



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees – Spring 2014

President's Message—Linda Goodman

Hard to believe this will be my last President's message. How time flies when you are having fun, and I have had fun being your President! At last year's banquet I stated one of my goals for my year as President was to increase the number of members we have. I wanted us to get to 1,000 members during my tenure. That wasn't just because I wanted to hit a new high; it was because I believe in our goals and want to see this organization grow and continue through the years. The problem with a retiree group is that we are on the last quarter of our lives (if we are lucky) so we lose members every year and we need new retirees to join and participate.

When I look at us as an organization, I want us to thrive and don't understand why every retiree wouldn't want to join. We provide grants to projects that support the mission of the Forest Service; we help people who need emergency funds; we support each other and the agency we all love; AND we have a good time! Our newsletter is the best retiree newsletter throughout the Forest Service!

I have been so fortunate to have a group of dedicated Board members and it has been a privilege to work with them. So as I say goodbye as your President, I would ask you to reach out to other retirees and invite them to be members. We want our organization to thrive, and you all can help. I am excited about **Al Matecko** becoming our new President in May and **Jim Rice** joining the Board as President-elect!

Hope to see all of you at the Spring Banquet on May 18 and the Summer Picnic in the Woods on August 8!

Linda Goodman

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Visit the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association website at: www.oldsmokeys.org

Sign Up Now for May 18 Banquet! See Pages 3 and 5!

Forum

OldSmokeys Newsletter Editor Begins Ninth Year in the “Bully Pulpit”

By Les Joslin

This issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* marks my thirty-third issue and the beginning of my ninth year of editing—producing and publishing with input from you and others—this Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association quarterly.

What a great ride these eight years have been! I appreciate the opportunities to share news and opinions with, pursue “the greater good” with, and get to know many of the OldSmokeys who helped make the once-great U.S. Forest Service the first-rate natural resource management agency it was.

You and your careers, interests, events, and heritage provided “the stuff” of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* I have produced since my spring 2006 debut issue. There has been another focus, too: our obligation to the outfit in which we served and the resource we managed that I characterized on my first *Forum* page as “Job One: To Save the System and the Service.” This page soon became, in President Theodore Roosevelt’s words, the “bully pulpit” from which we have pursued that objective.

Yet, we still stand to lose the Forest Service, which in the 1950s Senator Hubert H. Humphrey called “the Marine Corps of the federal civil service,” and perhaps even the National Forest System our heroes Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot bequeathed to our care.

And not enough people in the right places seem to care!

I may have another few issues in me, but it’s really time for a new editor to assume responsibility for your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and to realize anew its potential to do good things for the OldSmokeys as well as for their outfit and the national forests which so desperately need their help.

A new editor may offer new perspectives on the issues we as OldSmokeys care about, and perhaps even a spiffy new look to your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. Please find one! I’d be happy to contribute articles to a new editor’s newsletter.

OldSmokey Carl Hickerson, who shared aspects of his career in a couple newsletters, welcomed OldSmokeys Newsletter editor Les Joslin to his Scottsdale, Arizona, home in March 2014.



OldSmokeys Who Helped to Save the Symbol Must Now Strive to Save the System and the Service

This time last year, OldSmokeys and other U.S. Forest Service retirees rallied to save the symbol—the Pine Tree Shield—of the Forest Service in which they served.

In just more than a week, those retirees and their supporters absolutely thwarted an ill-advised and ill-conceived initiative to reduce the visibility—and perhaps even erase the identity—of the U.S. Government agency most identified with conservation of natural resources for more than a century.

The symbol was saved. The historic Pine Tree Shield is still seen on the left breast pocket of those Forest Service personnel who still wear the uniform with pride, as well as on agency vehicles and signs and paperwork. Yet, as the Forest Service evolves, that symbol and its wearers are seen less and less on the national forests.

The challenge to save the system—the National Forest System—and the service—the U.S. Forest Service—that are represented by that symbol remains. By design or by default, the Forest Service and the National Forest System are at great risk.

The challenge must be met, and in the Winter 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* as well as the Winter 2014 issue of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees *The Lookout*, three OldSmokeys and a Southwest Region Amigo proposed in their “An Agency to Match the Mountains” paper a transformative structural and cultural initiative Forest Service leadership should pursue now to save the system and the service.

This paper was also sent to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and others in his office including Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie and Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Butch Blazer. It was sent to Chief of the Forest Service Tom Tidwell, his associate chief and deputy chiefs, the regional foresters, and the forest supervisors.

The authors of the paper have reported some great feedback from the field. “Thanks. Some good ideas that [we are] looking at already,” a regional forester responded. “You must have been sitting in on our team meetings the past year.”

“Well done!” a veteran forest supervisor commented. “Would love to be an instructor [at the proposed U.S. Forest Service Academy] when I retire next year!”

Such feedback, as limited as it has been, is encouraging. It shows that at least some leaders in the field who live and work with and within the milieu the Agency to Match the Mountains concept addresses “get it” enough to reply.

Such feedback—followed, of course, by positive action—from Washington, D.C., would be encouraging, too.

The limited amount of such feedback from those who could make a real difference is discouraging to those striving to save the system and the service for the American people.

—Les Joslin

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

—Attributed to Voltaire

OldSmokeys News

OldSmokeys Will Welcome New PNWFSA President Al Matecko and President-elect Jim Rice at May 18 Spring Banquet

It's time to reserve your place(s) at the table of your Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) annual Spring Banquet on May 18, 2014, at which **Al Matecko** will relieve **Linda Goodman** as President of the PNWFSA and **Jim Rice** will step into the President-elect boots as Linda relieves **Mike Ash** of the Past President duties.

That all happens after all attending OldSmokeys enjoy an afternoon of fellowship and fine dining at beautiful Charbonneau Country Club just south of Portland near Wilsonville, Oregon. You won't want to miss it! So, if you haven't already, use the Spring Banquet reservation form on page 5 to book your seat(s) for just **\$27.00** per person. Reservations must be made no later than May 5, 2014!

Schedule Change

The schedule for this year's Spring Banquet has changed slightly from that of previous years and from the times announced in the Winter 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and on the reservation form provided in that issue.

Doors for the Banquet will open at **2:00 p.m.** instead of 1:00 p.m. as previously announced. A social hour with no-host bar and appetizer table will be under way by **2:30 p.m.**, and the buffet dinner will be served at **3:30 p.m.** after which a short business meeting including the peaceful change of power mentioned above will wrap up our official proceedings.

OldSmokeys Board of Directors Keeps August 8 Summer Picnic in the Woods Cost at Just \$25.00 Per Person

In spite of increasing costs, your PNWFSA Board of Directors voted unanimously at its February 28, 2014, meeting to keep the cost of attending this summer's annual Picnic in the Woods—scheduled for August 8 this year—at just \$25.00 for each adult and \$12.50 for each accompanying grandchild.

Any additional costs per person will be subsidized by funds derived from the Spring Banquet's every-other-year silent auction fund. The expressed purpose of the auction is to help ensure the affordability of member events such as the picnic.

So, plan now to enjoy a most affordable good time with other OldSmokeys at PNWFSA's annual Picnic in the Woods on August 8! Complete picnic information and reservation form are on page 6.

OldSmokeys Membership Directory 2014 is Enclosed in this Newsletter Issue

As you've certainly noticed, your Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) *Membership Directory 2014* is enclosed in this Spring 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, rather

than in the winter issue as has been the practice for many years.

Why? At its December 27, 2013, meeting, your PNWFSA Board of Directors voted to issue a directory that would be up-to-date for a longer period of time.

"It's from October through February, and sometimes into March, we experience many changes in our membership records," explained Database Manager **Bill Funk**. "That's the period during which members who pay annual dues pay their dues and, in the process, we find many changes not previously reported that need to be made."

So, from now on, expect to receive the annual *Membership Directory* with the spring issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

OldSmokeys Award \$4,349 in Grants to Support Four Worthwhile Projects

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Board of Directors on January 31, 2014, unanimously approved awarding a total of \$4,349 in grants to four projects recommended by the Grant Committee of OldSmokeys **Charlie Krebs, Bob Tokarczyk, Phil Hirl, and Kent Mays**.

A grant of \$500, supported by Forest Supervisor and OldSmokey **John Allen**, will help fund fabrication and installation of a new interpretive sign at historic Fall River Guard Station on the Deschutes National Forest. This 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps-built guard station has been rehabilitated as a self-supporting recreation lodging program rental and enjoys a high occupancy rate.

A grant totaling \$1,849 will support several projects at the historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot scheduled to be completed by the Friends of Fish Lake—a non-profit organization comprised largely of OldSmokeys—scheduled for June 9-13 this year. (see page 4). These include installing new siding on the tack room, replacing the tack room door, and rehabilitation work on the Hall House. The request for this grant was supported by District Ranger Terry Baker, McKenzie River Ranger District, Willamette National Forest.

A \$1,000 grant went to the Oregon Garden Foundation in partnership with the Oregon Forest Resources Institute to help construct a 1,300 square-foot Discovery Pavilion at the Oregon Gardens near Silverton, Oregon. The new pavilion, located in the 15-acre Rediscovery Forest which provides on-the-ground educational experiences for students, educators, forest landowners, and the general public, will feature Oregon wood products as both a viable green product and economic sector.

Another \$1,000 grant to the Hopkins Demonstration Forest, a 140-acre privately-owned facility south of Oregon City, Oregon, operated by Forests Forever, Inc., will help support its science-based education program for young people. Once the tree farm of the late OldSmokey **Howard Hopkins** and his wife, Margaret, programs at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest focus on and provide hands-on experience in dealing with the complexities of managing woodlands.

Annual grants are awarded to proposed projects that best meet PNWFSA criteria and standards. Since the program began, the PNWFSA has awarded over \$63,000 in grants to such projects.

OldSmokeys Approve Change to PNWFSA Constitution to Expand Membership Eligibility

A majority of the members who voted in the recent Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) election approved the PNWFSA Board of Directors' proposal to change the Constitution of the PNWFSA to expand membership eligibility for current U.S. Forest Service personnel by dropping the requirement that PNWFSA membership applicants possess a minimum of 20 years of government service.

This change recognizes the fact that some current Forest Service employees joined the agency from non-government sources such as universities and the private sector. These are some of the people PNWFSA wishes to recruit as OldSmokeys.

Approval of the Board of Directors' proposal changed Article III, Section 1.a. of the PNWFSA Constitution to read:

1. *Membership in PNWFSA is open to:*
 - a. *Any current employee of the Forest Service who works or has worked in the Pacific Northwest.*

All other membership provisions of Article III, Section 1 and the membership eligibilities they set forth remain unchanged.

OldSmokeys are Signing On to Staff High Desert Ranger Station for its Sixth Consecutive Summer

The summer of 2014 will be the OldSmokeys sixth consecutive summer staffing the High Desert Ranger Station exhibit at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon. This summer's 66-day staffing season will start Saturday, June 28, and run through Monday, September 1.

An OldSmokey project—sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) as an organization and as individuals since its inception—this restored one-room U.S. Forest Service district ranger's office building is staffed by OldSmokeys who tell the National Forest story to Museum visitors. Last summer, a dozen OldSmokeys and a couple other dedicated volunteers told that story to a record 1,613 visitors.

Again this summer, the volunteer for the five-hour day—visible in his or her green Forest Service retiree polo shirt, blue jeans, and boots—will welcome visitors to the station and tell the story in his or her own way to help visitors understand the role the Forest Service plays in “caring for the land and serving people” on their national forests.

Again this summer, volunteer team leader OldSmokey **Les Joslin** will schedule each volunteer based on availability and convenience. All volunteers sign on as High Desert Museum volunteers, and first-year volunteers attend Museum volunteer training, pass a criminal background check, and receive a full day of on-the-job ranger station orientation.

For more information about this opportunity and to sign up, contact Les by telephone at 541-330-0331, or by e-mail at <lesjoslin@aol.com>, or letter addressed to him at 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701.

OldSmokeys Are Reserving June 9-13, 2014, for Annual Fish Lake Work Week

The Friends of Fish Lake (FFL) have scheduled their annual June work week at the historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot on the Willamette National Forest for June 9 through 13 this year, according to FFL President and OldSmokey **Mike Kerrick**.

“The FFL has grants from both the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) and the Kinsman Foundation that, along with other FFL funds, total \$7,100.00 with which to complete five restoration projects at the historic station.” Mike said. “These funds will be used for materials. Labor will be supplied by the experienced and skilled volunteers who continue to show up at this U.S. Forest Service historic site. Last year, 35 volunteers put in 860 hours of work to complete projects for which grants were secured. We are counting on a repeat or better performance for 2014. So, mark your calendars and join in this labor of love.”

E-mail Mike at <makerrick@q.com> to participate. There is limited space in the bunkhouse, and RVs and tents are welcome. This year's work week projects include replacing the two large sliding doors to the blacksmith shop, replacing the sliding door to the tack and saddle room, residing part of the north wall of the closed storage building and the west wall of the gas and oil house, and continued restoration of the Hall House.

Increasing interest and a new challenge

Articles in Bend's daily newspaper, *The Bulletin*, last June and July created a surge of visitation to the historic Fish Lake site last year. All were amazed at what they saw. Among these was Forest Service Chief Emeritus and now OldSmokey **Gail Kimbell** who lives in Redmond, Oregon. “She was so impressed with FFL's efforts she became a member,” Mike reports.

To guide the future of the historic site, the Forest Service and the FFL hosted a workshop in April 2013 attended by interested stakeholders who focused on educational and funding opportunities. Four educational themes were identified: equestrian uses, natural and cultural history and ecology, wilderness management and survival, and trail construction and maintenance. A summary of these programs is on the FFL website at <www.fishlakehistoricsite.org>. To test these themes, the Backcountry Horsemen of Oregon will put on a Leave No Trace training session and the Northwest Youth Corps will sponsor week-long “Northwest Adventures” for youths.

Work on the historic station's Commissary Cabin last summer revealed significant bat and rodent residue that comprise a human health hazard. The structure was removed from the Willamette National Forest's recreation rental program while the McKenzie River Ranger District explores methods to clean it up. Once cleaned up, the FFL plans to restore the cabin's interior similar to the interior of the adjacent Dispatch Cabin.

“We are excited that the learning center concept is getting off the ground,” Mike said.

Visit the FFL website at <www.fishlakehistoricsite.org> to join the FFL and support its work.



Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Spring Banquet 2014

OldSmokeys Must Reserve for PNWFSA May 18 Banquet by May 5!

