



NPS Women Cartes de Visite Collection



Clare Marie Hodges, 1918. (NPS History Collection Photo).

Clare Marie Hodges

Yosemite National Park

Park Ranger, 1918

- Born on December 1, 1890 in Santa Cruz County, California.
- In 1904, aged 13, she and her family rode horseback for four days to reach Yosemite Valley.
- Attended San Jose College, enjoying botany.
- In 1913, she made her first trip to Tuolumne Meadows, returning five or six more times.
- Began teaching at the Yosemite Valley School in 1916.
- In the spring of 1918, she overheard park rangers discussing how difficult it was to find men to fill positions left vacant by World War I and applied to Superintendent W.B. Lewis to be a park ranger at Yosemite.
- Thought he would probably laugh at her for wanting to be a park ranger. Instead, he replied that he wanted to hire a female ranger but hadn't found the right one-until then.
- Hired as a temporary ranger on May 22, 1918, making her the first women ranger in the NPS.
- Given a badge and earned a salary of \$900 per year. Wore a stetson hat like her male colleagues, but did not carry a gun.
- Her position ended on September 7, 1918.
- Married three times over her lifetime and had one son.
- Worked as a naturalist for a Seven-Day Adventists' summer camp at Wawona, teaching botany and horsemanship and establishing nature trails.
- Died on June 20, 1970 from cancer.

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