

A SUGARLOAF JOURNAL

Excerpts from the Sugarloaf Ridge State Park
Ranger Daily Diaries, 1971 to 2012

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park has a long history of stewardship by Park Rangers (i.e. Park Peace Officers) of the California State Department of Park and Recreation. The male and female Rangers and Park Aides who were assigned to Sugarloaf Ridge State Park maintained hand-written diaries in which they noted the events of each day that they were on duty. Thirty eight these diaries covering the period from 1971 to 2012 were found in storage in the Sonoma Barracks and have been researched by the Sugarloaf Ridge State Park's volunteer History Docent.

The 38 diaries contain more than 13,000 entries. The first entry on January 1, 1971 was written by Sugarloaf Ridge State Park's first Ranger, Milo Shepard, and stated simply: "Clear. Shepard checked out the Park. Everything OK." Thereafter, the entries are somewhat longer, but no less unusual.

The Ranger diaries recorded a volume of routine activities including the collection of user fees, maintenance of facilities and vehicles, trail clearing, camper relations, and citations for pet and vehicular violations. Every so often, however, a diary entry was found that was somewhat out of the ordinary and which offered an enhanced perspective on the challenges and joys of park supervision, as well as a glimpse of significant occurrences during the first 41 years of park history. These are the diary entries that are highlighted in this paper.

Note: There is a companion piece to this *Journal* that lists the diary entries chronologically by day, month and year. This iteration, however, lists only the most salient diary entries by category and by year. Hopefully, this approach will be more readable and of greater interest to the brave souls who choose to plow through the following 34 pages.

Larry Maniscalco, History Docent
September 2016

LIONS AND BOBCATS AND BEARS, OH MY!

April 4, 1978: From about one-third mile distance, I observed an animal leap over a stick or fence on the hillside, into a grassy area, and disappear behind trees. It appeared to be a mountain lion rather than a deer, but without binoculars I could not be 100% sure.

March 22, 1984: A large bobcat was sighted near lower Pony Gate access. A medium-size bobcat was also sighted near the State trailers.

October 27, 1984: Two visitors sighted a mountain lion in the meadow between the day use parking lot and the residences!!! They described in detail a German Shepard plus-size, cat-like animal with a three foot long tail.

February 12, 1985: Hope the Bobcat by Joe's house [i.e. Ranger Joe White] is a Robertcat so maybe we'll have Bobkittens this spring.

January 6, 1990: Bobbie White saw three piles of bear droppings on Meadow Trail and possibly sighted a bear in the trees on the hillside north of Meadow Trail just west of the bridge by the Heritage Tree. A very large bobcat with a long tail or young mountain lion with short tail was seen by Ranger White in a rock area above day use parking area.

August 3, 1992: Campers with binoculars claimed that they sighted a mountain lion on Hillside Trail between Bald Mountain Trail and Stern Road at about 8 p.m.

September 19, 1992: A bobcat chasing a rabbit was seen by visitors.

January 16, 1995: Another report of a visitor seeing a large mountain lion off Meadow Trail about ¼ mile past the group camp on Hillside Trail. He said it didn't seem fearful of people.

June 14, 1998: A man reported seeing a mountain lion, but his daughter said it seemed more like a bobcat (or large bunny). I didn't even get his number or anything because the story was so shaky.

June 19, 1999: There was a mountain lion sighting east of the campfire between the road and the creek.

December 19, 1999: Mountain lion sighting. A woman and her family were walking east on Adobe Canyon Road between the main parking lot and Ranger Robyn Ishimatsu's house, when they noticed a large cat on the left side of the ridge. It had a cream colored belly with a slightly darker coat and was much larger than their dog (a small black lab). Earlier in the day someone else claimed to have seen a mountain lion, but didn't get a close enough look to be sure.

December 3, 2001: Stern Ranch reports bear damage. Their garbage sheds were torn apart, trash, etc. are all over. There were two piles of scat (grapes/acorns) and one paw print on the assistant ranch manager's door.

Note: Bear sightings also have occurred in SRSP since Team Sugarloaf assumed the operation of the park in 2012. Park environmentalist Bill Miller, who manages the park's remote-control video camera, indicated that he has recorded 15 bear videos from 2013 to August of 2016. On September 28, 2013 the Sonoma Index-Tribune reported that "Just after midnight, a medium-sized black bear was captured on video at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. The bear was crossing a stream where a camera had been set up to monitor wildlife movement." On August 16, 2014, the same newspaper reported that, "New video footage of a large black bear in Sugarloaf Ridge State Park has ecologists wondering if the animals have moved back into Sonoma Valley for good." And on September 19, 2016, the San Francisco Chronicle reported that a mother and her two cubs were recorded strolling slowly past the video camera. Bear sightings recorded in the park are posted on the California State Park's You Tube channel.

January 7, 2002: Report of a mountain lion on Bald Mountain Trail up around Vista Trail. It was lying down in grassy path facing away from road. It was described as very large with cat-like ears, not a deer. The hikers were too scared to observe any longer and did not see its face or tail.

June 2, 2003: A visitor reports seeing an adult mountain lion walking alongside the southern creek area of Adobe Canyon Road before leaving the roadway and walking towards the creek and trees.

January 25, 2004: There was a mountain lion sighting by a man and his daughter west of Stern Trail above the lower grove of oaks. It was chasing a deer.

July 23, 2004: Ranger Poe wrote, I finally saw my first mountain lion here about a tenth of a mile up from the group site. It was smaller, probably a juvenile, in the same area described by a customer of the horse concession who recently reported a sighting. It ran up the road, up the hill, turned to watch me and walked away. Wow, great! It's time to play lotto.

November 12, 2004: While washing the pickup, I could hear a couple of wildcats. They kept calling the entire time. The sound was from the Thatcher property.

December 9, 2005: *The following memo from Breck Parkman to Ranger Robyn Ishimatsu was taped onto the diary page for this day:*

"Guess what I just saw? A mountain lion! And it's a positive sighting not a maybe. I saw him (her?) on a hill behind my house as I was driving toward my house right at 17:00. The animal was on the uphill side of the road (north side) about 60-70 yards from the road. I drove past the campfire center and spied the animal after driving another 150 feet or so. I stopped and watched the lion who had been walking along the contour. When I stopped, the lion stopped and stood behind some clumps of grass. I got out of the truck and stood at the edge of the road watching the animal. As I did, it went to ground almost instantly (laid down out of sight). I waited and then began to see it slinking slowly away making use of the grass for cover. It took several minutes to make the ridgeline (the one traversing down toward the forest from above) and move out of my sight. I got a good look at its tail. It was fairly dark in color and quite large, easily 100 pounds or more (probably 125 lbs.).

"Night before last when I turned the dogs out in the back yard, they instantly picked up a scent and went crazy. It was an unusual reaction for them that I've only seen once or twice since living here. I'm now wondering if they smelled the lion two nights ago. Anyway, I wanted to let you know about this.

"The dogs and I were going to take a walk tonight, but I think we're going to pass tonight! This cat looked much larger than I would have expected."

August 25, 2006: A hiker said he saw a mountain lion. He was coming down Brushy Peaks at dusk and had an unobstructed view of animal on Meadow west of Brushy Peaks-Meadow-Hillside junction. It was trotting away and he lost sight of it after a few seconds. He didn't recall any people or deer in area.

August 31, 2006: Two cyclists reported a mountain lion on the lower one-third of the road hunting a deer above the group site lot. They were heading up when they saw a deer come off the bluff so hard that front legs almost buckled. The mountain lion landed on the road just as deer headed down ravine; but it saw the cyclists, did a 180 and headed back up bluff. The whole scene took five seconds. They said the animal didn't seem very big – was thin. Its color seemed darker, but they thought it could have been due to their sunglasses. The tip of the tail was dark.

December 29, 2006: Possible mountain lion sighting on Vista about one-third of the way in from Bald Mountain Trail about 50 yards away. The hikers could see the head and shoulders. It was probably watching the deer. The animal flattened down to the ground after they saw it.

February 19, 2007: Mountain lion sighting off meadow about 100 yards from the Jupiter marker up the hill. Richard _____ had never seen a mountain lion in the wild, but was sure this was a small one. He said it was small only about 80 lbs., about the size of his golden retriever. It was a tawny color with a long tail. He said it was stalking something in the grass, then got scared off and ran up the hill.

April 3, 2007: Mountain lion sighting by the Triple Creek horse concession. It was seen about 1100 hours last Thursday exhibiting normal behavior.

January 31, 2008: About 1530 hours, park visitors saw a mountain lion cross their path while driving by the lower access to Canyon Trail. They said it was 10 feet in front of their car. The mountain lion came up from the canyon, ran across the road and up the hill near a muddy slide area.

February 9, 2008: Clint of Stern Ranch said poss. Bear scat a week ago just inside their gate.

February 24, 2008: *This memo to Ranger Robyn Ishimatsu from Breck Parkman was stapled onto the diary page. Subject "Possible Lion Sighting at Sugarloaf"*

'I'm pretty sure that Diane and I saw a mountain lion here at Sugarloaf Ridge SP earlier today. Here is a description of the sighting.

"At approximately 1720, Diane returned home after jogging in the park with our two dogs. Diane was shaken up and quite excited, and she told me that she had seen what she thought to be a mountain lion at a close distance. She had been running toward the Observatory with the two dogs on short leashes. The day-long rains had just ended but it was still overcast and growing dark. About 50 feet beyond the locked gate at the end of the road (i.e., about 200 feet west of the Observatory), Diane observed a large animal sitting still in the grass beside the drainage that runs beside the gravel road leading to the Observatory. Diane said that she was just twenty feet or so from the animal when she spotted it. Diane stopped and began backing up, keeping her eyes on the animal. She said that somehow our dogs never caught sight of it. As Diane slowly backed away, she saw the animal slowly walk away."

[The memo goes on to say that the animal could have been a "big coyote with a winter coat", its movements seen later by Breck and Diane "did indeed look cat-like".]

April 20, 2008: Mountain lion sighting reported for yesterday a.m. by mom and kids at the Canyon picnic ground.

February 26, 2009: Mountain lion sighting $\frac{3}{4}$ the way up Bald Mountain Trail. It just stared at the man and kept going.

November 15, 2009: Biker spotted a bobcat at 11 a.m. below the kiosk.

December 14, 2009: Two bobcat sightings, both at 4:00 p.m. on Bald Mountain and seen from Lower Bald Mountain Trail looking east near the Lower Bald Mountain Trail and Meadow Trail junction.

February 17, 2010: Bobcat by the picnic ground lot – pretty tall.

May 14, 2010: A dad with two girls and a young boy hiking on Stern Trail. The girls thought they saw a mountain lion and were scared. I checked the large boulders under tree canopies off trail to appease them and reassured them it was an old tree that fell on a boulder covering the rock.

April (no day), 2011: Mountain lion sighting on Vista on hillside meadow.

May 28, 2011: Mountain lion sighting – top of Brushy Peaks near Gray Pine.

June 23, 2011: Mountain lion sighting – Bald Mountain Trail.

