



The Signpost

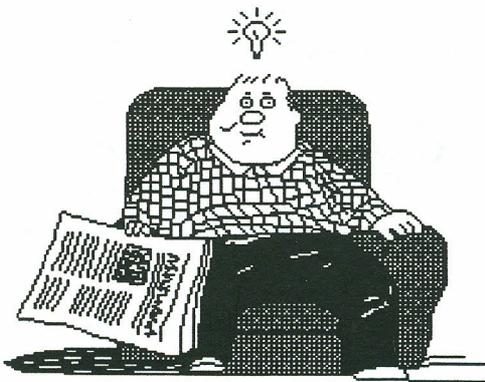
Sep - Oct
1991

Coming Attractions

Winter Campout 1992

January 28 thru January 30, 1992, break the winter doldrums, the tentative date for the PRAC Winter Campout. The location will be Joshua Tree National Monument's Cottonwood Campground. Activities will include: rock climbing, 4/WD-mine tours, the park's desert tortoise & Bighorn sheep program. Stay tuned to the Signpost for further details as the date arrives.

Further information can be received by writing to: Jeff Ohlfs, Cottonwood Ranger Station, Chiriaco Summit, CA 92201.



New Area Codes

This is a reminder that there is a new area code for the San Francisco Bay Area (as of Sept. 2). Alameda and Contra Costa Counties now have their own 510 Area Code.

Starting Nov. 2, Area Code 213 for the Los Angeles area will be given the 310 Area Code. If you need further details, contact Pacific Bell.

1992 Workshop Update

The 1992 joint PRAC/CSPRA Conference is being held March 16 thru 19 at *The Inn At The Park* in Anaheim. The conference committee has been working on making this a conference not to be missed. Three tracks are being planned including: resource management, interpretation and park operations. There will be two speakers and a debate, "Park Boundaries and Beyond" that will examine parks and our expanding population.

Of course no conference is complete without a banquet and dance, a golf tournament and a reception. Post conference tours will include Disneyland, the Queen Mary and the Spruce Goose, the Nixon Library and much, much more.

Mark your calendars for March 16-19 and plan on being in Anaheim for this event.

Change of Address for PRAC Effective November 1

PRAC and the *CAL Ranger* will have a new address on November 1, 1991. The new address will be P. O. Box 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829-2010. The post office decided that a new building was needed about 3 miles from its present location. A new Zip code has been assigned along with new post office boxes.

From the Presidents Desk

"25 Years of Park Ranger Service"

By Christopher W. George

During the first week of October, I will be attending the State Parks 125th Anniversary Celebration in Sacramento. Although I am not an employee of state parks, I am a member of CSPRA and an official representative of PRAC.

On reflecting 125 years of park ranger service, I see many images. PRAC is made up of those images. We are a combination of efforts that began over 125 years with Harry Yount as Yellowstone's first "Game Keeper," and Galen Clark, Yosemite's first "Guardian."

As time progressed, titles, uniforms and image start to change. Women came into the picture in 1918, when Clare Marie Hodges became the first female park ranger in California. In 1923, Herma Albertson became the first female National Park Service ranger-naturalist to be permanently hired at Yellowstone National Park.

Today's roles, image and philosophies have changes dramatically. We each see our own agencies roll a little differently, each a little more complex. However, the basic issues have always been the same not only for federal, but for state, county and city agencies as well. We still see the controversy over armed or unarmed, and the continued increased division

between ranger and naturalist. Many of the issues we have now, have been around for 125 years. Each agency has a goal and direction. Often it is looked upon as being controversial to others. This happens within PRAC since our membership is so diverse, and this distresses me. (Sure we're different **but we are all rangers** and we should all be proud.)

This year two agencies: the National Park Service and the United States Forest Service, are both celebrating anniversaries, The National Park Service's 75th, and the Forest Service's 100th. Even PRAC this year celebrated its 15th anniversary.

