



INSIDE REGION FIVE

PRAC

Monthly Volume 1 Issue 3 Issue Date 11-15-91

DIRECTOR'S NOTEPAD

As 1991 nears an end and we begin to focus our attention toward the new year, one cannot help but look back, just a little, to see what we have done and where we have been.

While much has changed within the association (and for the good, I might add) during the past 365 days, so many important issues still need to be resolved before we can really feel like our jobs are done. One issue which has been particularly frustrating for me, as Region V Director, is the "censorship" of the Region V newsletter. If you recall, in our first issue, I went about outlining several goals I hoped to meet during my two year term as Director. One of these goals was to improve communication and provide members a medium by which they could exchange ideas and information.

Our goal was never designed to supplant or replace the SIGNPOST as the voice of the association; however, it seems that several of our peers feel that our local communique could potentially do just that if allowed to remain in its "old" form. They are of the opinion that a two page (front-back), graphic-less "flyer" is what Region V members want and deserve. Since our options, at this time, are few and far between and because we do not want to be labeled as

(Continued on last page)

FOR SALE: 1971 PINTO

by
Ed Harrison, Park Ranger II
Orange Cc. H,B & P

Interpretation, as a recognized skill, was first defined some 40 years ago. In that time the world has made some incredible changes, but what changes have been made in interpretation? Many of the old interpretive standbys are still relied upon today. At some locations the same nature walks, bird walks and historical tours are being given that were first lead when Eisenhower was President. If you talk to some of the cronies (and people trained by these cronies) they'll tell you, "It worked when I started doing programs in '71 (or whenever), and it still works today!"

These same folks should ask themselves what kind of car were they driving in 1971? Was it a Pinto? Maybe a Volkswagon Beetle? Those fine old cars did their job, they made it back and forth to work, and they did it with great economy. But would they drive a '71 Pinto today? Could they keep pace with the modern world?

Times have certainly changed since then. In the forty years since interpretation was defined, in the twenty years since your Pinto rolled off the lot, the world has changed. Has your interpretation program changed with it? The next time someone does a "nature walk," take a good look at the crowd. They usually look like some of the most bored people in the world. They stand, almost patiently, arms folded, with their-

toe pushing a pebble around in the dirt.

Interpreters no longer have the captive audience that we once had. A Pinto just isn't going to cut it in today's world. If people are looking for education, they'll read it in a book or watch a special on P.B.S. Most people are going to our programs to interact with a real-life, personable human being. They want to participate in the subject, not just watch you.

In order to be successful, we must trade in our Pintos and Volkswagons for a newer model. We don't need all the gadgets of the new cars, too often these buttons and whistles just get in the way. We do need an efficient vehicle, something to involve these people in the subject at hand. We must stress experiential interpretation.

Our programs must be built on participation. Following you down the trail or through the halls of an old building is not participation. In order for us to meet the purpose of our programs, we must meet the needs of the visitors. They must become intimately involved in the activity or it is nothing.

If we are selling our programs like used cars, could your's compete? Does your Pinto or Rambler or, heaven forbid, Gremlin have a chance at competing for the visitors attention? Take a close look, get under the hood, kick the tires. And don't think a new paint job is going to solve your problems. *A lemon is still a lemon.* * * *

California Parklands:

An Endangered Species?

Almost every day another article appears in the newspapers citing a threat to the integrity of a local, state or national park. Mining, consessionaire scandals, resource degrading recreational use, plus budget, staffing and management problems have all been cited as public concerns.

The California Parks and Conservation Association, or CalParks, has been formed to balance the scales, providing nonpartisan, citizen leadership supporting park administrators in the best interest of the long term preservation of parkland resources. CalParks is dedicated to promoting the preservation and restoration of natural and cultural heritage values of these parks for the bebenefit of current and future generations.

To learn more about CalParks, and to receive a free issue of the latest issue of the CalParks Conservator, call the Southern Region Representative, Ed Harrison at (714) 567-6216 or (714) 278-8752.



"HOTSPOTS"

FEATHERLY REGIONAL PARK

In 1834, Mexican Governor Figueroa granted the 13,328 acre Rancho Canon de Santa Ana to Bernardo Antonio Yorba. The rancho, located on the north side of the river, extending the entire length of the canyon, encompassed the lands which Yorba and a portion of Featherly Regional Park now occupy.

In 1875, John W. Bixby, owner of Rancho Los Alamitos, bought a portion of Rho Canon de Santa Ana from Bernardo's widow. By 1925, Bixby's daughter, Susanna Bixby Bryant, had inherited the family lands in the canyon.

In 1965, the Orange County Board of Supervisors established a master plan of regional parks to meet the rapidly growing recreational needs within the county. On Jan. 8, 1970, Orange County opened Featherly Regional Park as the third county park and the first implemented under the new master plan.

Today, Featherly Park provides recreational pleasure for overnite campers only. The park encompasses over 700 acres, 110 acres of which are developed, leaving over 500 acres of natural streamside wilderness. It is situated in the heart of the Santa Ana Canyon just off Gypsum Canyon Rd. and the Riverside Freeway. Park visitors enjoy a semiarid climate with temperatures..
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(Featherly, Cont.)

averaging 85 degrees in the summer and 65 degrees during the winter months.

Featherly Regional Park
24001 Santa Ana Canyon Rd.
Anaheim, California 92808
(714) 637-0210

NOTEPAD, Cont.

malcontents, I humbly concede defeat. At the same time, I want to extend my sincerest apologies to the Board and to SIGNPOST Editor David Brooks for treading on "virgin" territory.

Despite what really is nothing more than a minor setback, I want to encourage all Region V members to continue to send in pertinent "local" information and to begin sending information that may be of use to all Park Ranger professionals to David Brooks at the address below.

David Brooks
560 Hillcrest Drive
Ben Loman, CA 95005



Unjust criticism is usually a disguised compliment. It often means you have aroused jealousy and envy. Remember that no one ever kicks a dead dog.

DALE CARNEGIE