



A New Beginning by Pam Helmke

On May 1st 1993, the City of San Jose Department of Recreation, Parks and Community Services ceased to exist. One of the

largest park and recreation departments in California, RPCS, as it was known to City staff, fell victim of the states' and the city's continued budget problems.

The division of the department began when the largest section, Recreation and Community Services was transferred into a new city department. The Neighborhood Services Department is designed to consolidate all city services that provide direct service to the community into one department to coordinate and improve the city's response to problems in the neighborhoods.

The former Assistant Director of RPCS, Nancy Johnson, was chosen to head this new department.

Neighborhood parks and park maintenance services was transferred to the Department of Streets and Traffic. They will assume responsibility for all neighborhood park maintenance, the city's creek trail system and the added responsibility of landscaped traffic islands.

The San Jose Ranger Program and regional parks, such as Kelley Park, Alum Rock Park, and Lake Cunningham were transferred to the Department of Convention and Cultural Facilities. This Department, headed by Ellen Oppenheim, a former RPCS Assistant Director was renamed the Department of Convention, Cultural and Visitor Services.

The changes that have occurred will most likely provide San Jose Park Rangers with many new and interesting challenges. It should be an interesting first year for sure.

Thanks Bob!

Recently our President Bob Donohue has been called to assist several agencies to help head off proposed staffing cuts. The current State budget crisis has effected most local park agencies and many of us see our jobs on the cutting block.

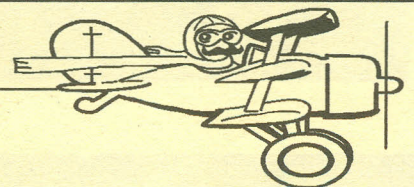
The City of San Jose stands to lose 9 of 18 rangers if the council passes the proposed budget on June 30. On Tuesday May 25, 1993, PRAC President Bob Donohue spoke to the San Jose City Council in the jammed council chambers. Bob presented information to the council on the importance of the Park Ranger pro-

gram and what it would cost the citizens of San Jose to lose 50% of the Ranger staff. Hopefully, with his help, staffing for San Jose Park Rangers will not be reduced.

Bob is not stopping there, next month he will be going to Long Beach to speak before their City Council. If your agency needs help convincing your governing bodies that Rangers are a vital resource give him a call.

Thanks Bob for your help!
Carol Fredrickson

If you need help in saving ranger jobs with all these budget cuts occurring throughout parks, call Bob Donohue at (916) 342-6921.



From the Presidents' Desk

By Bob Donohue

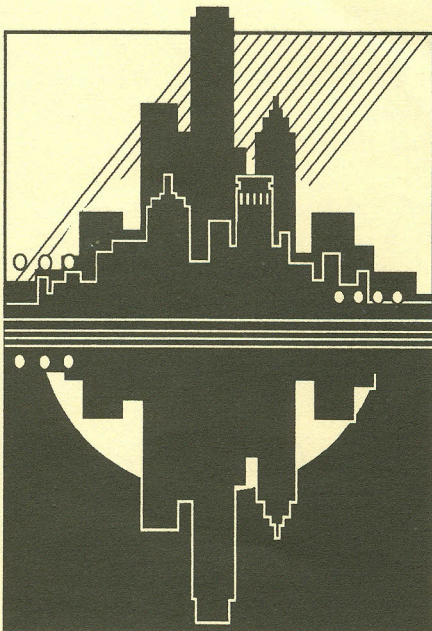
In these uncertain budgetary times ranger programs up and down the State are coming under attack. It seems every time money gets tight, park systems (i.e. rangers) become expendable.

PRAC must take the lead in showing agencies and districts why park systems and rangers are an integral part of the community, and why they must be preserved.

It is also important that each member support initiatives that will help maintain current funding or create new funding for parks. There is just such an initiative being backed by PRAC. See the next page for more information about this initiative. In a nutshell, if it passes, funding for parks would be taken away from the whims of politicians. The funds collected would be used by local and state agencies for park programs only. Every member of PRAC should become familiar with this initiative, called **"KEEP OUR PARKS OPEN AND SAFE ACT OF 1994."** Currently money is being raised to try and get this on the ballot for next year. We all need to take an active role in making other people aware of the initiative and getting their support. It just may be your job you save.

