

The Signpost

Jan - Feb
1991

From The Presidents Desk

“This Year....2091”

By: Christopher W. George

One of my favorite hobbies is reading old science fiction novels as well as watching the many fascinating movies that have been made about the future. How many times have we sat and let our minds wonder about the future...ah, the future, what will it be like in a hundred years from now?

It's difficult to place ourselves in a situation like that, as probably it was our ancestors one-hundred years ago to imagine what today would be like. I have been reading quite a few articles about California State Parks upcoming 125th celebration, and the National Park Services 75th Anniversary. I look at the pictures of the old “Guardians” and read how they dealt with the issues at hand. How primitive it was compared to today. Where there was only one or two park rangers, there are now hundreds. Instead of riding on horses, we may use ATV's or motorbikes. We have fully equipped vehicles and radio equipment were one-hundred years ago they may have had a telegraph (if they were lucky). What a difference there has been in a hundred years.

But what about the future? I am quite sure that the year 2091, there will be parks on the Moon. A national park dedicated to the early Apollo Missions, or to the picturesque craters like Tyco. And most probably, there will be parks on Mars such as the Great Canals or could we be exploring great innerspace parks on earth such as the R.M.S. Titanic Memorial Park, or Mariners Trench, and the Grand Canyon of the Pacific.

Or, is it possible that our future could be a dark one due to the damage of pollution and to our ecological system. One-hundred years ago, Yosemite was a new experience and the National Park Service was just an idea. The damage mankind has done in the last one-hundred years may be irreversible. If this is the case, maybe

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From the Presidents Desk
(cont. from page 1)

our future will resemble the science fiction movie "Soylant Green," or one of my favorite "Silent Running." In Silent Running, Earth has placed all of it's remaining forests and wild-life into space in order to save it while Earth has time to repair itself. In the movie, actor Bruce Dern plays an astronaut/ranger who has the dream that things will be as they once were back on Earth. However as the story continues, men on Earth decide to destroy the domes containing the last remnants of earth and return the space ships back into cargo transports. I won't give away the ending but if you get a chance to see the film, do so, I'm sure you will enjoy it.

So what's the point? The point is that as park rangers we can make a difference. As Galen Clark did one-hundred years ago as the "Guardian" of Yosemite. Guardian Clark probably never knew the impact that he made as a role model for today's rangers. Or Harry Yount, the first National Park Ranger. Both of these men had no degrees in conservation nor did they particularly have much schooling. What these men did have was a deep conviction and desire to see na-

ture preserved and protected. They did this not only for themselves, but also for future generations that would come after them. And in some ways, these men and women, and those who followed them, helped to create what we are today.

Now it's our turn. Many of us have stood our ground and raised voice concerning ways to help our parks and resources. The issue of Bodie State Park comes to mind, where an entire department of rangers have made the attempt to make a difference to save a park from certain ruin. Rangers make a difference. We educate the people on how important the natural resources are and that everyone needs recreation. Park rangers have been instrumental in helping to preserve all types of parks, wetland, sanctuaries, nature centers and assisting in the creation of Pepsi Play Parks. We have, and will continue to do all of these things.

In the future, people may look into holograms and see pictures of today's park rangers and reflect on how "primitive" we look. They will look at our outdated uniforms and our antique equipment and may think how hard it must have been to do the job by such inade-

quate means. But one thing is for sure, they'll see in those parks rangers faces, ... pride, determination and satisfaction for a job well done!

We, like Galen Clark and Harry Yount, may never come to know the difference we make today. But tomorrow in the year 2091, a park ranger may think of us and smile warmly about the legacy we have left to them.

Just for laughs

as heard by
Tom Moloney

An elderly ranger came up to an attractive female topless sunbather and informed her "Miss I'm afraid I'll have to ask you to put your top back on."

"Why?" asked the young lady.

"For health reasons" replied the seasoned old ranger.

"Health reasons, what health reasons?" asked the lady.

"Mine!" said the ranger, "I'm afraid if you don't put your top back on I'm libel to have a heart attack!"

