National Park Service
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Viola Shannon, 1961. NPS History Collection photo.

Viola V. Shannon

Carlsbad Caverns National Park Guide, 1941-1968

- Born Vilsie Viola Henderson on November 10, 1903 in Dimmitt, Texas.
- Grew up in Olton, TX where she married.
- Boyd M. Shannon on July 3, 1922.
- Together they had one son.
- Moved to Paducah, TX and then in 1929 moved to Fort Worth.
- Moved to Carlsbad in 1937 when her husband started working with US Borax.
- Worked at department stores in the area.
- Hired as a laborer at Carlsbad Caverns National Park in 1941.
- Promoted to elevator operator in 1942 and conducted some of her own elevator repairs.
- Promoted to tour leader in 1943.
- Passed the civil service exam in 1949, earning a permanent position.
- Boyd died in 1955.
- In 1956, promoted to park guide.
- Retired on April 30, 1968.
- Awarded the Department of the Interior's Commendable Service Award on August 1, 1968.
- Died November 1, 1971, age 67, in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

This research was made possible in part by a grant from the National Park Foundation.