You will soon be receiving a letter that can be reworded to fit your situation to be sent off to the Governor. We need to get his attention before Rangers become an endangered species. It is time to become an activist if you haven't already. If our profession is going to continue and if parks are going to stay open then, we as members of PRAC must each individually become active. Get involved in supporting any initiative that is going to benefit park systems, write letters to your congressman, the Governor or your local government, whoever is responsible for your park system.

The price of sitting back and watching everybody else may mean a wait in the unemployment line. It is up to you. I am committed and I hope all of you are also!



A Ranger Left Alone In The City Too Long by Scott Serena

The cities' canyons meet at right angles.
Straight walls fall from the sky,
to the river of cars that flow at their base.
I walk the sidewalk beaches and look up
at trees growing from the roof of a tall building.
I wonder if they miss the Earth's embrace,
that imprisons them like a hooded falcon.
Do trees miss the soft caress of a worm
as it crawls through the web of roots?
Roots touch and mingle in the forest floor,
as fungus links them one to another.
Mycorrhizal telephone lines form a collective,
a party line of trees.

Historical Interpretation?

by L. Lawrence Baird

In 1962 I drove from my home in Lynwood, California to the railroad station in Compton. A total of about three miles. I boarded the rapid transit system (then called Pacific Electric), paid 73 cents and rode to downtown Los Angeles. That was the last time I rode the "red car" but not the first. Only a few years prior I could have walked for three blocks to the nearest "red car stop," but that line was closed along with all the other passenger rail transit throughout Southern California.

Since that time Southern California has been without any effective rapid transit, but in earlier years the Pacific Electric brought passengers from Santa Monica to Riverside to Long Beach and a lot of small towns in between that built up around the Pacific Electric tracks.

Southern California had one of the best rapid transit systems in the country and it was dismantled by three firms. Standard Oil, General Motors and Firestone Tire for obvious reasons. The rail cars didn't use tires, oil only for lubrication and the rail cars were not made by General Motors.

The red cars went away and were replaced by air polluting automobiles.

But what does this have to do with PRAC or park rangers? Actually not a lot, except when you attend the 1994 workshop in Riverside you will be only a few miles from the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris.

The Orange Empire Railway Museum is privately funded and operated by volunteers. Several of the Pacific Electric cars have been restored and on weekends run up and down a mile long track. The trains seldom run during the week but the museum is open and you will be able to see the remnants of one of the worlds' largest rapid transit system and if you go on Saturday or Sunday, ride the cars that were part of this system.

Keep Our Parks Open and Safe Act

by Dave Lydick

A recently written initiative could provide a new source of funding for both state and local parks in California. The Planning and Conservation League is leading the drive to see if there is support and financial backing for an initiative that would raise motor vehicle registrations by \$9.00 per year. Unlike past bonds or initiatives that made money available for acquisition and development, these funds would be prioritized to be used for operation and maintenance purposes.

The draft text from 4/28/93 distributes the funds as follows:

1. CA Dept. of Parks & Recreation. would get 8% of the total fund (this would be used to help offset some lost revenues as state parks would no longer collect day use fees, which would be a major selling point to the voters).
2. CA Dept. of Parks & Recreation. would then get 43% of the remaining fund.
3. CA. Dept. Fish & Game 6%.
4. Santa Monica Mts. Conservancy 1%.
5. Local Agencies (Counties, Cities, and Districts) 50%.

This would obviously not be the solution to all of our agencies funding problems, but it may be a first step toward establishing a guaranteed funding source dedicated to park operations on a statewide basis. In my own agency (Sacramento County Parks), this would provide approximately 1 million dollars in funding which is not close to the 4 million we lost this year.

There is still work to be done and money to be raised, (\$150,000 is needed to try to get this qualified for the ballot). If you have any rich friends or are interested in getting additional information on this initiative, Doug Bryce has been attending the organizing meetings and I know that, at the very least, he will be willing to accept any sum of money from anyone to go toward this goal.



A Cougar in the Canyon

by Thomas Maloney

Park Ranger II, Orange County Harbor, Beaches & Parks

The mitigation meeting was droning on and on, down on the floor of Aliso Canyon when something caught my eye up near the tip of the far ridge. A lull in the meeting's conversation allowed me steal another glance at the thick chaparral covered hillside.

Yes... there I saw it again!