Now's the time to make your reservations for the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association's annual Spring Banquet on Sunday, May 18, 2014, at Charbonneau Country Club just south of Portland., Oregon.

That's right! Time flies! There will be just about a month left by the time you receive this issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* before Sunday, May 18, when the OldSmokeys get together from 2:00 p.m. to sometime before 6:00 p.m. for their annual banquet and membership meeting at which they will enjoy a delicious meal with good friends and welcome their new President and President-elect to lead their great PNWFSA through the coming year. ***You must send in your reservations not later than May 5!***

Due to a recent schedule change, doors will open at **2:00 p.m.**, social hours with no-host bar and appetizer table will be under way by **2:30 p.m.**, and the buffet dinner will be served at **3:30 p.m.**

You can use the form below to reserve your place or places **now** at one of the two big OldSmokey gatherings of the year to visit with friends, relive the old days, ponder the future, and see new President **Al Matecko** and new President-elect **Jim Rice** installed in office, and thank outgoing President **Linda Goodman** for her year of leadership as she assumes the mantle of Past President. A reservation form for the Summer Picnic is on the other side of the form, so you may register for both at once and save a stamp!

To get to the Charbonneau Country Club from Portland or points north, exit I-5 at Exit 282B (Charbonneau District) after crossing the Willamette River bridge. Turn left (east) at the first stop sign onto NE Miley Road, go .4 mile to French Prairie Road. Turn left onto French Prairie Road, go .7 mile to Charbonneau Drive. Turn onto Charbonneau Drive and proceed to the Charbonneau Country Club. From Salem or points south, use Exit 282 (Canby) just north of the rest stop. Turn right (east) onto NE Miley Road, go .3 mile to French Prairie Road, turn left and go .7 mile to Charbonneau Drive, then follow that drive to the Charbonneau Country Club.

So, fill out and send in this reservation form (or a copy) to reserve your place(s) not later than May 5, 2014!

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
SPRING BANQUET—MAY 18, 2014
Charbonneau Country Club, Wilsonville, Oregon

RESERVATION FORM

*Mail this reservation form and a check for \$27.00 per person (payable to PNWFSA) to:
PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583*

Please reserve _____ dinners at **\$27.00** each for (names exactly as they will appear on name tags):

My check for \$_____ is enclosed. Please print your name here _____

Please send this reservation form in to be received no later than May 5, 2014



Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Summer Picnic in the Woods 2014

OldSmokeys May Reserve Early for PNWFSA’s Summer Picnic 2014

Why wait? There’s no time like the present to sign up for the annual Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) annual Summer Picnic in the Woods scheduled for Friday, August 8, 2014. You can do that now with the reservation form provided below. Just clip it or copy it, fill it out and send it in with your check for only **\$25.00** per person by July 31, 2014, to reserve your place(s) for this highlight of the OldSmokey year!

As always, there’ll be great chow catered by our old friend and honorary OldSmokey Dave Dalton. And again this year, grandchildren under 12 years old are welcome to come with you at the half-price cost of just **\$12.50** each.

Wildwood Picnic Area is again the site for the picnic. As most OldSmokeys know, Wildwood is about 40 miles east of Portland on U.S. Highway 26 between Brightwood and Zigzag. Watch for the BLM Wildwood Recreation Area sign on the south side of the highway, and follow the signs to the area reserved for the picnic.

There’s a \$5.00 per vehicle parking fee that helps BLM maintain the Wildwood Recreation Area as the special place it is. A variety of federal recreation passes—the America the Beautiful-National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass (the \$10.00 lifetime senior citizen version for which most OldSmokeys qualify, or the regular annual version, the free lifetime version for citizens with permanent disabilities, the free volunteer pass) or other valid existing federal passes such as the Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Access passports will do the trick. If you use one of these, please either display your pass or write your pass number on the payment envelope and place it on the dashboard of your car.

If you have any questions, please call PNWFSA Picnic Chair **Rick Larson** at 541-386-5175 or e-mail Rick at <rlarson@gorge.net>.

So, if you’re ready to sign up early (if you’re not, there will be another registration form in your Summer 2014 OldSmokeys Newsletter), fill out and send in this reservation form for the picnic!

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
SUMMER PICNIC IN THE WOODS—AUGUST 8, 2014
BLM Wildwood Picnic Area

RESERVATION FORM

Socializing at 11:00 a.m.—Lunch at 12:30 p.m.

Mail this reservation form and a check for \$25.00 per person (payable to PNWFSA) to:
PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583*

Please reserve _____ picnic lunches at **\$25.00*** each for (names exactly as they will appear on name tags):

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed. Please print your name here: _____

Please send your reservation form in to be received no later than July 31, 2014!

*Grandchildren under 12 years old cost \$12.50 each.



U.S. Forest Service National Reunion 2015

OldSmokeys May Plan Now to Attend “Rally on the Rio” in Albuquerque

“Rally on the Rio”—the U.S. Forest Service National Reunion in 2015—is scheduled for the week of October 11-15, 2015, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and it’s time for OldSmokeys to make plans to attend!

Hosted by the Southwestern Region retiree organization, the Amigos, and the Rocky Mountain Research Station retiree organization, this every-three-year national reunion will be based at the Marriott Pyramid Hotel in Albuquerque the week following that city’s annual Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

“All current and past Forest Service employees are invited to the reunion,” according to the planning committee that began work on this reunion just a few months prior to the September 2012 Rendezvous in the Rockies reunion in Vail, Colorado. “We are anticipating over 1,000 retirees from all over the United States to attend. Reunion events will feature cultural and historic presentations about the U.S. Forest Service. This is an opportunity for attendees to informally renew friendships. We will be recording oral histories of selected individuals.”

The Program

“It’s going to be hard to top this,” Rally on the Rio planning committee chair Lou Romero said back in Vail at the September 2012 reunion, “so we aren’t even going to try. Our focus is going to be different: to produce a uniquely Southwestern reunion that rekindles the sense of pride and fulfillment our careers have contributed to the Forest Service heritage, and a celebration of fond memories with former associates, mentors, spouses, families and friends.”

To that end, the planning committee has adopted the reunion theme “Celebrating Forest Service Families.”

It’s still early in the planning process, and details that are still being worked out will be provided in forthcoming issues of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

In the meantime, you can keep up to date on program plans and plan your trip with information as it’s provided on the Rally on the Rio website at <<http://2015fsreunions.org>> and, if you are on Facebook, on the Rally on the Rio Facebook page by searching for ‘National Forest Service Retiree Reunions’ or typing <<https://www.facebook.com/fsreunions.org>> into your browser. For further information, go to <info@2015.fsreunions.org> and, of course, watch this space.

OldSmokey Dennis Dietrich Assumes PNWFSA Area Representative Role for Deschutes National Forest

OldSmokey **Dennis Dietrich** has taken over the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) area representative job for the Deschutes National Forest from long-time area representative OldSmokey **Arlie Holm**.

Area representatives generally represent the PNWFSA to U.S. Forest Service officials and personnel on and around specific national forests, and encourage PNWFSA membership among eligible personnel and retirees. In the couple months Dennis has been in this position, he has recruited five new OldSmokeys including Chief Emeritus of the Forest Service **Abigail Kimbell**.

A 1969 forestry graduate of the University of Missouri, Dennis began his Forest Service career in Region 5 on the Shasta-Trinity National Forests in 1974 before moving to Region 6 in 1978, where he stayed until he retired in 2010 as the Timber Sale Contracting Officer on the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests.

OldSmokeys Invited to Attend National Smokey Bear Association Convention in Bend, Oregon, on April 23-25, 2014

As announced in your Winter 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, the Smokey Bear Association (SBA) has invited OldSmokeys to attend specific parts of its three-day national convention—“Smokey’s Cascade Campout”—at The Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center in Bend, Oregon, set for April 23-25, 2014.

“A goal of the SBA is to attract new members,” SBA President Jack Winchell said. “One way...is to invite OldSmokeys to attend [parts] of the convention as invited guests at no charge.” Guests “will not be able to attend the convention banquet [or] some activities for members only,” as mentioned in the detailed Winter 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* article, but will have access to much of the event.

Convention registration for SBA members is \$75.00 for a single and \$125 for couples. Non-members pay \$100.00 and \$150.00, respectively, and get a one-year SBA membership. So getting in on part of the show for free could be considered a “good deal.”

The mission of the SBA, until August 2012 named the Hot Foot Teddy Collectors Association (HFTCA), is “to preserve Smokey Bear’s past, promote his present, and protect his future.” Collecting and trading Smokey Bear memorabilia remains a favorite member pastime, as does sharing information on the history and values of Smokey Bear memorabilia and collectibles.

Hey OldSmokeys,

We get a little short on OldSmokey news sometimes. Send yours in and help us out a bit. Thanks!



OldSmokeys Say

Canopy Gap Forestry (Part 2)

Combining Old and New Indices

By Desi Zamudio

Snow survey began on Mount Rose in the Sierra Nevada on the Toiyabe National Forest, the home unit of the High Desert Ranger Station (at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon) at which I penned this series. Six years into snow survey, James Church (1912) wrote: “The greatest depth of snow did not occur under the individual trees but in the open in their lee.” As a watershed: “The ideal forest possesses a maximum number of glades...the glades being proportional to the height of trees around them. Such a forest viewed from above would resemble a gigantic honey comb.” This snow-water catch view reads like canopy gap forestry where better growth is likely.

I am reminded of an outing with silviculturist Phil Johns to ten-year-old canopy gaps by Klamath Lake installed for eagle trees. I had told Johns about Church’s snow survey finding and we went to look at snow catch. The early snow pack was already a few feet deeper in the gaps, and pines we sampled at the edges of the gaps had accelerated growth rates like those found by Gray and co-authors (2012).

In old-fashioned range surveys, better growth is an essential element of upward trend. A canopy gap by the High Desert Ranger Station helps me consider a combination of old and new indices as I demonstrate past skills using a snow survey sampler and interpreting plants using the 1937 Range Plant handbook to bring the past alive for visitors. I often start my plant talk with Greenleaf Manzanita, the “little apple.” It has distinct vertical leaf alignment, which reduces heat load and catches kids’ interest. It has negligible forage values for deer and livestock except after burns during rapid growth from root stock. Busse and co-authors (1996) showed litter build-up from Greenleaf Manzanita improved their site at Pringle Falls Experimental Forest enough to aid pine growth after 20 years. It is as if they tested a line out of the 1937 Range Plant Handbook: “As ground cover, its litter forms humus to improve the site.”

The 1937 Range Plant Handbook also gives a clue to the snow catch: western aspen typically grows in open stands. Aspen groves have emerged as the most effective snow catch forests. Aspen units in soil surveys across the Intermountain West are consistent map units with thick black soils. Thick black—humus layers take hundreds of years to develop and recurring fires need to be frequent enough to favor aspen litter decay. Fire stimulates rapid regrowth and understory diversity. For example, at the 2002 Toolbox Fire on the Fremont National Forest, an aspen grove in decline in the mid 1990s flourished after the fire with new shoots and a flush of sedges and a bouquet of wildflowers, including fire weed.

Melding together plant and soil information helped the early rangers understand their geography and trends in conditions. Early regulation of western rangelands was in part turning around forage decline. Arthur Sampson’s (1923) diagrams showed a gradient from dense fibrous roots under grasses to tap

rooted herbs with erosion rills. With shifts to grasses, erosion declined and forage improved. To illustrate this history, I describe a toe point count to show Idaho fescue grass cover values.

Canopy gap images looking up to the trees and down to the shrubs and grasses show how ideal range, water, wildlife, and timber occur together. It would be great if the Forest Service would explore accounting for trend all together. It may just be wishful thinking, because subspecialties in the Forest Service are darn territorial—maybe too territorial to do the needed correlations.

I know canopy gaps are too similar to Piute forestry to suit the ghost of Gifford Pinchot. I prefer Harold Biswell forestry, tested for low fire damage and wildlife values. and canopy gap forestry being tested for tree growth, humus build-up, and porosity. With overall accounting, Forest Plan goals for upward trend could be summed up in a sentence: Form canopy gaps at the pace of fire frequency. At a fifteen-year fire frequency the pace is seven percent each year that should do the land and our neighbors well.

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And OldSmokeys Reply!

OldSmokey Desi Zamudio replys to OldSmokey Ted Stubblefield’s “Federal Forest Management for the Twenty-first Century.

In community fuel projects with <www.frccc.gov> it is time for Ted Stubblefield’s **Forest Watershed Habitat Restoration** approach. Stand structures of common forest habitats are summarized and catalogued over their lifetime in <www.frcc.gov> probable stages, but not “all stages” are summarized. For example, in eastside pine, 80 percent of the landscape has the probability of being in open stages rather than in closed life stages, while 60 percent of a landscape is apt to be in open stages in western Oregon. With a native land pattern of 60 to 80 percent in forest canopy gaps, good growth in forest canopy gaps is good news.

OldSmokeys Say continues on page 20

Forest Service News

U.S. Forest Service Ranger Terry Baker Named McKenzie River Valley Man of the Year



“He may have had a bumpy start when he took over as McKenzie District Ranger in 2011, but since then Terry Baker has won over a number of local supporters,” the *McKenzie River Reflections* observed in its January 9, 2014, edition. District Ranger Baker, McKenzie River Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, had just been named McKenzie Valley, Oregon, “Man of the Year” for 2013 by his fellow citizens.

“Some of those who nominated him as Man of the Year had initially opposed him during a controversy that grew around a thinning project that received comments from around the world,” the newspaper reported. Ranger Baker’s service on the district soon turned that around to the extent the newspaper’s readers voted him the honor.

“Terry has made a huge impact on the McKenzie Valley as people along the entire stretch know and respect him,” said Jim Rudisill, a McKenzie River Ranger District supervisory forester and silviculturist.

“I am impressed with his openness to talk and listen,” the newspaper quoted one reader. “Terry is unique—he values people with words and actions,” said another.

“Praise too, came for his meetings with civil (*sic*) groups, working with the Chamber of commerce and with different local and nonprofit interests..., ‘as well as being a face at events,’” the newspaper article continued.

“I am not at all surprised, but extremely pleased that the community has recognized you in this manner,” OldSmokey **Zane Smith** wrote to Ranger Baker. “You have earned every bit of it, and not only with the community but your district team as well. Everyone we talk to has high praise. I am especially grateful that you reflect the image and professionalism that made the Forest Service what it is through the years. Administrative decisions at the top have eroded that image, but you have demonstrated the will and performance to return the gold standard. As a third-generation Forest Service retiree, it makes me proud of you, District Ranger Baker!”

