Some State Park Personnel in Humboldt County

Susie Van Kirk
Some State Park Personnel in Humboldt County

Marguerite Cook’s list of State Park personnel that worked at Richardson Grove:
Emery Johnson McLaughlin
Jack Paul Fleckenstein
Glen Ernest Thompson
William Lincoln Kenyon
Garland Gray
Henry W. Saddler
William A. Weatherbee
William Haussler
Carl C. Schnauer
Lyle Keith
Leonard Fisher
Curtis Mitchell
Doug Metcalf
Jim Neal

CSPRA. Com/pages/graybears/forum/index.html
1937 Field Employee List, partial list
State Park Wardens
Glenn Thompson, Patrick’s Point
Jack Fleckenstein, Williams Grove
State Park Custodians
Elmer Pool, Stephens Grove
Jack Cracknell, Richardson Grove

Sept. 1938 Division of Parks, partial list
Newton B. Drury, San Francisco, investigating officer
E.P. French, Dyerville, district superintendent
G.E. Thompson, Patrick’s Point, park warden
Jack Fleckenstein, Richardson Grove, park warden
Clarence L. Milne, Orick, assistant park warden
E.J. McLaughlin, Richardson Grove, park custodian
William L. Kenyon, Big Basin, park custodian
Elmer J. Pool, Stevens Grove, park custodian
John J. Cracknell, Richardson Grove, park custodian

Park Personnel as of Nov. 1, 1940, partial list
Warden, Jack Fleckenstein, Pfeiffer Redwoods, Big Sur
Assistant Warden, W.L. Kenyon, Richardson Grove, Piercy
Warden, C.L. Milne, Prairie Creek, Orick
Custodian, Edgar J. Nash, Williams Grove, Meyers
Warden, Glen E. Thompson, Patrick’s Point, Trinidad
May 1, 1951 Roster of Personnel, Division of Beaches and Parks, partial list

Newton B. Drury, Chief

Northwest District, Weott

District Headquarters
E.P. French, District Superintendent
Llewellyn P. Griffith, Assistant District Superintendent

Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park, Carlotta
Glen N. Jones, Assistant Ranger
Elmer C. Jones, Deputy Ranger

Edward R. Hickey State Park, Leggett
E.G. Gray, Assistant Ranger
Roland Stroup, Deputy Ranger

Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Area Units

Burlington Area, Weott
Jack L. Kent, Deputy Ranger
Raymond F. Spicer, Deputy Ranger

Dyerville-Bull Creek Area, Weott
E. or F. J. Nash, Chief Ranger
Louis E. Powers, Deputy Ranger
Lee M. Johnson, Deputy Ranger
R.V. Leslie Sims, Deputy Ranger

Richardson Grove Area, Richardson Grove
William A. Weatherbee, Chief Ranger
George W. Lynn, Assistant Ranger
Harry G. Kauffman, Deputy Ranger
Fred L. Hall, Deputy Ranger
Richard T. Winter, Deputy Ranger
Eugene W. Adams, Deputy Ranger

Stephens Grove Area, Miranda
Richards L. Brock, Assistant Ranger
Robert W. Hines, Deputy Ranger

Williams Grove Area, Weott
Ralph L. Banfill, Assistant Ranger
Walter F. Martell, Deputy Ranger
Charles K. Boyle, Deputy Ranger

Leo W. Dennis, Deputy Ranger (Stephens and Williams Groves)

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Crescent City
Carl C. Schnauer, Assistant Ranger
Ralph J. Hollingsworth, Deputy Ranger

Wirt A. Savage, Deputy Ranger (Jed Smith and Prairie Creek)
Patrick’s Point State Park, Trinidad
James P. Tryner, Assistant Ranger
Bassett A. Farber, Deputy Ranger

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, Orick
C.L. Milne, Chief Ranger
Robert G. Carlson, Assistant Ranger
Robert W. Wing, Deputy Ranger
Otis G. Lyons, Deputy Ranger

Northeast District, Sonoma
Armstrong Redwoods State Park, Guerneville
Jack Fleckenstein, Chief Ranger

McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, Burney
E.J. Pool, Chief Ranger

Central District, San Francisco
Portola State Park, La Honda,
Leonard R. Fisher, Assistant Ranger

Mount Diablo State Park
Fred H. Eggimann, Deputy Ranger

Southern District, San Clemente

Military Leave
Henry W. Saddler, Richardson Grove State Park

HT (23 July 1950) Humboldt County’s Redwood Parks, Richardson Grove… by Marguerite Ross Davy. She wrote the following from information provided by Percy French:

The first warden under the State Division of Forestry was Glen Thompson, who now lives in San Rafael. There were no state parks up until the year 1928, so Richardson’s Grove was under the forest division until that date.

In 1931 Emery J. MacLaughlin [McLaughlin] went in, to be followed after about four years by Jack Fleckenstein. William Kenyon was next then Fleckenstein was back again. Then E. Garland Gray followed him and finally Henry W. Saddler, who came in to Richardson’s Grove with his wife in April 1943 and is now Chief Ranger.

BLA (12 April 1924) Garberville—**E.E. Roach** and family, who have spent the winter at the State Park House near Meyers, have moved to Richardson’s Grove, eight miles south of here. Roach is employed by the state and will assist E.R. Freeman, lessee of the grove, in getting the camp grounds ready for the summer tourists.

HT (26 April 1924) Garberville—**E.E. Roach and George Gillett**, forest rangers, are engaged at Richardson’s Grove clearing off another section of the grove so that it will be available for
camping purposes this summer. In addition to clearing out the underbrush and cleaning up the
grounds, tables, benches and camp stoves will be built.

FE (23 March 1956) Richardson Grove Opening By May 30—Despite the heavy flood damage
in the Richardson Grove area, Humboldt’s popular summer recreation park will be open to the
public this year much the same as in past years. According to Arthur O’Donnell,
concessionaire at the State Park, there is every indication that the Grove will be ready for public
use before the end of May. Mr. O’Donnell told The Enterprise this week he had conferred with
the State Park Commission and had assurance that the State planned to make immediate repairs
and replacements.