I had never seen one in this area of the park before so I felt this would be a new sighting. If so, that would bring us up to a total of eight that we were aware of. It was something I felt, as a ranger, I should keep a record of.

I quickly triangulated the approximate location and jotted down a crude map on the back of my meeting's agenda. I promised myself that I'd return tomorrow and investigate the matter more thoroughly.

On the following day I arrived in the canyon and after consulting my notes of the previous day, proceeded to cross the canyon bottom which was thick with grasses and forbes. Having crossed the grasslands I waded into the thick stands of coastal sage-scrub predominated by California Sage brush. Its aromatic scent accompanied me for the rest of the day.

As the terrain got steeper the vegetation changed to thick coastal chaparral. Working my way through some particularly tenacious Laurel Sumac, I came across an animal trail which roughly headed in the direction I wished to travel. So, after scanning it for sign, I followed it west.

I noted a coyote track in the damp earth ahead of me. Perhaps it was the same one I saw a few days earlier hunting mice in the grasslands now far below. There were also deer scat in evidence along the trail. I took this to be a good sign. A western fence lizard scurrying across some paper-dry leaves, startling me back to the real and much larger object of my search.

I checked the surrounding hill for some familiar landmarks and set off traversing the slope at approximately a 45% angle. The going as

much more difficult now. The sumac and the lemonade berry was so thick in places I had to detour around it rather than risk crawling noisily through their tick-infested branches.

Must be getting close now. I slowed my pace and took a more close note of the ground for sign. Zig-zagging back and forth across the slope I startled a pair of California towhees from a sugar bush. That's when I almost missed it!...There on the ground at my feet was the first evidence that I hadn't imagined the whole darn thing.

More and more bits of sign I found, indicating that what I was looking for was either uphill or downhill from my current position. I was close now.

I stood on my tip-toes vainly searching the thick head high brush for any larger sign or a possible sighting. No use. I decided to then try may luck uphill first and was rewarded with a few scraps of sign which quickly disappeared. Downhill is where it must be waiting.

Retracing my steps I moved back downslope cautiously pausing now and then to catch my breath and wipe the sweat off my forehead before it could drop burning and stinging into my eyes.

"Was all this really worth it?" I asked myself. Shrugging my shoulders I thought "Sure, why not, that is why you became a ranger, right?"

Blast this thick brush! I was going to have to step on this thing before I actually found it. It must be really hidden. Encouragingly more and more evidence of it's presence was showing itself...It had to be just yards away! I was almost on my hands and knees tracking through the brush now. Here a little bit of sign, there some evidence kept leading me farther down the slope...It had to be close...Wait...There it was! I could see it now.

I could just make out its once-sleek brown body now laying quietly on its side in the bottom of a shallow ravine. As I approached cautiously,

as if fearful my find would vanish into the brush, I could now make out several bullet holes in its side and back. Although I knew the energy and power had left its body long before the bullets had done their damage, I felt a little anger at the damage someone had done to its once perfect skin.

Gingerly, I placed one foot on its side and gave it a testing shove....Just to be certain.

It didn't move.

Nope, it was not going any place, any time soon. Part of its body was wedged against an abrupt turn in the ravine, while its underside was snagged against rocks and roots in the bottom of the gully. No, it was stuck, and stuck good.

By the look of its age and deterioration, it must have been dumped here years ago, I mused....

The sun was now moving toward sunset and since the thought of traveling down a steep and brushy slope in the dark was not my idea of a good time, I hurriedly took some Polaroids and made my assessment of the scene.

No plates, no engine, two tires still on rims, broken glass scattered everywhere, exhaust pipe twisted and bent under the body...

Just when I was about to give up on making a positive identification, I found it! There on the upper back side of the body almost hidden by over hanging branches, was directly affixed a chrome circular metal disk with slotted edges.

On the inner surface of the disk was written:

Mercury

Cougar

X R 7

I still remember the look on my supervisors face when I returned to the park office and reported, "Hey Boss, did you know that there's a Cougar in the canyon?"

Cal Ranger Foundation Board Meeting May 3, 1993 Minutes

Meeting called to order 11:05 A.M. by Pres. Parmer. Present at the meeting were Tom Smith, Doug Bryce, and Dave Lydick. Absent were Inez Cook, Marianne Smith, and Mary Angle-Franzini.