So, what have we learned in 125 years? Quite a bit. We have learned that being a park ranger can be one of the most fascinating and rewarding professions around (even if the pay's not so good). Being a park ranger is a proud and noble life style. I see in the eye's of many that spark that yells out; ..."Hey, I'm proud to be a park ranger!" It's a hard road we choose to travel but many of us feel that it's well worth it.

During the 125th Anniversary Celebration, PRAC will be presenting the organization with a proclamation of good will. But as I see it, I will be wishing us all Happy Birthday!



Orange County's Park Ranger Reserve Unit

By Bill Hedges, Senior Park Ranger Reserve

Orange County Harbors, Beaches and Parks (OCHBP) is part of the Environmental Management Agency (EMA). OCHBP operates ten regional parks, three camping parks, over a dozen coastal facilities, three community facilities, six historical/ nature parks and the Santa Ana River Trail. There are 33,000 acres of land under OCHBP's control including open space areas. OCHBP employs a staff of 235 persons, of which 54 are park rangers. In support of the park ranger staff is group of 52 dedicated individuals who comprise the Park Ranger Reserve Unit.

In 1987, with the management responsibility for recreational properties more than 15,000 acres it was determined that OCHBP should expand and augment its then existing programs. To accommodate this program expanse a need for additional personnel was obvious. Considering staff budgetary constraints the formation of a volunteer force to assist park was proposed. This force would be designated as the Park Ranger Reserve Unit.

The Park Ranger Reserve Unit would perform professional and technical duties associated with park operation that would include, resource management, park safety, interpretation and public contact.

The first two years the program operated the focus of the Park Ranger Reserve Unit was on interpretation and the staffing of special events involving large crowds of park visitors. The size of the unit fluctuated over this period with a desired strength of 30 members being the ideal.

In 1989 the third ranger reserve class graduated. The reserve unit now exceeded 30 members. The number of annual events requiring extra staffing by the reserve unit

had increased.

In 1990, the reserve unit expanded its horizons further. By this time many park ranger reserves were taking an active interest in being assigned to a particular park within OCHBP where their expertise and energies were best directed. Other parks within the system were requesting the assignment of ranger reserves to their parks on a temporary and permanent basis. Class four of the reserve unit was recruited and for the first time several reserve members were involved in the active training of future members. Members of the reserve unit were invited to speak at one of the monthly meeting of OCHBP senior and supervisory rangers. An Audio Visual (AV) section was now active within the reserve unit, a number of AV programs were developed for use within the park system. A Color Guard was formed and participated in the graduation of class four of the Ranger Reserves and the public dedication of the new interpretive center at Irvine Regional Park.

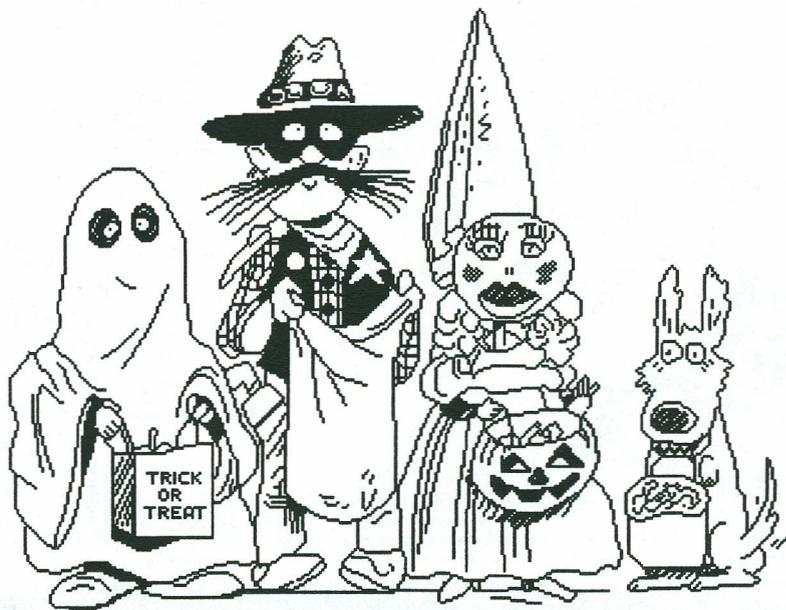
This year OCHBP graduated class five. The academy's designation being changed from Ranger Reserve Academy to Ranger Academy to accommodate the participation of

the first of paid staff who trained along with ranger reserves. The academy staff now consists of paid staff and reserve rangers.