Glen Ernest Thompson
Find a Grave
Glen Ernest Thompson, born 24 Jan. 1879, Lakeport; died 12 Jan. 1957, Marin Co.; burial
Hartley Cemetery, Lakeport, Calif.

Park Associations:
Identified at Richardson Grove but no date, by Marguerite Cook
1937 Field Employee List
State Park Wardens
Glenn Thompson, Patrick’s Point
Sept. 1938 Division of Parks
G.E. Thompson, Patrick’s Point, park warden
Park Personnel as of Nov. 1, 1940
Warden, Glen E. Thompson, Patrick’s Point, Trinidad
HT (23 July 1950) Humboldt County’s Redwood Parks, Richardson Grove… by Marguerite
Ross Davy. She wrote the following from information provided by Percy French:
The first warden under the State Division of Forestry was Glen Thompson, who now
lives in San Rafael. There were no state parks up until the year 1928, so Richardson’s Grove was
under the forest division until that date.

1880 U.S. Census, Lake Co., Lakeport, June, pg. 48A
26. Thompson, Wm., age 33, farmer, born MO; father Tenn.; mother MO
27. ____, Zenita, 36, wife, born MO, father KY; mother MO
28. ____, Velma, age 5, daughter, born Calif.
29. ____, Glen, age 1, son, born Calif.
30. Reams, Nora, age 11, raising, at school; born Calif. father MO; mother Ill.

1920 U.S. Census, Contra Costa Co., Richmond, pg. 155B, 12th Street
53. Thompson, Glen E., lodgers, age 40, married, born Calif.; parents born Missouri. Occupation
carpenter oil refinery.

The first rangers at Humboldt Redwoods were Solon Williams and G.E. Thompson, who were “State Foresters” working for the State Board of Forestry. In 1928, Thompson would become the park warden of Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

**1928 City Directory**
Weott: Glen E. Thompson, forester

**1929 City Directory**
Weott: Glen E. Thompson, forester

**1930 U.S. Census, South Fork, April, pg 81A**
25. Thompson, Glen, head, rents at $50 per month; age 51, married at age 21; born Calif.; parents born MO.; occupation State Park Warden
26. _____ Mary, age 54, wife, born Calif.; father Indiana, mother Calif.
27. _____, Eugene, son, age 15, single, born Calif.
28. _____, Glendeen, daughter, age 12, born Calif.
29. McLean, Frank, boarder, age 58, born Iowa, artist own business

**1940 U.S. Census, Union, Big Lagoon, U.S. 101, April, Pg. 620A**
35. Thompson, Glen E., age 61, rented house for $25 per month; married, completed college 2nd year; born Calif.; in 1936 lived in Humboldt county; no occupation listed but worked 48 hours week before census and received wages or salary in government work; worked 52 weeks in 1939
36. _____, Mary F., wife, age 64, completed 8th grade
   [second family from Thomas Williams]

HT (29 July 1928) Herbert Hoover Camps Under Humboldt County Redwoods—Herbert Clark Hoover, Republican candidate for the presidency, arrived in Humboldt county yesterday afternoon and reached his camp at Bull Creek Flat Redwood Grove about 4:30 accompanied by his party of about 50 persons [people listed including Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, president of Stanford, Dr. A.E. Taylor, professor Stanford, Dr. T.M. Williams, board of athletic control more]
Two photos of party seated at long table with white table clothes in the redwoods. Cars in background but no buildings evident. Photos by E.N. Fairchild of Richardson’s Grove.

The camp provided for the Hoover party was selected in one of the most beautiful spots in the redwood grove at Bull Creek Flat by G.E. Thompson [Glen] of the State Park Commission, who has charge of the state land and parks in this section of the state. The equipment was provided by E.R. Freeman, concessionaire at Richardson’s Grove, one of the State Parks on the Redwood Highway south of Garberville. The notice sent to Freeman at first was that about 30 people would be in the party and the arrangements for cots and other camp equipment, food service, etc. was made on this basis. Early yesterday morning Freeman was notified that there would be 50 people in the party, consequently a hurrying demand was made for extra equipment. Finally after phoning to Eureka, Freeman secured 20 extra cots together with blankets from the Humboldt County Camp Fire Girls with the cooperation of Miss Holly [?] Camp Fire Girls Executive and the day was “saved.

Lynch, Michael G. Rangers of California’s State Parks. Over 125 Years of Park Protection and Service. 1996.
Pg. 29. From these very early parks, the slow and individual growth of state parks continued until 1928. The major park addition during this time was Humboldt Redwoods State Park, brought into public ownership by the effort of the Save the Redwoods League that started in 1920. In 1922, two people, Solon Williams and G.E. Thompson, were employed by the State Forestry Board to administer Humboldt. Williams, a Deputy State Forester, acted as supervisor of the park and Thompson was his assistant. In 1928, Humboldt became part of the newly organized State Park System and Thompson became the park ranger supervisor.

Haas Family Tree

Emery Johnson McLaughlin
Kincaid Families Family Tree
Emery Johnson McLaughlin, dob: 14 Nov. 1874, Maine; dod; 20 April 1953, Mendocino County, Calif.

Park Associations:
Identified at Richardson Grove, no date, by Marguerite Cook

Sept. 1938 Division of Parks
E.J. McLaughlin, Richardson Grove, park custodian

HT (23 July 1950) Humboldt County’s Redwood Parks, Richardson Grove… by Marguerite Ross Davy. She wrote the following from information provided by Percy French:

The first warden under the State Division of Forestry was Glen Thompson, who now lives in San Rafael. There were no state parks up until the year 1928, so Richardson’s Grove was under the forest division until that date.

In 1931 Emery J. McLaughlin [McLaughlin] went in….