Ranger Terry Baker earned a bachelor’s degree in general agriculture from Florida A&M University, a bachelor’s degree in forestry from the University of Florida, and a master’s degree in forest management from Yale University. He’s worked across the eastern United States and the West in a wide spectrum of Forest Service assignments.

“My education didn’t prepare me for all the things I’ve had to deal with,” Ranger Baker observed. “It’s more a part of my nature learned from my mother, who put helping people at the forefront of who she was.”

“Certainly, there’s a part of the [district ranger] job that involves being directive—giving direction, and holding people accountable—but my overall preference is to facilitate the work of the whole unit,” Ranger Baker says. He is pleased with his district staff, and that many choose to stay put as the Forest Service goes through personnel changes and turnover. According to Shane Kamrath, the district’s natural resources staff officer, the staff returns his regard.

Prepared from “Reader’s picks for the ‘Best of the McKenzie River’” in the January 9, 2014, River Reflections; “A Story of Facilitative Leadership” by Lisa Roper, U.S. Forest Service, dated August 28, 2013; and a January 10, 2014, e-mail from Zane Smith to District Ranger Baker forwarded by PNWFSA President Linda Goodman. Photograph courtesy of District Ranger Baker.

U.S. Forest Service Reported to Require Law Enforcement Citation Quotas

Recent southwestern newspaper and “watchdog group” reports claim the U.S. Forest Service has ordered each of its law enforcement officers (LEOs) to write at least 100 violation citations each year.

These reports appear to be based on and substantiated by internal Forest Service e-mails released on March 10, 2014.

“Is this for real?” retired Pacific Southwest Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Zane Smith** asked Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell in a March 17 e-mail after he learned of these reports. “I can’t believe the Forest Service would come up with such a policy that is contrary to everything we believe in.” Others responded similarly.

According to a March 11 *Tucson News Now* article and a March 13 story in *The Taos News*, both of which quote a March 11 Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) posting “Ticket Quotas Issued to Forest Service Rangers,” the agency’s director of Law Enforcement and Investigations called for the quota reflected in a November 6, 2013, e-mail from the Southwest Region (Region 3) regional patrol commander to his patrol captains on the region’s national forests.

“For FY 14, I expect these numbers [of violation citations issued] to increase substantially,” the regional patrol commander’s e-mail said.

“Few officers are meeting this high citation target amid conflicting directives from top Law Enforcement and Investigations (LE&I) brass about what is demanded of them,” the PEER report said.

A message dated simply “Tuesday, 3/4” apparently issued by LE&I’s deputy director sought to “ensure that no quotas for the number of VNs, WNs or IRs that an LEO must issue” were set and stating “we should all be consistent in our messaging that quotas regarding the number of VNs, WNs, and IRs are not appropriate.

Your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will track this story and report on its resolution.

Prepared from the sources listed and an e-mail from Zane Smith.

U.S. Forest Service Fire Borrowing Could End if Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2014 Becomes Law

The proposed Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2014 would treat the largest one percent of wildfires—which consume 30 percent of the federal firefighting budget—as natural disasters, fund the costs of suppressing those fires out of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) budget, and leave other funding for U.S. Forest Service and Department of the Interior agencies and their projects untouched.

Two bills, one introduced in the Senate by Senator Ron Wyden (Democrat-Oregon) and Senator Mike Crapo (Republican-Idaho) and the other in the House of Representatives by Representative Kurt Schrader (Democrat-Oregon) and Representative Mike Simpson (Republican-Idaho), have been referred to the Senate Budget Committee and the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry.

A bipartisan group of members of Congress meeting on March 17 at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise pledged to work on behalf of this legislation that would change the funding structure for fighting wildfires. Among these were Senator Jeff Merkley (Democrat-Oregon), Senator Jim Risch (Republican-Idaho), and Representative Raul Labrador (Republican-Idaho).

“This leadership from representatives Simpson and Schrader can establish a long-term solution for fire suppression funding that will finally end the senseless series of fire transfers and guarantee firefighters adequate resources to protect our communities and lands,” OldSmokey **Darrell Kenops**, Executive Director of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) said on February 5.

Currently, federal agencies project their annual fire costs by taking the average of the previous 10 years’ costs. Between 2004 and 2013, both the Forest Service’s and the Department of the Interior’s wildfire costs exceeded the 10-year average seven times. When those funds ran out, the agencies had to use—“borrow”—funds allocated for other resource management purposes including forest treatments that help reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. While Congress sometimes backfills those accounts, other important resource management projects can be thrown off schedule or go undone.

Despite this bipartisan support, the legislation that would result in a Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2014 faces a steep uphill battle; only about three percent of all bills introduced in Congress are enacted into law.

Meanwhile, as wildfire seasons have grown longer by two months, wildfire season 2014 looms. Dry conditions across the Southwest mean that the fire season has already started in Southern California, New Mexico, and Arizona, according to Ed Delgado, NIFC fire weather program manager. Over the spring and early summer, the dry conditions will creep north.

Prepared from multiple sources including “House Introduces Fire Funding Solution Bill; Broad Coalition of Forest Interests Support” published February 5, 2014, by The Nature Conservancy and the National Association of State Foresters and “Oregon senators back a fire shift” by Andrew Clevenger in the March 18, 2014, edition of The Bulletin, Bend, Oregon’s daily newspaper.

U.S. Forest Service Faces Job Corps Program Reductions in 2013 and 2014

Reduced federal budgets are impacting U.S. Forest Service operation of the Job Corps program, Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell’s office reported on January 2, 2014.

The Forest Service is allocated a budget for the Job Corps from the Department of Labor every year. Over the past two program years, which extend from July 1 through June 30, the Forest Service has received a reduced budget to manage and operate all 28 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers in 18 states.

The agency has continued operations and management with a reduced budget, but this program year is different. In June 2013, the Department of Labor reduced the Forest Service Job Corps program year budget approximately 25 percent, a \$19 million reduction. This has forced a dramatic reduction in operations and management costs. The budget for the Forest Service Job Corps program covers employee costs (60 percent), student services, infrastructure (which includes utilities), fleet, equipment, and workman’s compensation. A reduced budget means abolishing or removing positions at Job Corps Centers and the Job Corps National Office.

To identify positions that could be abolished while still managing and operating Job Corps Centers, the Job Corps executive team established a Workforce Planning Team that has identified approximately 150 positions to be reduced and identified a standard organization structure for each center.

“Restructuring the Forest Service Job Corps program is challenging, but a necessary endeavor,” Chief Tidwell wrote in a January 2, 2014, letter signed out by Associate Chief Mary Wagner. “This restructuring will occur over the next eight months and will mean changes to staff and how Job Corps Centers operate. I am committed to helping employees in Job Corps transition to other jobs in the agency.

“Assistance to the Job Corps program is vital as we continue to address budget shortfalls in calendar year 2014,” the Chief’s letter continued. ... “Job Corps is a vital program in our society and the Forest Service. The agency has a long tradition in managing Civilian Conservation Centers, and I want to continue that tradition while we endeavor to manage through continued budget reductions.”

Prepared from Chief Thomas L. Tidwell’s letter “Job Corps Program, Reductions in Program Year 2013 and 2014 Budgets,” January 2, 2014.

U.S. Forest Service to Establish Regional Climate Change Mitigation Hub in Corvallis, Oregon

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced February 5, 2014, creation of the first-ever Regional Hubs for Risk Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change at seven locations around the country. These “Climate Hubs”—one of which will serve the Northwest and be led by the Forest Service—will address increasing risks such as fires, invasive pests, devastating floods, and crippling droughts on a regional basis, aiming to

translate science and research into information that farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners can use to adapt and adjust their resource management.

In his State of the Union Address, President Barack Obama pledged that his administration would continue to do everything in its power to act on climate change. This announcement is part of the President's Climate Action Plan to responsibly cut carbon pollution, slow the effects of climate change, and put America on track to a cleaner environment.

The Hubs were established in response to the growing threat climate change presents to U.S. forest resources, agricultural production, and rural economies. They were chosen through a competitive process among USDA facilities, and are located across the country. In the Northwest, landowners and producers already are facing the challenges of a changing climate and increased weather variability in the form of reduced snowmelt, more frequent fires, and higher temperatures and drought.

The Northwest Regional Climate Hub (NRCH) will provide technical support, assessments, regional forecasts, and outreach and education to farmers, forest landowners, and ranchers to help them respond to the projected effects of a changing climate in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The NRCH will be led by the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station from its lab in Corvallis, Oregon.

"People who work directly with the land need access to our best information about climate trends so they can make wise decisions about investing in crops, machinery, irrigation, and processing," said Beatrice Van Horne, Research Station Program Manager and NRCH Director.

The NRCH also will serve as a critical link in a broad network of partners participating in climate risk adaptation and mitigation across its four-state region, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Agricultural Research Service, Oregon State University, Washington State University, University of Idaho, U.S. Geological Survey, and many other educational, federal, state, and local agencies and groups.

"Our partners at universities, climate science centers, federal research labs, and other research centers have been working hard to understand climate fluctuations and predict future trends," Van Horne said. "I'm looking toward finding out what people working directly with the land want to know and working with partners to provide that information."

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station News Release "Secretary Vilsack Announces Regional Hubs to Help Agriculture, Forestry Mitigate the Impacts of a Changing Climate" of February 6, 2014.

U.S. Forest Service Loses Bob Irwin, Last of the "Sabre-Toothed Rangers"

By Bruce Van Zee

On May 2, 2013, I received a call from Bob Irwin. "Bruce, I'm dying and want to see you before I go." I drove to Sonora the next day, and during our conversation, he requested I write his obituary for the PSW FSX newsletter—so here goes.

Bob Irwin has passed. Those who knew him remember a highly energetic, ethical, committed land manager; wildland fire ex-

pert; loveable ogre; and one helluva fine person.

Bob began his career in 1947, in blister rust control on the Eldorado National Forest. He worked in BRC and fire, then in 1949, coming off a fire, he was confronted by Ed Smith, Forest Supervisor, and District Ranger Frank McCaslin; Bob had lied about his age. Bob leveled that he needed a job as his father was unable to work, and thanks to the compassion of his superiors, they let him off the hook.

Bob served in the Korean conflict as a Marine Corps combat photographer, and did a brief stint with *Colliers* magazine as a photographer. His interest in fire led him back to the Forest Service and then, with prodding from superiors, he went to school on the GI Bill. By the time he enrolled at OSU, he and Jean were married, and he took on the responsibility of raising two young girls, Linda and Dana. Graduating in 1959, Bob became a Junior Forester on the Lassen, then moving to the Hat Creek District working for Don Renton, whom he greatly admired. He promoted to Mad River, on the Six Rivers, working for Joe Harn as Assistant Ranger. Reflecting on his career, Bob stated that working for those two DRs with degrees in disciplines other than forestry was one of the best things, career-wise, that happened to him.

In 1964, he was promoted to Gasquet on the Six Rivers as DR and a son, Rob, was added to the family. Forest Fire Management Officer on the Sequoia NF was the next logical progression, considering his fire expertise. This assignment allowed his wife, Jean, to obtain an AA degree. Bob moved on to the fire lab at Riverside, allowing Jean to continue her education, which led her into a counseling career. Bob eventually accepted the challenge of FIRESCOPE—a program mandated by the catastrophic fires of 1970—which Bob called "The Biggest Little Program in Forest Service History."

Bob was program manager for FIRESCOPE from 1975 until his retirement in 1982. He left an important and everlasting legacy in the development of a program, which became the Incident Command System (ICS), adopted nationally and internationally. He taught Fire Generalship in Region 5 and at the National Fire Training Center.

Bob was a devoted husband and father, consummate professional, and made an indelible imprint upon those whom had the good fortune of working and associating with him. To say he was colorful at times, would be an understatement—overflowing with energy, humorous—yet a stern taskmaster when there was work to be done.

All of us will encounter life's end. Bob has met his and arrived with achievement, ethos, and panache.

Epilogue: Serving my probationary period at Gasquet under Bob Irwin left an enduring impression. After receiving the appointment, he sat me down, gave me a reading list (A Sand County Almanac, Ranger on the Job, and others), lectured me on ethics, fiscal responsibility, and spent many days reviewing my work on the ground. During one orientation lecture, he said "since you are a bachelor, you better obey the 50-mile rule." News to me. "What's that, Bob?" "Kid, if you are inclined to horse around, keep it 50 miles from the Ranger Station."

Forest Service News continues on page 20

Feature

Smokey Bear is 70!

By Les Joslin

As reported in the Winter 2014 OldSmokeys Newsletter—and as OldSmokeys already knew—Smokey turns 70 years old this year. To commemorate America’s wildfire preventin’ bear, your OldSmokeys Newsletter is reviewing Smokey’s “Seventy Years of Vigilance” in this series.



Part II: Smokey Bear on the Job

Smokey Bear has been on the job—in the field, in the media, and even in the marketplace—for seventy years now, warning Americans about the danger of forest fires and then wildfires and the need to prevent them.

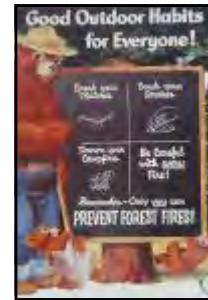
Almost every OldSmokey, at one time or another in his or her career, worked with old Smokey to help him do this job. A couple of those are in the photographs at right—your editor in the first one, taken in 1962, and PNWFSA archivist Ray Steiger in the last one, taken in 1984.

Smokey showed up in the field on posters and at public events almost from the get-go, warning forest visitors and users to prevent forest fires and showing them how. District rangers, fire control officers, and fire prevention guards on national forests—as well as state and local foresters—posted Smokey’s firm but friendly admonitions in campgrounds, along roadsides, and in storefronts, and featured him at fairs and in parades. Smokey soon won the hearts and minds of the American people—kids and grownups alike. Few could resist the appeal of this friendly but firm ursine ranger.

Also, from the beginning of his career, Smokey showed up in the print and broadcast media in news stories—beginning with those that reported his rescue as a cub in New Mexico to his move to the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C., and continued throughout his career with those that reported his unprecedented success in preventing forest fires to those that questioned the relevance of his message during the current era of fire use—and Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention (CFFP) program public service announcements.

And, after Congress passed the Smokey Bear Act of 1952 to protect Smokey and his image, Smokey showed up in a plethora of products that carried his image and message. Smokey Bear became the most successful public service messenger in American history. His message became so well known that one of his posters read simply “Only you...!” and he got so much fan mail he was provided his own Washington, D.C., zip code.

