



# OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Fall 2015

## *President's Message—Jim Rice*

It's been a terrible wildfire season with U.S. Forest Service casualties and Forest Service retirees' homes lost. As described on page 3, your Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund has been tapped to help alleviate—in some small way—these tragedies.

It was great to see and talk with so many of you at the Summer Picnic, and a pleasure to have Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Jim Pena** and a couple future OldSmokeys from the Mt. Hood National Forest attend, too. The culinary arts instructor from the Timber Lake Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center and five of his students provided an excellent picnic lunch to about 120 OldSmokeys. Thank you Job Corps! Special thanks to **David Jay** for donating one of his beautiful wooden clocks for the raffle to support the PNWFSA Grant Fund; to **Rick Larson** for reserving the picnic area and coordinating with the Job Corps; and to **Bev Pratt** and **Deb Warren** for welcoming, selling raffle tickets, collecting tips for the Job Corps students, and doing the name tags.

This edition of our *OldSmokeys Newsletter* begins a new era. **Les Joslin**, editor for almost ten years, would like to retire someday. Your Board of Directors, seeking a new editor, has voted to reduce the newsletter to an average of 16-page issues to reduce the work it takes to produce the newsletter. We hope this helps attract a new editor as it reduces duplication of news OldSmokeys get through other sources such as **Vern Clapp's** frequent *e-Notes* and as we transition to other formats for quicker delivery of perishable news.

Also, please note that annual membership dues are due and payable on January 1 (article above Bill for Collection to be clipped out and sent in with your dues on page 4). Annual dues payers' timely response will save our membership chair and his assistant many days of tracking down and reminding folks to send in their \$20.00. The Bill for Collection can also be used to convert to Lifetime membership in the PNWFSA as well as contribute to the PNWFSA's three emergency, grant, and general funds.

Finally, I know all OldSmokeys who attend next month's national U.S. Forest Service reunion in Albuquerque will have a great time at the Rally on the Rio. Our amigos, the Region 3 Amigos, are sponsoring the reunion, and I hope it will be a great success. The 2018 national Forest Service reunion, to be sponsored by our Region 8 friends, will be held in beautiful Asheville, North Carolina.

*Jim Rice*

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Visit the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association website at: [www.oldsmokeys.org](http://www.oldsmokeys.org)

*Annual Dues for 2016 are Due on January 1. See page 4!*

## Forum

### “If I Had More Time, I Would Have Written a Shorter Letter”

That quotation—attributed variously to Mark Twain, George Bernard Shaw, Winston Churchill, and myriad others—reflects the merits of shorter, yet still complete, written work attainable through time well spent.

Beginning with this issue, at the direction of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Board of Directors, your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will be a shorter but still complete digest of the news and articles to which you have become accustomed in issues that will average 16 pages.

This will save you time and reduce duplication of the news you receive. This will facilitate attraction of and transition to a future editor. In preparing my remaining issues, I will focus on shorter summary articles and entries that still keep you well informed.

This is the thirty-ninth issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* I will have produced since I took over editorship from Old-Smokey **Wendall Jones** with the Spring 2006 issue. My first four issues ran 16 pages, but the page counts crept up until issues in recent years averaged 32 pages—and one recent issue was 40 pages.

Henceforth, in addition to shorter news articles and feature stories, I will focus on more concise entries in the New Members, Memories, and Letters sections in 16-page issues. The printing process requires issues in multiples of four pages. I will encourage a new editor to do likewise.

Over time, the plan is to transition more news and information to the PNWFSA website at <[www.oldsmokeys.org](http://www.oldsmokeys.org)> for quicker delivery to you.

--Les Joslin

### “You Can Lead a Horse to Water...” Editorial is Right on Target!

**Les Joslin**'s “You Can Lead a Horse to Water...” editorial in the Summer 2015 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* is right on target.

The Agency to Match the Mountains team has made a crucial recommendation, adjusted to meet budget needs, apparently only to be rejected by the WO and some other units. This is unbelievable to me! It is as plain as the nose on one's face that the Forest Service desperately needs this recommendation.

I am a third generation [Forest Service member] and perhaps among the last to have had formal orientation to the Forest Service mission and organizational values that have been vital to the strength of the agency. The investment in new employee orientation results in returns that far exceed the minimal cost and effort it requires. What am I missing [that may be behind] the reluctance to proceed? Maybe there is more going on than I am privy to.

In the meantime, a big thanks to **Les, Lyle Laverty, Rich Stem,** and **Roger Deaver** for this effort.

—Zane Smith

### Thanks for Forest Officer Course Support

Thanks, Zane, for the shared vision of “what it takes” to build and maintain a successful organization. As are you and so many others, we are baffled at the reluctance of the current leadership to accept the “helping hands” of an army of retired Forest Service folks who could help with this simple but vital investment.

—Roger Deaver

### Proposed Basic Forest Officer Course is Needed Now More Than Ever!

Zane's and Les' comments on [the proposed Basic Forest Officer Course] remind me of the frustration we all had when the Regional Forester cancelled the Region 6 Leadership Program that had proven highly successful in broadening the development of future leaders in the agency. Individuals from across the U.S. and other agencies applied to be among the few selected each year. The fact that a Regional Forester “felt it was too expensive” was mindboggling to all who benefitted greatly from such training.

I wholeheartedly support the efforts of Lyle, Rich, Les, and Roger to get this renewed effort off the ground. We need it now more than ever!

—Ted Stubblefield

### A Basic Forest Officer Course is a Goal to be Met

There is no question that a Basic Forest Officer Course is a goal to be met. My only concern is that the few Forest Service employees possessing a broad proper education and common sense are promoted, sent to the Cookie Cutter District Ranger School to become DR clones and not always leaders.

I was fortunate to work for and with many forest officers, but most productive and fun was working for Forest Supervisor Fritz deHoll, who gave us this direction: “Do something, if it works do it again; if it doesn't fix it.” Most importantly, he backed us up.

—Dick Zechentmayer

### A Basic Forest Service Orientation Course is a Good Idea

I certainly think a basic Forest Service orientation course is a good idea. I attended one at Los Prietos when I first joined the Forest Service in Region 5 and I really appreciated the course but even more important was the chance to meet other new employees as well as Forest Service leaders in the region.

By the way, I attended the orientation course more than 60 years ago!

—Max Peterson, Chief 1979-1987

“I may disapprove of what you say,  
but will defend to the death your right to say it.”

—Attributed to Voltaire

## OldSmokeys News

### OldSmokeys Contributed \$2,000 to U.S. Forest Service Wildfire Victims

The OldSmokeys of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) on August 28 contributed \$2,000 from the Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund to help families of three lost firefighters attend a memorial service, to help the family of a seriously burned fourth firefighter visit during his hospitalization, and to help two retirees who lost their homes to wildfire during this summer's fiery onslaught.

PNWFSA provided \$500 toward a fund that supported travel costs of the immediate families of three fallen firefighters—Andrew Zajack, 26, Richard Wheeler, 31, and Tom Zbyszewski, 20, lost on August 19 when their vehicle was overtaken by the explosive Twisp River Fire—to attend the Sunday, August 30, memorial service in Wenatchee, Washington.

PNWFSA provided \$500 to the family of Daniel Lyon, 25, seriously burned in the same Twisp River Fire incident, who was clinging to life at Harbor View Hospital in Seattle, Washington, to aid their travel to and from their home during Daniel's hospitalization.

PNWFSA provided \$500 each to assist Forest Service retirees Gary Lieuallen and Curt Qual and their families whose homes were among about 30 lost in the John Day-Canyon City, Oregon, fire complex on August 15.

"Seeing OldSmokeys stepping up and helping our own employees and their families during difficult times just makes me proud to be part of this organization," OldSmokey **Dick Blashill** summed up members' feelings about the member-supported Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund at the PNWFSA's August 28 monthly luncheon in Portland.

"We are aware of at least one additional employee who has had significant damage to property, but details are not available as of the deadline date for this newsletter," OldSmokey **Mike Ash** said on September 5. "Our reconnaissance efforts are continuing in all fire complexes, so this continues to be a 'work in progress.' OldSmokey **Vern Clapp** will provide us with updates via the *OldSmokey eNotes* as we have them, and the Winter 2016 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will provide a summary."

