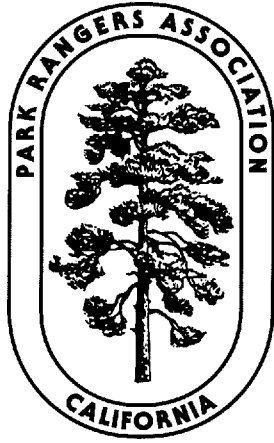


**SIGBOS**

**July–August, 1999**



## California Parks Conference 2000 Begins

On May 26 about fifteen persons met at the site for our year 2000 conference Airtel Plaza Hotel in Van Nuys. All facets of the conference were discussed briefly so that those present could decide how they want to get involved. Persons were selected to be on the Resource Management, Interpretation, Public Safety and plenary sessions committees. We need volunteers for the Operations track.

The group was given a tour of the hotel and its spacious meeting facilities.

There were representatives from several agencies at the meeting including 4 from the Angeles District, 3 from Glendale, 2 from Mountains Recreation and Conservation Agency, 2 from the City of Los Angeles, and 1 from Conejo Open Space.

Our next meeting will be on July 14. If you would like to participate please call CSPRA & PRAC headquarters at (916) 558-3734 or (800) 994-2530. FAX (916) 387-1179. E-Mail: pkrgrac@earthlink.net

The committee plans to put together a great conference, in a great hotel, in a great area.

## Cal Poly Professor Receives National Honor

San Luis Obispo—June 4, 1999—William Hendricks, a Recreation Administration assistant professor in Natural Resources Management at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo was presented with the national “Excellence in Wilderness Management Research” award by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service and the International Journal of Wilderness.

This national award is bestowed upon an individual who has conducted natural and social sciences research recognized for its contribution to assisting in professional management of wilderness. This entails an understanding of wilderness ecosystems and their dynamics, threats to those ecosystems, and how human impact can be mitigated.

Wilderness scientists from around the U.S., Canada and Europe attended the Wilderness Science Conference, held this year in Missoula, MT. Hendricks was selected as the recipient from such diverse disciplines as biology, ecology, botany, paleontology, philosophy, anthropology, natural resources, economics, sociology, recreation, geology, philosophy and psychology.

According to Norman Pillsbury, Natural Resource Management department head; “This prestigious national award not only acknowledges Bill’s professional accomplishments, it provides national recognition for our department and the recreation administration program of which Bill is a part.”

Joseph J. Jean, dean of the College of Agriculture said, “This is something people strive all their life for. Here is a tenure-track faculty member who has achieved the highest national honor bestowed by his profession. It’s quite an accomplishment and we are very proud of him.”

The award represents two studies conducted on wilderness education programs—a survey of wilderness educators determining the effectiveness of the program and a quasi-experimental design study with grammar-school children to examine the programs’ effect on short-term behavioral intentions.

Hendricks’ research was funded by the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, a research entity of the four federal wilderness management agencies. His nomination was by Dr. David Parsons, Director of the Leopold Institute.

*ed note: Bill is a former park ranger and past president of PRAC. Way to go Bill!!*

# From the President's Favorite Shade Tree

by Russ Hauck

Here are some highlights from our recent board meeting. The individual director reports were most encouraging; lots of activity in the regions. Our membership is in good shape and currently stands at 220 members (152 regular, 36 student, 5 associate, 20 agency and 7 honorary). Our financial position is also solid with an operating balance of \$3,714 (at the start of the meeting).

The 1999 conference was a success both programmatically and financially. PRACs portion of the profit was \$8,745 which was deposited in our money market account, giving us a balance of \$18,298 in that account.

The **2000 Conference** planning is underway. We had our first meeting in May and are progressing nicely at this point. Doug Bryce is serving as Co-chair representing PRAC. We are looking for suggestions for honorary lifetime memberships to bestow at the **2000 Conference**. If you have any, pass them along to your regional director or me.

The board decided to attach our name to the Earth Day 2000 movement, a global effort to make next years Earth Day the most significant yet. We also voted to take part in the Bay Area Environmental Fair early next year. More info to follow.