Editor’s Note: The photographs in the first two rows were made on the Toiyabe National Forest in 1962 and 1963. The photographs in the third row are of a 1950s Smokey Bear doll, Little Golden Book, and Dell comic book. The painting of Smokey at his desk reading his fan mail is one of many by Rudy Wendelin, shown at a 1984 show of his Smokey paintings at Grey Towers National Historic Site in Milford, Pennsylvania. Smokey Bear on that day and in that photo was portrayed by OldSmokey Ray Steiger!



Fire prevention personnel put up Smokey posters and signs,



welcomed Smokey to the forest. and introduced him to kids.



Kids cuddled Smokey dolls, read Smokey books and comics.



Artist Rudy Wendelin painted, greeted kids with Smokey.

Changes *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren*

Arneson, Carol – Correct address: 1005 Bryan Terrace, Wenatchee, WA 98801

Belveal, OraLee – Change telephone: 503-672-1844

Blackwell, Bill & Denise – New members: P.O. Box 2618, Florence, OR 97439
Telephone: 541-991-2517 E-mail: Blackwell.wb@gmail.com

Bunster, Ray & Ursula – Change address: 12151 Cathedral Dr, Woodbridge, VA 22192

Caplan, Cheryl – New member: 145 Agape Ct, Roseburg, OR 97471
Telephone: 541-680-4413 E-mail: jim_caplan1@msn.com

Clow, Hank & Pat – Change address: 13975 Heltunen Rd, Lanse, MI 44946

Connolly, Beverly – Change e-mail: grammabev@myfrontiermail.com

Coon, Doug & Mary – New members: 20243 Valley View Rd, Lakeview, OR 97630
Telephone: 541-947-3927 E-mail: dougcoon@hotmail.com

DeBruin, Henry W. “Hank” – Deceased February 7, 2014; Martha survives

Dunaway, Vickie L. & Mark H. – New members: 63565 Chaparrel Dr, Bend, OR 97701
Telephone: 541-382-6599 E-mail: veedunaway@ymail.com

Dunbar, Randy & Ellen – Change e-mail: oldranger46@gmail.com

Godfrey, Richard M. “Mike” and Margaret – New members: 52435 McKenzie Hwy, Blue River, OR 97413
Telephone: 541-968-0302 E-mail: godfreymik@msn.com

Grantham, Alverna A. – Deceased September 2013

Hathaway, Sheryl – 2560 NW Kilne St, No. 1, Roseburg, OR 97471

Hays, Ellen – Deceased October 8, 2013; Hank survives

Hickerson, Carl W. – Change address: 14500 N Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd, Apt 118, Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Higginbotham, Willard E. – Deceased December 3, 2013; Kathleen survives

Higgins, Mary Jo – Change address: 2101 Main St, No. 111, Baker City, OR 97814

Johnson, Mike C. & Rheta – New members: 18948 Martingale, Bend, OR 97701
Telephone: 541-385-7440 E-mail: mikejohnson003@outlook.com

Johnson, Steven R. & Laurel Banke – New members: 940 Mary Jane Ave, Ashland, OR 97520
Telephone: 541-488-0837 E-mail: stevej@jeffnet.org

Kimbell, Abigail & Ed Stryker – New members: 7800 NE 1st St, Redmond, OR 97756
Telephone: 406-370-1751 E-mail: arkimbell@aol.com

Lankford, Nancy – Change telephone: 503-407-3177 Change e-mail: NanksL@msn.com

Mangold, Robert D. – New member: 47 SE 63rd Ave, Portland, OR 97215
Telephone: 301-332-2420 E-mail: rmangold@es.fwed.us

Martin, Kevin D. & Lori – New members: 604 NW Bailey Ave, Pendleton, OR 97801
Telephone: 541-969-6744 E-mail: landkmartin@msn.com

May, Kenneth R. & Linda – New members: 2561 Cubit St, Eugene, OR 97402
Telephone: 541-461-4565 E-mail: kenmay44@comcast.net

Metlen, Ruth – Change address: Grande Ronde Retirement Center, Apt. 310, 1809 Gekeler Ln, La Grande, OR 97850

Mohla, Marilyn – Change address: 2680 Foxglove Loop SE, Albany, OR 97322
Change telephone: 541-928-6590

Morton, Kaye H. – Deceased December 31, 2013

McNair, Ranotta – Change address: 3181 NW Fairway Heights Dr, Bend, OR 97701
Change telephone: 208-661-5571

Obedzinski, Bob & Connie Cook-Obedzinski – New members: 7415 Young Rd NW, Olympia, WA 98502
Telephone: 541-279-9968 E-mail: silviculturist@msn.com

Ohman, John H. – Deceased in 2011

Owston, Pete – Change e-mail: powston@outlook.com

Redmond, Connie – Change e-mail: mredmond452@gmail.com

Rondthaler, Carolyn: Change address: 629 Ellen Wilson Pl SE, Washington, D.C. 20003

Sedgewick, Wayne & Carol – Change telephone number: 503-550-7888

Sharp, Sandra S. “Sandy” – New member: 20744 Blacksmith Cir, Bend, OR 97702
Telephone: 541-410-6698 E-mail: sanshar31@outlook.com

Shenk, Vicky – Change e-mail: Shenckvicky@q.com

Shirley, Gary – Correct telephone number: 360-939-0347

Taylor, Betty – Change telephone: 360-576-4143

Till, Sheila & Ken – 2288 N 15th St, Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814

Voltz, Ruth – Change address: 31700 SW Village Crest Ct, Wilsonville, OR 97070
Change telephone: 503-481-8820

Weber, Vernice – Deceased January 13, 2014; Phil survives

Wolf, Odena – Deceased October 4, 2013; G. Louis survives

Zalunardo, Dave — Change telephone: 541-280-7097

Secretary’s Note: some of these changes may already be “in the system,” but I’d rather repeat them than miss them.

New Members *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren*

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association since the Winter 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

Bill & Denise Blackwell of Florence, Oregon, joined February 6, 2014. Bill retired from the U.S. Forest Service on December 28, 2013, after 35 years of service in Region 6.

Cheryl Caplan of Roseburg, Oregon, joined February 21, 2014. Cheryl is Public and Legislative Affairs Officer on the Umpqua National Forest. She also oversees civil rights and the Secure Rural Schools Title II program for the forest. Cheryl graduated from the University of Washington with a B.S. de-

gree in forest management in 1983. She worked for the World Forestry Center in Portland, Oregon, in the education department. She joined the U.S. Forest Service and began working as a timber sale planner and public affairs specialist on the Mapleton Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest, in 1988. She helped develop the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area management plan before transferring to oversee interpretation and public affairs for the Oregon Dunes NRA in 1992. Cheryl is married to OldSmokey **Jim Caplan**, who retired from the WO in 2007.

Doug & Mary Coon of Lakeview, Oregon, joined February 19, 2014. Doug retired from the U.S. Forest Service in the Region 5 RO in Vallejo, California, on July 3, 2010, after 40 years of federal service, 37 of those years in the Forest Service and 27 of those in Region 6 where he last served on the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

Vickie L. & Mark H. Dunaway of Bend, Oregon, joined February 5, 2014. Vickie, a 21-year veteran of the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District with a total of 32 years on the Deschutes National Forest, currently serves in the Deschutes SO as appraisal/contract specialist shared with the Fremont-Winema National Forest. She is enjoying working with another forest and passing on her experience in appraising. Mike is long-time caretaker of the University of Oregon's famous Pine Mountain Observatory west of Bend. Both are looking forward to retirement in a couple more years.

Richard M. "Mike" & Margaret Godfrey of Blue River, Oregon, joined January 6, 2014. Mike retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 2006 after 32 years of federal service, 27 of those years in the Forest Service and 26 in Region 6.

Mike C. & Rheta Johnson of Bend, Oregon, joined December 23, 2013. Mike retired from the U.S. Forest Service on January 3, 2014, as Administrative Officer, Deschutes National Forest, after 38 years in the Forest Service, 25 of those years in Region 6.

Steven R. Johnson & Laurel Banke of Ashland, Oregon, joined February 6, 2014. Steve retired from the U.S. Forest Service on May 31, 2013, as Recreation Specialist/Snow Ranger on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest after 34 years in the Forest Service, first in Region 5 and then in Region 6. Steve worked as a seasonal firefighter and trails specialist from 1967 to 1987 on the old McCloud Ranger District of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest before moving to the old Ashland Ranger District on the Siskiyou National Forest in 1973, where he became a full-time Recreation Specialist in 1988. His wide-ranging duties included administering permits for Mt. Ashland Ski Area, recreation events, and campground concessions; travel management planning, cultural resources and trails management, and snow surveys in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service—and, of course, firefighting.

Abigail Kimbell & Ed Stryker of Redmond, Oregon, joined February 19, 2014. Gail retired as Chief of the U.S. Forest Service on July 30, 2009, after 35 years of U.S. Government service, 32 of those years in the Forest Service. A graduate of Ore-

gon State University, Chief Emeritus Kimbell served as a district ranger; as a forest supervisor on national forests in Alaska, Colorado, and Wyoming; and in the WO as Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System before her three-year stint in Missoula, Montana, as Regional Forester for the Northern Region. She began service as Chief on February 1, 2007.

Robert D. Mangold, Ph.D., of Portland, Oregon, joined January 28, 2014. He has served 27 years in the U.S. Forest Service, and has been Director, Pacific Northwest Research Station, since July 26, 2013. Prior to reporting to the station as acting director in January 2013, he served as Associate Deputy Chief for Research and Development in the WO, and before that director of the agency's forest health protection program. Rob, who has experience working in State and Private Forestry, Research and Development, and the National Forest System, as well as in private industry, joined the Forest Service in 1988 as a geneticist for the Umpqua National Forest. He earned his Ph.D. degree in genetics at Oregon State University.

Kevin D. & Lori Martin of Pendleton, Oregon, joined February 2, 2014. Currently Forest Supervisor, Umatilla National Forest, Kevin's 32 years in the U.S. Forest Service—28 of them in Region 6—have included assignment as Deputy Forest Supervisor, Deschutes National Forest.

Kenneth L. & Linda May of Eugene, Oregon, joined February 27, 2014. Ken retired December 31, 1999, from the Willamette National Forest SO after 35 years in the U.S. Forest Service.

Bob Obedzinski & Connie Cook-Obedzinski of Olympia, Washington, joined January 29, 2014. Bob retired from the U.S. Forest Service as Regional Silviculturist in the Region 6 RO in Portland, Oregon, after 35 years of service, 18 of those in Region 6. During those years, Bob worked in timber and silviculture in both western and eastern Oregon and Washington.

Sandra S. "Sandy" Sharp of Bend, Oregon, joined February 10, 2014. Sandy retired from the U.S. Forest Service on January 11, 2014, as Information Assistant on the Sisters Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, after 18 years in the Forest Service, 16 of those in Region 6 and two on the Superior National Forest. Before joining the Sisters Ranger District in 2002, Sandy served in human resources on the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District. In her Information Assistant position, she performed a wide variety of public service duties and served as a weather observer for the National Weather Service's (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) for which she recently received a special service award from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). "Sandy is the nicest person I've had the pleasure to be around in more than thirty years," said District Ranger Kristie Miller when Sandy retired.

CORRECTION

New OldSmokey **Steve Coady** of Eugene served the U.S. Government for 23 years, seven in the U.S. Army and 16 in the U.S. Forest Service. His address is 865 Welcome Way, Eugene, OR 97402; his telephone number is 541-688-0486; and his e-mail address is <skcoady44@comcast.net>. Your editor regrets the error.

Memories Compiled by Archivist Ray Steiger

Martha Brooks died February 20, 2014, at age 81. Martha was born in 1932 in Urbana, Illinois, where she grew up and graduated from high school. She attended Beloit College for a year, and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in botany at the University of Illinois. In 1954 she married Victor Brooks, and moved with him to Corvallis, Oregon, in 1955 when he received a post-doctoral position at Oregon State College. After raising four children, Martha worked as a technical editor at OSC's School of Forestry, and in 1977 joined the U.S. Forest Service as an editor at the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station where she combined her love of science and love of language to make a name for herself teaching scientists to write clearly. Even after retiring at age 70 from the Pacific Northwest Research Station, Martha taught science writing at Oregon State University and freelanced for friends. Survivors include her children Richard, Allen, Mary, and Todd, and six grandchildren.

Alfred Frank Burkhardt, Jr. died March 8, 2014, at age 76. Al's U.S. Forest Service career focused on timber management and firefighting. Survivors include his wife Ilene; son Steve; stepchildren Clay Dawson, Cecelia Buchanan, and April Dawson; three grandchildren and nine step-grandchildren.

Henry W. "Hank" DeBruin died February 7, 2014, at age 90. He was a PNWFSA member. Hank was born May 27, 1923, in Grand Haven, Michigan, and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Following the war, he earned a B.S. degree in forestry at the University of Michigan, and in 1948 joined the U.S. Forest Service in Oregon with the desire to "ride a horse across the wilderness." Through many moves and promotions, Hank served as a forest ranger and a forest supervisor. After assignments in Oregon, which included a 1958-1959 stint as district ranger, Crescent Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, Hank moved east. He served on the Superior National Forest in northern Minnesota, then transferred to Missouri as forest supervisor of the Mark Twain National Forest during the mid and late 1960s. While on the Superior, he was instrumentally involved in the late 1950s establishment of the Superior-Quetico Boundary Waters Canoe Area, a pioneering effort to protect natural shorelines. This experience prepared Hank well for what he came to see as among his more important accomplishments in Missouri, preserving the Eleven Point River in its free flowing form; the landmark Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 included the Eleven Point River in the system it established. In the WO, as Director of Information, he was responsible for the Smokey Bear program. In 1978, after 30 years of faithful service, Hank retired in the WO as Director of Fire Management and Aviation. Survivors include Martha, his wife of 67 years; daughters Pat Bragg, Kathy Bieckert, and Kim DeAngelis; son Dan; 14 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

Kenwood Smith "Woody" Hauter, Jr., died February 25, 2014, at age 75. Woody was born April 6, 1938, in Chicago, Illinois, and grew up in Orinda and Fullerton, California. After

graduation from high school, Woody served in the U.S. Marine Corps on active duty in 1957 and 1958 and as a reservist until 1963. He attended the University of California at Berkeley, and earned a B.S. degree in range management at Utah State University. He married Mary Katherine "Mickey" Sears in 1959; together they had four children. After college, Woody joined the U.S. Forest Service. This brought the Hauters to Baker City, Oregon, in 1966, where Woody was a hydrologist on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest until he retired in 1993. Survivors include his daughter Lori Rowland; son Mark; daughter Sandy Kemper; daughter Karen Hauter; and four grandchildren.