### OldSmokeys Braved Wildfire Reroutes to Enjoy Annual Picnic in the Woods

Rerouted around the then 36,000-acre County Line 22 Fire that closed U.S. Highway 26 across the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, a good number of eastside OldSmokeys were among the 120 who enjoyed the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) annual Picnic in the Woods at the Wildwood Recreation Area near Mt. Hood on Friday, August 14.

From check-in to check-out, this large group of OldSmokeys had a great—and, thanks to a passing cold front, comfortably cooler than expected—get together at which stories were told and retold and even a little PNWFSA business was done.

*Annual Picnic in the Woods continues on page 11*

### OldSmokeys to Accept Grant Applications for Projects Meeting PNWFSA Criteria

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Grants Committee will accept applications for grants to help fund projects in 2016 that further PNWFSA goals within the Pacific Northwest Region.

Applications for PNWFSA grants to be awarded in 2016 are invited from private, non-profit, or non-governmental organizations pursuing such goals. Grants will not be made directly to the U.S. Forest Service. Applications are due January 8, 2016.

#### Grant criteria

Grants are awarded to organizations that satisfy the donation policy adopted by the PNWFSA Board of Directors on February 27, 2009. This policy specifies "Grants or gift proposals will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Does it further the OldSmokeys mission?
- Will the project/program have a lasting influence on national forest management, natural resource management, and help sell the public on the importance of these resources?
- Will it reach large numbers of people?
- Can OldSmokey funds be leveraged with other funds?
- Will a restoration or improvement project help sustain our Forest Service legacy?
- Will the PNWFSA receive visible and lasting credit for participation?
- Is it a project that 'feels good' to us and reminds us of why we chose to throw in with the Outfit four our careers?

Not all these questions will apply to every proposal, but running through this checklist should help the PNWFSA get the most bang for its grant buck. Applications for grants, therefore, should reflect these policy specifications and criteria.

#### Grant applications

If you know of a worthy eligible potential recipient of a PNWFSA grant, please let that party know of this opportunity. Grant applications should be prepared as letters that describe the proposed project and enumerate how its accomplishment would satisfy the above criteria.

Additionally, for grant requests supporting U.S. Forest Service projects, a statement of support for and commitment to the project signed by the cognizant line officer (e.g., forest supervisor or district ranger) must be submitted with the application.

Grant applications should be submitted electronically to the PNWFSA Grants Committee via the newly-created mailbox <Grants@oldsmokeys.org> not later than January 8, 2016.

***OldSmokeys grants support many U.S. Forest Service heritage and natural resource projects that advance public appreciation and understanding of America's National Forest System!***



## OldSmokeys Annual Dues for 2016 are Due and Payable on January 1, 2016

It's the time of year that OldSmokeys who pay their Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) dues on an annual basis pay those **Annual Dues**. Please use the coupon below to send in your \$20.00 annual dues, or to convert to a **Lifetime Membership** for a one-time payment of \$250.00 that frees you from paying annual dues ever again, and/or to donate to the **Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund** that helps out Forest Service folks in distress. Use the coupon below!

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

### Bill for Collection for 2016 annual dues or Conversion to Lifetime Membership and PNWFSA Fund Donations

Please make your checks(s) for \$20.00 Annual Membership Dues or \$250.00 Lifetime Membership Dues and the amount(s) you may wish to contribute to the Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund, Grant Fund, or General Fund payable to PNWFSA and mail to:

**PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228**

*Please check all that apply:*

\_\_\_\_\_ First year of PNWFSA Membership—\$0 (Free)

\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Membership Renewal—\$20.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Membership—\$250.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Fund Donation—\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Grant Fund Donation—\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ General Fund Donation—\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Any changes to your contact information? \_\_\_\_\_

Any comments to share? \_\_\_\_\_



*Extensive measures were necessary to rid Commissary Cabin at historic Fish Lake Ranger Station of bat guano. Read below.*

## OldSmokeys Served at U.S. Forest Service Heritage Sites During Summer 2015

OldSmokeys worked with the Friends of Fish Lake to continue restoration of the Fish Lake Historic Area on the Willamette National Forest and with the High Desert Museum to staff the High Desert Ranger Station during the summer of 2015.

### **Fish Lake Historic Area**

The Friends of Fish Lake (FFL)—many of them OldSmokeys—set a new record for participation in and total hours worked as they continued restoration of the historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot that are the Fish Lake Historic Area. During the FFL's June 14-20 work week alone, 44 volunteers worked 866 hours on a range of projects on several structures.

Before that work week, an Oregon Backcountry Horsemen Association work party repaired the remount depot corral. After the FFL work week, a contractor completed the Commissary Cabin bat guano removal and remediation project. The logs were so impregnated with guano that removal to clean wood was impractical; instead, the contractor infused the logs with a powerful disinfectant followed by two coats of paint. After additional measures by volunteers to completely seal the cabin from future bat entry, the contractor removed the tarp that covered the cabin to exclude the bats. The contract was made possible by grants from the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association and the Kinsman Foundation as well as FFL funds.

### **High Desert Ranger Station**

A team of seven OldSmokeys and two other High Desert Museum volunteers welcomed 1,327 visitors to the High Desert Ranger Station during its 69 days of operation this summer.

Visitors to this exhibit—a Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association project—learn about the roles of the Forest Service and the National Forest System in the evolution from the Old West of natural resource exploitation to the New West of natural resource stewardship.

They seem especially impressed that, as recently as the 1960s, a district ranger with a permanent staff of three managed and protected the resources on a half-million acre ranger district from this one-room, 15-foot by 15-foot office building.

*Prepared from input provided by OldSmokey Mike Kerrick and other sources.*

**OldSmokeys News continues on page 11**



# OldSmokeys Say Disappearing Districts:

## A Hundred Years of Lumping and Leaving!

By Tom L. Thompson

*OldSmokey and Rocky Mountaineer Tom Thompson writes a poignant account of Region 2 that could be rewritten for any National Forest System region.*



Two years after the creation of the Forest Service in 1905 it was clearly stated in the book *The Use of the National Forests* that most all of the work and business the agency actually was to do and also the most of the important connection to the public was the responsibility of the Forest Supervisors and Rangers in the field. The Rangers were described as the field force and Gifford Pinchot wanted them located in central points throughout the Forests to carry out the business on the ground.

In 1910, there were thirty forests in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. By 1920 the number had shrunk to 23 as smaller forests were joined together. Today there are 11 Forest Supervisors in Region 2.

More striking by comparison, though, is that today only about one in three of the original number of districts still exist. In 1920 there were 148 individual ranger districts identified in the Service Directory for District 2 (Region 2). The directory today, if there were one, would show only 50 districts for the Region. This number includes eight district units that were the result of adding the grasslands to the system in 1962. So effectively, for an adjusted comparison, the number today could be considered 42 rather than 50.

Much has happened in the last century that has caused this change. Early on, one of the most dramatic changes that occurred was the automobile. When early districts were established, the only way to travel across the reserves and the forests was by horse. Indeed, many ranger district boundaries were determined by how much territory a ranger could effectively cover by horseback. When the automobile came along, adjustments needed to be made, but the transitions weren't easy.

In 1923 Forest Supervisor Wallace Pearce advised his Rangers that he "did not feel that ownership of an automobile by any member of the ranger force is essential to good administration of any district of the Forest, and to get value received they should be used very carefully." Pearce felt that "Ordinary trips between two points should be made horseback across the Forest in order that the ranger may be on the scene of his normal work, being in a position to discover things that need attention."

Times they did change, and by 1930 the number of districts in the region had gone from 148 to 109. Over the next three decades there were relatively few changes in numbers of districts. By 1960 there were still about a hundred districts. Most changes in districts that occurred the 30s, 40s, and 50s were the

result of forest changes with the elimination of the Cochetopa, Montezuma, Leadville, Holy Cross, Washakie, and Harney forests in the region.

From 1960 to 1980, another 26 districts were eliminated. Regional Forester Craig Rupp was not pleased with the direction this was going and in January 1983 wrote to the forest supervisors and stated emphatically that he was "unwilling to agree to any further combinations at this point in time and for the foreseeable future." The essence of his position was laid out in this one paragraph:

*The Ranger District remains in the front line of Forest Service contacts. District personnel provide the very large majority of visible perception of "what the Forest Service is" to the public. They have the day-to-day contact with the largest amount of the public and the best opportunity to manage the resources, manage use of resources, manage activities, prevent destruction, decide local issues on local grounds, act as agents of the public, prevent mistakes rather than being reactive, and represent the Forest Service and its goals and objectives to the public.*

He believed the arguments to combine districts that dealt with budget savings were short-sighted and the organizational loss of presence and availability to the public were just not worth it. He said he would "rather see you return to one person Ranger Districts with zoning of all technical and professional assistance, than combine Ranger Districts and lose Ranger contacts."

