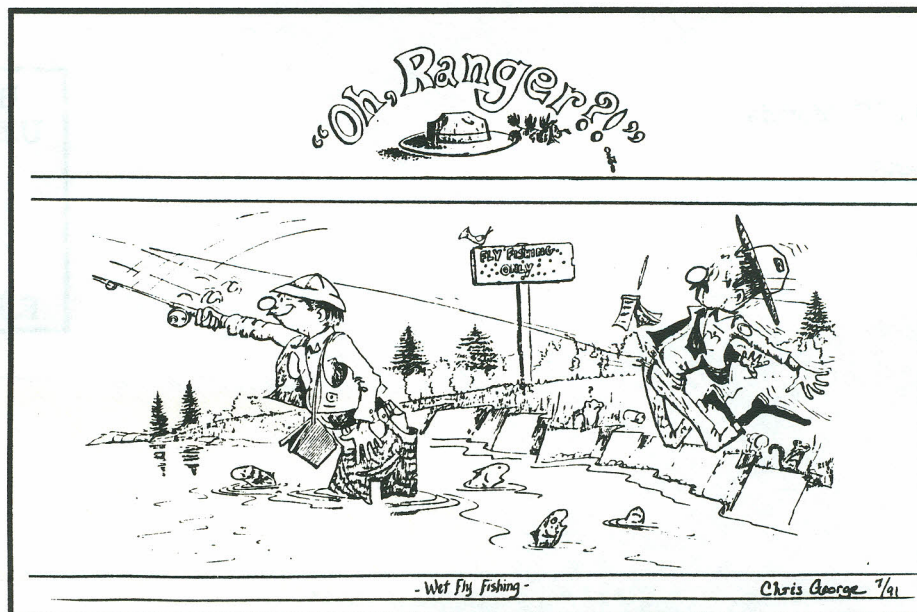
Specifically, on the evening of Saturday, October 6, 1990, these four park rangers were present at King Park to provide security for the youths as they exited the dance. While the youths were still congregating outside the community center, suspects from a passing vehicle pointed an assault rifle out the window, first at the youths and then directly at the park rangers. It was at

this point that these rangers demonstrated excellent restraint and a remarkable degree of valor by withholding fire.

With their weapons drawn, the rangers did not fire because of the youths who were in the process of responding to their warning to "get down." The rangers would have been justified in firing at the suspects in order to protect themselves. Instead they chose to put their own lives on the line rather than risk having an innocent bystander injured or killed if the suspects returned fire.

Although there were ultimately no shots fired during this confrontation, the danger these park rangers faced was all too real. This incident did not represent a mere idle threat. The vehicle and its passengers were primary suspects in a drive-by shooting that occurred shortly after this incident.

I sincerely believe that by virtue of their actions these four park rangers have proven themselves to be heroes in the truest sense of the word.





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CALIFORNIA**

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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 David Brooks. Articles of 1,000 words, or less are welcome. All submissions become property of PRAC and may be edited without notice. Submissions should be mailed to David Brooks, 560 Hillcrest Dr., Ben Lomond, CA, 95005. Information can also be submitted by telephone at (408) 336-2948. Submission deadlines are the last day of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

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