S-S-S-SNAKES

April 26, 1971: Ten Hanna Center boys and a counselor visited the park. 7-8 boys left the counselor and hiked in the meadow north of the contact station. Ranger noticed activity and shouting from the group and went to investigate. The boys had found a 34-inch rattlesnake and were trying to put it alive in a box which was slightly larger than a shoe box. The Ranger killed the snake, got the counselor and gave a “lecture” to all. Two rattlesnakes killed total.

June 11, 1971: One rattlesnake killed. Second rattlesnake killed in campsite #23. One rattlesnake killed in a tent. The owner pulled tent down on the snake and called the Ranger to get the snake. Ranger lifted the tent up, located the snake and killed him.

June 12, 1971: A small rattlesnake was seen in the right wheel well of the Scout. When the Ranger attempted to get it, it went through a small splash pan into the gas compartment and couldn't get him out.

May 15, 1972: Not even one rattlesnake today.

May 27, 1973: A first! Rattlesnake was captured alive in the group area (after 100's killed) and taken to a remote portion of the park. The snake was about 8 inches long and had one button. He made little effort to strike and mostly tried to get away. Hopefully this young snake can take the place of older snakes in the area he was moved to without upsetting any natural balances between predators and prey.

Note: The first Ranger diaries indicated a large number of rattlesnake kills. The later diaries, beginning with this entry in 1973 indicated the removal and replacement and not the killing of the reptiles.

May 4, 1972: King snake eats rattlesnake – witnessed by Ranger Ralph Skippen.

Note: King snakes kill their prey by constriction and tend to be opportunistic when it comes to their diet. They will eat other snakes as well as lizards, rodents, birds and eggs. The common king snake is known to be immune to the venom of other snakes and to eat rattlesnakes.

April 30, 1977: Another snakebite today – Some young boy – 8 yrs. old, trying to catch a snake and he caught one for sure. He was on the Bald Mountain Trail. His parents took him to the hospital. He was given an anti-venom shot so he'll be there a few days. He was bitten on the hand and is doing ok.

July 15, 1978: Munson and Silver, ably and generously assisted by Irwin and several interested visitors removed a large live rattlesnake from the vicinity of the bridge to the campground. Equipment used:

two park trucks, one sedan, one snake stick and one garbage can. A production Cecil B. DeMille would have been proud to place his name on. Or perhaps Max Senick?

Note: He probably meant Max Sennett, the silent film era's King of Comedy who produced and directed films featuring Charlie Chaplin, Fatty Arbuckle and the Keystone Kops.

August 7, 1981: A rattlesnake by Garrick's trailer aroused our vacationing Unit Ranger from his slumber. In an attempt to subdue the beast, his wife screamed and the snake took to hiding under the trailer. After 10 minutes a big fat raccoon came running out from under the trailer, but when he saw the park personnel he high-tailed it back into hiding with the rattler. At last report a sound of rattles was heard and it is assumed they lived happily ever after.

August (no date), 1983: Folks in #31 killed a rattler two-feet long – disposed and had a talk with them.

May 30, 1984: Report of a man with woman and child in white Toyota picking up snakes and putting them in their trunk. Vehicle fitting the description in day use lot –no one around. No contact made (no noise in trunk anyway).

September 3, 1984: Park Aide Jack Cook sat down to eat lunch at the picnic table near the entrance station and found that a 4-foot, 10-rattle snake had stopped by to join him for lunch.

June 11, 1985: People are letting us know that they have spotted several black and white snakes (King Snakes).

August 9, 1985: Caught a large rattlesnake (about 3 ½ to 4 ½ ft.) on entry road about 100 yds. Below the kiosk – after it came out twice for a sunbath on the road!

July 21, 1986: Retrieved a two-foot rattler with 10 buttons at campsite #31. It made a great interpretive object for everyone to see in the campground. I took it home and stir-fried it. Actually thought about bringing the wok here; it'd make a nice wok on the wild side.

Month of August, 1991: A loose leaf entry in the Ranger diary, titled "Rattle Snake Sightings" listed 12 sightings for the period of August 4-25, with a possible sighting on August 29. The listing included the location of the sightings and the sizes of the snake.

September 11, 1993: Woman reported seeing a rattlesnake "10 in. in diameter and 8 ft. long" I thought about reporting her!

May 22, 1999: Rattlesnake bit a dog in campground – owner said the dog would be at the vets for several days and vet said it was the third snake bite he has treated today.

July 30, 2003: Campsite #4 said there's a snake under the steps. So, while we were looking for a prod to put under the steps, the campers from #15 return. The guy gets the snake stick as I'm looking for a prod and manages to get a hold of it behind its head. As I take over, he kneels down to get it with his hand, saying he's caught rattlesnakes before. He says to "let go" – my response – "Seriously?" His response – "Seriously!" So, in a leap of faith, I let go. Then he pulls the female (per his claim) snake out from the steps and into the awaiting trash can. He said he used to relocate rattlers all the time at one place he used to live. Krikey! She's a beauty.

August 30, 2008: Jean discovers rattler in wood bin. I got a picture of him/her eating a mouse. Waited till after he swallowed and the mouse travelled down a ways before relocating.

June 20, 2009: Baby rattlesnake found in camp site #43. Camper was a herpetologist and picked it up and came to kiosk with it, properly holding the snake, and released it on the hill the north side of the kiosk.

June 28, 2009: Nora and Jon chased a rattlesnake away from the recycle bin near camp site #15. It went into the recycle bin, which isn't accessible to the public.

November 15, 2009: Rattlesnake reported on Vista Trail. Hiker said it came after him.

September 17, 2010: Woman in campsite #45 honking horn 4 or 5 times. She said she was keeping the rattlesnakes away. She referred to the sound that the crickets and katydids made. I told her about insects and snakes and that she needed to stop honking or they'd be evicted.

April 18, 2010: Rattlesnakes are out. There were three reports from hikers – one snake at Headwaters Trail and two at Bald Mountain Trail.

August 5, 2010: Stubborn snake (a rattler) at the group camp bridge was “uncooperative” and wouldn't clear the area. After a little prompting, it slithered away – not too happy.

July 2, 2011: Moved a three-foot + rattler with a body as thick as my wrist from the beginning of the Nature Trail path. Found out it was over three feet long when it crawled out of a two-foot high can. Lucky I had a lid to close after getting it back in can.

March 10, 2011: Rattlesnake bite on Bald Mountain Trail. A 49 year old woman picked up a baby snake after her fiancé warned her not to. They walked back down to main lot and found me at the group site lot. The Kenwood Fire Department and ambulance came. She was taken to Memorial Hospital.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

April 30, 1971: Camper found large hawk near service area. Bird seemed stunned or possibly ate some insecticide. Put him in lean-to back of barn, hoping he would recover.

February 27, 1972: Two eagles today.

September 28, 1973: A turkey vulture found on entrance road just inside main gate. It had apparently been shot and was suffering. It would not fly or even attempt to fly. Ranger Loomis called [a biologist] from the Dept. of Fish and Game. He recommended that we kill it. The bird was killed and disposed of into the back country.

June 7, 1975: Found a turkey vulture nest with one egg in it on the fire road on Red Mountain. Nest is under a rock cliff behind a Christmas berry bush. Really neat.

September 20, 1975: A young turkey vulture the campers in #50 have been nursing back to health was spotted hiding along the creek by site #14 this morning. She was said to have hissed at some children who tried to come close No sign of her now –escapee?

September 10, 1977: Finally saw a pileated woodpecker this year – down in Adobe Canyon.

August 4, 1996: Hawks nest spotted behind #44 in white tree. It was probably a Sharp Shinned hawk.

September 13, 1977: SUGARLOAF GETS THE BIRD. Campers in site #19 had their parrot Ralph or Raphael get away and fly into the oak trees near their site. No amount of calling and pleading would get him down so tried to see if we could blast him down but he was at the extreme range of the stream of water and only got slightly wet. We then tried tossing a weighted line over the limb he was on and shaking him out. It worked but unfortunately he flew down the creek into a much taller tree. After numerous tries, a weighted line was thrown over a limb near him and his cage hoisted. As of 1600, Ralph is still perched two limbs above and not talking or moving. His owner unrolled sleeping bag and spent the night on guard.

The next day . . .

RAMBLINGS OF RALPH. Day #2 in the saga of Ralph – you know who. Ralph is still high in the trees enjoying his freedom. He moved several times late yesterday evening but he still stayed high. His natural green coloring sure makes him hard to spot in the green trees. Ralph is still moving and still resisting. As of now, he has been able to lose himself. I can see the headlines: “RALPH RESISTS - MAKES SUGARLOAF’S BIRD LIST” or “RALPH MAKES BIRD OF THE MONTH LIST” or etc., etc. Can you imagine the sensation this will cause when the bird watchers spot him? 1620: Ralph returns. After being followed all day from tree to tree, Ralph or Raphael finally flew down to his owner. HAPPY ENDING.

January 3, 1980: Ms. ____ in site #15 requested that I help capture two blue birds that had been showing up at her site every day. She wanted to mark them for future identification. She said she was sure that they were the same two birds she had seen in other parks. She claimed that they had been following her around the state. Possible? I don’t think so. STRANGE LADY!

January 26, 1983: Found three chickens dropped off at Goodspeed trailhead.

September 25, 1983: At 1900 hours while sitting in the office, an immature blue jay walked into the office, chirped at me a bit, pecked at some dirt on the floor, chirped again and calmly walked out...

August 26, 1984: Saw a Golden Eagle up towards Red Mountain sitting on a rock for a while.

June 17, 1985: We lost Bentley [a domesticated pet bird] today after we believed we found the owner. He flew the coop – last seen around the creek area near the kiosk.

February 14, 1987: Information via Bill Krumbain that it’s National Condor Week! Have a good one Bill!

Note: I could find no reference to a National Condor Week, but a news release from the Dept. of the Interior dated April 21, 1987 reported that, “The last remaining wild California condor has been captured by biologists from the California Condor Research Center and has joined 26 other members of the species in two zoos in continuing effort to breed the majestic bird-of-prey in captivity and rescue the species from extinction.” After a decade in protective custody, two six-month old chicks were airlifted to the Sespe wilderness of Los Padres National Forest and released in October 1991, thus reintroducing the specie in California.

July 13, 1993: This man was in to release six cotes (120 birds) of racing pigeons. They are in training for up to 500 mile flights. He assured Ranger Rich Irwin that none would remain here and any possible strays would be gotten by hawks.

May 24, 1999: Les found five baby mallards without a mom. Turned them over to Bird Rescue; they plan to let them go when older at Annadel of Jack London.

January 8, 2003: Ranger Robyn Ishimatsu wrote that she saw a Kingfisher for her first time here at the campground bridge entry.

February 26, 2010: Campsite #36 biologist Brian spotted two golden eagles out on the ridge. Last weekend when he stayed here, he said he heard a Northern Saw-Whet owl – not on our bird list.

September 12, 2011: Breck and Diane Parkman reported two chickens at Vista and a car possibly related to them. With the help of the couple at Vista Point, Ranger Robyn caught one chicken. Animal Control will pick up on Monday.