WWI Draft Registration

1920 U.S. Census, Tillamook County, Blaine, Oregon, Feb. pg. 76B
91. McLaughlin, Emery, head, age 46, born Maine, father Canada; mother Maine; Dairy farmer.
92. _____, Nettie, wife, age 50, born Maine, father Scotland; mother Maine
93. _____, Earl, son, age 20, single, born Maine, parents Maine.

1928 City Directory, Weott
Emery J. McLaughlin, woodsman

1929 City Directory, Weott
Emery McLaughlin, woodsman

1930 U.S. Census, South Fork April, pg. 80B
90. McLaughlin, Emery, head, rents at $25 per month; age 56; married at age 24; born Maine, father Canada, mother Maine. Occupation: Assistant Warden State Park
91. _____, Nettie, wife, age 61, married at age 30; born Maine, father Scotland; mother Maine
92. Yeomans, Vaughn, nephew, age 24, single; born Maine, father Canada, mother Maine

93. Murphy, Harris, head, rents at $25 per month; age 20, married at age 19; born Calif.; parents Calif.; laborer State Park.

94. _____, Evelyn, wife, age 20, married at age 18, born Calif.; parents born Calif.

95. _____, Harris, Jr., son, infant, born Calif.

96. Johnson, Edward, head, rents at $25 per month; age 35, married at age 24; born Calif.; father Indiana, mother Indiana; Assistant Warden State Park.

97. _____, Geraldine, wife, age 27, married at age 17, born Okla.; father Miss.; mother Ark.

98. _____, Edwin, daughter, age 10, born Wash.; father Calif.; mother Okla.

99 _____, Marnajine, daughter, age 5, born Wash.; father Calif.; mother Okla.

100. _____, Harold, son, age 3 yrs. 10 months; born Wash.; father Calif.; mother Okla.

Find at Grave
Little River Cemetery, Little River, Mendocino County. Emery J. McLaughlin.

Jack Paul Fleckenstein
California Deaths

Park Associations:
Identified at Richardson Grove, no date, by Marguerite Cook

1937 State Park Field Employees
Jack Fleckenstein, Williams Grove

Sept. 1938
Jack Fleckenstein, Richardson Grove, Park Warden

Nov. 1, 1940
Jack Fleckenstein, warden, Pfeiffer Redwoods State Park, Big Sur

Pg. 62. All employee conference in 1940 at Big Sur; group photo included Jack Fleckenstein

Roster 1 May 1951
Northeast District, Sonoma
Jack Fleckenstein, Armstrong Redwood State Park, Guerneville, Chief Ranger

1900 U.S. Census, Hydesville, June pg. 1?4A
6. Fleckenstein, Joseph, 30, Iowa, Germany, woodsman
7. _____, Marie, wife, age 32, 6/6 children, born Calif.; father Ill.; mother Georgia
8. _____, William, son, 9, Calif.
9. _____, John, son, age 7, Calif.
10. _____, Christopher, son, age 4, Calif.
11. _____, Frank, son, age 3, Calif.
12. _____, Sharon, son, age 2, Calif.
13. _____, Lawrence, son, months old
14. boarder

1910 U.S. Census, Ward 4, Eureka
John P. Fleckenstein, age 17, still living with parents

**Veterans Death File**
Jack Fleckenstein, Army 31 May 1917-16 May 1918

**1928 City Directory**
Weott, Jack P. Fleckenstein, woodsman

**1929 City Directory**
Weott, Jack Fleckenstein, woodsman

**1930 U.S. Census, South Fork, April, pg. 83B, Tie Camp**
81. Fleckenstein, Jack, head, rents at $10 per month, age 37, married at age 27, born Calif.; parents U.S.; tie producer, redwood ties.
82. ____, Lillian, wife, age 31, married at age 21, born Calif.; parents born Calif.
83. Snider, Ray, brother-in-law, age 23, single, born Calif.; parents born Calif. truck driver redwood ties

**1940 U.S. Census, Monterey, April, pg. B, Big Sur**
72. Fleckenstein, John, head, age 47, completed 2nd year of high school; born Calif.; in 1935 was living at Rohnerville. Occupation Warden State Park
73. ____, Lillian, wife, age 41, completed 3rd year high school, born Calif.; in 1935 was living at Rohnerville.
74. ____, Jack, son, age 8, born Calif.; in 1935 was living at Rohnerville.

**CSPRA. Com/pages/graybears/history/images/dept-roster-May 1951.pdf.**
Roster of Personnel, Division of Beaches and Parks, Sacramento, May 1, 1951.
Northeast District, Sonoma
Jack Fleckenstein, Chief Ranger

**William Lincoln Kenyon**

**Calif. Death Index**
William Lincoln Kenyon, dob 3 Feb. 1898; dod 10 April 1959, Orange Co.

**Park Associations:**
William Kenyon identified at Richardson Grove, no date, by Marguerite Cook

**1938 Roster of Division of Parks**
William L. Kenyon, Big Basin, Park Custodian

**Nov. 1, 1940 Park Personnel**
W.L. Kenyon, Assistant Warden, Richardson Grove, Piercy

**May 1, 1951 Roster**
Southern District, San Clemente, District Headquarters, William L. Kenyon, District Superintendent

**WWI Draft Registration**
1930 U.S. Census, Sonoma Co., Redwood Township, April, pg. 233A Main Street
13. Kenyon, William L., head, rents at $20 per month; age 32, married at age 28, born Calif.; parents born U.S.; occupation proprietor electric shop
14. _____, Beatrice E., wife, age 29, married at age 20, born Michigan; father Indiana; mother Ill. Book keeper bank
15. _____, William, Jr., son, age 8, born Calif.
16. Burkett, Gladys, sister-in-law, age 16, single, born Ark.; father Indiana; mother Ill.

Pg. 36. Photo of Warden’s Office, Big Basin. Wm. Kenyon, Deputy Warden, 1936.
Pg. 38. Group hoto, including Bill Kenyon in 1938 at all-employee conference at Big Basin.


Weaver worked at Richardson Grove during the 1938 through 1940 seasons. During that time Bill Kenyon was the Chief Ranger.