During the rest of his tenure and on into the 90s, there were very few district combinations. But over the last 25 years, a couple dozen more combinations have reduced the number of district rangers in the region to 50.

There has been much teeth grinding and hand wringing over the years as these decisions to combine districts have happened. Many communities have felt a loss when the Forest Service decided to move out of town and at best leave a "work center."

The region has the one distinction of probably having the largest district in the Forest Service outside of Alaska with the Gunnison Ranger District on the lumped Grand Mesa-Uncomphagre-Gunnison National Forest. This one district is 1,632,136 acres which is larger than nearly two-thirds of all the forests in the National Forest System.

*Editor's Note: Tom spends four paragraphs on a nostalgic "roll call" of Region 2 ranger districts that have disappeared since the 1920s and now exist only in obscure records and fading memories, then cuts to the chase.*

Consolidation and combination decisions have generally never been easy decisions and most were done with considerable thought and analysis. In a few cases, however, decisions might have been influenced by convenient vacancies and questionable conclusions that there would be substantive cost savings and there would continue to be a significant presence in the community being vacated.

I imagine that Rocky Mountaineers would hope that the scissors—or, perhaps more appropriately today, the "delete" button—would be used very sparingly in the future as we've probably combined enough already.

*Source: Adapted from Region 2 Rocky Mountaineers website.*

## Forest Service News

### U.S. Forest Service Lost Six Firefighters through August in 2015 Wildfires

Of the 13 firefighters reported killed in wildfires nationwide through August 2015, six have been U.S. Forest Service personnel.

Steve Cobb, along with a contract pilot, was lost on March 30 in a helicopter crash on the DeSoto National Forest in Mississippi.

Dave Ruhl, 38, on assignment from the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota, and Michael Hallenbeck of Shingle Springs, California, were killed in firefighting accidents during July and August 2015.

Ruhl died on July 30 while scouting the Frog Fire on the Modoc National Forest in northeastern California, and Hallenbeck died August 8 after being struck by a tree during initial attack on the Sierra Fire near Lake Tahoe.

Tom Zbyszewski, 20, Andrew Zajac, 26, and Richard Wheeler, 31, of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, died August 19 when the vehicle in which they were traveling was trapped in an explosive fire near Twisp, Washington. A fourth Forest Service firefighter, David Lyon, 25, was severely burned in that incident. “They dedicated their lives to protecting the national forests and the people in the communities surrounding them, Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell said in a eulogy at the August 30 memorial service in Wenatchee, Washington. “And for that we should be grateful.”

*Editor’s Note: Please see related lead article on page 3.*

*Prepared from multiple sources.*

### U.S. Forest Service “Goes Broke” as Congress Fails to Pass Wildfire Fund Act

As wildfires raged across western states again this summer, the U.S. Forest Service again diverted funding from other programs to firefighting as Congress again failed to pass legislation that would fund suppression of wildfires in the same way it funds federal action against all other natural disasters. In not doing so, Congress again failed to stop “fire borrowing” which transfers funds from non-fire accounts to cover firefighting costs.

In a special 16-page report, *The Rising Cost of Wildfire Operations: Effects on the Forest Service’s Non-Fire Work*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service on August 4 made its case for wildfire funding reform to the American public. You can read the entire 16-page report at <[www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/2015-Fire-Budget-Report.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/2015-Fire-Budget-Report.pdf)>.

For the first time in its 110-year history, the report graphically explains, the Forest Service is spending more than half its budget—52 percent—on fire-related activities. In 1995, fire activities accounted for just 16 percent of its budget. By 2025, fire-related spending is projected to consume more than 67 percent. A similar shift has occurred in personnel dedicated to managing National Forest System lands and those dedicated to fire management.

“We have been pointing out that challenge for the past few years, but we have not been able to address it through our current budget process,” Chief of the Forest Service Tom Tidwell said recently.

Nor has Congress been able to address it through the legislative process. A so-far lethal combination of partisan politics and practical perceptions has prevented action on measures such as the proposed Wildfire Disaster Fund Act, supported by the administration and 124 House of Representatives co-sponsors, mentioned in the report.

*Prepared from multiple sources including the August 4, 2015, U.S. Forest Service report “The Rising Cost of Wildfire Operations.”*

### U.S. Forest Service Moves to Rebuild its Air Tanker Fleet and Capabilities

To pull out of a nosedive in air tanker availability and capability, the U.S. Forest Service is rebuilding its aerial wildfire fighting fleet toward an apparent ultimate goal of 28 larger, faster, and more efficient air tankers within the next year or two.

In 2000, more than 40 air tankers were on contract. But many were relics of World War II and the Cold War, and two crashes of so-called “legacy” air tankers resulted in many being grounded for good. The number of air tankers soon fell to just nine. And so the Forest Service issued a call for “next-generation” air tankers that would include jets able to carry at least 3,000 gallons of retardant and fly at a speed of 300 knots.

As a result, the inventory acquired a DC-10, largest of the next-generation air tankers with a payload of 11,600 gallons of retardant, and several DC-9s (MD-87s) converted from airliner use. According to Bill Gabbert of Wildfire Today, the Forest Service air tanker lineup for 2015 included seven legacy air tankers (all but one a P-2V Neptune) and seven next-generation air tankers including the DC-10, two MD-87s, a couple C-130s, and a couple R J-85s. At least some of the funding for these contract air tankers probably comes from \$65 million allocated by the omnibus federal appropriations bill passed by Congress in December 2014.

As reported in the July 3, 2015, Chief’s newsletter *People, Places & Things*, “The first of seven Forest Service HC-130H airtankers arrived in Sacramento, California, and began its training missions on June 23.” Congress, in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2014, authorized the transfer of seven HC-130H aircraft from the U.S. Coast Guard to the Forest Service for use as air tankers. Tanker 118, the first of these HC-130Hs, was available for firefighting missions by the middle of July, according to the July 17, 2015, *People, Places and Things*. With addition of Tanker 118, the Forest Service had a total of 21 air tankers available full-time for wildfire suppression during the 2015 fire season.

Evolution of the Forest Service air tanker force is complicated and can be only summarized—cautiously and tentatively—here. Readers can work at keeping up with it by reading Forest Service news releases and “Wildfire Today” and “Fire Aviation” website reporting at <[wildfiretoday.com](http://wildfiretoday.com)> and <[fireaviation.com](http://fireaviation.com)> respectively. —Prepared from multiple sources

## U.S. Forest Service Endorsed Arbitration Vice Management-Delaying Lawsuits

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell on July 16, 2015, said “that the agency would be open to a new arbitration system that would replace lawsuits meant to delay or derail federal forest management projects.”

“I’m as frustrated as anybody when we’ve done the work, we’ve done the job, we get litigated, a year later, the judge says ‘Yes you’re OK, go ahead’” [Chief] Tidwell told the [Senate] Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining.

“Subcommittee Chairman Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) introduced a bill in June, S. 1691, that would create two methods to resolve or impede litigation against the [Forest Service]—an arbitration program and a bond positing requirement from plaintiffs planning on suing the agency.

“‘I do think that it may get at the issue,’ [Chief] Tidwell said of the arbitration suggestion.”

Chief Tidwell expressed frustration at what Senator Barrasso termed “rogue, activist groups” blocking “consensus” forest projects. He agreed “that the arbitration suggestion had merit, but said he was concerned that the bond mandate would prevent cash-strapped parties from voicing their concerns and could stir more legal challenges.”

*Prepared from “Forest Service seeks protection against lawsuits that delay management policies” by Benjamin Hulac in the July 17, 2015, ClimateWire blog, and “Legislative hearing” in the July 17, 2015, Chiefs weekly People, Places and Things....*

## U.S. Forest Service, BLM to Administer New National Monument in California

On July 10, 2015, President Barack Obama, exercising authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906, proclaimed the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in Northern California.