This in-house ranger academy provides 48 hours of training. Topics include: history and background of the park ranger, public contact, radio communications, first-aid and CPR, an overview of interpretation, public safety, vehicle operations, report writing, policy and procedures, and practice field problems. Successful completion of this course is a requirement.

Due to the number of requests for the use of of reserve rangers at events throughout the system, the position of senior park ranger reserve was developed. The senior ranger reserve works as a liaison between paid staff and members of the reserve and may be involved in event planning and reserve assignments. In the absence of the reserve coordinator at an event or assignment the senior ranger reserve takes responsibility for the reserve member present. There are currently three senior ranger reserves within the unit.

(Continued on page 4.)



Ranger Reserves

(Continued from page 3.)

The reserve unit meets monthly. The unit has four officers that are elected annually. The unit is self supporting with fund raisers held throughout the year. The largest segment of the meeting is dedicated to training that has been provided by OCHBP staff, unit members, and some excellent outside speakers.

The reserve unit has a supervising park ranger assigned to it as a reserve coordinator. The reserve unit is governed by a reserve board that is chaired by the Park Operations Manager. The unit works in close liaison with OCHBP's training officer (a supervising park ranger) who is also in charge of the Ranger Academy that is staffed by both regular and reserve rangers.

The reserve unit publishes a monthly newsletter. The editor of the newsletter is appointed. The newsletter is distributed to reserve members and throughout the park system. Membership participation is encouraged and OCHBP staff is also welcome to submit articles.

Currently, plans include the development of an equestrian section of

the reserve unit. Reserves who become members of the equestrian unit are expected to undergo and complete additional training that will qualify them to perform the specific duties that will be required of them.

Reserve rangers wear the same uniform, patches and badges as the regular rangers. Hats are an optional item for both regular and reserve rangers. Many wear the "smoky the bear" hat that presents a positive and traditional image of the park ranger. Ranger reserves work under the supervision of the rangers at their assigned parks and may work in pairs with the regular ranger, another reserve or by themselves.

In 1990, the Ranger Reserve Unit was commended by a Resolution of the Orange County Board of Supervisors for its service to the county. Also in 1990, the reserve unit was recognized by the National Association of Counties by receiving their annual award.

In 1991, at the annual convention of the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS), the reserve unit received CPRS's annual Merit Achievement Award.

The Ranger Reserve Unit holds membership in PRAC and NAI.

Seven of the last nine Park Rangers hired by OCHBP have come from the reserve unit. There is certainly no guarantee that membership in the reserve unit automatically qualifies one for advancement to paid staff. The experiences and training members receive along with their personal backgrounds speaks well of the unit as a whole.

OCHBP's Park Ranger Reserve Unit is composed of dedicated men and women from all walks of life. They are giving their time and talents to the people of Orange County and the many persons who visit our regional parks from across the United States and around the world. Ranger reserves are expected to volunteer 16 hours of their time each month. Plus attend the monthly meeting. Many reserve rangers give much more of their time each month. Annually the reserve unit provides over 8,000 hours of service to OCHBP that is a considerable monetary savings to the county.



Happy Trails To You

by
Glen Kenney
Livermore Area Recreation & Park District

The following article describes Park Ranger Glen Kenney's version of LARPD's first-ever trail-building day at Sycamore Grove Park. This was held on July 27, where volunteers and staff blazed a trail through the Almond Orchard.

Recently I found myself alone in the Almond orchard at Sycamore Grove Park. It was a quiet, early morning and I was at peace with the world. Suddenly, it dawned on me why I was really there, A riveting pulse of adrenalin surged through my body and I began to pace. My mind raced with details and my eyes surveyed the materials that I had gathered for this special project. The burning question was, "Am I really ready for this?" A glance at my watch made me realize that it didn't matter any more as I was out of time! I tried to relax a bit and just waited. In a few minutes I would be smack-dab in the middle of a special trail building project that had never been tried by the District before. This was a project that would involve some 35 volunteers and I was the head honcho who was responsible for its success. The public would be watching me and staff would be judging me. How did I come to be in this predicament?