Ellen Hope Hays died October 8, 2013, at age 85. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of Henry "Hank" Hays. Ellen was born December 29, 1927, in Sitka, Alaska, a Tlingit of the Raven moiety, Kik'sadi Clan and Point House. She was raised and lived much of her life in Alaska, graduated from Sheldon Jackson School in Sitka, and married Robert Long with whom she had one daughter. She married Hank Hays in 1974, and moved with him to Bainbridge Island, Washington, in 1994. Ellen spent her professional career in the National Park Service and, on July 9, 1974, became the first woman and the first Alaska Native to be appointed superintendent of a national park in the Pacific Northwest. She also was the first woman to apply and be accepted as a member of the Alaska Native Brotherhood. She was instrumental in the Brotherhood's successful effort to operate the visitor center craft shop wing of Sitka National Historic Park, which eventually became known as the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center. Ellen was awarded an honorary doctor of law degree by the University of Alaska in 1996. Throughout her life, Ellen promoted the values of art and the humanities. She served on many boards and commissions dedicated to these causes, both in Alaska and in Washington. Ellen forged enduring friendships throughout her life. She was a mentor, friend, and teacher to many. She was passionate about her family, her heritage, and the arts and education. Survivors include her husband Hank; daughter Karen Coleman; two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Willard E. Higginbotham died December 2, 2013, at age 82. He was a PNWFSA member. Willard was born September 27, 1931, in Tonasket, Washington. He served in the Korean War and in the U.S. Forest Service. Survivors include his wife, Kathleen, and two children by a previous marriage.

Kaye H. Morton died December 31, 2013, at age 84. She was a PNWFSA member and widow of the late Donald H. Morton. Kaye was born in Taylor, Utah, January 4, 1929, and married Don on October 20, 1947, in Ogden, Utah. Kay and Don lived in Portland, Oregon, from 1974. Don died November 4, 2004. Survivors include her son Kerry; daughters Kathy Taylor and Konnie Leonetti; 10 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Carl A. Newport died March 5, 2014, just four days short of his 90th birthday. Carl was born March 9, 1924, in Longport, Indiana; graduated from Longport High School in 1941; and enrolled at the University of Michigan to study forestry. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force in 1942, married Gwen Remington in 1947, and on receiving a B.S. degree in forest

management joined the U.S. Forest Service to begin his career in Gunnison, Colorado. He earned an M.S. degree in forest management at Oregon State College in Corvallis in 1951, and a Ph.D. in forest economics at New York State College, Syracuse, before returning to Colorado to teach at Colorado A&M in Fort Collins. Carl rejoined the Forest Service in 1957 and became assistant director of the Pacific Northwest Experiment Station. In 1966, he joined the forestry consulting firm Mason, Bruce and Girard where he retired in 1994. He served on the Oregon Governor's Council of Economic Advisors and in retirement on the Board of Directors of the World Forestry Center in Portland. In 1971 he and Gwen built their Black Butte Ranch, Oregon, home of 38 years. Survivors include Gwen, their sons Chuck and Jim, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

John H. Ohman is reported by his family to have died in 2011. He was a PNWFSA member, and was at one time Director, Northern Research Station, in St. Paul, Minnesota. No further information has been obtained.

Grover G. Payne died December 19, 2013, at age 74. Grover was born April 19, 1939, in Blue Ridge, Georgia, and earned a degree in forestry at the University of Georgia. Shortly after he joined the U.S. Forest Service and was working in a timber management position in California, he spent two years in the U.S. Army in Alaska where he learned valuable mountain rescue skills. Returning to the Forest Service, Grover spent three decades in timber management, public information and education, district ranger, and other assignments. In 1984, after serving as district ranger, Trabuco Ranger District, Cleveland National Forest, he transferred to the Wenatchee National Forest as fire staff officer during which he championed implementation of the Incident Command System (ICS) and was instrumental in developing key interagency agreements with state and county agencies. These included the Central Cascades Forest Service/Washington Department of Natural Resources Incident Management Team and the Central Washington Interagency Communication Center. In the Southern Region, Grover administered coordination of Forest Service operations with 13 southern state foresters. After he retired on 34 years of service, Grover completed advisor assignments with the Washington Department of Natural Resources and did field work with *Wildland Firefighter* magazine. Survivors include his wife Nancy and daughters Laurie Dlugolecki and Nancy Glazebrook.

Wallace Jay Rainsberry, Sr., died February 1, 2014, at age 78. Wally was born March 30, 1935, in Eureka, Montana; became a professional horse trainer and broke his first bronc at age 13; graduated from high school in Oroville, Washington; served in the U.S. Army; and married Jackie Bonnell with whom he had three children. Wally served 34 years in the U.S. Forest Service. As district engineer on the Tiller Ranger District and an engineering technician at the Umpqua National Forest SO, he was responsible for overseeing construction of hundreds of miles of trails on the Umpqua National Forest. He was most proud of the work he did locating the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Wally was a cowboy at heart, and the favorite part

of his job was spending time on horseback in the forest. He was a lifetime member of the Douglas County Mounted Posse and founded the Roseburg Chapter of Oregon Equestrian Trails. Survivors include his daughters Debby Rainsberry-Barnard and Denise Turner; two granddaughters; and a great-grandson.

Allen W. Smith died November 14, 2013, at age 77. Allen was born September 19, 1936, grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin. He began his U.S. Forest Service career as a summer employee in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, and after completing college joined the Forest Service full-time in business management. A proud 36-year veteran of the Forest Service, Allen served in California, Utah, and New Mexico before 18 years in the WO from which he retired in 1998 as Director of Procurement and Property Management. After retirement, he and his wife Nancy operated the beautiful Shaker Hill Bed & Breakfast in Enfield, New Hampshire. He coached boys' basketball for over 30 years, and for over ten years volunteered at the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office, Consumer Protection Bureau. His status as an avid Green Bay Packers fan reflected his Wisconsin roots. Survivors include his wife Nancy; sons Wayne and Bruce; daughters Michelle Mullany, Stacy Smith, and Lindsay Smith; "adopted" daughter Amy Moore; and five grandchildren.

Paul Robert Stenkamp died December 29, 2013, at age 87. Paul was born September 16, 1926, in Bend, Oregon, to parents who had recently emigrated from Germany. He attended Catholic schools, graduated from Bend High School in 1944, and joined the U.S. Forest Service in which he built trails, planted trees, and fought fires. Paul served in the armed forces from May 1954 to February 1956, then attended Oregon State College on the G.I. Bill and earned a B.S. degree in forestry in 1961. His 36 years in the Forest Service took him to the Sisters Ranger District on the Deschutes National Forest, service as district ranger on the Silver Lake Ranger District of the Fremont National Forest, and finally to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest from which he retired in 1980. Also in 1980, Paul received commendation from President Jimmy Carter for his service as coordinator of the Emergency Control Center during the eruption of Mount St. Helens. After retirement, he worked as a consultant in Bridgeport, California, establishing an evacuation plan in the event of the eruption of Mammoth Mountain. The highlight of Paul's career was his proficiency in fighting fires; he was a nationally renowned fire boss. Survivors include his wife Peggy; his son Patrick and daughter Sally Majidian; and four grandchildren.

Jesse Rose Tavernia died January 1, 2014, at age 83. She was the wife of the late Robert "Bob" Tavernia, a long-time Ochoco National Forest employee. Jesse Ream was born October 16, 1930, in Post, Oregon; graduated from Cook County High School in 1948; met Bob at a dance in Paulina, Oregon, and they were married on November 15, 1953. Survivors include her and Bob's daughters Mary Wickersham, Jean Krehbiel, and Joan Tavernia; son Thomas Tavernia; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Robert Rey "Bob" Tavernia died February 19, 2014, at age 85, just over six weeks after his wife Jesse Rose died. Bob was

born April 20, 1928, in Elko, Nevada, and served in the U.S. Navy from 1946 to 1947. He married Jesse Ream on November 15, 1953, and they lived their entire married life in Prineville, Oregon. Bob joined the U.S. Forest Service as a member of a brush crew and retired as a surveyor in 1983 after serving his entire career on the Ochoco National Forest

Beth Ellen Walton died February 22, 2014, at age 72. Beth was born December 12, 1941, in Oakland, California, and grew up in Berkeley where she attended St. Joseph High School before earning B.A. and M.A. degrees in anthropology at the University of Arizona. Most of her career as an archaeologist was with the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska, Colorado, and Oregon, but concluded in the U.S. Forest Service on the Mt. Hood National Forest. Survivors include her spouse, Cheryl McCaffrey.

Vernice Darlene Hovda “Vern” Weber died January 13, 2014, at age 76. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of Frederick P. “Phil” Weber. Vern Hovda was born November 13, 1937, in Roseau County, Minnesota, and grew up in Roseau. A home economics graduate of the University of Minnesota, Vern met Phil Weber while both attended that university’s St. Paul campus and they married in 1959. Vern and Phil shared more than 54 years together as he pursued his U.S. Forest Service career and they enjoyed their shared love of travel together—especially their seven trips to Europe including the last in 2009 celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Survivors include Phil; daughters Robyn Burns, Kara Wales, and Krista Anderson; and six grandchildren.

Odena Faye Engler Wolf died October 4, 2013, at age 77. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of G. Louis “Lou” Wolf. Odena Engler was born November 10, 1935, in Oconto, Wisconsin, and lived in that state until the late 1940s. She was married 20 years to the father of her children, and for 41 years to Lou. She and Lou lived in Roseburg, Oregon, where he served in the U.S. Forest Service and she was a waitress in numerous restaurants around town and at Diamond Lake Lodge, and worked for the Winston Police Department for about 20 years. Survivors include Lou; her son Tommy Smith; her daughters Teresa L. Smith and Vicki R. Essary; eight grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Letters

Kirk & Beth Horn *remember Al Burkhardt*

Al lived near us when we were in Boring and we got to know him and his family. He was gracious and generous, a great neighbor. We both had drift boats and we spent many happy hours floating down the Deschutes River, fishing for steelhead, and enjoying an evening campfire. We could always count on his joining us when we had a few too many for one boat!

Ralph Jaszowski *remembers Al Burkhardt*

The news of Al Burkhardt’s passing is received with considerable sadness. We were expecting this for some time and perhaps now he is in a better place. “A friend in need is a friend indeed” are fitting words for Al. He was my friend when I needed one.

Jim Overbay *remembers Al Burkhardt*

I was sorry to learn of Al Burkhardt’s death. Al, Bob Careson, Bill Nautel, and I all worked in timber management on the Mt. Hood National Forest in the early seventies. Al was assigned to develop the new ten-year timber management plan. At the same time, John White was in charge of a team to develop, for the first time, a long term land and resource plan which involved a lot of public meetings. Al had to make sure the plans were compatible, which was not an easy task. Al also served as my line boss on several large fires. One involved a new balloon logging operation where the retardant bombers had to dodge the balloon. The four of us in timber management also played handball once a week at Mt. Hood Country Club. Al played with lots of energy and you had to dodge when he came your way or you would be knocked over. Al was a hard worker, a good friend, and a dedicated professional.

Warren Olney *remembers Al Burkhardt*

How sad to hear of Al Burkhardt’s passing and his tough last years. I recall with fond memories [Al] on the Mt. Hood National Forest and in the RO. He was always friendly, dedicated, and fun to discuss timber management issues and opportunities. He was what I would classify as a well balanced employee and co-worker. Like many who have passed before him, he was a bright spot in my career.

Elton Thomas *remembers Al Burkhardt*

When I served my second tour in the RO in 1988 as Appeals and Litigation Coordinator, I would run into Al Burkhardt on a regular basis. He roamed the halls and was intrigued with the varied missions of the Forest Service. I remember him as engaging in a wide front and always finding things “interesting!” He would take a week or so to go salmon fishing in Tillamook Bay, and he invited me to go with him one day. He got me hooked up with a 25-pound fish and I still hold that memory near and dear when looking at the picture he took. Al was a dedicated employee and loved what he did and served as a role model for me.

Bill Fessel *fills in the Cliff Fink story*

I’ve just [January 21, 2013] received the Winter 2014 issue of *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and am saddened to read of the passing of Cliff Fink—and equally saddened that so little is printed about such a fine Forest Officer. Guess that’s what happens when you live to be 96—most anyone who knew you has gone on to the Big Ranger District in the Sky. I had the privilege of knowing Cliff quite well, so let me relate some of what I know about him.

Late in 1958, I was assigned to be assistant district ranger for the Illinois Valley Ranger District of the Siskiyou National Forest. Cliff was the district ranger. Although he was probably 16 years my senior, Cliff treated me like a partner in managing the district, seeing that my background, mostly as a timber-beast, was broadened to cover all aspects of district management. He gave me the operating space to succeed (and to make mistakes and learn from them). His counsel and advice, always given in a quiet, even-tempered manner, stayed with me then and when I became a district ranger myself about four years later. With apologies to the other great work supervisors I was

blessed with, Cliff had to be the best.

Here's what I remember about Cliff's life and career.

Cliff was born and raised in Pennsylvania. He flew bombing missions over Europe in World War II. After the war, he earned his forestry degree at Oregon State. He began his Forest Service career on the Willamette National Forest, and was TMA at Lowell before moving to Illinois Valley about 1957. After his rangering days were done, Cliff served a tour in Timber Management in the RO, then became Timber Management Staff Officer of the Wenatchee National Forest in the mid 1960s. Later he moved to the Olympic National Forest.

Cliff and his wife, Winnie, were married sometime in the 1940s. Winnie died in September 2005. One of the newsletters around that time must have carried a remembrance about her, giving more details. They had two daughters, Ann Louise and Laurie Lee. Both became career Forest Service people, Ann on the Wenatchee and Laurie Lee on the Payette. Either of them should now be able to add to or confirm what I've related, although one or both could be retired by now.

Cliff was an avid steelhead angler. He taught me the art and we spent a lot of chilly winter days on the banks of the Illinois and warm summer days on the Rogue.

By coincidence, the Winter 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* also includes an article about the Regional Training Station at Wind River, and a photo of the Administrative Management Session II, class of 1958. I have a framed copy of that photo on the wall of my shop, so enjoyed seeing it, even if my name is misspelled. So is that of another well-remembered OldSmokey, Bill Schreck (correct spelling). If you have access to a photo of 1958 Administrative Management Session I, I believe you'll find Cliff Fink among those attending.

