

NATURAL RESOURCES

Smokey now carries a big stick

Park rangers are being turned into a wilderness police force.

By Bernard Shanks
Pacific News Service

Yosemite National Park National Park rangers, long a symbol of the skilled conservationist ready to assist the unwary traveler, are suddenly becoming members of a wilderness police force.

Smokey now carries a big stick.

Spurred by rising crime in the '60s, National Park Service officials are making law enforcement a top priority. Park Service Director Gary Everhardt told Congress, "Protection of the visitor can be accomplished only through an aggressive professional law enforcement program."

As a result, Congress has provided the service with large budgets for law enforcement, and the character, training and background of the uniformed Park Ranger has changed markedly.

Whereas graduates of natural resources and conservation programs once filled the ranks of park rangers, the jobs are now going to police science graduates and former policemen.

One new graduate with training in conservation and outdoor skills complains that he faces a mandatory 400 hours of law enforcement training if he wants employment as a ranger. "I'm sure I would be assigned all law enforcement work, and I have no desire to be a cop," he says.

Since the law enforcement drives began, more than 500 rangers have been trained at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the FBI Academy. Twelve weeks of police training is now routine for all field rangers, with emphasis on firearms, crowd control and investigative skills.

►Even a SWAT squad.

For special problems, a 40-man SWAT team has been developed that can be flown into problem parks to handle serious crime and riots. Specially trained in riot control, team members work in Washington, D.C., parks and in various other park areas, but can be pulled together for emergencies.

Last year the SWAT team was flown to a site near Utah's Zion National Park when officials feared an invasion of Hells' Angels.

The law enforcement emphasis has been costly for both Congress and conserva-

tion. In fiscal 1976 Grand Canyon Park allocated \$83,000 for aerial patrols to enforce backcountry regulations. Yosemite Park constructed a new \$65,000 jail. Handguns for issue to all rangers cost \$100,000, and more than \$1 million has been spent on police training since 1974.

To the consternation of conservationists, most new vehicles, including aircraft, are purchased for police work, not conservation.

Yosemite Park Ranger Rick Smith says the national rise in crime has been reflected in the parks as well. "We used to get two types of visitors—family groups and backcountry users," says Smith. "Now we have a much more diverse constituency, a small part of which comes to the parks and commits crimes."

Some rangers mark the Yosemite riot of July 4, 1970, as the spark that ignited the law enforcement boom. Some 500 youths had gathered in the park's Stoneman Meadow for a loud and messy holiday party. By early evening rangers appeared and announced a curfew, demanding the meadow be cleared. After 15 minutes the rangers, on foot and horseback, charged the unruly mob and attempted to clear the meadow with mace, ropes and nightsticks.

The result was a full-scale riot that required reinforcements. The battle continued through the night and by dawn 135 people had been arrested and 30 hospitalized.

Rangers responded by demanding more training, equipment and expertise.

Two months later the Park Service requested a \$660,000 supplemental appropriation from Congress, specifically for law enforcement. Rep. Julia Hansen (D-Wash.) declared that "Our national parks cannot be a breeding ground for crime and dope pushers."

►Protection from other people.

That appropriation marked a major shift in Park Service policy away from the two purposes spelled out in the 1916 National Parks Act: enhancing enjoyment by the public and preservation for future generations.

While police powers have always been a necessary part of the rangers' effort to protect park resources, training now focuses on protecting people from other



"I told you not to start forest fires."

people.

The trends set in motion by the Yosemite riot were accelerated by the Aug. 5, 1973, murder of Kenneth Patrick, a Point Reyes National Seashore Ranger. Patrick was reportedly shot when he attempted to arrest deer poachers, who were subsequently tried and convicted.

But felonious crime in the National Parks has not been serious compared to most of urban America. Small cities often have more crime problems than the 240

million visitors bring to all 300 Park Service areas each year.

Prior to the major increases in law enforcement training, crime in the parks was actually decreasing. Aside from petty thefts, crime rates declined from 1971 through 1973. An increase in 1974 may have been attributable to a new crime data-gathering system.

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By Anthony G. Miller
Pacific News Service

MARKETING

Consumers fleeing computerized check-out

The computerized "laser-eye" grocery store check-out system—heralded as tomorrow's labor-saving technology today—may be in deep trouble with its own biggest booster: the nation's grocery industry.

The Universal Product Code (UPC), that grid of parallel lines and numbers substituting for price tags on grocery products across the U.S. is driving shoppers back to stores with prices on every item, according to an industry-commissioned study by Michigan State University.