The answer was that I had no one but myself to blame. I had recently stated to my Supervisor: "I need something that will motivate me. I am becoming sedentary in my job. I need a challenge!" Have you ever heard the saying "Be careful what you wish for"? Need I say more? When approached with this task, I don't remember if I was asked, or told, to do it. All I remember is that I was told I had asked for it!

On the surface, the whole thing sounded as if it should be a snap. After all, I had built miles of trail while working with the U. S. Forest Service and I was even considered somewhat of an expert in the field. Then I realized that there were several chores in addition to the actual trail-building that I had not thought about. This included: purchasing of needed tools, arranging for participant

meals, developing a flyer, posing for a press release, designing a T-shirt, and acting as a liaison between the District and sometimes critical trail development activists.

These responsibilities turned out not to be problems. It was the unknown, the unforeseen and the unexpected that would wrench me from my boots from time to time. These problems fell into three categories: 1) When a problem needed an immediate answer and one was not available. (If a particular person had the answer, then that person was not available.) 2) When a problem required immediate action by staff and a number of outside agencies. (One example being a brush clearing exercise that was accomplished by a great deal of smoke.) 3) When a problem belonged to the boss, but he was at Camp Shelly for the week and I was left in charge. (*Ed. note; Camp Shelly is a campground operated by LARPD during the summer at Lake Tahoe.*)

As a bus pulled into the orchard, I realized that the moment had arrived and that the next six hours would make or break the ranger-in-charge.

There were a few moments throughout the day when things didn't go quite as planned. One incident in particular involved a trailer with hot, smoking brakes (the dreaded category 2 previously mentioned above). There was also an intense, Pulaski-wielding volunteer who sent a number of people (including senior staff) scurrying for cover.

At the end of the day it became evident that the project was a success. The help and support of a number of District personnel helped make it work! The future holds more trail-building projects with the goal of eventually having an all-weather trail that will be an alternative to the paved trail in the park.

What did I learn from all of this? If you give them lunch, they'll come.

PRAC Scholarship Winner

The 1991 PRAC Scholarship winner is chosen. Anthony B. Botello of Los Gatos is the winner of this years' \$200 award. Anthony was selected from a field of 5 applicants. Currently a senior at California State University at Chico, Anthony is a graduate of West Valley College in Saratoga. Between going to school, Anthony has worked for the U. S. Forest Service, Santa Clara County Parks and the California Department of Fish and Game. Congratulation's Anthony and good luck!