It is time to start thinking about nominations/elections. Regions 2, 4 and the presidency are up. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone, let us know.

George Struble, Vice President of PRAC attended the funeral of slain Oregon State Park Ranger Danny Blumenthal in May, representing the association. The board voted to reimburse him for his airfare and rental car. In further expenditure news, we voted to purchase software upgrades for Dougs and the associations computer needs. We also voted to purchase coffee mugs, as our supply is low.

The Los Angeles Unified School Police Department is seeking to change from their current penal code section to 830.1 PC. This will require a study by POST as to the viability of this proposal. The reason I mention this is that we have the opportunity to introduce legislation to have POST review the issue of standards for Park Rangers. We have talked about this for the last two years at the general membership meetings of the annual conferences. This will enable us to have someone else perform this time consuming task, and still allow us input. We voted to sponsor this legislation.

Those are the highlights. Sorry this is so short, but I used up all of my monthly ink allotment on last editions article. I am also eight days late in submitting this (sorry, David). Stay safe.

## a Little Humor

by John Havicon

According to the Knight-Ridder News Service, the inscription on the metal bands used by the U.S. Department of the Interior to tag migratory birds has been changed. The bands used to bear the address of the Washington Biological Survey, abbreviated—Wash. Biol. Surv.—until the agency received the following letter from an Arkansas camper:

“Dear Sirs:

While camping last week I shot one of your birds. I think it was a crow. I followed the cooking instructions on the leg tag and I want to tell you it was horrible.”

The bands are now marked Fish and Wildlife Service.

# Sonoma County Regional Parks Holds Standardized Seasonal Employee Training

by Mike Chiesa

For the first time, Sonoma County Regional Parks (SCRP) conducted a standardized training session for all department seasonal workers. As with most park agencies, the backbone of SCRCP is the seasonal work force. Our seasonal work force includes park aides and park ranger assistants. SCRCP park operations is divided into 4 separate geographic operational divisions, with several parks in each division. Each division has its own supervising and field rangers and conducts its own hiring interviews for seasonal workers and historically, their own training of seasonal workers.

This year, SCRCP decided to conduct an all day training session, to train seasonals from all of the divisions, on basic departmental operations and procedures. The intent was to provide a standardized training curriculum on generic department operations, to ensure all seasonals are being trained consistently department-wide, and to spend less training time at each division on the individual employees on department-wide topics. It was also hoped, that the training would build camaraderie amongst the seasonal employees, and give them a sense that they are appreciated and part of a larger organization than just their own division. The intended result is a seasonal work force that is uniformly trained, more appreciative of the entire

department operation, and to allow the ranger staff in each division more time to focus training the seasonal employees on division-specific operational training topics.

This years training, called the Park Aide Academy, consisted of an 8-hour training day offered on 2 separate dates. The supervising ranger from each division was able to assign its seasonals to attend either session, allowing all seasonal employees to attend the training, and still provide staffing coverage for the parks. The curriculum for this years training included an overview of the job, department chain of command, workers compensation, sexual harassment, general employee safety on-the-job, driving safety, radio procedures, tool and lock care, tool safety, cash handling and accounting, customer service, time sheets, information gathering, department forms, and report writing.

Most department seasonal workers, new hires and returning, attended the training this year. It is hoped that in coming years the training will be expanded to 2 days and cover even more topics, with some actual hands-on training in the field. This years training was put together by a committee of park rangers from each of the 4 divisions. The committee consisted of SCRCP Park Rangers Bill Trunick, Carol Presho, Chris Christensen, and myself.

