

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



NPS History Collection

NPS Women Cartes de Visite Collection



Enid Michael, c. 1920. NPS Photo.

Enid Michael

Yosemite National Park

Park Ranger & Naturalist, 1921-1942

- Born Enid Reeve on May 27, 1883 in Gilroy, CA.
- Moved to Los Angeles in 1897 where she attended the State Normal School.
- Moved to Pasadena, CA around 1907 to work as a 3rd grade teacher.
- Regularly attended Sierra Club outings, where she met Charles Wilson Michael, the Yosemite assistant postmaster, around 1909.
- Married Michael and join him in Yosemite National Park in 1919.
- Soon after her arrival, as a volunteer she helped create a wildflower, shrub, and tree display on the porch of the administrative building.
- Hired as a seasonal park ranger from 1921-1927.
- Beginning in 1928, she was hired under the temporary ranger-naturalist title.
- Was one of the most prolific writers at Yosemite, submitting 195 articles to Yosemite's *Nature Notes*, 357 articles to the *Stockton Record*, and at least 19 other articles to different publications.
- By 1929, she had collected and mounted over 1,000 different plant specimens and recorded 120 different species of birds.
- Established and cultivated a large wildflower garden behind Yosemite's museum.
- Worked as a temporary ranger-naturalist each summer until 1942, when, due to World War II, the NPS eliminated many naturalist positions.
- After her NPS career ended, she returned to L.A.
- Her husband Charles died in 1941. She remarried a man named Benson in the late 1950s.
- Died February 11, 1966.

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