*Editor's Note: Thank you so very much, Bill, for filling in some of the blanks of the Cliff Fink story. And thank you, too, for correcting the spelling of two names below the photo of the Administrative Management Session II, class of 1958, that appeared in the **Uncle Sam's Cabins** feature on the Region Six Personnel Training Station. While your humble editor can cede credit for the misspelling of Bill Schreck's name to some long-ago clerk-typist, he must claim credit for being overgenerous with the letter "l" in the case of your last name.*

Jack Grubb remembers Cliff Fink

My wife and I first met Cliff at the Willamette National Forest summer picnic in Eugene in 1956. Cliff was on the Lowell Ranger District and I was on the Cascadia Ranger District. We next crossed paths on the Siskiyou National Forest where Cliff was a district ranger. At that time we met Cliff's family, wife Winnie and girls Ann and Lorie. Cliff then went into the RO; I don't remember his job there. Cliff then went on to the Wenatchee National Forest as timber staff officer, and I was district ranger on the Hoodspout Ranger District, Olympic National Forest. We visited with them several times. Cliff came over to Hoodspout elk hunting with me probably in 1968 or 1969. Cliff then came to the Olympic as a silviculturist; do not remember when. But he lived not too far from us. So the Grubbs and the Finks spent many happy times together both before and after our retirements. Unfortunately, after Cliff moved away from

Olympia, we did not see him again. The Fink family was always a joy to be around.

Jack Inman remembers Woody Hauter

Woody Hauter worked for me for the first several years he was on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. That was in the days when new hydrological measuring techniques were starting. Woody established a "Barometer Watershed" system in the upper North Fork Burnt. As I recall it had two snow pillows, several stream gauges and snow depth sites. I recall a couple of midwinter snowmobile trips with him from Sumpter to Greenhorn. The old Skidoos were quite primitive compared with what we have today, making those memorable experiences. This was also before Highway 7 from Austin to Sumpter had been constructed. I also enjoyed skiing Anthony Lakes with him.

Art Carroll remembers Jack Lavin

I just learned of Jack Lavin's passing in November 2013 via the recent [Winter 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*].

Jack became a special forest officer to me in my five years as forest supervisor of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in the Intermountain Region. Jack's upbeat attitude, his big smile, his willingness to share experience of family and his Forest Service know-how was special. His awareness and skills working with people of all walks of life was unique. His expressed enthusiasm about our work, its challenges and "we can do it" was so supportive.

Jack and Souci were dedicated to their family and the Forest Service family also. Jack was "Mister Forest Service" in the State of Idaho and subsequently an important voice in Idaho Parks and Recreation. We all have had, in our Forest Service careers, some people we treasure; and you know they cannot be replaced or duplicated. Jack Lavin was that kind of person and forest officer for me.

P.S. Enclosed is [a check] for \$250.00 for lifetime membership. Jack Lavin would have told me "go for it."

Gary Heath remembers Grover Payne

Pat and I visited Grover and Nancy in October 2013 and relived many of the old times on the Wenatchee National Forest when Don Smith was the forest supervisor. Grover and I reported to work on the Wenatchee on the same day in April 1984.

Ted Stubblefield remembers Grover Payne

I worked with Grover on the Sequoia National Forest. He was TMA on the Greenhorn Ranger District while I was TMA on the Cannell Meadow Ranger District in the 1960s and 1970s. John Marker was his district ranger back then.

We all went to the "Kirchner School of Forestry" together; studied hard, sweated his tests; attended his cruising school together; consumed "a few beers" as well. Grover helped us put together a memorial stone for Walt Kirchner who taught us all much. You can learn more on <www.sequoiasurvivors.org>.

Elton Thomas remembers Grover Payne

Many here in the Pacific Northwest Region knew Grover Payne. He was a true southern gentleman. I worked with him on the Wenatchee National Forest when he was Fire Staff and I had Natural Resources. He was ahead of his time in getting interagency cooperation on a number of fire related issues. I

miss his sense of southern humor and downright friendly personality.

Leonard Herzstein remembers Wally Rainsberry

I started working for Wally in 1979. After a couple of weeks on the survey crew, he complimented me, saying, “For a Hippie, you certainly work hard.”

Ron Koenig remembers Bruce Reed

Bruce’s wife Betty reported that he died from a fall from his horse on their ranch in Colton. They were married over 50 years and have a large extended family.

Bruce worked with me at Estacada for almost ten years in the 1970s, and I have never met a more cheerful, dedicated, knowledgeable employee.

He was in charge of all the trails in the Clackamas drainage, including the Pacific Crest Trail and wilderness areas. His love was for the land and the pack and saddle stock he alone “supervised.”

One story is that one of his mares was overweight and he was trying to thin her down. We wintered the small herd on the east side to prevent hoof rot. Then when we picked them up in the spring we had a new family member, a cute newborn colt. Then the question was how to add the new arrival to the Forest Service inventory!

Trails maintenance and construction were his primary love, but he also worked campground maintenance, construction at Indian Henry and Bagby, plus fire control, slash disposal, erosion control, etc. The list of “other duties as assigned” was long back then!

He leaves a great legacy and memories that will remain in the lives of those who knew him!

Ed Whitmore remembers Bruce Reed

Bruce Reed was on the Estacada Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest during my tenure there as district ranger. Bruce was liked by everyone, and was always helpful. He worked a lot with Howard “Rondy” Rondthaller in locating trails and supervising their construction. Bruce was also in charge of the pack string, and they always won a prize whenever entered in local parades. Bruce was a good emissary of the Forest Service with his easygoing manner. When I first came to the district and asked people what they did, Bruce told me he had the easiest and most fun job in the Forest Service. He got to keep the fun stuff, but I added some “not so fun” stuff just so he would have a more complete picture of the Service. He accepted that without a grumble, at least none that I heard!

Jim Torrence remembers Bob Tavernia

I was sad to learn of Bob’s death. I first met Bob in the summer of 1953. I was working on a road survey crew out of a work camp at Big Springs on the Paulina Ranger District. I would see Bob T when he drove the supply truck out from Prineville. Later, when I was working on the Prineville Ranger District in engineering, I worked with Bob. I remember working in the field with Bob and he would carry his correspondence course study books in his lunch pail. Every lunch break, almost without fail, he would study. I was so impressed with his dedication and commitment to improving himself. Bob was one of the

“Good Guys.” It is sad to know that he is gone.

Ted Yarosh remembers Bob Tavernia

Lil and I were sorry to learn of the death of Bob Tavernia. I knew Bob from my Ochoco National Forest days from 1955 to 1965. Bob was always a good spirited man and easy to work with. My best association with him is that he served as an usher at Lil’s and my wedding in St. Joseph Church in Prineville in 1963. His grandson, Aaron Tavernia, was a scout in my national jamboree troop in 2010.

Don James remembers the Williams family

Woody Williams’ memories of Parkdale Ranger Station [in the *Letters* section of the Winter 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*] reminded me of living in the ranger’s houses built by the CCCs in the mid 1930s on the Ochoco and Malheur national forests. They were wonderful old structures.

I also have fond memories of the Williams family. In the mid 1950s, I worked on a fire management project with Ross Williams, Woody’s dad, verifying locations of fire guards and lookouts on the Ochoco National Forest. When I was a district ranger on the Malheur National Forest, Woody was the FMO on our district. Now, for the last three fire seasons, I have worked on the Northwest Oregon Fire Team with Ross Williams, Woody’s son, as the IC.

It is my pleasure to have worked with three generations of the Williams family on Forest Service assignments.

P.S. The photo of the Administrative Management, Session II, Class of 1958 [in the *Uncle Sam’s Cabins* feature on the Region Six Personnel Training Station in the Winter 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*] also brought back many fond memories.

Dick Deleissegues favors forest management

Now, if the Congress, in their generous frame of mind, would allow the Forest Service to go back to actually managing the national forests, maybe the new air tankers could be left sitting on the tarmac.

Dick Blashill, “a proud OldSmokey,” comments on the new Forest Service

Regarding the latest from *The Chief’s Desk*: Wow, R-6 was praised for completing the first border to border electric highway. I often wonder what the “new” Forest Service does, but now I know. Too bad they aren’t managing the National Forests like they were originally charged to do. What’s next? Maybe creating a leash designation or perhaps establishing bicycle or hiking lanes on paved Forest Service roads. I’m sure people would use them to admire the dead and down timber.

Robert Miller comments on the new Forest Service

I had to look twice when I saw this on the front page of the local newspaper [*The Siuslaw News*, Monday, March 4, 2014]:

First responders conduct mass shooting drills

Multiple law enforcement and emergency services personnel participated Friday in a large-scale training operation at the site of the former Lotus Restaurant in Old Town. Dozens of officers, taking turns in groups, descended on a building in which a mass shooting had been staged. Armed with guns

loaded with “simunition,” paint-filled plastic-tipped bullets, the agents searched the building for potential victims and shooters, actually firing on suspects. “Our job is to smash the threat,” said an Oregon State Police trooper who was critiquing the scene. The trainer from the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training explained, “This is about as realistic as it gets.” He told trainees that their job was to “dominate, eliminate and control” the situation. Agencies participating in the Feb. 28 morning exercise included Florence Police Department, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, Confederated Tribes police, OSP troopers, Lane County Sheriff’s deputies, the U.S. Coast Guard, officers from Douglas County and the city of Coburg, and troopers from the U.S. Forest Service.

I still think of the old Forest Service as a public service, not a police force! No wonder the Forest Service is listed among the worst agencies to work for.

Steve Coady *comments on traditions and memberships*

A big “Huh-Rah” for keeping our traditional badge.... Early rangers in the field wore bib overalls and whatever other tough clothing they could purchase, but they always wore either their three-inch badge or later one-and-a-half inch badge to identify themselves. At \$60 to \$75 per month, there wasn’t a lot of money left over for frivolous things.

I’m so pleased that I finally joined the OldSmokeys and Friends of Fish Lake. Looks like I may have something to do after all.

Jim & Janet Crates *appreciate the OldSmokeys Newsletter*

Thank you so much for the wonderful job over the years in publishing the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. You are much appreciated. God bless you all.

Bob Van Aken *appreciates the OldSmokeys Newsletter*

Thanks for all the effort you put forth to produce a great newsletter and keep us all informed.

Paul Enberg *checks in from Vancouver, Washington*

I’m still active with my music, photos, and traveling in our RV. I have gone bionic with a gadget or pill for every orifice.

Letters is the section for sharing thoughts and feelings with other OldSmokeys. Keep your cards and letters coming.

OldSmokeys Say *continued from page 8*

We need help in watersheds. For example, a common practice is to screen road edges and streams with conifers. Yet, after fires, we rush to plant a grassy rough to limit erosion. Emergencies seem to trigger land care in the backs of our minds. For example, Edward Faulkner’s 1943 advice to the plowman: “The rough is what makes the forest floor porous,” or the Nordic folk tale, “Rough at the edge of the woods needs to hide the elf (*nisse*) riding on the back of a cat for good fortune.” The plowman and road engineer have learned that the rough’s macropore that makes the soil porous takes several seasons to develop and with them carbon storage as humus builds. I would guess that the rough is apt to be better than the screen for fish flows.

Forest Service News *continued from page 11*

Bob could be a bit overbearing at times, but I loved the guy. Every time a promotion was received, he was my first call after my family was informed. Some years ago, during a conversation, I avowed that he was “The Last of the Sabre-Toothed Rangers.” Bob accepted the moniker enthusiastically, and in our conversation last May, he requested that the title be included in this writing.

As I prepared to depart last May, he said “Dammit, hurry up and write that thing, I want to edit it!” I was pleased, for he took my draft and left it untouched.

Bob hung on longer than he wanted to, and passed on February 3, 2014. According to his family, he went peacefully—and it was his time.

Breaking News!

U.S. Forest Service Road Management Authority Could Be Limited by New Law

Editor’s Note: As this issue was being readied for publication, Bend’s daily newspaper carried an article about proposed legislation that OldSmokeys may wish to track.

“Representative Greg Walden, R-Hood River, unveiled legislation Monday [March 17, 2014] that would require the U.S. Forest Service to get local input before changing public access to national forests in the West,” Andrew Clevenger reported in *The Bulletin*, Bend’s daily newspaper.

Representative Walden’s Forest Access in Rural Communities Act proposed in H.R. 4272 would stop the implementation and enforcement of the Forest Service’s 2005 travel management rule in western national forests, and would require the agency to seek local approval before making a change to public access to those forests. Counties would have to sign off on a change before it went into effect.

“For too long, the input and wishes of local citizens have been pushed to the back seat when it comes to decisions about access to our public lands,” Representative Walden said. “This common-sense bill will put local communities back in the driver’s seat in the Forest Service’s travel management process.”

“Far too often...management decisions are handed down from Washington, D.C., by agencies who have only seen the forest on a map.... This bill will bring management back where it belongs—local communities with firsthand knowledge about the state and use of these forests.”

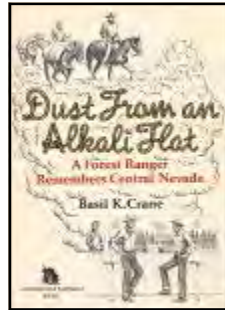
As reflected in the news report, Representative Walden’s statement addressed the authorization half of the legislative process but not the appropriation half. OldSmokeys know that forest roads don’t take care of themselves. Roads need to be graded, their culverts cleaned, and their shot-up signs repaired or replaced. They are by no means free, and in recent years have not received much in the way of maintenance funding.

Time will tell if the input of local citizens championed by Representative Walden’s bill will be followed by appropriation and allocation of sufficient road dollars to pay the proposed law’s bills. Your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will watch this.

Books

Dust from an Alkali Flat: A Forest Ranger Remembers Central Nevada is a Good Read If You Can Get It

By Les Joslin



And, to complete that thought, you can get it if you try. More about just how you can after a little about why you should.

My copy of Basil K. Crane's *Dust from an Alkali Flat*, inscribed "To Les, from Pam who remembers D-4," arrived in my mail not long after it was published. As does my benefactor, I remember the D-4 of the 1960s Toiyabe National Forest fondly—and intensely; Crane's remembrance of the Toiyabe of the 1930s is equally fond and intense.

Crane's Toiyabe, of course, was the old Toiyabe of central Nevada. Mine was part of the new Toiyabe east of the High Sierra; stretched along the eastern California-western Nevada border, it was part of the old Mono National Forest—barely visible on the western horizon from the highest points on Crane's district on a clear day—until a 1945 national forest reshuffle made the new Toiyabe the largest national forest in the lower forty-eight.

