

THE SIGNPOST

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1980



THE SIGNPOST

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The official journal of the Park Rangers Association of California

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A friend was suppose to come visit me today, and we were going to go exploring here in San Francisco. However, early this morning she called, to explain that she was ill and would not be able to make it. After our "good-byes" I said to no-one in particular, "It must be a sign that I should work on the SIGNPOST". "A message from God", replied my roommate. "More likely Tom Smith", I responded. "And from Tuolumne Meadows. That's as close to Heaven as I'm ever gonna get." A little while later I glanced at my horoscope which claimed that I should "make a special effort to complete overdue paperwork". Adding that I should, "Keep at a difficult task until it is completed". I started writing.

Not long ago, I was looking through the June issue of the California State Park Rangers Association's CALIFORNIA RANGER. I noticed a small note from CALIFORNIA Editor Jeff Price apologizing to the readers for the delay in the delivery of the issue, on account of a slow-moving kidney stone. I'm glad I don't have kidney stones, but I wish I had an excuse. I can think of a couple, I suppose. No time on the job; no access to typing pools; an inordinate fear of typewriters; laziness; It goes on. It has been a problem for me, and for the previous editors for the last four (4) years. I'm sure it's a problem for CSPRA'S REPORTER (quarterly) and CALIFORNIA RANGER (monthly).

With the SIGNPOST, we've given ourselves the most ambitious format of any of the growing number of Ranger Associations. Perhaps we need to re-examine our publication. It is difficult to deliver on time, at least it has been for me. I've only done it once in four (4) issues. Perhaps if the publication was produced in an area where the Editor could draw on the time and skills of other nearby members, there would be more success to this end.

Which brings me to something that has been developing quietly for quite a few months now. Since it's inception, PRAC directors and members have realized that affiliation with a similar professional association is an option for a quick way to recognition and effectiveness. The California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) and the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) have courted us almost from the beginning. More recently, directors from CSPRA, the Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR), and PRAC have realized the possible advantages in some sort of mutual cooperation or affiliation.

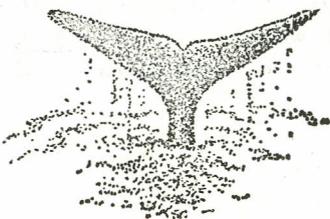
Of course, members of PRAC, CSPRA and ANPR are all concerned with preserving the integrity of the constituency of each of the associations. Although all three (3) associations are directed towards the careers and activities of Park Ranger, CSPRA and ANPR have the further common ground of their respective specific employers, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the National Park Service. Many of their actions are directed specifically at or are, as a result of their employers, and they do not want to lose this capability.

PRAC on the other hand has the ability to appeal to Rangers from any and all agencies, but has a smaller, and less unified membership. We would not want to lose sight of the needs of Rangers in remote BLM sites, small city parks, and the many diverse county and regional park districts.

On the positive side, there are advantages to affiliation with either, or both CSPRA and ANPR. If one of our field Rangers should come to PRAC for some backing, we could spear with the voices of a thousand, instead of our current one-hundred.

Of more immediate concern to this publication, it has been suggested that PRAC, ANPR & CSPRA could produce a single, joint publication. There could be articles of interest to all memberships, as well as separate sections, (and possibly supplemental newsletters), with articles specifically for each of the individual associations. The joint effort might help to insure a more predictable delivery of your SIGNPOST, as well.

The June issue of CSPRA'S CALIFORNIA RANGER had two (2) articles regarding possible affiliations with ANPR & PRAC. Both praised the work of the PRAC SIGNPOST, but the results of a regional membership meeting indicated that most CSPRA members were not interested in a publications merger. It is important that PRAC hears from it's membership as well.