Executive Manager Report

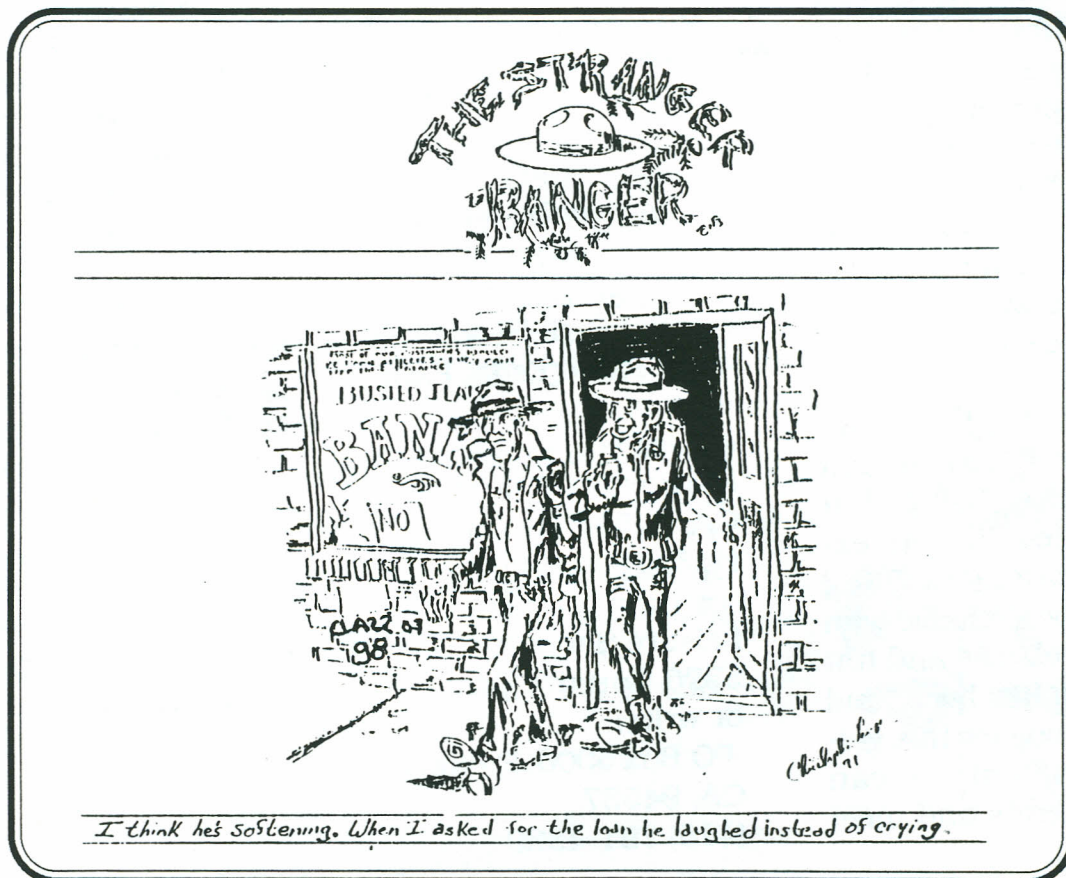
December 31, 1990

Membership

	6/16/89	9/5/89	12/28/89	3/8/90	6/1/90	9/28/90	12/31/90
Regular	105	111	123	106	123	129	149
Student	59	62	71	34	36	40	56
Associate	9	9	12	12	12	12	10
Agency	16	18	23	23	24	30	30
Honorary	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
Total	191	203	231	177	198	214	247

Costal Chapter 139
Valley Chapter 52
So Cal Chapter 56
No Cal Chapter

Total 247



Activities Galore Monday Conference, 1991

By
Bob Donohue
Conference Chair

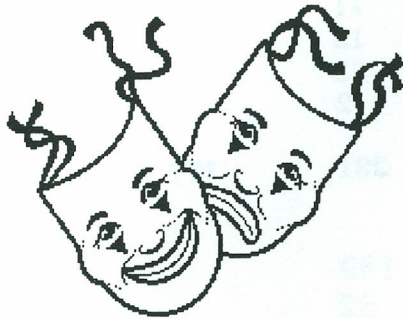
Monday can be a great day to see the wonders of Yosemite Valley. In order to help you in this endeavor, the following activities have been arranged:

Starting in the morning will be a Hug-a-Tree Workshop, put on by Cheri Hill. This class will last from 8:00 A.M. to approximately 12:00 noon.