The 330,780-acre monument extends from nearly sea level on Bureau of Land Management managed public lands around Lake Berryessa in the south up to 7,000 feet through the northern Snow Mountain Wilderness and the eastern boundary of the Yuki Wilderness in the Mendocino National Forest.

Just north of Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area, this 100-mile strip of biologically diverse mountains and meadows in California’s inner Coast Range contains myriad natural, historical, and cultural resources, as well as recreational opportunities.

The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management will soon start working on a management plan for the new Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

There are nine other Forest Service-managed national monuments. Two, the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and the Newberry National Volcanic Monument on the Deschutes National Forest, are in the Pacific Northwest Region.

*Prepared from U.S. Forest Service “Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument” July 10, 2015, website entry, and “Giving credit to national monument declarations” by Josephine Johnson in Bend, Oregon’s The Bulletin for August 2, 2015.*

## U.S. Forest Service Moves Gifford Pinchot National Forest SO to Fort Vancouver

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest headquarters is scheduled to move to rehabilitated historic buildings at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site sometime in 2016. On May 18, 2015, the National Park Service awarded a contract for this work.

“The Forest Service and the National Park Service worked together to create this unique opportunity to provide a joint presence...as federal land managers connecting with our public and sharing our missions,” Sue Ripp, Public Affairs Officer, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, reported in the June 30, 2015, *R6 Update*.

## U.S. Forest Service Collaboratives Challenged by Environmental Groups

“They are using the collaborative system to rubber stamp their projects,” Karen Coulter, executive director of the Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project in Fossil, Oregon, claimed of U.S. Forest Service collaborative early in July 2015.

Forest Service collaboratives involve the agency working with environmentalists, timber interests, and local elected leaders to devise forest management plans agreeable to all concerned parties.

Coulter and others claim to be fed up with the system because most collaborative groups “have stopped working toward common ground with biocentric, more ecologically protective groups, and no longer operate by full consensus.” Their grievance, joined by other small environmental groups in Washington, Idaho, Montana, and elsewhere, “may mean more lawsuits over timber projects,” the Bend, Oregon, *Bulletin* reported “the head of a Central Oregon environmental group” said.

*Prepared from “Officials warn of possible forest lawsuits” by Dylan J. Darling in the July 3, 2015, The Bulletin.*

## U.S. Forest Service Historic Sites in Oregon Listed on National Register

The historic Olallie Meadows Guard Station on the Mt. Hood National Forest and the Hoodoo Ridge Lookout Historic District on the Umatilla National Forest were listed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 26, 2015. Both of these sites show the ingenuity and resourcefulness of early U.S. Forest Service rangers charged with managing and protecting millions of acres of lands with slim budgets.

The Olallie Meadows Guard Station was built in 1910 by Forest Service personnel using site-sourced materials. The cabin served as a guard station for patrolling and other work in the scenic Olallie Lakes and Mt. Jefferson reaches of the Mt. Hood National Forest until 1932 when the Civilian Conservation Corps built the Olallie Lake Guard Station to replace in. It continued to shelter work crews into the 1960s.

The Hoodoo Ridge Lookout was built in 1925 for fire detection and suppression. A six-foot wide crow’s nest platform in

*Historic Sites continues on page 14*

## Feature

### Getting the Word Out in the Old Days

By Les Joslin

The December 2012 and January 2013 postmarks on large envelopes from OldSmokeys **Bev Pratt** and **Ray Steiger**, respectively, tell me I have tarried to long in sharing their contents with *OldSmokeys Newsletter* readers.

Their contents—which I have seemingly but not really ignored for so long—are six copies of *Six Twenty Six*, a monthly published by the North Pacific District (District 6) of the U.S. Forest Service which became the North Pacific Region in 1930 and is now the Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6).

Apparently named for the 26 national forests that comprised District 6 when publication began in 1917, *Six Twenty Six* got the word out to and among supervisors, rangers, and other Forest Service personnel at far-flung headquarters and stations in Oregon, Washington, and Alaska until sometime during World War II when publication seems to have ceased.

Perusal of the six issues—May 1934, May and March 1936, January 1940, and November 1941 loaned by Ray, and February 1941 loaned by Bev, which ranged from 20 to 50 pages mimeographed on two sides of the standard eight-by-10.5 inch U.S. Government paper of the day, some with beautiful covers and some not—is a trip back in Forest Service time. Each issue contained news from the WO and DOs/ROs and from the national forests and their ranger districts as well as thought pieces on specific subjects of scientific forestry and forest management, obituaries, humorous anecdotes and commentaries, and even poems that reflect an era “when real men wrote poetry.”

Among the many real men of that era whose articles appear and wisdom is shared in just these six issues are (in alphabetical order) Grover Blake, Phil Briegleb, Thomas W. “Bud” Burgess, Fred Cleator, Ed Cliff, Ralph Crawford, John Kuhns, Larry Mays, Richard E. McArdle, Vondis Miller, Thornton Munger, Walt Perry, A.R. Standing, and A.G. Waha. Among just those are two future chiefs of the Forest Service and the dads of two current OldSmokeys!

#### Making sense

And, in spite of their era, some of the articles remain amazingly relevant to today. In the May 1936 issue, for example, appeared “A Plea for Originality” from Guerdon Ellis reprinted from Region 5’s *California Ranger*.

*We need more originality in thought, speech, and action; we are too sheep-minded. Someone coins a phrase or word combination, a good one, appropriate and illuminating—and we “work it to death.” For instance, “sustained yield”, “single use*



*The cover of the May 1934 Six Twenty Six depicted a forest ranger riding through the beautiful, productive North Pacific Region ranger district he managed.*

*and multiple use”, etc. Good words or phrases; but note in the average Forest Service meeting how every speaker seems apparently to compose his talk around the popular catch-phrase of the day, with the evident purpose of rolling it off his tongue as frequently as possible. The practice when carried to the extreme dulls the intellect and prevents the birth of new ideas and of word combinations which might better clarify or express the problem at hand.*

Hmmm. Wisdom from the past? Food for thought for today’s “win-win” champions who invoke all the latest buzzwords in support of sometimes questionable initiatives?

#### Making war

Other articles provide profound perspectives on the past. The front page of the last of these six issues of *Six Twenty Six*, the November 1941 issue that came out just days or weeks before the December 7 attack on Pearl Harbor, showed all who read it that the Forest Service knew all too well that we were in for it in a cover article called “Forests and U.S. Defense.”

*Secretary Wickard, in a paper read October 14 before the National Association of State Foresters, at Old Point Comfort, Virginia, said: “The American farms and forests are now up against the biggest job in the history of the Nation—total defense. We are mobilized for that job. Enough of the right food and enough of the right raw materials are the rock bottom essentials to war-time production, morale, fighting ability. This is our war. It is perfectly plain that it is now Hitler or us. The future of the entire civilized world is bound up in the success of our lands and our forests to produce the vital foods and the vital materials that will insure the efficiency of the industrial workers and the fighting forces that are defending freedom....”*

*Goals have been set for the forest lands, calling for national production of 14 billion cubic feet of wood and wood products for 1942. This total includes 32 billion board feet of lumber, 15.8 million cords of pulpwood, 75 million cords of fuel wood, and 2.1 billion cubic feet of miscellaneous products. Goals for naval stores include 400,000 barrels of gum turpentine, 417,000 barrels of gum rosin, and 698,000 barrels of wood rosin. These 1942 goals for forest products perhaps represent a greater impact on forest lands than the impact of agricultural production goals on farm lands. To achieve these goals for forest products will require the highest degree of cooperation of all those dealing with forests.”*

#### Making movies

On a much lighter note, page 9 of that same issue contained John M. Herbert’s report from the Fremont National Forest of Forest Service involvement in the filming of Paramount Pictures feature film *The Forest Rangers* released to World War II audiences the following year and reviewed 69 years later in the Summer 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

*Scenes from “The Forest Ranger” which will star Paulette Goddard, Fred McMurray and Madeline Carroll were recently shot in the vicinity of McDonald’s logging operations on the Fremont. Much to the disappointment of local residents and yours truly, none of the stars were on hand.*