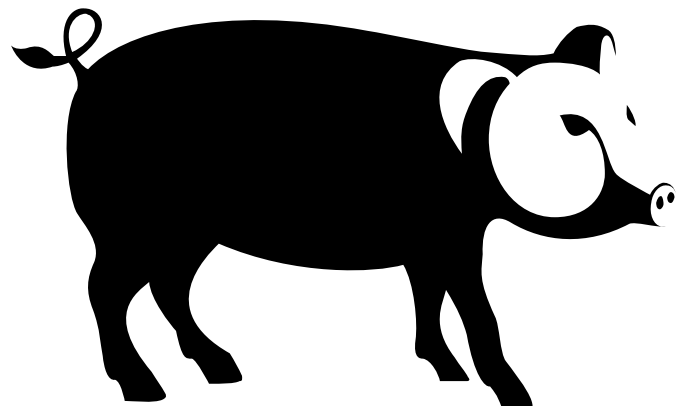
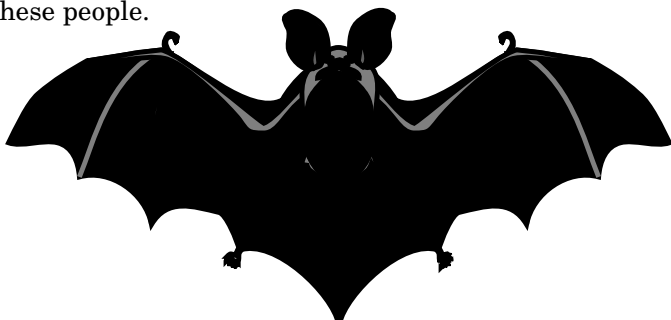
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## Region 2

### Bats and Pig Training a Success !!!

by Jeff Gaffney

We had a good turnout for our April training and people networked well sharing valuable information. Thanks to the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department for generously donating their staff and training facilities to PRAC. Don Rocha, Santa Clara Countys' resource coordinator and John Nores a warden with the California Department of Fish and Game put together an excellent training seminar on pig management and public relations associated with it. Morgan (The Bat Lady) Venable gave a very informative bat talk/interpretive program. Please contact me if you would like to set up training with any of these people.



Thank you to all who showed up and/or helped with the training and for the extra time and hours the instructors put in. I will send out your receipts and certificates (you should have them by now). I had filed them away and I forgot to send them out until I wrote this article. I'm hoping to do another training in the fall, sometime around October. If you have requests or ideas for training please dont hesitate to call, write, e-mail or fax me.

# a Consultant Story

by Ken Miller

Here's another weird but true park story. Only this time it involves an entire park agency. I hesitated writing this article because it has a lot of sour grapes in it. But the more people I spoke with about the events that occurred the more I think that everyone should hear about it. I work for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. All opinions in the article are strictly my own.

Our management agreed to fund an operations study to look at ways to increase customer service, employee communication, and staff safety. After a national search a firm who I will call the Warner Group (because that's their real name) was chosen to conduct the study. So far so good. Staff, management, visitor groups, and outside agencies were interviewed. We waited a while and suspected that things might not be going well when we saw an interim report with quite a few discrepancies and errors. Field staff fired off rebuttals and additional information in the hope for a balanced report. Finally the report was completed and we were warned that we might not like its contents. The report covered all aspects of our ranger jobs but the law enforcement section gave us fits. The conclusion was for us to basically continue our present law enforcement duties but with less safety equipment.

Currently the District Rangers are Peace Officers and are expected to enforce Open Space District (park ordinances). Our safety equipment consists of optional body armor, O.C. spray, handcuffs, and an ASP baton worn on a duty belt.

To increase ranger safety the Warner Group proposed no change in the ordinances enforced, mandatory body armor, eliminating the duty belt and ASP baton, and carrying the handcuffs in the patrol vehicle. To top things off the Warner Group also recommended changing our 7 point star badge to a shield badge to give us less of a law enforcement profile.

The final report led to two nights of public hearings with most staff speaking before our Board of Directors. Fortunately our Board unanimously agreed to keep our safety equipment status quo. On a positive note a committee has been formed to look at other ways to increase ranger safety. Things are improving but this study certainly threw all of us for a loop.

In conclusion I never would have imagined that a consultant could make recommendations such as these but it did happen. It could happen to anyone else as well but I hope not.

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## Good Samaritan or Duty To Act?

by John Havicon

So you are off-duty and you come upon an injury accident. You call "911" and assist until the fire department or paramedics take over. Since you are a public safety official, what really is required of you? Well, in California, not much. The state treats you as any other citizen of California, even though you may have tons of training exactly for these types of situations. You don't even have to stop. (Unless you are involved of course.)