Dave Laclergue
The Rock

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FROM THE PARK OFFICE

the president's message

If you attended the conference, enough said, but if you didn't you really missed something. Granted, a lot of you don't do interpretation, but the rap sessions between workshops and the comradarie over "coffee" were extremely educational. We all felt extremely welcome by both CSPRA and WIA. I would personally like to thank all of you out there that did your thing to help us out in Santa Cruz. To those of you that did your time at the registration table, to those of you that acted as a "gopher" and to those who answered all the questions about PRAC and what we stand for, many thanks. A extra large thanks to Walt Cacace (Santa Cruz County) who spent a lot of time in the registration process. I feel that CSPRA was impressed by our people and look for other cooperative ventures in the near future. There is some discussion about the possibility of holding another joint conference in 1982 which would also include the Association of National Park Rangers. That would really be a humdinger.

It has become increasingly apparent to your Board of Directors that our By-laws are just not very workable in their present form. Somewhere in the body of those By-laws we need to place standing committees, change the areas that the state is divided into from four (4) to two (2) (NorCal and SoCal), alter the nominating process, change the terms of the officers from one (1) year to two (2), and add the Executive Manager and the Manager's duties.

Standing committees could be as follows:

Law Enforcement. This committee would deal with the area of law enforcement as it pertains to research and development of standards, training, etc. Solicitation of articles for the quarterly publication.

Interpretive Committee. Research and development of interpretive standards, solicitation of articles for the SIGNPOST that present not only what other people are doing, but new ideas. Training

Maintenance Committee. Research and development. Cost saving ideas that can be passed on to members through the SIGNPOST. Employee safety ideas, etc. Training

Resource Management Committee. Research and development. Publish articles and other materials on up-to-date resource management ideas. Training

If you get the idea that the SIGNPOST will have a section for each of these areas, that is the thrust of the change. Our other standing committees would remain the same. Membership, Publications and Training Committees. We could look into the possibility of the chairs of these committees being on the Board of Directors, or attend the Directors meetings to give the Board direction. If you have some input in the above, let me know. I feel that we need to get all of you involved out there, and this is a good way to do it.

The Annual Conference has voted to take no action on any proposal that would put us in affiliation with another organization such as PORAC, without taking a very hard look at what positive or negative efforts would result. A special committee has been appointed to look into affiliation with PORAC, and I am asking that committee to also look

into the possibility of the California Peach Officers Association, and the California Park and Recreation Society. We will keep you informed. We want very much to retain our identity as Rangers and as a separate organization of professional park people.

Tom Smith

* * * * *

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CORRESPONDENCE

February 22, 1980

Mayor and City Council
c/o City Clerk
City of San Jose - City Hall
801 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

The Board of Directors of the Park Rangers Association of California, at their meeting of February 20th, 1980, has passed the following resolution:

Whereas;

1. The City Manager has presented a plan to transfer the maintenance responsibility of parks out of the park department and into a neighborhood maintenance concept and,

Whereas;

2. the current park and recreation department is already accessible to the citizens of San Jose and,

Whereas;

3. the cost effectiveness of the City Managers' proposed reorganization of the department has not been proven and,

Whereas;

4. such a division of responsibilities perpetuates an undisable professional rift in an otherwise unified park and recreation service and,

Whereas;

5. police already feel a low priority toward parks, and the park ranger needs to protect people who visit the parks, and,

Whereas;

6. public confusion would appear as to who has responsibility for what and,

Whereas;

7. professional park people who have spent a lifelong time developing efficient ways to implement park maintenance and operations will not be used in their areas of expertise. Hardly an example of fiscal responsibility and,

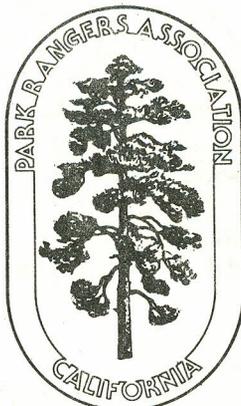
Whereas;

8. the present Parks and Recreation Department, its administration and its field personnel are recognized as one of the finest in the United States and has won several honors for excellence in park and recreation management.

Be It Resolved:

That the Park Rangers' Association of California, an organization of municipal, county, regional, state and federal park rangers, maintenance and administrative staff throughout the State of California recommend most highly to the Mayor and the City Council of the City of San Jose that the present Park and Recreation Department be maintained in its present organization and that the division of Park Maintenance remain and not be transferred to the Department of Neighborhood Maintenance.