**Feature continues on page 15**



## **Changes** *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren and Database Manager Bill Funk*

- Apple, Daina D. & Martin** – Change address: P.O. Box 905, Benicia, CA 94510
- Brogdon, Roy O. & Mary**—Change e-mail: roymarybrogdon@gmail.com
- Bryant, Larry** – New member: 64315 Crosswinds Rd, Bend, OR 97703  
Telephone: 703-629-4676 E-mail: Bryant.larry@gmail.com
- Connelly, Ray P. & Maxine**—Change e-mail: raysrpc@gmail.com
- Cooper, Dorothy**—Change address: Jennings McCall, 2300 Masonic Way, No. 464, Forest Grove, OR 97116  
Change telephone: 971-371-2720
- Cruz, Phil & LeeAnn**—New members: 4898 Y St, Washougal, WA 98671  
Telephone: 541-410-5801 E-mail: pcruz1955@msn.com
- Fridde, Francis G. & Elda** – 962 31<sup>st</sup> Ct, Sweet Home, OR 97386
- Goddard, George**—Deceased August 1, 2015
- Golden, Jim & Susan Skalski**—Change address: 3174 NW Fairway Heights Dr, Bend, OR 97703
- Gross, David** – New member: 60653 Tygh Ridge Rd, Dufur, OR 97021  
Telephone: 541-467-2218 E-mail: dgross@fs.fed.us
- Hammond, Daryl C. & Dollie** – Vineyard Place, 4017 SE Vineyard Rd, Milwaukie, OR 97267
- Kolb, Dave & Jane** – Change e-mail: jkolbwd@spiretech.com
- Large, Jeanne M. & Fred F. Herzberg** – New members: 225 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, A-203, Kirkland, WA 98033  
Telephone: 425-827-6730 E-mail: jeanemlarge2010@hotmail.com
- Linn, Joe M. & Susan** – New members: 1343 NW Vallejo Dr, Roseburg, OR 97471  
Telephone: 541-510-3049 E-mail: jlinn52@icloud.com
- Mapes, Hubert L. & Maureen** – Change address: 233 Summer Glen Way, Central Point, OR 97502
- Meyer, Loraine** – Deceased July 25, 2015; Ken survives
- Murphy, Al J. & Nancy J.** – New members: 15070 Badger Mtn Rd, East Wenatchee, WA 98802  
Telephone: 509-670-3151 E-mail: murphbear@hotmail.com
- Post, Lita M.** – Change address: Russellville Park, 20 SE 103<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Apt 377, Portland, OR 97216
- Sprinkel, Darlene E.** –Deceased July 19, 2015
- Vendrasco, Dean M. & Katherine M.** —New members: 1855 Sylvan St, Eugene, OR 97403  
Telephone: 541-915-7683 E-mail: vendrasco@comcast.net
- Williams, Douglas M. & Faune G.** – New members: 3199 Melville Dr, Bend, OR 97703  
Telephone: 541-815-7330 E-mail: williamsfamily@bendbroadband.com

## **New Members** *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren*

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association since the Summer 2015 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

**Larry Bryant** of Bend, Oregon, joined August 4, 2015. Larry retired from the U.S. Forest Service WO Training Office on June 30, 2006, after a 33-year career of which he served 10 years in Region 6 and split the other 23 years between Region 5 and the WO. Larry began his career as a soil scientist on several Klamath National Forest ranger districts and continued his district-level career on the Big Bar and Weaverville ranger districts of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. He then served 10 years on the Mt. Hood National Forest as a hydrologist before he transferred to the WO International Programs to work with the Disaster Assistance Support Program and the U.S. Agency for International Development before he retired. Larry moved to Bend in 2010 and enjoys life in Central Oregon with hiking, camping, kayaking, whitewater rafting, and snow skiing when not traveling around the country or internationally. During fire seasons, Larry works as an AD driver for the Pacific Northwest Cache in Redmond, a job that allows visits to much of Region 6.

**Phil & LeAnn Cruz** of Washougal, Washington, joined in July 2015. Phil retired from the U.S. Forest Service as forest supervisor of the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland headquartered in Laramie, Wyoming, on May 31, 2014, after 34.5 years of service, 28.5 of those years in Region 6 and 21.5 of those years as a line officer. A forestry graduate of Oregon State University, Phil started as a timber marker on the Fremont National Forest where he received a permanent appointment on the Bly Ranger District. He went on to serve on the Rogue River, Malheur, and Siskiyou national forests before 16 years on the Deschutes National Forest as district ranger of the Crescent Ranger District and then the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District before his transfer to Laramie as deputy forest supervisor of the national forests-national grassland unit he later supervised. Phil has been spending his first year in retirement “getting reconnected with family and friends from across the years” and “finding a bit of time to get outdoors and travel around” as he works on “a pretty ambitious bucket list.”

**David Gross** of Dufur, Oregon, joined August 16, 2015. Dave has served the U.S. Government for 53 years, 50 of those in the U.S. Forest Service in Region 6 and three in the U.S. Army and temporary Forest Service employment. A forester and workforce development specialist, Dave’s most recent duty station is the Barlow Ranger District on the Mt. Hood National Forest. Dave volunteers with the Nature Conservancy and enjoys photography, botany, the theater, classical music, reading, writing, and Oregon backcountry as well as international travel.

**Jeanne M. Large and Fred F. Herzberg** of Kirkland, Washington, joined August 17, 2015, as lifetime members. Jeanne has a long career in public service which began with summer

employment with the U.S. Forest Service as an engineering aide based at the Zigzag Ranger Station on the Mt. Hood National Forest that supported studies at Oregon State University for one year and then Portland State University where she earned a B.S. degree in education. After teaching in Eugene, Oregon, for eight years, she moved to Salem to work for the YWCA, then the City of Salem as its first affirmative action officer. In 1982, she was appointed personnel director for the City of Redmond, Washington. Since leaving full time employment in personnel management in Seattle and King County in 1995, she has worked as an on-call equal rights advisor for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and deployed to disasters all over the United States. “My sister, Marge Stewart, is a PNWFSA member,” Jeanne wrote. “My brothers, John and Mike Stewart and Marge and other sister Diane (Stewart) Crane all worked for the Forest Service. I would like to join and support the PNWFSA.”

**Joe M. & Susan Linn** of Roseburg, Oregon, joined June 28, 2015. Joe currently serves on the Cottage Grove Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest.

**Al J. & Nancy J. Murphy** of East Wenatchee, Washington, joined July 1, 2015. Al retired from the U.S. Forest Service at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho, in June 2006, after 37 years of federal service, 31 of those years in the Forest Service and six with BLM. The last duty station of his 21 years in Region 6 was on the Chelan Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest.

**Douglas M. & Faune G. Williams** joined August 29, 2015. Doug retired from the U.S. Forest Service on April 28, 2006, after 30-plus years in the Forest Service, all of those years in Region 6. A forestry technician, Doug last served in silviculture on the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest. In retirement, Doug enjoys skiing, hiking, sharpening his collection of crosscut saws, and logging out trails as a Forest Service volunteer.

**Dean M. & Katherine M. Vendrasco** joined in late June 2015. Dean retired from the U.S. Forest Service on August 31, 2012, as fire staff officer for the Willamette National Forest and Eugene District of the Bureau of Land Management with 36 years of service, all but the first two in Region 6. Dean began his Forest Service career in 1976 as a seasonal firefighter in Region 5 followed by a permanent appointment on the Mt. Hood National Forest in 1978. In May 1979 he transferred to the McKenzie Bridge Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, where he advanced through several fire and fuels positions to the district FMO job. He transferred to the Willamette National Forest SO as deputy fire staff officer in 2000, then advanced to the fire staff officer position from which he retired. In retirement, Dean remains a member of PNW Team 3, one of two national incident management teams in the Northwest. He participates in the annual Fish Lake Remount Station work week, gardens, and works out at the gym.

**Welcome, New OldSmokeys!**



## *Memories* Compiled by Archivist Ray Steiger

**George Goddard** died August 1, 2015, at age 85. He was a PNWFSA member. George was born in Portland, Oregon, and raised in Salmon Creek and Vancouver, Washington. He graduated from Fort Vancouver High School and the University of Portland, served in the U.S. Navy, and then served a long career in the U.S. Forest Service as a civil engineer. George served on the Gifford Pinchot, Deschutes, and Willamette national forests in Region 6 as well as in Region 4 and the Washington Office. After he retired from the Forest Service, his planned service with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Pakistan was cancelled by a revolution in that country. He then served as traffic engineer for the City of Augusta, South Carolina. George was a member of the Methodist church and a lifelong member of the Elks Club. Survivors include his sons Gregory Wilson and Winston Goddard, daughters Suzanne Goddard Moon and Jennifer Goddard Allen, and six grandchildren.