The afternoon will feature guided tours of Yosemite Valley, beginning at 1:00 P.M. and again at 3:00 P.M.. Guided interpretive walks have also been scheduled for your convenience, starting from Yosemite Lodge. These tours will last about two hours each.

In the evening, if you are not exhausted from all that activity, the *Hospitality Room*, hosted by our executive manager Doug Bryce, will be available with beer, wine, cheese and fun for all. Doug has been kind enough to sponsor this get-together so that we can greet old friends and meet new friends.

Be sure to include Monday as part of your itinerary for this year's conference in one of the most scenic places on this planet. See you there!



Job News!

The City of Fremont is currently accepting applications for part time and seasonal Park Rangers Assistant. The pay range is \$7.56 to \$9.19 per hour.

Applications and job description may be obtained from:

Central Park Boathouse
4000 Paseo Padre Parkway
or write;
PO Box 5006, Fremont,
CA, 94537
(415) 791-4340

Leisure Services Office
3375 Country Dr.
or write;
PO Box 5006, Fremont,
CA, 94537
(415) 791-4320

PRAC Board Meeting

The PRAC Board met on January 11, 1991 in Livermore. The following items were discussed:

The latest training session at Lake Poway was reviewed.

Plans for the upcoming 1991 Spring Conference were discussed.

A proposal to form a non-profit organization called the "Cal Ranger Foundation" to serve the needs of PRAC and CSPRA was presented.

The formation of a new committee to look into possible solutions to a list of problems that NPS personnel identified at their recent conference in Las Vegas

Nomination and election for new officers will take place after the Yosemite conference were the proposed new constitution will be voted on.

A dues increase of \$10.00 will be proposed to the membership at the annual conference in Yosemite.

"I'm Also A Member of...."

By
Christopher W. George

Why do we join associations? Is it because we are looking for guidance, camaraderie or what? Most of us I think, join in order to increase our knowledge and share with a group who has similar goals and principles.

PRAC was created just for that reason. However, PRAC is not the only association available to park rangers.

In addition to PRAC, I belong to a wide variety of park ranger related associations. I may not necessarily be employed by the agencies directly being represented, but I do find it interesting to be involved. I join for the reason of increasing my understanding, and hopefully find answers to the many dilemmas which we face in our profession.

In addition to our own country, there are park ranger associations in Europe. Our profession is so diverse, so why not join and "belong."

For those interested:

National

California State
Park Rangers
Association
(CSPRA)
PO Box 28366
Sacramento, CA
95828

Association of
National Park
Rangers (ANPR)
PO Box 307
Gansevoort, NY
12831

Park Law En-
forcement Asso-
ciation (PLEA)
3101 Park Center
Drive
Alexandria, VA
22302

National Alliance
of Park Rangers
and Firefighters
(NAPRF)
PO Box 3623
Sonora, CA
95370

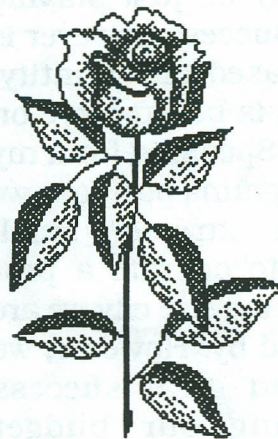
Association of
Forest Service
Employees for
Environmental
Ethics (AFSEEE)
PO Box 45
Vida, OR 97488

Federal Wildlife
Officers Associa-
tion (FWOA)
5750 Charles City
Circle
Richmond VA
23231

