

**American Academy  
for Park and Recreation Administration**

**Bulletin**

**August 2000**

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**Presidio Visitor Center Exhibits  
Introduced to the Public**  
by Richard C. Trudeau, Chair, William Penn  
Mott, Jr. Memorial Fund

The first panel of a permanent public exhibit was unveiled Sunday, July 16, at the Mott Visitor Center, Presidio National Park, San Francisco. When completely installed, the exhibit will highlight the role the visitor center's namesake, William Penn Mott, Jr., played in converting the former military base into a national park.

Also premiered at Sunday's ceremonies was a video on Mott, produced and narrated by Michael Rosenthal and Doug McConnell of KRON-TV's Bay Area Back Roads Program.

The video will be part of the permanent exhibit.

In addition to his work at the Presidio, the exhibit will also commemorate Mott's nearly 60-year crusade for parks and open space nationwide. Although he died in 1992, his land conservation philosophies and

leadership principles continue to influence parks and recreation professionals throughout the country.

Born in New York and reared in Michigan, Mott earned B.A. and M.A. degrees in landscape architecture from Michigan State University and the University of California at Berkeley, respectively. During the 1940s and 50s, he served as superintendent of parks in Oakland,

California. During the 1960s and 70s, he headed the East Bay Regional Park District in the Oakland-Berkeley area, then went to Sacramento to lead California State parks and recreation.

From 1985-1989, Mott served as National Park Service director in the Reagan administration. After retiring from that post in 1989 until his death at age 82 in 1992, he played a key part in converting the Presidio from one of the nation's oldest military bases to one of its newest national parks.

At the dedication, officials who worked with Mott recalled his extraordinary career. They included

James Meadows, Presidio Trust; Greg Moore, Golden Gate National Park Association; Brian O'Neill, Golden Gate National Recreation Area; Bill Lane, philanthropist; Edwin Meese, Reagan administration; Dean Tice, National Recreation and Park Association and Dick Trudeau, Mott Memorial Fund.

Trudeau read a letter from Nancy Reagan recalling Mott's relationship with President Reagan. "Ronnie and I had the good fortune to have Bill Mott as Director of California State Parks for eight years in Sacramento and later for four years (in Washington, D.C.) as Director of our National Parks... We will be forever grateful for (his) loyalty and contributions."

In an example of the public-private partnerships pioneered by Mott, the exhibit was financed by Lane and Trudeau and designed by the National Park Service.



Speakers at the dedication of the William Penn Mott, Jr. Visitor Center on July 16 at the Presidio of San Francisco were (from left): former United States Attorney General in the Reagan Administration Edwin Meese III, former Ambassador to Australia and publisher of *Sunset Magazine* L.W. "Bill" Lane; R. Dean Tice, Executive Director of NRPA; and Richard Trudeau, retired General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District, Oakland, who was chairman of the Mott Memorial Fund, which raised the funds for the exhibits on the late Bill Mott's career and for the video on his life. Tice and Trudeau, both Academy members, were joined at the festivities honoring Mott by former NRPA President Christopher Jarvi and Patrick O'Brien (also members of the Academy).

## **Nationally Renown Pollster Warns of Problems**

**by Richard C. Trudeau,  
Chair, William Penn Mott,  
Jr. Memorial Fund**

Polls released during the past several months indicate that park and recreation bond and/or tax measures headed for the November ballot may have “tough sledding.”

With the passage of both state of California park and water bonds in the March primary election by huge margins, such a situation seems impossible. But the federal and state surpluses have made some jaded taxpayers showing a trend against support of such bond and tax measures for not only park measures but also for schools and transportation.

A June survey made for the East Bay Regional Park District by renown behavioral scientist Dr. George Manross, President of Southern California’s Strategy Research Institute, showed a substantial drop in public support for a proposed Regional Park parcel tax

scheduled for the November election to fund maintenance and policing in the growing regional park district and its 91,000 acres. This report led the Regional Park District to pull the parcel tax measure off of the November ballot, despite overwhelming support from the environmental community rather than risk an expensive loss of the important measure on the November ballot.

This was coupled with a Gallup Poll on the environment in April which showed that the environment has slipped as a priority for voters. The latter showed that environmental protection as an issue for the November election had dropped to 66 percent.

Manross has done surveys for the district for 12 years, including the very successful Measure AA in June, 1998, which received a better than 67 percent vote, was surprised at the result, which showed a drop in support for the parcel tax from 69 percent to 63 percent in June. Said

Manross, “This has nothing to do with parks, schools, or transportation. It has to do with the political landscape. People are reacting to surplus funds.” He adds that “people don’t realistically expect refunds from agencies which are rolling in dough but they certainly don’t want to fork over any more moola.”

The point has been made that people don’t want to give the government more money, when there’s already so much. “I can’t understand it because I don’t understand it scientifically.”