“To me, Bill Kenyon became a real delight. He ran the park with a stolid firmness that was sometimes deceiving for he had a sense of humor that wouldn’t quit—more endlessly enjoyable than anyone I had ever known. He and Mabel, a great cook, had me eat my three meals a day with them and during those times I laughed so much and ate so well that I added fifteen pounds that first summer.

“Those three happy summers at Richardson Grove still glow in my memories. Bill ran a tight ship and the crew worked hard but well. That was fortunate because it seemed that the whole world either came to camp or picnic—at least stopped or passed through our park center….

The concessionaire, it turned out, was Viola French, wife of towering Percy French our District Superintendent—folks who had long really lived redwoods. Built like one, Percy was widely known as “Mr. Redwood.” He knew every tree in our forest and Viola ran a most efficient and friendly concession.

Among her summer employees was Phyllis Benbow and a half dozen of her Pasadena Playhouse fellow students who contributed greatly to our evening campfires with their many talents and hilarious comedy improvisations. Area residents came from far and near to enjoy with us. World travelers showed slides and told of their adventures. Musicians of all kinds entertained generously. Talent abounded along with a nice willingness to share. Somehow I was able, from my post Out Front, to secure, assembly and plan our two hour evening fun around the big crackling fire, though sometimes by forays through the campgrounds.

My three summers at Richardson Grove were all delightful. Park personnel changed somewhat with each season, but Bill and I stayed on, working together wonderfully well. Malcolm Byce, a UC Biology grad came on as Park Naturalist the last two summers, also volunteering as the pianist at our songfests. The appearance of handsome Jack Knight, a recent Forestry graduate from UC really set the young women among us to oh-ing and ah-ing. As anyone in the state park service remembers, Jack went on from there to the top. He was a dedicated and able park man from his first day to retirement many years later….
Lynch, Michael G. Rangers of California’s State Parks. Over 125 Years of Park Protection and Service. 1996.

Pg. 46. Desert Patrolman. [The following is a contemporary account of ranger work in the mid 1950s. Written by an unknown ranger, it was originally printed in the January 1957 State Park employee newsletter.]

The Duties of State Park Rangers stationed in the Anza Desert and Borrego State Parks are not generally known to other men in the field. Much of their work is patrol with jeeps to protect state park lands. Without puncture-proof tires, a flat tire in some remote area of the desert could not only be disgusting but disastrous. The men making these patrols always follow a predetermined roué and have frequent time checks. If they do not report to a predetermined point within an hour of the time of the report, a search party is immediately organized and begins to search under the direction of the Park Supervisor….An average patrol is about 60 to 90 miles per day with very little of this on paved roads or even on improved roads. Superintendent Kenyon requires that a full report of each patrol be made in writing to the district office, with copies to Sacramento. On their reports the rangers note prospecting activity, trespass, items of natural history and any other items out of the ordinary….

1940 U.S. Census, Garberville, Hartsook lines 18-30, April, pg. 332A
33. Kenyon, Wm. L.; head, age 42, married completed 4 years high school; born Calif.; lived in Sonoma Co. in 1935. Worked 48 hours previous week; 52 weeks in 1939 in government work, Occupation Assistant Warden State Park.
34. _____, Mabel L., wife, age 36, 4 years college; born Calif.; living in Marin in 1935

CSPRA Parksanniversary.org/pages/supts/distsupt1928-1980.jpg
Photos of district superintendents 1928-1980. The “District Superintendents” were kingpins of State Park operations from 1928-1980s. By the 1970s, the state was divided up into six district, each headed up by a District Superintendent. In 1980s these positions were replaced by “Regional Directors” and later on b the three “Division Chiefs” of today.
27 photographs of district superintendents including:
  Percy French
  Bill Kenyon
  Jim Tryner
  Bill Haussler
  Curt Mitchell
  Carl Anderson

Lynch, Michael G. Rangers of California’s State Parks. Over 125 Years of Park Protection and Service. 1996.

Pg. 32. Well known 1938 Rangers like Everett E. Powell, Jess T. Chaffee, and C.L. “Roy” Cashing at Pfeiffer Redwoods, Robert Coon at Mt. Diablo, Wm. L. Kenyon at Big Basin, Charles M. Lewis at Boulder Creek, and Elmer J. Pool at Richardson Grove were responsible for every aspect of the park operation. Construction of trials, campgrounds, roads and other facilities were often done solely by par staff, frequently using free or “appropriated” materials and only the labor they could produce themselves.

It is thought that this is deputy warden William Kenyon standing next to the vehicle in front of the Big Basin warden’s office in 1936. Kenyon would work his way up through the tanks to what is today called division chief.

This group of rangers was gathered at Big Basin Redwoods for an all-employee conference in 1938. … [six men, including Bill Kenyon]

Although rangers had bigger crowds and more work, there was still the requirement to explore and know every square inch of their park. Ranger William Kenyon is doing just that as he sits on top of Mount San Jacinto Park in the 1950s.

Ranger William L. Kenyon is wearing his state park star sometime before uniforms were mandated in 1939.

In the 1930s, ranger William L. Kenyon peers at the Fallen Redwood Giant, one of the attractions at Richardson Grove State Park.

Roster of Personnel, Division of Beaches and Parks, Sacramento, May 1, 1951.
Southern District, San Clemente, District Headquarters
Wm. L. Kenyon, District Superintendent

Elmer J. Pool

Park Associations:
Identified by Mike Lynch as being at Richardson Grove in 1938

1937 Field Employees
Elmer Pool, Stephens Grove, State Park Custodian

Sept. 1938 Division of Parks personnel
Elmer J. Pool, Stevens Grove, Park Custodian

May 1, 1951 Park Roster
E.J. Pool, Chief Ranger, McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, Burney

1930 U.S. Census, Sonoma Co., Redwoods
Pool, Elmer J., head, age 28, born Calif.; occupation building carpenter
_____ , Naomi, wife, age 30, born Calif.

