



*The CSPRA*

# *Wave*

*Newsletter*

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 3

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2014

*"...to support, protect, and defend the integrity of State Parks for present and future generations."*

## ***THE YOSEMITE GRANT***

***June 30, 1864***



***Parks for the People***



## CSPRA OFFICERS

### **PRESIDENT**

**Matt Bellah**, Capital District  
(916) 432-3127, matt@cspira.com

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

**Mark Hada**, Capital District  
(530) 676-7317, mark@cspira.com

### **TREASURER**

**Victor Bjelajac**, Marin District  
(415) 388-2719, victor@cspira.com

### **DIRECTORS**

**Steve Ptomey**, Tehachapi District  
(559) 972-5844, steve@cspira.com

**Mike McMenamy**, Santa Cruz Dist.  
(831) 901-7977, mike@cspira.com

**Jan Wooley**, Archeology, History &  
Museums Division  
(916) 653-8142, Jan.Wooley@parks.ca.gov

**Rob Walton**, Marin District  
rob@cspira.com

**Mike Lynch**, Gold Fields District  
530-305-1166, mikelynch@cspira.com

**Nina Gordon**, retired, Interp & Ed Divison  
916-804-3246, nina@cspira.com

### **HISTORIAN**

**Pat Clark-Gray**, Monterey District  
(831)384-5119, graywolf50@comcast.net

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**Allison Pedley**, Executive Manager  
P.O. Box 10606, Truckee, CA 96162  
(530) 550-1268  
allison@cspira.com

### **INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS**

**Jeffery B. Price**, Webmaster  
(805) 278-9201, webmaster@cspira.com  
www.cspira.com

### **The CSPRA Wave**

**Janet Carle**, Editor  
(760) 647-6431, wave@cspira.com  
(ISSN0087-9176)

is published by CSPRA, P.O. Box 10606,  
Truckee, CA 96162

*cover photo by*  
**Alfred H. Golub**

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***



*by Matt Bellah, CSPRA President*

I am sure most of us park professionals are in the throes of another busy summer working in parks. And our Department, California State Parks, is still in a state of flux.

The Parks Forward Commission has a draft report with several proposed recommendations out circulating for comment and review. Myself and other CSPRA Board Members have participated in work groups of park employees discussing and commenting on the report. I, once again, encourage all park professionals, past and present, to review the draft report and to submit their comments to the Commission.

And the Department's executive leadership is also changing once again. California State Park's Director Anthony L. Jackson resigned as of June 30th, 2014. An Acting Director, Lisa Mangat, was appointed July 3rd, 2014. Prior to this new assignment, Director Mangat was already working with California State Parks executive leadership, serving as a Special Assistant to the Director since October 2013. Director Mangat also has broad experience working for the State of California, most recently as a Budget Program Manager at the Department of Finance. Myself and other Capital District staff have worked with Director Mangat in her Special Assistant to the Director position, and we are confident the Department is in good hands.

I can probably speak for most park professionals when I say, that we happen to be a very passionate and dedicated bunch. So, while several of the recent incidents and events (i.e. the Parks scandals in the media, outside agency reports about the department, changes in leadership, etc.) don't affect our daily job tasks, we still care deeply about our Department, the visitors we serve, and the resources we protect and interpret.

And while we may not be able to control these things, we can continue to provide great service to our visitors and our resources. We can also continue to enjoy some of the best jobs in the world. I know that sounds a little cheesy, but if I do take the time to reflect on some of the experiences I've had working in parks, it is pretty clear that a career working in parks is one of the best careers out there. I can remember working as a seasonal Ranger on an island in Boston Harbor, and standing on top of a historic coastal defense fort from the 1830's, and watching the picturesque sunset on the Boston Harbor and skyline. I can remember all of the times spent hiking alone, on foot patrol in the Santa Cruz Mountains, walking through majestic coast redwood groves, that towered above me. And so many other wonderful experiences which I am thankful for and I have been lucky enough to get paid for.