Thomas A. Smith, President
Park Rangers Association
of California



\$15.00 does not a crystal ball buy!

The Park Rangers Association of California has annually increased it's membership and involvement of Park professionals. 1980 has been pledged as a dramatic year to expand member potential. Unfortunately at the beginning of each year we seem to lose track of a few wayward souls. Undoubtedly, in the static of recent politics, some change to other professions and lose contact. Others excel professionally and move out of state to other jurisdictions and agencies. But worst of all, some just plain get lost.

During the 1980 membership renewal period, we received several responses from members who had decided not to rejoin our efforts because we had somehow lost track of them! We have only one (1) complete mailing list. This list is developed from your original membership application or subsequent renewals. The same list is used to print all of our mailing labels. All of our mail (including the expensive SIGNPOST) is sent first class. First class mail is forwarded to wherever you move. It is interesting to note that several of our non-renewers wrote from addresses we have never heard of before.

Have you moved within a year? Did you leave a forwarding address for the Post Office? Did you mail us an address update? If your agency paid your membership for you, was your personal address emphasized? Or are we sending your mail to the Accounting Department?

We don't own a crystal ball. It is each member's obligation to keep us aware. We have many things to share, but mail is our primary tool.

Pat Hayes
Treasurer

* * * * *

FLASH!!

Tom Smith has just informed me that the CSPRA Board has recently approved the concept of an affiliation with PRAC, to include conferences, training workshops, joint statements, and possibly publications!

More Later . . . Ed.

* * * * *



california state park rangers association

March 17, 1980

Mr. Tom Smith, President
Park Rangers Association of California
5453 Blossom Dale Dr.
San Jose, CA. 95124

Dear Tom:

Thank you for your (PRAC's) help on the Joint Convention. It was a tremendous success for all of us, and the ties between our two groups became closer.

Would PRAC consider a mutual affiliation with CSPRA? Involved in such a proposal I would see an "organizational membership" exchange whereby the Presidents and Eiders of PRAC/CSPRA would receive each other's newsletters through a formal relationship. Also, concerted action on issues of mutual concern, such as Proposition 9's, environmental matters, etc. could be taken when appropriate. Standing invitations to officers of both organizations would be issued for annual meetings. We could go from there. The autonomy of each organization would be maintained and no voting memberships exchanged, but a tighter formal bond between our like groups would be mutually advantageous. A certain amount of publicity could be exchanged in our publications. A mutual affiliation agreement could be drafted by you and me and brought before our Boards of Directors if you feel the proposal has merit. Let me know.

Best wishes and thanks again,

Denzil R. Verardo, President
10899 Palm St.
Castroville, CA. 95012

FEATURED ARTICLES

FROM RAT HOLE TO REST HOME VASONA PARK

by
Bernard Garrison
Santa Clara County Parks

After reading the excellent article titled "A LONG HOT SUMMER: BOULEVARD DAYS", by Ron Subia with San Jose City Parks, I began reminiscing about the early months of 1979 at Vasona Park. Vasona is an urban park, part of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department. We are located in the Town of Los Gatos in the western part of Santa Clara County.

In the early months of '79, we were faced with a problem similar to that at Kelly Park, only the term is not "low Riders" but "High Riders". "High Riders" would not be seen in a chopped, lowered or raised Chevy or Riveria. They want a Dod 4 x 4 or Chevy Blazer equipped with all the goodies, and you need a ladder to get behind the wheel. There are no off-road areas in Santa Clara County where these vehicles can be operated, so Vasona Park became the social meeting place.

We have 735 parking spaces in the park and on a weekend beginning in February it would not be unusual to have 1,500 vehicles in the park. The residents at the North Gate had petitioned the Board of Supervisors to close that gate on weekends to stop traffic, and had succeeded. This gave us a 151 acre park with one entrance and a huge traffic problem.