International

Scottish Country-
side Ranger Asso-
ciation (SCRA)
6 Riverside Road
Larkhall
Lanarkshire,
Scotland

Association of
Countryside
Rangers (ACR)
Haytor Road
Bovey Tracey
Newton Abbot
D e v o n ,
TQ139JQ, United
Kingdom



How did they do that?!!

by
Christopher George

As park rangers, we often get involved in agencies that always are looking to better themselves. Many time, I look around and watch in wonder as other agencies "Strut Their Stuff." I find it amazing when I visit other park ranger programs and see their expressions at the type of patrol vehicle one may be driving. This type of reaction may be "Wow!" or "You really patrol in that?" Needless to say, we are all often a little envious at time of someone else's success, or a little proud when someone makes a fuss over our own equipment and status.

Programs are a lot like that as well. One program may have a large budget with an abundance of staff and equipment, while another may only be just staying afloat. Success however is never based on quantity. Success is based more on quality. Speaking from my own programs position, we have an extremely small budget to operate a program for the size city we are employed by. However, we have had great success increasing our budget through outside means.

This was accomplished by the services we render on a normal patrol basis. Our program became a large focal point in our city because of the devoted team we have. Our program is not large, nor does it have fancy equipment. Our program has no full time positions, but does have potential. The park rangers that work for me require little direction due to the intense training we have. One of the main training aids we have is a fully detailed operations manual. This manual contains the whole structure of philosophy, technical material, policies and procedures as well as departmental regulations. A manual can be a great asset to any program.

Training videos are also being created to assist as a training tool. Many agencies have taken it upon themselves to create their own videos. These videos contain information involving a wide variety of topics including: patrol, report writing, emergency services, etc.

Therefore, we here at PRAC are asking you and the agency you may work for, to help us develop a library of manuals and tapes. These manuals and tapes will be compiled in order to

create a "generic manual" and a video library, to be checked out by our members for additional training. Many programs have dreams of creating their own manuals but don't know what is needed to compile one. Therefore, we are asking for your assistance. We would appreciate any help that you may be able to offer us in achieving this dream. Thanks!



The Looking Post...

by
Judy Morris

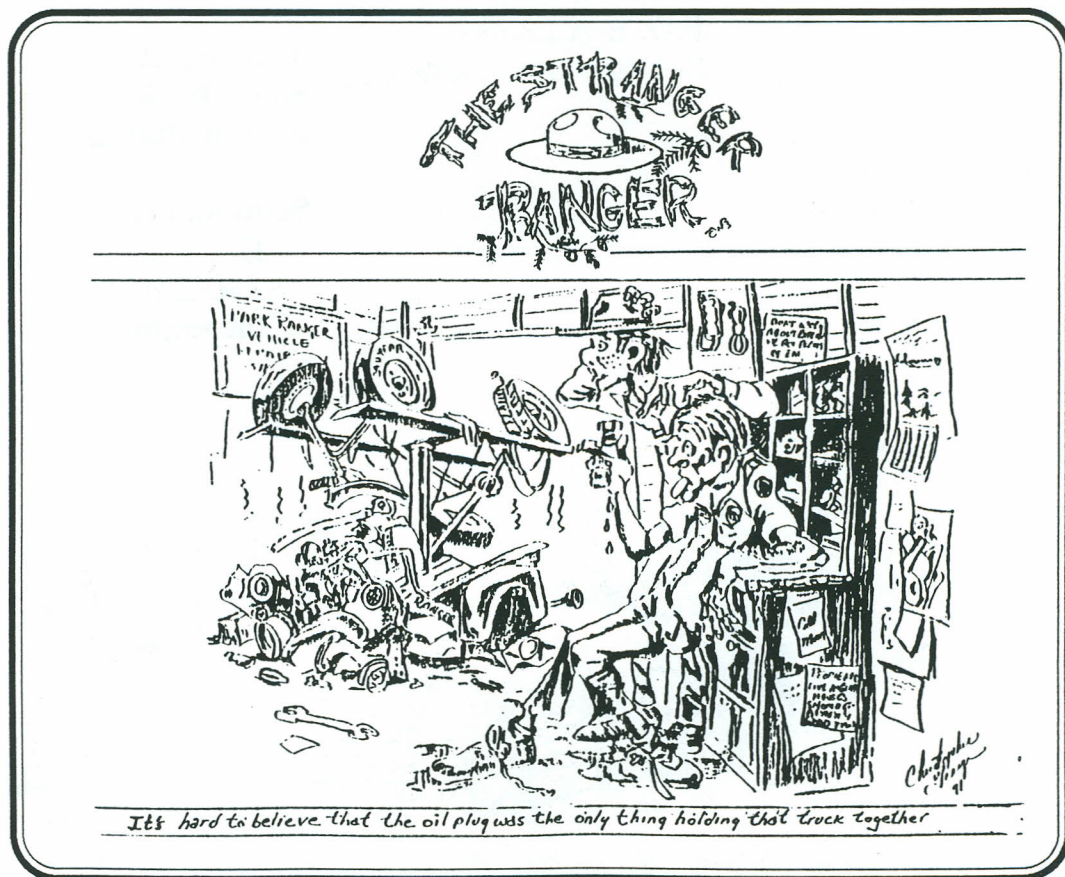
A new "Environmental" sculpture has been planted at the summit of Mission Peak. The steel sculpture is eight-feet high with 20 sighting tubes to gaze from. It's a definite 'eye catcher' to the hiker that makes it to the top, 2,500 feet, of Mission Peak. East Bay Regional Park District is the agency having 'ownership' over Mission Peak. The City of Fremont and the Park District have an agreement