*Editor's Note: Memories entries normally do not include the cause of death unless such cause is out of the ordinary. OldSmokey Mike Clinton reported that George died of the side effects of a brown recluse spider bite sustained before he left home for the 2012 U.S. Forest Service Reunion in Vail, Colorado. "The bite lowered his immune system allowing a pack of other diseases to get in his system."*

**Brian Marrs** died August 11, 2015, at age 61. Brian was born July 9, 1954, in Salem, Massachusetts, where he grew up. He graduated from St. Mary's High School in Lynn, Massachusetts, in 1974, and earned an associates' degree from Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute in Hawthorne, Massachusetts, in 1979. After graduation, he moved to Washington State where he began his federal career in engineering with the U.S. Forest Service and the Federal Highways Administration; he served with these agencies in Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Montana, Alaska, and Hawaii before he retired in 2013 after 34 years of federal government service. Brian met his wife Mary when they both worked for the Forest Service in Packwood, Washington, and were married in May 1985. Their children Erin and Sean were born in Washington, where the family made their first home; the family later lived in California and Oregon. Survivors include his wife Mary, their daughter Erin and their son Sean.

**Loraine Meyer** died July 25, 2015, at age 78. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of Kenneth R. Meyer. Loraine Elma Pape was born December 21, 1936, in Kings Valley near Corvallis, Oregon. She attended grade school in Kings Valley, graduated from Corvallis High School in 1955, attended Oregon State College and Central Oregon Community College, and worked in the Oregon State College School of Forestry during the 1950s. Loraine married Ken Miller on September 19, 1959, in Corvallis. Loraine was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Bend, Oregon, where she served on the Deschutes County election board and several home extension groups. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, and knitting/crochet

work, and generously gave baked and knitted goods to friends and community groups, won awards at both Deschutes County and Oregon State fairs, and published recipes in cooking magazines. Survivors include her husband Ken and sons Kenneth E. and Gary A.

**Warren Pavlat** died August 8, 2015, at age 96. He lived in Eugene, Oregon, and was particularly known for his botanical acumen during his U.S. Forest Service career. No additional information was available.

**Darlene E. Sprinkel** died July 19, 2015, at age 75. She was a PNWFSA member. Darlene Elizabeth McGarry was born November 9, 1939, in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and lived in that state until 1945 when she moved with her family to Newport, Oregon, in 1945, and then to Corvallis, Oregon, in 1946 where she graduated from Corvallis High School in 1957. She married Lonnie Sprinkel in 1959 in Corvallis. Darlene served in the U.S. Forest Service on the Siuslaw National Forest for 37 years during which, as one of the first women in engineering, she designed logging roads, drafted plans for the Alsea Ranger Station, and worked in timber and lands. After retirement from the Forest Service, she worked part-time for Corvallis High School in the attendance office until June 2001. Darlene was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. Survivors include her daughters Teri Sprinkel Mazza and Cyndi Sprinkel-Hart; a granddaughter, and a great grandson.

*OldSmokeys News continued from page 3*

*Annual Picnic in the Woods continued*

For the first time in the history of the picnic, the lunch was prepared and served by Job Corps culinary arts students from the Timber Lake Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center about 25 miles south of Estacada on the Mt. Hood National Forest.

After lunch, a clock made by OldSmokey **David Jay** was won by OldSmokey **Donna Boehm** when Regional Forester and Old Smokey **Jim Pena** pulled her ticket. The PNWFSA Grant Fund benefitted by \$200.

Picnic Chair **Rick Larson** and his crew made it all fun.

*Editor's Note: Picnic pictures were not available by deadline.*

## OldSmokey Barbara Kennedy Won 2015 Sunriver Music Festival Art Honor

OldSmokey **Barbara Kennedy** painted this winning picture of South Sister in the Central Oregon Cascades to win the 2015 competition for the poster that announced the August 2-9, 2015, Sunriver Music Festival. Just one look tells why Barbara's painting was thus honored.

*Editor's Note: Thanks to Linda Goodman for alerting your editor to this story and to Barbara for permission to print her painting.*



## OldSmokey Lloyd Musser and Museum Received 2015 Ski Association Award

The Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum at Government Camp, Oregon, received the 2015 Western Ski Heritage Award during the Far West Ski Association's annual meeting in early June 2015 in San Diego, California.

The museum, of which OldSmokey **Lloyd Musser** is full-time volunteer curator, was honored for its contributions to skiing and outdoor recreation in the United States. It got its start in 1998 when Lloyd and other Government Camp residents worked to establish a local historical society. As a result of their efforts, the cultural center and museum—which showcases the rich history of Mt. Hood through interpretive exhibits and educational programming—opened in 2001 and now attracts 20,000 visitors a year.

The Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum is a nonprofit organization governed by a volunteer board and supported by memberships, admissions, and community fundraising. The five-day Steamboat Springs, Colorado, ski package for two that came with the award will be an auction item at the cultural center and museum's annual Heritage Night in November.

*Prepared from "Mt. Hood Museum wins Western Ski Heritage award" by Terry Richard posted on OregonLive on June 22, 2015, and other sources.*

## OldSmokey Jim Davidson Proposed Renovation of Historic Dufur Station

OldSmokey **Jim Davidson**, who was district ranger, Barlow Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, from 1977 to 1988, has proposed renovation of the old Dufur, Oregon, ranger station used by U.S. Department of the Interior "Division R" forest rangers from 1895 until the U.S. Forest Service was established in 1905 and used by it into the 1920s.

The historic little building "sat at the current ranger station for years, then was used by the Lions Club, and now has been accepted by the Dufur Historical Society as an addition to its historic grounds along with an old school, a log cabin, and many farm items," Jim told your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. "Forest Service retirees in Dufur and other local people have offered to renovate if materials are provided. Current Barlow District Ranger Kameron Sam has some old oak furniture for the inside of the renovated building."

Jim and former Barlow District Ranger Mike Hernandez plan to apply for a Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association grant to aid the project.

## Letters

**Pete Martin** comments on Jon Stewart's Jay McCulley article I enjoyed Jon Stewart's article on Jay McCulley in the Summer 2015 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. Jay was an old school Fire Control Officer type just like my first boss, D. Homan Dodge. Homan taught me how to drive a stick. We made a couple loops through the Bear Springs Ranger Station compound—it wasn't paved yet, just gravel—and then he sent me up to the top of Mt. Wilson on patrol in his pickup. That was back when the

McQuinn [Strip, subtracted from the Mt. Hood National Forest and added to the Warm Springs Indian Reservation] was still managed by the Forest Service and not the Confederated Tribes. Jay always had something down to earth to say at an FMO meeting.

**Dick Spray recommends Jim Furnish's memoir**

Jim Furnish, former supervisor of my old forest, wrote a memoir *Toward a Natural Forest* of his time with the Forest Service. It's worth a read.

I was a young forester serving as district engineer on the Mapleton Ranger District of the Siuslaw National Forest in the late 1950s. I produced 33 miles of new haul roads a year, and we cut 83 million a year as our share of the cut.

Before I left, our bunch of young foresters led by our TMA were discussing where we could get the timber to sustain the cut. Our timber stands were in two age classes, 90 and 60 years old. We were coming to the end of our 90 year old big volume stands and were beginning to get into the smaller 60 year old stuff. I left in 1959 for Corvallis to do the Siuslaw portion of the National Forest Recreation Survey....

Sometime while I was in California in the 1970s I read a *Los Angeles Times* article that said the Mapleton Ranger District had shut down its timber sales program for lack of available timber. It looks like Furnish got into it big time in the 1990s and produced a very good result.

I have trouble relating to the new cut for the Siuslaw of only 43 million a year. I don't remember what the forest was cutting in my era, but just the Mapleton and Waldport districts (I was assistant ranger at Waldport in 1961.) were cutting 213 million by themselves. I suspect the forest total was somewhere over 300 million—grossly unsustainable.

**Jerry Wojack recommends the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base**

I was inspired by the Summer 2015 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* to visit the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base Museum. Since my retirement in 1994, I had driven by several times each year with the thought I should stop and check it out, which I never did.