As at Kelly Park, the drinking and drug traffic problem was huge. We tried the heavy law enforcement approach. On weekends we had 7 permanent Rangers and 10 Los Gatos Police Officers doing nothing but writing citations. It was not unusual to have 200 citations issued on a single day. Traffic would be bumper to bumper and at a standstill. Patrol by vehicle was next to impossible and an emergency response could not be made. After 4 or 5 weeks it was clear that law enforcement was not the answer. The traffic problem had driven the park user who wished to picnic and enjoy the park out. We were forced with the alternative of closing the park to all incoming traffic several times a day in order to clear the roads. This created a traffic jam at the Blossom Hill Gate which was the entrance point.

In April the Santa Clara County Parks Commission began a study to see if they could come up with some answer to solve the problem. Commission members would ride or walk with staff members and they were appalled at conditions in the park.

Several ideas were discussed and discarded as unworkable. The Ranger staff and Chief Johnson of Los Gatos Police Department recommended a vehicle entrance fee. Members of the Commission at first were opposed to charging a fee to enter the park but at least agreed that a fee might work.

The Commission presented a resolution to the Board of Supervisors recommending a fee, and a series of hearings were begun. The Board finally passed a \$1.00 Vehicle Entrance Fee to be instituted on May 19, 1979. A temporary toll booth was constructed and at 8:00 a.m. on May 19th we opened the park and began collecting fees.

The first weekend was business as usual with great amounts of vehicles attempting to enter the park. We received our share of complaints but most of them were from cruisers looking for a place to party. The park continued to fill up but with the fee we were able to control the numbers of vehicles which entered. When parking filled up, the park could be closed.

The upshot of the Vehicle Entrance Fee is that traffic and law enforcement are now practically non-existent, litter is dramatically reduced, staff has retained it's sanity, and the park is full but being used in the manner for which it was designed.

After a full summer, 99 out of 100 visitors approve of the fee and express gratitude that the park is again family oriented and a safe place to visit. We the staff now look forward to our busy season knowing we can handle the situation.

* * * * *

PARK RANGER:
A CHANGING IMAGE

submitted by
Pat Hayes
Fremont City Park

We all agree that the Park Ranger image is a primary factor of this profession. The public carries certain image concepts into the park and their use of facilities and interaction with staff is based on that perception of the Ranger function. Interpretation, maintenance, enforcement, rescue, instruction, direction, the uniform, the badge, even the hat all play an important role in this image. Since the majority of our activities take place in full public view, we are far more susceptible to criticism or acclaim than most other public servants. Management should be very aware of our potential to represent such a positive view of each agency.

In case you haven't noticed, the image has been progressively changing. Those of us who are retired or have years of professional service have been watching, creating or perhaps

resisting this change. For those beginners in education or training programs, your legacy is to maintain or improve the image when you land that professional job.

In an effort to display historical perspective of our profession, the following excerpts are provided for your edification:

"Sooner or later each visitor meets a Ranger. His full title is United States Park Ranger and he is one of the key men in the Park Service. He is the visitor's friend. He shows the guest how to reach the interesting places, warns him against feeding the bears, finds him when he is lost, and deals firmly with him when he violates the regulations which are few and reasonable."

A Ranger is a man's man. He likes animals and flowers. He can spend

all day on a horse and half the night on a square-dance floor. He comes in two styles, the year-round career man and the "90-day wonder", the seasonal Ranger who works only during rush tourist seasons. Either kind talks facts and listens well. Don't try to bluff a Ranger. I made that mistake once." National Geographic, 1959 "America's Wonderlands; The Science National Parks and Monuments of the United States", The National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. Page 20

"Put the Park Ranger to work. Lazy scheming loafers, they've wasted too many years selling tickets at toll booths and sitting behind desks filling out charts and tables in the vain effort to appease the mania for statistics which torments the Washington Office. Put them to work. They're suppose to be Rangers--make the bums range; kick them out of those overheated, air-conditioned offices, yank them out of those overstuffed patrol cars, and drive them out on the trails where they should be, leading the dudes over hill and dale, safely into and back out of the wilderness. It won't hurt them to work off a little office fat; it'll do them good, help take their minds off each other's wives and give them a chance to get out of reach of the boss--a blessing for all concerned."