that Fremont Park Rangers will provide interpretative hikes to 'The Peak.'

The creator of this "Environmental Design" is Leonard Page, a former Fremont Park Ranger. While Leonard worked for Fremont, he was fortunate to lead these interpretative hikes once a month. His design is created so no matter which of the tubes you look through you'll see some point of interest, such as the Hayward Fault, Mount Diablo or Mount Hamilton. This sculpture has an added message, 'the peeper' is also a Time Capsule. Leonard designed the

steel sculpture with five sealed tubes, serving as time capsules. Inside one he chose a cross section of today's pop culture: Bart Simpson buttons; Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle cards; a Lotto Ticket and a bottle of Zinfandel, vintage 1990. Other tubes had articles on Aids, the Iraqi invasion and pamphlets from McDonalds about how their products do not harm the Amazon Rain Forest.

With Leonard's creation of 'the mission peeper' we will all be able to look at the present, through the post-capsule, and those in the future can look at our past.



The following letter was written to the PRAC Executive Board by Sharron Woehl, the latest recipient of the PRAC Scholarship award.

December 6, 1990

Dear Executive Board:

I just wanted to take the time to express my gratitude for being awarded the 1990 PRAC Scholarship. Not only was it a great surprise, it was a great honor. It gave me the extra support a student is always looking for. This scholarship not only makes the effort to show students PRAC is behind them, it represents what the future of the park profession has to look forward to. Please continue to provide students with this beneficial award. With your assistance and support my dreams for the future are no longer as far away. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sharon Ann Woehl

Attention Students

It is time once again for all you students out there to consider applying for the PRAC Scholarship. The award will be for \$200.00 to be awarded for the school year beginning this next fall. To qualify for consideration, candidates must be PRAC members, enrolled in at least 6.1 semester units this next fall, be enrolled in a park related field and have a minimum 2.50 GPA.