Recreation and Alcohol Consumption

by

Ed Harrison

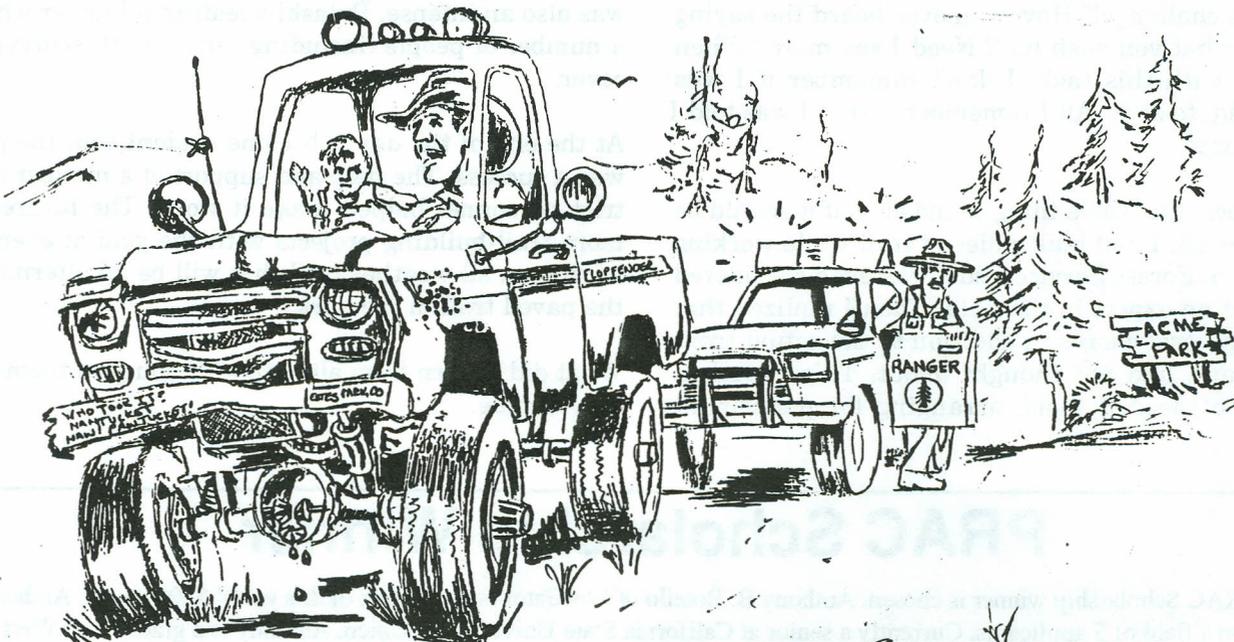
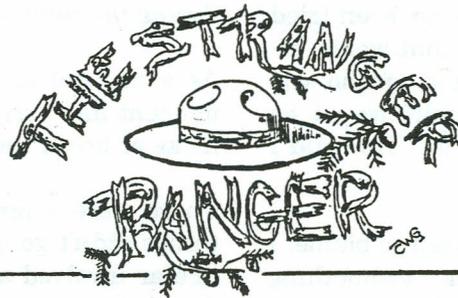
Park Ranger II

County of Orange

Recent studies have examined the issue of alcohol consumption in recreation areas. One such study, by the University of Illinois, found that almost half of the individuals surveyed consumed alcohol while participating in outdoor activities.

The study showed that drinkers and non-drinkers had different expectations for recreation facilities. Non-drinkers, for example, are more likely to visit for specific programs, while drinkers were more interested in the facilities.

A study published by the University at Las Vegas examined the alcohol expectancies of recreation participants. The study showed that slightly more than half of the respondents indicated that alcohol consumption was an element in defining leisure activity. The study also noted the reason for the alcohol consumption was "disengagement from daily life, heightened involvement in activity, as well as relaxation and reduced self-consciousness."



I don't know if it'll work, son, but I'm gonna tell him you were driving.

Charles Jones

September Events

1991 Campout at Lake Tahoe a Success

Although the turnout was small, the big success of this year's campout was verified in the smiles of those who attended. The seclusion of Camp Shelly gave us "public servants" a chance to relax and be ourselves.

On Saturday the entire "campout" went on a field trip to the Sierra Crystal Mine. This is one of the unusual trips I provide for campers. No talking about flora and fauna! The trip focused on the metaphysical, emotional and spiritual worlds of ourselves. **Totally unique.** Getting to dig for our own crystals was a vehicle to let ourselves explore our inner thoughts, be a kid again and share in the delight of another's "I found one!"

The BBQ (we almost had pizza!) was another success. Thanks to the culinary skills of Kären Montan and Aileen Theile, everything prepared was delicious. Burgers, dogs, chicken, side dishes – everything!

The volleyball game – who were those rangers from the Army Corps of Engineers in Sonoma? They made each serve seem like a game show contest. By the way, who won the Tamy-Fay-Baker make up kit? And what was that sheep with the *Fredericks of Hollywood* accessories doing at your site? (Baaaaaa!) Wild bunch. Thanks for coming you guys. (Honest, they were joking about it.)

Even the Board meeting on Sunday morning was unusual. It's the only "Sunday Champagne Brunch" PRAC Board Meeting I know of. Thanks go to Eric Pierce and those zany rangers from Sonoma for that one.