Crane wrote *Dust from an Alkali Flat* in response to his children's request that he tell them what he did when he was a forest ranger. Using diaries that we all kept in those days—he in the 1930s and I in the 1960s, he reconstructed the nine fascinating years he lived and worked on the old Toiyabe in this collection of about thirty vignettes that paint a vivid picture of the land and the people before World War II. He found these stories were "not what [readers] expected from a forest ranger" because "being a forest ranger in Nevada involved a lot of things that were not included in the forestry school curriculum."

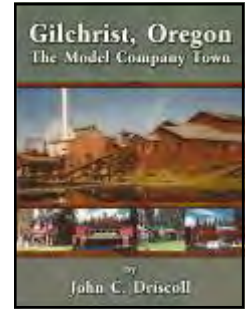
Ranger Crane in Central Nevada was more a cowboy than a forester. Instead of working with trees and on forest fires, he rode on roundups, administered grazing permits, and mended fences in the company of Indian cowboys, suspicious ranchers, and a young woman named Molly learning the ropes of being a ranger's wife.

Basil Keller Crane (1914-2007) was born in Mink Creek, Idaho, and "after serving enough time at Utah State Agricultural College to earn a degree in forestry" in 1935, joined the U.S. Forest Service. His 38 years in the outfit included service as a forest ranger, forest supervisor, assistant regional forester, and deputy regional forester in Nevada, California, Utah, Idaho, Colorado, and Wyoming.

Published in 1984 by the University of Nevada Press, *Dust from an Alkali Flat* is now out of print. But there are copies of this fine little Bristlecone Paperback to be had. Mine's just not one of 'em! Google up the title and you'll be able to track down a copy at an internet used book dealer that we'll both hope won't break your bank.

John C. Driscoll's Gilchrist, Oregon Tells the Story of Oregon's Last Timber Company Town

By Les Joslin



It's a long way from the pinelands around Laurel, Mississippi, to the pine forests around Gilchrist, Oregon. But that's the distance Frank W. Gilchrist moved his family timber company—virtually lock, stock, and barrel—to timber holdings there beginning in 1937 to found Oregon's most successful and most enduring company town. By August 1939, when its Gilchrist, Oregon, mill began operation, the Gilchrist Timber Company had invested more than two million dollars in building its mill, logging railroad, and company town.

Gilchrist, in northern Klamath County, is Oregon's most recently constructed company town and also one of the more successful such towns ever built. Gilchrist was Oregon's first town which was entirely plumbed and wired for electricity at the time of its founding. It was also Oregon's first town to have all its houses equipped with a dial telephone system. Oregon's first shopping mall, perhaps the first shopping mall in the United States, was built there by the Gilchrist Timber Company. The town was constructed with amenities not often found in larger communities. Gilchrist, following its construction, was routinely described as a wonder town.

Just how all this came about in Central Oregon's ponderosa pine timberlands—as well as what ultimately came of it—is skillfully told by John C. Driscoll in his 2012 book *Gilchrist, Oregon: The Model Company Town*.

Driscoll is a graduate of Gilchrist High School who, while reading William Faulkner's *Light in August* during his freshman year at the University of Oregon, first conceived the idea of writing Gilchrist's history. The book began as an article published in *The Oregon Historical Quarterly*. A veteran of both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army, Driscoll began writing the book aboard a ship in the Persian Gulf; the latter days of the book's writing were also in the Middle East, in Oman not far from its border with Yemen...but a long way from Gilchrist. The author resides in Central Oregon.

Driscoll's book isn't the first to chronicle Gilchrist's history. Back in 1988 the Gilchrist Timber Company published the shorter *Gilchrist: The First Fifty Years* authored for it by Jim Fisher, former Oregon Department of Forestry forester and public affairs officer, to memorialize the unique company's first fifty years in Oregon. Jim's well-written and profusely-illustrated 48-page book also tells the Gilchrist story well—as well as briefly.

John Driscoll's more detailed *Gilchrist, Oregon: The Model Company Town* (ISBN 978-0-9840784-1-7) is a 190-page, 8.5x11-inch, soft-cover book illustrated with dozens of color and black-and-white photographs. It is easily ordered through the book's website at <www.gilchristcompanytown.com> for \$27.95 including shipping and handling.

Mt. Hood National Forest is Pictured in Cheryl Hill's *Images of America* Book

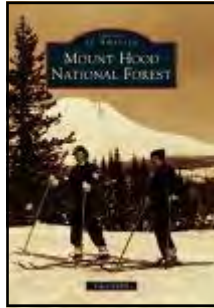
Mount Hood National Forest by Cheryl Hill, just published in March 2014, is one of Arcadia Publishing's popular *Images of America* series of pictorial histories and one that should prove of particular interest to OldSmokeys.

In 128 pages that feature 200 vintage images, this new book showcases the history of a national forest on which many OldSmokeys served.

Author Cheryl Hill, a reference librarian at the West Linn, Oregon, library, has visited the Mt. Hood National Forest all her life. Visits to the forest supervisor's office in Sandy, Oregon, enabled her to research 10 boxes of old photographs from which she chose those that illustrate the book. Along with the brief texts that characterize this series, these photographs and their captions evoke bygone days in this Oregon national forest.

As announced in a late March OldSmokeys eNote, Cheryl scheduled a book signing at 3:00 p.m. on April 5 at the Mount Hood Cultural Center and Museum in Government Camp. If you missed that, her \$21.99 book is available at bookstores, online from Amazon.com, or through Arcadia Publishing at 888-313-2665 or online.

—Les Joslin



OldSmokey Steve Coady Published *Cyrus James Bingham: From Michigan Westward about that Early Forest Ranger*

OldSmokey **Steve Coady** has written and published a first person account of the life of Cyrus James "Cy" Bingham that—as I told Steve—"reads just about as I would have expected Cy to write it himself."

In ten chapters that span 52 pages, Steve as Cy tells the story of the life and times of one of the Pacific Northwest's earlier and more colorful forest rangers and how Cy and his wife Connie coped with the challenges of his job.

A little background on Cy Bingham will help you savvy his tale without spilling the beans as Steve has canned them. Born in 1870 in Big Beaver, Michigan, Cy drifted west at 20 and worked as a stockman and miner before he landed a job with the U.S. Department of the Interior as a General Land Office "Division R" ranger. As such he patrolled the Cascade Range Forest Reserve, a stretch of timbered country that extended from Crater Lake to McKenzie Pass. In 1905, he became a U.S. Forest Service ranger, and in 1907 supervisor of the new Malheur National Forest. Cy resigned from the Forest Service in 1920 to serve twelve years as Grant County, Oregon, sheriff. He died in 1937 after a long and colorful life in public service.

Cyrus J. Bingham: From Michigan Westward (ISBN 9781492825036) retails for \$5.99 and is available online from Amazon.com.

—Les Joslin

Uncle Sam's Cabins

Marion Forks Guard Station Willamette National Forest, Oregon

Story and photographs by Les Joslin

Hard against Oregon Highway 22, the "North Santiam Highway" that follows the river of the same name, historic Marion Forks Guard Station anonymously awaits an uncertain future. The last year the station was identified by its sign was 2003, the year the photograph at right was made.

Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935, Marion Forks Guard Station was an administrative satellite of the Detroit Ranger Station in Detroit—which, of course, was moved to higher ground in 1952 before its site and the entire town of Detroit were inundated by the Detroit Reservoir in 1953. A seasonal forest guard or two were posted there for fire prevention and control, recreation facilities maintenance, and other jobs the district ranger assigned.

More recently, according to District Ranger Grady McMahan, Marion Forks Guard Station housed a fire patrol technician through the summer 2011 fire season. "This allowed him to be located near the heart of the Detroit Ranger District where we receive the majority of our lightning strikes each year. The tech retired after the 2011 season, and for the past two summers the guard station has not been occupied. Our long-term plan is to restructure the facilities of the guard station enough to allow [it] to be rented out for public occupancy. We are sure this would be a very popular recreation rental with its easy access to Highway 22 and location right on a beautiful stretch of the North Santiam River."

"Our challenge is finding the budget and the personnel to complete the transition," Ranger McMahan observed on February 3, 2014. "Once we are successful in bringing this structure on line as a public rental, rental funds can be used to continue to maintain the structure. Without this step, I am afraid the guard station might start to deteriorate." Ranger McMahan "would sure be interested in some volunteers who would be interested in helping us fix the place up...to rent."



Out of the Past

Arlyn Beck's U.S. Forest Service

By Jeanette Beck

Arlyn Duane Beck (1916-2005) was born in Molalla, Oregon, grew up in La Grande, Oregon, and joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1936. That led to his 34-year career in the U.S. Forest Service during which he served on national forests in eastern Oregon. He retired in 1972 as an assistant forest engineer on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

Arlyn and I married on November 27, 1939. I have selected a few of Arlyn's pictures that show what the Forest Service was like during his career. Most are from the Union Ranger District, Whitman National Forest—before it was joined with the Wallowa National Forest in 1954—where Arlyn served for 13 years, and were taken by District Ranger L.D. "Bob" Bailey. One is of the Blue Mountain Ranger Station where Arlyn was District Ranger Clyde Bloom's dispatcher. I understand this compound has been demolished.



Union Ranger Station office, Whitman National Forest, 1945.



Fire guard school instructors at Camp Lily White about 1950. Back row: Les Wahlgren, Glen Charlton, Joe Carroll, Eugene O'Keefe, Guy Smith, Wright Mallory, Dick Lemon. Front row: Shorty Oswald, Cliff Gross, Arlyn Beck, Jack Harriman, Harold Dahl, Pierce Moran.



Whitman National Forest rangers in 1945 (left to right) were: Bob Harper, Harry Wolfe, Unknown, Clyde Bloom, Arzy Kenworthy, Bud Burgess, and L.D. "Bob" Bailey.



Blue Mountain Ranger Station, near Bates, Oregon. Buildings in foreground (left to right): CCC camp cookhouse, office, assistant ranger residence, and ranger residence. Warehouse, shops, garage, ice house, etc., are in background. Barracks are in the trees.

The Way We Were

Chain of Command in the 1950s



U.S. Forest Service Chief Richard E. McArdle (left) visited with Pacific Northwest Regional Forester J. Herbert Stone, Snoqualmie National Forest Supervisor Lawrence Barrett, and District Ranger R. Nevan McCullough, White River Ranger District, Snoqualmie National Forest, Washington, sometime between 1954 and 1959. U.S. Forest Service photograph

District Ranger R. Nevan McCullough welcomed this visit by his chain of command to the White River Ranger District of the Snoqualmie National Forest which he proudly rangered from 1927 until he retired in 1959.

District Ranger McCullough supervised construction of his district's Silver Creek Ranger Station log headquarters building in 1930. That beautiful structure remains in service to this day as the seasonally-operated Silver Creek Visitor Information Center along the Mather Memorial Parkway just north of the northern entrance to Mount Rainier National Park, near where the above photograph was made.

Ranger McCullough did not go to college, but was well known for his extensive knowledge of trees and the environment, and for his positive influence on many foresters who worked for him early in their careers.

Chief McArdle's 39-year Forest Service career began in 1924 as a junior forester at the Pacific Northwest Forest Experiment Station in Portland, Oregon. He served as director of the Rocky Mountain Experiment Station in Colorado and director of the Appalachian Experiment Station in North Carolina, before going to Washington, D.C., in 1944 as Assistant Chief for State and Private Forestry until 1952, then as Chief of the Forest Service until he retired in 1962. He was dean of forestry at the University of Idaho for a year in 1934.

—Les Joslin

My First Forest Service Job

Yacolt Hotshots of 1951

By Loyd Collett

It was late in the afternoon, June 16, 1951. The narrow canyon closed around me as I traveled up the East Fork of the Lewis River in the State of Washington. My destination was the Sunset Guard Station on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

I had just completed my first year of forestry school at the University of Missouri and had been on the road for nine days. The 1935 Ford coupe, which I had put together from a bucket of bolts during my last year of high school, was performing well. After dropping off two other college students in Libby, Montana, for their summer jobs with the U.S. Forest Service, I had only one more day to get ready for work.

Sunset Guard Station

I was assigned to the Sunset Forest Fire Suppression Crew near Yacolt in southwestern Washington. "Hotshots" we were called when assigned to actual uncontrolled forest fires. Standby duties included camp maintenance; trail, telephone line, and road maintenance; and other duties. I soon learned that every Forest Service job description always included "other duties as assigned."

After what seemed a long dusty drive on the river road, I encountered a cluster of low one-story wooden buildings with natural cedar-shake siding. I passed through the site, faced a closed road, and backed up to the first structure. A lady came out on the small porch. "You must be one of the new Sunset Boys. I'm the cook. Stash your gear in the bunkhouse and come back here to the mess hall for some food. We're expecting at least two more fellows this evening. You'll be charged sixty cents for each meal, but that won't start until breakfast on Monday."

The buildings that made up Sunset Guard Station were left over from a 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp. In addition to road and trail construction, the CCCs here during the Great Depression felled snags in the Yacolt Burn of 1902. Except for a gasoline-powered generator, which had a mind of its own and was seldom used, there was no electricity in camp. We had hot water whenever someone built a wood fire in the heater, usually for laundry. For bathing, we took a bar of soap and a towel to the deep pool above Sunset Falls. Being from Missouri, I found it hard to believe a river could run so clear, cool, and inviting.

My immediate supervisor, Paul Grooms, who hailed from Gatlinburg, Tennessee, had been a CCC worker and supervisor. He, his wife Pauline, and family lived in nearby Yacolt.

Our first day

Our first day of work was June 18. The cool air and low clouds of early morning were misleading. As quickly as the sun crept over the mountain and illuminated the river canyon, the air was hot and still. Our first assignment was to clean the camp from the winter closure, and mowing grass and weeds the first order

of the day. The thirteen men of the fire crew were all present; twelve college students from around the United States and a local boy, Lee Goldwater. Right away, Lee became “Shorty” and the boss named me “Mo.” I was the first person from Missouri to be assigned to the Sunset crew. As Shorty and Mo, we were the only crewmen to go by nicknames. Shorty had worked during late winter and early spring on a Forest Service tree planting crew where he earned a work rating that awarded him the summer job.

I recognized three things in Shorty right away: (1) he was going to have difficulty assimilating socially with a group of college boys; (2) he was highly knowledgeable of and skilled in the use of hand tools; and (3) his energy seemed endless. Shorty and I found ourselves working on a tough patch of weeds that first day. Perhaps because we were both country boys, “Shorty and Mo” right away became the “long and the short” and the “Mutt and Jeff.” Everything we did together became a contest of wills and strength. Bets were placed by the other crew members. Who could do the most? Who would be the quickest? Who would get there first?