The Regional Park District postponed its parcel tax measure, which requires a two-thirds “yes” vote and will study it again during 2001.

But, as has been pointed out by columnists, given the surplus funds at both the state and federal level, local taxing bodies will have a difficult time with

placing local taxes on the ballot in November.

**Land & Water Fund Tapped to Protect Historic Home Site**  
Reprinted from  
**Orange County Park News,**  
**Vol. 32 No. 2 May 2000**

A \$307,500 grant for the acquisition of the 114 acre former Bart Bull Farm has been approved by the NY State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation in a press release from Governor George Pataki.

The grant will come from the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund, which reallocated \$2 million to the state for local projects.

The lands include the former 1780 Brick Castle residence of Amy Bull Crist, who was an Orange County legend for all her accomplishments as an educator and renowned community leader.

The rolling farmland site is directly across the Wallkill River from the Thomas Bull Memorial

Park and boasts over 4,000 feet of frontage on the river.

Brick Castle, which is in mint condition, is on the National Historic Register.

The six heirs of Amy and her sisters Corrine Bull Brown and Molly Bazemore currently own the farm.

The County will be required to provide two additional property appraisals and to match 50% of the total acquisition costs.

Friends of the Bull family, the Orange County Land Trust and others are making an effort to reduce the County cost share with private donations.

**ActiveParks.org pledges to “Meet You Halfway”**  
Reprinted from  
**activeparks.org**

The goal of ActiveParks.org is simple.

As the official dynamic web presence for the National Recreation and Park Association, we intend to build the

premier online resource for active lifestyles.

But it’s a big job and we need help from the experts – you, the local recreation and parks agencies. ActiveParks.org, which is a free service to everyone, is developing many features for this new site, but none more important than building a huge database of all local, county and state recreation and park facilities nationwide. This data will serve as the informational foundation for engaging the public in active lifestyles through education, communication and, most importantly, by connecting them with your local agency.

To many local associations, compiling and inputting all this data (although we’ve tried to make it easier by automating the process) is a daunting task – and ActiveParks.org and NRPA recognize this.

So, we are introducing the “Meet You Halfway” program, which is designed to benefit those agencies that commit to

working with us by Oct. 1, 2000. The most important aspect of the “Meet you Halfway” program is that if you enter half your facility information, ActiveParks will enter the other half!

In addition, if you participate in the “Meet You Halfway” program, your agency will appear in a full-page ad with ActiveParks in NRPA’s magazine “Parks & Recreation.” There is absolutely no charge to you for these services.

**More Information:** If you would like to participate in the “Meet you Halfway” program, or if you have not already received your ActiveParks log in information, please call toll-free 877-523-4440, Ext. 223, or e-mail [clientservices@active.com](mailto:clientservices@active.com) right now. Thank you for your efforts and we look forward to working with you.

Congratulations and thank you to the following agencies that not only met us halfway, but went all the way in already completing all of their inventory!

- West Lafayette Parks & Recreation, West Lafayette, IN
- West Hartford Leisure Services, West Hartford, CT
- Fletcher Parks & Recreation, Fletcher, NC
- Rockdale County Parks & Recreation, Conyers, GA
- Reynoldsburg Recreation Department, Reynoldsburg, OH
- Gainesville Parks & Recreation, Gainesville, GA
- Canton Parks & Recreation Department, Canton, MI
- Snellville Recreation & Parks, Snellville, GA
- Monmouth County Parks, Lincroft, NJ

- Collinsville Area Recreation District, Collinsville, IL
- Germantown Parks & Recreation, Germantown, TN

More and more agencies are getting involved every day. If your agency has completed its inventory, but we failed to list you here, please e-mail [clientservices@active.com](mailto:clientservices@active.com) and let us know about you.

### **Academy Members Prepare for NRPA Congress 2000**

By Jane Boubel, Congress Program Chair

**The NRPA Phoenix Congress Program Committee met February 10-12 and selected 177 programs for presentation. Of the 334 proposals many involved Academy members. At the risk of missing someone, I would like to recognize the following members who submitted, sponsored or selected programs for the 2000 Congress.**

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|-------------------|------------------|
| Jane Adams        | Eddie Hueston    |
| Joseph Bannon     | Walt Johnson     |
| Jane Boubel       | Ken Kutska       |
| Ernest Burkeen    | Dale Larson      |
| Monty Christensen | Joel Meier       |
| Dave Clarke       | Steve Messerli   |
| Jim Colley        | Ron Olson        |
| John Crompton     | Ellen O’Sullivan |
| Harvey Faust      | Michelle Park    |
| Swede Frauson     | Peter Witt       |
|                   | Leon Younger     |

Thank you Academy members for sharing your expertise, energy and interest.