So whether it is the larger issues facing our Department, or even just the busy summer season that creates its own pressure and stress, take a minute to reflect on some of the wonderful experiences that you have had working in parks. While you can't cash the sunsets and other wonderful experiences at the bank, they help remind us all what a great job and responsibility we have as park professionals.

## **NEXT PARKS TRAINING CONFERENCE**

**MARCH 2015 in SAN DIEGO**



# 150 Years of Parks for the People

by **Janet Carle**, WAVE Editor

The majestic Sequoia trees, that have lived so long and witnessed so much, glowed in the early morning light of June 30, 2014. It was a special day for many reasons. In a few hours, a gathering would take place amongst the trees to honor the moment, 150 years earlier in 1864, when President Lincoln signed a bill granting the “Yo-Semite Valley, and the land embracing the Mariposa Big Tree Grove ...for public use, resort and recreation.” This was the first time in the history of the nation that a tract of land had been set aside and protected for the benefit of future generations. Looking back, it is remarkable that this happened in the midst of the Civil War, with the country torn apart, in a Congressional act passed almost unopposed to reach Lincoln’s desk.

June 30, 2014 was also an important day for all of us, the keepers of the people’s parks. The Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove were granted not to the federal government, but to the State of California. Governor Lowe of California accepted the Grant, a critical step in the process, on September 30, 1864. California was a very important player in this grand experiment of protected places. The federal government would not step in at Yosemite until 1890. For 26 years, California was in charge, hiring Guardian Galen Clark, and setting the stage for what was to follow.

It was a proud day for California State Parks, as the crowd thickened at the Mariposa Grove. All the details came together in a ceremony that honored a very special anniversary in a wonderful way. State Park Co-chairs of the 150th Anniversary, Mike Lynch and Donna Pozzi, helped plan these events over several years, and their hard work was there for all to see.

The Mounted Color Guard arrived, with National Park Service Ranger



Shelton Johnson as a Buffalo Soldier and retired State Park Ranger **Miles Standish** as Guardian Galen Clark, along with two National Park and two State Park Rangers on beautiful horses. The speeches began, honoring the Grant as the beginning of “America’s Best Idea” and honoring all those who made it happen-- the pioneers, who recognized the beauty of the landscape and the threats it faced; the photographers and artists, who captured the beauty and allowed the decision-makers in Washington D.C. to see it; the big thinkers, who were able to envision a place protected for the people for all time; an open-minded President, who signed the bill protecting a place he would never see. The stars aligned for the seed to be planted.

The festivities ended with a ceremonial breaking of the concrete beneath our feet with mallets. The Mariposa Grove will be restored, with financial support from the Yosemite Conservancy, by removing the parking lot in the heart of the Lower Grove. The trees will have more room to breathe and grow and the visitor services will be re-located to a better place. It is a fitting tribute to the trees that we are

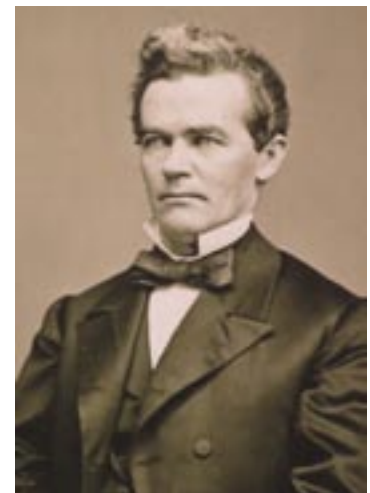
willing to put their needs first and correct our past mistakes.

Another ceremony took place in Yosemite Valley that same afternoon, not far from Yosemite Falls. It was 97 degrees in the Valley, but the heat did not diminish the enthusiasm of celebration.

A group photo was taken of National Park Service and California State Park staff, a tribute to our shared heritage of 150 years. Abraham Lincoln even made an appearance, as he finally visited Yosemite in the shape of Gary Talley.

150 years is a long time. We traveled as a people from the first awe-struck viewers of the Yosemite to the tree harvesters

and miners and sheep herders, to the Guardians and tourists, to millions of people from all over the world who visit this Valley and Big Trees and all the wonderful parklands surrounding the original Grant. There are many challenges ahead. But perhaps we have already met the biggest challenge, which was to try to do it at all.