1940 U.S. Census, Scotia, Dyerville State Highway, 12-46, pg. 556A
27. Pool, Elmer J., head, age 38, 8th grad education; born Calif.; lived in Sonoma Co. in 1935, occupation Park Custodian State Park
28. _____ , Naomi, wife, age 40, 8th grade, born Calif.; Sonoma Co. in 1935
29. _____ , Velma N., daughter, age 9, Calif.; Sonoma Co. in 1935
30. _____ , Charles E., son, age 7, born Calif.; Sonoma Co. in 1935
31. _____ , Arlene V., daughter, age ? but less than 5 years.

32. Cheetam, William, age 59, born Illinois, shop keeper, novelties/grocery
33. _____ , Flonnie, wife, age 47, born N.C.
34. French, Enoch, head, age 57, 8th grade education; born Calif.; same house in 1935, occupation park superintendent state park
35. _____, Viola E., wife, age 44, 8th grade, born Calif.; park custodian state Park.

36. Siipola, Ernest, head, age 26, H4 education, born Calif.; woodsman Division of Forestry
37. Willett, Wm. A. lodger, age 25, 8th grade, born Missouri, woodsman Division of Forestry
38. Wood, Wm. P., lodger, age 24, 8th grade, born Missouri, woodsman Division of Forestry

Lynch, Michael G. Rangers of California’s State Parks. Over 125 Years of Park Protection and Service. 1996.
Pg. 32. Well known 1938 Rangers like Everett E. Powell, Jess T. Chaffee, and C.L. “Roy” Cashing at Pfeiffer Redwoods, Robert Coon at Mt. Diablo, Wm. L. Kenyon at Big Basin, Charles M. Lewis at Boulder Creek, and Elmer J. Pool at Richardson Grove were responsible for every aspect of the park operation. Construction of trials, campgrounds, roads and other facilities were often done solely by par staff, frequently using free or “appropriated” materials and only the labor they could produce themselves.

Carl C. Schnauer
DOB 26 March 1903, Calif.
DOD 28 July 1961, Santa Cruz

Park Associations:
Identified at Richardson Grove, no date, by Marguerite Cook
May 1, 1951 Park Roster
Carl C. Schnauer, Assistant Ranger, Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Crescent City

1910 U.S. Census, Santa Clara Co., Santa Clara
Schnauer, Chas., father, born Denmark, fruit farmer
____, Eleanora, mother, born Denmark
____, Carl C., age 7, son, born Calif.
Son, age 18, born Scotland
Roy, son, age 16, born at sea
Ola, daughter, age 20, born at sea

1920 U.S. Census, Santa Clara, University Precinct
Schnauer, Elinor, age 45
____, Carl C., son, age 18, sailor on sailing vessel

1930 U.S. Census, Alameda Co., Oakland, April, pg. 110A
37. Kuykendall, Walter, head, age 46, born Missouri. Tele Co.
38. ____ , Isabel, wife, age 44, born Canada
40. ____ , Mabel, daughter, age 25, born Calif.
1930 City Director, Oakland
Carl C. Schnauer, cable tester

1938 City Directory, Chowchilla
Carl C. Schnauer, rancher

1940 U.S. Census, Madera Co.
48. Schnauer, Carl, age 36, born Calif.; same house in 1935; 3rd year high school; cotton farmer
49. _____, Mable, wife, age 35
50. _____, Carl, son, age 6
51. _____, Barbara, daughter, age 4

Henry W. Saddler
Social Security Death Index
Henry W. Saddler, Eureka, dob 6 Jan. 1909; dod 29 Sept. 1987

Park Associations:
Identified at Richardson Grove, no date, by Marguerite Cook

May 1, 1951 Park Roster
Henry W. Saddler, on military leave, Richardson Grove State Park

Lynch, Michael G. Rangers of California’s State Parks. Over 125 Years of Park Protection and Service. 1996.
PG. 60. Photo of 1964 founding Board of Directors for the California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) represented many of the better known rangers in the park service at the time. Standing from the left: …Harry Saddler….

Veterans Affairs Death File

1959 Eureka City Directory
Henry W. Saddler (Florence A). Assistant Superintendent State Division of Beaches and Parks, home address 2918 Albee

HT (23 July 1950) Humboldt County’s Redwood Parks, Richardson Grove….by Marguerite Ross Davy, Richardson Grove, July 8—….Harry W. Saddler, who came in to Richardson’s Grove with his wife in April 1943,…is now Chief Ranger.

T-S (1 Oct. 1987) Obit Henry W. “Hank” Saddler, died Sept. 29, 1987 in Eureka at the age of 78. He was a native of Escondido and a resident of Eureka.

Mr. Saddler was a charter member of the California State Park Rangers Association. He was also a charter member of Save the Redwoods League and had served as a consultant for the organization.

Mr. Saddler had worked for the State Park Service at Palomar State Park and at Richardson Grove State Park. He served as chief ranger at Tamalpais State Park and as assistant
district superintendent for District 1 in Eureka. Mr. Saddler retired in July 1969. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served during WWII and the Korean conflict.

He is survived by his wife, Florence B. Saddler of Eureka; his sisters Delia Mikask of Springfield, Mass.; and Virginia McCallough of Oakland and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by brothers John J. Moreno and Eli Saddler. Memorial service at Pierce Chapel, Carl Anderson of District 1 office, California State Dept. of Parks and Recreation, officiating.

**William A. Weatherbee**

**Find a Grave**

**Social Security Death Index**

**Park Associations:**
Identified at Richardson Grove, no date. by Marguerite Cook

**Weaver, Harriett, Them Were the Days!, 1991**
Photo on front cover showing the Ranger Crew at Big Basin in 1945, included Bill Weatherbee.

**Lynch, Michael, California State Park Rangers. 2009**
Pg. 39. Group hoto 1945 Big Basin Rangers, included William A. Weatherbee.