They will be needed on the trail. Once we outlaw the motors and stop the road-building and force the multitudes back on their feet, the

people will need leaders. A venture-some minority will always be eager to set off on their own, and no obstacles should be placed in their path; let them take risks, for God-sake, let them get lost, sunburnt, stranded, drowned, eaten by bears, buried alive under avalanches--that is the right and privilege of any free American. But the rest, the majority, most of them new to the out-of-doors, will need and welcome assistance, instruction and guidance. Many will not know how to saddle a horse, read a topographical map, follow a trail over slickrock, memorize landmarks, build a fire in rain, treat snakebite, rappel down a cliff, glissade down a glacier, read a compass, find water under sand, load a burro, splint a broken bone, bury a body, patch a rubber boat, portage a waterfall, survive a blizzard, avoid lightning, cook a porcupine, comfort a girl during a thunderstorm, predict the weather, dodge falling rock, climb out of a box canyon, or pour piss out of a boot. Park Rangers know these things, or should know them, or used to know them and can relearn; they will be needed. In addition to this sort of practical guide service the Ranger will also be a bit of a naturalist, able to edify the party in his charge with the natural and human history of the area, in detail and in broad outline." "Desert Solitaire" "A Season in the Wilderness", Edward Abbey, Author, Pages 55 & 56

HORSE PATROL
Part I

by: Tom Smith
U.S.N.P.S.

For the past seven years I have been a mounted Ranger for the National Park Service in Yosemite National Park. During this period of time, I have become increasingly aware of the future and the importance of the horse as a patrol function vehicle. Now, as the energy crisis is upon us, and the costs of vehicles has disappeared from the charts, the horse looms even greater as a tool in patrolling and maintaining parks and recreation areas.

I have found the following to be of importance when looking at the horse for use in a park.

Horses seem to draw people like bees to honey. They are a great public relations device. According to an unofficial poll taken in Yosemite, people enjoy seeing a Ranger on a horse. My experience has shown that law enforcement contacts are made easier, and Yosemite's Chief Ranger says, "You can't pet a patrol car."

Where a vehicle needs to be driven with you eyes on the road, the horse is the one who has his eyes on the road, thus freeing you for much better observation of what is going on. Being high up on that animal enables you to see much greater distances than when sitting in a patrol vehicle, important in parking lots and congested areas.

As many people have a fear of large animals, a well trained horse can be invaluable in crowd control.

Horse response time, particularly in the campground, is faster, or as fast as a vehicle. A vehicle is confined to the road, where the horse is not. Very few road patrol people get to conflict situations ahead of me.

If you have equestrian use in your park, it is my opinion that you need a Ranger on a horse.

You can't really expect a foot or vehicle patrol Ranger to relate with "horse people". A well trained horse and rider can be a great help to people who trailer their horses to your park. The visitor is much more willing to abide with special rules and regulations relating to horse use, if the person relating those rules is "on their level" and astride a horse.

The horse can be an effective tool for evacuation of injured visitors in the back country areas of your parks. There are no needs for helicopters, or long carryouts of persons with sprained ankles, broken arms, etc. These simple injuries can be easily handled by horse.

On the negative side; sociological research at Yosemite has shown that some visitors don't like horse manure.

Additionally there is the problem of finding a compatible horse suitable for use in a park and around people. Horses are like people in a lot of ways. Some have bad habits that are hard to break and some are nervous and always seem to be despite the training they receive.

Training of both horse and rider is essential, if the team is to be effective. Finding time for this is sometimes difficult. At Yosemite, for example, we train four (4) hours per week doing a variety of "trail horse" work, horsemanship, and some other training devices dreamed up by the well known animal packer foreman Walter Castle, N.P.S., training expert. These devices range from an occasional firecracker to flapping black plastic, rolling inner tubes, riot control training (yelling and running at the horse), and road flares and other typical situations that the animal might encounter while on patrol in the campground. I cannot emphasize enough the need for training both horse and rider. Once a horse is obtained by your agency, a Ranger should be assigned to that animal. If possible this person and one else should ride it. They thus become a team, each knowing the actions of the other. The rider should be responsible for the upkeep of the animal (other than feed costs, vet bills, etc.), the feeding of the animal, and the upkeep of the tack.