*U.S. Senator **John Conness** introduced the Yosemite Grant bill in Congress. A Sierra peak is named in his honor.*

## *150th Anniversary of the Yosemite Grant*

### *Ceremony in the Mariposa Grove*



*Yosemite National Park Superintendent **Don Neubacher** salutes the Color Guard of National and State Park Rangers.*



***Brian Cahill**, Assistant Deputy Director, and **Donna Pozzi**, Chief of the Interpretation and Education Division ( and 150th Anniversary Co-Chair) attended the Grove Ceremony.*



***Emily Peterson**, North Coast Redwoods, **Nate Smith**, Millerton Lake SRA and **Miles Standish** as Galen Clark, the State Park Color Guard.*



## 150th Anniversary of the Yosemite Grant



*State Park staff from all over California journeyed to the Mariposa Grove .  
Center: Chief Deputy Director **Aaron Robertson**, who spoke at the Yosemite Valley ceremony.*



*The Mariposa Grove will be restored, thanks to the generosity of the Yosemite Conservancy. Dignitaries, including Lt. Governor **Gavin Newsom**, used ceremonial mallets to begin breaking up the parking lot that will be removed from the Lower Grove of Giant Sequoias.*



***Mike Tollefson** and **Phil Pillsbury** of the Yosemite Conservancy present a multi-million dollar check to the National Park Service's **Don Neubacher** and **Jon Jarvis**, to begin restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees.*



## *Ceremony in Yosemite Valley*



*MIKE LYNCH, Co-chair of the 150th Anniversary Committee, enjoyed the moment in historic uniform*

*<< STATE PARK COLOR GUARD: Sarah Morgan, Folsom Lake and Jeanne Sisson, Twin Cities SVRA*



*Interpretive Specialist **Dave Marquart** and Supervising Ranger **Josh Heitzmann** traveled to Yosemite Valley from the Eastern Sierran parks of Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve and Bodie State Historic Park.*



*Visitors to Yosemite on this historic day enjoyed a range of displays about the shared heritage of State and National Parks.*



## 150th Anniversary of the Yosemite Grant



National and State Park Rangers celebrate their shared heritage in Yosemite Valley 150 years after the Yosemite Grant.

Below: Yosemite Superintendent **Don Neubacher**, National Park Service Director **Jon Jarvis**, and State Park Superintendent **Dana Jones** display the commemorative sign presented to Yosemite by the State Parks 150th Committee.





# Retirees Rendezvous

October 7 - 9, 2014

## Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park

see [CSPRA.com/pages/rendezvous](http://CSPRA.com/pages/rendezvous)



Everyone is invited to the 22nd Annual Retiree's Rendezvous October 7 - 9, Tuesday - Thursday, at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park.

Since its inception in 1992, the main reason for the Retirees' Rendezvous has been enjoying the camaraderie of old and new friends in retirement. It is an informal gathering of friends and acquaintances who have a common tie through State Parks as Active or Retired Employees, family and friends. There will be some changes in 2014 to make this a larger event as part of CSPRA's 50th Anniversary, however, the atmosphere and camaraderie will remain the same.

The Clyde Strickler Road-Kill Grill, a family style potluck, will be held on the first evening. Bring whatever you run over, catch, shoot or buy, to BBQ for yourself, (or to share), and a side dish or dessert to share with others. The CSPRA Board will hold their quarterly meeting at the Rendezvous. Fun activities will include a Scenic Coastal Bike Tour, Big Sur

Lighthouse Tour & visit to the Condor Center as well as Campfire Program night and Rendezvous Potluck. Advance registration will be needed for camping, contact Jeff Price at [webmaster@cspira.com](mailto:webmaster@cspira.com). A limited number of cabins may be available. See [www.cspira.com](http://www.cspira.com) for details or call Big Sur Lodge at (831) 667-3100 and ask for Debra, ext.13.



*The 2012 cake!*

**Glen McGowan, Ken Gray and John Mott** enjoy a bike ride at Andrew Molera State Park during the 2012 Rendezvous at Big Sur.