**1951 Park Roster**
Richardson Grove Area, Richardson Grove, California
William A. Weatherbee, Chief Ranger

**1920 U.S. Census, Santa Barbara, Jan. pg. 106A**
20. Weatherbee, Alfred, head, age 34, born N.D., father Maine; mother Michigan, postman
21. ____, Wilhelmina, wife, age 32, born Maine
22. ____, Jeanette, daughter, age 13, born Calif.
23. ____, Geraldine, daughter, age 10, born Calif.
24. ____, Wm. A., son, age 6, born Calif.

**WWII Enlistment**
William A. Weatherbee, dob 1914, Calif.; living in Santa Cruz, enlistment 24 Jan. 1943 in San Francisco; 3 years of high school; civil occupation gardener, grounds keeper, parks, cemeteries, etc.; married.

**1940 U.S. Census, Ventura Co., Camarillo, April, pg. 6A**
4. Weatherbee, William A., head, age 26, 2 years high school; born Calif.; living in rural Ventura Co. in 1935. Occupation attendant State Hospital.
5. ____, Lenora, wife, age 23, 4 years high school; born Calif.; living in rural Ventura Co. in 1935.
**Lyle B. Keith**  
*Social Security Death Index*  
Lyle B. Keith, dob 5 Jan. 1919; dod 29 July 1999, last residence Avery, Calaveras County

**Park Associations**  
Identified at Richardson Grove, no date, by Marguerite Cook  
**May 1, 1951 Roster**  
Lyle B. Keith, Deputy Ranger, Doheny Beach State Park, Dana Point, California

**1940 U.S. Census, L.A., Glendale, April**  
71. Keith, Edward L., head, age 40, completed 4 years high school; born Iowa, living in L.A. in 1935; service manager dept. store  
72. ____, Rose, wife, age 44, Nebraska, 8\(^{th}\) grade  
73. ____, Lyle B., son, age 21, single, 2 years college; born Iowa, clerk general office

**Find a Grave**  
Lyle B. Keith, buried Buena Vista Cemetery, Murphys, Calaveras County, California  

**William J. Haussler**  
*Social Security Death Index*  
William J. Haussler, last residence Benicia, Solano Co., Calif.  
dob 3 Jan. 1922; dod 4 Oct. 2001

**Park Associations:**  
Identified at Richardson Grove, no date, by Cook  
**CSPRA, District Superintendents photo, 1928-1980**  
William J. Haussler

**1930 U.S. Census, Alameda Co., Oakland, April**  
3. Martin, Frank, head, age 61, born Calif.; parents Portugal; blacksmith motor buses  
4. ____, Bertha, wife, age 56, born Calif.; parents Germany  
5. ____, Louise, daughter, age 28, single, born Calif.  
6. Haussler, William, father-in-law, age 84, widower, born Germany  
7. ____, Mary, sister-in-law, age 33, widow; born Cali.  
8. ____, William J., nephew, age 8, born Calif.

**1940 U.S. Census, Alameda Co., Oakland**  
Martin/Haussler family  
Haussler, William J., nephew, age 18, 1\(^{st}\) year college; janitor public school

**WWII enlistment**  
William John Haussler, Alameda Co., 19 Feb. 1943 in Army, 3 years of college, married, semiskilled lineman, serviceman, telegraph, telephone power

**May 1, 1951 Roster of Personnel of division of Beaches and Parks, Sacramento on**
CSPRA website
Palomar Mountain State Park, Palomar Mountain
William J. Haussler, Assistant Ranger

CSPRA Parksanniversary.org/pages/supts/distsupt1928-1980.jpg
Photos of district superintendents 1928-1980. The “District Superintendents” were kingpins of State Park operations from 1928-1980s. By the 1970s, the state was divided up into six district, each headed up by a District Superintendent. In 1980s these positions were replaced by “Regional Directors” and later on by the three “Division Chiefs” of today.

- 27 photographs of district superintendents including:
  - Percy French
  - Bill Kenyon
  - Jim Tryner
  - Bill Haussler
  - Curt Mitchell
  - Carl Anderson


E. Garland Gray

Park Associations:
Identified at Richardson Grove, no date, by Cook
May 1, 1951 Roster of Personnel of division of Beaches and Parks, Sacramento on
CSPRA website
Northwest District, Weott
Edward R. Hickey State Park, Leggett
E.G. Gray, Assistant Ranger

E Percy French

Park Associations:
Sept. 1938 Roster
E.P. French, Dyerville, District Superintendent
Nov. 1, 1940 Roster
E. Percy French, Humboldt Redwoods, Dyerville, State Park Superintendent
Lynch, Michael, California State Park Rangers. 2009.
Pg. 62. All employee conference in 1940 at Big sur; group photo included Percy French.
May 1, 1951 Roster
Northwest District, Weott
E.P. French, District Superintendent

HS (26 April 1911) Getting Ready to Rush Railroad Work This Summer--....Within a few weeks, this equipment will arrive in this city and when the strip of road [wagon road] which is now being built for the N.W.P. Co. by Percy French is completed, will be shipped to the Thompson Bluff tunnel, where construction work will immediately be commenced....
HT (14 July 1932) State Park Head Here on Inspection—Colonel Charles B. Wing, Chief of the Division of State Parks, Department of Natural Resources, arrived here yesterday from Sacramento for an inspection of parks in this county and to investigate complaints relative to the closing of certain camping areas in southern Humboldt. He is being escorted about the parks by Enoch P. French, District Superintendent of State Parks in this area.

RR (8 June 1939) A request [to State Park Commission] by E.P. French, superintendent of state parks in the northern district, to cut 24 redwood trees between Dyerville and Miranda, as a safety measure along the Redwood Highway, was approved. French said the trees are in danger of falling across the highway.

The Commission granted a request by the Eureka Chamber of Commerce for additional public picnic grounds in state parks by adding Stephens Grove and another location near Dyerville or Weott to be selected by French.