Discussion of board members being able to make meetings and what day(s) of the week may be best to get attendance. Next meeting date Sept. 12, noon, at Rick Parmer's house (tentative).

Organizational transfer added to old business.

Minutes approved by a motion of Smith.

Treasurer's Report: Donations for P.C.L. study; \$500. Mr. & Mrs. Pozzi, \$250. Sierra Parks Assoc., and \$500. Cal Ranger Foundation, (total check from Cal Ranger Foundation to P.C.L. \$1250.). \$1706. was received from the PRAC/CSPRA Joint Conference. Current balance is \$1908.41. (see attachment). Report adopted by motion Smith.

Presidents Report, Palmer: Rick made reports to both PRAC and CSPRA boards at the workshop. Ron Slimm showed an interest in the research D-Base. Doug will contact Slimm to ask him to look into what D-Bases are available and cost. Rick

will ask Mary to check on revenue (fund-raising) D-Base. Lydick will check on law enforcement D-Base. Results to go into a report format.

Old Business:

A. Brochure text: Has been updated by Doug. Some additional re-write will be done by Rick. Changes were made by the board members in attendance. Doug will send out copies of the re-write.

B. State Parks Retreat: Mary and Rick will have another meeting on this.

C. Projects:

•1. Habitat Restoration: Discussion of an environmental education "prototype" guide for urban areas. Tom has seen a guide that Pinnacles N.M. has done and will try to find it. Environmental Education, especially in urban areas, is an attractive area for getting grants. Should tie parks into this. Rick will write up some ideas and circulate.

•2. Research D-Base: Already discussed.

•3. Scholarship, Publications, Endowment fund: Scholarships, CSPRA and PRAC will do all the work, Cal Ranger Foundation will write the

check. Board should read (or re-read), the Mather endowment article and make comments as to how we might accomplish something similar.

•4. Save Bodie: Encourage people to write letters in favor of S.B. 492 and H.R.240. Sponsors are Boxer/Feinstein and Lehman/Miller. Addresses are U.S. Senate, Wash. D.C. 20510 and U.S. House of Rep. Wash.D.C. 20515.

•5. Newsletter Articles: Rick will do for next issues. Copies of minutes should be sent to the newsletter editors.

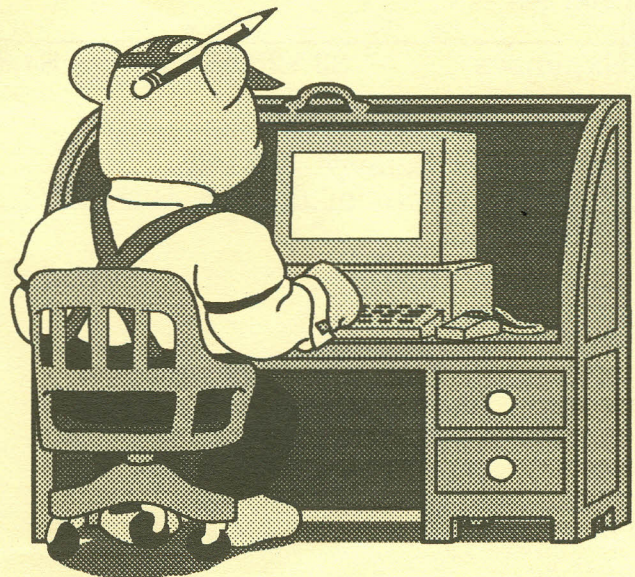
•6. Transfer of Organizational Administration: Doug will send out draft, make comments and return quickly then we will do a phone vote.

New Business:

Bond Act, still needs \$150,000. to get it going. See 4/28/93 Draft (attachment).

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Lydick



Park Rangers Association of California

Financial Statement

January 1, 1992 to December 31, 1992

Revenue	Thru 3/13	Thru 6/4	Thru 9/9	Thru 12/31
Dues	\$5,9120.00	\$6,555.00	\$6895.00	\$9,335.00
Scholarship	215.00	215.00	240.00	320.00
Sales				0
Directory	24.00	80.00	80.00	87.00
Supervisory Workshop	220.00	220.00	220.00	280.00
Verbal Judo Workshop				1,365.00
Campout (1991)	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
Interest	3.95	14.36	24.45	33.46
Overpayment			10.00	10.00
Total Revenue	\$6,412.95	\$7,134.36	\$7,533.45	\$11,494.46