## A WAVE Goodbye

### DANIEL RUSHING

1933-2014

Dan was born in the East Bay and worked as an apprentice carpenter after high school.

He began his State Park career as a Ranger in 1955 at Palomar Mountain. He worked at San Clemente for 6 years, then returned to the mountains in 1965 at Plumas-Eureka State Park. He switched to the maintenance and worked at Marshall Gold Discovery SHP. Dan retired as the Maintenance Supervisor at Columbia SHP in 1993 after 39 years of State Park service. Dan was laid to rest in the Johnsville Cemetery near Plumas-Eureka. Retired Superintendent **John Kolb** and retired Northern Division Chief **Carl Chavez** served as pallbearers.



### KEITH STALLCOP

1958 - 2014

Keith, born in Texas, worked for State Parks from 1987-2013. He was an Eagle Scout, volunteer fire fighter, kayaker and hunter.



### JACK HIEHLE

Jack worked as a surveyor on the Alcon Highway in Alaska during WWII. He worked for the State of California for 36 years, the first half with the Department of Fish and Game as a biologist. He later became the first Wildlife Ecologist for State Parks, and retired in 1984 as the Supervising Ecologist and head of the Natural Heritage Section. Jack was active in the National Ski Patrol, the Boy Scouts, the Audubon Society and the Sierra Club.



### WARDELL NOEL

Wardell died in June from cancer at the age of 68. Originally from Philadelphia, he served in the Navy on the aircraft carrier USS Ranger. He became a State Park Technician in 1975 at Big Basin Redwoods. He worked on the coast and at Auburn, but found his niche in the Sonoma Valley at Annadel State Park. He worked there for nearly 20 years.

With his easy-going nature, dreadlocks and fondness for reggae

music, Wardell was known by many visitors to Annadel as "Rasta Ranzah". He liked to tell people his name meant "watcher of the Dell".

Wardell helped create the Planet Walk at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. After he retired in 2004, Wardell volunteered to train docents, taught yoga, gardened and played drums. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Chelle, his children Robin and Talisman, and a granddaughter.



### MARTIN STOYE

Martin was probably the last of the unbadged PI rangers when he retired in 2004. Born and raised in Marin, he loved the out-of-doors. He completed his credential work and started his teaching career at Sonoma Valley Unified School District. He worked for the National Park Service as a Seasonal Ranger-Naturalist at Yosemite National Park, then went on to Devil's Postpile National Monument. Martin became a Permanent-Intermittent (unbadged) ranger and worked in Sonoma from the late 70s to 2004. He primarily worked at Sugarloaf Ridge SP, but also worked at Annadel SP and Jack London SHP. Martin is survived by his wife Carol, his daughters Jennifer and Amanda and 2 grandchildren.

### GREGORY HAYES

Greg passed away from cancer in

July at age 62. He lived and worked as a Ranger at Jack London State Historic Park in the Sonoma Valley from 1978 to 2003.

During his career he absorbed much of the special atmosphere of the park, both its natural and cultural richness. The details of the famous writer Jack London's life were his personal field of study. He was unofficially known as "the soul of Jack London State Historic Park".

Generations of docents and park staff came to depend on Hayes for both his encyclopedic knowledge of London, and for his compelling calmness in any circumstance, the gentle authority he wore as a senior spokesman for the park.

Since his retirement in 2003 Greg spent much time volunteering as a docent at Jack London SHP training docents, leading Wolf House and Beauty Ranch tours, and helping write exhibit text. He received his Master's degree from Sonoma State University, for his thesis, "Jack London's Agrarian Superheroes." This came about due to his close working relationship with the Jack London SHP interpretive collection. He sat on the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Natural History Association, serving as president for several years, and helped his organization and the community keep the park he worked at for a quarter of a century from closing in 2012. Greg is survived by his wife Robin and daughter Nicolette.



**PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM IN  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS**

**Membership Mail to: CSPRA,**  
**Allison Pedley, P.O. Box 10606,**  
**Truckee, CA 96162. Or join online**  
**at: <http://www.cspira.com>**

*For all except "Active" or "Active  
retired" payroll deduction, please  
include check for 1 year's dues.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Job Classification \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

District, Section, or Park: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership type (Circle one):

Active \$10/month

Active Retired \$60/year (\$5/mo.)