To learn more about the PRAC Scholarship and to receive an application, write to:

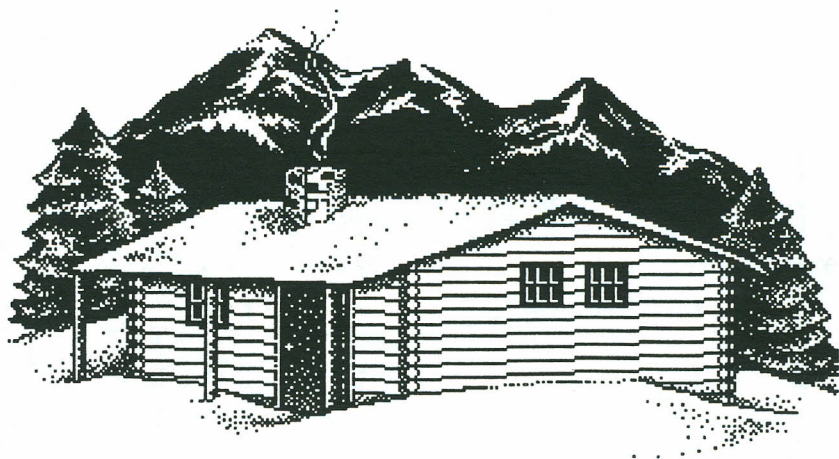
PRAC Scholarship
P.O. Box 28366
Sacramento, CA 95828

Dupe a Few for PRAC A Call for Slides

PRAC is presently undertaking the job of improving its Association Slide Show. To do this we are asking for your help. We need slides which show park related scenes: visitor contacts, programs, maintenance, ("before" and "after" shots) scenery and such. Many of you can photograph better than you think.

The slides need to be: horizontal, clear focus and good exposure. So please take a look through your slide arsenals and "dupe a few for PRAC." You might not get your sides back but you will get our thanks.

Send slides to:
Bruce Weidman
750 Del Mar
Livermore, CA 94550



Recommended

Reading

Suggested by
Tom Maloney

For those rangers who want to know why we are out there doing what we are doing, a good book, no a **great** book to read is "A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC" by Aldo Leopold. This book would also be recommended to rangers who have read it once and need to "re-charge their personal batteries."

The PRAC
General Store

Prac Polo Shirts Still Available

PRAC is offering its members a high quality, buff colored polo-type shirt (100% cotton mesh with knit collars and sleeves) with the Association logo emblazoned on the left breast area. These attractive shirts are ideal for casual recreation outings, social activities, tennis, and golf. And, best of all, you'll be letting others know you belong to PRAC. Each shirt is only \$17.00 (including shipping and handling). Be sure to specify your size when ordering.



Mugs & Caps

You may have already read about the great shirts PRAC is offering its members, but that's not all! PRAC is also making high quality baseball caps (green or brown twill-type, \$7.00 each) and coffee mugs (blue and white glazed ceramic, \$5.00 each).

PRAC Agency Directory

The new revised PRAC Ranger Directory is now available. It lists agencies with "ranger personel" throughout California. The cost for this resource is \$5.00.

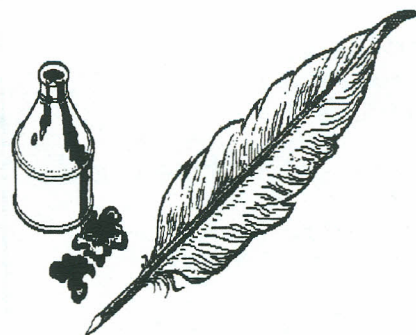
To purchase any of the above items, send a check, payable to: PRAC, P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA., 95828-0366. Please indicate number of items requested, along with size and color if applicable.

HOW TO SEND ARTICLES FOR SUBMISSION

PRAC members having access to a Macintosh computer with Microsoft Word / Write / Works, MacWrite or WriteNow Programming can write their article on the computer and mail the disk to The Signpost Editor for use in future issues of the PRAC newsletter. This will speed up production greatly. The disk will then be mailed back to the sender once it has been copied.

Naturally, for those without a Macintosh, articles may be mailed or even phoned in, in the normal way.

For more information contact David Brooks, The Signpost editor at (408) 336-2948. Disks or any other articles can be mailed to: David Brooks, 560 Hillcrest Drive, Ben Lomond, CA 95005.



PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

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1990

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1991 Conference

Bob Donahue
(916) 894-6326

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(408) 336-2948

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