If you do stop to help, (I really hope you would), your assistance falls under the "Good Samaritan Law." The Good Samaritan Law, Health & Safety Code 1767, states that "no person who in good faith renders emergency care at the scene of an emergency shall be liable for any act or omission." This means that every person who stops to help has full immunity for helping another person even if that person being helped is injured further or dies while being helped. So if that person or the person's family does try to sue you, you are protected under the law.

On-duty is a different story. If you are a sworn peace officer, firefighter or lifeguard, on-duty, you have the "duty

to act" and provide emergency care to the level that you were trained. If you are non-sworn, or work in any other public safety capacity, check your job description from which you were hired. If it specifically says that you are to provide emergency care, first aid or C.P.R., you have that same duty to act.

All peace officers, firefighters, and lifeguards are required to have at least fifteen hours of First Aid training and six hours of C.P.R training in accordance with C.C.R., Title 22. This training is commonly known as "Title 22" First Aid and is slightly more in depth than the community first aid classes offered to the general public. The C.P.R. training not only requires adult C.P.R., but also infant and child C.P.R. as well. If you are a Park Ranger-Peace Officer, check and make sure you are getting the proper training. You and your agency can be held accountable for not keeping your certification proper and current.

For more information, please contact me, John Havicon at 916-875-6672 or email at [onbelay@innercite.com](mailto:onbelay@innercite.com).

# Baby Season

by Lori Hynes, Region 5

**B**aby season is upon us, that is—baby critters! I thought I would take this opportunity to address some do's and don'ts concerning the health and safety of baby birds—who tend to be the primary victim during this time.

Throughout baby season (March through the summer) many of you will probably be approached by someone with a baby bird in their hands claiming it was abandoned etc. What should you do in this case? I hope to answer that question and perhaps many more. I hope you find this information useful for your interpretive programs and everyday public and wildlife encounters. The information was provided to me by Project Wildlife, a San Diego based wildlife rehabilitation center.

**1.** If a baby bird was found on the ground, what do you do? If the bird is uninjured and has some feathers, put it up in the nearest tree. The parents have no sense of smell and will not know it has been touched. If it can't perch and has fallen out of the nest, put it up in the tree in a berry basket or shoebox lined with shredded tissue. Parents will come feed it after people leave. Birds will even become foster parents for a strange baby the same age as their own. Birds will care for babies returned to the nest after 24 hours! Parents will remain in the home territory and will welcome their young upon their return.

**2.** If the bird is a chick like (covered w/fuzzy down) ground dweller, it may be a baby quail or killdeer. These birds nest on the ground and parents fly off when people come near. Leave the immediate area (stand at least 50 feet away) and watch to see if a parent returns within an hour. If deemed necessary, the babies can be moved to an adjacent safer area; parents will often follow.

**3.** The bird needs help and should be picked up if; Bird is newly hatched and the nest and nest mates are out of reach. The bird fell from a tall tree. The bird has an injury. A cat or a child has brought it in from an unknown place.

**4.** If the bird is injured, or has no feathers, it is most important to get it warm. Use a heating pad set on low or a low wattage light source. Get the bird to a rehabilitator within 48 hours as fractures must be set or they will heal incorrectly or get infected. It is recommended that any sick, injured or re-

ally orphaned bird or any animal be carefully handled and transported to a wildlife rehabilitation center as soon as possible.