My thanks to those who showed up, from San Jose, Sonoma, Joshua Tree, El Dorado County, Livermore, Sacramento, Chico and Santa Cruz. We should all look forward to the next campout(s). The first one was in Marin. The second in Tahoe. The third ...?

Thanks for coming,
Bruce Weidman

San Jose Interpretive Workshop a Success

by Mike Will, SJPRRA President

On September 26 the San Jose Park Ranger Association and PRAC sponsored the Interpretive workshop at Emma Prusch Farm Park in San Jose. The one day workshop was a success for the PRAC members who came from throughout the state. The interpretive theme gave way to such interesting topics and speakers as; "Protecting Our Environment," by Frank Schiavo, Professor of Environmental Studies at San Jose State University; "Conveying Environmental Issues," by Ira Bletz, Supervising Naturalist for East Bay Regional Park District; "Story Telling," by Sandra Wiman, Graduate of Dominican College's Story Telling Program; "Interpreting to Children," by Rick Palmer, Fish and Wildlife Interpreter III for the California Department of Fish and Game; "California Department of Parks and Recreation Junior Ranger Program," by Doug Bryce; and last but not least, a tour of Emma Prusch Farm Park by Cindy Rebhan, Program Coordinator, and Jim Grogan, Recreation Leader, both with City of San Jose, along with Volunteers Marilyn Diamond and Mary Jackson.

Thankyou to all of the speakers who enlightened us in these various niches of interpretive practice. A special thank you goes to San Jose Rangers Carol Fredrickson, Kathy Satterlee, and Steve Roemer, whose efforts help put together this enjoyable workshop. And thanks to the City of San Jose for supplying the location for the workshop.



Ranger Games Update

by Judy Morris

I'm sorry to report that this years' **Ranger Games** (to be held on September 26) was canceled. I am even sorrier if you found out 'first hand' by actually driving up to Lake Solano County Park.

The concept of **Ranger Games** is to get together with other members in a totally 'Social Atmosphere.' The idea is that it's **our** turn to play and BBQ in one of our own parks, instead of working and smelling all the good food cooking, or watching the softball/volleyball games. We would actually be playing. What and idea, to relax and enjoy the park as a visitor!

This past year the Board decided that it would be good if each Region held their own event. That way possibly we would get more response and a better turn out. With this new concept the location would be more convenient to the members of each Region. Didn't quite work that way this time but have now fear, there is still time. We need to hear from you, our members we are representing.

So here is a request for **all** members in Region 1 to contact Judy Morris at work (510) 791-4340 or at home (510) 561-2395. **All** members in Region 3 contact Cheryl Goss at work (916) 644-2545 or at home (916) 644-6801. Let us know what type and where this event should be held and possible dates. We will do the rest, you just suggest ideas for **your** event.

Do You Need Money; Are You 21 or Older?

The City of Fremont is currently accepting applications for Park Ranger Assistant. This is a seasonal, (1,000 hours per year) starting pay is \$7.56/hour. The Park Ranger Assistant's primary responsibility is the coordination and supervision of no-site recreation activities throughout the city. This responsibility may include public assistance, interpretive law enforcement and security patrol. The Park Ranger Assistant is not classified as a peace officer but operates with Police Services to assist with public safety and security in public facilities. The Park Ranger Assistant is expected to work odd hours, nights, weekends and holidays on a continual basis.

Typical duties may include, but are not limited to: Park Patrol by bicycle, boat, auto, food or motorcycle; Issuing citations or warning notices where necessary; Produce competent reports of patrols, incident, injuries, and activity evaluations and maintains records appropriately; Provide traffic control when needed; Cleans, repairs and maintains public restrooms; Provides emergency Animal Services information and responds as necessary.