I am very glad Mary and I visited it today [July 17, 2015]. We had former Siskiyou jumper Gary Buck as a guide. Having worked out of there for 12 or 13 years, he has a lot of interesting stories to tell and we could tell how proud he was of the base's history and the work smokejumpers did there before the Forest Service closed it.

The museum has lots of great photos showing its history as well as some of the famous jumpers who served there. Gary provided detailed information about all of them [and] some information I never knew like the Japanese releasing over 9,000 incendiary balloons on us and...how the balloons worked and stayed in the jet stream and how one reached my home state of Michigan.

I thank all the former smokejumpers and local and Forest Service volunteers who did a superior job of bringing the base ...back to life. Also, thanks to the other smokejumper bases that did not destroy the boxes of old equipment, clothing, etc., returned after the base was closed in 1982. Old photos and stories are never as good as seeing and touching history.

As Mike Ash said, "No OldSmokey should miss it!"



Among the more memorable people in at least some mid-twentieth century young American males' lives were their first U.S. Forest Service district rangers and their U.S. Marine Corps drill instructors.

The district ranger came first in my life, when I was 19 just after my first year of college. He was Robert F. "Bob" Hoag, Jr., who died June 7, 2015, at age 93. I first met Ranger Hoag in 1962 when he'd been district ranger on the Bridgeport Ranger District, Toiyabe National Forest, since 1959.

A native of Tully, New York, Bob didn't want to run the family drugstore. After serving as a U.S. Army Air Forces sergeant in World War II, Bob finished a forestry degree at Syracuse and moved west for a 37-year Forest Service career. He was a junior forester and a snow ranger before Forest Supervisor Bill Hurst sent him to the Ashley National Forest district headquartered at Mountain View, Wyoming.

That was a one-man horse district. Stock trespass was a problem. Bob dealt directly with those in trespass who ignored his official letters. "They all look like varmints to me," he told sheepherders as he patted the stock of his saddle rifle. Sheep were back on their allotments pronto. "Collect your cattle at the corrals in town," he told cattlemen whose trespassing cattle he'd hired cowboys to round up. Same result.

On the Bridgeport District, Bob married Mary Miller, his district clerk, in 1960. On the June 1962 day the Greyhound dropped me at the Bridgeport Ranger Station, she gave birth to their first child. Somebody had to replace her on the job. I was on his three-man fire crew.

"Can any of you guys type?" Bob asked his assembled crew one morning about a week later. "I can," I piped up before thinking. "Good. You are now *also* the district clerk."

He called me into the office that evening. "Here," he said, handing me a small object. "Wear this so people will know who you work for." It was a bronze Forest Service badge. I frequently held down the office where I learned a lot as I welcomed visitors, read and reported daily fire weather, and typed and filed correspondence. And I didn't miss any fires.

Bob took a personal interest in his crew. He made sure all got a fair shake and did their fair share. He made sure all were exposed to all phases of national forest management. He promoted me to GS-4 the next year to be his fire prevention guard.

**Robert F. Hoag, Jr. continues on page 14.**



## Books & Films

### OldSmokey Zane Smith: “John B. Taylor’s *A Job with Room & Board* is a must read...”

“In 1907, at the age of 18, John B. Taylor took a summer job with the U.S. Forest Service—mapping the wilderness and cruising timber in the as-yet-unroaded Swan Valley of Montana. The job came with room and board—over a million acres of room and plenty of grouse to supplement the salted pork and crackers they brought with them.” Mountain Press writes of Taylor’s memoir just published in April 2015.

A student of classics at the University of Montana, Taylor discovered forestry and “headed to the University of Michigan School of Forestry and obtained degrees in botany and forestry. After a stint in the U.S. Army in World War I, he worked his way up through the Forest Service ranks, serving as ranger, range examiner, timberman, forest supervisor, and assistant regional forester.... His colorful stories portray life during the early days of the Forest Service when travel was by horse and rangers carried guns.” He recorded his memories in the late 1960s, and friend John Frohlicher edited them into this book.

“Too many men who spent their lives taming the wilderness are remembered only by a name on a little western creek,” Frohlicher once said. Through these stories, John B. Taylor (1889-1975) will be better remembered for all he was and did.

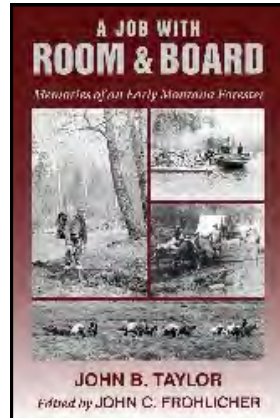
“It is a well-written account of early-day Forest Service men who served with loyalty and dedication to the conservation of our national forests,” OldSmokey **Zane Smith** comments. “It reveals many of the essential attributes of what makes an organization tick. It is a must read book for retirees and others who love and wish for a dynamic future for the U.S. Forest Service.”

*A Job with Room & Board: Memories of an Early Montana Forester*, 178 pages, paperback (ISBN 978-0-87842-639-3) is available for \$12.00 from Mountain Press Publishing Company at <mountain-press.com> or from Amazon.com.

### First in Forestry Premieres in Early 2016

A new film, *First in Forestry: Carl Schenck and the Biltmore Forest School*, tells the story of how Carl Schenck, a German forester, came to the United States in 1895 to manage the forests of the Biltmore Estate. He not only helped to restore the land there in western North Carolina, he established the country’s first forestry school and helped launch the American conservation movement.

The one-hour documentary, produced for the Forest History Society by Bonesteel Films, will premiere on UNC-TV, North Carolina’s PBS-affiliated station, in January 2016. A national launch for the film is being planned for spring 2016. You can view the trailer for the film on the *First in Forestry* website at <www.firstinforestry.org/2utm\_source=Forest+Timeline>.



## Uncle Sam’s Cabins

### Willard Ranger Station Structure Replaced Peterson Prairie Guard Station

Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Washington

*Adapted from an August 18, 2014, Gifford Pinchot National Forest News Release by Diana Perez and other information provided by David Wickwire, Mt. Adams Ranger District*

The last of the former Willard Ranger Station structures in the small community of Willard, five miles north of the Columbia River, began a new era of service when it was moved to the site of the historic Peterson Prairie Guard Station cabin which was destroyed by fire in 2012. The burned guard station cabin was a popular recreation lodging program rental seven miles west of Trout Lake, Washington.

Forest Service rehabilitation and restoration of the Willard cabin began in 2013, in partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute, a local non-profit organization based in Trout Lake. Volunteers with the Forest Service’s national Passport in Time (PIT) program and other volunteers prepared the building for its August 2014 move and continued restoration work and interior remodeling into 2015.

The recreation lodging program allows full recovery of operational and maintenance costs of this recreation resource while preserving a heritage resource.



*On August 21, 2014, the historic Willard Ranger Station cabin (left) was loaded onto a lowboy and moved 16 miles over Forest Service roads to the former site of the Peterson Prairie Guard Station, seven miles west of Trout Lake, Washington. The restored cabin (below) was photographed on its new site on June 29, 2015.*

*U.S. Forest Service photographs*





## Out of the Past

### OldSmokey Dick Woodcock Remembers His U.S. Army World War II Service

By Richard H. Woodcock

I was raised in a good home in the country, just east of the University District in Seattle, and walked to grade school, high school, and even the University of Washington until 1937 when I bought my first car, a 1931 Model A Ford coupe. I estimate I walked close to 5,000 miles between 1923 and 1937 to get to school. At the time, I was not too pleased with the many miles I had to walk to acquire my education, but am now convinced that really helped me achieve my 98 years to date.

I graduated from the School of Forestry at the University of Washington in 1939 and, because entering the U.S. Forest Service had become so difficult, I had to content myself with a civil service appointment to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey because of my drafting capabilities. In 1941 I married the love of my life and, because of December 7, 1941, and my ROTC training I joined the Home Defense Infantry Regiment. Even though my job of making charts of waters around Alaska for the U.S. Navy deferred me from active military service, I thought I could contribute more by joining the naval air service. I always wanted to fly. Unfortunately (or maybe fortunately) my need to wear glasses ruled me out.

#### Joining the U.S. Army

Early in 1943 I became aware of the Volunteer Officer Candidate (VOC) program open to married men with a college degree who wanted to join the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. My physical exam at Fort Lewis, Washington, went well until my eyesight came up for review and I was turned down. One week later, to my surprise, I was notified that my inadequate eyesight had been deferred and soon I was off to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, for 13 grueling weeks of basic training. Two trainees in my group died during those 13 weeks, but I passed with flying colors.