The industry is alarmed. Its subcommittee on the UPC has already recommended augmenting the codes with "individual item-marking as is used in conventional supermarkets."

UPCs were adopted by the grocery industry in 1973 to save labor and computerize check-out registers. The markings don't indicate price but simply what the product is: brand name, size and content.

When passed over a "scanner" that "reads" the code, the computerized register—programmed by individual stores to reflect their prices—adds price information to produce a finished receipt.

Scanner-stores usually mark the price of products on the shelves, but not on individual items. This saves store labor but,

as consumer groups have argued, can make finding the price a chore for customers.

Today's recession-squeezed shoppers read newspaper food sections, hunt bargains, follow sales. Those stores whose marking systems make accurate, convenient price-awareness difficult will lose customers, the study confirms, to stores with conventional pricing.

Among the 3000-shopper, \$75,000 study's unsettling discoveries were the following:

- "Forty percent of shoppers [had] difficulty seeing prices in scanner-stores, compared to 15 percent for conventional stores.

- "Price errors made by shoppers were 'significantly larger' in [UPC] scanner-equipped stores.

- At the check stand, "shoppers in conventional stores [knew] the correct prices

71 percent of the time, compared with 56 percent for shoppers in scanner-stores.

- "Forty-three percent of scanner-store shoppers switched to another store, compared with 26 percent for the conventional store."

Industry reaction to the anti-UPC recommendation has ranged from angry opposition to hope that it will indicate the industry's ability to act as its own watchdog.

The director of a UPC-involved Canadian chain bristled at the conclusion's audacity. And, as reported in a recent issue of *Supermarket News*, Wayne H. Fisher, chairman of Lucky Stores, "vehemently disagreed with the subcommittee recommendations."

Supermarket News also quoted Ralphs Grocery chairman Byron Allumbaugh as saying he feared the report "has got to fire added impetus to legislation" for manda-

tory item pricing.

But other industry spokesmen thought the report would defuse criticism from consumer groups. "It is our sincere hope," said Joseph Danzansky, president of Giant Food Stores and a member of the subcommittee, "that this statesmanlike approach by the industry will finally convince consumers, labor and legislators of our sincerity and that the drive for needless legislation will end."

Reaction to the report from organized labor, which has opposed UPCs as a threat to jobs, was enthusiastic. "The study results are absolutely fantastic for the consumer," Retail Clerks union president Walter Davis told *Supermarket News*. "The poll shows what consumers have been saying all along. We're still going full speed ahead with (item-pricing) legislation."

In the end, the retention of item-pricing may depend less on legislators or subcommittee recommendations than on the study's own, grudgingly acknowledged discovery: The customer has the final say.

As Kim Stewart, vice president of Tri-City Grocery Co. near East St. Louis, Ill., told *Supermarket News*, "One thing is for sure: if the customers don't like it, we aren't going to do it."

Anthony G. Miller is a San Francisco Bay Area freelance writer.

Montana Jackalope visits San Clemente

By (Screamin') Montana Jackalope

Even out in Montana where I'm from, we got pretty worked up by some of the criminal illegalities of our former Chief Executive, Dick Nixon. The fake drag-out of the Vietnam war was bad. Watergate was maybe worse. Although you get to be pretty worldly-wise watching Walter Cronkite all winter long in the mountains, one or two things are still sacred in this Fine Democracy of Ours, and until Watergate the honorableness of the Chief Executive was one of them.

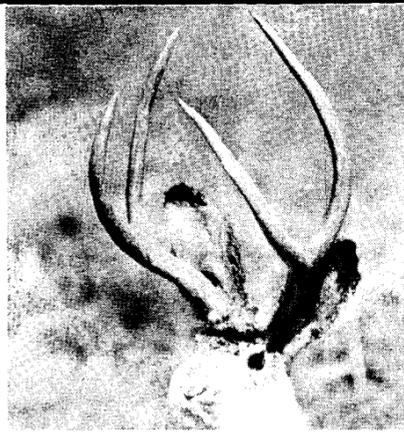
But if you had to pick out the bottom, hang-knot lowest of Richard Nixon's crimes, the Montana vote would surely go for the imposition of the Double Nickel, the 55 mile-per-hour speed limit.

