



RANGER LEO FRY  
THE AUTO TREE,  
BIG BASIN, CALIFORNIA  
OVER 300 FEET HIGH

## Galen Clark - California's First State Park Ranger

On May 21, 1866, the California Commission to Manage Yosemite State Park appointed Galen Clark "Guardian" at \$500 per year. Not recognized until much later, Clark had become California's first state park ranger. Too, as the first person formally appointed and paid to protect and administer the nation's first great out-of-doors natural park, Clark is considered by many to be the first park ranger in the nation.



Produced by

**California State Parks  
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*(CSPAC) - A private non-profit group*

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# California State Park Ranger 150th Anniversary





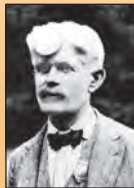
# Ranger Time Line



• **1866** – Galen Clark appointed “Guardian” of Yosemite State Park, becoming California’s first state park ranger.

• **1890** – Yosemite regulations provide that the Guardian shall, “exercise general police supervision in the Valley and Grove.”

• **1917** – First state park badge authorized for Park Warden William “Billy” Dool at the California Redwood Park at Big Basin.



• **1927** – State legislation established the Division of Parks and provided for state peace officer status for rangers. There are 14 field employees.

• **1930** – Harriet “Petey” Weaver starts work with state parks. Considered the first woman park ranger, she retired in 1950, with “Deputy Ranger” badge #105.



• **1940** – First state park ranger uniform authorized, including the ranger hat and first state park patch, called the “poppy” patch.



• **1958** – Field staff totals 411, including 385 rangers and park attendants.

• **1962** – William Bishop is the first ranger awarded the California Medal of Valor, along with Curator John McKenzie.



• **1964** - California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) established.



• **1970-71** – The modern college educated professional ranger classification established. Firearms and other related peace officer safety equipment first issued.



• **1972** – Paula J. Peterson appointed the first modern full-time woman ranger. She retired as Chief Ranger in the Monterey District in 2003 after a full career.

• **1976** - Ranger Patricia Scully was killed in the line of duty when her patrol vehicle was struck head-on by a drunk driver.

• **1982** – Legislation puts rangers into the “Safety” (peace officer) retirement, which provides full retirement benefits at 30 years of service.

• **1991** – State Park Ranger 125th Anniversary celebrated. Ranger (peace officer) field staff peaks at about 700.



• **1996** – First book published on ranger history titled *Rangers of California's State Parks*.

• **2002** – Ranger Sharon Galligan shot and wounded while contacting an illegal camper.

• **2014** - State Parks turns 150. Ranger staffing at 1950's level.

• **2016** - Ranger 150th celebrating the oldest park ranger service in the nation.



## Evolution of the Park Ranger Title



• **1866** – Galen Clark appointed **Guardian** of Yosemite State Park, the title specified in state law. In addition to use at Yosemite, the Guardian title also was formally used at Marshall Monument, Sutter’s Fort, and some other state park areas as late as 1920’s.



• **1903** – **Park Warden** title replaces Guardian at the California Redwood Park at Big Basin.

• **1916** – The newly established National Park Service adopts the **Park Ranger** title.

• **1931** – **State Park Warden** title adopted in first civil service specifications.

• **1945** – **State Park Ranger** title adopted replacing State Park Warden



• **2007** – **State Park Peace Officer (Ranger)** title adopted. “Ranger” still used extensively as a working title.



Ranger Emergency Vehicle Training - Folsom Lake State Recreation Area - 2010