Of course the horse is the most important part of this team. Selection of this animal should be done with utmost care. The National Park Service has established the following guidelines:

1. 15 hands, two inches tall or taller, and 1,000 to 1,250 pounds in weight
2. Three to seven years of age.
3. No abnormal deviation in the structure or function of the horse is accepted. The horse passes a veterinary examination

for certification of health, soundness and age. The horse is well balanced, muscular, has good stamina, good carriage well-muscled back and sound feet.

4. Quality is given first consideration over color and breed.
5. Gentle and free of vicious habits such as biting, kicking or striking. Will not object to saddling, or grooming, will not balk, rear, shy, or be difficult to catch when turned out.
6. Primarily geldings.

The Service goes on to say, in regard to training and trainability:

1. Horse understands the rider's intentions from the slightest indications and immediately responds with lightness and exactness. He must be sensitive to the rider's leg, lightness of hand and other aids.
2. He remembers or recognizes the indications given him by the reward and punishment resulting from a particular response. The horse is calm, forward moving, light and manageable.
3. He does the following:
 - A. Neck reins
 - B. Side steps
 - C. Passes
 - D. Backs
 - E. Stands
 - F. Performs predictably in his assigned environment.
4. Developed to perform required functions.

Of course the rider is important as well. The Park Service states that personnel assigned to horse duties will be satisfactory when they have completed the prescribed NPS training successfully or:

1. Know correct description and have thorough knowledge of the intended use and care of tack and equipment.
2. Can properly and professionally handle horses in any required situation.
3. Can identify and provide basic aid for illness and injury (for the horse).
4. Know proper feeding and stable management.
5. Are able to sit a horse at the walk, trot and canter.
6. Can execute figure "8's" and stop at all gaits.
7. Know grooming procedures and the care of the feet.
8. Are able to tack horses with all issued equipment.
9. Are able to properly prepare, load and transport horses.
10. Have the ability to handle more than one horse in required situations.
11. Know trail courtesy and safety.
12. Know care of mounts and tack on overnight patrols. (Next two deal with packing animals.)
13. Know basic equine anatomy.

There are also guidelines regarding park animals not covered. It is important that horse and rider be well groomed. Horses tack should be cleaned and polished and coat cared for as if for show. Rangers should meet military inspection with polished gear and tidy uniform. Use of an apron or coveralls, or even taking off the shirt during grooming duties will assist the Ranger in this. Most Road Patrol Rangers make sure that their vehicles are clean as it

reflects upon the agency and the person. The horse and rider should be no different.

The importance of the compatibility of horse and rider to the environment cannot be overstressed. One day a youngster who was running down the trail saw the horse standing in his way tried to stop, slipped, and went under the horses' legs grabbing both the hind legs on the way down. The horse didn't move a muscle!

To further illustrate are two incidents this past summer. One was a young man who fell against my horse, John Paul in the campground. The youngster was running out of his campsite to see us when he tripped and fell, catching himself on John Paul's breast collar. Last year in training, Walt and I had some difficulty with John Paul accepting the presence of a large, inflated innertube that Walt was dragging around us, and rubbing up against us. Before the session was over, John Paul, although he didn't like it, had enough trust in me as his rider to know that it wasn't going to hurt him. While in the parking lot of the Tuolumne Meadows stores, an individual walked by rolling an innertube which got away and rolled toward John Paul. As usual, there were people standing all around us at the time but John Paul did not react unfavorably. This type of trust can only be obtained by training and lots of saddle time. Remember, tents come in a variety of sizes and shapes, cars will backfire, frisbees will fly, backpackers look funny and crowds do form.

Although many people claim to know "a lot about horses", a person not familiar with the habits or training background of the animal can undue a lot of work in a hell of a hurry, making the one horse, one rider concept very important. I personally discovered that I didn't know as much as I'd thought. Old habits born from many riding hours on the farm in Indiana were not acceptable standards with the NPS and Yosemite in particular.