You see, until Mr. Nixon decided to whip up the American public about the so-called Arab energy crisis so that the oil companies could raise the price of gas, Montana didn't have any speed limit at all. You'd be ambling along in the fast-lane doing 85, fumbling for an active channel on the old CB, when three ranchers in four-wheel drive pickup trucks, a 14-year-old kid on his daddy's John Deere tractor, and a wheat farmer up top of his combine would all whiz by you on the right. And they'd each be cursing at you to move to California, too, where there's so many cars you can't drive at a reasonable speed anyway.

So with a new President in office and Watergate slipping into the brain of historical memory for the American people, I figured it was high time to pay a little visit to San Clemente and have a face-to-face talk with old Dick about the 55 mph speed limit. Honorable modulation among honorable men, you see. Who knows? Maybe the lowered limit was one of those awful crimes our President didn't know anything about.

San Clemente is on a little seaward bulge of I-5, the fast road between San Diego and Seattle. As soon as I steered the old Grizzly Frog, the hunkered down '54 Chevy I use for casual CB visits, off the

"Break Two-One for the Chief," I shot past the guard. . . Did Richard Milhouse Nixon, 37th President of the United States, have his ears on?



Interstate on to Avenida del Presidente, I understood why old Dick set up camp in San Clemente. It's not exactly Berchtesgarden, but perched on the sea cliffs between Camp Pendleton and the training grounds of the Pacific Fleet, it's close enough for country.

Now the problem was locating the former chief smokey's lair. I twirled the dial like an insomniac hunting for Johnny Carson. Sure enough, the locals had their resident channel, Channel 21.

"Break Channel 21 for a little local info," says I. "What's the exac' Home-20 of your El Presidente, if you please?"

"Hey, Breaker," came back a shout, "you ain't an assassin or a reporter are you?"

"Which is worse?" I asked.

Well, you gotta allow for small town people. They tend to protect their own, and I reckon Old Dick brought in a lot of business in his time, what with the visiting reporters and the state department fellows buying out the tic-tac mints and the body deoderants from all the local drugstores. I wanted to be careful. There's still a few Americans out there who'd be Sunday-pleased if our former President called a press conference on the beach below his house to tell us he'd found the missing 18 minutes and wanted his job back.

"Rest easy," I told my guide. "I just want to tell him I for one never thought he was a crook."

"Take a right at the first doberman," he said assured.

Mr. Nixon lives in Cypress Shores, a guarded estate with a brick wall nine feet tall all around. I don't think the wall was built to keep the rabbits out. He bought this Spanish mansion from old Mr. Cotton, a kingmaker behind Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Democratic "people's" President. I always thought there was a lesson in corporate crossover there.

Anyway, by the time I rolled up to the guardhouse I had great expectations for a Class A Modulation. Maybe our conversation would extend beyond the Double Nickel. Maybe I'd get a couple more heavy questions answered, too. Like whether the real logjam scandal behind the watergate was that Dick had been taking bribes from the South Vietnamese government to prolong the war. Or more important: what ever happened to David Eisenhower and King Tamohoe?

I tipped my hat and told the Pinkerton to phone in to the Former Chief that the (Screamin') Montana Jackalope was waiting to pay a social call.

The Pink just looked me up and down, from my Tony Lama boots to my Resistol

hat, and motioned with his index finger to turn around—pronto.

I was stuck in Memphis with the Mobile blues again. Abplanalb's Ozone was beating down on me, and there was no way to make contact.

Then the Obvious Solution flashed before me like a flaming barge on the Cuyahoga River. You're writing a CB column: call him on the old CB!

I lunged for the power-mike and pressed the talk button. "Break for . . ." But there I stopped cold as a frozen mallard. How do you address the disgraced former President of the United States on the old Two-Way?

What would his handle be? Mr. Tapes? Still-Smiling? The Old Exile?

I read a pretty good poem once by Pablo Neruda. Mr. Neruda would have been the Jack King of Handle Creators if CB had made it to Chile before the coup, but I don't think Dick would have gone for the handle Mr. Neruda laid on him in the poem: The Hyena. Even if Mr. Neruda was a Nobel Laureate, he was just another commie to Dick.

I opted for the polite solution.

"Break Two One for the Chief," I shot past the guard, over the nine foot wall, and into the Spanish-gabled living room of the old Cotton Estate.

Did Richard Milhouse Nixon, 37th President of the United States, have his ears on?

(Here you'll have to trust me. You know I wouldn't lie because the Respectability of the Socialist Press, such as it is, depends on it.)