April 21, 2012: A woman with a cockatoo hiking was seen on trails with a hiking group. Ranger Robyn Ishimatsu explained the rule of no hiking with pets. She didn't think of him as a pet. The woman was directed to regional parks. She didn't still see a problem with her "pet" but was intelligent and thoughtful and decided to go to Hood Mountain Regional Park.

COYOTES, COONS & SUCH

March 16, 1975: Biology major from U.C. Davis departed today. She has been in the park for about six weeks studying coyotes. She had been only successful in spotting two. Friends had sent her predator calls but she didn't know how to blow them properly. I brought in my tape recorder with tapes of jack and cottontail rabbits in distress. After a little practice, she was able to call up coyotes on the two different occasions.

March 23, 1975: An Oakmont golf course employee brought a cage-trapped raccoon to the park today. I helped him release the raccoon just below the main park gate.

May 30, 1975: About midnight, a camper from site #6 with entire family in car drove up to check station and informed me there was a bobcat or mountain lion in the tree under which they were sleeping. Claimed they had heard it growl. Went back to the site with him and by using a good flashlight and my Alabama coon hunting training manage to spot a big coon. After showing him to the camper and assuring him coons do growl, he and family climbed back in their sleeping bags to complete their night's sleep. Chalk up another one.

December 14, 1975: On securing at 1800, I heard coyote barking and singing in the hills behind group site. The moon was out, weather cold, clear and crisp. I stood listening to him for about five minutes until he stopped. The only other sound was an owl hooting on the side of Sugarloaf. One of life's beautiful moments!

August 21, 1984: Picked up a dead raccoon near entrance and put him where he could decay in peace.

February 23, 1985: Visitor reported sick raccoon in trash bin in group site. It was the part blind female. I had to tip over the dumpster to get her to come out then winch up dumpster.

June 17, 1985: Two hikers from Annadel came up with two baby raccoons. They are just opening their eyes now. The mother was dead with vultures feeding on it. The hikers heard noises and found the two babies. Welcome to the Sugarloaf Ridge menagerie. We are all told to wash thoroughly after handling the cute critters for fear of rabies!!! Baby raccoons turned over to the Sonoma Wildlife Rehabilitation Center for care. They will raise them and release them with minimal human contact.

July 4, 1985: Raccoon up a tree in site #48. Visitors and Bandit the dog enjoying it immensely. More on the raccoon! It is not just entertaining, it is sick. So we call animal control and there's an exciting time getting it out of the tree, but between animal control, a camper and me, we succeed in getting him into a box where he will be chloroformed.

April 4, 1987: An injured raccoon was spotted limping around sites #43 and #49. The Humane Society was called and they said they'd pick it up in about ½ hr. It took more like an hour to get here and in the meantime Rich [Ranger Rich Irwin] kept an eye on it until they arrived and successfully captured and caged it. The coon was put to sleep due to missing right hind foot and severe damage to leg; possible victim of a trap; keep our eyes open for evidence of trapping.

September 3, 1987: Had company in the office this morning. A mother opossum and three of her young had been hit on Adobe Canyon Road, leaving four more young clinging to her back. I plucked them off and brought them up here. Bill Krumbein took his 22 down to dispatch the mother who was dying slowly. I felt shooting her with a 38 was a bit of overkill. We need some animal dispatch bullets.

January 6, 1999: We saw a mangy coyote come out from Meadow Trail and head to the stables. It was heading behind the hay when it startled a young deer. They seemed to both be surprised to see each other and stared at each other for a few secs. The deer attempted to run a few steps and realized the coyote was following. They headed behind the corrals. When we caught up to them across from the residences, the deer was injured. Then we saw the coyote take the deer down and disappear from sight. Wow! Just like it was on the Discovery Channel!

July 17, 1999: A tailless raccoon took hot dog buns off the table in camp site #46 while people were sitting at the table. I retrieved the buns and yelled at the raccoon. The raccoon was fearless and just kept trying to get the buns back. The visitors threw the buns away and were going to store the rest of their food in their vehicle.

January 14, 2001: Drove up to Red Mountain and Bald Mountain and saw a coyote pounce for a small meal. Spectacular views on Bald Mountain. Could see the Trans-America Building in S.F. and snow on Mt. St. Helena.

May 9, 2002: A woman and her husband said they'd found a coyote skull last time. I told them they needed to return it. The woman knew she shouldn't have taken it; she knew that everything is protected. He said they'd bring it next time. I said that was too long; so, he said he'd send it. Sahe was a bone collector and visibly upset that he gave me that info.

August 25, 2005: Coyotes howling this afternoon – Hillside area.

September 1, 2005: Coyote spotted in the field adjacent to the kiosk. It pounced on a rodent with its front paws, picked the rodent up with its jaws and crunch, crunch, crunch, swallow -- rodent ingested. Nice work!

January 10, 2007: Three coyotes in very good coat, good health above Stern Trail.

NOT-SO-WILD LIFE

March 20, 1971: Owner of five Hereford cows [which were loose in the Park] removed six today. A calf was born within the last two days to one of the cows.

April 15, 1972: Four boys found a baby fawn today. They brought it to station. Took it back to where it was found.

November 6, 1972: A visitor's horse ran away – passed by while I was working on culvert. I went back and got the visitor; by this time horse had almost got to the highway. We caught the horse which apparently suffered no damage and brought it back with Scout.

April 1, 1973: "Sam" the six month-old, 50 pound lion and star of a public service TV and movie short for the National Coalition Against the Poisoning of Wildlife sleeps with one of the owner's sons. He was raised in captivity by Bob Andrew, owner and member of Exotic Pets Unlimited.

June 16, 1973: Visitors hiking on road between day use parking and service area reported a strange acting rabbit. The rabbit ran up to them then stopped. The visitors walked along further and the rabbit ran up ahead then stopped. As the visitors walked still further, the rabbit ran up then stopped again. The rabbit finally ran off.

September 14, 1975: Observed two ladies, one small child with a strange animal in tow that closely resembled a deer from a distance. Upon further investigating, the "deer" turned out to be a goat. They had him on a leash and were taking him for a short walk. Unable to conjure up any regulations against goats in State Parks, I sent them on their way.

March 16, 1978: Picked up a horse at the pound in Sonoma. The vet says he looks sort of hopeless, but could be used in a trade for better horse.

May 30, 1978: Found the proverbial four blind mice in the drawer at kiosk – removed their quarters to the great outdoors.

July 16, 1978: Large turnout for California Rescue Dog Association and Sonoma Deputy Sheriff's rescue demonstration. 175 persons were in the group site at one time. The day-use parking lot was full. Very well organized and supervised group. A real pleasure for the park personnel to deal with.

January 5, 1980: Looks like this will be the year for trout fishin' in the creek. Threw several worms into deep holes. Each proved to have a few nice size fish! Warm up the fryin' pan.

May 14, 1980: Visitors in site #21 told about a mouse that ran in circles for two hours near their campsite.

November 4, 1980: Spotted two goats on the north side of Sugarloaf Ridge, one white and one black. Two does not a herd make, nor are they mountain goats just because they were on a mountain.

December 16, 1982: Mystery solved thanks to Bill Krumbein. Visitors had brought to my attention a couple of times a long thin worm or snake. They were about 10"-12" long, very thin like pencil lead and light grey in color. According to Bill, these are called wire worms. They are harmless and probably eat decaying matter same as angle worms. They are usually seen after the ground has become saturated. This probably runs them out. Maybe larva of click beetles.

January 10, 1983: One of Sugarloaf's live-ins complained that moles are coming up inside their tent and making mounds under the carpet.

January 19, 1983: Saw the infamous wild mountain goats today! Up at the top of Sugarloaf Ridge – saw them from Vista Point. One large white one and three smaller black ones. I wouldn't have believed it. I doubted Tom Furrer's story about them for years ...

January 20, 1983: Found our neighbor in the red house at the bottom of the hill cutting firewood very close to our boundary – showed him markers and angle of actual boundary. While down there with him, I found four black bunny rabbits! With his help, managed to catch them all ... Probably dump offs.

May 4, 1983: Called animal control for assistance with trapping domestic rabbits.

April 18, 1984: Resident Ranger Joe White brought in his Morgan mare Shamrock Sugar Plum to live behind the barn.

May 11, 1984: Balloons brought messages from Piner Olivet School to Shamrock Sugar Plum behind the unit barn. She was convinced of an alien invasion for a while, but soon recovered her composure.

June 10, 1984: A Beagle mix pup was found wandering the Goodspeed Trail parking area by a visitor. He asked several residents of the area, but no one knew anything about the dog so he turned it in to us. I called animal control, but before they could dispatch someone [name] adopted the pup.

January 31, 1985: Happy Birthday Oakmont Twilight. "Sugar" had her foal – a filly. Now have 3 horses behind barn.

May 17, 1985: Talked to Larry Ferri about Webb's rabbits. They can keep four as pets. Have removed them down to 17. Larry said that would do until the 24th, then four only after Memorial weekend.

Note: The Webb's were regular campers who were a constant challenge for the Rangers. They were long-stay campers who camped in the park for three seasons. The Webb's were the most troublesome example of persons referred to in the diary as "live-ins", many of who were homeless or on public assistance. This was a problem back in the 80's and, according to Breck Parkman, led the Dept. to institute a two week stay for campers.

April 23, 1986: Sugar's foal died. Sugar got out during the night and was unable to get back in to feed it.

July 26, 1986: A young girl found a Pacific Great Salamander trying to make its way across the road. It had to be close to 12" long. Made great interpretive material. The girl got to let it go back into the creek. (Where's the camera when you need it?)

August 20, 1986: The Concessionaire's horse went down – hot, no sweat, 2 1/2 times normal pulse and very strong, abdominal and rear end pain, left side weakness – treated for heat stroke by cooling down – seemed to revive somewhat – vet called: diagnosed as heart failure or heat stroke – horse now seems better.

April 17, 1987: Frog in the filing cabinet the AM!

January 24, 1988: Since horses are prohibited on the hiking trail, the guy from Sebastopol took his mules on the Goodspeed trail (the sign does say “No Horses”).

August 8, 1988: Camper swore that there was a bear hiding in the blackberry thicket along Hillside Trail. The bear turned out to be a vocal bullfrog.

June 25, 1992: Today a Honey Bee “viewing “hive in Plexiglas was put in our visitor center.

May 30, 1993: Honey Bee nest removed, not enough honey was being made – lack of nectar available.

September 1, 1998: Child reported spotting “Big Foot” in the forest along the road.

May 20, 2010: Ranger Robyn Ishimatsu rescued a western pond turtle 6” across. It was trying to cross road. Two kids from camp site #26 brought it to kiosk and it was released in the water run off near the kiosk.

PARK STEWARDSHIP & DEVELOPMENT

September 28, 1971: J. Duncan and W. Corcoran, land agents from General Services came in and were shown the Stern, Thatcher, Malm, Bear Creek and Von Tillow properties.

Note: This was the beginning of Park expansion. The Hurd Red Barn, the Bear Creek Ranch and the 80-acre Malm Flat Ranch were purchased in 1971 and 40 acres west of the campground owned by Barbara K. Von Tillow were purchased in 1972.