1940 U.S. Census, Scotia, Dyerville State Highway, 12-46, pg. 556A
27. Pool, Elmer J., head, age 38, 8th grad education; born Calif.; lived in Sonoma Co. in 1935, occupation Park Custodian State Park
28. ____, Naomi, wife, age 40, 8th grade, born Calif.; Sonoma Co. in 1935
29. ____, Velma N., daughter, age 9, Calif.; Sonoma Co. in 1935
30. ____, Charles E., son, age 7, born Calif.; Sonoma Co. in 1935
31. ____, Arlene V., daughter, age ? but less than 5 years.
------
32. Cheetam, William, age 59, born Illinois, shop keeper, novelties/grocery
33. ____, Flonnie, wife, age 47, born N.C.
------
34. French, Enoch, head, age 57, 8th grade education; born Calif.; same house in 1935; occupation: park superintendent state park.
35. ____, Viola E., wife, age 44, 8th grade, born Calif.; park custodian state Park.

RR (8 Feb. 1940) Man Saved From Drowning in River by Percy French. Dyerville; [French help by a Forestry man; too boat they had and started for men drifting down river holding onto upset boat; rescued him]

HB (27 Aug. 1943) Pioneer Loggers, John H. French, Dies at Miranda [Percy’s father]

HT (23 July 1950) Humboldt County’s Redwood Parks; Richardson Grove Among Oldest of Still Among Best Tourist Attractions. By Marguerite Ross Davy, HT correspondent, Richardson Grove, July 8—There were no highways through this section at that time in 1902 when Percy French first visited what was then the forest land owned by a man named Reed, so far as he can recall.

French had to come in on horseback as there wasn’t even a wagon road to begin with. It took all day to go from Garberville to Richardson’s Grove in those days. Travel was over the mountains, following the trail of least resistance, and there were no river trails. Some were old government trails left by the soldiers who were in here at one time. Others, though no Indian
villages were ever found, due to the fact that undergrowth had grown over any revealing axe marks, were undoubtedly old Indian trails going through the mountains.

After ownership of Dewy [Devo] and Freeman interests, the State of California purchased Richardson’s Grove, naming it for Governor Richardson, not a park man, nor a lover of the redwoods, but due the honor nevertheless.

The State started camp fires that have been a sort of tradition of the parks ever since, building up from a few benches to the large circle it is today.

Percy French, who was born in Guerneville in Sonoma County and got his schooling in the woods, says that several years ago the grove was restricted to a limited number of camps, which was 150. He says, “The only destruction of redwood is by man. Earthquakes, fire, floods and everything is just nature’s way of pruning out, but the actual destruction of redwoods has been by mankind.”

Prevent Trampling. He explains that redwoods have no tap roots. They feed from a few inches from the surface of the ground, within the circumference of the tree itself, spread in a circle, and so the trampling by either animals or people will eventually kill them.

Redwood Parks need to be taken care of just like a garden, according to French.

French was born in 1882 and learned the woods from his father, John H. French, who took a contract for The Pacific Lumber Company to put logs on cars to go to the mills at Scotia. He remembers way back in 1890, feeding the oxen which made up lumbering teams.

He learned to cruise and cut timber from his father, and remembers how is father saved the first tree to be preserved for future generations in Guerneville. Several law suits were started over the tree and all around it is now second growth, but the original old tree still stands despite the will of man to the contrary.

[photo of Percy French, Superintendent of the Northern District of the State Division of Beaches and Parks]

HT (29 Aug. 1952) French Family Reunion Held on Aug. 17—One of the first pioneer families of Humboldt county met Aug. 17 for their 4th annual reunion at Hartsooks. Held in memorial of the late John French, well-known timber cruiser in this area, who was the head of the family…eight sons and three daughters; 7 sons and 2 daughter living; those present included E.P. French and his wife of Hartsooks [long list of family attending]

RR (11 June 1970) Obit Percy French, Noted Conservationist; age 89 of Richardson Grove. He was for more than 20 years head of the Northern California’s Beaches and Parks Dept. and prior to that period had won a reputation as a highly respected timber cruiser. An active member of Save the Redwoods League, he participated in redwood grove dedications with John D. Rockefeller, the late former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and the famed Bernard Baruch. He was a long-time friend of University of California Professor Emeritus of Forestry Emanuel Fritz.

Another long-time friend, former U.S. Parks Service director and Save the Redwoods League official Newton B. Drury read the eulogy at the encryption service held at Sunset Memorial Park, Eureka. A simply redwood wreath, a fitting memorial to a man who dedicated his life to the preservation of California’s redwood groves was placed on the casket....

Mr. French was born in Guerneville, one of 13 children of John H. French and the former Ella Foulkes. The family moved to Humboldt County when he was ten years old and he resided here the rest of his life.
Survivors: wife Viola; daughter Genevieve Sapore, Eureka; Irma Smith, Sacramento; Evelyn Roberts, Willow Creek; brother John H. French, Santa Cruz; Humboldt French, Oakland; Gilbert French, Garberville; Gwyene French, Eureka and a sister Victoria Waterman, San Jose; five grandchildren; 18 great grandchildren and 2 great, great grandchildren.

**Leonard Dean Fisher**
Dob 12 Sept. 1922; in Tulare Co.; dod 4 June 1979 in King Co., Calif..

**Park Associations:**
Identified at Richardson Grove, no date, by Marguerite Cook

**May 1951 Roster**
Central District, San Francisco
Portola State Park, La Honda
Leonard R. Fisher, Assistant Ranger

RR (21 May 1959) State Ranger Guest Speaker—Leonard Fisher, Chief Ranger at Richardson Grove, was the guest speaker at the last meeting of the Garberville Kiwanis Club. Fisher described how flood damages suffered in 1955 had been repaired and told members that campsites in the State Park had been increased this year from 130 to a total of 184, all ready for the summer tourist season. He also discussed plans for Benbow State Park….

RR (6 July 1961) Swim Program Switched to Richardson Grove….Through co-operation of Leonard Fisher, State Park Ranger…arrangements have been made to hold the classes at Richardson Grove….

RR (6 July 1961) Through co-operation of Leonard Fisher, State Park Ranger….arrangements have been made to hold the [swim] classes at Richardson Grove….