The haggard prim voice of an older lady breaker warbled out of the dashboard speaker on the old Grizzly Frog. "Negative contact. This is Pat," said the modulator anti-climactically. "The President don't break for no Jackalopes."

"10-77," I echoed, turning off the set and firing up the Frog.

I wanted to hightail it back to the Interstate before Pat Nixon could call in the Marines on Channel 9.

10-4.

Sam Brown and the Banks

Continued from page 4.

income individuals.

You've said at various times that you support a market economy and, on the other hand, that there should be state-run enterprises. Exactly what kind of market economy do you support?

First of all, one that works—which we don't have now because it's distorted. Primarily it's distorted by a market controlled by major multinational corporations. The reason I talk about having some state enterprises is simply that there are some things that are natural monopolies and there's no reason that we ought to sanction private profit off of what is a natural monopoly.

It's clear nationally that in utilities, where they're owned by the people, rates are 5 or 6 percent less than those that are held by corporate owners. They're more efficient. They don't have to be frightening and drive people away, making them think of specters of massive statism. It simply means that people have to begin to talk about what they can see.

What about the banks?

Banks are interesting. We're one of the few industrialized countries without a central bank that really works as a central bank. I would be in favor of formation of [public banks]. Not so much a central bank, because then what you get is someone off in Washington making decisions about what's good for us, and I don't think they've done a terrifically good job of that over a period of time.

It comes back to scale. My feeling about scale is it ought to be run at the lowest level it can possibly run at and still function.

Having a national bank running out of Washington, D.C., hell, we might as well have Chase Manhattan do it.

But I would be in favor of, for instance, cities forming banks, like the bank of North Dakota. Banks that make sure that the city's money and the people's money stays where it came from, that it's reinvested there instead of being exported all over the country. In the Northeast, part of the capital shortage is not because they're capital short, but because the banks export the money to the Sunbelt.

You see these banks as competing with private banks, not taking over their functions?

Yes. It's interesting that public enterprise takes a tremendous amount of knocks, but the bank of North Dakota is one of the most profitable in the country. It just returns the profits back to the state instead of to shareholders so that everybody in the state shares in the prosperity in a more equitable fashion. It doesn't have to be inefficient because it's publicly run. What's happened is the public sector has taken over the ownership of what the private sector has already raided—like the Northeast railroads.

Then you do believe it's the role of the government to step in and redistribute the wealth?

Redistribution is a pretty scary word. But the government is the only social agency that can in fact do that. You can let it trickle down eventually through corporate ownership, but that just hasn't happened very well. So, yeah, I think the state is really the only institution which

can serve to bring some greater equitability to the economic system. All those words—equitability, redistribution—are frightening.

To whom?

Well, I think to most all of us in some ways. They have overtones that we don't like. They sound like a flat, dull, level, even gray sort of society, which I sure don't want. But I don't believe that's a natural consequence of greater equitability. I think that in fact what happens is a tremendous number of social tensions are relieved so all of us have more space in which to live.

If most people are afraid of those terms, how would you go about gaining power over the dominance of the mega-corporations?

I think that's a helluva long building process. It seems that's what the last ten years have been about—building a base. We'll always be outspent—so the only way to beat that is a long-term organization. Fifteen years ago we were going to change the world by tomorrow morning. We're into more incremental things now. You take your victories where you can get them—move a little bit, establish a new base, move a little bit.

Do you think your policies as treasurer have established a new base here in Colorado?

They've helped.

Do you think those policies will survive?

That's a problem because if I leave, the governor will appoint a successor who'll have to be confirmed by the Senate, and they may make [abolishing] my policies a precondition of confirmation.

Two years ago, when you ran for this office, you told David Broder that you thought the action was here at the grassroots, not in Washington. Do you think the action—no pun intended—has now shifted to Washington?

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No. . . ACTION has an opportunity to deal directly with a lot of neighborhood groups, to provide direct kinds of support, and I'm really interested. I still think the action is what's going on in the states. It's different everywhere. What's going on in New York may not make sense at all in Los Angeles. ACTION's an agency that can respond [to those differences].

How far down the road in the direction you want to go do you think Jimmy Carter can take us?

[Index finger and thumb a half-inch apart]. Not all the way to Jerusalem. But I don't think anybody else can either. It's not a criticism of him. The times require a certain amount of growth and change to move along that road. If Fred Harris had been elected President, I've always felt he'd be able to take us further. But it may be that a Southerner with a conservative reputation will be able to do things that somebody who came in with a progressive reputation would be stymied at. So far, I sure as hell have been impressed.