NEWS & EVENTS, etc.

NEW OFFICERS

Among other things accomplished at our conference last spring, we voted in a new bath of officers for the association. Only most of them weren't new! We welcome back President Tom Smith (NPS, West Valley College), Vice President Diane Blackman (City of Oakland Parks), and Treasurer, Pat Hayes (City of Fremont).

After approval of the concept of an Executive Secretary, Doug Bryce of Sacramento (already filling that position for both CSPRA and WIA), agreed to the proposed contract with PRAC. As a paid secretary, Doug will be a welcome and valuable addition to the PRAC Board of Directors.

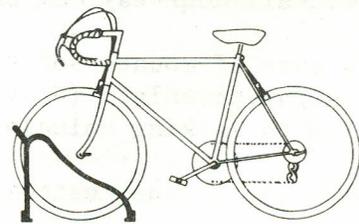
We also have officially elected representatives from the Southern and Northern halves of California. Don Pimental (NPS) was introduced to us by President Tom Smith last winter, and was re-affirmed by the membership in Santa Cruz as the SoCal representative.

Gary Greenough was approved to represent the northern half of the state. Gary comes to us from Sonoma County Regional Parks District (see Vol. 3 No. 2), where, after 9 years with SCRIP, he is currently supervisor of 5 of the agencies parks, totalling 2,350 acres. Gary spent some time with the Navy in Vietnam, is trained as an arson investigator, attended the Law Enforcement Academy at Los Guillicos, and graduated from the Horsemanship Academy at nearby Point Reyes National Seashore. His interests include pistol shooting, performing

musically as a one-man band, and putting in time as a volunteer fireman. Gary also enjoys organized team sports and adds that he loves being a Ranger!

In other officer news, Tom Smith appointed Melinda Francis as a student representative to the Board. Fred Hibbert, a Ranger with Santa Clara County Parks was nominated for Vice President along with incumbent Diane Blackman. Don't give up Fred, the association will always have a need for your time and energy!

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Also—complete line outdoor athletic apparatus

PRAC MEETING REPORTS

The winter meeting was held on February 20th at the City of Palo Alto Baylands Park Visitor Center. President Tom Smith, Vice President Dian Blackman, Treasurer Pat Hayes, Secretary Jerry Lawrence, Member Bernie Garrison and SIGNPOST Editor Dave Laclerque were in attendance.

After approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, and approval of the current agenda, Pat Hayes began the meeting with the financial report. Pat reported that at that time there was \$480.30 in the treasury, minus the anticipated expenses for the SIGNPOST and other publications expenses.

Tom Smith reported on the progress towards the up-coming Spring Conference (last March), including the number of PRAC member pre-registered. He also solicited the help of the board members present to man the information table and drum up prizes for the raffle.

Regarding membership, it was reported that after the renewal period, there were 31 members currently enrolled, with 10-15 new memberships yet to be processed.

Dave Laclerque reported on the progress of the SIGNPOST (mailed later that month).

Tom Smith presented the board with a proposed budget, to be approved by the general membership at the conference. Tom also informed the board of recent contacts regarding potential advertisers for SIGNPOST.

Under new business, Santa Clara County Park Ranger Bernie Garrison made his initial presentation on a possible affiliation with PORAC (Peace Officers Research Association of California).

Before closing the meeting, Tom proposed some changes in the by-laws (to be presented to the membership in March), and recommended the reimbursement of travel expenses to Southern California Representative, Don Pimental.

GENERAL MEETING

March 8, 1980

Unfortunately, the membership meetings (sometimes like the SIGNPOST) come few and far between. The last meeting was held at the joint conference last March.

Treasurer, Pat Hayes, reported that the balance prior to the conference was \$450.00, but the anticipated revenue from the conference, T-Shirt sales, and new memberships would raise that to approximately \$834.00. Pat also indicated that the previous year PRAC's income was \$426.00 above expenses (without the salaried Executive Secretary position).