Minimum Qualifications:

- * 21 years of age
- * Swim 100 yards
- * Standard First Aide, within 60 days of appointment
- * Basic Life Support, within 60 days of appointment
- * California Drivers License
- * U. S. Citizen
- * Ability to ride a bicycle

Preferred Experience:

- * 2 years college in Public Administration or Park Management, Recreation Administration, Administration of Justice, Natural Science, etc.
- * Experience in operating small power boats
- * P. C. 832 Certificate
- * Class "M" Motorcycles Drivers License
- * 3 months experience in radio communications
- * 3 months experience in cash transactions
- * 3 months experiences as a history or natural sciences interpreter

Those interested in applying and/or want further information, please call Judy Morris or Judy Felber at (510) 791-4340.

Final filing date: Continuous and Open

New Trespassing Legislation

The confusion over the penal code trespassing laws have driven public relations between park rangers and private property owners into a downhill tail spin. The park visitor who purposely or inadvertently wanders onto adjoining private property sparks an emotional response from the land owner. This is directed towards both the violator and the park ranger whose park he wandered from. This emotional spark erupts into rampage when the responding Ranger (or any peace officer) cannot do much more than politely ask the violator to leave the private property.

The general trespass law (PC 602 n) requires a refusal to leave by violator before it becomes a crime. No matter how many previous contacts, or if the property is posted, fenced or cultivated. No refusal — no crime. At times this gives the violator the opportunity to toy with the land owner and only adds to the problem.

New 1989 legislation has given the ranger a new tool to ease the trespassing problem; penal code section (602.8). Under this section mere presence on private property is a violation. This is also attractive because it is the only infraction governing trespassing which in turn provides progressive fines. The first violation is \$100.00, the second is \$250.00, and the third changes to a misdemeanor and a \$1000.00 fine. This is a new and unique section that Park Rangers can look at and possibly add to their bag of tricks in addressing the trespassing issue.

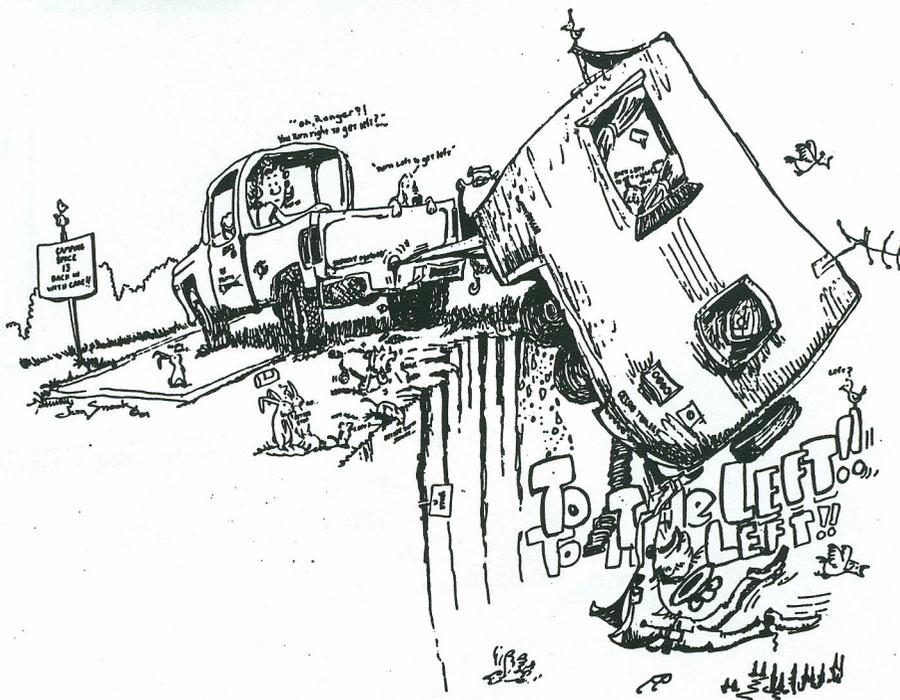
Since this is a new section you may or may not have a copy. If you want a free copy send a stamped, self addressed envelope and I will be happy to send you one.

Send to: Mike Quane, P.O. Box 3
New Almaden, CA 95042

“Oh, Ranger??”



And The Continued Misadventures of Ranger Ron



Chris George 9/91

PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF 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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