The last resort is to take on the commitment of rehabilitating the animal yourself. Should you need to make it through 24–48 hours with an orphaned songbird, hang onto your hat and be prepared for little down time. Things to consider. They need feeding every 45 minutes from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. for four to six weeks. Feeding usually consists of soaked dry cat or dog food or hard-boiled egg mashed with water. Two parts boiling water to one part dry food, soak for an hour and drain excess water. Mash well with fork, or blender. Consistency should be like thick applesauce. Use a straw or paintbrush to put a mouthful of moist food into back of birds' throat. Feed until bird stops gaping. When they become self feeding (around 6 weeks), they need to be exposed to their natural foods (grains, etc. for seed eaters, mealworms, fruit and berries for the insect and fruit eaters. After successful self-feeding for a week, they need 2 weeks in an outdoor aviary to fly and compete with others. Hummingbirds, pigeons, doves, hawks, owls, killdeer and quail need special formulas or feeding techniques. **Note:** hummingbird babies fed sugar water or hummingbird nectar and hawks/owls fed hamburger, etc. for more than 24 hours can develop crippling deformities.

## Do's and Don'ts

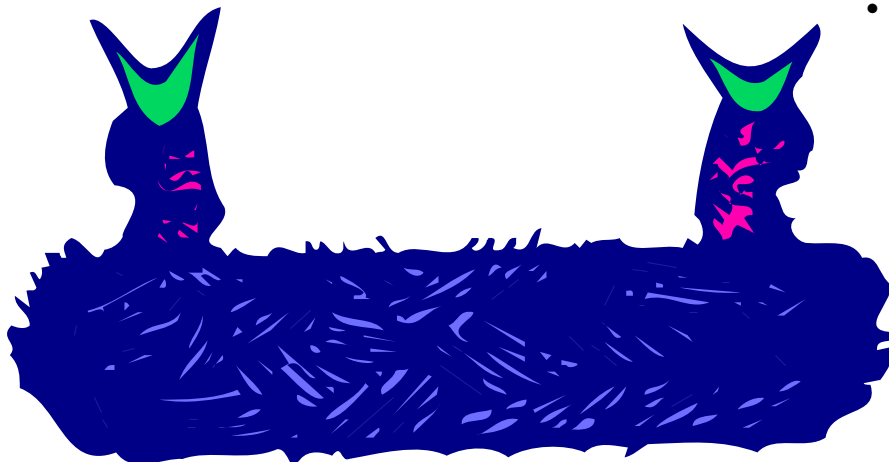
### Do's

- Keep birds clean (no food on face or feathers)
- Keep temporary environment quiet (no children or pets in sight of the bird)
- Keep contained (a box with a screen on top works)
- Call your local wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible
- Rescue birds if they are: injured, icy cold, naked and orphaned (both parents dead)

- Have old towels, spare shoe boxes

### Don'ts

- Give the bird milk or any liquid (they may drown)
- Be a bird-napper (educate children, neighbors, and friends not to pick up healthy baby birds. Leave them with their parents—they raise them best! **5**



# Are You Starting to Feel a Little Warped?

by Mike Chiesa

Do you wear a felt Smokey hat for part of the year? I wear mine quite a bit through the fall, winter, and early spring, besides portraying a professional ranger image. It also makes a great rain hat when you put a rain cover over it. If you do wear one and you are like me, you might notice that it can start to look a little warped, crumpled, or dirty after some years of use. I know mine sure has, and it is only 8 years old. You do start to grow attached to your hat and really don't want to part with it just because it is a little out of shape. The other factor I always consider is that I paid about \$60.00 for it originally and to buy a whole new one would cost me about \$90.00. Well fear not, you do not need to part with your old Smokey hat to maintain a professional image, you can give your old felt hat a face lift and have it looking just like new for only \$33.50.

If Stratton Hats, Inc. made your hat, you may send it back to the factory for what they call renovation. The renovation includes a new leather sweat band, a thorough cleaning, and re-blocking on its original form. Since summer is upon

us, and most of us are wearing straw Smokey hats, now is a perfect time to send your felt Smokey in for renovation and get it back in time to maintain a professional image come the cooler months.

I spoke with the people at Stratton and to get your hat renovated all you need to do is box it up, (the original hat box will work fine), and ship it back to Stratton. Enclose a check for \$33.50 and a note asking them to please renovate your hat, including cleaning and re-blocking. They will ship your renovated hat back out to you in about 2 weeks.