By noon that first day, Shorty and I were both ready for a chance to cool down and rest. We sought out the shady side of the bunkhouse beside a small maple tree. The rest of the crew was out back tossing a football. Lewis River District Ranger Heath Hall drove up in his green pickup, parked, and looked our way. “You two guys look like you have done a good morning’s work. Would you like to take a short tour up into the Forest? I have a couple things I need to check on up there, and I can show you around.”

Of course, we were anxious for a guided tour farther up into the Lewis River Ranger District, especially from the Big-Man on the District and the source of our employment. A two-hour reprieve from a hot job of week-killing was also very welcome. We felt privileged to receive this kindly attention from the district ranger, and it helped create a lasting bond between Shorty and me.

Our first pay

Our first paycheck came after our first week of work, and all were anxious to go into town. The only problem was there were only a couple private vehicles in camp. I agreed to take anyone who could get in or on my little Ford coupe. I counted four in the seat, three in the trunk sitting backward with feet on the rear bumper, and Shorty stretched across the rear window shelf.

We drove directly to Bert Johnson’s home in Portland, Oregon, where Bert’s car waited. Bert was the only crew member who had worked on the Sunset crew the previous summer, and was given a lead position on the crew. As soon as I pulled up in front of the Johnson home, my passengers began to unload and my coup began to rise off the pavement. Bert’s dad rushed out to the sidewalk and exclaimed, “Hurry! Raise the engine side curtains and let those two guys out of the engine compartment!” That got a laugh from the group and a sign of relief from “Henry,” the Ford.

With the delivery completed, Shorty and I cashed our paychecks and went to the Montgomery-Ward store to buy the calk logger boots required for our jobs.

Our first fire

The 1951 forest fire season was a busy one for the Yacolt Hotshots. On Sunday following our first week of camp maintenance and shoveling snow for access to the Silver Star Lookout overlooking the Columbia River gorge, we were dispatched to the Hehe Creek Fire on the Willamette National Forest.

Off we went with fire packs and new boots not yet worn or broken in. And we had not yet received any fire suppression training or fire trail construction practice. Our training and experience, however, started as soon as we reached the fire. Nothing quite equals on-the-job training, especially in emergency situations.

Our first assignment was an active, ten-acre, spot fire off the main fire. Our crew quickly fell into the rhythm of fire line construction, but it was the members who already knew how to effectively use shovel, ax, and rake who carried the day. From my work on the farm, I considered myself an excellent axman. I had concentrated and practiced long and hard to be as good or better than my Uncle Jim. I could chop equally well right- or left-handed, and while removing small trees the crew often referred to me as “One-Blow-Mo.”

Once our spot-fire was controlled, another crew was brought in for holding and mop up and we were reassigned to the main 20,000-acre fire. In three very long days, we became an effective fire suppression force, and for the rest of the summer we were usually the first crew in the Pacific Northwest Region to be called up. We were always working in direct competition with a fire crew down on the Umpqua River in Oregon.

Our first mishap

We were still on the Willamette fire on July 4, and that day our crew was packed in to a remote area of the fire where we were to set up a spike camp come nightfall. We were promised a string of pack mules would supply us with food sometime during the afternoon. Well, that great plan didn’t get timely execution. We returned to the designated site for the spike camp about eight that evening to find everything just as we had left it that morning.

“It’s a holiday, and it must be time to celebrate,” Paul Grooms, our supervisor, said. He reached for his pack and pulled out a fifth of whiskey. I was standing right next to Paul when he uncorked the bottle. “Here, Mo, have a drink.” Without any hesitation or reservation I tipped the bottle for a good snort and handed it back to him. At least, that’s what I think I did. Suddenly, I couldn’t breathe, couldn’t make a sound. My vision blurred. Had my heart stopped? Then, just about as quickly, I was back and alert. “You know, boss, that was my first shot of whiskey.” And with that, Paul reached out into the circle of men for the bottle and handed it back to me. I’m here to admit that second shot was just a wee sip.

I never saw Shorty take his turn at the bottle, but it wasn’t long before he started to split kindling to start a campfire. Shorty’s aim must have been a bit off, or he was feeling a bit like I was. His ax apparently glanced off the stick of wood and came right down across the right toe of his brand-new pair of calk boots. Paul got Shorty on the ground as soon as he saw

that two-inch gash that angled across the toe of Shorty's boot. In quick time, he unlaced the boot and ripped it off Shorty's foot, all the while expecting to find a boot full of blood and toes. But no, nothing like that at all. The boot was cut clean through, but the sock was not cut or damaged. Paul certainly breathed a sigh of relief and quickly got rid of the bottle because whisky in a fire camp was a no-no, and there could have been personal liability issues. The boot was repaired, but the raised seam remained obvious. Because he felt responsible, Paul paid for the boot repair.

Our delayed dinner

In about the time it took for each of us to run our finger through the hole in Shorty Goldwater's boot, we received a radio message that a supply of food and equipment had been delivered by bulldozer high upon a ridge about a mile from our camp. The mule train never materialized, and the tractor had been constructing a fire line all day to get our supplies to the end of the narrow ridge.

Only about an hour of daylight remained when Paul asked for volunteers to hike the two-mile roundtrip, climb the 500-foot elevation change, and pack back enough food for a late evening dinner and an early breakfast. When Mo and Shorty were first to agree, Paul hesitated to let us go because he considered us too unsteady on our feet for such a steep climb. But due to imminent darkness, the boss quickly countered. "Okay, go ahead. You'll certainly be well sobered up before you reach the top and start back down.

The hillside was so steep it became a scramble on hands and feet, and the race to the top for Shorty and me was an even match. The next contest was to see who could stow the most weight in food in our individual backpacks. Of course, there was no way to tell how much each actually had, but it may have been close to a hundred pounds. Darkness was upon us when we started back. Slipping and sliding, Shorty and I tried to follow the fire trail we had made that morning.

Shorty was quite the sight going down ahead of me with those short bowlegs and a pack that looked larger and heavier than he was. Then, all of a sudden, Shorty stubbed a toe and rolled head over heels down the cliff. He made three complete revolutions before he slammed upright astraddle a two-foot in diameter Douglas-fir, the side of his head crashing into the rough bark of the tree. Shorty remained momentarily motionless, and I truly thought it was the end of the line for him. In the dim light, I could just barely see him from a hundred feet above. Then, all of a sudden, Shorty gave a grunt, wiggled out of his pack, and came up with a smile on his face, eager to finish the hike.

Our Olympic odyssey

We were assigned to an interesting fire situation in late July in western Washington where we rode an early-morning logging train up into the mountains in the vicinity of the fire. The hour-long ride on the flatcars was open and breezy, and afforded an unobstructed view of the Olympic Mountains. The walk was long, but after days of fire line construction we hiked down a steep mountain slope and walked right into town where we dined in a restaurant and slept in a bunkhouse.

Our trial by fire

In August, there was a series of major forest fires near Mount Baker. When the fire boss on one of those fires realized he could fly the Yacolt Hotshots up there overnight and have us on the fire line at daylight, he cancelled a requisition for a hundred local loggers and we were on our way.

The flight from Troutdale, Oregon, to Bellingham, Washington, was a first flight for both Mo and Shorty. The airplane was the venerable Douglass DC-3 "Gooneybird" of World War II fame. Seattle at night from 5,000 feet was quite a sight for two young country boys.

I was sitting with Shorty right over the plane's port wing. Shorty was next to the window, and I had the aisle seat. Soon after we crossed the Columbia River and cleared Portland and Vancouver, we were popping in and out of puffy white clouds and experiencing mild air turbulence. "Hey Mo, how do you like this for a ride?" our crew boss, Paul, called from the rear. "About like riding a bucking Missouri mule?"

"No-no! Hell, no!" I countered. "It's a lot worse than that, and I'm getting off right here! I've had enough of this!" With that, I snapped off my seatbelt, rolled to the right, and charged down the aisle toward the door. My animation must have been especially convincing because Paul jumped to his feet and quickly tackled me to the floor. That first step would have been a long one.

The fire in the North Cascades was burning several hundred acres on a steep south slope. During our second sixteen-hour day, the Yacolt Hotshots were constructing a hand line flanking the fire on the immediate right. The idea was to starve the fire of fuel and pinch it off at the top. Below and behind, a Forest Service crew from southern Oregon was patrolling and improving our two-foot-wide fire line. At 2:30 in the afternoon, our crew called a rest break for our second lunch of the day. For long days of extreme labor, we always carried double lunches.

This day our canteens were nearly void of water. This turned out to be one of several lucky breaks. One of our crew volunteered to hike a half-mile back down the mountain to get water at a small spring. In short order, he came racing back up the fire trail out of breath and sweaty. Battery-pack radios in those days—when they worked a all—worked about as fast as a man or horse could run. When he caught his breath, he told us the fire had breached our line and was starting to race up the mountain below our position. By then, we could smell and hear the oncoming flames. Only minutes remained.

Paul immediately took action. His voice was calm but authoritative as he laid out our course of action. All would obey—to the letter. "Everyone abandon your tools and backpacks," Paul ordered. "Bert, you will lead everyone out of here. Flank the fire to the right and down the mountain, following your nose the best you can and according to what you see. The rest of you, single file behind Bert and stop for nothing except to help someone up. I will bring up the rear." Paul concluded, "to make sure everyone gets out. GO NOW!" and then, in a barely audible voice, "*Heaven help us all.*"

Our adrenalin surged. Bumps, bruises, and tired muscles were forgotten. I stuffed a half-eaten sandwich in my shirt and

fell in line about the third position. Each of us had only our red hardhats and calk boots, and I am guessing we could not reenact that charge off that mountain that afternoon without major casualties. Racing around and over fallen trees and other obstacles, it seemed my feet hit the ground only now and then. Our bid for safety was estimated at about three miles, all downhill, out and away from the fire. No one stumbled or fell out of line. We made it. We were all out of breath, but all smiles. All present and accounted for!

We watched from base camp as that mountain seemed to explode late that afternoon. A huge mushroom cloud of smoke and fire bellowed several thousands of feet into the evening sky, lifting and throwing large chunks of burning forest debris skyward. We were weak-kneed and awe-struck. The sounds alone were frightening and beyond description, something like claps of thunder or the roar and rumble of empty freight cars on a railroad. We gave thanks, each in our own way.

Our fire controlled

Starting again from the bottom, we were back on the mountain for the next several days, digging a new fire line. With each morning's hike starting to exceed two hours, we soon found ourselves assigned to a spike camp high up on the mountain and served by a pack string of mules. We carried our own fire packs with tools, personal gear, and bedroll and three days rations, always sleeping on the ground, usually behind a log or boulder so as not to get stepped on by man or mule.

Here on the mountain in a dry camp, menus were simple: cereal for breakfast and beef stew for dinner—beef stew, that is, whenever you could eat it. With the dry season, yellow jacket wasps were an increasing problem and became a constant concern on the fire line. In camp, they were attracted to the beef stew. They swarmed about our heads while we tried to eat, and actually lined up, body-to-body, around the circumference of our plates, licking at the gravy. I even ate a wasp that rode my spoon into my mouth; I was too tired to spit it out.

Early one afternoon while trying to complete the fire line, the predicted rain started to fall. Just a little more, and the line would be finished and the fire contained. When the rain quickened, however, we were drenched to the skin. Water sloshed in our boots. Even though we had been hoping and praying for rain, we quickly learned there is no more miserable spot on earth than a fire line in a cold rain. "Man has seldom completely extinguished a forest fire," someone said. "You can only chase it around and follow it until the rain comes."

Our orders off

We were ordered off the mountain. "Salvage what you can from the spike camp. Hike cross-country with map and compass to find the forest trail that will take you to a logging road and transportation; it is only about five miles. Find the trail before dark."

We must have developed night-vision because we found our way on the first try. Nothing but empty road. To stand and wait in the night air was to chill, so we started walking the road downhill. Then, after several miles and as many hours, headlights appeared around the corner. The lights were attached to two open-sided stock trucks, the kind used for hauling pack

mules and saddle horses. It was now time to huddle up.

None the worse for the experience after a couple good meals in the mess hall and getting the laundry done, everyone on the Yacolt Hotshots was ready and anxious for another call out, another adventure. After all, fire overtime pay is great for college tuition.

OldSmokey Loyd Collett summarizes what happened after his first U.S. Forest Service summer...

Like I told my high school friends at our fiftieth reunion, I crammed a four-year college degree program into eight short years. The Korean War and some work periods provided the interruptions. I graduated in the spring of 1958 with a B.S. degree in general forestry from the University of Missouri, Columbia. During my college years I worked four summers for the U.S. Forest Service, all in the Pacific Northwest Region. During the 1951 and 1952 summers, I served on the Yacolt Hotshots. In 1955, after the [specific service], I supervised the trail maintenance and telephone line repair crew at Spirit Lake and Mount St. Helens. The summer of 1956 held a mandatory summer camp at the University Forest in southern Missouri, and in 1957 I worked in forest engineering on the Mt. Hood National Forest.

The forests of "The West" won my admiration, and I would consider nothing less. District Ranger Rex Denny, Barlow Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, requested me by name from the Civil Service roster, and I went right back where I had worked the summer before. I started in silviculture, became a TSA, and then the district TMA. Later, on the Deschutes National Forest, I served on the Sisters Ranger District in timber management before becoming the resource assistant on the Metolius Ranger District. During my sojourn at Sisters, I served as president of the Central Oregon Chapter, Society of American Foresters, and chairman of the Sisters School Board.

I would often dream of life on the Oregon Coast, so in 1968 I readily accepted District Ranger Kent Mays' offer of TMA on the Waldport Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest. There I lived in a CCC-built house with an ocean view. Later, in 1973, when the new environmental laws and regulations became bothersome and I could no longer make my own management decisions, I lateraled into the district's "other resources" position. Here I found my destiny—with variety and adventure. When I needed more exercise, I would locate and construct another recreation trail. When I needed another challenge, I sought additional training and added duties. My swansong was the complete revitalization and reprogramming of the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center, the first major visitor center in Region 6.

My First Forest Service Job in your Summer 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will take us back to the Columbia National Forest in 1927 when Larry Mays served his first U.S. Forest Service summer and, as told to his son OldSmokey **Kent Mays**, the Bigfoot myth had skeptical but cautious Forest Service personnel packing their weapons. Space permitting, there may also be a second first job story.



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Join us for lunch on the last Friday of every month at The Old Spaghetti Factory, 0715 S.W. Bancroft Street off Macadam Avenue, just south of downtown Portland, Oregon, at 11:00 a.m.

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