March 14, 1972: Ranger Bradley fell through floor of a building at Malm Ranch, working at dismantling the building and hauling junk away, The wood bees in the building didn't help progress.

May 18, 1972: The caretaker for the Stern property came in to discuss the problem of back packers camping overnight. Insured fullest cooperation.

September 24, 1972: Went to Bear Creek – found the remains of buckboard and another buggy.

January 10, 1975: [Personnel from the Design and Development Division of the Parks Department] are currently working on a general development plan for Bothe-Napa. One item to be discussed in the plan is the possible connection by trail between Sugarloaf, Hood Mountain (they also talked with the County park people) and Bothe-Napa.

March 29, 1975: It is just not right to have a 60-car day use lot with no restroom. It is not right to have day users riding or walking into camp areas to get to restrooms. Now we at Sugarloaf feel that this

situation is in need of an immediate solution as it is causing lost time, operational problems and sanitation problems.

January 23, 1977: Looks like a nice sunny day that will be very busy – and it is! With this weather some seasonal help is needed! What a Sunday with all the people and dogs. I gave up trying to collect and watch the violations, too.

January 27, 1977: Routine procrastination.

April 2, 1977: Busy day with no help during day – what a crock!! [Then on April 6]: This really is a crock a shift with only one person on – It's like a busy Sunday with no help.

Note: The entries for the 1977 diary indicate a lesser number of available Rangers as well as the mention of volunteers, some of whom work a full day. Was it due to budgetary constraints?

October 19, 1978: Thanks to some visitors, Sugarloaf now has the highest mountain in the Mayacamas Mountains. Someone built a three-foot marker complete with art work on top of Bald Mountain. We are now two feet taller than Hood.

Note: Bald Mountain's official elevation is 2,729 feet, while neighboring Hood Mountain stands one foot higher at 2,730 feet.

March 14, 1979: Mr. F. Warren Caldwell, Senior Land Agent for Dept. of General Services was in to look at the parcels of land proposed as additions to Sugarloaf.

Note: This might have been the Stern properties as Margery Stern in 1979 initiated a program with the Trust for Public Lands to transfer 330 acres of her ranch west of Bear Creek to the park in small parcels. Also in 1979, 60+ acres were purchased from Mr. Fiorentino to complete a connection between Sugarloaf and Hood Mountain Regional Park.

July 11, 1979: Bridge inspector was in to review the three wooden bridges on Meadow Trail. Some reinforcement is necessary on the large one; also the second small bridge needs some slight under bracing.

July 23, 1979: Ranger Van Camp reported that "Nature trail completed by YCC". Ranger Rich Irwin added this vehement diary entry: "No it isn't! The posts are in – but that is the least concern. Adequate creek crossings and proper trail head are main concern to build the trail for permanent use." To which, Van Camp wrote in the diary, "Alright, already! Don't get excited!"

August 2, 1980: Francis Hurd visited the park with old photos. [His address and phone number in Palocedro, CA also was noted.] The entry indicated that he built Bear Creek Ranch about 1905 and sold it in 1928 to Erickson and Vasconi for a hunting lodge.

Note: Francis was the eighth of the ten surviving children born to Ray and Bertha Hurd. Francis was born in 1922 and would have been about 58 years of age at the time of his visit to the park. According to park records, the Hurd homestead (i.e., the Bear Creek Ranch) was established in 1914, not 1905. Twenty acres of the Hurd ranch were sold to W.T. Gorham in 1923 and 140 acres were sold to S.H. Errington (not Erickson) in 1930. The notary public was Joe Vasconi (also referred to as Joe Vassoni). Francis and his

sister Hazel Hurd Harding were interviewed in 1983 by Unit Ranger Linda Gresham. Their oral history is the basis of much of what we know about the Hurd family and the Bear Creek Ranch.

November 20, 1981: Goodspeed Trail dedication today. A total of 66 persons attended the ceremony [including CA State Secretary of Resources Huey Johnson along with representatives from the Trust for Public Lands, Sonoma County Trails Council, Sonoma County Regional Parks, and Youth Conservation Corps]. A good time was had by all.

October 7, 1982: Took a picture of the "tent city" in site #28 for future reference. Good to be back, but I still don't like supporting a low cost housing development.

February 28, 1983: Park finally closed at 1600. The road just down from Vista Point cracked again, so whole mountain is still shifting (major slide area).

March 19, 1983: Sugarloaf has had 72.5 inches of rain since July 1982.

Note: The 1982-1983 El Nino was the strongest and most devastating of the century. Rainfall in Santa Rosa that year was nearly 56 inches.

April 21, 1984: Bushwhacked from Brushy Peaks to Malm Trail. It would be a very easy connecting trail and could be built in two days with four people.

August 9, 1984: Past resident Ranger Linda Gresham here to visit today. It was good to see a person who did so much for the park!

Note: Linda Gresham's 1983 interview of Hazel and Francis Hurd is a primary source of historical information about the Bear Creek Ranch.

February 5, 1985: We discovered a pot site and equipment. We removed cans, buckets, fiber pots, chicken wire and shovels. Bill [Krumbein] took photos.

Note: This is the first diary notation concerning pot growing in the park.

November 17, 1985: Our live-in problem was mentioned in an article in the S.R. Press Democrat on homeless people.

December 27, 1985: Interviewed and walked the area with Beverly Carbo (Pfister) whose parents leased Reynolds ranch from State 1943-1948. She spent summer here during those years and loaned us one picture from summer 1946.

Note: The Reynolds Ranch was leased for five-year terms for cattle grazing and hunting to Messrs. Wesley (Dutch) and Vivian (Toad) Pfister on July 1, 1943. The subsequent lessees of the property were: John Elgard (1948-51), Frank and Virginia Monnich (1951-53) and the Raffo Brothers Milk and Transport Company of Glen Ellen (1953-64).

January 11, 1986: Mrs. Stern was up to go over the unit history as she would like to help. She said that she heard that the Mayes (who live on the ridge between Bear Creek Ranch and Hood Mountain) were

selling to some gun and hunting clubs. I also recently found out that the Mayes had subdivided their 385+- acres into 2,100+ acre parcels and 350+ acre parcels as of December 1985.

Note: During 1986, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park was effectively closed from February 19 to May 7, a period of 11 weeks, due to extensive damages cause by excessive rainfall. The following 11 diary entries describe that historical event.

February 14, 1986): Rain 6.28" Storm total 7.99" [on] Valentine's Day. Day started at 05:45 when Mr. Harrison's Izuzu truck was swept down Sonoma Creek from crossing to campground after Ranger White attempted to pull it out with Park 4x4 and a winch. The road to the campground is under water all day and night – 4 stranded campers and 1 lost vehicle. Vehicle on rocks in the creek 300 yards below the entrance station. [See also "Accidents in the Park, below.]

February 15, 1986: Rain 3.2". Storm total 11.19". Road just above bottom lot was totally flooded with 8" of water. ROAD CLOSED signs to face incoming traffic – With authorization of the Chief Ranger, we closed and locked the bottom gates. Notified park residents, Sterns Ranch and campers. Three campers were contacted - only one in need of supplies.

February 16, 1986: A very exciting day just watching the creek rise & rain fall!

February 17, 1986: 8.92" rain. Storm total 22.66".

February 18, 1986: Park closed. Adobe Canyon Road is a real mess. Bridge across the creek to Harr Ranch is all twisted out of shape. Cleared culverts to main slide area where the creek crossed the road at the curve below Vista Point. Parking spaces gone, trees down, retaining wall broken off. Road surface is just hanging in mid-air. Major problem.

February 19, 1986: Storm total 26.92". Sacramento ordered the park closed and all public out until the washed out road is replaced.

February 20, 1986: Storm total 27.49". Interviewed Henry and Robert Raffo who leased Sugarloaf [i.e., the Reynolds Ranch] from 1953 to 1964.

February 26, 1986: Decision made to keep all visitors out of the park. S.L. being pulled off the reservation system. Signs to be made for Hwy. 12 re: the closure. News release to get out about the closure. Staff is to turn away visitors, advise them not to park at Goodspeed or along the road and divert hikers to London and Annadel.

March 31, 1986: Work will begin next Monday and continue for about two about two weeks – road clearing only. During this time another road barrier and signs will go in and so now I am told the park will not open for at least another 3 weeks.

April 10, 1986: Received full closure orders for park effective April , 7-30, 1986.

May 7, 1986: Re-open the park at 12 noon!

October 26, 1986: Found old cabin site with chimney and other features on very south west corner of park behind Golden Bear Lodge.

January 29, 1987: The Valley of the Moon Natural History Association directors voted to provide \$6,000 (\$250 per month over the next 2 years) to complete the interior and set up displays in the proposed visitor's center at SLRSP.

Note: The VC was constructed near the campground entrance in the spring of 1987.

February 23, 1987: Sugarloaf got its first sugar loaves. They arrived during the weekend. They're five-pounders, individually wrapped. Were the real McCoy's made of white sugar?

Note: The Park's name is derived from the characteristic shape of Sugarloaf Ridge which resembles the pyramidal shape of the cones of sugar that were packaged and sold until the late 19th century. And yes, the molasses-rich sugar, which was imported from sugar cane growing regions such as the Caribbean and Brazil, was refined into white sugar.

May 22, 1987: Henry Raffo died today. He and his brother Robert had leased Sugarloaf from Sonoma State Hospital 1953-1964.

Note: On September 24, 1964, the 1,520 acre Reynolds's Ranch was transferred to the California Division of Beaches and Parks and designated "Sugarloaf Ridge State Park".

May 28, 1988: The Visitor Center officially opened today with speeches by Chris Stokes, Dave Turner and Larry Ferri. Chris's spiel would have made Jimmy Swaggart envious. 100-110 people attended.

June 11, 1991: The State budget is worse – the opportunity bulleting for transfers is frozen. Positions will be left vacant unless necessity is shown to fill them and that will be almost impossible.

October 31, 1991: The bridge over the creek by the lower parking lot was completed. It took a lot of work to finish that off and reroute the Goodspeed Trail to it. Earlier, park workers from Klamath who had experience using tow blocks on trees and pulling large beams over creeks were helping our workers; also Bothe-Napa State Park workers came to transport the two huge beams from the group camp area to the lower lot.

April 3, 1992: Robin Williams has 336 acres next to Sugarloaf. His attorney wants an emergency access thru Sugarloaf. Williams wants to divide property into 3 parcels.

February 17, 1993: The State budget is worse than last year. 57+ parks may be closed. Of the parks in our New District - Silverado, Benicia St Capitol, Benicia St Rec Area, Annadel, Sonoma Barracks State Historic Park, Bale Grist Mill, Robert Louis Stevenson (unmanned and understaffed as always) and Anderson March are slated for closing. Sugarloaf was on the list last year but not this year. However because of worse cuts, more parks are due to be added... Bud Getty [District Manager] said, if you haven't taken the cuts seriously yet, you better now!

August 18, 1993: A team meeting took place at the loaf today. Good ideas were presented with some solutions. A lot of time was spent discussing operations at Sugarloaf. There are some changes that have to be made. One is to record park happenings in this book on a daily basis.