Tom Smith presented to the membership for the first time a proposed operating budget for the association. It had been developed last January and revised at an Executive Board meeting in February.

The budget was approved and adopted by the membership.

Bernie Garrison of Santa Clara County Parks made a presentation regarding a possible affiliation with PORAC. Bernie reported that not long ago a number of Santa Clara County Rangers had become disenchanted with the Santa Clara County employees local, and was able to affiliate with the 23,000 PORAC members.

When the subject was opened to the membership, there was a great deal of discussion, included concern regarding dues, autonomy, non-peace officer members, group vs. individual membership, and not least, Ranger image.

Worth Young, also of Santa Clara County, pointed out that PRAC had always hoped for a lobbyist in Sacramento, and that PORAC had 2-3 full-time lobbyists there, at our disposal. A committee was formed to further investigate the concept of PORAC affiliation, with members Bernie Garrison and Worth Young, Jim Bowland (Mid-Peninsula Regional Parks & Open Space), Tom Hofsommer (Fremont City Parks and Others), and Tom Smith. Their report will appear in a future issue of SIGNPOST.

As indicated elsewhere in this issue, a potential agreement to contract with Doug Bryce for Executive Secretary services was submitted to the membership and approved with one negative vote. Treasurer, Pat Hayes, urged fiscal caution.

After a discussion from President Tom Smith, Bernie Garrison moved to change the PRAC by-laws to change the term of office for elected officers from one to two years. The motion was unanimously approved by the membership.

The spring meeting was held April 15th at Fort Mason, park headquarters for Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco. Pat Hayes was happy to report that after the conference, there was \$1,152.02 in the treasury, with another \$200.00 expected from the conference itself. Membership had increased again to 56-58.

There was discussion regarding future printings of the SIGNPOST and advertising. There was also a report on recent discussions with CSPRA President Denzil Verardo regarding possible affiliations.

Tom Smith discussed the conditions of the secretarial contract, approved in concept at the Spring Conference. The Executive Secretary's responsibilities would include updating the mailing list, membership renewals, membership packets, SIGNPOST back-issues requests, job service coordination, written correspondence and various assigned short-term projects and activities.

Under the President's report, Tom Smith advised the board on an appeal to PRAC from San Jose Park Superintendent Dick Reed. San Jose' City Manager had proposed that the maintenance function for parks be removed from the Parks Department. PRAC provided both written and oral testimony in front of the San Jose City Council. The proposed was defeated by the Council 7-0. The Resolution drafted by the PRAC Board of Directors may be found in this issue of SIGNPOST.

PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

Income/Expense Financial Statement 1979

INCOME

Membership Fees	\$1240.00	
Donations	60.00	
Conference fees	637.25	
"T" Shirt sales	211.75	
Sticker sales	<u>1.50</u>	
		\$2150.50

EXPENSES

Conference	\$832.38	
Facility	397.36	
Stipends	74.00	
Miscellaneous	291.02	
Refunds	70.00	
Editorial	344.76	
Secretarial	323.08	
Treasurer/Membership	124.93	
Lobbying	<u>98.40</u>	
		<u>\$1723.55</u>

Income above expenses \$ 426.95

Balance 1 January 1979 \$ 384.42

Income above expenses 1979 426.95

Balance 31 December 1979 \$ 811.37

Patrick E. Hayes
PATRICK E. HAYES, Treasurer

January 30, 1980

1980 BUDGET PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

INCOME

Membership Fees	\$1,700.00
Donations	60.00
Conference Fees	1,000.00
"T" Shirt Sales	100.00
Advertisements for Signpost	500.00
Misc.	10.00
	<hr/>
	\$3,370.00

EXPENSES

Annual Conference	\$1,000.00
Publications	1,000.00
Treasurer Expenses	50.00
Lobbying	200.00
Secretarial	125.00
Executive Board Expenses	100.00
Misc. Expenses	295.00
Executive Manager	600.00
	<hr/>
	\$3,370.00

PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
16055 Sanborn Road
Saratoga, CA 95070



FIRST CLASS