RR (27 July 1961) Benbow Lake Open for Water Skiing—Park Supervisor Leonard Fisher of Benbow Lake State Park stated today that efforts…have been crowned with success….

RR (19 Sept. 1963) Three Young Men Will Matriculate at Stanford….Bruce Fisher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Fisher of Richardson Grove, plans a career in engineering. A life member of the California Scholastic Federation, he has a state scholarship, a scholarship from the Elks Club, and George C. Jacobs scholarship. He will be at Stein House, a freshman dorm.

**James P. Tryner**

RR 22 Feb. 1962) Humboldt County Fares Well In State Park Development; More to Come, Tryner Says….James Tryner, District Superintendent, Division of Beaches and Parks.

RR (31 May 1962) Tryner Outlines What Bond Issue Will Mean to State Park Program in Humboldt County….James P. Tryner, Superintendent, District 1, Division of Beaches and Parks.

**Fred Eggimann**

May 1951 Parks Roster
Central District, San Francisco
Mount Diablo State Park
Fred H. Eggimann, Deputy Ranger

RR (29 June 1961) The State Division of Beaches and Parks announced today through Park Supervisor Fred Eggimann, the approval of a contract calling for placement of culverts and oiling of 5.4 miles of the Bull Creek Road through the Rockefeller Forest with Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

National Conference on State Parks, Sept. 1959 to April 1960, comments.
California: Fred Eggimann, Weott; Douglas W. Metcalf, Carlotta; Gordon H. Sears, Weott

Carl Anderson
RR (6 Oct. 1960) Park Supervisor Carl Anderson of Humboldt Redwoods State Park reported this week work is nearing completion on the first section of erosion prevention work along the banks of Bull Creek for the 1960 season….

RR. 4 Jan. 1962) A general review of the activities of the Department of Beaches and Parks under the recent reorganization of state agencies was given by Carl Anderson, Supervisor of Humboldt Redwoods State Park, when he spoke at the weekly luncheon meeting of the Garberville Rotary Club.

Curtis Mitchell

Park Associations:
Identified at Richardson Grove, no date, by Marguerite Cook
CSPRA , photos of district superintendent 1928-1980
Curt Mitchell

Mountainparks.org/about-mpf/history/
History of Mountain Parks Foundation….In 1973 a group of park personnel and private citizens organized Santa Cruz Mountains Natural History Association…Curtis Mitchell one of nine people

Sonoma State Historic Park General Plan, June 1985. Report prepared by eight people under the direction of 12 people, including Curtis Mitchell, Regional Director Northern Region Headquarters.

Doug Metcalf
HS (17 June 1965) Garberville Chamber Meets to Talk Community Service--….The directors…heard from Doug Metcalf, newly-appointed ranger at Richardson Grove. He outlined some of the problems at Benbow Lake, but stated that the Benbow Lake would be in by July 1….
T-S (16 June 1967) Relocation of Benbow Park Facilities Completed; Freeway Route is Cleared of Units within Deadline, Garberville—Garberville Rotary Club members were given information on the relocation of some of the facilities at Benbow State Park because of freeway construction and funds spent on Benbow Dam at their Tuesday meeting….Program chairman Herb Heinz presented two Division of Beaches and Parks employees, Doug Metcalf, supervisor from Richardson Grove, and Gordon Hill, district engineer from Eureka. [more]

T-S (23 June 1970) Dedication Held for Campsites…Doug Metcalf, manager Piercy area

T-S (1 Aug. 1971) Garberville Swim Class Enrolls 237, Garberville—The annual Community Coordinating Council swim program held earlier this month at Benbow Lake State Park had a total enrollment of 237 children. Through arrangements with Doug Metcalf, Division of Beaches and Parks, the facilities of the State Park were offered to the Council this year free of charge….

Jim Hibbert
RR (8 May 1986) Jim Hibbert, Eel River District Chief Ranger with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, retired May 1986 after 27½ years of State Park service.

  Hibbert, who began his career as a State Park attendant at Standish-Hickey State Recreation Area in 1958, served throughout the state including assignments as a Ranger at San Mateo Coast Beaches, Henry Cowell Redwoods, Hearst Cattle, Carpinteria State Beach, Salton Sea State Recreation Area, and Cuyamaca Ranch State Park.

  In 1972 Jim began a five-year assignment as the District 3 Interpretive Specialist. While in the position, Hibbert instituted a Junior Ranger Program which has continued on a statewide basis.

In 1977, Hibbert was assigned to Richardson Grove State Park as Manager of the Piercy Area, a position he held until the consolidation of the Dyerville and Piercy areas into the Eel River District.

Martha Black
RR (1 May 1986) Save the Redwoods League Adds Acreage to Richardson [photo, The upper stretches of the Durphy Creek drainage. The Save the Redwoods League recently purchased 160 acres here as an addition to Richardson Grove State Park.]—Richardson Grove State Park near Piercy grew by 160 acres recently when the Save the Redwoods League purchased the parcel on the upper stretches of Durphy Creek. According to the league, acquisition of the parcel, which lies west of the park, will enable the Parks Department to conduct reforestation, rehabilitation and slope stabilization needed to prevent gravel from washing downstream. The league said that conditions contributed to the extensive flooding in the park last winter. The acquisition will also provide a buffer for the old-growth redwoods in the heart of the park.

  As well as providing drinking water for Richardson Grove, Durphy Creek is also a major tributary of the South Fork of the Eel River. Ranger Martha Black said the creek was once a major spawning stream for both steelhead and salmon. While some steelhead still return, the salmon have disappeared. Black said it is hoped stream restoration will once again promote the return of anadromous fish. The area is forested primarily with second-growth redwood, Douglas fir, madrone and tan oak.

Jim Neal
19th Annual CSPRA Sponsored 2011 California State Park Retirees Rendezvous, Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2011…The team that has planned the Rendezvous the past 18 years has hung up the spurs and passed the reins on to a new generation of retirees. Our sincere thanks to Kirk Wallace, Jim Neal, Jim Peat and many others who have been the core of past events.