Note: The Rangers had been quite consistent and disciplined about entering comments in the diaries on a daily basis until 1988. Diary entries continued on a mostly daily schedule following this August 18 comment.

April 3, 1994: Busiest day of the year! It may well be a year record. 232 day users. We had to park them all over the place!!!

September 18, 1994: We need a live-in Ranger. We had massive complaints this AM [e.g., too many cars, unsupervised children, partying, people yelling obscenities were noted]. #17 says "Sugarloaf has gone to the dogs. What's happening here?" The general comment this AM is that Sugarloaf has gone downhill.

February 8, 1997: The dedication of the first wing of the Ferguson Observatory, housing a 40-inch telescope, was scheduled for 5 p.m. This is the largest telescope west of the Mississippi that is open to public use. For a probable Sugarloaf record also: in Rich Irwin's 19 ½ years here, this is the largest single event crowd remembered. Cars were parked into the group camp, at concession area, along road shoulders from there to kiosk, at pay lot, at visitor center, just way up Stern Trail, and down to the upper Canyon/Pony Gate parking area.

June 19, 1999: Grand opening of 2nd phase at observatory. More than 100 people attended.

February 6, 2002: Meet with Margaret Stern to review and discuss the adjacent landownership uses – length of trails and visitation information.

July 31 2002: Memo from Greg Hayes on the subject of "FAILING Sugarloaf Bridge" was inserted into the diary.

"Confirming phone calls to many of you that the SL bridge is shot. Four of the major 10" beams are cracked and bridge is unsafe.

Barth is going to shore up the bridge to finish this construction project, and put large supports in the creek. The shored up bridge will handle fore trucks. He will remove the supports after fire season is over to prevent creek issues and DFG 1601 permit violations.

This will make the bridge totally impassable through the winter until new bridge can be fabricated and installed sometime next year.

Can John and Toni look at providing a low water crossing for horses? Do we even want horses on the new road this winter??"

December 14, 2002: Wind so strong - 50+ mph - moved restroom by the day use lot blew over the greenhouse and tore part of awning off mobile home. Several trees were down.

January 17, 2003: Per [park visitor]. If you go up Malm Fork, there's a 20-foot waterfall fall about two hours up. He'll drop pictures by. There is also an old home site up Brushy Peaks past the first creek crossing up on left. You'll see non-native irises and apple (?) trees.

June 13, 2003: Bridge is done but should not drive over for another several days so concrete can cure. Called Kenwood fire and informed them of status of bridge.

January 4, 2004: A possible artifact: Three pottery pieces with a stamped emblem were found by the _____ family. Gave pieces to Breck; he will investigate history, etc.

January 7, 2004: Breck came by this morning. The pottery pieces found on Sunday proved to be of possible 1860's vintage. He has photos and laminated info that he will copy and give to us. He will call Alan T. and let him know parks will keep artifact.

February 9, 2007: Clint of Stern Ranch said that appraisers would be coming out by March 1st and Mrs. Stern's sons would know more by mid-March. The sons don't want the property – too costly in taxes. It'll be going to the Trust for Public Land once appraised and (hopefully) to the State per Mrs. Stern's wishes. The Stern's San Francisco property just got appraised and they're wrapping things up there. Clint and Diane [property managers] will move by 7-01-07 at the latest – they have another place to manage already. If it goes to Trust for Public Land sooner than later, they'll move sooner. Clint expressed his and Diane's concerns that the homes be lived in and taken care of. They're happy to show all the boundaries, etc. of the property.

March 9, 2007: Diane at Stern Ranch said Peter Stern spoke with the Trust for Public Land this week and a meeting with the State has been set up for 3-26-07.

January 19, 2010: Stern Ranch inspection being done by the Dept. of Parks and Recreation Senior Land Agent, David Wrightsman.

January 22, 2010: Got word that the Stern property did not pass the building inspections. Ranger Neill [Fogarty] told not to move in.

March 31, 2010: Stern Ranch closed escrow.

June 4, 2010: New weather station Installed!!

June 19, 2010: Steve Ledson and family stopped in to say he used to lease all of Stern Ranch and parts of Sugarloaf. His family owned Annadel.

August 21, 2011: Visit from family that owned Harr property on Bear Creek. Davis George 831-566-5440. Arthur Jackson 831-673-0170. Would like to visit it sometime. Maybe next weekend.

March 31, 2012: A flyer from Bay Nature was inserted in the March 31st page, which read in part, "Last Chance at Sugarloaf? Join Bay Nature and Volunteers in Parks docents for a hike through Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, one of the 70 state parks slated for closure – and one likely to be rescued by local organizations and volunteers."

May 30, 2012: Pack up the park.

Note: This was the last year that the Ranger diaries were kept. On June 1, 2012, Team Sugarloaf assumed the management of the park pursuant to a nine-year contract with the Department of Parks and Recreation.

DOING WHAT COMES NATURALLY

March 20, 1971: Two young females were observed sunbathing *au natural* and were requested to put on some clothing.

July 8, 1972: Saw a man and a woman and a dog sitting at the end of Pony Gate Trail. The man had no pants on – dog was not on leash – they had sleeping bags (very dirty) about 100 yards up the trail – some animal came through woods – snarled and growled at them so they ran down to the road – told them about bears, lions, wildcats and how rattlesnakes hunt at night (they had no shoes on) – then hauled them down to Highway 12 – neither the man nor the woman smelled as though they had bathed in quite a while – woman seemed scared of the dark.

June 2, 1973: Lover's night – chased five cars of lovers off entrance road at various times.

June 24, 1973: Two nude men and two nude girls at the falls – were talked to and then left park.

September 1, 1973: On patrol down the road and discovered a youth pulling his pants down in front of a "chick" who was in the car also with this strange man. Told them to move on, all sites taken!

June 15, 1975: Ranger Bob Hamilton caught a man beating up on a woman at the falls. The only thing was he was minus something. Clothes. Ha!

August 6, 1975: A couple was found down at the falls taking nudie pictures or nature pictures as they called them. Be sure to watch for pics in your latest girlie magazine.

August 16, 1975: A man and a woman seen "going to it" in the creek behind the park office (scaring the fish). Yes, in the creek.

June 10, 1979: Relatively "dead" for business. Two nudes by the creek below the falls (not bad).

September 7, 1979: Had a complaint about a middle aged man at midday sitting at his camp table – nude!

August 11, 1981: Well, I've seen nudes on the trail and in the woods and bushes but never has anyone driven up to the kiosk that way and conversed with me and paid the day use fee... too bad – it was a female... too bad I wasn't here. All the nudes I've seen in the park have been males.

June 6, 1987: Contacted two ladies?? about whom I had received a complaint and whom I observed committing lude [sic] acts in main meadow of camp. [Another Ranger amended the entry by crossing out "lude" and adding, "Lewd, lude is a pill."]

May 14, 1994: Contacted the gentlemen_from #28 regarding being parked off road, I think I caught them in the act, if you get my drift.

September 13, 2008: Three people with a dog claimed they weren't on the trail even [people in] group camp said they were. Found them on camp site #34 drinking over a picnic table. GC later told me they were up in the rocks so long that they thought they were going to camp there. Also said that the guy

without the shirt kept pulling his pants down to where she could see pubic hair. One guy and one gal were making out so much that she thought they might have sex right there in front of them.

SUGARLOAF & NEWSMAKERS

July 14, 1975: A motion picture director for "Streets of San Francisco" will be coming up today to look at the park for future filming.

September 7, 1975: There was an article about Sugarloaf in the S.F. Chronicle. Lots of drive-thru's because of this.

November 1, 1975: 50 campsites taken. A large number of out of state visitors – particularly from Colorado – appears to belong to some special type of religious group.

November 2, 1975: Right about group mentioned on Saturday. They are of the unidentified flying object or space ship cult. Good campers – causing NO problems. Called H.I.M. (Don't remember what it stands for.)

November 4, 1975: The H.I.M group is still with us. Several left but still have eleven sites full.

November 7, 1975: The last of the H.I.M. group left around 1830. Heard one of them speaking on the phone telling whoever they were talking to write the Free-Born Awareness Society in Carpenteria (just for possible future reference).

Note: H.I.M. was an acronym for Human Individual Metamorphosis. It was the original name of a religious UFO-millenarian group that eventually called itself Heaven's Gate. The group was formed in the spring of 1975 by Marshall Applewhite and Bonnie Nettles, called by their followers "Bo and Peep" or "Do and Ti". The group is best known for the 39 members who committed mass suicide in San Diego in 1997 in order to reach what they believed was an alien space craft following Comet Hale-Bopp. The original followers, about 20 in number, were sent out in pairs to spread the message. There is evidence that one of the group's recruitment travels took them to "a forest near Santa Rosa". Shortly after its founding, the group had had gone to a camp in Colorado to prepare for their exodus from earth in a spaceship, which might account for the number of Colorado license plates observed in the SRSP campground.

January 29 1977: A photographer from Sunset magazine is supposed to be in about 10 a.m. to take a few pics from Bald Mountain.

April 17, 1977: A large Synanon group is in the park at the horse camp.

Note: Synanon was a group that began in 1958 as a drug rehabilitation program. By the 1960's it had become an alternative community. It became the Church of Synanon in the 1970's and disbanded permanently in 1991 due to criminal activities (including attempted murder), loss of its tax free status, destruction of evidence and terrorism. It has been called one of the "most dangerous and violent cults America had ever seen".

December 7, 1980: A beautiful day but extremely light day use. Two day use cars did say they came up from Marin to hike because they were afraid of the killer being on the loose at Mt. Tam.

Note: In 1979-80, "Trailside Killer" David Carpenter murdered one woman and possibly three others on Mount Tamalpais, as well as three women and a man in the Point Reyes National Seashore. Most of the women were also raped.

February 15, 1983: Vector Control "in today". They collected over 100 ticks yesterday. They are testing for new disease called "Lime" [sic]. Like a Rickettsia ex-Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. The results will take some time. The ticks are to be sent to the mid-west for testing.

Note: Lyme disease is the most common disease spread by ticks in the Northern Hemisphere. It infects about 300,000 people a year in the U.S. Lyme disease was diagnosed as a separate condition for the first time in 1975 in Old Lyme, Connecticut.

September 2, 1983: The flag is to be flown at half-mast until Monday because of an international incident involving Russia and its shooting down of a commercial jet liner.

Note: On September 1, a Russian Su-15 interceptor shot down Korean Airlines flight 007 in the Sea of Japan on a flight from New York to Seoul via Anchorage. All 269 passengers and crew were killed.

September 26, 1983: The Press Democrat, Channel 50 and the Kenwood Express held interviews with me and Animal Control this morning concerning the problem of several dogs running loose in the park and chasing wildlife. KZST radio also called the afternoon for a phone interview

January 28, 1986: The flags went to half-mast because of the explosion of a space shuttle challenger, with 7 dead.