To get your felt Smokey renovated or for more information you may contact Stratton Hats at:

Stratton Hats, Inc.  
3200 W. Randolph  
Bellwood, Illinois 60104  
Phone: (708) 544-5220  
Fax: (708) 544-5243  
E-mail: sales@strattonhats.com  
Web site: www.strattonhats.com



# Odds, Ends & Weekends

by Jeff Gaffney

## Follow-up/Update

I got a tremendous response from my *Park Rangers Are Peace Officers?* article and I wanted to add a few things. There is one more case that the California Appeals court from the 4<sup>th</sup> District ruled on and the Ca. Supreme Court concurred with (*Inouye v. County of Los Angeles* (1994) 30 Cal. App. 4th 278, 35 Cal. Rptr.2d 367). If you were at all interested in the previous article this is must read information. I also wanted to pass along another case from 1974 that has been upheld time and time again (*Dyas v. Superior Court* (1974) 11 Cal.3d 628, 522 P.2d 674, 114 Cal. Rptr.114. This is especially important for all of the so-called public officers who are Park Rangers. The Supreme Court ruled that if it looks, sounds, and walks like a duck it must be a duck. In other words if you are designated as a park ranger ....protecting the park and preserving the peace as the Penal Code states you are a peace officer. There is no public officer designation for Park Rangers in the Penal Code. The cities, counties and special districts who ask you to go out perform these functions are by default making you peace officers. They just have gotten around the Peace Officer Bill of Rights and a number of other rights afforded to peace officers. Please call or e-mail with your questions.

## Political

I'm working on a bill to include Park Rangers in the PERS safety retirement system. This will open the door even wider for negotiating better retirement benefits. Assemblyman Mike Honda is helping as well as the local PORAC Chapter Director Jim Davis. If you have questions or want to help please give me a call.

## Membership

Membership in region two has been steadily rising and I hope we can get other members to renew, a few have failed to do so. If you know someone who is interested a professional organization or just has an interest in a parks management career maybe you can convince them to join, or

convince someone to rejoin who has forgotten to renew their membership.

## Training

The next training for Region 2 will probably be in mid October. Look for a flyer and in the *Signpost*.

## Union

I have been very busy lately with our local association (The Santa Clara County Park Rangers Association) and in the interest of sharing good information I'm passing a few things along. We were unhappy with our union (SEIU Local 715). We were too small within this union of 12,000 workers to have an identity. We decided to exercise our peace officer rights under 3508 of the Government code (all peace officers shall be in a bargaining unit made up solely of peace officers). We now look forward to negotiating our own contract and dealing with Park Ranger issues: not political agendas of a disinterested union. Things are going well and when this is all said and done I will write a complete article about the ins and outs of this action. Until then anyone who has questions or is even a little bit interested should give me a call or e-mail.

## Miscellaneous

The City of Santa Cruz Park Rangers are once again experiencing trouble with their management wanting Park Rangers eliminated or moved over to the police department as community service officers. Fortunately Neal Gow (acting supervisor) has been able to preserve their interpretation and resource management programs as well as maintaining an excellent training program including a part time mounted patrol unit. This has established a true Park Ranger identity. They have solidified their position and they stand on firm ground if any actions go before the City Council.

*Ed. note: There is a second group of park rangers in Santa Cruz. They work for the Water Department and are not currently affected by this proposal but are supportive nonetheless.*

# Fallen Ranger

by George Struble

On April 27, 1999, another tragedy struck the ranks of Park Rangers everywhere. Two Oregon State Park Rangers were shot while carrying out morning maintenance duties. Sadly this occurred just before National Police Week, May 9-16. During this holiday, the nation honors those law enforcement officers that have made the ultimate sacrifice. Ideally, we should take time out before every shift to remember those fellow officers who have given their lives and the lesson their stories provide.

Ranger Danny Blumenthal and Ranger John Kerwin were on duty April 27 when they stopped at Oswald West State Park to check the park and carry out some maintenance duties. One of the rangers entered the restroom and was confronted by a man armed with a small-caliber handgun. The man demanded the rangers wallets and keys, which were immediately handed over.