But I had to submit to a second physical exam before being sent on to Fort Belvoir, Virginia, for officer training. This time my eyesight was not deferred, and the VOC program offered either the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) or a discharge knowing I would be drafted back into the Army as a private within a short period of time. I took the honorable discharge on after two weeks on KP, and stood up on the train all the way back to Seattle. Seats were available only to servicemen.

#### Serving in the U.S. Army

I was drafted on November 12, 1943, and ended up in the 1633<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Photomapping Platoon because of my drafting experience. I had another six weeks of basis and multiplex training in Portland, Oregon, before being shipped overseas out of Fort Lawton in Seattle.

On Oahu, we became assigned to the 64<sup>th</sup> Engineers and started our job of using photographs to make landing maps of

target islands in the South Pacific. Within a few months we shipped out again to Admiral Nimitz's headquarters in Agana, Guam. There we spent the rest of the war near the B-29 base from which the planes taking our photos—as well as bombers (along with two with atomic bombs) took off. Some of our landing maps included Tarawa, Iwo Jima, Philippines, Okinawa, and Japan itself. Fortunately, Hiroshima and Nagasaki assured it would not be necessary to use the Japan maps for landings that would result in thousands of additional casualties.

We looked forward to being sent home at war's end, but our commanding officer volunteered some of us to pull together some of the Japanese war maps. Since I had worked my way up to technical sergeant and head of the drafting division, I was included in the volunteers. A month or two later we landed in Seattle and I was discharged at Fort Lewis on January 28, 1946.

To this day I thank the Lord for my eyesight (or lack thereof) for steering me into a branch of the service that gave me a good chance of getting back to my family while still accomplishing a needed job.

#### Joining the U.S. Forest Service

Immediately after my discharge from the Army, I was able to transfer my civil service status to the U.S. Forest Service and went to work on the Olympic National Forest.

There aren't many World War II veterans left—especially ones with two honorable discharges.

*Editor's Note: Dick served his entire U.S. Forest Service career in Washington State. After eight years of timber management on the Olympic National Forest, he was district ranger on the Suiattle Ranger District, Mt. Baker National Forest, from 1954 to 1957, and district ranger on the Lake Wenatchee Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest, from 1957 until he retired in 1972.*

#### Historic Sites continued from page 7

the top of a 110-foot-tall ponderosa was supplemented in 1933 by a 101-foot-tall Aermotor steel tower with a seven-by-seven foot cab perched on the top and a guard station cabin, garage, and outhouse in service into the 1970s.

*Prepared from multiple sources including "Forest Service sites on the National Registry" posted on July 7, 2015, by Elkhorn Media Group on My Eastern Oregon website; "Two early Forest Service sites in Oregon listed on National Register of Historic Places" posted on July 7, 2015, on Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation FlashAlert.Net; Olallie Meadows Guard Station National Register of Historic Places Registration Form dated May 26, 2015; and Hoo-Doo Ridge Lookout National Register of Historic Places Registration Form dated May 26, 2015.*

#### Robert F. Hoag, Jr. continued from page 12

In June 1965, Bob transferred to the Sawtooth National Forest, where he spent the rest of his productive career. I did that fire prevention guard job through the 1966 season.

The drill instructor came early in 1967—after my college and Toiyabe National Forest years—at the Navy's Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida. Staff Sergeant Tevebaugh was a memorable mentor, to be sure, but nowhere near as memorable as Ranger Bob Hoag.

## My First Forest Service Job

### Which First Job?

By Dick Spray

I'll start the search for the answer to that question back in 1943 when I was 11 years old.

It was the middle of World War II, and even by hiring women and high school boys the Forest Service was having a hard time staffing its seasonal organization. My Dad and several other Mountain States Power Company employees volunteered their vacations to staff a fire lookout on the Cascadia Ranger District, Willamette National Forest.

Early in the year, District Ranger Don Stoner and his district assistant went down to Albany to put on a guard school to train these volunteers. I went with my Dad, and soaked up the training like a sponge. After three seasons on Jump Off Joe Lookout with Dad, during which I was left holding down the lookout several times while Dad chased smokes or scrounged firewood, I'd accumulated some real experience.

At the end of the 1945 season, Ranger Stoner came up to help close the lookout for the season. Dad and I were happy the war was over but sad we would not be coming back. The ranger made my hopes soar when he told me to come see him when I turned 16 and he would find me a job.

Three years later in 1948 I was 16 and living in Portland with my mother after my parents divorced in 1946. I went to Cascadia Ranger Station to see about that job, but Ranger Stoner had been transferred and all bets were off. So ended my quest for my first job in the Forest Service. I worked that summer and the next at Breitenbush Hot Springs, a job that at least got me out in the woods and on the trails.

#### **My first un-Forest Service seasonal job**

I turned 18 in 1950 and that winter sent letters to about 20 forest-related offices. I received four job offers, and accepted the first one that arrived: a slot on a State Board of Forestry fire suppression crew at Owl Camp in the Tillamook Burn.

The second job offer was from the Detroit Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, to be fire lookout on Dome Rock. I wanted that job very badly, but thought it would be unethical to dump the job I'd already accepted so reluctantly turned down the Dome Rock Lookout job. The other two job offers were for other state suppression crews.

#### **My first Forest Service seasonal job**

After three seasons with the state's Northwest Oregon District as a crewman, lookout, dispatcher, and fire warden, I went looking again for a job with the Forest Service. This time I applied through the School of Forestry at Oregon State College where I was in my third year and got a job at Parkdale Ranger Station on the Hood River Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest.

With the line of experience I had behind me, they put me up on Red Hill Guard Station for the summer.

The next summer I was headquarters fireman at Parkdale Ranger Station. I worked for Jiggs Pedersen, the district assis-

tant, and district rangers Bert Holtby the first summer and Milton Andrews the second summer. They promised to pick me off the civil service register for a permanent position after I graduated, but this didn't work out. I was short a five-credit forest management course after the spring term of 1954 and had to come back and finish the following winter term.

#### **My first Forest Service permanent job**

When I finished at Oregon State in the middle of the winter of 1955, I was broke and had no job. Professor Walter McCulloch, in the School of Forestry, went to bat for me. He told me to go down to the Siuslaw National Forest headquarters to talk to Forest Supervisor Rex Wakefield. I did, and he gave me a temporary engineering job surveying and designing roads. I was saved.

I had a military service obligation coming up and got orders to report to Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho on June 15, 1955. The gods were shining on me now! I got a permanent appointment in the Forest Service about June 1 and went on military furlough on June 15! That was my first permanent job: District Engineer on the Mapleton Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest, working for District Ranger Verus Dahlin.

After 14 years of seeking a job on a national forest, it couldn't have turned out better.

#### **Feature continued from page 8**

*Guerdon Ellis, Forest Supervisor from Region 5, accompanied the director and his assistants as technical adviser for the Forest Service. Background scenes made depict back firing, running ground fires, crown fires and constructing fire trails with bulldozers. In one scene 30 local loggers and 15 Camp Bly CCCs made their bid for film fame. Johnson Brothers—Bob and Dick—who have done considerable flying for the Forest Service in Region 1, came down with two planes. Frank Derry, instructor in parachute jumping for Region 1, accompanied them. It was planned that Derry would make a jump in the vicinity of three miles of slash fire, but clouds prevented shooting this phase of the story. However, some good shots were obtained depicting the hero flying his plane through smoke.*

*Director Tate expressed himself as being particularly well pleased with the 6,000 feet of colored film used. The troupe had been searching in vain for appropriate fires in the vicinity of Eugene before they got word of our extensive slash area. To make the ground fires hotter, 1800 gallons of Diesel oil were used. The final big slash fire which extended for over three miles put up a realistic smoke without the aid of oil.*

*The Forest Service will undoubtedly, through the medium of this picture, obtain some excellent publicity, not only in fire prevention but in other land management activities.*

With the benefit of having seen the completed movie many times, I correct Mr. Herbert's account on two points: Susan Hayward and not Madeline Carroll was the third co-star, and the villain not the hero piloted the plane.

About 300 issues of the *Six Twenty Six* must have been published between 1917 and World War II. What a Forest Service heritage resource they must be!



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