Supporting \$36/year

Organization \$50/year

Benefactor \$1,000/life

Check one: I prefer getting the WAVE  
\_\_\_\_\_ as a PDF file by email;  
\_\_\_\_\_ by postal mail (hard copy)

May we print your name as a new member in  
the WAVE? \_\_\_\_\_ I hereby authorize  
the State Controller to deduct from my salary  
and transmit as designated an amount for  
membership dues in the California State Park  
Rangers Association. This authorization will  
remain in effect until cancelled by myself or  
by the organization. I certify I am a member  
of the above organization and understand that  
termination of my membership will cancel all  
deductions made under this organization.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



*Ranger **Tom Gunther** of North Coast Redwoods photographed his truck  
proudly displaying the 150th celebration logos, with Half Dome in the  
background.*

## EXECUTIVE MANAGER



*by Allison Pedley*



The CSPRA office has been pretty quiet lately, likely due to the fact that most of you are knee-deep in all things involving park management this summer. The few messages I have received are more members commenting on how wonderful the 2014 California Parks Training was. For all of you involved in making that happen, I hope you know how appreciated it was!

I do not have any new members to report, but I would like to give a shout-out to a recent retiree and dear friend, **Don Schmidt**. Don was an active member of the CSPRA Board for several years (a tenure which included

chairing a parks conference). Don (above) spent much of his career here in Truckee, and somehow managed to become a legend in this town. Every time I turn around, if someone hears of my affiliation with State Parks, they immediately ask me if I know Don Schmidt. Teachers at the elementary school. My hair stylist. The local bike shop owner. It's become almost predictable that when I meet someone new in town, they will be sure to ask me about Don Schmidt. And when I run into these people again, they remember that I know Don and ask how he's doing! Don -- you are missed in Truckee, and you will be missed in State Parks. Enjoy retirement!



## Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops



*by Jeff Price  
Seriously Retired*

Mixed Metaphor: A combination of thoughts that when strung together produce a ridiculously funny effect of melded clichés. Send us along any overheard slips of the tongue -  
[malaprops@cspira.com](mailto:malaprops@cspira.com)

**Low overhead it seems . . .**  
*He's a vastly improved player, and this year his ceiling is through the roof.*

**A creeping cloudy augmentation?**  
*. . . our planned outdoor activities will be held in the cafeteria in case of incremental weather.*

**Certainly not a real writer, however!**  
*The reporter stated that the young musician also has aspirations to become a fictional writer.*