Note: The space shuttle Challenger had taken off and landed nine times since 1983 and on January 28, 1986 it broke apart 73 seconds into its tenth mission resulting in the deaths of all seven crew members. It was the first of two shuttles to be destroyed in flight, the other being Columbia in 1983. The accident led to a 2.5 year grounding of the shuttle fleet

Note below: During the two-day observance of the worldwide "Harmonic Convergence" on August 16-17, 1987, SRSP enjoyed the locally-designated status of a "power center". More than 1,000 persons assembled in the park on August 16 to join in an event that sought to involve 144,000 persons around the world all meditating for peace. The following are the Ranger diary entries for that event:

August 14, 1987: Beginning of Harmonic Convergence function. A lot of campers up a day early and a tremendous amount of phone calls. Hum baby – it's gonna be fun! Eight chemical toilets dropped off for function. P.M. prep for big event this weekend – all going well.

August 15, 1987: Organizational nightmare due to lack of staff preparation. Poor communication between them and us. Lack of organization on their part.

August 16, 1987: Excellent timing: the well is dry. Calamity of Harmonious Convergence group continues. Little three year-old girl fell off bridge on Creekside trail; deep gash on forehead – lots of stitches.

Somebody shut off main valve from spring (box is not lockable). Water recovering by evening. \$1,032.55 collected today.

Busy disorganized but peaceful. Despite the paperwork bungles & inability to straighten out the camp situation quickly, it was not that bad. The group was for the most part, pleasant and agreeable. We did not get the big hassles one usually expects with this large of a crowd.

Approximately 1,200 visitors in park this day - 1,000 for Triple Harmonic Convergence event.

August 17, 1987: Ranger White was given a small polished marble slab with "peace: written in Japanese from the officials of the Triple Harmonic Convergence group.

February 28, 1988: An offshoot of the Harmonic Convergence, [the] Quetzalcoatl Ceremony, re-converged here today. Approx. 200 people showed up.

Note: The following four entries refer to the manhunt for the 12-year old Polly Klaas who was kidnapped from her mother's home in Petaluma during a sleepover and strangled by Richard Allen Davis on October 1, 1993. During the next two month 4,000 persons were involved in the search for Polly. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Department was assisted by over 500 search team members from 24 agencies, including park Rangers. The search remains today as one of the largest ever conducted in California. On December 4, 1993, Davis confessed to kidnapping and murdering Klaas and led investigators to her shallow grave just off Highway 101 a mile south of the city limits of Cloverdale and about 30 miles from the search site.

October 24, 1993: Re: Polly search, I hike from the creek bed area from Gabion's Curve downstream. Nada except trash.

December 2, 1993: Helicopters searching for Polly Klaas clues – mostly toward Hood Mt.

December 3, 1993: Another day of Los Guilicos search for Polly's stuff.

December 4, 1993: Several horse trailers with the Polly search.

October 3, 1995: "The juice is loose". A park visitor explained Brown and Goldman were killed by Mafia hit men for gambling debts owed by O.J. Simpson. He also said Polly Klaas was also the victim of gambling debts owed by her father to the Mafia! He then tried to sell me some real estate in Florida.

July 12, 2011: The Press Democrat a (photographer and a reporter) are here visiting camp site #49. They are doing a story on tear drop trailer camping.

July 30, 2011: Three documentary film people from San Francisco were out to film and interview docents. It's a statewide film about the park closures.

ACCIDENTS IN THE PARK

May 14, 1971: A VW lost its brakes on entrance road. The driver turned into a bank to stop the car and the car turned over on its side. No injuries.

October 24, 1971: A young girl, 8 years old, fell 50 feet from the top of the falls landing on her head sustaining a laceration three inches long, exposing the skull. An ambulance was called to transport her to Memorial Hospital in Santa Rosa.

April 13, 1978: A van parked at turn off on curve just above Canyon Trail and Pony Gate Trail had one occupant sleeping. He rolled over and knocked the van out of gear. It rolled a couple of hundred feet down the road and then over a bank down into some trees. CHP and tow trucks (2) removed. No injuries.

February 5, 1980: Rescued an elderly lady off of Vista Trail. She was with Oakmont Hikers on her first trip and her legs gave out. Hauled her out on Stokes litter; about ½ - ¾ mile. Men in the hiking club carried the litter.

June 24, 1983: A lady in group camp ran off the road on her bicycle and fell into a ditch full of rocks. She was trying to avoid the park truck coming up road at 10 mph. Victim is a deaf [sic] mute.

June 25, 1983: Older woman fell on the trail down to day use picnic area near the creek. A stretcher was used to carry her up the hill to her car. She was released to guardian who will take her in to the hospital for evaluation. Possible hip injuries or bad sprain or muscle pull. Ranger Stoye fell while carrying stretcher up hill - bruised more than his pride.

February 6, 1984: A visitor broke her ankle today on Ridge Trail.

May 13, 1984: Two elderly mothers 72 and 76 drove off the road into the canyon just below the upper Canyon Trail parking lot. They were stopped about 20 feet down by a bay laurel tree – damaged left front fender and hood of Datsun 210, but the ladies were only shaken up. The car was pulled out by AAA and the ladies were driven home by their son.

January 13, 1985: Mrs. _____ slipped on the stairs on Canyon Trail, just above the waterfall and broke her left ankle. Called Kenwood Fire Dept. who responded with a nurse and five fire personnel. Put on the air splint and transported to the road by Stokes litter. Driven to Memorial Hospital by friends and relatives.

April 25, 1985: Visitor Jerry _____ fell off cliff at the pullout at Pony Gulch Flat under Adobe Canyon Road. He fell 25 feet and was unconscious (also drunk). His brother Jim (also drunk) tried to get help. His car ran out of gas at entrance station. He didn't see a public telephone so he broke the rear door window at kiosk, but couldn't find the telephone under the counter. So, he ran through the campground yelling and went up to residences where (after being hung up by Sheriff's Office for being incoherent) _____ called 911 and got the Kenwood F.D. who, then, rescued Jerry. Jerry had a broken arm, a twisted ankle and abrasions on right side of his head. His car will be left here until tomorrow.

July 19, 1985: Boy in camp site #37 cut an artery in his left arm while trying to use a pocket knife. Trip to emergency and several stitches before return.

February 14, 1986: Rain 6.28" Storm total 7.99" [on] Valentine's Day. Day started at 05:45 when Mr. Harrison's Isuzu truck was swept down Sonoma Creek from crossing to campground after Ranger White attempted to pull it out with Park 4x4 and winch. Road to campground under water all day and night – 4 stranded campers and one lost vehicle. The vehicle is on rocks in the creek 300 yards below the entrance station.

August 16, 1987: Little three year-old girl fell off bridge on Creekside trail; deep gash on forehead – lots of stitches.

April 1, 1995: Visitor accident – broken ankle walking on Vista Trail (75 years old). A helicopter flew her in a Stokes litter to the meadow area by the junction of Vista and Bald Mountain trails where she was taken by ambulance to Memorial for surgery.

June 10, 1995: At 1245 Mrs. Stern rolled her station wagon on its side on the last curve before the kiosk. If the tree hadn't been there, she probably would've rolled it down into the creek. She was not hurt and her car had only minor damage.

January 1, 1996: Mrs. Stern gets a driver (after two accidents within six months. Her family laid down the law).

April 20, 1996: A couple in day use got lost hiking and ended up in St. Helena. They rented a U-Haul truck so they could get back and pick up their car parked in our day use. That's a first for the book.

February 22, 1998: 6 year-old Matt ____ was testing the strength of the water at the campground bridge. He put one foot in and was sucked underneath. His babysitter grabbed him on the other side. He said he bumped his head while going under.

July 22, 1998: 15 year-old Sarah ____ fainted and fell off her rented horse. When she hit the ground, she was still unconscious. She had a seizure while on the ground. The Kenwood F.D. and ambulance were the first on scene.

August 1, 2003: Disabled helicopter from the Army National Guard (one pilot and two Napa police officers doing a flyover) landed in the meadow field outside the horse corral due to mechanical problems at approximately 1300 hrs. Still trouble-shooting problems as of 1640 hrs.

March 16, 2008: Report of a female hiker with bad knees who couldn't go any further was supposed to be sitting on a bench on Bald Mountain Trail. Found her sitting on the ground with slurred speech and disoriented.

June 21, 2009: The woman who was stung inside mouth is okay. The swelling went down and she has no side effects.

September 5, 2009: Camp site #49 – Two got stung by ground wasps after an autistic boy stepped in a hole. I sprayed and filled hole in. They left for a hotel since boy too scared to stay. He told me, "Thank you for saving my life" after I filled in the hole.

July 4, 2010: Two late hikers [a man and a woman] trying to catch up to the Bill & Dave hike were 'lost' on Gray Pine – they phoned the Park Aide who told them to go back down the way they came since they didn't know where they were. They came out just about midnight.

TRAGEDY AT SUGARLOAF

September 7, 1971: Contacted [name] in the campground. She tried to commit suicide. Called the Sheriff's office for transportation.

October 30, 1978: The Sherriff and Coroner are in the park to investigate a found skeleton on the Napa side of the park boundary. It is possibly a person named Brian Peterson [The ID of the skeleton was confirmed as Brian Petersen on November 3].

July 27, 1979: Discovered wreckage of small plane near Digger Pine and Brushy Creek trails. Sheriff's Office is investigating.

July 30, 1979: Checked out plane wreckage found last Friday. Looks several years old. Waiting for I.D. from the Sheriff's office.

August 2, 1978: Checked all sources I could think of in an attempt to identify the aircraft and owner of the remains of an aircraft located in the park last week. Called Ranger Ralph Skippen and he had no knowledge of it. According to Sherriff's sub-station in Sonoma only a few small pieces of the strut and the tail section were found which had no numbers on them. They concluded that since these parts were quite old that the crash had occurred sometimes in the distant past and all other solvable pieces had been removed at that time.

Note: This was no doubt the remains of Clinton Petrie's Cessna 310, which crashed near Brushy Peaks in 1964. A small section of the blue and silver Cessna is on display in the Visitor Center. There have been several deaths in the park by accident, suicide and foul play. Readers who are interested in learning more about these deaths are referred to the paper on the "Ghosts of Sugarloaf" in the History section of the park website – www.sugarloafpark.org-

November 27, 1985: Ranger Rich Irwin was called at home about 2210 by the Sheriff to respond to a suicide here. In late afternoon a Mr. Elmer L. Jenner drove in, parked his car backed-in at site #23, and hooked newly purchased hose items to exhaust. According to a note left, he had been thinking suicide for at least 2 days; ending it today. D.O.B. was 11-21-33. Webb called the sheriff after noticing the car running so long, with window glass getting fogged up. Deputies arrived after 2130, then the called for the coroner, a Ranger, a tow truck and the mortuary. The Sheriff's office and the coroner had collected the physical evidence and taken photos by the time Irwin arrived. No mess for us to clean up, but a report to be filed. Other campers were asleep at the time.

April 4, 1992: Dennis Wheeler and Tom Noonan from the Sonoma Index Tribune hiked into the old plane crash off Digger [i.e. Gray] Pine Trail. They found the site and will do a story after doing some research. [The entry included a hand-drawn map of the site between two power poles, 100 yards below pole 15.8 before the junction of Gray Pine Trail and Brushy Peaks Trail.]