The gunman then forced Rangers Blumenthal and Kerwin to hike a trail leading down to the ocean. It was on that trail the gunman decided to open fire on the rangers, shooting Ranger Blumenthal in the head and Ranger Kerwin in the jaw. Ranger Blumenthal died instantly while Ranger Kerwin played dead and waited for the gunman to leave the area. Ranger Kerwin then went to the highway and sought help. This enabled dispatch to be notified immediately of the transpiring events. The gunman left in Ranger Blumenthal's pickup truck; but due to Ranger Kerwin's quick thinking and determination, police apprehended the suspect after a short pursuit.

The gunman faces 19 felony counts, including aggravated murder, attempted aggravated murder, kidnapping, robbery, burglary, and automobile theft.

I attended the Memorial Service for Ranger Danny Blumenthal on May 6, along with rangers from Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, the National Park Service, Army Corp of Engineers, and the US Forest service. There was also officers from local law enforcement as well as the US Coast Guard. A memorial was held at Oswald State Park down on the ocean bluffs in to honor the service he gave. His brother, Stan Blumenthal said, "He lived life to the fullest, always giving, never taking." I conveyed my deepest sympathy on behalf of PRAC. Oregon State Parks thanked PRAC for sending a representative.

During the flight home, I thought a lot. I thought about my own mortality of course, but also about the similarities all law enforcement officers have despite the agencies they may work for. I also remembered the reasons I got into law enforcement and hope that I too would touch others lives the way Ranger Blumenthal obviously did. Even if the nation doesn't honor fallen officers every day, we as comrades certainly should.

# Oregon State Park Ranger Murdered

by John Havicon

On April 27, 1999, Oregon State Park Rangers Danny Blumenthal, 50, and John Kerwin, 51, were conducting routine maintenance at Oswald West State Park getting the site ready for it's spring opening. One of them went into inspect a bathroom but emerged with a man holding him at gunpoint.

Both of the Rangers were marched about 400 yards along a trail into dense forest where the gunman tried to tie them up. He apparently became frustrated at his inability to do so and shot both of them in the head using a .22 Caliber pistol. Ranger Blumenthal was killed. Ranger Kerwin was shot in the face, but lay motionless and played dead until the gunman left. He later walked to a road and a passerby took him to a nearby fire station.

The gunman, later identified as Larry Cole, 52, left the area in Ranger Blumenthal's State truck and was subsequently arrested by the State Police at a road-block following a high-speed chase. Cole is being charged with aggravated murder, attempted aggravated murder and 2-counts of aggravated robbery.

According to Bob Meinen, the director of Oregon State Parks and Recreation Dept., Park Rangers are responsible for general maintenance, fee collection, and issuing citations for parking and other infractions but do not carry firearms. The park is on the coast along U.S. highway 101, 65-miles West of Portland.

Ranger Kerwin was seriously injured, but is now recovering at home with his wife Mary, after treatment at the hospital and a successful surgery to remove one of the bullets from his head. Ranger Kerwin is a 27-year veteran of the Oregon State Parks.

Ranger Blumenthal worked for Oregon State Parks since 1984. He is survived by his parents, a son, Jeremy, and 2 grandchildren.



# Smitty's Book Report

Have you ever had a bubble burst? Like having your special hero get shot off his/her white horse? Ever find out that a person you admired for many years was not the way you envisioned him to be? I received that shock a couple of weeks ago when I bought, and read, a new book about the National Park Service that was written by Horace Albright with help from his daughter, Marian. The book also has a foreword by Robert Utley, one of the foremost historians that the Park service has ever produced. This book, obviously, is of recreational reading value only to you people out there. But if you are interested in history, how the National Park Service was formed and how the ranger profession came about, this book is for you.