Expenses

Executive Board			\$77.00	\$158.44
Publications/Printing	\$868.53	\$877.21	952.53	952.53
Scholarship				200.00
Conference				0
Training	124.89	124.89	124.89	1,174.86
Travel	200.60	200.60	1,262.78	1,174.86
Office Supplies	79.79	226.05	345.27	795.94
Postage	405.48	550.48	694.48	1,025.48
Signpost/Cal Ranger	297.89	725.23	1,449.75	2,845.28
Phone	109.8	238.96	402.18	514.38
Awards	93.10	93.10	93.10	93.10
Nonprofit Corp. Filling Fee	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Park Law Enforcement Association			102.50	102.50
Manager Fee Owed	1,348.00	129.00	197.00	685.00
Manager Fee Paid		1,348.00	1,348.00	1,348.00
Training Fee Owed	287.50			
Training Fee Paid		287.50	287.50	287.50
Bank Charges			20.00	66.00
Refunds			10.00	80.00
Total Expenses	\$3,820.58	\$4,806.02	\$7,371.98	\$11,742.12

Checking Account Balance 12/31/92	\$1,823.33
Scholarship Fund Account Balance 12/31/92	\$1,522.30
Total Balance	\$3,345.63

Park Rangers Association of California

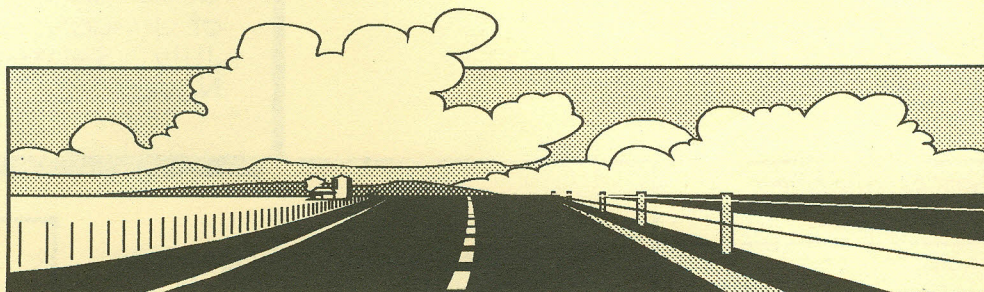
Proposed Budget-1993

Revenue

Dues	\$9,000.00
Conference	0
Scholarship Donations	200.00
Sales	200.00
Directory	50.00
Training/Workshops	3,000.00
Interest	50.00
Total Revenue	\$12,500.00

Expenses

Conference	\$0.00
Executive Board	200.00
Publication/Printing	1,000.00
Manager Fees	1,800.00
Training	2,100.00
Travel	1,200.00
Office Supplies	900.00
Postage	1,200.00
Signpost/Cal Ranger	3,000.00
Phone	630.00
Scholarship	200.00
Park Law Enforce. Ass.	150.00
Bank Charges	120.00
Total Expenses	\$12,500.00



Region 4 News

by Donald Watstein

A big hello from Region 4, Southern California. "It is our duty to protect and serve all park users so that they are able to enjoy themselves in a peaceful atmosphere while they have fun at any of the parks."

Let's talk about team and the things that geese know! Next time you see geese heading south for the winter, flying in a "V" formation, you might be interested to know that scientists have discovered that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its' own.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels that drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation. When the lead goose gets tired, it

rotates back and another goose flies point., The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front.

Finally, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded and falls out of formation, two other drop out and follow the disabled goose down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it is able to fly or until it dies, and then they launch out to catch up their group.

Geese know that working together takes less effort than everyone going their own way. They stick together for the good of the flock and watch out for each other while giving encouragement to their leaders. They also take turns with the most difficult task of leading the flock.

This is the year for team work in California!

PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

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1993

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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.

Membership Application

name _____

address _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____

Phone _____
home _____ work _____

Employer or School _____

Job Classification or Major _____

Voting Membership

Regular \$35 _____

Non-voting Membership

Agency:

(1-10 persons—2 mailings) \$45 _____

(11-50 persons—5 mailings) \$70 _____

(50+ persons—10 mailings) \$90 _____

Student \$10 _____

Associate \$15 _____

Supporting \$50 _____

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