December 27, 1994: The Sherriff's Dept. and park staff responded to a 911 call of a body about 100' downslope of the entrance road just above Vista Point (where the guard rail is located). Detectives investigated area for almost 5 hours before the body (male adult) was brought up the bank using the park Stokes litter and the truck winch. Detectives are still on the scene at 1800. It appears to be a homicide.

Note: A corpse, described by Ranger Robyn Ishimatsu as a "body dump", was discovered in the creek below Vista Point before the start of her stewardship in 1995. She checked with retired Annadel State Park Ranger, Bill Krumbein, who added, "The Sherriff's Office came up and retrieved [that] body and did the investigation. I never viewed the body. It was dark when I got there. The bad guys, a woman and a

man, shot this guy while he was asleep (presumably) in bed, then hauled the body, bed linens and all to Sugarloaf and pitched him over the side at the overlook parking spot on the entrance road.”

July 17, 1998: A woman threatened to set herself and car ablaze in Pony Gate lot. The Sheriff's office negotiator called in – also one from Santa Rosa P.D. came. In her attempt to drive around the S.O. unit, they broke the car window to unlock the door and get her out. She managed to start a fire but the Kenwood F.D. was right there to extinguish it. S.O. transported her out and towed vehicle.

January 9, 2003: Evening call out at 2000 hours. A Rohnert Park resident located a note that led them to believe that a family member Andrew Edward Aduan, a Filipino male 5'7" 180 lbs., DOB 5/27/1944, is going to kill himself by a Celtic form of death by hypothermia. Aduan's vehicle is a white Honda License # 3PBN974. Rangers loaded up the ATV and responded. The vehicle was located at the Goodspeed lot. Conducted an ATV search of the area and a vehicle search. From the note that was left, the location was to be on Bald Mountain at the "Ceremony Tree". We searched Bald Mountain and Grey Pine Trail and Meadow Trail in heavy fog and down pour with winds. Unable to locate. We prepared a plan for action on Friday.

January 10, 2003: Vehicle was still at the Goodspeed lot. No new signs of visiting the vehicle. Called volunteer Dave Chalk and asked if he knew of location of the Ceremony Tree. He told us of location – Bald Mountain Tail to Vista Trail to Headwaters and .2 mile on Headwaters is a Maple tree. Rangers drove and hiked to location. Found a hat and back pack at the tree. Searched area and located the subject hanging from a Bay tree approximately 60 yards from the Maple. The Coroner was called and arrived at 1055. After his exam of the subject we cut him down, bagged him up and began carry out. Too foggy and wet for any air lift. Kenwood FD was called in to assist with the carry. We got him back to the vehicle and loaded him into the Coroner's van. Debriefing and exchange of information. Cleared at 1400. Report writing to begin.

January 1, 2003: Removed police tape from Goodspeed. Vehicle to be removed by family members by Monday. Spoke to hikers destined to use Goodspeed. Redirected their route. All they had to do was read the sign.

March 1, 2006: Hikers discovered a human skeleton on an old "wagon"? off Ponygate Trail, 10 minute hike down from the Stern/PG junction. Looks like a hiker – daypack, tennies, jeans, H2O bottle.

THE SUGARLOAF X FILES

July 9, 1981: Today the park received two separate accounts of a flying saucer hovering over the campground. It flew from east west darting above the campground at incredible speed. It then descended below Hood Mountain and lit up the whole horizon. This occurred at approximately 2:07 a.m. then at 2:30 a.m. it appeared again. It illuminated the clouds and darted and hovered around the campground. It had green, red and amber lights that would blink on and off. Sometimes while hovering it would dart down, zig zag from side to side and then shoot up and away. The second appearance lasted for 30 minutes then it darted away never to be seen again...

August 20, 1992: A black helicopter was reported to be seen landing at the microwave station on 9/3/92. A Pac Bell employee told Ranger S. Pace that the Napa Register was writing a story. The newspaper believes something is going on between the military and Pac Bell.

March 24, 1996: Strange “stuff” in the group camp. Visitors reported a dead Great Horned Owl on top of the rock pile in the group camp. I found it with the wings spread apart lying on its back and a plastic medallion with a picture of a flower placed on the chest. Located below and to the north of the bird was a clear glass container in the shape of a human head. Taped inside was the picture of a human face. At the base of the rocks were cut flowers standing in a plastic cup used as a vase. Bay leaves encircled the flowers and a crude cross made from two twigs was standing next to it.

May 15, 1999: A little white “memorial” was found up the hill behind camp site #32. It included old bones, skulls, a cross, an old icky grey fox pelt and lots of black yarn and a half bottle of rum. Boy Scouts found it.

April 13, 2008: A woman hiking with her friend on Gray Pine to Meadow reported that they saw what looked like a “bloated” body face down on the left side of the trail. They started to approach the person and heard a voice say “get the fuck out of here”. They couldn’t tell where the voice was from but left after hearing this. They were on the phone with me when they saw two people come out of the trees wearing bright orange jackets like the one on the bloated body. They said it was between the bridge and Gray Pine. I was unable to locate all the way up to upper junction of Brushy Peaks and back to the tanks on Hillside and up to the Uranus marker on Brushy Peaks Trail.

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE “FREE”

December 16, 1972: A canyon resident reported that a gray Pontiac sedan passed by with a Christmas tree in the trunk. The vehicle shortly returned with another tree. The Park Ranger was notified and patrolled the entire canyon road but did not see the car or persons in question.

April 19, 1975: At approximately 1230 hours, a green convertible sports car with four teenagers pulled up to the check station. The driver, who looked to be around 22 years old, asked me just what we had up here at Sugarloaf. Well, while explaining the park to him, I happened to notice a strange three leaf plant attached to his wool pullover hat. I just had to stop and ask, “Sir, did you pick that plant in this park? Yeah, sure did. Isn’t it neat,” he replied. “Yeah, it’s a nice one alright. Did you know it is illegal? Oh, I didn’t know that,” he said. “Besides, I can’t think of anyone who would want to put poison oak in his hair,” I said. He then quickly threw the twig out of his hair and his friend in the backseat yelled, “See, I told you not to pick that plant, but you never listen.”

April 1, 1975: A man and a woman arrived here March 31 and stayed overnight. They have no money to pay and wanted to stay until April 7 when they will go to S.F. and get \$700 disability check. I said no. They will try to get money tomorrow or leave. You can talk to them and use your own judgement.

August 8, 1975: [Ranger Tom] Furrer explained to a “senior citizen” why he couldn’t drive through the campground (bothering the campers) and why he couldn’t get into the park free event though he is a “taxpayer”.

May 29, 1985: Maintenance reported campers using fire hydrant at campfire center to bathe. Replaced the faucets with ones harder to use.

May 29, 1988: 11 a.m. A large group (10-15) of Latin folks went into Group Camp to picnic. Fred told them to move up to the picnic area. They were upset and left the group camp trashed. 1530. I contacted them as several children and one lady had handfuls of wild flowers. Another lady became very

belligerent when I requested the wildflowers. She accused me of prejudice against Mexican people. 1700. The belligerent lady stopped at the entrance station on her way out to request names of all staff. That we had picked on their group because of racial prejudice and that Ranger Lew was driving fast and reckless.

January 13, 1999: An old grouchy man was seen picking up manure in the stables and also washing his car. He began yelling and getting very agitated with me when I told him we didn't allow people to wash their cars. We saw Gary later that day....Gary said that manure man actually got arrested for contempt of court. He doesn't like women and an old WWII vet. He gets mad at Gary, too.

October 1, 2001: This memorandum from the Department of Parks and Recreation Park Operations was inserted in the October 1 page:

To: District Superintendents, Chief Rangers, District Administrative Officers

From: Department of parks and Recreation, Park Operations

Subject: October Free Admission Promotion

"One of our key marketing initiatives is to make California State Parks more relevant to Californians. One way to do this is to ensure that Californians are aware that their state parks are a wonderful, affordable recreational and vacation option. This year the Marketing Division is implementing an October Free Admission promotion with Yahoo! That provides free admission coupons to their email subscribers who have opted to receive information about outdoor recreation.

"We ask that you honor these electronic coupons which are designed to be printed out by the users and presented at the parks for free day-use admission. A sample coupon is included with this memo. This promotion excludes Hearst Castle, Ano Nuevo State Reserve, and Angel Island State Park. The coupons are valid during the month of October.

"This free admission promotion has a couple important goals pertaining to our relationship with state park users:

- The free admission coupons will encourage outdoor recreationalists to visit state parks during "shoulder season".
- By utilizing Yahoo!'s opt-in email service we can gather important information about our users and maintain relationship with these users electronically.

"By offering free admission coupons to Californians who have already shown an interest in outdoor recreation (those who have opted into the Yahoo! Outdoors system), we can try to shift their choice of vacation spots to California State Parks. The promotion raises awareness of the parks themselves as good recreation and vacation destination at a time when the weather is still good and Californians are still thinking about recreation opportunities. This incentive for visiting the parks in October will ease parks usage during the busy summer season and bring more visitors into the parks during the lighter, but important shoulder season."

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

March 6, 1971: [Three named Boy Scouts] were each presented with a service award patch. These boys [14 and 15 years old] have been in the park picking up litter and today they started at the park entrance and picked up litter along Sonoma Creek. They filled six bags which were larger than our garbage can liners in a distance of 3 miles, working both sides of the creek. These boys did this on their own and park personnel weren't aware of their work until they asked where they could dump the litter.

January 7, 1983: First thing before opening office, the phone was ringing. Edith Newsom was calling concerning the proposed Sierra Club trail work. She had all kinds of plans on how I could help. Explained to her that first I had a park to run and after that I'd help if I could.

March 19, 1977: Volunteer M. Harris in for 6 hrs. helping.

Note: This is the first time the Ranger diaries mention volunteers. Volunteers who served during 1977 included Mike Harris, Leslie Hall, May Young and "Ardie". Could this have been the start of volunteers at SRSP?

October 27, 1984: BSA Troop 181 doing Eagle project of rebuilding Goodspeed Trail at the Sonoma Creek crossing.

November 27, 1984: Phone call from one of our potential Rangers - Wardell Noel – interested in learning about the park.

Note: Wardell Noel, the Rasta Ranger, went on to a distinguished career including the writing of a book entitled "Annadel State Park A to Z".

June 19, 1985: What a great morning! Had all the [named] kids plus a few more collecting litter with Theresa and me throughout the campground. It's amazing what 8 rowdy kids can do in the site of 30 minutes.

December 6, 1985: A couple of women from a local church came by looking for the Webb's [i.e., a live-in family on public assistance] and any other needy recipients of food, clothing, etc.

June 11, 1999: Boy Scouts will be working on installing planet walk signs.

October 29, 2009: Ali Pearson dropped off two exhibit pieces of wildlife art estimated at \$1,200 - a donation of an alligator lizard on rock and a western fence lizard, banana slug & potato bug in a hollow log. She said she was here camping in summer, saw and liked our visitor center. She asked a docent if we'd like some of her artwork and the docent said yes. She said she didn't have a lot of work so had a lot of time. So, she's made these for Pt. Reyes and museums all over the world and is working on sea lions for a place in Mexico right now and stays fairly local for the most part after 30 years of doing this. Receipt sent to Greg Hayes for a thank you letter.