**Well put!**  
*Well then tell me what you said, I don't want to take words out of your mouth.*

**Grapes of wrath or vinegar?**  
*Sure she is upset, but she's just crying sour apples!*

## District/Program Representatives

District	Name	Email Address
LEES	John Pelonio	<a href="mailto:John.Pelonio@parks.ca.gov">John.Pelonio@parks.ca.gov</a>
Capital	Rick Becton	<a href="mailto:Rick.Becton@parks.ca.gov">Rick.Becton@parks.ca.gov</a>
Channel Coast	Tyson Butzke	<a href="mailto:Tyson.Butzke@parks.ca.gov">Tyson.Butzke@parks.ca.gov</a>
Colorado Desert	Gail Sevens	<a href="mailto:Gail.Sevens@parks.ca.gov">Gail.Sevens@parks.ca.gov</a>
Diablo Vista	Carl Nielson	<a href="mailto:Carl.Nielson@parks.ca.gov">Carl.Nielson@parks.ca.gov</a>
	Ann Meneguzzi	<a href="mailto:Ann.Meneguzzi@parks.ca.gov">Ann.Meneguzzi@parks.ca.gov</a>
Grants & Local Services	Ruth Bergener	<a href="mailto:ruth.bergener@gmail.com">ruth.bergener@gmail.com</a>
Inland Empire	Sue Near	<a href="mailto:Sue.Near@parks.ca.gov">Sue.Near@parks.ca.gov</a>
Interpretation /Ed. Div.	Nina Gordon	<a href="mailto:elephantseal@sbcglobal.net">elephantseal@sbcglobal.net</a>
Legal Division	Tara Lynch	<a href="mailto:Tara.Lynch@parks.ca.gov">Tara.Lynch@parks.ca.gov</a>
Marin	Cecilia Rejas	<a href="mailto:Cecilia.Rejas@parks.ca.gov">Cecilia.Rejas@parks.ca.gov</a>
Mendocino	Tracy Weisberg	<a href="mailto:Tracy.Weisberg@parks.ca.gov">Tracy.Weisberg@parks.ca.gov</a>
Monterey	Pat Clark-Gray	<a href="mailto:Patricia.Clark-Gray@parks.ca.gov">Patricia.Clark-Gray@parks.ca.gov</a>
Mott Training Center	Sara M. Skinner	<a href="mailto:Sara.Skinner@parks.ca.gov">Sara.Skinner@parks.ca.gov</a>
Northern Buttes	Lori Martin	<a href="mailto:rangerlori158@gmail.com">rangerlori158@gmail.com</a>
Oceano Dunes	Brent Marshall	<a href="mailto:Brent.Marshall@parks.ca.gov">Brent.Marshall@parks.ca.gov</a>
Off-Highway Veh. Div.	Natalie Lohi	<a href="mailto:Natalie.Lohi@parks.ca.gov">Natalie.Lohi@parks.ca.gov</a>
Orange Coast	Blythe Liles	<a href="mailto:Blythe.Liles@parks.ca.gov">Blythe.Liles@parks.ca.gov</a>
Russian River	Jenny Donovan	<a href="mailto:Jenny.Donovan@parks.ca.gov">Jenny.Donovan@parks.ca.gov</a>
San Luis Obispo	Nick Franco	<a href="mailto:nfranco@hearstcastle.com">nfranco@hearstcastle.com</a>
Santa Cruz	Charles Edgemon	<a href="mailto:charlesedgemon@earthlink.net">charlesedgemon@earthlink.net</a>
	Linda Hitchcock	<a href="mailto:Linda.Hitchcock@parks.ca.gov">Linda.Hitchcock@parks.ca.gov</a>
Sierra	Susan Grove	<a href="mailto:shastavista@gmail.com">shastavista@gmail.com</a>
Tehachapi	Sean Malis	<a href="mailto:sean.malis@us.army.mil">sean.malis@us.army.mil</a>
Hollister/Hungry Valley	Jeff Gaffney	<a href="mailto:Jeff.Gaffney@parks.ca.gov">Jeff.Gaffney@parks.ca.gov</a>
HQ	Mark Hada	<a href="mailto:Mark.Hada@parks.ca.gov">Mark.Hada@parks.ca.gov</a>

## GrayBears



*Attention retired members!*  
Want to keep in touch after you leave DPR? Join the GrayBears email ListServ. It is FREE and EASY to use.  
[graybears@cspira.com](mailto:graybears@cspira.com)

**Do you know someone who is retiring?** CSPRA provides plaques when members retire. Tell Allison: (530)550-1268;  
[allison@CSPRA.com](mailto:allison@CSPRA.com)

## GET CONNECTED

### CSPRA Online

Catch up on CSPRA activities, contact your District Reps, Board or Officers, read the WAVE: [www.cspira.com](http://www.cspira.com)

Find us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/CSPRA](http://www.facebook.com/CSPRA)

## Are you traveling soon?

Want to find out what's going on in the State Parks around you? Visit the events page on the California State Parks website to find out what's happening in parks around the state:  
[www.parks.ca.gov/events](http://www.parks.ca.gov/events)



California State Park Rangers Association  
P.O. Box 10606  
Truckee, CA 96162  
[www.cspra.com](http://www.cspra.com)

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO.  
163, PASO  
ROBLES, CA

## **CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION**

### **Mission Statement**



**The California State Park Rangers Association is an organization of park professionals dedicated to advancement of the highest principles of public service, and established to support, protect, and defend the integrity of State Parks for present and future generations.**



***Founded 1964***