We know that there were several U.S. Cavalry people who left the service to become park rangers. In the early years, when there were parks and no park service, the Department of the Interior had a Parks Bureau. In this bureau was a young man by the name of Mark Daniels. Daniels came to the department in 1914. He was a landscape architect from U.C Berkeley, and was to become the first superintendent of a new Rocky Mountain park. He wrote a letter to Albright suggesting that he be allowed to hire a couple of men from Colorado to serve as park rangers. He said that he wanted to use the Canadian Mounties as a model for this ranger force. He wanted it to be as great as, or even better than the Canadians. He said that in order to do that, the men had to be free of any political influence and clear of any politics. These people were to be competent horseman and skilled in woodcraft. They should know about animals and birds and trees. They must be able to care for a lost baby and give first aid to a wounded tourist. They also had to be sober men and absolutely healthy, courteous and well tempered. This national park rangers service must be their ambition and their life. National parks are the playgrounds of the people of the United States. The rangers must be men of a kind that can be depended upon and trusted and honored by everybody. Albright thought that was the best description that he had ever seen of a park ranger (me to!) and used the contents of this letter as a model in building the Park Service. Somewhere in my archives I have a job description for a seasonal ranger written by Albright that used some of the ideas above. I think some of you have read that as well.

The book takes us through the years during Mather's mental illness, and how that was covered up for all these years. I knew that Mather had a nervous breakdown but had no idea of the magnitude of the illness and the effects that it had on Albright. Actually, after reading this book I am more inclined to call Albright the father of the National Park Service and not Steven Mather. I was shocked and stunned at some of the things that went on. Especially after being brainwashed over these many years of hero worship of Mather and what he accomplished. Certainly, he did accomplish a lot. He was a very rich man and spent a great deal of his money on national parks and the park service. He even paid part of Albright's salary. Because of this, and his deep adoration of Mather, Albright remained loyal to him right up to his own death, just a few years ago. Before Albright passed away, he had written this book but never finished it. His daughter took the manuscript after his death and made sure it was published. It included many things that I took for granted and didn't question. I thought that Mather had written the famous passage in the Park Service Act about conserving the wildlife and scenery and historic objects.....for the enjoyment of future generations. It was not Mather. It was Frederick Law Olmstead!

An extremely interesting book. Even if it is not one that you put on your professional shelf to make your job easier, it does tell us who we are and where we came from. The politics of parks are in this book in an abundance. Yes, they even had big time grazing problems back then.

Albright, Horace M, Schencke, Marian A, **Creating the National Park Service, The Missing Years**, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman Oklahoma, 1999.

**Park Rangers Association of California  
Board Officers  
1999**

**PRESIDENT**

**Russ Hauck**  
(818) 548-3795  
Fax: (818) 548-3789  
E-Mail: RUSTYHAWK@AOL.COM

**Region 1 Director**

**Mike Chiesà**  
(707) 847-3245  
Fax: (707) 785-3741  
E-Mail: MCHIESA@MCN.ORG

**Region 2 Director**

**Jeff Gaffney**  
(408) 779-3634  
E-Mail: ucjake@ix.NETCOM.COM

**Region 3 Director**

**John Havicon**  
(916) 875-6672  
Fax: (916) 875-6632  
E-Mail: ONBELAY@INNERSITE.COM

**Region 4 Director**

**George Struble**  
(818) 548-3795  
Fax: (818) 548-3789  
E-Mail: CAPINEPIG@AOL.COM

**Region 5 Director**

**Lori Hynes**  
(619) 235-1121  
Fax: (619) 235-5902  
E-Mail: BPR16@AOL.COM

**Past President**

**Pam Helmke**  
(408) 277-4539  
Fax: (408) 277-3241  
E-Mail: ARP1872@SJM.INFI.NET

**The Signpost Editor**

**David Brooks**  
(831) 336-2948  
Fax: (By Arrangement)  
E-Mail: PRANGERD@IX.NETCOM.COM

**Scholarship**

**Bill Hendricks**  
(805) 756-1246  
Fax: (805) 756-1402

**Office Manager**

**Carol Bryce**  
Office: (800) 994-2530  
Local: (916) 558-3734  
Fax: (916) 387-1179  
E-Mail: PKRGRAC@EARTHlink.NET

The *Signpost* is published by THE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA (PRAC). THE ASSOCIATION MAILING ADDRESS IS P.O. BOX 292010, SACRAMENTO, CA, 95829. 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 (831) 336-2948.

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