WE GET SOME REALLY NICE FOLKS IN THE PARK

September 14, 1972: We had a recent model Rolls Royce in Park camping last night.

Note: The only campers who had Grey Poupon, I believe.

April 1, 1973: Sonoma County Sheriff's Rescue Units in to practice search and rescue techniques. They will use the trails around Bald Mountain and Bear Creek to simulate a rescue operation. About 30 mounted personnel participated.

June 3, 1975: The Petaluma Campfire was fantastic – 347 women attended. Six totally outrageous songs and a slide show were highlighted by the best version of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" ever seen before in any form of entertainment. I loved it!

July 19, 1975: Group of campers and visitors are singing in campground. It sounds very, very nice. Group of elderly people 70-90 years old. Very nice. Beautiful. Estimated there were 30-40 of the old devils.

September 20, 1980: Wedding in campfire center. The group was well organized and cooperative. They had their own parking director who showed people where to park. They had three shuttle vehicles to take their guests who couldn't walk. No problems at all. No mess, nothing. GREAT GROUP.

August 17, 1982: Garcia volunteered three hours of training for three volunteers for Jr. Ranger Program – Wayne Breece, Toni Apons and Ivy Lowe.

Note: A "Junior Ranger" program was first mentioned during 1982 that included programs for kids on a variety of environmental subjects, including animal life, plants, Indians, safety and survival, fire safety and eagles.

July 29, 1985: Only the most fantastic day one could wish for. The visitors had honest-to-goodness smiles.

October 26, 1985: It was nice seeing real positive energy in campground. There were 31 sites used by Girl Scouts. Projects were being worked on – compassing, rope, hiking and discovery activities. No live-ins the week end!

March 23, 1987: Ranger White led MAU in Apple Blossom parade in Sebastopol. They won 1st place in the Mounted Unit division.

. . . AND SOME NOT-SO-NICE PEOPLE

April 26, 1971: A girl was observed at 11:30 dropping a box by the CDC crew. The box was picked up by the foreman and it contained marijuana. The Sheriff's office was called and the girl was put in custody.

May 28, 1971: Shepard was awakened by the occupants of campsite #3. They had allowed the occupants from campsite #4 to use a vacant tent. They had been drinking and then were they were asked to leave after burning the tent. The occupants of campsite #3 were threatened. Shepard called for assistance from the Sonoma County Sheriff's Dept. Two patrol vehicles arrived and the group was asked to leave the park. After much discussion, they left. One arrest was made after they left the campground.

September 24, 1971: Turned back 7 cars of youngsters between 1900 and 2100, looking for party. 10 cars of youngsters got into campsite #50 while on patrol – would not cooperate so called Sherriff's Dept. Three units answered the call and broke up the party and had them leave the park. Turned back 14 [!] more carloads.

Note: There are several diary entries concerning "juv's" (i.e., juveniles) being turned away from the park. Apparently, when the park first opened it became a popular spot for partying young people.

January 24, 1972: Party of five young people at campground crossing. Couldn't get over crossing because of broken bottles on cement and backed up. Two men ran out and hit the car. We got the Scout – went back and one came running with a knife and hit the front of the Scout with his hand as the Scout was backing away. Called for assistance by Sheriff's deputies.

February 4, 1972: Park office door was forced and office entered. A Sony portable radio, one glass wall display case with Indian artifacts and Indian bowl were stolen.

June 4, 1972: Primary Life School group -37 kids, dozen adults – no supervision – one of the female adults disrobed and sitting in meadow - kids very dirty - adults drinking and loud at night. [See also June 10, 1973 entry below.]

September 24, 1972: Called Sheriff re: children left in car at bottom of hill – 3rd day they have been there.

May 5, 1973: Illegal wedding party at waterfall. 30-40 cars parked along entrance road. Loomis told them to come up to the day use parking lot. One car ran off the road and hit a tree.

May 12, 1973: Turned 18 Hell's Angels bike riders back at lower gate. [See also the entry for May 2, 1992 below.]

June 10, 1973: Primary Life School should not be allowed in anymore – numerous complaints – dirty, noisy, offensive, do not supervise kids at all.

May 31, 1975: Well it hit. 150-200 kids into park for party. Turned away 50-80 cars looking for party. Sheriff was called and 7 cars responded along with a few Highway Patrol cars. Campground cleared at 2300 hrs. Sherriff called again at 0300. More kids by the swarms.

March 5, 1977: Joe F. [Ranger Fazio] turned away four cars with dog that had no proof of rabies. All quite irate especially two ladies in Volkswagen bus (tan). They were all members of a wedding group reservation in the group area. The two ladies that were most irate said they would write a letter because Ranger would not make exception being that they had driven for an hour to get here.

March 13, 1977: Two motorcycles cited on Sonoma loop – real "jerkos". Subsequently wrote complaint letter ...calling me "Little Hitler", etc.

March 27, 1977: Group of seven officers from Los Guilicos Academy in park to drive thru back country. Got on to Stern property by mistake. Mrs. Stern called and gave Van Camp hell, saying the people were abusive, etc. to her.

May 8, 1977: Mother's Day. Camper in site #27 locked Hamilton in the office. He closed the door, pulled the hasp over and turned the button. Hamilton knew nothing about this until another visitor drove up and he couldn't get out. By tapping on the window and numerous hand signals, the visitor recognized the problem and opened the door. Just goes to show you –"You can't trust anyone."

September 25, 1977: Found a case of Schlitz malt liquor (16 oz.) cans where juv's were trying to party along creek last night. Also many rolled but unused cigarette papers and one big lid of "M", which was left behind. Probably spoiled the young folks whole evening.

September 30, 1978: Suspect [name] cited for dog. Wife was really an obnoxious case. Going to report Ranger Van Camp for having his wife in truck – even took pic with camera. Thought I'd die laughing.

September 22, 1979: Party in group camp has spread at 200 beer cans all over the site.

February 8, 1980: Some S.O.B. cut down our California nutmeg tree behind the toilets at 44-45. It's been down for some time because the stump cut has weathered grey. New growth has sprouted up around the stump.

July 7, 1980: Had a long conversation with the ____ family about feeding the wildlife. They don't like Ranger Hamilton and are going to file a complaint against him "for his tactics". They seem like "Know it all" types. The woman told me that she would continue feeding the animals even if I arrested her. A real winner!

July 16, 1980: Called at 0010 due to family quarrel. Boyfriend slugged girlfriend, tried to set tent on fire and ran into tree with car, not necessarily in that order.

August 20, 1980: A lady and her daughter in camp site #1 complained about an "old man" with a blanket wrapped around himself. He was evidently swearing and yelling obscenities at other campers.

February 8, 1981: The kids in #20 left a note on the kiosk for us. "Ranger Rick, the park is nice but it's you who make it f---ed. Try and act like a person instead of an a--hole!! My night was screwed. Thank you. [signed] The Taxpayer". That made my day. It just goes to show that we are getting through to the right people.

March 10, 1981: Now that the group site gate is open all the time and anyone can drive back there, the first problem has occurred. Some 4-wheeler drove through group site and followed Bald Mountain Trail as high as he could go. If you stand at day use parking you can see tracks up high on the hill at the brush line.

June 15, 1983: Received two reports of gunshots last night in the campground. Mr. ____ in site #15 told me that he heard shots and a lady yelling "These are my four children," and the [name] in site #41 heard shots and said some of the bullets hit the trees above their camp site.

August 4, 1984: Called out by a visitor about a man beating a woman in the group camp. The suspect attacked me with his belt which had a heavy brass buckle. I used baton, mace and drew my weapon at one point. I blocked his car with the front bumper of the park 4x4 to prevent his escape. He impaled the rear of car on the bumper. He was arrested by five Sheriff's deputies.

August 12 1985: I am witness to Diane ____ yelling many obscenities and throwing rocks at Marty ____ in #46. Reason: He has just hit her car with a shovel and Bob ____ (her companion) as well – with the shovel. So I mediate for a while but don't get anywhere, so Lorelle calls Sherriff and Tom Turner arrives, files a citizen's complaint on behalf of (Diane) against (Marty) for assault and battery and vandalism.

October 4, 1986: Ranger White was awakened by gunfire at 0730. Upon investigation he found three individuals with two rifles in Rattlesnake Canyon above the campground. One was in the park with a survival type AR-7 weapon and the other two with the other rifle were over the fence on Thatcher (Kundee?) property. The one was cited and his weapon taken for evidence.

March 23, 1987: The ____, the live-ins from last Dec. are back in. I couldn't help but be overwhelmed by their uncanny sense of nostalgia when I clean the restroom by their site: The sight of their inevitable unflushed toilet and the usual human debris scattered throughout the floor area. These people really can't get their shit together.

December 29, 1986: Awakened at 1:30 a.m. due to a truck driving circles in the upper meadow at the campground. Responded and stopped ____, 18 years old, as he was exiting the campground. Neither he nor his two friends were intoxicated. Upon later investigation, I found that he had done 16 circles in the upper meadow and 6 circles in the lower meadow of the campground. Cited.

May 2, 1992: About 50 bikes and close to 100 people from the Hells Angels. Some of their group stayed at the El Rancho Tropicana motel Saturday night. This was the party night and day – constant traffic to group camp and out. They had a drugged up guard at the group camp checking visitors in. No problem from them. Rangers are on two at a time till about 2 a.m.

Note: Could have been worse, given the group's bad-boy reputation.

July 23, 1999: A foreign woman was very upset and saying in a very loud voice that "this is fascist state" and that asking them to keep their voices down and not burn the park's down wood (a very large piece) because everything is protected "is fascism and that I should go jump in a lake". Her friends began quieting her down.

June 21, 2000: Note found on center of the Canyon Trail wrapped around a necklace: To [man's name] "I will no longer be illegible for being your caretaker codependent for which I am setting myself free of you for the rest of my life due to my detaching codependency and you have done nothing but contribute to any pain & sarrows. I heare by release myself this day June 19 of [name] forever – I break the bounds and the chains of depression which he had held my life by threats, monopulations, bribery & abondments." [sic]

May 15, 2010: Two middle school aged boys were chewing up the new curb paint at the phone. I suspect that they are the ones who wrote with a black sharpie on inside of the Visitor Center restroom, "Rangers = (Nazi symbol), fuck you all". They denied it and said it was in there earlier. The older boy seemed to know exactly what it said.

June 25, 2011: There are several rocks with red spray paintings up from the rock on the left side of the waterfall. Seven moss covered rocks had words scraped on them plus more spray paint. I spent two hours on this. I obliterated the names on the moss rocks and sanded both bridges with a file and a wire brush.

August 27, 2011: Dog off leash in camp site #12. Park Aide Turner said, "I know the Ranger already talked to you about dog rules, but dogs must remain leashed at all times." He interrupted and told me "to watch what I say." Started to say dogs must remain leashed and he interrupted again and told me, "You better watch what you say or I'm 'gonna bust you one." He then tried to approach me within my comfort zone and showed me some sort of badge. I told him that if he wasn't going to listen to me I was going to bring a Ranger over to talk to him. He said that wasn't necessary. He was evicted by the Rangers.